SOMALIA : IPC Risk of Famine Snapshot | May - September 2022

IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions

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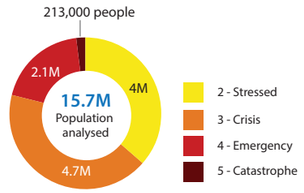
Second Projection Key Figures | June - September 2022

7.1M

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 peoplefacing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and more than 213,000 facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).**

Approximately 7.1 million people out of the analysed population of 15.7 million is likely experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).



Overview of Acute Food Insecurity

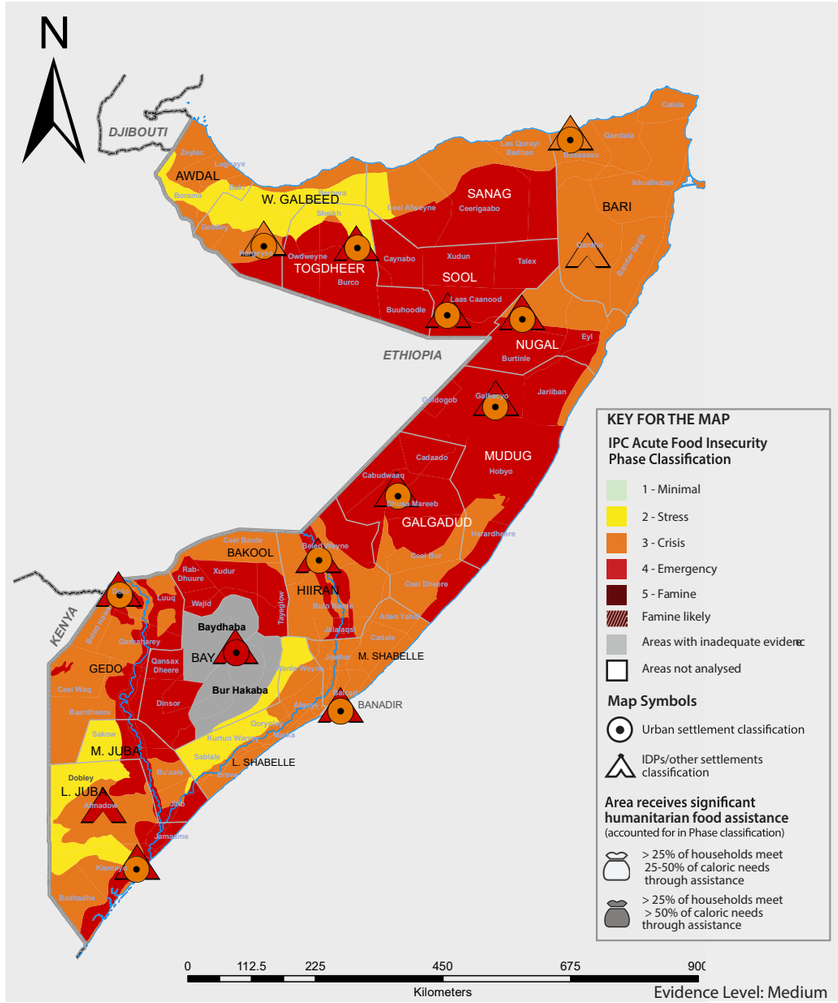
Worsening drought is putting some areas in central and southern Somalia at an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022 if the current Gu season crop and livestock production fails, food prices continue to rise sharply and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach those most in need. These areas include Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun 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 Baidoa district. Mortality (Crude Death Rate) has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Burhakaba and Baidoa districts, and death rates among children have reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa district. While 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, in the projected period, the most likely scenario would result in an IPC Phase 5 (Famine) classification at the area level.

