

Overview

Somalia continues to face a volatile and complex food and nutrition crisis, with the risk of Famine identified for the second consecutive IPC analysis. Previous droughts, erratic rainfall, insecurity, and above-average food prices are driving high levels of need, while the impacts of El Niño are expected to further aggravate conditions. At the same time, humanitarian funding and response capacity have declined sharply since January 2026 and are likely to reduce further in the coming months despite increasing needs.

Nearly 5.1 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity—IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)—from July–September 2026. While an improvement from the April 2026 analysis, it is a 50 percent increase from the same period in 2025. Close to 1.4 million people are facing IPC AFI Phase 4 (Emergency), which is characterised by large food gaps and high acute malnutrition.

Food security conditions vary significantly across the country. Pastoral, agropastoral and riverine areas are experiencing improvements in southern Somalia in the current period due to near-average rainfall during the April-to-June 2026 *Gu* season. However, *Gu* rains performed poorly in pastoral livelihoods of the northeastern region and adjacent areas in northwest and central Somalia.

During the October–December 2026 projection period, the population in IPC AFI Phase 3 or above is expected to increase by 6 percent, to 5.4 million people, driven largely by flooding from El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole. This includes 1.5 million people in IPC AFI Phase 4 (Emergency) and, alarmingly, close to 26,000 people in Bay Region among Baidoa internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Catastrophe (IPC AFI Phase 5), facing starvation and the collapse of livelihoods. In a plausible worst-case scenario in which El Niño flooding and associated displacement are worse than expected, Baidoa IDPs face a risk of Famine from October–December 2026.

Acute malnutrition has also deteriorated, with an estimated 1.92 million children aged 6–59 months suffering or expected to suffer from acute malnutrition from July 2026 to June 2027—a 4 percent increase from 2025. Approximately 157,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are also facing or expected to face acute malnutrition during the same period.

From June–September 2026, 19 areas are classified as IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 4 (Critical), reflecting a significant deterioration compared to historical trends. The situation is expected to further deteriorate in the projection period as El Niño rains heighten disease burden and outbreaks in IDP settlements, compromise access to safe water and hygiene practices, and severely limit access to health and nutrition services. Beletweyne IDPs are expected to deteriorate to Phase 5 (Extremely Critical), which is characterised by high disease prevalence and widespread deaths. Substantive deterioration towards the upper limit of IPC AMN Phase 4 is expected in seven areas: Bari Urban IDPs (Bossaso), Bay Urban IDPs (Baidoa), Nugaal Urban IDPs (Garowe), Beletweyne District, North Gedo Riverine, Bay Agropastoral and Shabelle Riverine livelihoods.

While conditions remain severe, the acute malnutrition situation among agropastoral populations in Burhakaba District has shown a significant improvement since the April 2026 analysis, which identified the area as at risk of Famine through June 2026. This is largely attributed to the scale-up of a targeted and integrated humanitarian response.

Urgent action is critical to save lives and mitigate the high levels of need forecasted for October to December. This includes an immediate and targeted scale-up of humanitarian food security assistance as part of an integrated humanitarian response and alongside anticipatory action.



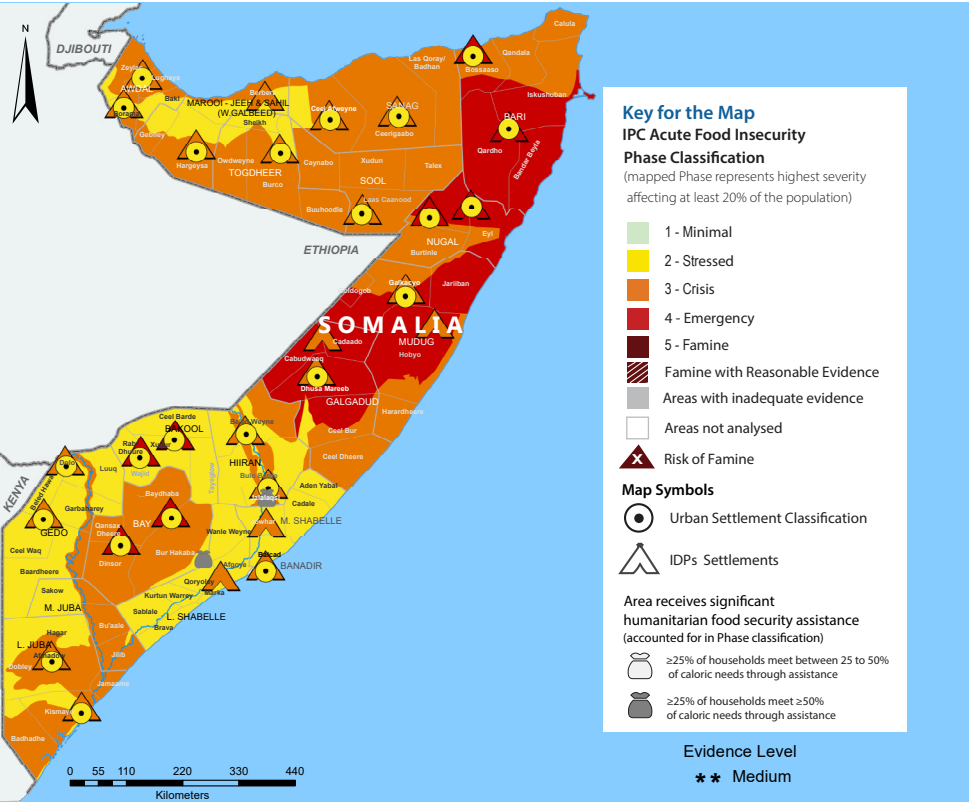
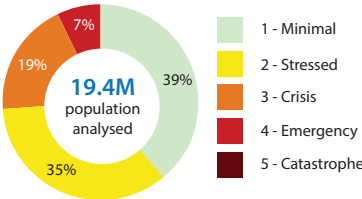
Current Acute Food Insecurity | July - September 2026



