

General Overview

Significant efforts in the scale-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, supported by slightly more favourable than previously foreseen rainfall performance, have contributed to a moderate improvement in food security and nutrition outcomes. However, the situation remains at critical levels.

The latest analysis shows that between January to March 2023, nearly 5 million people are still experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including close to 1.4 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 96,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition persist in most parts of the country. Between January and December 2023, it is estimated that approximately 1.8 million children will be acutely malnourished, including nearly 478,000 children who are likely to be severely malnourished.

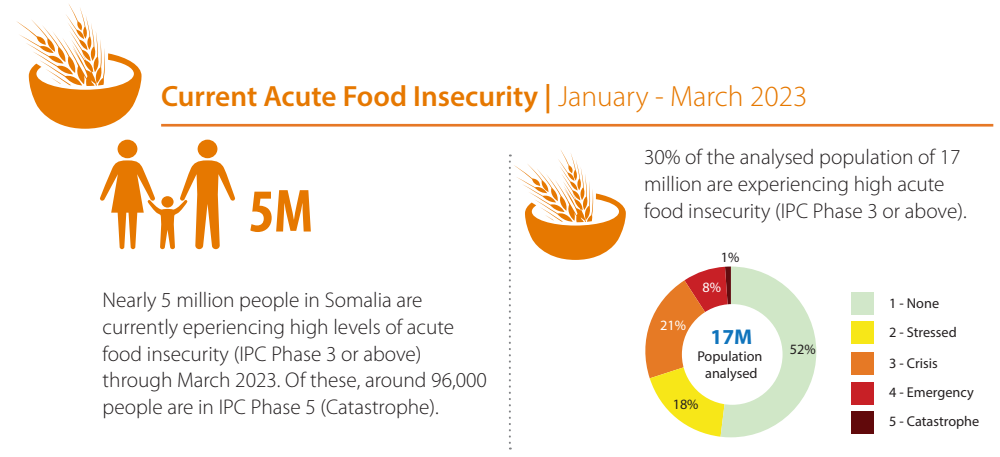
Between April and June 2023, about 6.5 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 1.9 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). A highly concerning number of people (223,000), more than double that of the current period, is expected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in the most affected areas across Somalia through mid-2023.

Deteriorating food security and acute malnutrition conditions are expected in the projected period due to the impacts of five consecutive seasons of below-average to poor rainfall, a likely sixth season of below-average rainfall from April to June 2023, and high food prices, exacerbated by conflict/insecurity and disease outbreaks. Despite the coordinated efforts to sustain humanitarian assistance, in the projected period, the confirmed funding levels for humanitarian food assistance in particular remain inadequate to avert deteriorating conditions for the most vulnerable populations, leading to a 1.5 million people increase in the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). While humanitarian food assistance has been scaled up since July 2022, and funding is currently sufficient to reach, on average, 6.2 million people per month throughout March, between April-June 2023, the confirmed funding would only be sufficient to assist around 2.7 million people – about half the current beneficiaries.

