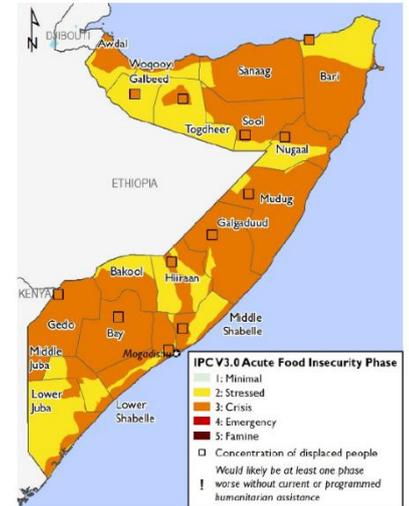


HIGHLIGHTS

- A spike in humanitarian needs expected amid the largest funding shortfall in six years. Rainfall deficits range up to 100mm or more in key crop-producing regions, including Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Bay and Bakool.
- Call to action for urgent life-saving assistance to nearly half of the population in Somalia. Federal and Member State Ministers of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management expressed grave concern over this year's humanitarian funding crises.
- Somalia receives the second batch of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX facility.
- Thousands of IDPs face an imminent eviction threat. Forced evictions continue to undermine efforts to assist IDPs and hinder their path to recovery and attaining durable solutions.
- Transforming farming through a portable solar system. Story of Fatima Abdirahman.
- SHF allocates US\$26 million but more resources are urgently needed to sustain life-saving response.

Projected food security outcomes, October 2021 to January 2022



Source: FEWS NET/ FSNAU

KEY FIGURES

5.9M

People in need of humanitarian assistance.

2.9M

People displaced by conflict and natural disasters across the country.

116K

People displaced by water shortages since October 2020.

1.6M

People currently experiencing acute food insecurity.

15.5K

Cases of COVID-19 reported since March 2020.

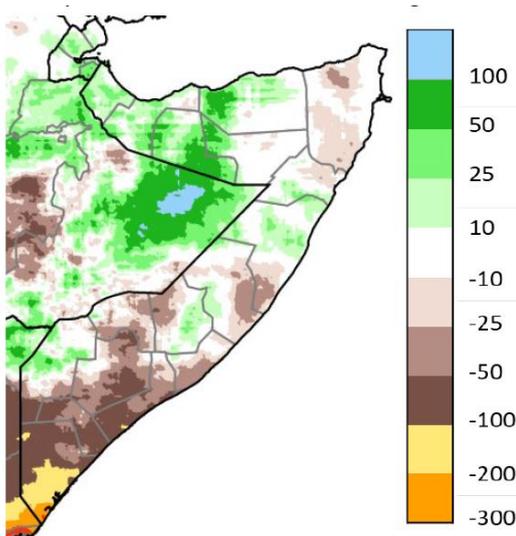
186K

People who received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

SPIKE IN HUMANITARIAN NEEDS EXPEDTED AMID ALARMING FUNDING SHORTFALLS

According to the latest FAO-managed [Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit \(FSNAU\)](#) and [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEW NET\)](#), Somalia experienced the second consecutive season of poor rainfall performance. The below-average 2020 *Deyr* season had triggered widespread drought late last year. Subsequently, a three- to four-week delay in the onset of the 2021 *Gu'* season prolonged drought conditions through mid-April, which is typically a peak rainfall month for crop production in the south. Rainfall deficits range up to 100mm or more in key crop-producing regions, including Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Bay and Bakool.

Overall, preliminary field assessments and analysis of historical crop data suggest the 2021 *Gu'* cereal harvest in central and southern Somalia is at least 30-40 per cent below the long-term average (1995-2020). However, a larger deficit is possible, and a final estimate will be available after the July post-*Gu'* field assessment, which will diminish a key source of food and income for farmers and drive up the local staple food prices in both rural and urban areas.