Acute food insecurity has continued to worsen across Somalia, with an estimated 5.2 million people (or 33% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes, including 38,000 people likely in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), as of May 2022, despite the ongoing delivery of humanitarian food assistance. Food assistance reached an average of 2.4 million people per month between February and April 2022 and has likely prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes in many areas. However, humanitarian assistance delivery is far short of the rising level of need, and insufficient funding is expected to lead to pipeline breaks in food assistance delivery after June.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are expected to deteriorate further and faster between June and September 2022, and if humanitarian food assistance is not scaled up and sustained, then approximately 7.1 million people (or 45% of the total population) are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes. This figure includes 2.1 million people that will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 213,000 people that will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). In addition to the population groups that face an increased Risk of Famine, other areas of concern include Northern Inland Pastoral of Northwest, Hawd Pastoral of Northwest, Southern Agropastoral, Southern Rain-fed Agropastoral of Middle and Lower Juba, and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones as well as IDP settlements in Burao, Lasaanod, Garoowe, Belet Weyne, Doolow and Kismaayo, all of which face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and September 2022. Based on the results from 11 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys conducted between late April and early May 2022, the total acute malnutrition burden estimates for Somalia for 2022 have been revised and updated. Accordingly, as of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), representing 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.

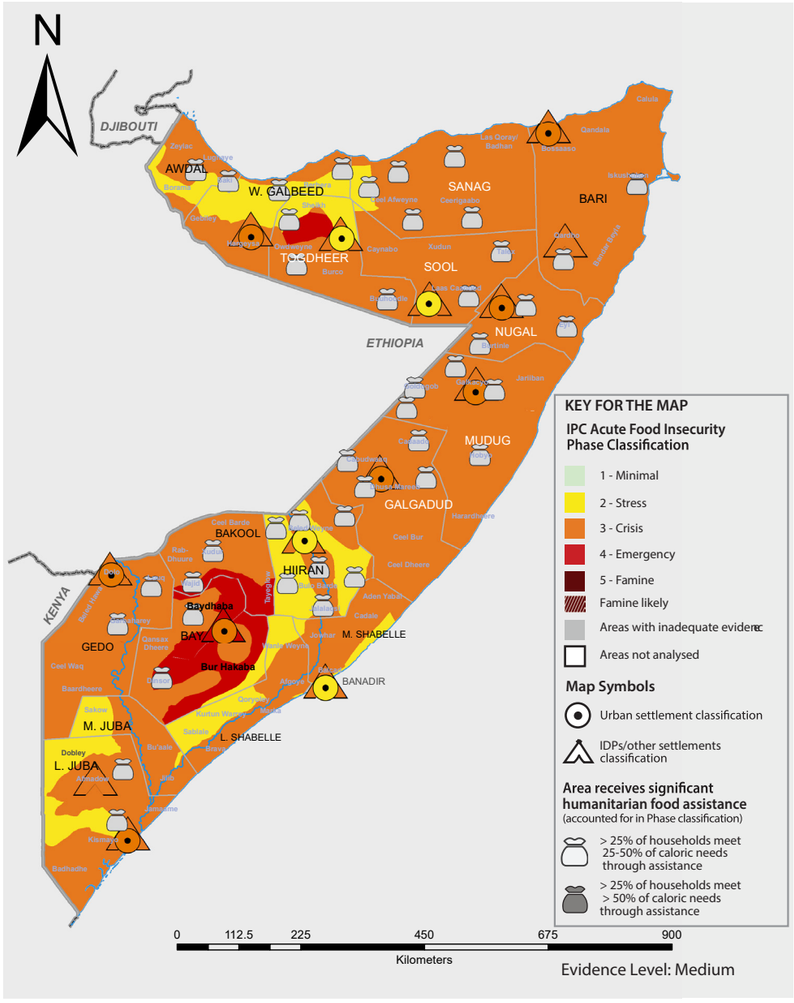
Urgent and timely scaling up of integrated humanitarian assistance is required to prevent extreme food insecurity and acute malnutrition, including starvation and excess mortality, in areas facing an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022. In particular, malnutrition and mortality outcomes in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts in Bay region already point to an extremely concerning situation as of May 2022. While only one of the criteria of Famine (IPC Phase 5) has been met in Baidoa district as of May, there is increasing concern that further deterioration in food consumption, acute malnutrition, and mortality may lead to Famine (IPC Phase 5) in these two districts if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up urgently in these areas. A new round of data collection will be undertaken in June to further assess the likelihood of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in Bay Region. 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 Deyr season. Therefore, humanitarian needs are expected to worsen and remain high nationally well into 2023.

