



WFP SOMALIA COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



784,000 people assisted in March (52% female)



1,227 mt food distributed in March



USD 8.2 million cash transferred in March



USD 180 required in the next six months (June – November)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Somalia's food security and nutrition crisis continues to worsen, with latest IPC results in May confirming [6 million](#) people facing acute food insecurity IPC Phase 3 and above, including around 2 million in Emergency IPC Phase 4, alongside critical levels of acute malnutrition affecting an estimated 1.9 million children, underscoring the scale and severity of humanitarian needs.
- Severe funding shortfalls are forcing WFP to scale down assistance, with available resources insufficient to sustain current response levels beyond the coming months, heightening the risk of further deterioration in food security and nutrition outcomes.
- Without urgent new funding, life-saving assistance will continue to decline through August 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

- Food security in Somalia continues to deteriorate beyond earlier projections, as protracted displacement, fragile livelihoods, and limited coping capacity leave households highly vulnerable. Recurrent shocks are further eroding resilience, especially in southern and central regions, where access to income, assets, and basic services remain limited.
- The April–June *Gu* rainy season has performed below expectations, with uneven and insufficient rainfall limiting crop development and pasture regeneration in key agropastoral areas. While localized improvements in water and vegetation have been observed, these remain inadequate to offset cumulative deficits from previous poor seasons, resulting in below-average agricultural production and constrained livestock productivity.
- [A recent joint news release](#) by UN agencies warns worsening hunger and malnutrition crisis in Somalia. A plausible risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) has emerged in parts of Bay region, particularly in Burhakaba district, under a plausible worst-case scenario of continued rainfall deficits, rising food prices, and limited assistance access, with malnutrition levels already exceeding critical thresholds. This reflects a significant deterioration in severity and highlights the urgency of timely and sustained intervention in high-risk areas.
- External and macroeconomic pressures are intensifying, as regional instability linked to the Middle East crisis disrupts trade flows and maritime routes, driving higher fuel and food prices, and increasing transport and transaction costs. In Somalia's import-dependent economy, these shocks constrain market access, erode purchasing power, and raise operational costs, while supply chain disruptions delay timely assistance delivery across the country.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Humanitarian Food Assistance

- WFP provided life-saving food assistance to 506,000 people across Somalia in April, delivering USD 6.8 million in cash-based transfers and 875 mt of in-kind food to vulnerable food insecure communities.
- Despite these efforts, severe funding shortfalls have constrained WFP's response, with April marking the final month of in-kind assistance. WFP is expected to reach 450,000 people through August, just 23 percent of the IPC Phase 4 population, maintaining a minimum lifeline response. Without additional funding, cash-based transfer pipeline breaks are expected in August.

Nutrition

- In April, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 125,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to prevent and manage acute malnutrition.
- WFP, in cooperation with health and nutrition cluster partners, is advancing efforts to strengthen the efficiency of service delivery through enhanced integration of the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP), and health services, currently reaching approximately 70 percent of targeted areas. Building on this progress, partners have agreed on a phased scale-up of integrated health and nutrition services across priority districts from mid-2026, aimed at expanding coverage and improving value for money in a constrained funding environment.

Home-Grown School Feeding

- WFP's school meals programme assisted 119,000 school children in April, providing nutritious meals that support learning and attendance. By sourcing food locally, the Programme injected nearly USD 932,000 into the economy, benefiting smallholder farmers and strengthening local food systems.
- Drought conditions are increasingly disrupting school attendance and functionality, particularly in Puntland and Galmudug, where water shortages and population movements are affecting education continuity. These challenges risk reversing gains in access to education and nutrition, while highlighting critical gaps in coverage and the need for sustained support to ensure vulnerable children remain in school and continue to receive school meals.

Social Protection

- WFP completed the first phase of the Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Building in Somalia (HARBS I) programme and secured a second phase to further strengthen Somalia's shock-responsive social protection system. Implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Somali

Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), the programme supports the transition toward a government-led system. Building on national platforms such as the Baxnaano safety net and the Unified Social Registry, it strengthens national and subnational capacities to deliver timely, predictable assistance and respond effectively to climate and displacement shocks.

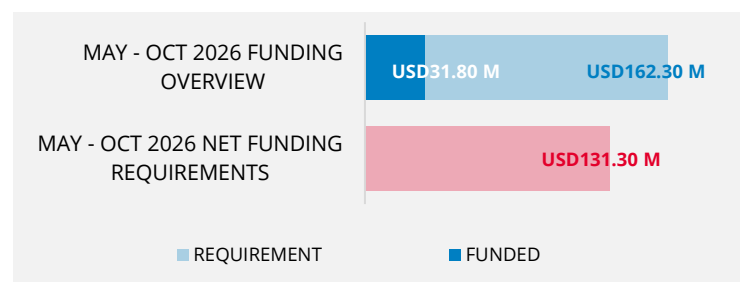
UNHAS and Logistics Cluster

- In April, UNHAS transported 783 passengers and 32 mt of cargo to 22 destinations across Somalia, including hard-to-reach areas, enabling operations for 59 organizations.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster sustained humanitarian access across Somalia, delivering 41 mt of relief supplies to hard-to-reach areas and helping partners pre-position 126 mt. Despite rising costs linked to regional disruptions and higher fuel prices, the cluster strengthened coordination and last-mile delivery, including cross-border cargo movements.

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 June–November 2026, WFP needs USD 180 million, representing 86 percent of overall requirement.
- WFP's funding requirements have been revised to reflect the needs of prioritized populations in greatest need, allowing WFP to focus available scarce resources on critical life-saving interventions. Despite this reprioritization, an urgent shortfall of USD 136 million remains for humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support representing 102 percent of the requirements



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.

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