

More than 4.1 million people in Somalia face acute food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes

1.4 million children likely to be acutely malnourished

February 10, 2022, Mogadishu/Washington – Over 4.1 million people across Somalia, or over 25 percent of the total population, need urgent humanitarian food assistance to prevent food consumption gaps or the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3)¹ or worse outcomes through mid-2022. The key drivers of acute food insecurity in Somalia include the combined effects of consecutive seasons of poor and erratic rainfall distribution and conflict. Moreover, approximately 1.4 million children, or over 44 percent of population of children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 329 500 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Large-scale and sustained humanitarian food assistance and government support since July 2021 have mitigated the magnitude and severity of food insecurity in many areas. However, available forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of moderately below-average rainfall during the 2022 *Gu* (April-June) season across most of the country, which would adversely affect food security and nutrition outcomes. These findings are based on the 2021 post-*Deyr* seasonal food security and nutrition assessment conducted across Somalia in November and December 2021. The assessment and the subsequent analyses were jointly led by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU, a project managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET, a project funded by USAID) with the active participation of government institutions, UN, and NGO partners.

The October to December 2021 *Deyr* season was characterized by a delayed start, early end, and erratic rainfall distribution. As a result, cumulative rainfall was 40 to 60 percent below average across most parts of southern, central and adjacent parts of northern Somalia. The poor rains led to crop failure in central Somalia and below-average *Deyr* crop production in southern and northwestern Somalia, resulting in the third lowest *Deyr* harvest since 1995 in southern Somalia. Although *Deyr* rains partially replenished pasture and water in some areas, these resources are inadequate to support normal livestock production until the onset of *Gu* season rainfall in April 2022.

2021 *Deyr* season cereal production in southern Somalia is estimated at 42 700 tons, which is 58 percent below the 1995-2020 average, mainly due to poor and erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, limited availability water for irrigation in riverine areas, insecurity and shortage of farm inputs. In the Northwest, the 2021 *Gu/Karan* cereal production is estimated at 17 200 tons, which is 56 percent below the 2010-2020 average, mainly due to severe crop moisture stress, pests and bird attacks.

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. With fewer livestock births expected in 2022, reduced income from livestock sales, and low availability of milk for both adults and children, poor households face moderate to large food consumption gaps.

In agropastoral livelihood zones, where the main shocks include erratically distributed rainfall and conflict, poor households have experienced substantial crop losses and low income from agricultural employment. With few alternative sources of food and income after current food stocks are depleted, they face moderate to large food consumption gaps through mid-2022. In riverine livelihood zones along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, poor rainfall and low river levels contributed to crop losses and the loss of income from agricultural employment. Consequently, a significant proportion of poor households in riverine areas will also face moderate to large food consumption gaps through mid-2022.

A majority of the estimated 2.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across Somalia are poor with limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities, low access to communal support and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance. As a result, a significant proportion of IDPs (in both rural and urban settlements) face moderate to large food consumption gaps through mid-2022. Drought-related population displacement has increased in November and December 2021 and this could increase further over the next several months unless humanitarian assistance is urgently scaled up and able to reach the affected areas. Some of the urban poor across Somalia also continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps over the same period, partly due to a slowdown in economic activities in urban areas and the rising costs of food and other essential non-food items.

Based on the results of household surveys and field assessments conducted in November and December 2021, more than 2.4 million people faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in the presence of humanitarian assistance in January 2022. An additional 3.4 million people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2), with some of them likely at the brink of Crisis (IPC Phase 3), bringing the total number of people experiencing acute food insecurity to 5.9 million. Humanitarian food and cash assistance reached an average of 2.4 million people per month between July and December 2021, up from an average of 1.6 million people between January and June 2021. Scaled up and sustained assistance has likely prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.