5.1M

An estimated 5.1 million people in Somalia are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity—IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)—between July and September 2026.

26% of the analysed population is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2026.



Recommended Actions



Immediately scale up targeted humanitarian assistance—including food, nutrition, health, livelihoods and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)—for vulnerable populations in hotspot areas, including those facing a risk of Famine.



Implement early preparedness and anticipatory action measures in high-risk, flood-prone areas to mitigate the impacts of the forecasted severe flooding from El Niño.



Fund and conduct follow-up assessments and risk monitoring, especially for priority Baidoa IDPs, Beletweyne IDPs and populations in other hotspot areas.



Restore closed primary healthcare and nutrition services in areas experiencing high levels of acute malnutrition in addition to sustaining current services.



Advocate for maternal, infant, young child, and adolescent nutrition interventions to address immediate and underlying causes of acute malnutrition, with an emphasis on promoting optimal infant and young child feeding practices.

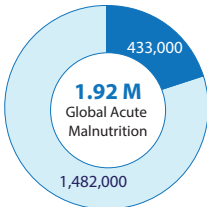


Acute Malnutrition | July 2026 - June 2027

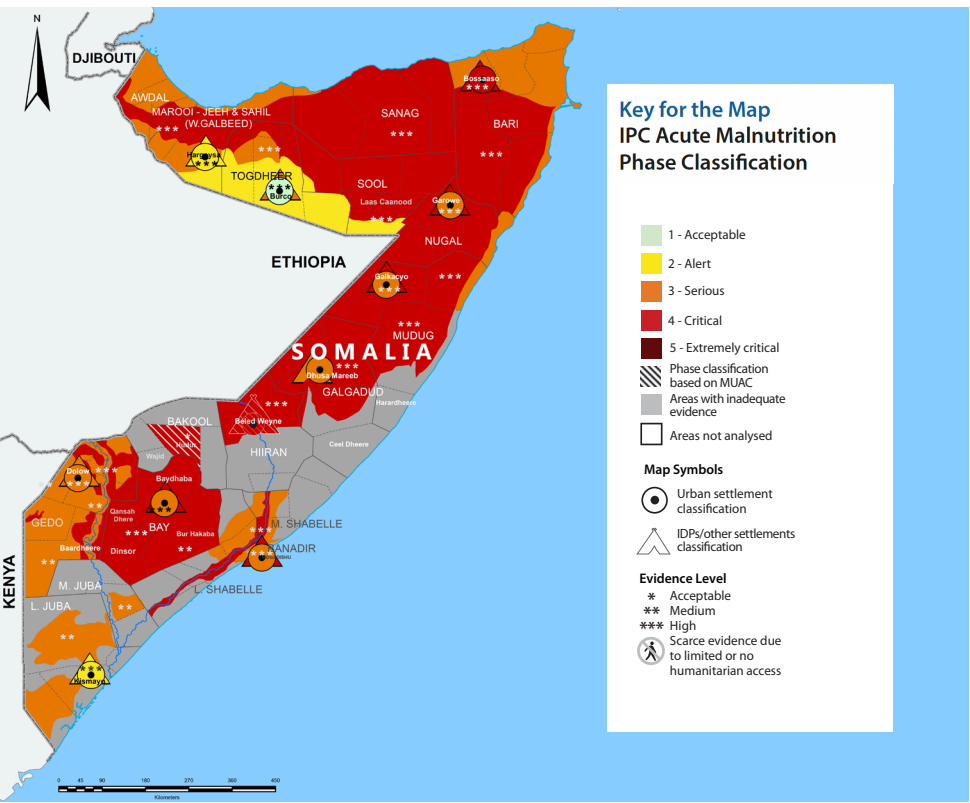


1.92M

About 1.92 million children aged 6-59 months in Somalia will likely suffer from acute malnutrition from July 2026–June 2027, including 433,000 children who are likely to be severely malnourished.



Current Acute Malnutrition | June - September 2026

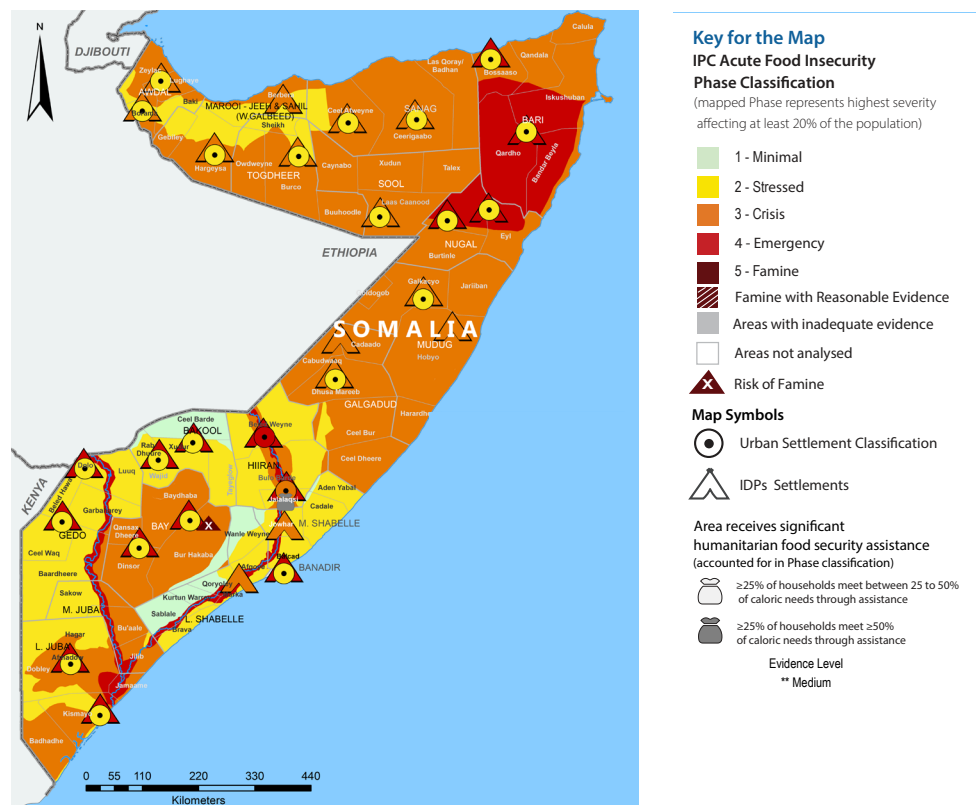
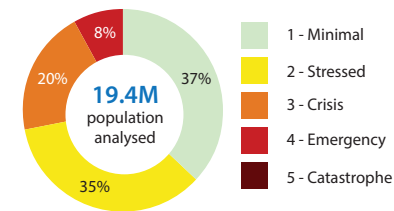


Projection Acute Food Insecurity | October - December 2026

5.4M

An estimated 5.4 million people in Somalia will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity—IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)—between October and December 2026.

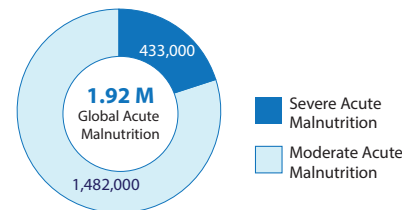
28% of the analysed population are likely to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October and December 2026.



