

## Approximately 3.5 million people in Somalia face acute food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in late 2021

### *1.2 million children likely to be acutely malnourished*

**September 9, 2021, Mogadishu/Washington** – Nearly 3.5 million people across Somalia are expected to face food consumption gaps or depletion of livelihood assets indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3)<sup>1</sup> or worse outcomes through the end of the year, in the absence of humanitarian assistance. The key drivers of acute food insecurity in Somalia include the combined effects of poor and erratic rainfall distribution, flooding and conflict. Moreover, approximately 1.2 million children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 213 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. It is likely that sustained, large-scale humanitarian food assistance and government support since January 2021 have mitigated the magnitude and severity of food insecurity. Despite minimal damage in early to mid-2021, Desert Locust will continue to pose a serious risk to both pasture availability and crop production across Somalia. Available forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of below-average rainfall during the 2021 *Deyr* (October-December) season across most of the country, which would adversely affect food security and nutrition outcomes. These findings are based on the 2021 post-*Gu* seasonal food security and nutrition assessment conducted across Somalia in June and July 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.

A delayed start, early end, and erratic rainfall distribution characterized the April to June 2021 *Gu* rainfall season. As a result, cumulative rainfall was below the 40-year average across much of the country, especially in central and southern Somalia. The poor rains led to below-average *Gu* crop production in southern Somalia and poor crop harvest prospects in agropastoral livelihood zones in the Northwest. Although heavy rains between late April and mid-May partially replenished pasture and water resources, these resources are inadequate to support normal livestock production until the start of *Deyr* season rainfall in October. Furthermore, floods caused further population displacement and damaged crops and farmland in riverine areas of Hiiraan, Shabelle, and Juba regions.

2021 *Gu* season cereal production in southern Somalia is estimated at 48 900 tons, which is 60 percent below the 1995-2020 average, mainly due to poor and erratic rainfall, insecurity, river floods and shortage of farm inputs. In the Northwest, 2021 *Gu/Karan* cereal production, which will be harvested in November, is estimated at 14 500 tons, which is 63 percent below the 2010-2020 average, mainly due to poor and erratic rainfall.

Rural populations are experiencing multiple declines in food and income sources. In pastoral areas, large-scale livestock migration was reported from rain-deficit areas to areas that received relatively better rainfall. There are reports of atypical livestock migration from Gedo to Juba regions and neighbouring Ethiopia as well as from coastal areas of Nugal and Northern Mudug to Hawd Pastoral areas. Milk production and availability range from near average to poor in northern and central regions but are mostly near average in southern Somalia, with the exception of Gedo and Bakool regions, where milk availability is low due to unfavorable pasture and browse conditions. In many pastoral livelihood zones, poor households will face moderate to large food consumption gaps through late 2021 due to below-average or poor milk availability, a limited number of saleable animals, and increased indebtedness related to increased expenditures on food and water.

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 late 2021. In riverine livelihood zones along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, seasonal floods inundated farmland, destroyed crops, and displaced local populations, leading to significant 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 late 2021.

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 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 late 2021. 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 June and July 2021, more than 2.2 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in the presence of planned and likely humanitarian assistance during the July to September 2021 period. An additional 3.4 million people are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people experiencing acute food insecurity to 5.6 million. Humanitarian assistance for food security and nutrition, as well as government support, reached more than 1.6 million per month on average between January and June 2021. This assistance likely prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia. Available humanitarian assistance plans indicate a similar number of people will likely receive assistance through September 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> The 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).

From October to December 2021, food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate among poor rural, urban, and displaced populations due to the impacts of anticipated, below-average 2021 *Deyr* (October-December) season rainfall, continued insecurity and other food security related risk factors, including rising food prices and cost of living, declining availability of milk for both consumption and sale, and a likely reduction in agricultural employment opportunities during the forthcoming *Deyr* season. Without sustained humanitarian food assistance, 3.5 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes between October and December 2021. An additional 3.7 million people are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to 7.2 million. The October-December 2021 projections do not factor in the potential impact of food assistance, as information on planned and funded food and cash assistance through December 2021 was not available at the time of the analysis. Humanitarian assistance must be sustained through December 2021 to prevent Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes for 3.5 million people. Livelihoods support is also required for people that are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse.