From February to June 2022, food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate among poor rural, urban, and displaced populations due to the impacts of anticipated, below-average 2022 *Gu* (April to June) season rainfall, high and rising food prices, continued insecurity and other risk factors that affect food insecurity, such as the rising cost of living, declining availability of milk for both consumption and sale, and an anticipated reduction in agricultural labor demand during the forthcoming *Gu* season. If humanitarian food assistance is not scaled up and sustained, an estimated 4.1 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes

¹The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity of food insecurity using a widely accepted five-phase scale: IPC Phase 1=Minimal; Phase 2=Stressed; Phase 3=Crisis; Phase 4=Emergency; and Phase 5=Famine at the area level (Phase 5=Catastrophe at the household group level).

through June 2022, inclusive of a significant increase in the number of households facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Up to 3.7 million additional people are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to nearly 7.9 million, which is equivalent to roughly half of the total Somali population. The February to June 2022 projections do not factor in the potential impact of food assistance, as information on planned and funded food and cash assistance through mid-2022 was not available at the time of the analysis. Humanitarian assistance must be urgently scaled up and sustained through June 2021 to prevent Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes for 4.1 million people. Livelihoods support is also required for people that are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse.

If the 2022 Gu rains perform more poorly than currently forecast – such as a significantly delayed start of season, severe rainfall deficits, or very erratic rainfall distribution – then it is possible that food security and nutrition outcomes would be more severe than currently projected. Close monitoring of the onset and performance of the Gu season is required.

Region	Population (2020/21)	Number of Acutely Food Insecure People (Rural, IDP, and Urban Combined)								
		Current (Jan 2022)			Projected (Feb-Mar 2022)			Projected (Apr-Jun 2022)		
		Stressed	Crisis	Emergency	Stressed	Crisis	Emergency	Stressed	Crisis	Emergency
Awdal	538,209	119,070	40,310	6,040	129,460	94,550	14,410	134,080	99,170	14,410
Togdheer	728,224	143,440	89,930	17,030	152,700	145,390	30,910	158,630	150,070	26,260
W. Galbeed	1,224,715	280,300	97,340	13,530	295,880	223,800	34,530	302,140	228,840	30,990
Sool	464,487	76,390	72,700	31,400	91,650	125,130	47,970	102,090	135,940	44,150
Sanaag	362,723	65,160	64,880	26,490	74,560	105,040	36,100	86,820	117,290	31,600
Bari	1,042,591	194,910	112,010	45,560	207,280	138,700	47,530	219,260	135,810	46,860
Nugaal	534,573	146,640	84,640	28,090	156,000	147,660	44,920	171,450	137,030	39,360
Mudug	1,243,526	398,830	254,450	29,710	407,180	387,130	59,410	429,400	409,360	50,140
Galgaduud	687,573	147,360	138,390	15,520	150,100	193,330	32,340	162,930	206,350	23,240
Hiraan	427,124	85,080	54,520	16,990	92,800	93,430	22,810	98,820	96,600	16,450
M. Shabelle	855,895	164,630	80,620	11,890	166,800	157,750	31,590	174,010	156,960	21,870
L. Shabelle	1,347,934	262,220	95,940	21,030	262,630	187,000	21,430	263,030	202,030	3,190
Bakool	459,747	114,050	74,390	23,160	114,750	113,570	33,780	118,670	113,570	29,100
Bay	1,055,913	225,350	188,220	15,660	225,530	293,240	47,980	225,530	279,710	39,430
Gedo	736,704	199,550	97,230	6,040	216,300	185,860	35,870	227,720	196,610	45,510
M. Juba	363,930	85,470	64,190	15,700	86,510	99,250	26,580	89,810	101,790	18,280
L. Juba	979,998	239,830	191,390	41,940	242,830	284,420	70,640	256,330	298,050	59,500
Banadir	2,683,312	492,900	224,570	45,200	492,900	492,900	45,200	492,900	492,900	45,200
Total	15,737,178	3,441,180	2,025,720	410,980	3,565,860	3,468,150	684,000	3,713,620	3,558,080	585,540

According to the results of 39 separate nutrition surveys conducted by FSNAU and partners in November and December 2021, the overall median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Somalia remained Serious (13 percent weight-for-height z-score), which is in the same category as the results for the preceding two seasons. However, acute malnutrition levels are expected to deteriorate across much of the country from February to April, leading up to the start of the Gu rains in April. Non-food drivers of acute malnutrition, such as high morbidity, low immunization, low vitamin-A supplementation, and low access to clean water, have maintained elevated GAM levels in Somalia for several years. These factors, coupled with ongoing drought impacts such as reduced access to milk, reduced food intake, and water shortages, are expected to further exacerbate acute malnutrition levels during the dry season. Urgent treatment and nutrition support are required for approximately 1.4 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), who will likely face acute malnutrition between January to December 2022, including 329 500 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Integrated curative and preventive interventions should be provided to support recovery and prevent deterioration in the nutrition situation.