Projected Acute Food Insecurity | June - September 2022



Evidence Level: Medium

Current Acute Food Insecurity | May 2022



Evidence Level: Medium

Assumptions for the Increased Risk of Famine

In the most likely scenario, approximately 213,000 people across the most affected areas face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between June and September 2022, representing 5 to 15 percent of the total population in these areas. Currently, the evidence criteria for Famine (IPC Phase 5), which is an area level outcome representing at least 20 percent of the population, has not 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 through September 2022 if (1) there is widespread crop and livestock production failure occurs, (2) food prices continue to rise sharply and (3) humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the country's most vulnerable populations.

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 main income source among poor agropastoral and riverine 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 restricts access to humanitarian assistance, with a risk of potential exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially in central and southern Somalia.

Acute 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.

Food Prices

Further and substantial food price increases (50% or more above the average for the previous five years) driven by the following factors: failed local harvests; continuing regional drought in neighbouring countries that reduces cross-border supplies; and record-high global food prices and further impacts of the conflict in Ukraine on global food and fuel prices.

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance does not keep pace with the rapidly increasing level of need – particularly as rising food prices reduce the purchasing power of cash transfer values – and does not reach the most affected areas. Given that the gap between the conditions in the most likely scenario and the conditions in the alternative Risk of Famine scenario is increasingly narrow, the aversion of Famine (IPC Phase 5) increasingly hinges on urgent scaling up and continuation of humanitarian assistance.

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How Drought Drives Acute Food Insecurity in Somalia

Prolonged and recurrent drought is a key driver of acute food insecurity in Somalia. Characterised by below-average precipitation affecting the amount of moisture in the soil and the amount of water in streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater, here is how drought drives millions of people to extreme hunger in Somalia:

Livestock Deaths

Poor pasture conditions and water scarcity resulting from drought lead to widespread livestock deaths and devastating livelihoods for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Somalia's traditional livestock sector is based on nomadic pastoralism with a growing private sector-led export industry.

Crop Failure

Poor rains lead to crop failure in the rain-fed and irrigated agricultural regions of southern and northwestern Somalia, resulting in below-average production and high prices for staple food many poor households rely on.

High Food Prices

Shortfalls in food production lead to substantial increases in imports to meet local needs, resulting in increased prices and pressure on household food access. Domestic maize and sorghum prices rise by more than 50 percent in many southern regions during Somalia's more severe season.

Water Scarcity

In pastoral areas, water and pasture shortages have forced pastoralists to migrate to distant grazing areas. Poor pastoralists in many areas are unable to cope with the rising costs of water and food, especially when they are already experiencing a significant decline in saleable animals due to distressed sales, weak/emaciated body conditions, and excess deaths.

Acute Malnutrition

As food security conditions worsen and water availability and quality decline, outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) is being reported in many parts of the country. Coupled with increases in measles cases, these are contributing to rising levels of acute malnutrition as reflected in the increasing number of moderately and severely malnourished children being admitted to treatment centers in many areas. Another major contributing factor of the current high acute malnutrition levels in Somalia include low milk availability due to limited livestock holding among the poor stemming from prolonged drought, water scarcity and livestock deaths.

