The 6.7 million population expected to be highly food insecure in 2022 includes 513,550 who are likely to be severely malnourished. The total acute malnutrition burden of 1.8 million represents 54.5 percent of the total population of children in Somalia.

Overview of Acute Food Insecurity

Approximately 6.7 million people across Somalia are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity. "IPC Phase 3 or above" between October and December 2022. This includes 2.2 million people who are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 300,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

Furthermore, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected among rural residents in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and displaced people in Baidoa town of Bay region in southern Somalia, where malnutrition and mortality levels are already at alarming levels. These projections reflect the population still in need of urgent assistance after accounting for already planned assistance for October to December 2022. Humanitarian needs are extremely high due to the impacts of four consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, an anticipated fifth season of below-average rainfall from October to December, and exceptionally high food prices, exacerbated by concurrent conflict/unrest and disease outbreaks (primarily acute watery diarrhea/cholera and measles).

In addition to the Famine (IPC Phase 5), projections in two districts of Bay region, several areas in central and southern Somalia face an increased Risk of Famine through at least December 2022. If the 2022 Deyr is shallower than expected, leading to more crop and livestock production failures and (2) humanitarian assistance does not reach the country’s most vulnerable populations. The areas and population groups facing an increased Risk of Famine are Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central; Coastal Deeh Pastoral of Central; Sornhom High and Middle Shabelle, and all settlements in the Galkacyo, and Dollow. Critical (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality levels are already occurring in these areas. The delivery of the ongoing response is currently mitigating the size of the acute food insecure population. Levels of acute food insecurity across Somalia remain high and will further deteriorate if a multisectoral and coordinated response is not scaled up and sustained.

Between June and September 2022, an estimated 4.3 million people (or 26% of the total population) are experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 121,000 people estimated to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Critical levels of food assistance delivery have increased compared to earlier in the year, reaching an average of 3.1 million people per month between April and June 2022 and 4.5 million people per month between July and September 2022. However, based on current plans and funding levels, humanitarian food assistance delivery is expected to reduce by half in November and December 2022.

The nutrition situation has also deteriorated across most of the country. Acute malnutrition case admissions among children under age five have continued to rise sharply. The total estimated acute malnutrition burden for Somalia from August 2022 to July 2023 is approximately 1.8 million children. This figure represents 54.5 percent of the total population of children in Somalia and includes 513,550 children who are likely to be severely malnourished.

Key Drivers

Prolonged Drought: The 2020 and 2021 rainy seasons (known as Gu and Deyr) produced below-average rainfall, the 2022 Gu rainy season that occurred from April-July 2022 was the highest cumulative moisture deficit on record, and the failure of the upcoming Deyr (Oct-Dec 2022) is predicted to be just as severe. In the absence of other factors, a fifth straight failed rainy season will likely be enough to push at least some proportion of the population into famine. It bears remembering that in 2010-11, it took only two significant failed rainy seasons to drive many people into famine.

High Food Prices: The low domestic cereal production and the reduction in imports due to the reduced river inflows in Ethiopia have led to widespread crop failure and livestock deaths, driving millions of people of sources of livelihood.

Conflict: The long-running armed conflict and insecurity have persisted, particularly in central and southern Somalia. Fighting food producers, and destroying labor opportunities, many more households are already facing severe food insecurity, especially those displaced – will increasingly struggle to afford daily food needs while some will starve to death. Rapidly increasing dependency on food imports in the context of high global food prices will also make food inaccessible for many households.

The displacement, health and WASH crises are expected to worsen. The newly displaced people are located in settlements with inadequate water access, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). nutrition and health services, making them susceptible to water-borne and other infectious diseases. The already overcrowded situation in IDP settlements is expected to get more precarious with the influx of higher than expected numbers of people fleeing their homes met with limited logistical scalability of the health sector. This situation is likely to place immense pressure on health facilities in Baidoa town.

Why famine is most likely to occur in Bay region

Projection Acute Food Insecurity | October - December 2022

Between July 2022 and June 2023, approximately 1.8 million children under five will likely face acute malnutrition through mid-2023, including 513,550 who are likely to be severely malnourished. The total acute malnutrition burden of 1.8 million represents 54.5 percent of the total population of children in Somalia.

According to the Somalia Drought Displacement Monitoring Dashboard of July 2022, drought-related population displacement since January 2021 has exceeded 1 million people. In July alone, over 83,500 people were displaced by drought. Most new arrivals have been observed in Bay region (40 percent), followed by Banadir and Gedo regions (19 and 15 percent, respectively).

Over the past few years, the conflict has posed immense pressure on health facilities in Baidoa town. Following the bombing that occurred in Mogadishu earlier in September, and the Somalia authorities are now calling for an all-out war with armed actors.