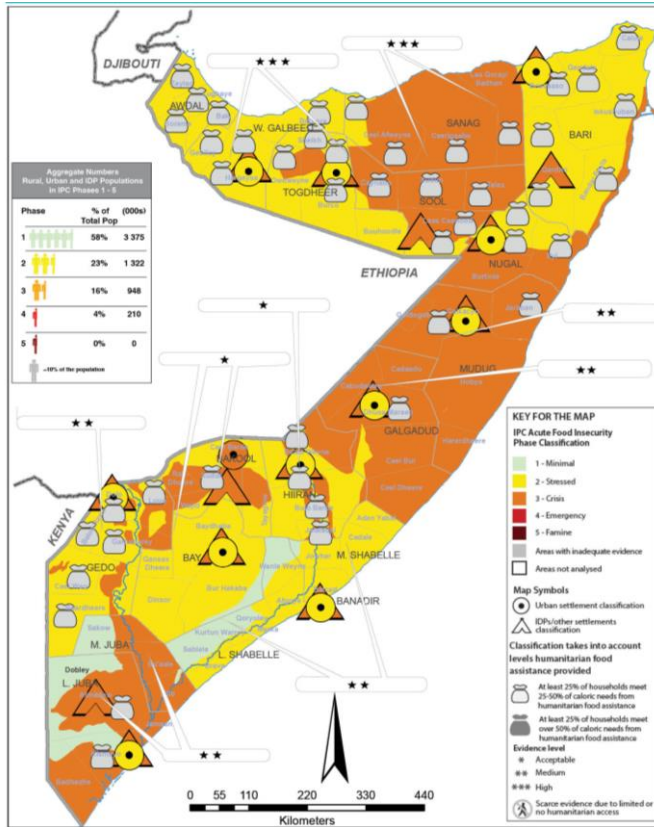
Areas and Populations of Concern

Population groups classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse require interventions aimed at reducing food consumption gaps, eradicating acute malnutrition, saving lives, and protecting and saving livelihoods. Riverine areas of Middle and Lower Shabelle, Gedo and Juba; Juba Cattle Pastoral, Gedo Pastoral and Gedo Agropastoral livelihood zones; Beletwein Urban and IDP populations and rural livelihoods in Jalalaqsi, Buloburte and Mataban districts; Bay agropastoral; Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone of Elberde district; Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone of Northwest; Hawd and Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central regions; IDPs in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Dolow Dhusamareb Bosaaso and Galkayco as well as urban populations in Galkacyo and Huddur are considered areas of high concern and need urgent nutrition and health support interventions. These areas currently have or are projected to have a GAM prevalence of Critical, indicated by a weight-for-height z-score of 15-29.9 percent or by a mid-upper arm circumference below 125 mm of 10-14.9 percent.