Region	Population (2020/21)	Number of Acutely Food Insecure People (Rural, IDP, and Urban Combined)					
		Current (July-September 2021)			Projected (October-December 2021)		
		Stressed (IPC 2)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	Stressed (IPC 2)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)
Awdal	538,209	112,780	36,290	22,290	125,840	54,090	25,410
Woqooyi Galbeed	1,224,715	250,450	82,710	55,700	269,410	141,570	62,330
Togdheer	728,224	170,820	169,820	60,100	180,600	175,600	87,430
Sool	464,487	108,510	70,200	22,260	119,340	81,690	22,260
Sanaag	362,723	71,640	57,570	9,570	84,270	94,640	22,570
Bari	1,042,591	218,660	146,480	8,190	226,410	180,960	15,930
Nugaal	534,573	150,760	76,710	6,210	153,050	95,460	7,640
Mudug	1,243,526	321,770	179,970	7,670	363,620	234,980	21,090
Galgaduud	687,573	215,910	86,440	3,900	234,300	143,780	19,910
Hiraan	427,124	80,620	60,790	9,820	88,350	96,250	26,470
Middle Shabelle	855,895	133,950	113,560	17,860	141,850	182,220	47,960
Lower Shabelle	1,347,934	238,660	109,800	18,240	238,660	140,560	23,820
Bakool	459,747	70,110	42,730	7,610	91,340	63,640	17,580
Bay	1,055,913	212,550	180,580	38,950	262,830	286,110	83,670
Gedo	736,704	231,640	105,960	6,430	241,280	140,940	16,760
Middle Juba	363,930	75,700	46,840	5,230	91,250	76,160	15,980
Lower Juba	979,997	225,270	110,730	8,840	262,400	187,180	33,520
Banadir	2,683,312	492,900	224,570	-	538,100	449,130	90,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,737,176</b>	<b>3,382,700</b>	<b>1,901,750</b>	<b>308,870</b>	<b>3,712,900</b>	<b>2,824,960</b>	<b>640,730</b>

According to the results of 35 separate nutrition surveys conducted by FSNAU and partners in June and July 2021, the overall median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Somalia remained Serious (11.1% weight-for-height z-score). The drivers of acute malnutrition include high morbidity, low immunization, low vitamin-A supplementation, reduced access to milk, and food insecurity. Urgent treatment and nutrition support are required for approximately 1.2 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), who will likely face acute malnutrition between August 2021 and July 2022, including 213 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Integrated interventions should be provided to support recovery and prevent deterioration in the nutrition situation.