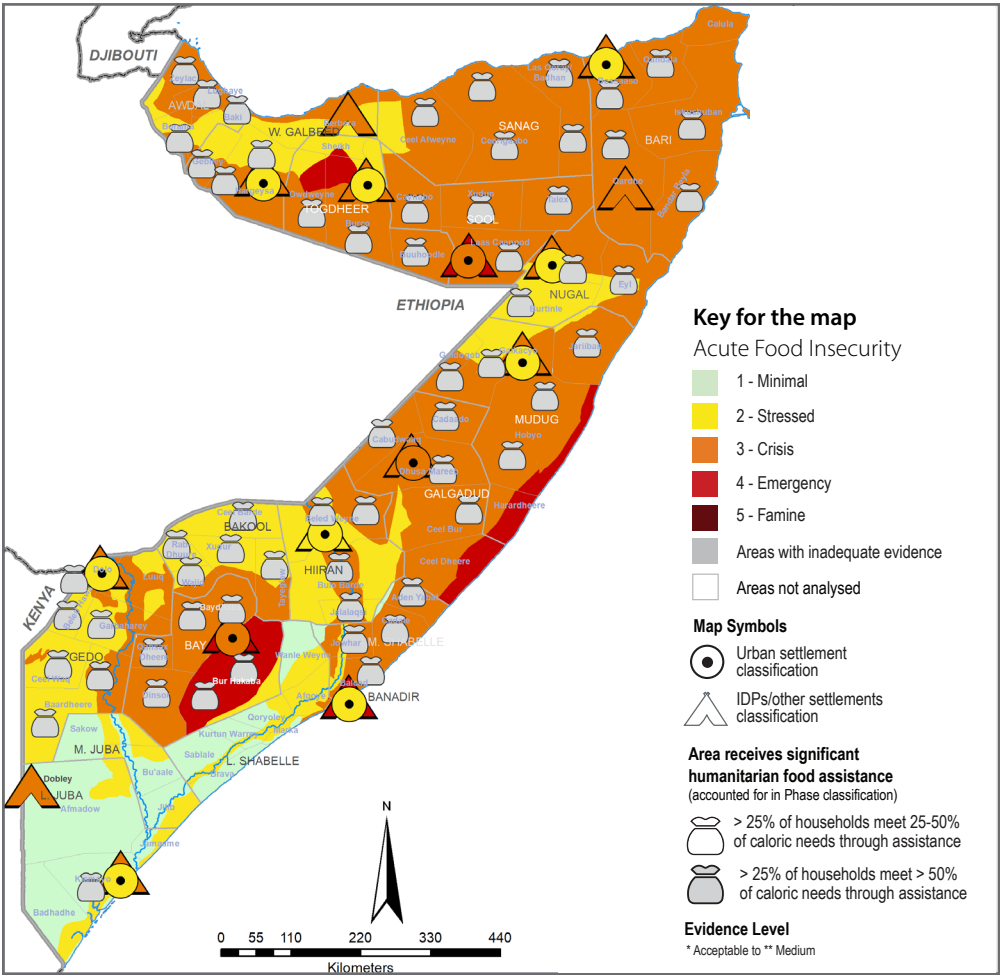
Urgent, coordinated and timely scaling up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance (in-kind food, cash/voucher transfers, nutrition, WASH, and health-related) is required from April and likely through late 2023 to prevent extreme food insecurity and acute malnutrition outcomes and excess mortality.

In the IPC analysis conducted in December 2022, the IPC Technical Working Group had projected IPC Phase 5 (Famine) for the period April to June 2023 among the IDPs who arrived in Baidoa and Mogadishu from April 2022 and rural households in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts. However, the coordinated humanitarian assistance scale up, and more favourable Gu season forecasted outcomes, will likely contribute to a slight alleviation of the food insecurity and acute malnutrition conditions, including improved access to water. Consequently, the IPC Technical Working Group did not project Famine for these populations in the projection period.

Nonetheless, the situation remains extremely critical and not stabilized. Among the newly arrived IDPs in Baidoa and Mogadishu and rural households in Burhakaba district, a Risk of Famine persists between April and June 2023 if (1) the April to June 2023 Gu season rainfall is poorer than currently forecast, leading to more crop production failures and, if (2) humanitarian assistance does not reach the country's most vulnerable populations.

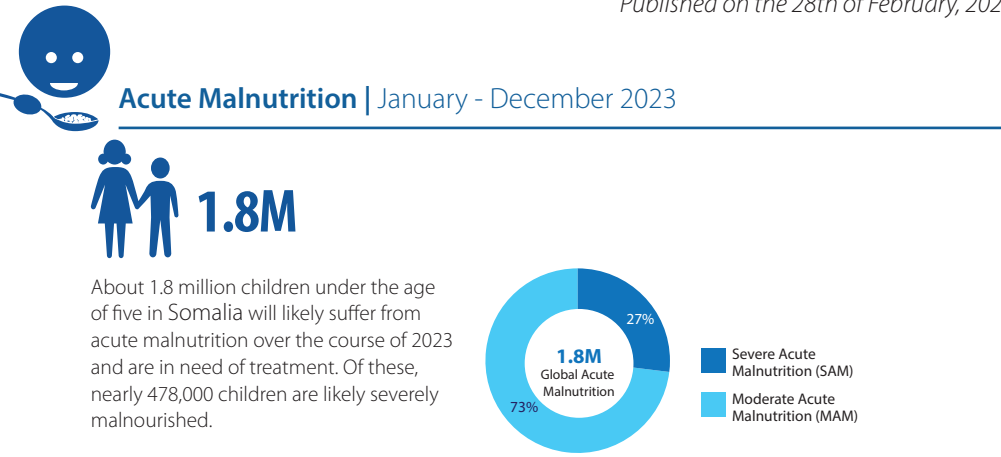


Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation | January - March 2023

