



FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps has distributed hygiene kits to 2,500 households displaced in Galkacyo camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- International Medical Corps conducted 90 days of water trucking for the rural pastoral communities of Galkacyo district, helping more than 24,340 people
- International Medical Corps reached 11,368 children (5,847 girls, 5,521 boys) under 5 years and 2,075 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) in five IDP sites and 16 rural villages in Galkacyo, providing routine screening and referral of malnourished children and PLWs

Source: OCHA Situation report July 31, 2022. Priority response areas.

Hunger is rising in Somalia following a historic fourth consecutive failed rainy season since 2020 and the worst drought in 40 years, with 7.1 million people—45% of the population—already acutely food-insecure. According to OCHA, as of May 6.1 million people—mostly women and children—had been affected by the drought emergency, of whom 800,000 had been displaced from their homes in search of water, food and pasture. For the first time since 2017, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has confirmed pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5), affecting more than 213,000 people across the country.¹

At least 200 children have died of undernutrition and disease in stabilization centers across Somalia since January 2022,² often due to medical complications. According to UNICEF, at least 330,000 children in Somalia need lifesaving treatment for severe wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition—much more than the 190,000 who required treatment during the country's 2011 famine.³ Outbreaks of disease have spiked, with more than 5,830 suspected cases of cholera reported from 24 drought-affected districts from January to May 2022. Water levels on the Juba and Shabelle rivers have dropped to 30%, which is below the short-term average, leading to grave shortages of water for irrigation and other uses. Migration by pastoralists and their livestock continues to increase, as people compete for limited resources, potentially stoking social tensions.

According to OCHA, as the country faces the risk of famine in six areas, partners are transitioning from drought response to famine prevention, reorienting responses to target the most vulnerable populations and developing famine prevention plans. Priority needs include food assistance; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support (especially focusing on borehole rehabilitation, hygiene kits and access to water); and infectious disease treatment, especially response to cases of cholera and measles. Medical and nutrition supplies, nutrition-related inpatient services, non-food items (NFIs) and shelter are also needed.⁴

¹<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-drought-response-and-famine-prevention-plan-may-december-2022-june-2022>

²Somalia National Nutrition Cluster meeting minutes, June 2022

³<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/children-die-malnutrition-drought-continues-bite-somalia>

⁴<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-drought-response-and-famine-prevention-plan-may-december-2022-june-2022>

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is working in Bay and Mudug to provide humanitarian assistance, and has provided the following services in the first half of the year:

- WASH support, including the distribution of 2,500 hygiene kits, construction of 200 latrines, hygiene promotion for 4,662 households, borehole rehabilitation, water storage-tank construction and water trucking that has helped 24,342 people;
- nutrition services, including providing maternal, infant and young-child feeding nutrition influencers with IYCF key messages, cooking demonstrations and the screening and referral of malnourished children and PLWs;
- health services, including case management of infectious diseases such as measles, acute watery diarrhea and COVID-19, and providing medical supplies;
- mental health activities, such as consultations, psychosocial support, community awareness sessions on mental health well-being and psychological first aid; and
- protection activities, including GBV case management services, women's and girls' safe spaces, awareness-raising to prevent GBV practices and distribution of dignity kits.

Future response

The drought crisis in Somalia is predicted to worsen over the coming months, as a historic fifth poor rainy season is forecast. The morbidity rate is expected to increase in the coming months, especially for women and children. The impact will be felt into 2023, with worsening food insecurity as well as water scarcity. More than 90% of Somalia is already experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions; malnutrition and outbreaks of disease have surged, and people continue to face difficulties accessing safe water, proper sanitation and adequate food.⁵

International Medical Corps is looking to expand operations in areas designated as high priority by OCHA, as we confront this humanitarian crisis and seeking further donor support to do so.

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-drought-response-and-famine-prevention-situation-report-no-9-31-july-2022>