Livestock Deaths | July 2022

According to FAO in Somalia, over 3 million livestock are estimated to have died since mid-2021 due to depleted pasture, water scarcity, disease and violence. In addition, households have also accumulated very high debt burdens, driven by the prohibitive costs of water and feed for livestock, increased reliance on purchasing feed for the family, and credit in animal and livestock migration to distant areas in search of pasture and water.

Projection Drought-induced Displacement | October - December 2022

The IPC analysis conducted by the Somalia IPC Technical Working Group and reviewed by the IPC Famine Review Committee shows concrete indications that famine will occur in two areas in the Bay region (Baddo and Burhakaba districts) in South-Central Somalia in October and December 2022. Food security and nutrition analysts project that in the most likely scenario, people in rural areas of Baddo and Burhakaba districts and newly arrived IDPs in Baidoa will experience famine conditions at some point between October and December 2022.
**About the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Scale**

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale has become the global standard for the classification of acute food insecurity. It is used principally to inform decisions on resource allocation and programming globally and within countries, especially for countries experiencing recurrent or protracted food crises.

**Phase 1**: None/Minimal

- Households have an extremely low, but not zero, risk of facing acute food insecurity at any point.
- Do not meet essential food consumption needs but are able to meet basic food needs.
- Coping strategies: Employment of normal livelihood strategies and some minimal asset liquidation.

**Phase 2**: Stressed

- Moderate acute food insecurity.
- Households face large food consumption gaps and are using basic coping strategies, but not meeting essential food needs.
- Coping strategies: Employment of normal livelihood strategies and some minimal asset liquidation.

**Phase 3**: Crisis

- Extreme acute food insecurity.
- Households face large food consumption gaps and are using atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.
- Coping strategies: Employment of emergency livelihood strategies, asset liquidation, and non-food needs.

**Phase 4**: Emergency

- Catastrophe/ Famine

- Households face extremely critical levels of acute food insecurity.
- Coping strategies: Employment of emergency livelihood strategies, asset liquidation, and non-food needs.
- Deaths of two adults or four children for every 10,000 people each day due to outright starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

**Projected Acute Food Insecurity by Region**

**October - December 2022**

- **Awdal**: Stressed
- **W. Galbeed**: Stressed
- **Togdheer**: Stressed
- **Sool**: Stressed
- **Sanaag**: Stressed
- **Bari**: Stressed
- **Nugaal**: Stressed
- **Mudug**: Stressed
- **Galgaduud**: Stressed
- **Hiran**: Stressed
- **M. Shabelle**: Stressed
- **L. Shabelle**: Stressed
- **Bakool**: Stressed
- **Bay**: Stressed
- **Gedo**: Stressed
- **M. Juba**: Stressed
- **L. Juba**: Stressed
- **Banaadir**: Stressed

**Current Acute Food Insecurity**

- **June - September 2022**

Approximately 4.3 million people across Somalia are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and September 2022 due to prolonged drought, high food prices and conflict.

**Aggregate Numbers**

- **Other Regions**: 5.0 million people
- **Rural, Urban and IDP**: 121,040 people

**Projected Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot**

- **June - September 2022**

**Key for the Map**

- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe
SOMALIA: Acute Malnutrition Snapshot | July 2022 - June 2023

Acute Malnutrition | July 2022 - June 2023

Between July 2022 and June 2023, approximately 1.8 million children under five will likely face acute malnutrition (through mid-2023), including 513,550 who are estimated to be severely malnourished. The total acute malnutrition burden of 1.8 million represents 54.5 percent of the total population of children in Somalia.

Overview of Acute Malnutrition

Based on the results from 25 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys conducted by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and partners in June and July 2022 and subsequent IPC acute malnutrition analysis conducted in August, the total acute malnutrition burden for Somalia from July 2022 to June 2023 is estimated at approximately 1.8 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), representing 54.5 percent of the total population of children face acute malnutrition through the mid-2023, including 513,550 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

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 significantly in 2022 compared to the preceding three years.

Levels of mortality (both the Crude Death Rate (CDR) and the Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR)) have surpassed Emergency (IPC Phase 4) thresholds in several areas. Levels of mortality are particularly high in some 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.

Diseases and insufficient health services

Poor access to health and nutrition services due to conflict and insecurity make it difficult for many households to access health services. A high prevalence of diseases such as measles and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in many areas further contributes to the high levels of acute malnutrition across Somalia.

Contributing Factors

- Food insecurity: High levels of food insecurity, characterised by low quantity and quality of nutritious food and clean water, drive severe acute malnutrition.
- Poor access to clean water: The drought crisis has limited access to clean drinking water for many households and led to outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in many areas and increased acute malnutrition.
- Poor childcare practices: The quality of care provided to infants and young children is inadequate, including Minimum Acceptable Diet (8.7%), Minimum Dietary Diversity (23.4%), and Minimum meal frequencies (23.3%).
- Diseases and insufficient health services: Poor access to health and nutrition services due to conflict and insecurity make it difficult for many households to access health services. A high prevalence of diseases such as measles and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in many areas further contributes to the high levels of acute malnutrition across Somalia.