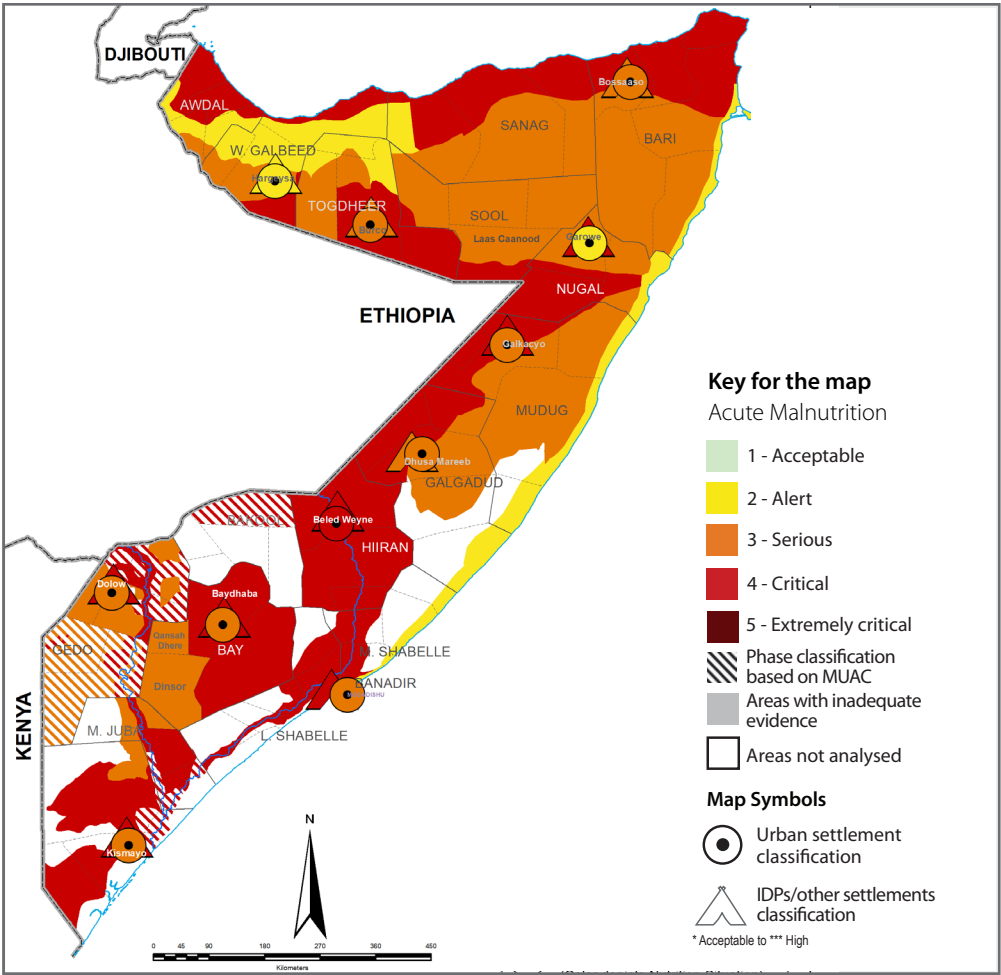


Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity

- Drought**
Preceded by five failed rain seasons and drought, the poor performance of the Deyr rains led to low crop production, with a 2022 Deyr season cereal production in southern Somalia estimated at 67,200 tons, which is 32 percent below the 1995-2021 average. Drought has also led to declining livestock body conditions and holdings among pastoralists. Although Deyr rains partially replenished pasture and water, some areas will continue to experience pasture and water shortage until the onset of Gu season rainfall in April 2023.
- High food and water prices**
Households in Somalia continue to struggle to feed themselves in the face of high food and water prices. Food prices remain above the five-year average and water prices above the long-term mean. This is an even greater concern for the urban poor across Somalia – who already spend a disproportionately large amount of their income on food.
- Conflict**
Conflict and insecurity continue leading to population displacement, disrupted market access and functionality, impeded household access to livelihood opportunities and restricted access to humanitarian assistance.