Difference in total rainfall (mm) received from 1 April to 30 June 2021 compared to the 1981 to 2020 average.
Source: Climate Hazards Center, UC Santa Barbara

The combined effect of COVID-19 has led to reduced household access to food and income and populations face major food consumption gaps. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity already persist in many regions and in the absence of humanitarian assistance, it is expected that many pastoralists in worst-affected areas could be forced to sell their remaining livestock to purchase cereals, resulting in higher levels of pastoral destitution. Farmers would have minimal stocks or income and face very high staple food prices.

Furthermore, the June to August coastal *Hagaa* rains in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, and parts of Bay and Middle Juba regions are most likely to be below the 40-year average. Poor *Hagaa* rainfall will likely constrain water and pasture availability and negatively affect the growth of late-planted and off-season crops. In the rest of Somalia, windy, dry and hotter-than-normal temperatures are forecast during the July to September *Hagaa* season, accelerating water and pasture depletion.

Although 1.8 million people out of the 4 million targeted in the 2021 [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) are being reached monthly with life-saving assistance and livelihood support, the food security situation remains tenuous. Humanitarian partners are committed to scaling up the response, their efforts. Urgent and more sustainable mid- to longer-term investment in

but the lack of funds continues to jeopardize their efforts. Urgent and more sustainable mid- to longer-term investment in reducing risk and vulnerability is required.

Call to action for urgent life-saving assistance to millions in Somalia

On 26 July, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management hosted an urgent meeting between the Federal Ministry and Federal Member States' Ministries for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. The meeting, which resulted in a joint statement, expressed grave concern for this year's humanitarian funding. A total of 5.9 million people, almost half of Somalia's population, including vulnerable children, women and men are at risk of losing access to life-saving assistance and protection services. The statement added that if action is not taken to address this funding gap, the cost could be catastrophic.

The statement also acknowledged the role of international and national NGOs, and UN agencies, in providing life-saving assistance and livelihood support to populations in need; the responsibility of independent media as an active watchdog, in providing regular and transparent updates on the crises; the role of the private sector in supporting awareness raising and delivery of supplies, in restoring effective markets and in reaching the most vulnerable; and the importance of the Somali diaspora, whom they urged to increase remittances.

Finally, parties agreed to advocate for longer-term support and investment to build resilience to climatic shocks, and to break the cycle of recurrent crises that causes so much suffering and undermines state-building processes. They underscored that only through urgent, collective and sustained action, Somalia will be able to address today's pressing challenges and build a prosperous and safe environment for future generations.

SOMALIA RECEIVES THE SECOND BATCH OF OXFORD/ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

On 8 August, Somalia received 108,000 doses of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. According to a joint press release published by the Federal Ministry of Health, the vaccines were donated by the Government of France through the COVAX Facility, a partnership between the Coalitions for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF and WHO; in continued efforts to protect Somalia's population from COVID-19.

"The arrival of this new batch of COVID-19 vaccines comes at a critical time, as cases in Somalia are on the rise," said HE Dr Fawziya Abikar Nur, Somalia's Federal Minister of Health and Human Services. "The only way to stop the spread of the virus is to get the population vaccinated. We are grateful for this latest donation from the Government of France and I call on all those eligible to get vaccinated."

“If we can end the pandemic in Somalia, we can end it everywhere. The country’s fragile health system and the high number of its population, especially the high-risk people, still to be vaccinated can make the virus more transmissible and we risk emergence of a new variant of the virus if we cannot roll out the vaccination programme against COVID-19 with speed and scale. The vaccines against COVID-19 are remarkably safe and effective. These are our only hopes to end the pandemic in Somalia and elsewhere,” said Dr Mamunur Rahman Malik, WHO Representative for Somalia. “We remain thankful to the Government of France for their kind support in providing these vaccines for the people of Somalia.”

An estimated 186,094 people in Somalia have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 92,792 people have received the second. Since the outbreak began in March 2021, Somalia has reported a total of 15,490 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 812 deaths as of 31 July. The Federal Ministry of Health stated that only 1.8 per cent of the country’s population are fully vaccinated.