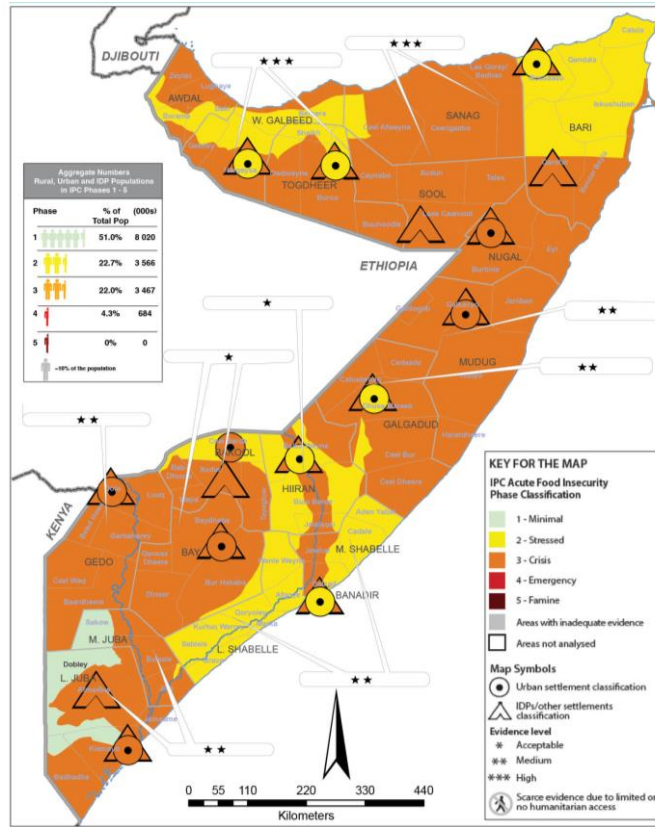
FSNAU and FEWS NET will continue to monitor conditions and outcomes and report on the situation. All information will be made available through www.fsnau.org and www.fews.net. For more information, please contact: Willi Swanson, Communications Specialist, FAO Somalia, Tel: +254 -20-4000000, Email: William.Swanson@fao.org or Lark Walters, Senior Analyst, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), email: somalia@fews.net.

Somalia Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

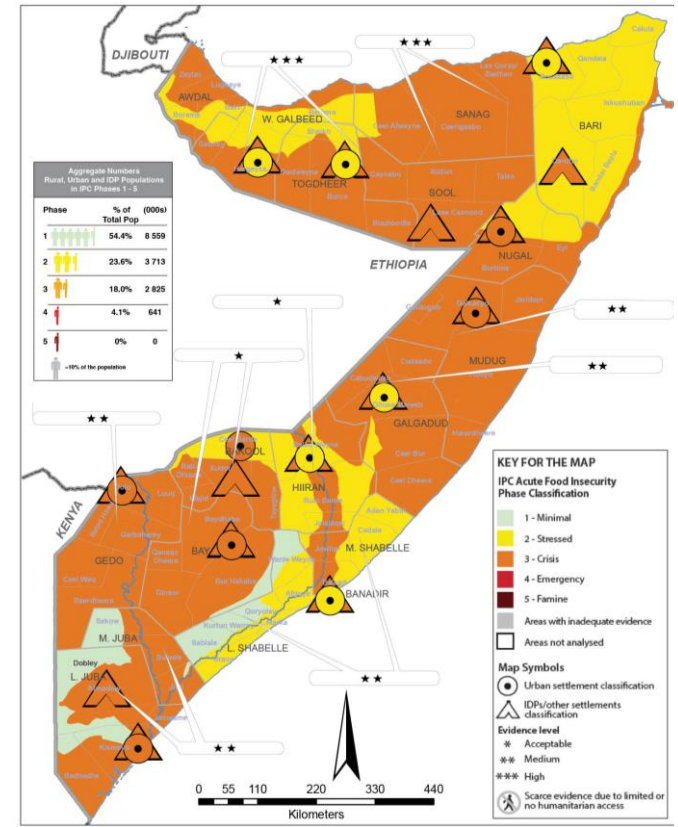
Current (January 2022)



Projection (February-March 2022)

