

Nearly 6.6 million people in Somalia still face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes despite relative improvement in rainfall forecast and decline in food prices

1.8 million children are likely to be acutely malnourished

25 April 2023, Mogadishu – During the IPC analysis conducted in January 2023, three population groups were identified as facing a Risk of Famine between April and June 2023: agropastoral communities in Burhakaba district (Bay region), internally displaced people (IDPs) in Mogadishu settlements, and IDPs in Baidoa settlements. In March 2023, follow-up integrated food security, nutrition, and mortality surveys were conducted in these three areas in order to monitor the current situation. The survey conducted in agropastoral Burhakaba also included agropastoral populations in Baidoa district given the recent history of extreme food insecurity, nutrition, and mortality outcomes in Baidoa and the resultant need for updated information in the district. In April 2023, an IPC analysis update was conducted for the surveyed areas. For the rest of the country, the results of the January 2023 IPC analysis remain valid. The April 2023 IPC analysis was conducted by a team of 42 technical experts, representing 14 institutions (government, UN, NGO, and other technical partners). The IPC Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU) provided technical support throughout the analysis process.

Overall, levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain high in Somalia following the impacts of persistent drought since late 2020. However, the results of the March 2023 assessments indicate that more extreme outcomes in the surveyed areas are being mitigated by sustained humanitarian assistance, declining food prices, and access to agricultural and casual labor employment and other income-earning opportunities. At national level, approximately 6.6 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes through June 2023. Levels of acute food insecurity remain very high in Somalia through at least June 2023, with 39 percent of the total population in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, despite the decline in the risk of Famine over the same period. The previously estimated total burden of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five years remains valid, with approximately 1.8 million children expected to be acutely malnourished in Somalia from January to December 2023, including 477,700 who are projected to be severely malnourished.

Updated [forecast for the April to June 2023 Gu season](#) points to a relatively better seasonal rainfall than [previously anticipated](#) across most parts of Somalia. Additionally, atypically early rainfall occurred in March 2023, which has partially replenished pasture and water resources in many parts of the country and created relatively more favorable conditions for land preparation and planting for the *Gu* crop production season. However, floods due to heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers in March 2023 have also been reported in Gedo and other regions, killing scores of people, displacing tens of thousands and destroying property. There will be increased risk of flooding if heavy rains continue in Somalia and in the upper catchments of Shabelle and Juba rivers in southeastern Ethiopia. Overall, relatively better rainfall during the remainder of the *Gu* season is expected to support improvement in cropping and livestock conditions, but multiple seasons of good rainfall will be required for full recovery from the extended impacts of the protracted drought.

Sharply rising food prices since mid-2021 have been one of the key drivers of worsening acute food insecurity in most parts of Somalia. Although food prices have been declining over the past six months, improving households' purchasing power, food prices remain above the five-year average in most markets (e.g. 19% for white maize in Mogadishu and 22% for red sorghum in Baidoa). As a result, most poor households continue to face constrained access to food.

The cumulative impacts of protracted drought have led to loss of life and severe damage to livelihoods. Consecutive poor-to-failed harvests among farmers and declining livestock holdings among pastoralists have contributed to poor food security and nutrition outcomes due to losses of main food and income sources. In addition to poor rainfall and persistent drought, other drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia include high food prices, conflict/insecurity, and disease outbreaks. As a result of these compounding shocks, many rural households have experienced erosion of their livelihoods and coping capacities. Social support systems remain overstretched. Millions of households are facing moderate to large food consumption gaps. These factors continue to drive population displacement from rural areas to IDP settlements.

Following a deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation across Somalia since early 2022, the provision of humanitarian food and non-food assistance (including nutrition, WASH, and health-related interventions) was scaled up in mid-2022. Humanitarian food assistance (HFA) under the Food Security Cluster – mainly in the form of cash transfers – reached an average of 4.4 million people per month between January and March 2023, with planned assistance expected to continue at generally comparable levels through June 2023. Humanitarian assistance under the Nutrition Cluster has also been scaled up. In November 2022, more than 2.3 million children were vaccinated against measles and approximately 2 million children were reached with Vitamin A supplementation and deworming tablets. In January 2023, nearly 1 million children were vaccinated against cholera.