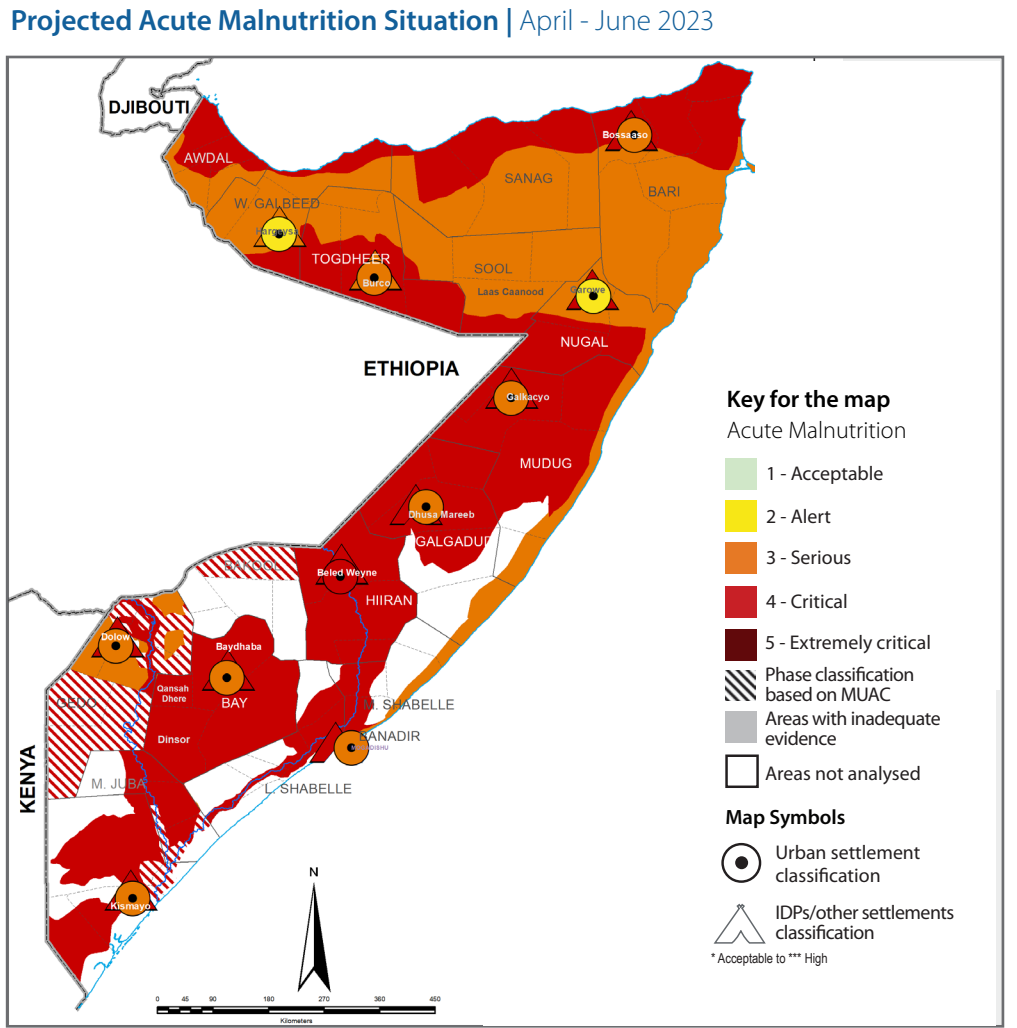
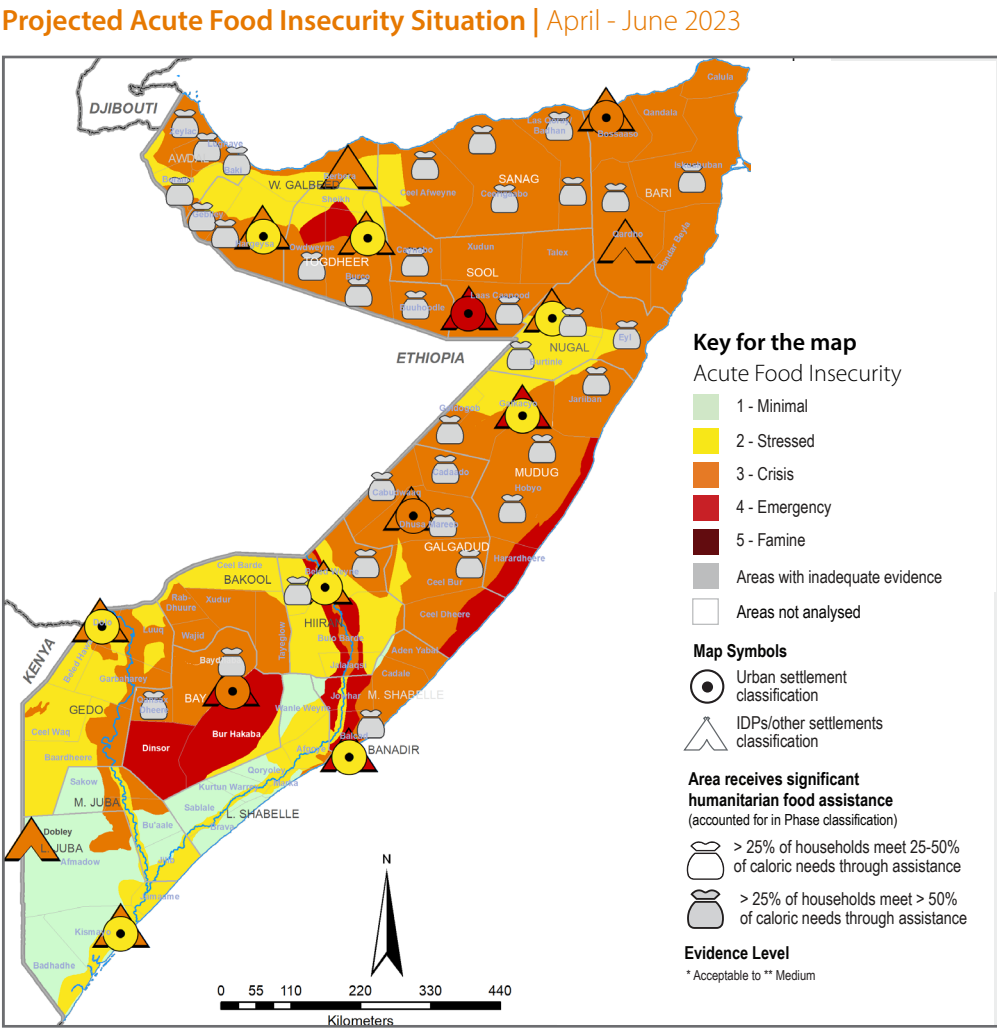