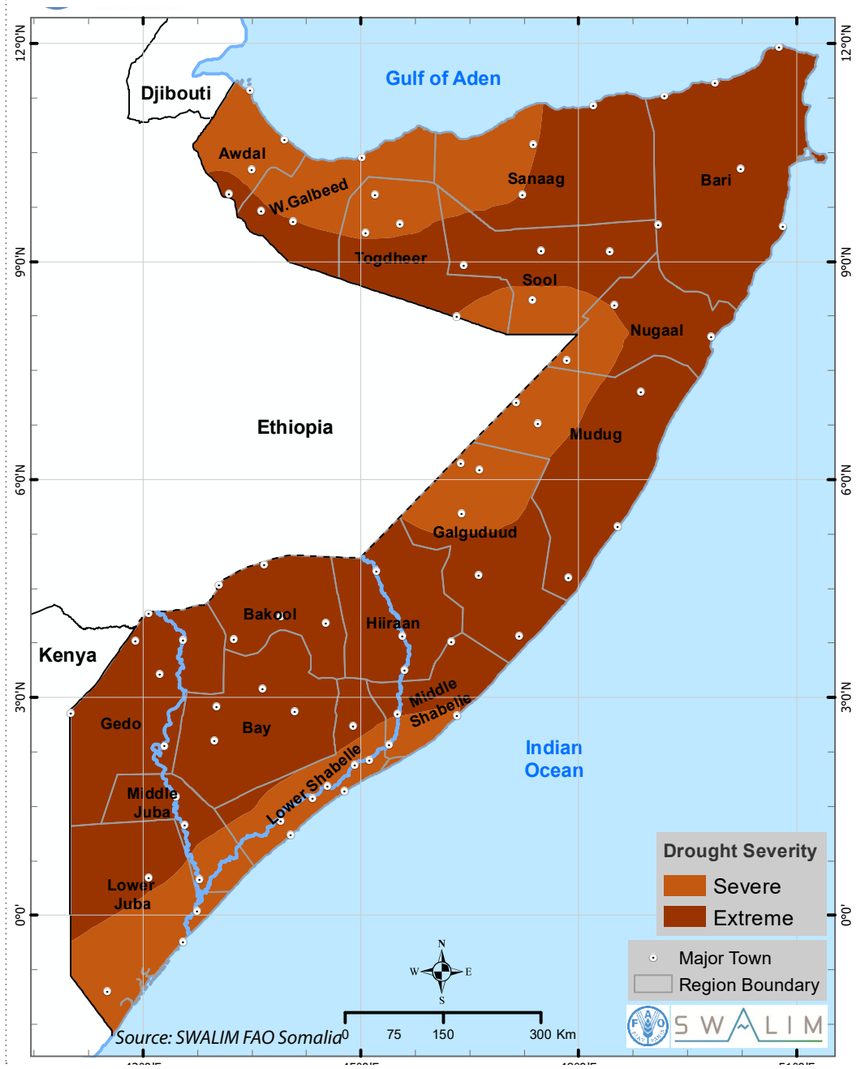
Drought-induced Conflict

Drought breeds competition over scarce pasture and water resources, leading to clashes among pastoral communities. Drought also causes livestock price shocks that lead to conflicts by reducing participation opportunities.

Population Displacement

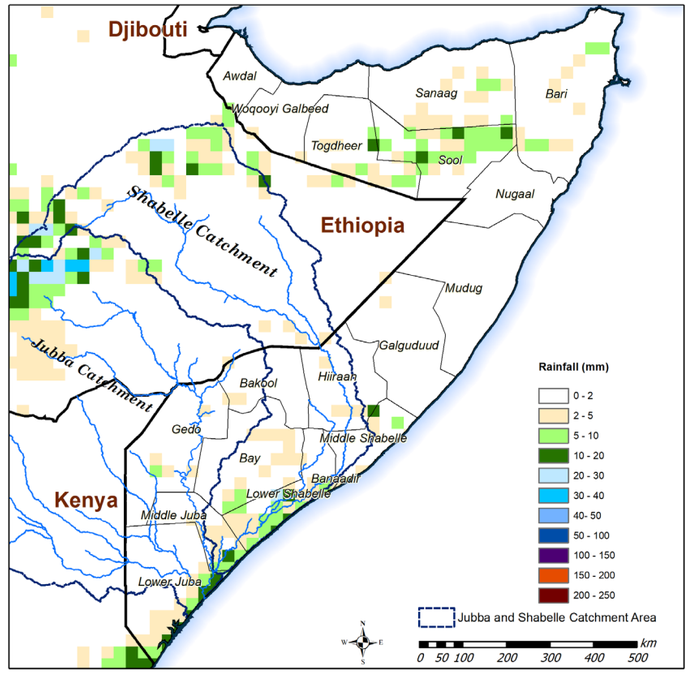
Faced with failed cropping, depleted livelihood assets, and severe water scarcity, hundreds of thousands of Somalis in rural areas are forced to migrate to urban areas for labour opportunities.

Somalia Drought Conditions Map | May 2022



Rainfall Forecast | June 2022

The last two weeks of May 2022 saw a significant reduction of rainfall across Somalia marking a possible early end of the Gu 2022 rainfall season. There is cause for concern as observed rainfall records indicate that some parts in the central regions of Galmudug as well as Bari and Nugaal regions in Puntland received minimal rains since the start of the season. Cumulatively, the rainfall amounts recorded so far are below average with a typical poor distribution in space and time. This marks the fourth consecutive failed rainy season in Somalia, a situation that has not been witnessed in recent history.