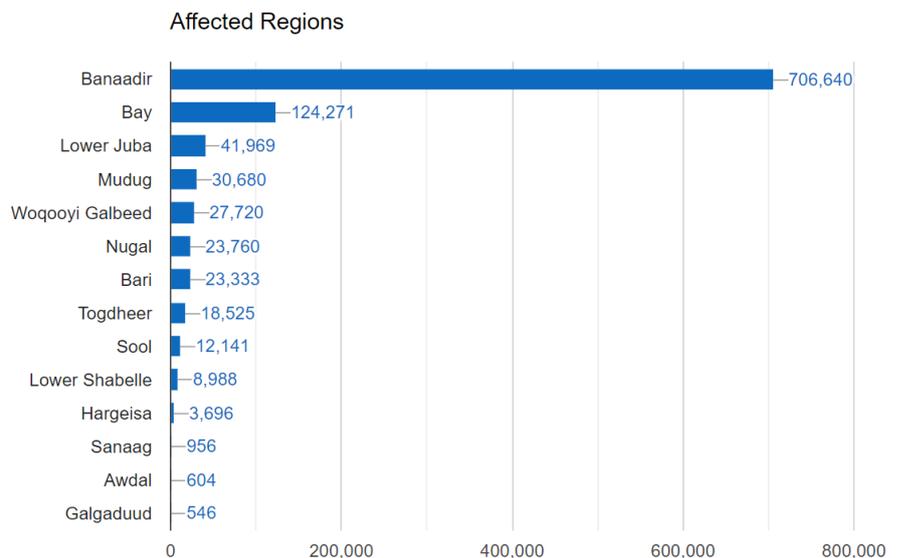
THOUSANDS OF IDPS AT RISK OF EVICTION

According to the Galmudug Commission for Refugees and IDPs (GCRI), more than 6,000 protracted IDPs in south Gaalkacyo town are at risk of eviction following several notices from the landlords since the start of the year. Most of these IDPs have been residing in the sites for decades. The fast expansion of the town has resulted in increased demands of land. GCRI has begun advocating with the local authorities to intervene in the matter and allocate permanent land for the IDPs. The relocation process in south Gaalkacyo has also been delayed over the past two years due to funding gaps and changes in city administration. The process started in 2019 and initially targeted 1,240 households at risk of eviction to be relocated from private land to a permanent site.

Puntland Ministry of Interior’s IDPs Department stated that the landowner had asked 1,500 displaced families (9,000 people) in Jowle IDP settlements in Garowe town (Nugaal region) to vacate the site within two weeks. The ministry has asked OCHA to inform humanitarian partners to support to the affected IDPs. A survey undertaken by the WASH Cluster in June 2021 revealed that most owners of lands where IDPs are currently settled object to the development of sanitation facilities like pit latrines, as this devalues the value of the land. According to the Ministry of Interior, increasing urbanization and rapid expansion of most towns in Puntland has led to increased evictions due to increased land prices. Over 2,000 IDP households have faced evictions or eviction threats in parts of Puntland in the last three months. The Protection Cluster, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, and the Housing Land and Property Area of Responsibility, are following up on the matter to ensure planned, organized and dignified relocations for the IDPs in the affected areas.

In Banadir region, more than 400 IDPs are facing eviction in Weydow area in Garasbaley localities. According to community leaders, IDPs were asked to vacate their sites by the landowner without prior notice. Most of the IDPs are planning to move to Igdabagee area in Daynille district while some are moving to Kahda district. IDP evictions have been on the rise for the last two months in Banadir region due to increased land value in the outskirts of Mogadishu, where more than 500,000 IDPs are residing. The IDPs are being pushed away from the main road which will make access to IDP sites very challenging for humanitarian workers. OCHA has engaged the Banadir Regional Administration on the matter and notified the evictions committee in Banadir for further action to minimize the negative impacts. OCHA has informed the regional clusters to provide immediate humanitarian response to the affected IDPs.