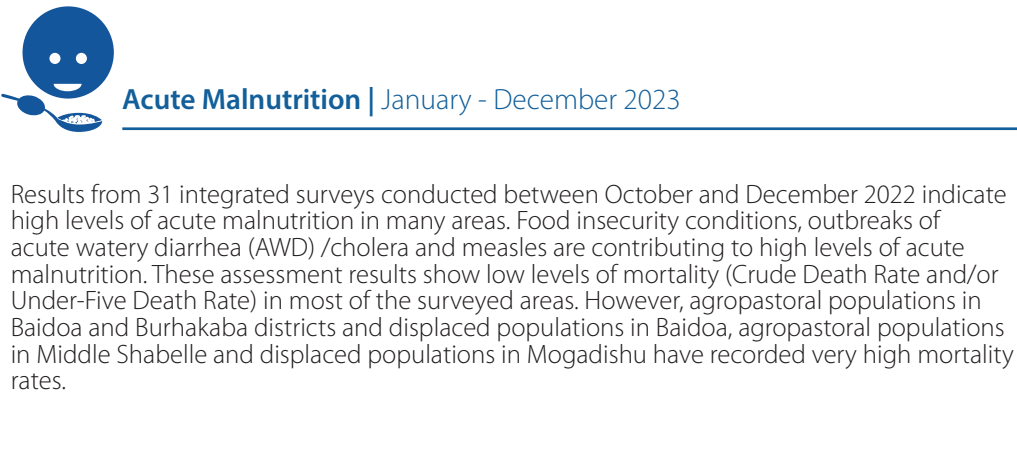
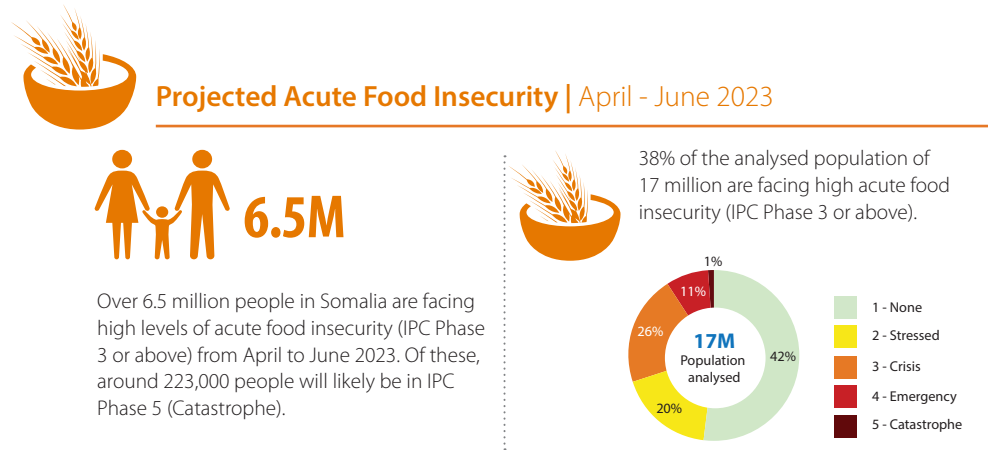