Sustained provision of scaled-up food and non-food assistance has prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes in many areas. However, assistance provision continues to fall short of overall requirements, with millions of Somalis still facing food consumption gaps and acute malnutrition levels remain atypically high.

To prevent worsening of food insecurity and nutrition outcomes, additional coordinated funding is urgently needed for scaling up and sustaining high levels of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance that includes food security, nutrition, health, and WASH interventions through at least June 2023, and likely through late 2023. Identification, registration and targeting of beneficiaries for humanitarian assistance should prioritize new arrivals and inclusion of minority and marginalized groups. Improved humanitarian access and coverage in areas affected by insecurity and conflict is also essential to reach populations in greatest need.

Mogadishu IDPs, Baidoa IDPs and Baidoa-Burhakaba Agropastoral Populations

- Food prices and the cost of minimum expenditure basket (CMEB) have declined compared to six months ago (11-16% for rice, 28% for white maize and 6-10% for CMEB) but all three remain above the five-year averages (19-39%)
- There has been significant influx of new arrivals in IDP settlements based on the assessments conducted in March 2023; 41% of IDP households in Mogadishu and 31% of IDP households in Baidoa indicated arrival within the past 3 months
- Household food consumption: as measured by the Food Consumption Score (FCS) is poor among a large proportion of households in the three surveyed areas: 62% of IDP households in Baidoa IDPs, 24% of IDP households in Mogadishu, and 22% of agropastoral households in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts
- Household food consumption: A large proportion of households also reported moderate hunger in Mogadishu IDP settlements (67% of households) and in Baidoa IDP settlements (58% of households) and, to a lesser extent (15% of households), among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts
- Livelihood coping: A large proportion of household used livelihood coping strategies in order to maintain or increase their consumption: 52% of IDPs in Baidoa and 27% of IDPs in Mogadishu reported using Emergency-level livelihood coping strategies; and 19% of agropastoral households in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts reported using Crisis-level livelihood coping strategies
- Access to agricultural and casual labor employment and other income-earning opportunities (selling firewood, stone collection, petty trades and gathering wild food), declining food prices, and sustained humanitarian assistance are mitigating extreme food security, nutrition, and mortality outcomes among the surveyed populations
- Based on data obtained from the Food Security Cluster (FSC), the share of the population reached with humanitarian food assistance was significant ($\geq 25\%$ of the population covered) among the three population groups during January-March (27% among IDPs in Mogadishu, 79% among IDPs in Baidoa, and 95% among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba); planned and funded humanitarian assistance (FSC) is also significant between April and June 2023, expected to cover 49-75% of the population in these three areas
- However, the three populations groups face moderate to large food consumption gaps and livelihood challenges through at least June 2023
- Key drivers of acute food insecurity: include persistent drought, insecurity/conflict, and high food prices
- Prevalence of Global Acute malnutrition (GAM): is Critical (20.2% among Mogadishu IDPs, 15.3% among Baidoa IDPs and 15.3% among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts) despite slight reduction compared to results of assessments conducted in October 2022 in these areas
- Morbidity: remains high ($\geq 20\%$) in the three areas (33.7% among Mogadishu IDPs, 30.7% among Baidoa IDPs and 27.5% among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts), suggesting that disease incidence continues to play a role in elevated levels of acute malnutrition
- Main drivers of acute malnutrition: include high morbidity (including measles outbreak), limited milk access; poor access to safe water and sanitation; low coverage of measles vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation, low quality diets, meal frequency and breast feeding among children, and inadequate food consumption. Other factors exacerbating levels of acute malnutrition include increased population displacement, late registration, limited systems in place for the identification and referrals of malnourished children to receive treatment.
- Mortality: as measured by the Crude Death Rate (CDR) and Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR) are currently low among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts (IPC AMN Phases 1 or 2) while both CDR and U5DR are more elevated (IPC AMN Phase 3) among Baidoa IDPs and Mogadishu IDPs. CDR and U5DR rates have declined from compared to results of assessments conducted in October 2022 in these areas. A major decline in U5DR was observed among IDPs in Mogadishu (4.19/10,000/day in October to 1.17/10,000/day in March 2023)

Providing timely support to poor farmers to take advantage of the ongoing *Gu* season rainfall is recommended. Support to pastoral livelihoods through vaccination and treatment of their animals would contribute towards a faster recovery. In addition to scaled up and sustained humanitarian assistance, complementary recovery and development assistance is required to address the underlying cause of acute food insecurity and malnutrition and to rebuild livelihoods.