Source: USGS

Understanding Somalia's Seasonal Calendar

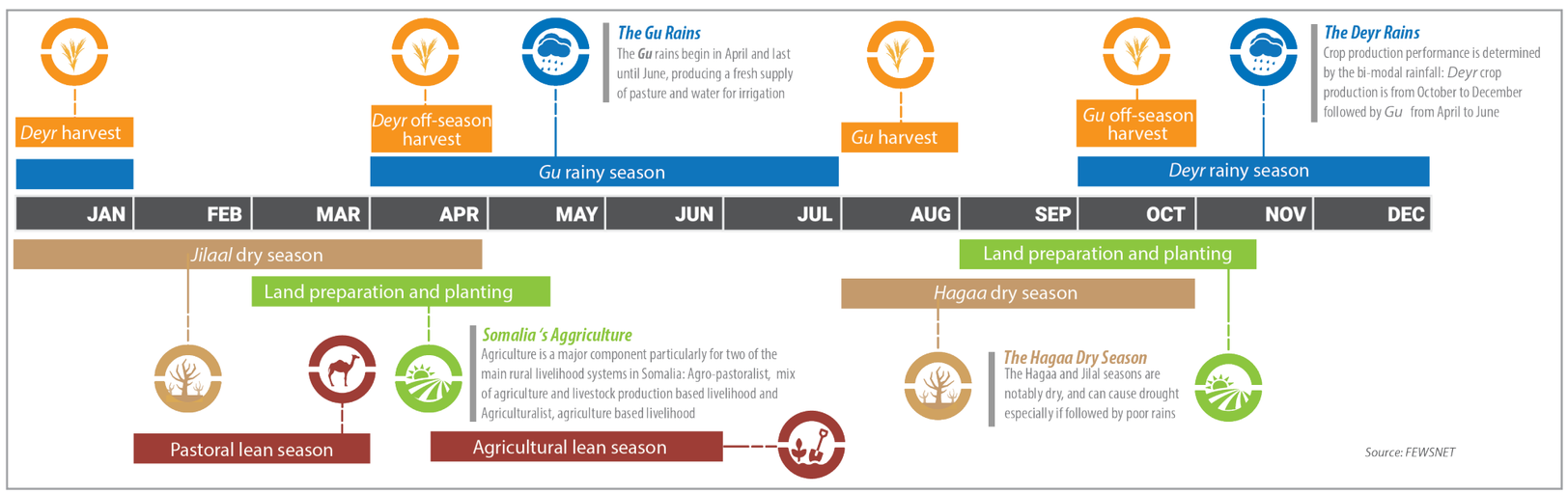
Somalia generally has a semi-arid to arid climate. The main climatic features are distinct wet and dry seasons and the absence of any large seasonal temperature change. Rainfall is the most important meteorological element affecting life in Somalia. It is the defining characteristic of the climate and has great spatial and temporal variability. The dramatic variation from season to season - and variations within the seasons - determines the success or failure of agricultural activities. The year is divided into four seasons as follows:

Jilaal: a warm, sunny and dry season from December to mid-March.

Haggai: a cool, dry and rather cloudy season starting in July and lasting until mid-September; some weather stations along the southern coast and in the northwestern regions receive significant amounts of rainfall.

Gu: the main rainy season starting in mid-March and running to June.

Deyr: the secondary rain season, from October to December.



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Current Acute Malnutrition | May 2022

1.5M

As of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition, including 386 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished through the end of the year.

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.