Forced evictions continue to undermine efforts to assist IDPs and accelerate their path to recovery and durable solutions. Banadir region remains a hotspot, followed by Bay region in South West State and Lower Juba in Jubaland State. In June alone, some 18,273 people were evicted in Somalia. Overall, 74,473 people have been evicted this year.



Source: Eviction dashboard

In most cases, the affected people are only given few days to vacate the land. Most are reportedly evicted because the landlords want to develop their properties or because owners want to increase rent or renovate premises.

TRANSFORMING FARMING THROUGH A PORTABLE SOLAR SYSTEM. STORY OF FATIMA ABDIRAHMAN

Fatuma Abdirahman, 45, a mother of three, is a resident of Bullo village in Xudur town. The area is located in the tropical agro-pastoral zone of the district with a monthly mean average temperature above 37^o C. The main source of livelihood is small-scale farming and the location has shallow wells that are used for both domestic and irrigation purposes.

Through the SomRep Project Funded by the Australian Aid, Action Against Hunger (ACF) has conducted the rehabilitation of shallow wells to increase crop production and adopted the use of portable solar powered irrigation kits for farmers in Bullo. Fatuma Abdirahman is among them.

“Previously we used to rely on diesel powered generators that require high cost of fuel and also have high maintenance costs. It was extremely difficult to get fuel in the local market of Xudur due to the blockade, this made us use the traditional way of fetching water from wells using buckets, which was very cumbersome.

The distribution of solar pumps by ACF has significantly reduced the cost of irrigating the farms since solar energy is abundant and the district receives 8-10 hours of sunshine. This helps us in increased crop production,” Fatuma remarked happily.

The portable solar kit can pump 3,000 litres per hour translating to 24,000 litres per day of eight-hour sunlight. This has enabled farmers to increase productivity. The installed drip irrigation and the solar systems in Fatuma’s farm has encouraged her to give more effort to farming and has eased her workload.

“This is an innovation to Xudur farmers. The use of solar energy reduces cost while installed drip irrigation ensures that the nutrients are not washed away and the rate of water loss through evaporation is greatly reduced,” said Mohamed Ahmed, Bakool agriculture officer.

Fatuma is eager to use energy technology that enabled her to irrigate two hectares of land. She grows high value crops such as onion, tomato, green pepper, watermelon, carrot, spinach, lettuce and hot pepper. She earns between US\$300 and \$900 each month. She added that in order to keep the system operational, every farmer pays \$2 for the service at the end of each farming season. The portable solar powered irrigation system has increased both the production capacity and income for farmers in the community.



Fatima Abdirahman, a vegetable farmer in Xudur, Bakool region-SWS

THE SHF ALLOCATES US\$ 26 MILLION, BUT MORE RESOURCES ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO SUSTAIN LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE

Response to humanitarian needs in Somalia remains encumbered by deficient funding. To support priority needs, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Advisory Board has endorsed a US\$26 million reserve allocation. This allocation will focus on areas with acute water shortages brought about by prolonged drought, as well as on flood-affected populations in hotspot locations in Hirshabelle. The allocation will provide strategic support to selected cluster-specific priorities (\$17 million) and integrated interventions (\$9 million).

Close to two-thirds of the \$26 million will back priority activities in Food Security, Health, Nutrition and WASH Clusters. Prioritized activities will help address food insecurity in Jubaland and Hirshabelle States through supply of agricultural inputs including seeds, farming tools and irrigation support, as well as improve immediate access to food through provision of cash and vouchers.