Overall, given the extended impact of the prolonged multi-season drought, levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain very high across Somalia. In March 2023, more than 5 million people are still experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes, including over 1.3 million people estimated to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and nearly 5,000 people estimated to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) - meaning that they are not receiving sufficient food assistance to prevent food consumption gaps and/or damaging livelihood coping. However, the number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) has decreased compared to the January 2023 IPC analysis, mainly due to the mitigating effect of sustained, multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, declining food prices and better than expected harvest and improved income earning opportunities. Nevertheless, with current funding levels falling short of requirements, acute food insecurity outcomes are expected to worsen between April and June 2023, with 6.6 million people expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in this period. This includes approximately 1.9 million people that will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and nearly 40,400 people that will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The projected decrease in the number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) is mainly due to the mitigating effect of sustained humanitarian assistance and better than previously expected rainfall performance.

In the coming months, many poor households will face limited ability to invest in crop production and/or re-stock livestock holdings without the support of humanitarian interventions due to prior erosion of assets and high levels of destitution and displacement. As such, despite the likelihood of near average April to June 2023 *Gu* season rainfall for most parts of Somalia, many poor households will face limited access to food and income from crop production – including agricultural employment – and livestock production through June 2023. Therefore, most agropastoral and riverine livelihood zones across Somalia are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between April and June 2023, with most poor households expected to have moderate to large food consumption gaps through at least June 2023.

Region	Population (Estimates for 2023)	Number of Acutely Food Insecure People (Rural, IDP and Urban Combined) (Updated Estimates based on the April 2023 IPC Analysis)					
		Current (March 2023)			Projection (April-June 2023)		
		Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	Catastrophe (IPC 5)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	Catastrophe (IPC 5)
Awdal	576,543	83,960	27,560	0	119,020	44,750	0
Marodi-Jeeh & Sahil (W. Galbeed)	1,311,946	229,080	74,660	0	340,040	130,090	0
Togdheer	780,092	182,290	67,330	0	261,630	96,100	2,050
Sool	497,571	155,290	58,470	0	191,490	81,090	0
Sanaag	388,559	101,720	30,560	0	123,140	41,290	0
Bari	1,116,850	290,950	96,970	0	368,960	111,480	0
Nugaal	572,647	122,170	33,410	0	152,230	44,160	0
Mudug	1,332,633	339,040	119,640	0	395,760	150,160	8,760
Galgaduud	736,546	216,720	76,410	0	255,390	104,230	1,190
Hiraan	457,546	91,660	23,740	0	128,580	63,940	0
M. Shabelle	918,463	192,920	69,130	0	260,770	105,600	12,160
L. Shabelle	1,477,523	125,330	9,210	0	159,340	55,160	0
Bakool	492,495	104,890	33,320	2,240	138,740	62,810	4,460
Bay*	1,131,121	348,320	249,860	2,730	427,440	314,600	11,730
Gedo	884,235	154,740	38,050	0	205,780	60,850	0
M. Juba	356,269	38,460	0	0	51,690	3,710	0
L. Juba	1,049,796	115,970	17,690	0	173,530	31,160	0
Banadir*	2,874,431	808,600	294,330	0	934,970	353,200	0
TOTAL	16,955,266	3,702,110	1,320,340	4,970	4,688,500	1,854,380	40,350
Total in Crisis or Worse (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5)				5,027,420	6,583,230		

*Only IPC figures for Bay and Banadir Regions were updated

In pastoral areas, poor households have experienced a significant decline in ownership of salable animals due to the impacts of extended drought. Pastoral households have also accumulated debt burdens, driven by the high cost of water and feed for livestock and increased reliance on credit for food purchases. As a result, poor pastoral households are expected to face moderate to large food consumption gaps through June 2023, based on few livestock births, reduced income from livestock sales, and low availability of milk for both adults and children. Accordingly, most pastoral livelihood zones across northern and central Somalia are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between April and June 2023. However, in southern Somalia where total typical seasonal rainfall amounts are higher and the average herd size among poor households has remained higher, most pastoral livelihood zones are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1) over the same period.