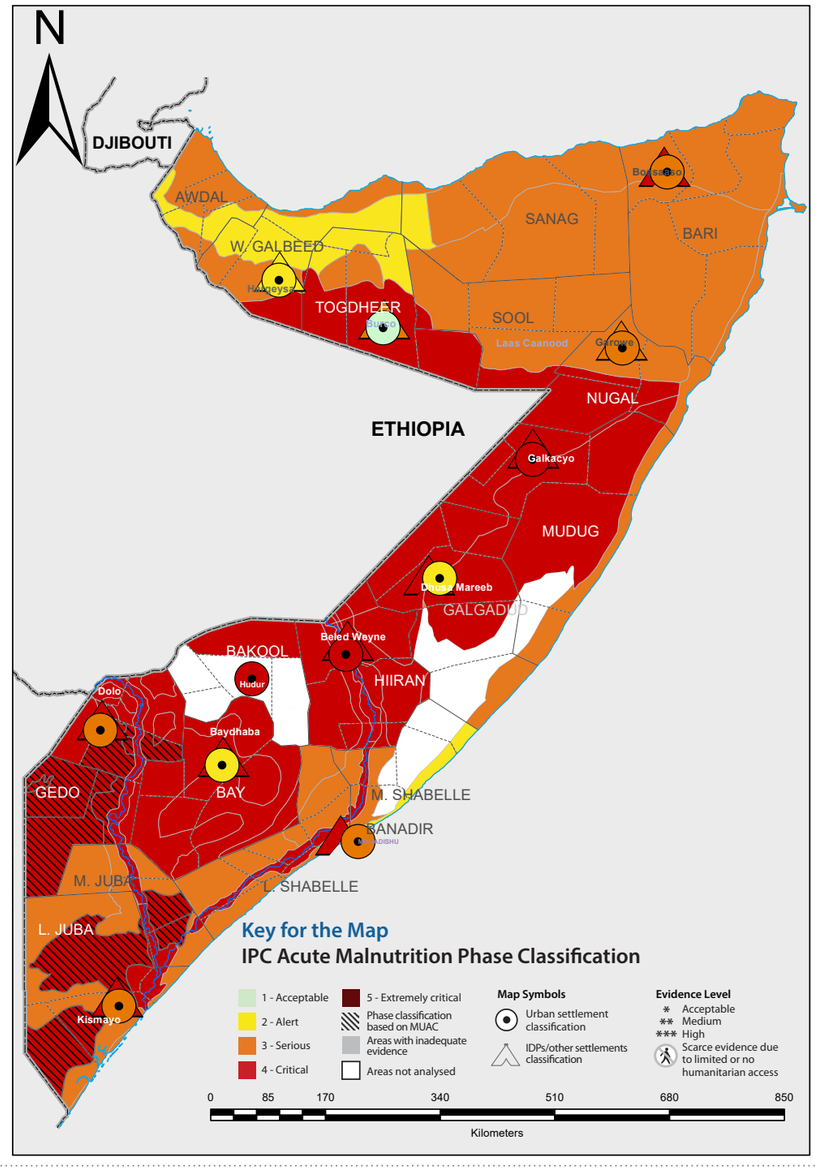
Coupled with an increase in measles cases, disease incidence is contributing to rising levels of acute malnutrition, reflected in the rising number of moderately and severely malnourished children admitted to treatment centers. Acute malnutrition case admissions among children under age five rose by 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 (U5DR) have increased sharply among Bay Agropastoral, Baidoa IDPs, Mogadishu IDPs, and Kismayo IDPs. The most concerning increase is in Bay Agropastoral (Burhakaba and Baidoa districts), where the CDR has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold. The U5DR 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), representing 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.