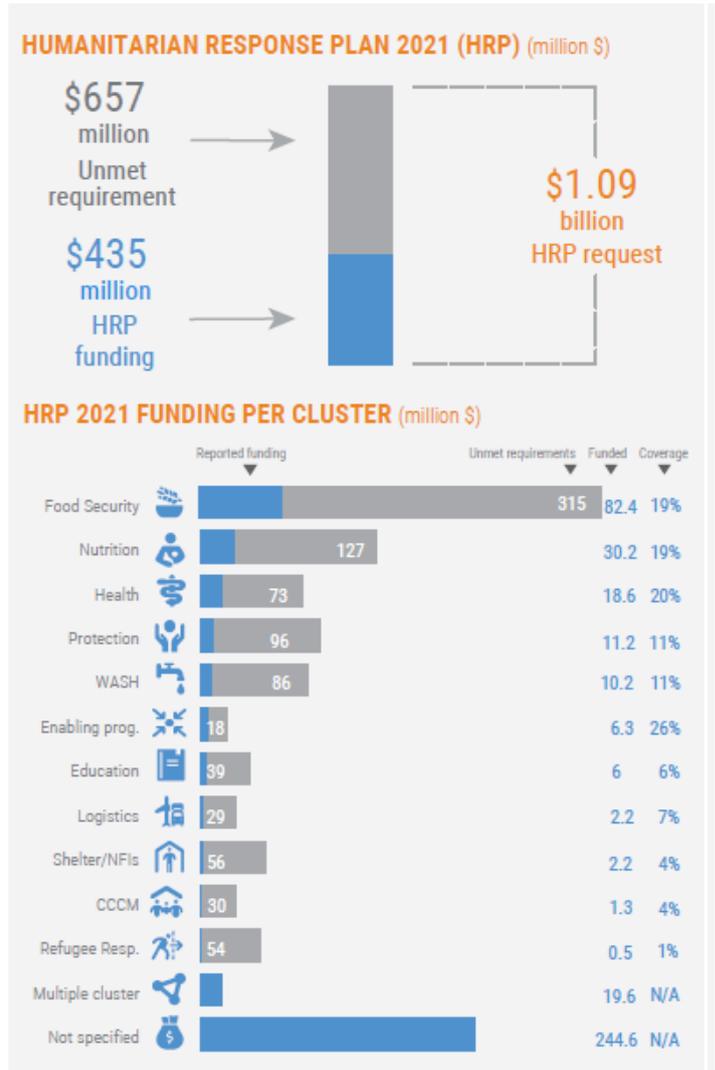
Other project activities targeted in Gedo, Galgaduud, Lower Juba, Bay and Banadir aim to improve health outcomes by boosting access to essential primary health care services and reducing morbidity and mortality for the vulnerable drought-affected population. These will be undertaken through the provision of emergency and essential health care services through primary health care, mobile medical services to IDPs and hard-to-reach host communities, supply of essential medications, and equipment and immunization support among other services.

In Bay, Galgaduud and Lower Juba, nutrition activities are geared to provision of equitable access to quality lifesaving curative nutrition services addressing high morbidity, low immunization, micronutrient support to boys and girls under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women, through systematic identification, referral and treatment of acutely malnourished cases.

About \$6 million has been allocated to WASH activities targeting people facing acute water shortages in hard-to-reach locations, flood-affected IDPs and host communities in South West, Hirshabelle, Galmudug and Jubaland States. The activities include improved access to safe water through rehabilitation or construction of strategic water points, installation of new sanitation facilities in settlement groups hosting newly displaced populations, rehabilitation of flood damaged water sources and installation of water distribution networks.

Additionally, 36 per cent (\$9 million) will boost response to flood-affected people through four integrated and complementary packages that: 1) provide critical services to people facing high incidence of malnutrition and health service gaps; 2) ensure access to safe learning environment; 3) alleviate protection risks through provision of emergency shelter/NFI kits and dignity kits; and, 4) support to gender-based violence one-stop centers and emergency site improvements to minimize protection risks.

Despite generous donor contributions, humanitarian needs in Somalia remain high. By 9 August 2021, \$854 million has been mobilized for the Somalia operation of which \$435 million has been funded through the Humanitarian Response Plan. Key clusters crucial to the prevention of disease outbreaks are critically underfunded; health and WASH are funded at 20 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.



Source: OCHA

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