Current Acute Food Insecurity January - March 2021

1.6M

Over 1.6 million people, 13% of the population in Somalia, are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between January and March 2021.

2.6M

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia is 2.6 million**

Overview of the Acute Food Insecurity Situation

Up to 2.7 million people across Somalia are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) through mid-2021 in the absence of humanitarian assistance. These include 480,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 2.25 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The drivers of acute food insecurity in Somalia include the compounding effects of poor and erratic rainfall distribution, flooding, desert locust infestation, socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and conflict. Moreover, approximately 840,000 children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 143,200 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

It is likely that sustained, large-scale humanitarian food assistance and government support since July 2020 have mitigated the magnitude and severity of food insecurity. Through at least mid-2021, desert locusts will continue to pose a serious risk of damage to both pasture and crops across Somalia. Available forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of below-average rainfall during the 2021 Gu (April-June) season across most of the country, which would adversely affect food security and nutrition outcomes. These findings are based on the 2020 post-Deyr seasonal food security and nutrition assessment conducted across Somalia in November and December 2020. The April-June 2021 projections do not factor in the potential impact of food assistance, as information on planned and funded food and cash assistance through June 2021 was not available at the time of the analysis. Humanitarian assistance must be sustained through mid-2020 to prevent Emergency (IPC Phase 4) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions for 2.7 million people. Local food support is also required for people that are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse.

Acute Food Insecurity Key Drivers

Erratic Rainfall

Delayed and erratic rainfall distribution characterized the October to December 2020 Deyr season, resulting in below-average cumulative rainfall across most of the country. Poor seasonal rains led to inadequate replenishment of pasture and water resources and below-average Deyr crop production.

COVID-19

Some of the urban poor across Somalia continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps, partly due to the continued decline in external remittances and income in urban areas related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Desert Locusts

Somalia is bracing a new wave of desert locusts threatening farmlands, as fresh infestation is causing alarm among the farming communities, threatening their livelihoods and harming food production. A drought in-season and early-located crop pests are undermining food production and income. Through at least mid-2021, desert locusts will continue to pose a serious risk of damage to both pasture and crops across Somalia.

Conflict

Armed violence and displacement, protracted displacement, inequality, marginalization and poverty prevalent across Somalia. Some 2.6 million internally displaced persons are living in over 2,000 sites in squalid conditions.

Acute Malnutrition January - April 2021

840K

the number of 6-59 months children acutely malnourished

IN NEED OF TREATMENT

Approximately 840,000 children under the age of five in Somalia are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 143,200 who are likely to be severely malnourished. According to the results of 16 separate nutrition surveys conducted by FSNAU and partners in November and December 2020, the overall median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Somalia remained Serious, indicated by a weight for height z-score (WHZ) of 10-14.9 percent or by a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) below 12.5 mm of 5-9.9 percent. The drivers of acute malnutrition include high morbidity, low immunization, and vitamin A supplementation, reduced access to milk, and food insecurity. Urgent treatment and nutrition support are required for approximately 884,000 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), who will likely face acute malnutrition through December 2021, including 143,200 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Integrated interventions should be provided to support recovery and prevent deterioration in the nutrition situation.

Current Acute Malnutrition January 2021

Projected Acute Malnutrition February - April 2021

Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation | April - June 2021

2.7M

2.7 million people, 21% of the population in Somalia, will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and June 2021.

Acute Food Insecurity Map Key

1 - Minimal
2 - Stressed
3 - Crisis
4 - Emergency
5 - Catastrophe

Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Acceptable

High

Medium

Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

Areas with inadequate evidence

Areas not analysed

Urban settlement classification

IDPs/other settlements classification

Population

12.3M

Population analysis

100%