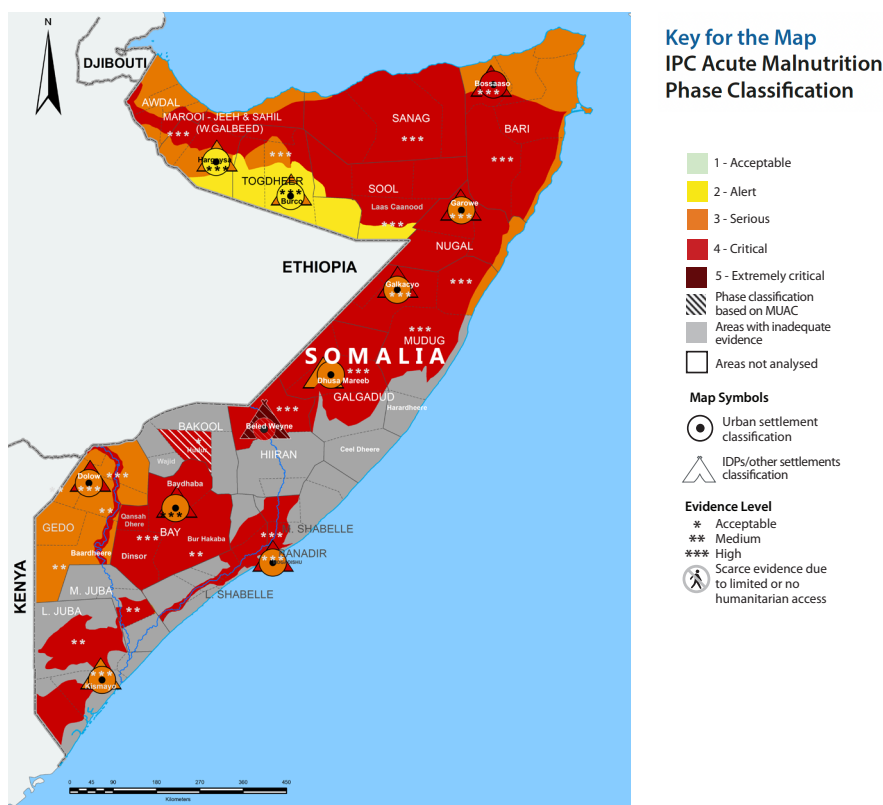
Acute Malnutrition | July 2026 - June 2027

1.92M

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Projection Acute Malnutrition | October - December 2026



Key Drivers | Acute Food Insecurity

- Poor rainfall**
Erratic and below-average rainfall during the April-to-June 2026 *Gu* season affected agropastoral areas in northwest regions and some regions in central and southern Somalia. Lingering impact of droughts in mid-to-late 2025 and early 2026 persist in most pastoral areas, including low milk availability and access.
- Flooding**
Alongside drought and conflict, flooding is likely to displace nearly 198,000 people between 1 July and 30 September 2026, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Adverse impacts of El Niño and further population displacements are likely during the October-to-December 2026 *Deyr* season due to heavy rainfall and anticipated severe flooding in riverine and low-lying areas.
- Conflict and insecurity**
Conflict and insecurity persist in many regions, particularly in central and southern Somalia and with localised conflicts in some northern regions, driving population displacement, disrupting market access and functionality, and constraining households' access to livelihood opportunities and humanitarian assistance.
- High food prices**
Despite above-average harvest in July 2026, food prices remain above average in many parts of the country. Local and imported food prices are expected to remain above average through the end of the year.

Contributing Factors | Acute Malnutrition

- Large food consumption gaps**
Households are unable to access enough food, especially among IDP communities and some pastoral livelihoods, where milk availability and access are limited due to low livestock births resulting from droughts that extended from mid-to-late 2025 to early 2026.
- Poor child feeding and care practices**
Child food consumption patterns are very poor, especially across IDP and rural populations. Only 3.8 percent of children have minimum dietary diversity and 2.3 percent consume the minimum acceptable diet. Suboptimal breastfeeding practices also reduce immunity for many young children.
- High disease burden**
Childhood illness remains high compared to the long-term average, especially for diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease—particularly measles and diphtheria—also remain high.
- Poor access to health and nutrition services**
National vaccination coverage from January–June 2026 for oral polio vaccine and measles was far below the 95 percent SPHERE standard. The closure of 233 nutrition sites and 380 health facilities has significantly reduced access to essential services.
- Limited access to sufficient, clean water and sanitation facilities**
Access to clean water is a significant challenge, especially among rural communities who have low access to improved water sources and sanitation. This continues to increase exposure to diarrhoeal diseases.

IPC Analysis Partners:



Publication date: 23 September 2026. Population data is based on the 2014 UNFPA Population Estimation Survey for Somalia (PESS), complemented by updated Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Detailed Site Assessments (DSAs) and related sources. The AFI analysis and total AMN burden estimates were calculated using the 2026 Somalia population figure from OCHA. | Feedback: IPC@FAO.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.