



# Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Somalia is facing a growing number of threats to its food security. The ongoing desert locust invasion, socio-economic effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and recurrent climate shocks, including frequent flooding and drought, continue to severely impact the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable population.

## Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Enabling Programme clusters to:

- Improve food security and safeguard the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations.
- Ensure effective, principled and well-coordinated humanitarian assistance to ensure equal access for all.
- Provide timely and relevant information to enable more informed decision making and support the delivery of life saving assistance.

## Activities



### Enhance food security and resilience

unconditional and conditional cash transfers | cash+ | cash for work | agricultural kits (seeds, fertilizer, storage bags, irrigation/ tractor services) | animal feed | fishing gear and processing equipment | water delivery and irrigation | livestock vaccination and treatment | stocking of vaccines and related supplies | trainings



### Improve nutritional status of vulnerable households

cash assistance and e-nutrition vouchers | cash+ mother to mother peer groups | nutrition education | training in good nutrition practices | kitchen garden kits



### Support delivery of effective and well-coordinated humanitarian assistance

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) | monitoring and reporting on markets, food security and nutrition, rainfall, and vegetation conditions | capacity development of national institutions | Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) | data generation, app development and mapping | expansion of hydro-meteorological monitoring network | climate and flood related preparedness



## Somalia

### Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist  
**2.8 million people**



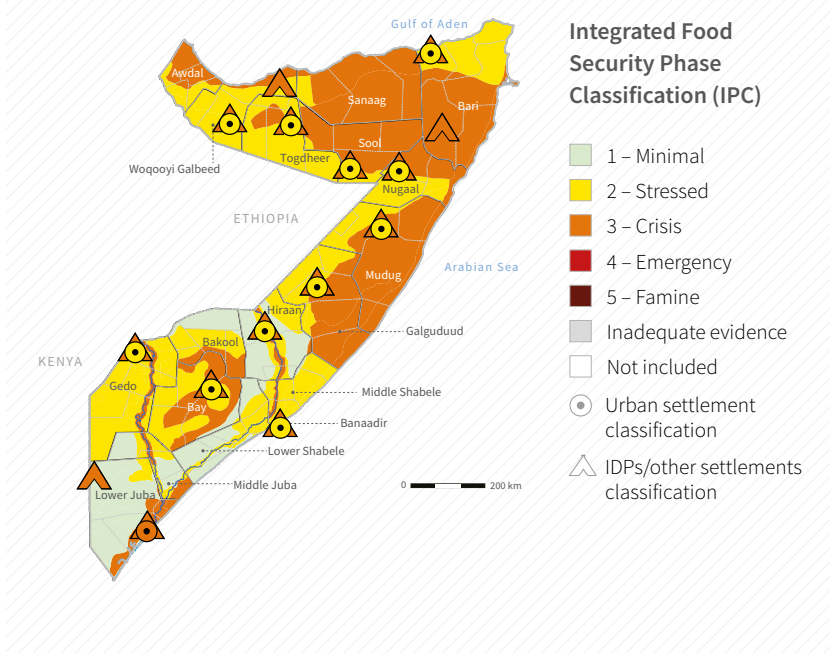
FAO requires  
**USD 128 million**



period  
**January–December 2021**

With humanitarian needs expected to further increase in 2021, it is critical to enhance immediate food access, protect and restore livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households. Sustained humanitarian assistance is required to prevent the further deterioration of food security and nutrition.

## Projected acute food insecurity situation (April–June 2021)



Source: Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit Somalia. 2020. *Somalia: Acute food insecurity situation overview, April–June 2021*. [online]. Nairobi, Kenya. [Cited 9 February 2021]. <https://www.fsnaou.org/ipc/ipc-map>

## Situation analysis

**2.65 million** people projected to be in high acute food insecurity

**840 000** children acutely malnourished, including **143 000** severely malnourished

**+4 690** cases of COVID-19, including **127** deaths

**2.65 million** internally displaced people

## Impact on food security

Key drivers of high food insecurity in Somalia include the destructive desert locust upsurge, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cyclone Gati among other natural hazards, protracted conflict and population displacement.

Over the last two decades, Somalia has seen a rise in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events (floods and droughts). In 2020, this manifested in subsequent major flood events including Cyclone Gati – which made landfall in late-November in the north-east. The significant damage caused by the cyclone affected the livelihoods of thousands and resulted in the loss of 63 000 livestock. Delayed and irregular rainfall throughout the year, particularly during key agricultural seasons, resulted in poor crop production, inadequate replacement of pasture and water resources and displacement, eroding the livelihood assets and resilience of rural communities.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a slowdown in economic activity marked by a decline in remittances as well as a short-term spike in imported staple food prices and a sharp decline in livestock exports.

Contributing to the fragile food security situation is the worst desert locust invasion the country has seen in 25 years. Pasture and crop losses due to the upsurge have adversely impacted crop and livestock production, further threatening the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and pastoralists. The highest level of risk, “Dangerous”, has been extended into early 2021 as new generations are expected to form swarms, with some possibly moving southwards.

Humanitarian needs are likely to continue to increase as the onset of La Niña approaches. Two back-to-back seasons of poor or failed rainfall could trigger a major humanitarian crisis as observed in 2010/2011 and 2016/2017. Providing large-scale and sustained humanitarian assistance and livelihood support is critical to close the debilitating food consumption gaps that threaten vulnerable Somalis. There is an urgent need to protect their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience.

## Contact

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