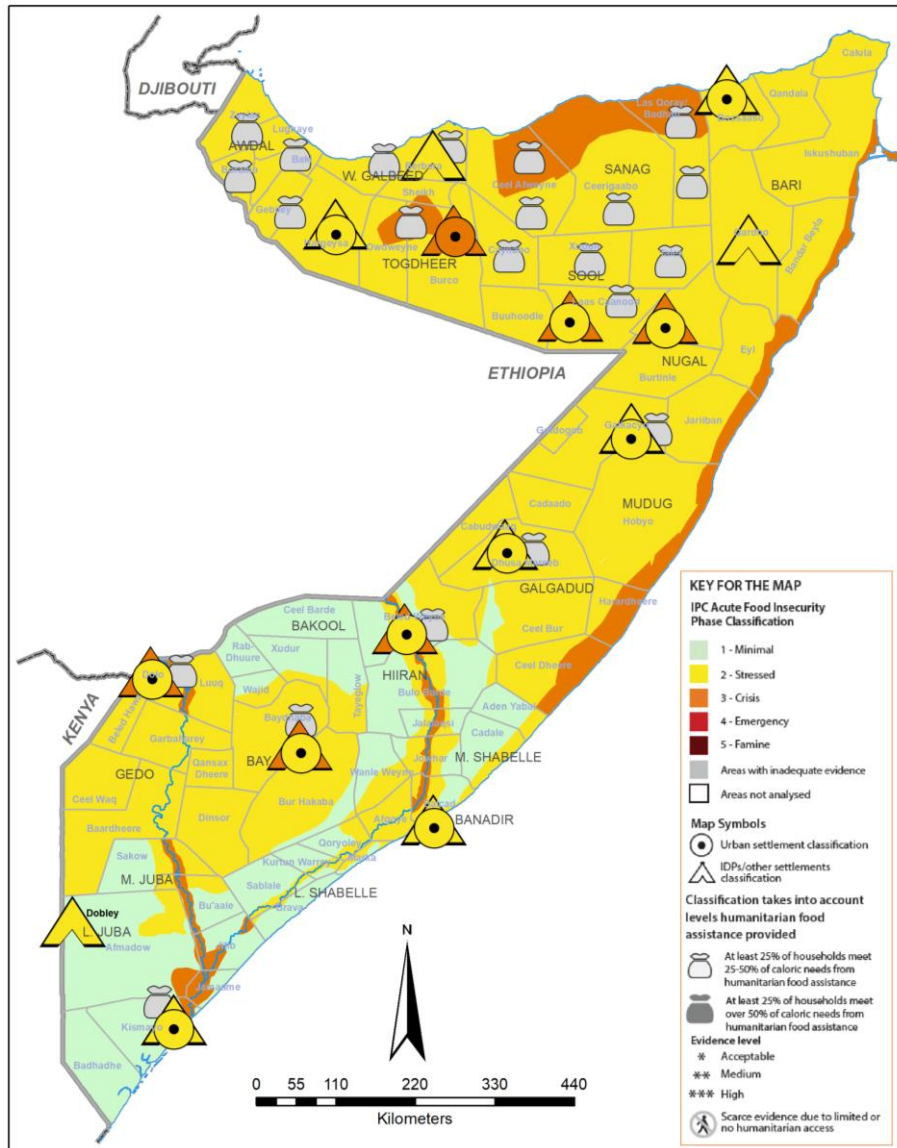
#### Areas and Populations of Concern

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. The following are considered areas of concern and are in need of urgent nutrition and health support interventions. They 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: Shabelle Riverine, Mogadishu IDPs (Banadir), Gedo Riverine, Dolow Urban (Gedo), Juba Cattle Pastoral, Juba Riverine, Southern Inland Pastoral of Elberde (Bakool), Bay Agropastoral, Baidoa IDPs (Bay), Rural Hiiran (Beletwein, Jalalaqs and Buloburte Districts), Beletwein Urban and Beletweyne IDPs (Hiiran), Galkacyo IDPs (Mudug), Bosasso IDPs (Bari) and Hawd Pastoral of Central Region.

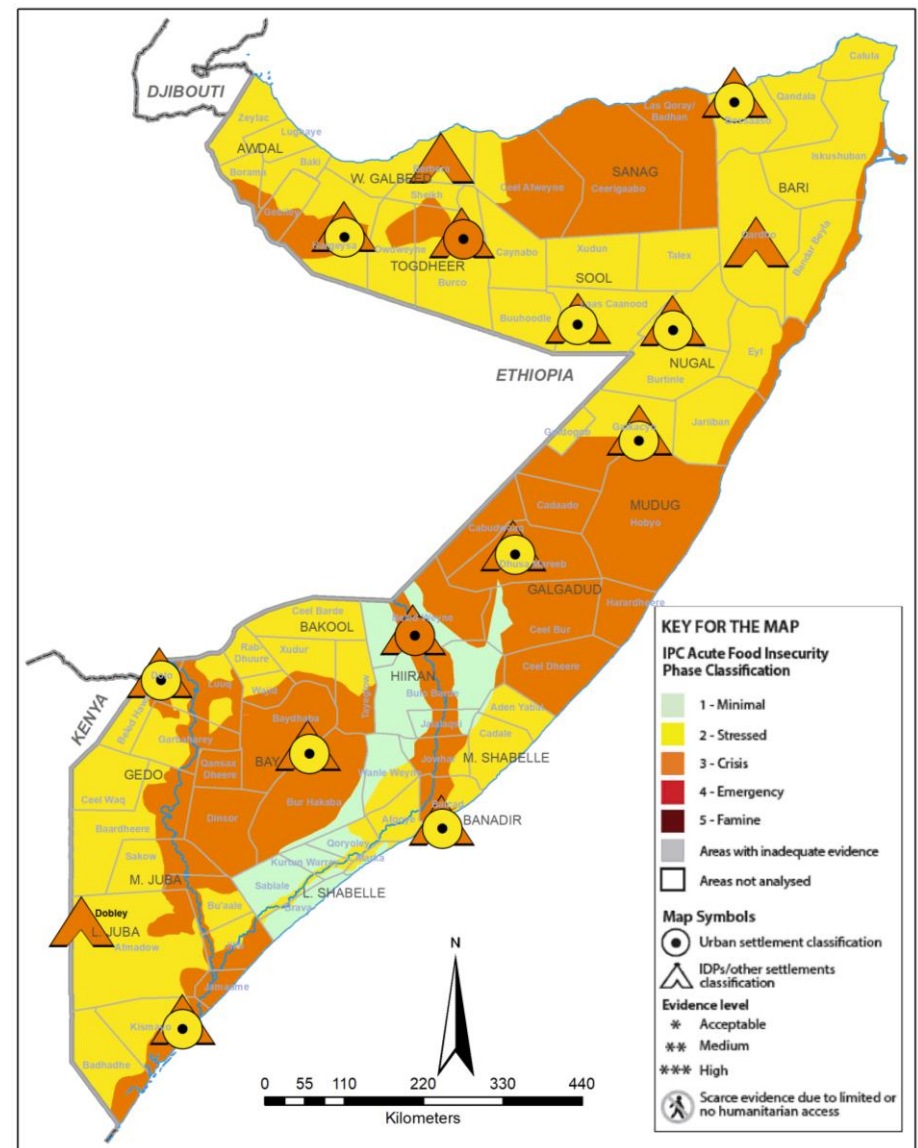
FSNAU and FEWS NET will continue to monitor conditions and outcomes and report on the situation. All information will be made available through [www.fsnao.org](http://www.fsnao.org) and [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net). For more information, please contact: Willi Swanson, Communications Specialist,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

# Somalia Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

Current (July-September 2021)



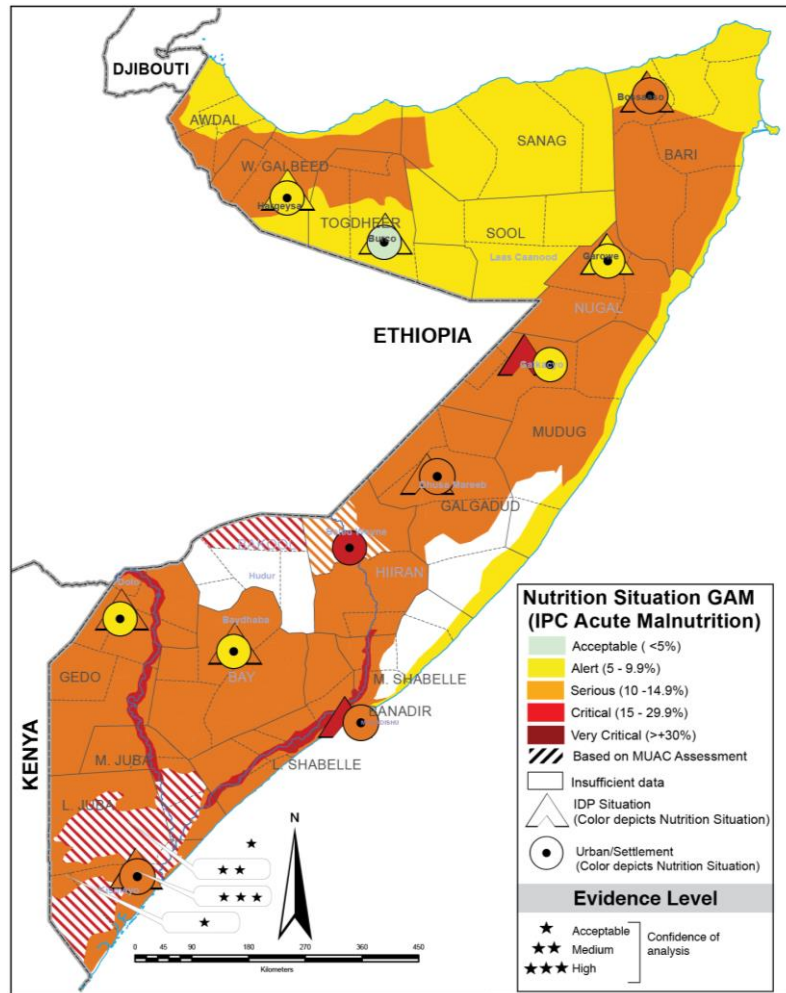
Projection (October-December 2021)





# Somalia Estimated Nutrition Situation

Current (August 2021)



Projection (September-November 2021)