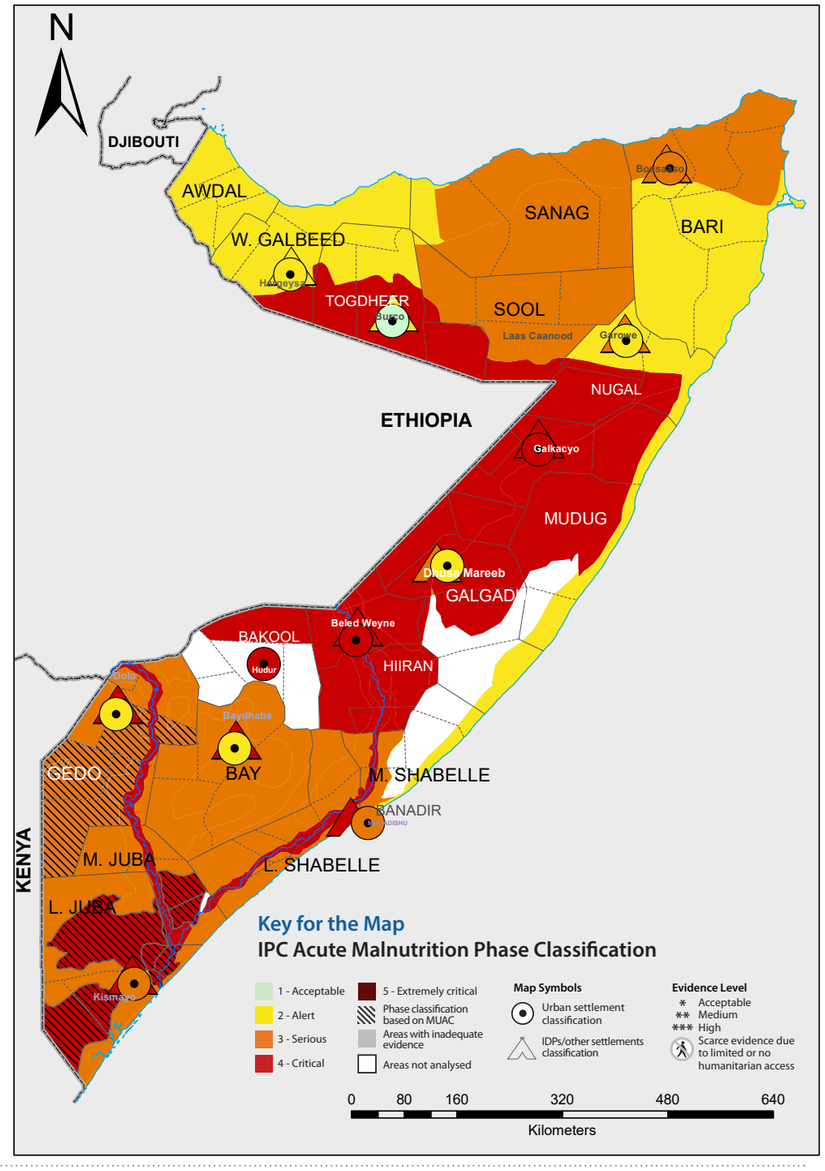
Acute Malnutrition Phases and description

Phase 1 Acceptable	Phase 2 Alert	Phase 3 Serious	Phase 4 Critical	Phase 5 Extremely Critical
Less than 5% of children are acutely malnourished.	**5–9.9%** of children are acutely malnourished.	**10–14.9%** of children are acutely malnourished.	**15–29.9%** of children are acutely malnourished. The mortality and morbidity levels are elevated or increasing. Individual food consumption is likely to be compromised.	**30% or more** children are acutely malnourished. Widespread morbidity and/or very large individual food consumption gaps are likely evident.

Current Acute Malnutrition | May 2022



Projected Acute Malnutrition | June - September 2022



When is Famine Classified?

Famine (IPC Phase 5) is the highest phase of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale, and is classified when an area has:

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

Urgent Actions Needed to Avert Famine in Somalia

Urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance

To stop and reverse inexorable deterioration with urgent and timely scaling up of integrated humanitarian assistance is required to prevent extreme food insecurity and acute malnutrition, including starvation and excess mortality, in areas facing an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022.

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 Burhakaba districts in Bay region, already pointing to a highly concerning situation, require urgent and immediate attention.

Data collection

While 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 is planned in June to ascertain whether in the projected period the most likely scenario would results 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 Deyr season.

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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, consternating 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 decade, 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.
… differs from Famine and Famine Likely projections because it focuses on a worst-case scenario that has a reasonable and realistic chance of happening.

… 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.

4.3M
People in IPC Phase 3+

Due to prolonged drought, conflict, and high food prices, a Famine was declared in southern Somalia in July 2011. Some 4.3 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, and an estimated half million children were acutely malnourished.