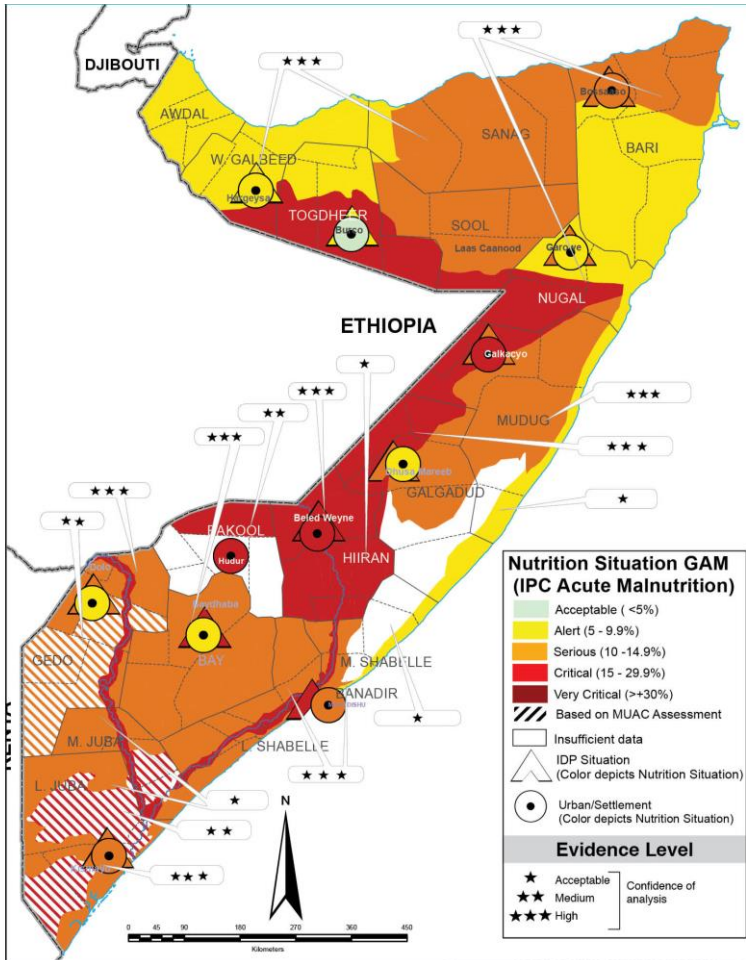


Projection (April-June 2022)

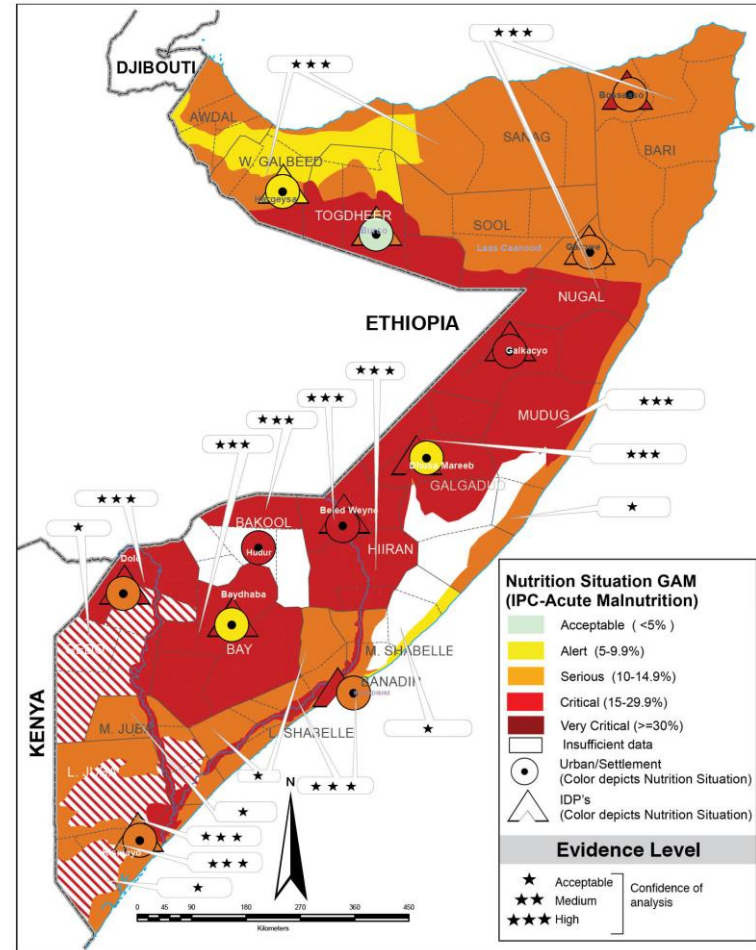


Somalia Estimated Nutrition Situation

Current (January 2022)



Projection (February-April 2022)



FSNAU Managed by: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FSNAU Technical Partners: FEWS NET, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, UNICEF, JRC EUROPEAN COMMISSION, UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

FSNAU Resource Partners: USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, UKaid FROM THE BRITISH PEOPLE, SWEDEN, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confederation suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC