

Somalia faces increased Risk of Famine as acute food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality worsen

4 June 2022, Mogadishu – Worsening drought is putting some areas in central and southern Somalia at an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022 if the current *Gu* season crop and livestock production fails, food prices continue to rise sharply and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach those most in need. These areas include Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Agro Pastoral livelihoods in Bay and Bakool regions, and IDP settlements in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Galkacyo. The situation in Bay region is particularly concerning as the acute malnutrition threshold for Famine (IPC Phase 5) has been breached in Baidoa district. Mortality (Crude Death Rate) has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Burhakaba and Baidoa districts, and death rates among children have reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa district. While a Famine (IPC Phase 5) classification requires at least two of the three criteria to be met, the increase in acute malnutrition levels and mortality signal that loss of life and livelihoods is already occurring.

Acute food insecurity has continued to worsen across Somalia, with an estimated 5.2 million people (or 33% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes, including 38 000 people likely in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), as of May 2022, despite the ongoing delivery of humanitarian food assistance. Food assistance reached an average of 2.4 million people per month between February and April 2022 and has likely prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes in many areas. However, humanitarian assistance delivery is far short of the rising level of need, and insufficient funding is expected to lead to pipeline breaks in food assistance delivery after June. Food insecurity and malnutrition are expected to deteriorate further and faster between June and September 2022, and if humanitarian food assistance is not scaled up and sustained, then approximately 7.1 million people (or 45% of the total population) are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes. This figure includes 2.1 million people that will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 213 000 people that will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). In addition to the population groups that face an increased Risk of Famine, other areas of concern include Northern Inland Pastoral of Northwest, Hawd Pastoral of Northwest, Southern Agropastoral, Southern Rain-fed Agropastoral of Middle and Lower Juba, and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones as well as IDP settlements in Burao, Lasaanod, Garowe, Belet Weyne, Doolow and Kismaayo, all of which face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and September 2022.

Based on the results from 11 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys conducted between late April and early May 2022, the total acute malnutrition burden estimates for Somalia for 2022 have been revised and updated. Accordingly, as of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), representing 45 percent of the total population of children, face acute malnutrition through the end of the year, including 386 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

Urgent and timely scaling up of integrated humanitarian assistance is required to prevent extreme food insecurity and acute malnutrition, including starvation and excess mortality, in areas facing an increased Risk of Famine through at least September 2022. In particular, malnutrition and mortality outcomes in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts in Bay region already point to an extremely concerning situation as of May 2022. While only one of the criteria of Famine (IPC Phase 5) has been met in Baidoa district as of May, there is increasing concern that further deterioration in food consumption, acute malnutrition, and mortality may lead to Famine (IPC Phase 5) in these two districts if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up urgently in these areas. A new round of data collection will be undertaken in June to further assess the likelihood of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in Bay Region. Moreover, available long-range forecasts indicate that a record fifth below-average rainy season is likely across Somalia during the forthcoming October and December 2022 Deyr season. Therefore, humanitarian needs are expected to worsen and remain high nationally well into 2023.

The conclusions above are based on updated IPC and Famine Risk Analyses conducted in May 2022 by food security and nutrition experts drawn from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MOHADMD) of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU/FAO), Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), World Food Programme (WFP VAM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Action Against Hunger (ACF), and the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Clusters, with the technical support of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Global Support Unit (IPC GSU).

A multi-season drought that began in Somalia in late 2020 has continued to worsen through May 2022, leading to further deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation across many parts of the country. Persistent insecurity and conflict— particularly in central and southern Somalia, as well as global supply and price shocks, are further exacerbating the food insecurity situation in Somalia. While the current *Gu* (March/April-June) rains marginally replenished pasture and water resources in some locations, widespread water and pasture scarcity persists. Over three million livestock are estimated to have died since mid-2021 due to starvation and disease. Four consecutive poor or failed harvests since 2020, escalating local and imported food prices, and drought and conflict-induced population displacement are all leading to a decline in the coping capacity of poor and vulnerable populations across Somalia.

Cumulative *Gu* season rainfall between March to early June 2022 was 40-70 percent below average. Due to the impacts of drought on livestock health, poor and vulnerable pastoral households currently have limited access to milk and lack saleable animals. Pastoral households have also accumulated very high debt burdens, driven by the prohibitive costs of water and feed for livestock, an increased reliance on purchasing food for the family on credit, and abnormal livestock migration to distant areas in search of pasture and water. Agropastoral and riverine livelihood zones have had several consecutive failed cereal harvests, with further disruption to cash crop and cereal production in riverine areas due to low water levels in the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. In agropastoral and riverine areas, area planted and crop growth are far below normal due to the poor rains, the displacement of households away from their farms, and farmers' reduced ability to afford seeds, irrigation, and other inputs.

Overall, the 2022 *Gu* season cereal harvest will likely be 40-60 percent below average, making it the fifth consecutive below-average harvest on record. Poor households who rely on income from agricultural employment opportunities continue to be adversely affected by the decline in crop cultivation and poor harvest prospects during the current *Gu* season. Reduced demand for agricultural labor has also driven down wages by as much as 25-35 percent for poor households who typically rely on this income source. The low supply of domestic cereals, the reduction of cross-border staple food imports from neighboring countries due to the regional nature of the drought across the eastern Horn of Africa, and the record-high increase in global food prices have all driven staple food prices out of the reach of most poor rural, urban and displaced families, who must purchase most of their food. In April, staple cereal and cooking oil prices were 25-160 percent above normal levels in most markets across Somalia.

In the coming months, the production and supply chain impacts of the conflict in Ukraine is expected to place further upward pressure on food prices, thereby threatening the food security of millions across Somalia. Rising food prices not only affect rural households, but also IDPs and the urban poor, who already spend a disproportionately large amount of their income on food (60-80%), have few opportunities to expand their incomes, and have an extremely limited scope to absorb the impact of further increases in food prices.

As a result of these compounding shocks, many rural households face widening food consumption gaps, and the erosion of their livelihoods limits their coping capacity. Social support systems are increasingly overstretched in many parts of the country. These factors have driven a surge in population displacement from rural areas to IDP settlements and towns and cities. Data obtained from UNHCR indicates that more than 700,000 people have been internally displaced due to drought since October 2021.

Region	Population (2020/21)	Number of Acutely Food Insecure People (Rural, IDP, and Urban Combined)							
		Updated Estimates (May 2022)				Updated Projections (Jun-Sep 2022)			
		Stressed (IPC 2)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	Catastrophe (IPC 5)	Stressed (IPC 2)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	Catastrophe (IPC 5)
Awdal	538,209	142,880	90,060	18,030	-	152,600	115,510	18,940	-
W. Galbeed	1,224,715	342,060	299,810	45,950	-	342,370	404,730	65,910	-
Togdheer	728,224	188,470	187,340	38,230	-	172,900	223,020	67,010	-
Sool	464,487	104,740	146,110	49,210	-	98,200	169,330	76,210	-
Sanaag	362,723	62,170	101,780	39,060	-	79,060	121,190	47,450	-
Bari	1,042,591	239,770	188,320	57,750	-	279,670	247,750	70,460	-
Nugaal	534,573	156,000	153,820	52,770	-	128,850	185,560	99,330	2,340
Mudug	1,243,526	405,290	405,010	118,730	-	340,430	466,730	229,110	29,220
Galgaduud	687,573	166,220	201,300	52,190	-	147,690	229,670	116,930	22,480
Hiraan	427,124	104,790	103,980	37,200	-	100,840	122,850	77,530	1,470
M. Shabelle	855,895	209,410	199,370	69,150	-	227,420	239,990	94,380	-
L. Shabelle	1,347,934	315,780	264,580	43,500	-	362,050	331,950	110,730	2,790
Bakool	459,747	103,140	136,530	76,680	6,580	108,000	151,910	114,670	13,430
Bay ¹	1,055,913	250,140	332,300	192,330	31,620	199,440	325,190	308,440	96,250
Gedo	736,704	224,420	225,060	94,850	-	228,590	233,350	132,490	-
M. Juba	363,930	93,700	103,170	45,990	-	104,510	132,430	60,010	-
L. Juba	979,998	250,260	277,420	127,340	-	271,550	357,090	168,210	-
Banadir	2,683,312	627,060	538,100	90,400	-	716,030	672,260	269,770	45,200
TOTAL	15,737,178	3,986,300	3,954,060	1,249,360	38,200	4,060,200	4,730,510	2,127,580	213,180

In pastoral areas, poor pastoralists are unable to cope with the extended impact of the ongoing drought due to rising costs of water and food, especially when they are already experiencing a significant decline in saleable animals due to distressed sales and excess deaths. Poor pastoral households are expected to face moderate to large food consumption gaps through September 2022, based on few livestock births, reduced income from livestock sales, and low availability of milk for both adults and children. Accordingly, most pastoral livelihoods across Somalia are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and September 2022. Specifically, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected in Northern Inland Pastoral of Northwest; Hawd Pastoral of Northwest, Northeast and Central; Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central; and Coastal Deeh of Central.

Agropastoral and riverine livelihood zones experienced consecutive seasons of substantially below average or failed harvests and face the prospect of another poor harvest during the 2022 *Gu* season. As a result, poor households who sustained substantial crop losses and low income from agricultural employment face moderate to large food consumption gaps through September 2022. Most agropastoral and riverine livelihoods across Somalia are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and September 2022. Specifically, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected in Togdheer Agropastoral and most agropastoral livelihoods in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Hiiraan, and Lower and Middle Juba regions, including parts of Southern Agropastoral, Southern Rainfed Agropastoral, Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral, and Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral.

With limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities, rising food prices, low access to communal support and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance, a majority of the estimated 2.9 million IDPs across Somalia are poor. Population displacement due to drought and conflict has increased sharply since late 2021. As a result, IDP populations in existing settlements are increasing, and

¹ The number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Bay Region in the projection period reflects the minimum estimates as the situation could potentially deteriorate with further increases in the number.

new IDP settlements are popping up in the most affected areas. New IDPs arrive in desperate conditions and often face numerous challenges accessing humanitarian assistance after their arrival. Due to anticipated, worsening drought conditions and persistent insecurity, an increase in population displacement from rural to urban areas and IDP settlements is expected to continue. As a result, a significant proportion of IDPs face moderate to large food consumption gaps through September 2022. Most of the main IDP settlements across Somalia are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and September 2022. These include IDP settlements in Burco, Lasaanod, Garowe, Galkacyo, Dhusamareb, Beletweyne, Mogadishu, Baidoa, Dollow, Dhobley (Afmadow) and Kismayo.

The urban poor across Somalia – who already spend a disproportionately large amount of their income on food (60-80%) – continue to struggle to feed themselves in the face of rising food prices. They have limited room to absorb the impact of further food price increases and have limited opportunities to expand their incomes. Declining labor wages and rising food prices have led to sharp declines in the terms of trade between wage labor and cereals. As a result, the urban poor face moderate to large food consumption gaps through September 2022. Most of the urban area across Somalia are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between June and September 2022. This includes Hargeisa city, which recently sustained a major fire that destroyed most of the businesses in the main market, which typically provided employment and sustenance for a majority of the urban poor.

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 by over 40 percent in January-April 2022 compared to the same period of last year. Results from 11 follow up integrated surveys conducted in late April/early May indicate worsening levels of acute malnutrition, with significant and rapid deterioration observed in Galkacyo IDPs, Beletweyne IDP/urban, Bay Agropastoral, and North Gedo Riverine livelihoods.

Levels of mortality (both the Crude Death Rate (CDR) and the Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR) have increased sharply among Bay Agropastoral, Baidoa IDPs, Mogadishu IDPs, and Kismayo IDPs. The most concerning increase is in Bay Agropastoral (Burhakaba and Baidoa districts), where the CDR has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold. The U5DR has reached the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold in Bay Agropastoral (Baidoa district).

Based on the results from 11 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys conducted between late April and early May 2022, as of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), representing 45 percent of the total population of children, face acute malnutrition through the end of the year, including 386 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. These figures are likely to increase as the nutrition situation deteriorates further in the affected areas.

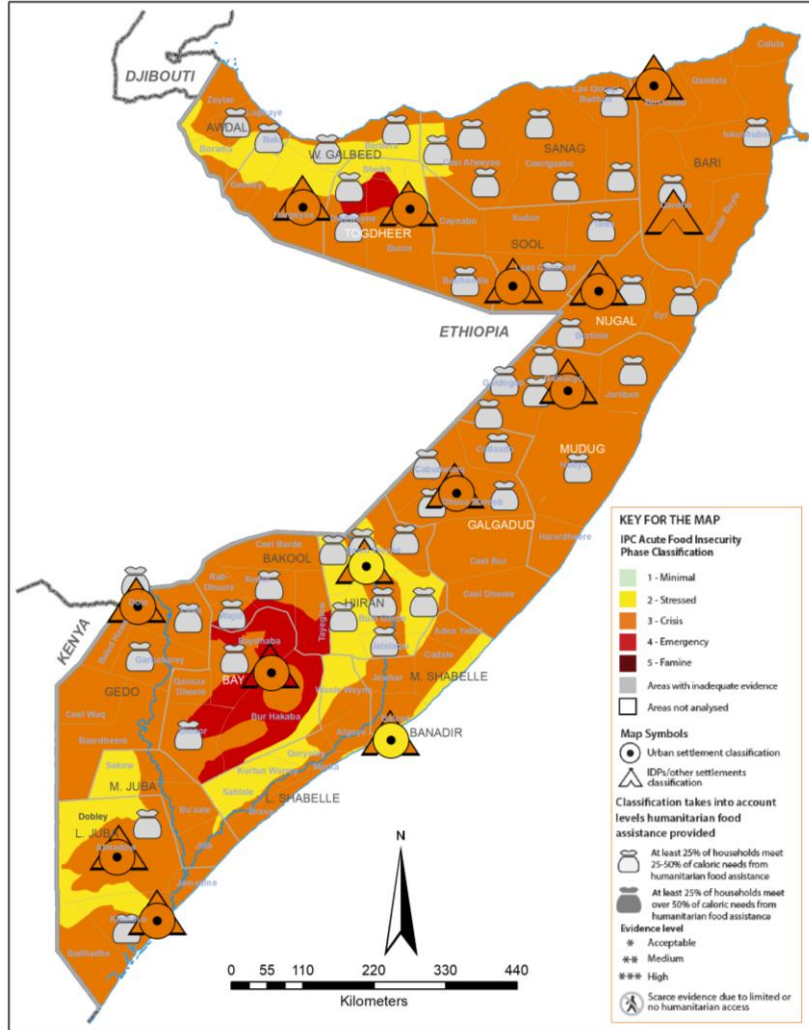
Region	Population (Under-Five) (2020/21) ²	Updated and Revised Total Acute Malnutrition Burden ³ (Jan-Dec 2022)		
		Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)
Awdal	107,642	3,990	20,040	24,030
W. Galbeed	244,943	11,890	49,060	60,950
Togdheer	145,645	6,860	26,370	33,230
Sool	92,897	7,020	21,370	28,390
Sanaag	72,545	6,860	17,890	24,750
Bari	208,518	19,880	76,850	96,730
Nugaal	106,915	4,810	31,000	35,810
Mudug	248,705	24,950	104,020	128,970
Galgaduud	137,515	12,550	49,550	62,100
Hiraan	85,425	18,300	42,330	60,630
M. Shabelle	171,179	16,380	61,430	77,810
L. Shabelle	269,587	30,880	102,510	133,390
Bakool	91,949	22,820	47,450	70,270
Bay	211,183	82,790	101,260	184,050
Gedo	147,341	12,160	46,310	58,470
M. Juba	72,786	8,870	25,540	34,410
Lower Juba	195,999	24,970	60,430	85,400
Banadir	536,662	70,430	215,150	285,580
TOTAL	3,147,435	386,410	1,098,560	1,484,970

² Population of children under the age of five is approximated as 20% of the total population.

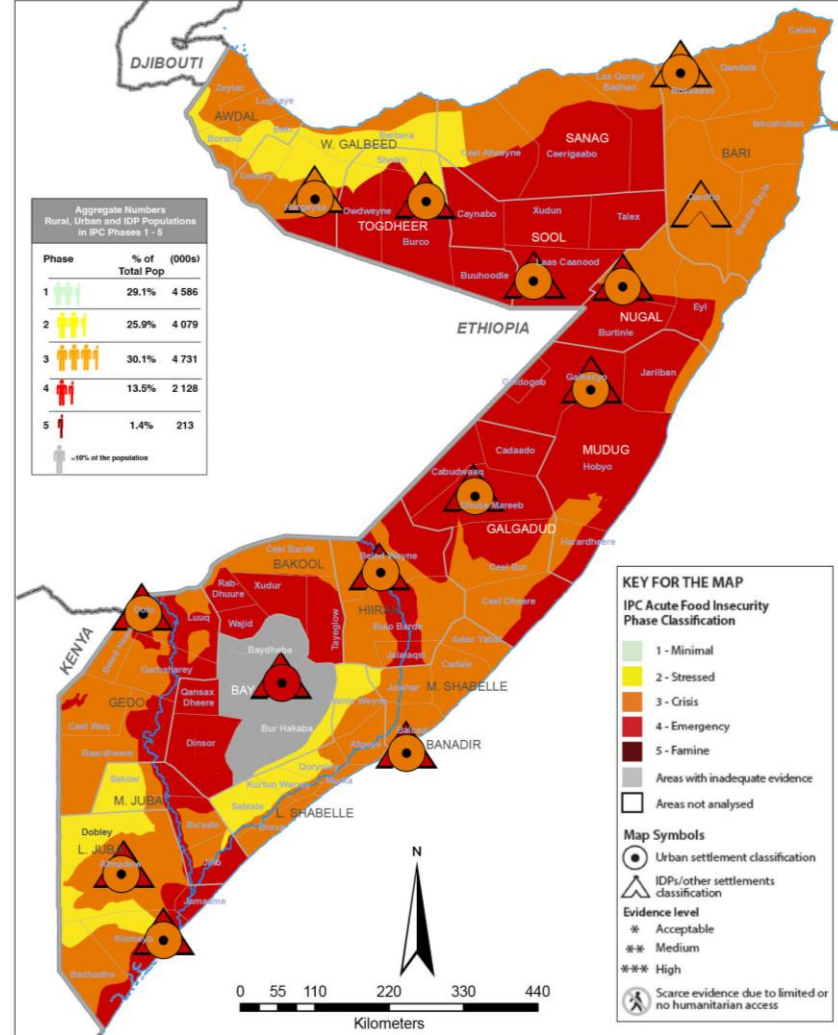
³ Incidence Correction Factor (ICF) used for burden estimations are 3.6 for SAM and for 2.6 for MAM.



