



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP SOMALIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



1.2 million people assisted in March (51% female)



3,920 mt food distributed in March



USD 5.3 million cash transferred in March



USD 163 million required in the next six months (May – October)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Somalia's food security and nutrition crisis continues to worsen, with 6.5 million people facing acute food insecurity IPC Phase 3 and above, including 2 million in Emergency IPC Phase 4, alongside critical levels of acute malnutrition affecting an estimated 1.84 million children, underscoring the scale and severity of humanitarian needs.
- Severe funding shortfalls are disrupting essential health and nutrition services and constraining the humanitarian response, forcing WFP to implement increasingly sharp prioritization amid rising needs.
- Without urgent new funding, life-saving assistance will continue to decrease through July after which lifesaving assistance may come to a complete halt without new resources, significantly heightening the risk of worsening food insecurity and malnutrition.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Somalia is facing one of its most complex food emergencies in years. Drought, insecurity, limited humanitarian assistance, and now the ripple effects of the conflict in the Middle East, worsen all conditions that push humanitarian needs and drive hunger to alarming levels.
- Ongoing instability in the Middle East is adding pressure to the country's fragile situation, disrupting regional supply routes and driving up fuel, food, and fertilizer prices, as well as causing shipping and supply chain delays affecting nutrition commodities. This is impacting transport, markets, and household food access, with continued risks to assistance delivery, particularly in southern Somalia.
- [Seasonal rainfall](#) has begun in parts of Somalia, improving water availability in some northern and central areas; however, rainfall remains limited and uneven in southern regions, with drought persisting across Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, Lower and Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo and Hiraaan, where only localized light to moderate rainfall is expected and recovery is likely to remain gradual and uneven amid continued livelihood stress throughout the Gu season.
- WFP, together with FAO, FSNAU and the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, is conducting Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Assessments and Emergency Food Security Assessments in severely drought-affected areas. Data collection is underway, with updated IPC findings expected in early May 2026.
- Thanks to multilateral contributions, WFP avoided a complete halt to life-saving food assistance in

Reporting Period: March 2026

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April and is now able to continue providing support, though at reduced scale, through July.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Humanitarian Food Assistance

- In March, WFP provided life-saving food assistance to 970,000 people across Somalia, delivering USD 4.9 million in cash-based transfers and 3,658 mt of in-kind food to vulnerable, food-insecure communities. Despite these efforts, funding constraints are expected to further reduce assistance in the coming months. A near-complete decline in support by mid-2026 risks accelerating deterioration in food security outcomes, underscoring the urgent need for flexible funding, particularly cash-based assistance, to sustain life-saving support.

Nutrition

- In March, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to **91,000** children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to prevent and manage acute malnutrition. This represents **57** percent of the monthly target of **160,929** people, highlighting continued shortfalls in coverage.

Home-Grown School Feeding

- In March, WFP's school meals programme assisted 115,000 schoolchildren with nutritious meals that support learning and attendance. Through local food procurement, the programme injected nearly USD 862,000 into the economy, benefiting smallholder farmers and strengthening local food systems.
- WFP continued to support the Government of Somalia's transition to a nationally led, home-grown school feeding programme, marked by the first federal allocation of USD 5 million for school meals, expected to reach around 75,000 schoolchildren nationwide. This milestone reflects growing national ownership of school feeding as a long-term investment in education, nutrition and human capital, with WFP providing targeted technical support and systems strengthening alongside the Ministry of Education.

Social Protection

- WFP concluded its shock-responsive social protection Programme in March, delivering unconditional cash assistance to **254,000** people. March marked the final transfer, and continuation beyond this period will depend on the availability of additional financing through government

shock-response systems, amid worsening drought conditions.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In March, WFP worked with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, UN partners and other stakeholders to align support on climate resilience, economic recovery, SME development and Somalia's climate and development priorities within national strategies and reform processes.
- WFP also strengthened government capacity on early warning and preparedness by supporting drought and flood forecasting tools and targeted training, enabling timely early warnings and early action to protect food systems and livelihoods.

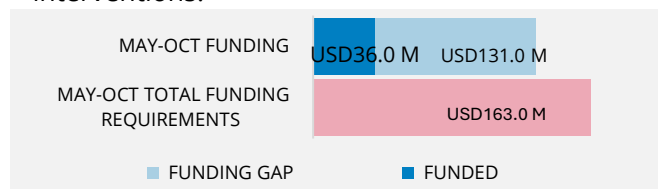
UNHAS and Logistics Cluster

- In March, UNHAS transported 636 passengers and 55 mt of cargo to 21 destinations across Somalia, including hard-to-reach areas, enabling operations for 51 organizations.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster delivered 49 mt of relief supplies to seven hard-to-reach locations and provided storage for 232 mt across six hubs, supporting last-mile delivery through cost-efficient transport, shared storage and strengthened coordination.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Somalia country strategic plan (2022-2025)

- WFP thanks all donors for their continued support in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. From May to October 2026, WFP faces a USD 131 million funding gap, including USD 115 million for humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support. Funding gaps persist despite WFP revising requirements to prioritise populations in greatest need, enabling WFP to focus scarce resources on critical life saving interventions.



Donors:

African Risk Capacity (ARC), Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Federal Government of Somalia, France, Germany, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), Ireland, Japan, JAWFP, Luxembourg, Norway, Private donors, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN SDG Fund, United Kingdom (FCDO), USA, WFP USA and Zoetis Foundation.