Overview of Acute Food Insecurity

Worsening drought is putting some areas in central and southern Somalia at an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022 if the current Gu season crop and livestock production fails, food prices continue to rise sharply and Humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach those most in need. These areas include Haud Pastoral of Central and Hassan, Addum Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Agro Pastoral Livelihoods in Bay and Bakool regions, and IDP settlements in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Galkacyo. The situation in Bay region is particularly concerning as the acute malnutrition threshold for Famine (IPC Phase 5) has been breached in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa district. Mortality (Cruel Death Rate) has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa districts, and death rates among children have reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa districts.

If a Famine (IPC Phase 5) classification requires at least two of the three criteria to be met, the increase in acute malnutrition levels and mortality signal that loss of life and livelihoods is already occurring. For these districts, additional data collection and analysis are planned in June to ascertain whether the anticipated by the projections most likely scenario would result in an IPC Phase 5 (Famine) classification at the area level.

Approximately 7.1 million people across Somalia will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and September 2022, including 4.7 million facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3). 2.1 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and more than 231,000 facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

In the most likely scenario, approximately 21,000,000 people across the most affected areas face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between June and September 2022, representing about 15 percent of the total population in those areas. Currently, the evidence criteria for Famine (IPC Phase 5), which is an area-level outcome representing approximately 20 percent of the population, has not yet been met for these areas over the same period.

Nevertheless, there is increased Risk of Famine meaning that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could occur (has reasonable chance of happening) in eight areas across Somalia between September 2022 and (if there is widespread crop and livestock production failure occurs, (3) food prices continue to rise sharply and (3) humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the country’s most vulnerable populations.

Assumptions for the Increased Risk of Famine

In the most likely scenario, approximately 21,000,000 people across the most affected areas face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between June and September 2022, representing about 15 percent of the total population in those areas. Currently, the evidence criteria for Famine (IPC Phase 5), which is an area-level outcome representing approximately 20 percent of the population, has not yet been met for these areas over the same period.

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- Drought: April to June 2022 Gu season crop and livestock production fail. Under this scenario, widespread crop failure (more than 40-60 percent of long-term average) and increased livestock deaths are anticipated. In the most affected livelihoods, cumulative livestock deaths would likely exceed current expectations and reach as high as 20–30 percent. Widespread crop production failure will significantly diminish seasonal agricultural employment, which is a major source of income for poor agro-pastoral and rural households.

- Conflict: Increased conflict and insecurity lead to further increases in population displacement, disrupt market access and functionality, impede household access to livelihood opportunities and restrict access to humanitarian assistance. In the event of the potential exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially in central and southern Somalia.

- Malnutrition: Worsening drought conditions and other confounding factors lead to rapid deterioration of the nutrition and mortality situation in the most affected areas, with the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence and excess mortality approaching and reaching the thresholds for Famine.
How Drought Drives Acute Food Insecurity in Somalia

Drought in Somalia is a key driver of food insecurity, characterized by low rainfall and temperatures. The impact can be severe, affecting both livestock and crops. Drought can lead to reduced food production, poor water availability, and increased costs, which can exacerbate food insecurity.

Rainfall Forecast & Livestock

Rainfall conditions in May 2022 were below average across Somalia, with the most significant deficits occurring in the central areas. This is likely to have implications for crop and livestock production, as well as water availability for both human and animal needs.

Drought Impacts

- **Livestock Deaths**: Poor pasture conditions and water scarcity can lead to reduced livestock populations, impacting livelihoods.
- **Crop Failure**: Limited rainfall results in poor crop yields, affecting food security.
- **Water Scarcity**: Reduced water availability affects both human and livestock needs, as well as agriculture.
- **Acute Malnutrition**: Prolonged drought leads to increased rates of malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations.
- **Drought-induced Conflict**: Competition over scarce resources can lead to conflicts among pastoral communities.
- **Population Displacement**: Faced with failed cropping, depletion of livelihood assets, and severe water scarcity, people may be forced to migrate in search of better conditions.

Understanding Somalia’s Seasonal Calendar

The year in Somalia is divided into four seasons, each with distinct characteristics:

- **Jilaal**: Warm, sunny, and dry season from December to mid-March.
- **Haggai**: Cool, dry, and rather cloudy season starting in July and lasting until mid-September.
- **Gu**: The main rainy season starting in mid-March and running to June.
- **Deyr**: The secondary rainy season, from October to December.

**Gu Rainy Season**

- **March**: First rains appear in the coastal regions.
- **April**: Rainfall increases in the southern and central regions.
- **May**: Rainfall is widespread across the country, with significant impacts on crop and livestock production.

**Deyr Rainy Season**

- **October**: Rainfall begins, providing critical moisture for the late season crops.
- **November**: Rainfall continues, supporting livestock and agricultural productivity.
- **December**: Rainfall diminishes, indicating the end of the rainy season.
Overview of Acute Malnutrition

Acute malnutrition is already at Critical levels in many areas of central and southern Somalia, and the number of acutely malnourished children being admitted to treatment centers is rapidly increasing, with two to four-fold increases reported in some districts. Worsening food security conditions and limited access to clean water have led to outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in many areas.