Acute Malnutrition Phases and description

- Phase 1 Acceptable: Less than 5% of children are acutely malnourished.
- Phase 2 Alert: 5–9.9% of children are acutely malnourished.
- Phase 3 Serious: 10–14.9% of children are acutely malnourished.
- Phase 4 Critical: 15–29.9% of children are acutely malnourished.
- Phase 5 Extremely Critical: 30% or more children are acutely malnourished.

Current Acute Malnutrition | July - September 2022

Recommended Response Actions

- Urgent funding to prevent famine and address the high levels of acute food insecurity across Somalia: Recognise the extreme urgency of the situation and plan, coordinate, and allocate necessary humanitarian resources to prevent a famine in the coming months. The early warning signs are clear, and all key stakeholders have a strong consensus that current levels of committed humanitarian support are inadequate to stave off further increases in massive human suffering and mortality.
- Urgent lifesaving humanitarian response: Stop and reverse the inexorable deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation in the coming months, by mobilising and providing urgently needed and coordinated assistance in the form of critical life-saving food and cash assistance, combined with an immediate scale-up of the response in the nutrition, WASH, and health sectors.
- Livelihood support: Considering communities’ significantly diminished resilience, the high vulnerability to shocks and the protected nature of food insecurity and malnutrition, close collaboration between humanitarian and development programmes are 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. Deploy a multi-sectoral approach to address the nutrition situation by incorporating livelihood/resilience activities into multi-sectoral nutrition response. Further scale-up of mass screening, integrated outreach services, coordination and nutrition surveillance across Somalia.
- Promote de-escalation of violence and facilitate response: While 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 in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.

Projection: October - December 2022
**What is Drought?**

Drought is a prolonged and widespread deficit in naturally available water supplies that creates multiple stressors across ecosystems and communities. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, drought is a period of drier-than-normal conditions that results in water-related problems. The amount of precipitation at a particular location varies yearly, but the average amount is relatively constant over years. When rainfall is less than normal for weeks to years, streamflows decline, water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall, and the depth of water in wells increases. If dry weather persists and water-supply problems develop, the dry period can become a drought.

**The Drought Measurement Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>MILD</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>SEVERE</th>
<th>EXTREME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal conditions with communities having adequate water and pasture</td>
<td>Going into drought, long-term dryness, slowing the planting and growth of crops. Also coming out of drought – water deficits, partial loss of crops and pasture.</td>
<td>Crop or pasture losses are likely, water shortages are common. Abnormal livestock migration and death cases.</td>
<td>Major crop or pasture losses are likely, water shortages are common. Abnormal livestock migration and death cases.</td>
<td>Major crop or pasture losses are likely, water shortages are common. Abnormal livestock migration and death cases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How Drought Drives Acute Food Insecurity in Somalia**

Prolonged and recurrent droughts are not new to Somalia and are a major driver of acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa nation. Here is how the current spate of drought is depriving millions of people access to adequate food.

**1 Million People Displaced**

As a result of the devastating drought in Somalia, 1 million people have been forced to flee their homes to safer havens since January 2021. More than 750,000 people have been internally displaced this year alone.

**3 Million Livestock Deaths**

Poor pasture conditions and water scarcity resulting from drought lead to deaths of up to 3 million livestock since July 2021, 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 southwestern 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 rose by more than 50 percent in many southern regions during Somalia’s most severe season.

**Water Crisis**

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 salable animals due to distressed sales, weak/malnourished body conditions, and excess deaths.

**Acute Malnutrition**

As food security conditions worsen and water availability and quality decline, outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) is being reported in many parts of the country. Coupled with increases in mortality 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.

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**Somalia Drought Conditions May 2022**

A deepening drought crisis is driving millions of people in areas in central and southern Somalia into catastrophic levels of food insecurity following consecutive failed rainy seasons. The October to December 2021, Deyr and April to June 2022 Gu rainy seasons failed, leading to widespread crop loss, livestock deaths and drought-induced mass displacement. In the most affected livelihoods, cumulative livestock deaths have reached as high as 3 million since January 2021. Widespread crop failure has significantly diminished seasonal agricultural production and employment, the main income source among poor agropastoral and rumine households in south-central Somalia. These areas include Hazeed Pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addum Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Agro Pastoral livelihoods in Bay and Bakool regions, and IDP settlements in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Galgacyo. The situation in Bay region is notably worse.

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**Somalia Drought Conditions Map May 2022**

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**Somalia Drought Conditions Map July - September 2022**

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**The Somalia Seasonal Calendar**

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**Source:** SWALIM