A majority of the estimated 3.7 million IDPs across Somalia are poor and have limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities in the context of high food prices, low access to communal support, and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance. New IDPs arrive in desperate conditions and may face challenges accessing humanitarian assistance upon their arrival, especially among marginalized and minority groups. As a result of access challenges and insufficient donor funding to meet total humanitarian food assistance requirements, a significant proportion of IDPs are expected to face moderate to large food consumption gaps and continued livelihood challenges and are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through June 2023. The classification for IDPs in Mogadishu and Baidoa remains Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through June 2023, based on both the January and April 2023 IPC analyses.

The urban poor across Somalia – who already spend a disproportionately large share of their income (60-80 percent) on food – continue to face difficulty purchasing sufficient food in the context of significantly elevated food prices. Many urban areas are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, in Lasaanood district of Sool region, recently escalated conflict has claimed many lives, displaced tens of thousands of people, and disrupted livelihoods. As such, affected urban and displaced populations in Lasaanod are projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes between April and June 2023.

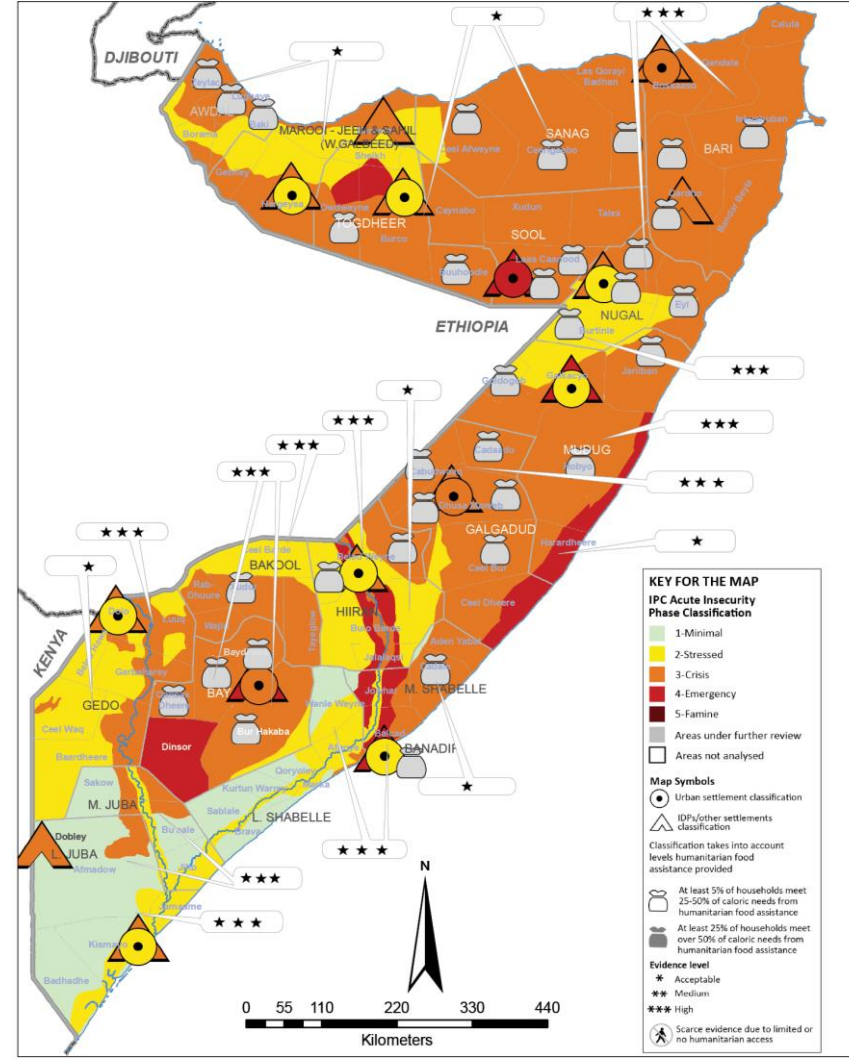
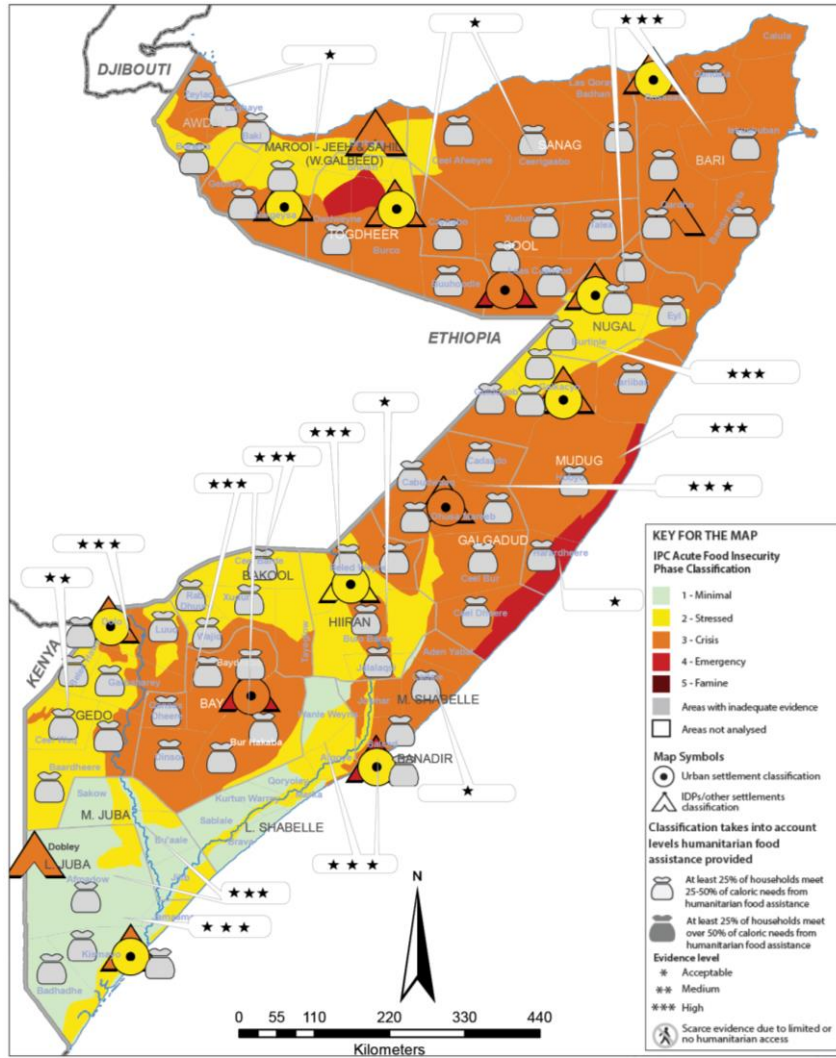
Nutrition surveys conducted in late 2022 and March 2023 point to high levels of acute malnutrition in many areas, with most population groups across Somalia facing Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) or Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) levels of acute malnutrition through June 2023. These results remain unchanged based on the additional assessments and subsequent analysis conducted in March and April 2023. Accordingly, the previously estimated total burden of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five years in Somalia remains valid at approximately 1.8 million acutely malnourished children for January to December 2023, including 477,700 who are projected to be severely malnourished. Results from assessments conducted in late 2022 and March 2023 generally show low levels of mortality (Crude Death Rate (CDR) and/or Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR)) in most surveyed areas of Somalia.

The main drivers of acute malnutrition and mortality are household-level reductions in food and milk consumption, disease outbreaks (including acute watery diarrhea (AWD), cholera, and measles and associated high levels of morbidity among children, limited health and nutrition services, and persistent underlying causes related to sanitation and health.