Coupled with an increase in measles cases, disease incidence is contributing to rising levels of acute malnutrition, reflected in the rising number of moderately and severely malnourished children admitted to treatment centers. Acute malnutrition case admissions among children under age five rose by over 40 percent in January-April 2022 compared to the same period of last year. Results from 11 follow-up integrated surveys conducted in late April/early May indicate worsening levels of acute malnutrition, with significant and rapid deterioration observed in Galkacyo IDPs, Beletweyne IDP/urban, Bay Agropastoral, and North Gedo Riverine livelihoods. Levels of mortality (both the Crude Death Rate (CDR) and the Under-Five Death Rate (USDR) have increased sharply among Bay Agropastoral, Badooa IDPs, Mogadishu IDPs, and Kismayo IDPs. The most concerning increase is in Bay Agropastoral (Baidoa district), where the CDR has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold. The USDR has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral (Baidoa district).

Based on the results from 11 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys conducted between late April and early May 2022, as of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition through the end of the year, including 386,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished through the end of the year. As of May 2022, an estimated 15 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition through the end of the year, including 386,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished through the end of the year. These figures are 45 percent of the total population of children, face acute malnutrition through the end of the year, including 386,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. These figures are likely to increase as the nutrition situation deteriorates further in the affected areas.

Urgent Actions Needed to Avert Famine in Somalia

Urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance
To stop and reverse irreversible deterioration with urgent and timely scaling up of integrated humanitarian assistance is required to prevent extreme food insecurity and acute malnutrition, including stunting and excess mortality, in areas facing an increased risk of famine through at least September 2022. Additional data collection and analysis is planned in June to ascertain whether in the projected period the most likely scenario would result in an IPC Phase 5 (Famine) classification at area level. Moreover, available long-range forecasts indicate that a record fifth below-average rainy season is likely across Somalia during the forthcoming October and December 2022 dry season.

Nutrition response
Urgent scale-up of nutrition response across the most affected regions focused on screening and treating children suffering from severe malnutrition in particular areas with malnutrition and mortality outcomes, such as Baidoa and Buraqabka districts in Bay region, already pointing to a highly concerning situation, require urgent and immediate attention.

20% of households facing an extreme lack of food
30% of children suffering from acute malnutrition
2 or 4 DEATHS
Deaths of two adults or four children 10,000 people each day due to outright starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease

SOMALIA: IPC Risk of Famine Snapshot | May - September 2022
**Major Droughts in Somalia**

2010 - 2022

By nature, Somalia is an arid and semi-arid climate, with two major rainfall seasons. However, the rising intensity and frequency of erratic rainfalls and severe droughts exacerbate the country’s water scarcity, conspiring livelihood activities and forcing drought-induced migration and population displacements. The protracted conflict and insecurity further aggravate the food crisis. In part, Somalia’s long-running food crisis has been driven by recurrent and severe droughts and conflict.

In the past three decades, Somalia has experienced three major drought crises in 2010/11, 2016/17, and now 2021/22. The 2010/11 drought crisis led to a famine that left at least 260,000 people dead.

A multi-season drought that started across Somalia in late 2020 is expected to continue worsening through June 2022, leading to further deterioration of the country’s food security and nutrition situation. Persistent insecurity and conflict – particularly in central and southern Somalia – and global supply and price shocks are further exacerbating the food insecurity situation in Somalia.

**About the IPC Risk of Famine**

For the IPC Risk of Famine...

- ...refers to a reasonable probability of an area going into Famine in the projected period. While this is not perceived necessarily as the most likely scenario, it is a scenario that, generally speaking, has a realistic chance of occurring.

- ...complements the Famine and Famine Likely projections of the most likely scenario by providing insights into potential Famine if prospects evolve in a worse manner than anticipated.

- ...is a statement about the potential deterioration of the situation from what is expected. It is not a new classification, and it is not to be accompanied by population estimates.

- ...is an additional assessment that focuses on assessing if the area could realistically go into Famine during the projected period. Not all areas need to undergo assessment for Risk of Famine.

Download the IPC Famine Fact Sheet to understand better how the IPC defines and classifies Famine and how it differs from the ‘Famine Likely’ classification and the Risk of Famine.

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**People in IPC Phase 3+**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>7.1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Population data is based on UNFPA’s Population Estimation Survey for Somalia in 2021.*

**NOTE:** Whereas this infographic plots Somalia’s population classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse on the area graph covering the last 14 years, when comparing, it is essential to consider that the methodology and base population data have changed over time.

**Publications**

- *Famine Likely* classification and the Risk of Famine.
- IPC Famine Fact Sheet

**Publication date:** June 6, 2022

*Population data is based on UNFPA’s Population Estimation Survey for Somalia in 2021.*

*Disclaimer:* The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.