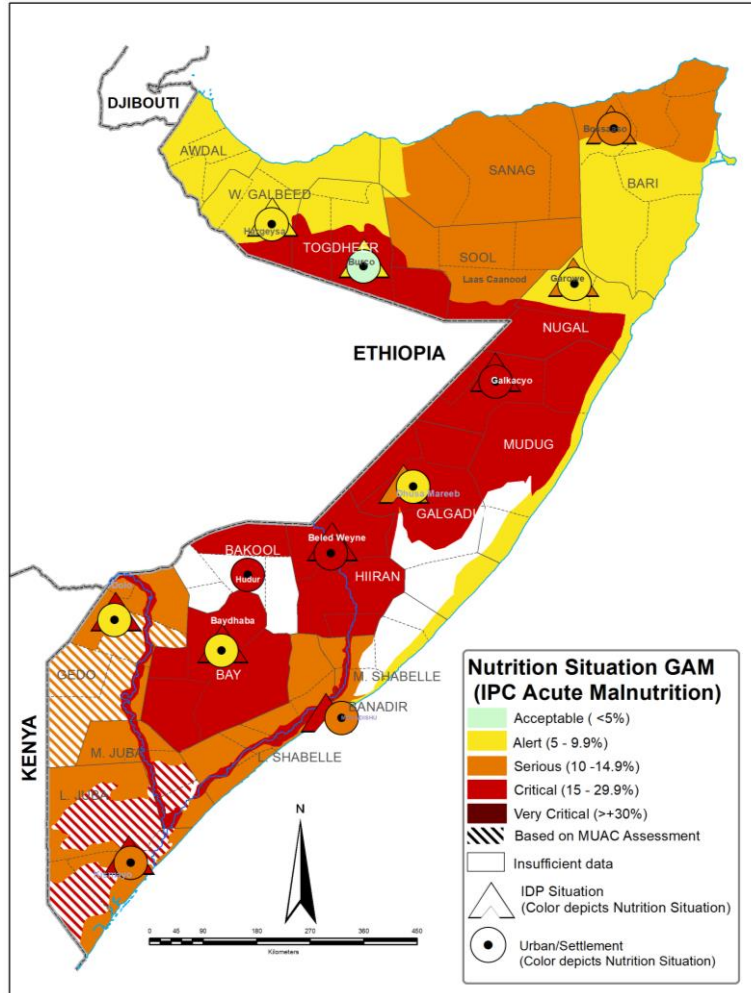
Updated Acute Food Security Outcomes (May 2022)



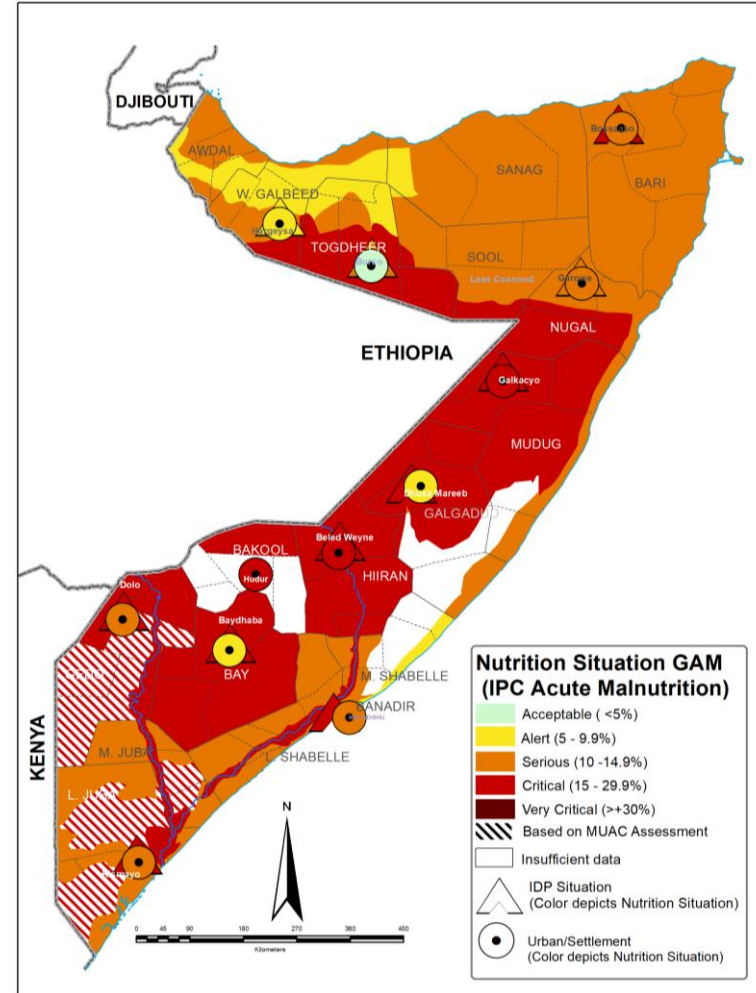
Updated Acute Food Security Projection (Jun-Sep 2022)