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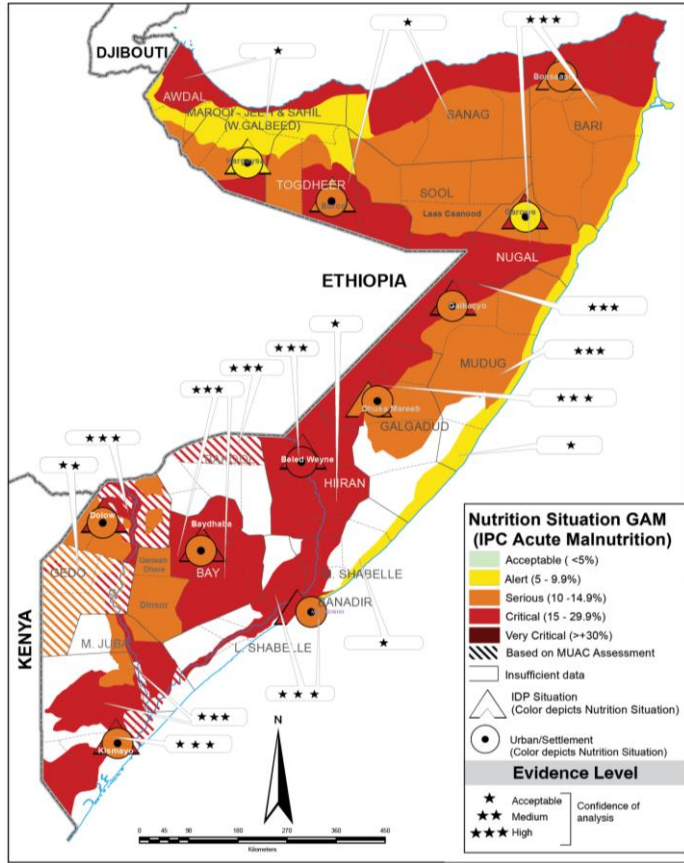
Current Food Security Outcomes (March 2023)

Projected Food Security Outcomes (April-June 2023)

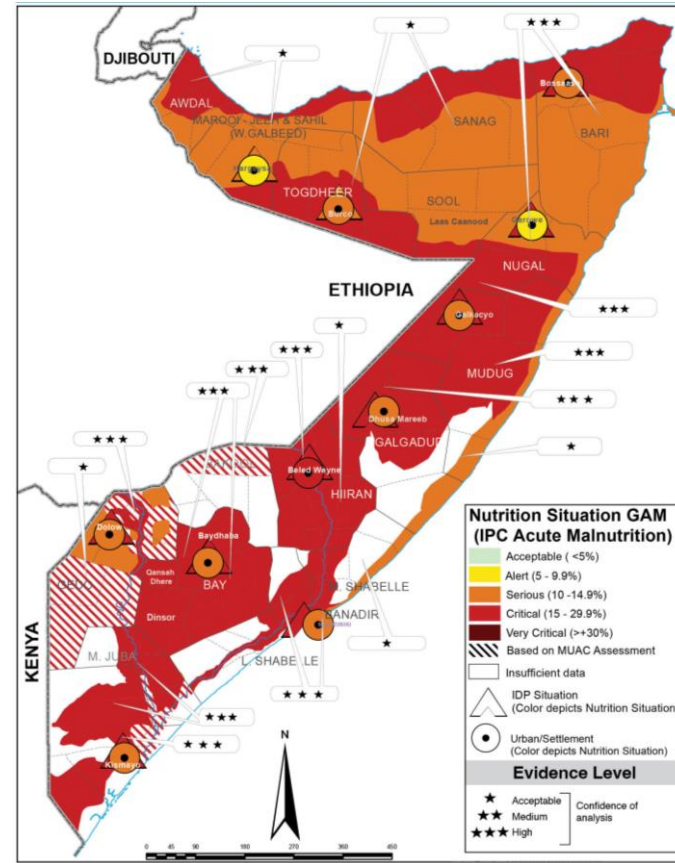




Current Nutrition Outcomes (March 2023)



Projected Nutrition Outcomes (April-June 2023)



<p>FSNAU Managed by</p> <p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>	<p>FSNAU Technical Partners</p>	<p>FSNAU Resource Partners</p>
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