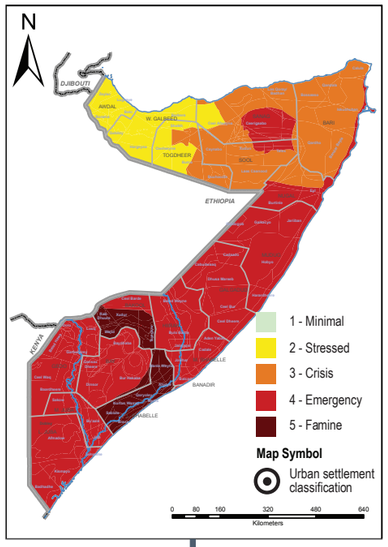
3.3M
People in IPC Phase 3+

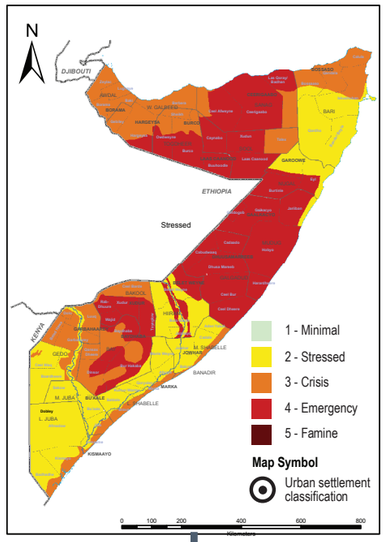
Somalia was on the brink of Famine in mid-2017. Sequential seasons of reduced rainfall, low harvests, and dying livestock exposed the country to famine from drought, compounding decades of climatic shocks and conflict. Timely and scaled up humanitarian assistance averted worse outcomes.

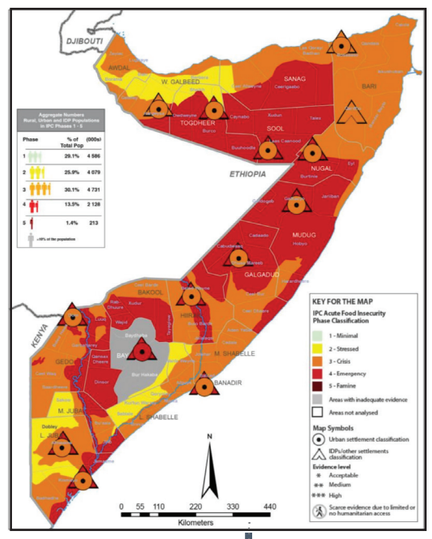
7.1M
People in IPC Phase 3+

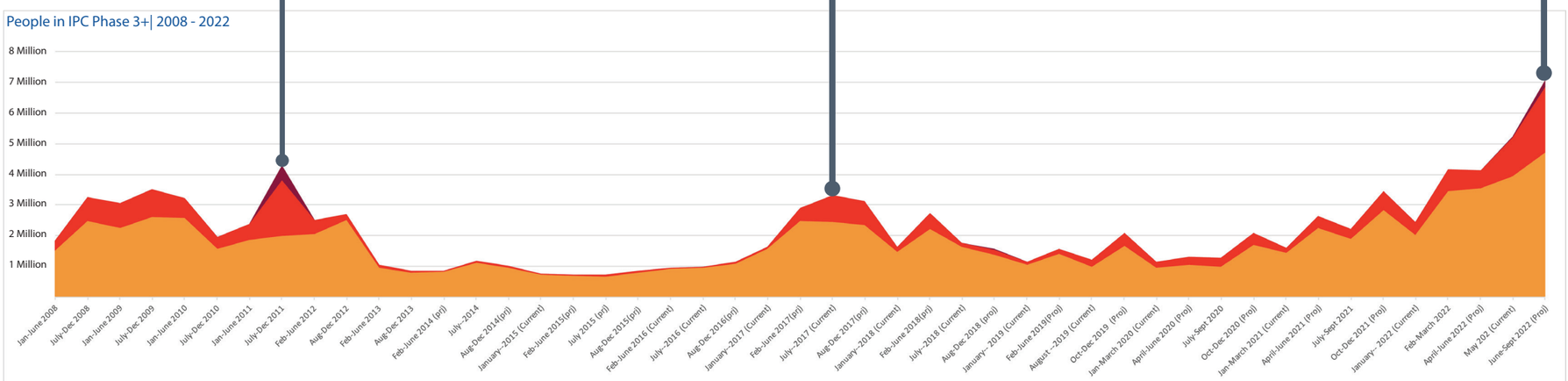
Worsening drought is putting 11 areas across Somalia at risk of Famine between June and September 2022 if the current April to June Gu season rains fail, food prices continue to rise, and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to approximately 7.1 million people across Somalia will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and September 2022.

2011 2017 2022









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.*

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.*