Updated Nutrition Outcomes (May 2022)



Updated Nutrition Projection (Jun-Aug 2022)



Annex: Somalia Risk of Famine, June-September 2022

In the most likely scenario, approximately 213 000 people across the most affected areas face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between June and September 2022, representing 5 to 15 percent of the total population in these areas. Currently, the evidence criteria for Famine (IPC Phase 5), which is an area level outcome representing at least 20 percent of the population, has not been met for these areas over the same period. Nevertheless, there is increased Risk of Famine, meaning that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could occur (has reasonable chance of happening) in eight areas across Somalia through September 2022 if (1) there is widespread crop and livestock production failure, (2) food prices continue to rise sharply and (3) humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the country's most vulnerable populations. The areas and population groups facing an increased Risk of Famine are Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiran; Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central; Agro Pastoral livelihoods in Bay and Bakool; and IDP settlements in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Dhusamareb and Galkacyo.

Risk of Famine refers to the 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 has a realistic chance of occurring. It complements the Famine and Famine Likely projections of the most likely scenario by providing insights of potential Famine if prospects evolve in a manner worse than anticipated. For additional information, see the [IPC Famine Fact Sheet](#).

(i) April to June 2022 Gu season crop and livestock production fail. Under this scenario, widespread crop failure (more than 40-60 percent of long-term average) and increased livestock deaths are anticipated. In the most affected livelihoods, cumulative livestock deaths would likely exceed current expectations and reach as high as 20-30 percent. Widespread crop production failure will significantly diminish seasonal agricultural employment, which is a main income source among poor agropastoral and riverine households. The combination of limited saleable animals and lack of agricultural employment opportunities would subject poor pastoral, agropastoral and riverine households to face widening food consumption gaps as they lack alternative income sources.

(ii) Further and substantial food price increases (50% or more above the average for the previous five years) driven by the following factors: failed local harvests; continuing regional drought in neighboring countries that reduces cross-border supplies; record-high global food prices and further impacts of the war in Ukraine on global food and fuel prices; and other locally significant factors, including insecurity and high inflation and depreciation of the local currency in some regions. This would adversely affect the purchasing power of poor households in rural and urban areas as well as IDPs. In the worst-affected areas, this would contribute to widening food consumption gaps among poor and vulnerable households.

(iii) Worsening drought conditions during the dry *Hagaa* (July-September) season leads to influx of newly displaced people to IDP settlements and urban areas where opportunities remain limited, thereby further exacerbating their food insecurity. Furthermore, overcrowded IDP settlements with poor water and sanitation conditions would likely result in a worsening outbreak of measles and acute watery diarrhea (AWD), with rising cases affecting mostly children under-five years of age. Under this scenario, levels of acute malnutrition could rapidly increase to 30 percent or more Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) which is one of the thresholds for Famine (IPC Phase 5) classification.

(iv) Increased conflict and insecurity lead to further increases in population displacement, disrupt market access and functionality, impede household access to livelihood opportunities and restricts access to humanitarian assistance, with a risk of potential exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially in central and southern Somalia.

(v) Humanitarian assistance does not keep pace with the rapidly increasing level of need – particularly as rising food prices reduce the purchasing power of cash transfer values – and does not reach the most affected areas. Given that the gap between the conditions in the most likely scenario and the conditions in the alternative Risk of Famine scenario is increasingly narrow, the aversion of Famine (IPC Phase 5) increasingly hinges on urgent scaling up and continuation of humanitarian assistance.

The following risk factors need to be closely monitored throughout the projection period:

- Conduct follow up integrated food security, nutrition and mortality assessments in Bay Region (Baidoa and Burhakaba districts)
- Food prices, livestock prices, wage rates and terms of trade
- 2022 Gu season crop harvest
- 2022 Gu season rainfall impact on pasture and water availability during the dry Hagaa season
- Livestock body condition, births and deaths
- Population displacement
- Admission of acutely malnourished children to treatment and feeding centers
- Acute malnutrition and mortality levels among children and adults (GAM, USDR and CDR) Humanitarian food assistance (coverage and access)

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