Current Acute Malnutrition Situation | January - March 2023




Contributing Factors of Acute Malnutrition

- Food insecurity**
Reduced milk production and consumption across counties, low food stocks, and unfavourable terms of trade were reported. This was due to the cumulative effects of five failed rainfall seasons.
- Poor childcare practices**
The quality of care provided to infants and young children is inadequate, leading to malnutrition in many counties, especially those affected by extreme poverty and dry spells.
- Poor water, sanitation & hygiene**
Poor access to clean water, basic toilets, and good hygiene practices deter a healthier start for children.
- Insufficient health services**
Stock-out of essential supplies for management of acute malnutrition and sub-optimal coverage of health and nutrition programs.



Recommended Response Actions




Urgent lifesaving humanitarian response

Urgent and timely scaling up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance (in-kind food, cash/voucher transfers, nutrition, WASH, and health-related) is required through at least June 2023 and likely through late 2023 to prevent Famine (IPC Phase 5) – defined by extreme levels of food insecurity, acute malnutrition, and excess mortality, including starvation – in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts of Bay Region, among IDP populations in Mogadishu and the Risk of Famine in the seven other areas.



Livelihood support

Considering upcoming harsher-than-normal drought conditions and the significantly diminished resilience, the high vulnerability to shocks and the protected nature of food insecurity and malnutrition, close collaboration between humanitarian and development programmes is needed to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and enhance resilience.




Scale up nutrition interventions

Implement blanket supplementary feeding in the most affected areas to protect children and women from acute malnutrition, given the projected worsening of an already precarious situation. Pursue a multi-sectoral approach to prevent acute malnutrition by incorporating livelihood / resilience activities into multi-sectoral nutrition response. Further scale-up mass screening, integrated outreach services, coordination and nutrition surveillance across Somalia.




Promote de-escalation of violence and facilitate response

The parties to the conflict in Somalia must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians, especially those most in need, which is impartial and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.




The Risk of Famine

In addition to the 223,000 people who are expected to be in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) between April and June 2023, the population in Baidoa and Mogadishu IDP sites established after April 2022 and in Burhakaba district remain at Risk of Famine, meaning that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could materialize between April and June 2023 if:




April to June 2023 Gu season crop production fails

Under this scenario, local crop production failure will significantly diminish seasonal agricultural employment, a primary income source among poor agropastoral and riverine households.




Humanitarian assistance does not reach the most vulnerable

Planned humanitarian assistance (particularly in-kind food, cash/ voucher transfers, nutrition, WASH, and health-related assistance) does not reach the most vulnerable populations, whether due to physical access constraints, logistical barriers, or the marginalization of certain groups.



Conflict intensifies

There is increased conflict, insecurity and unresolved political tensions. This will lead to further increases in population displacement, disrupt market access and functionality and access to livelihood opportunities as well as access to humanitarian assistance, with potential exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially in central and southern 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.

Publication date: February 28, 2023. Population data is based on UNFPA's Population Estimation Survey for Somalia in 2023. Displacement estimates are from Internal Displacements Monitored by Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) October 2022. | Feedback: IPC@FAO.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.