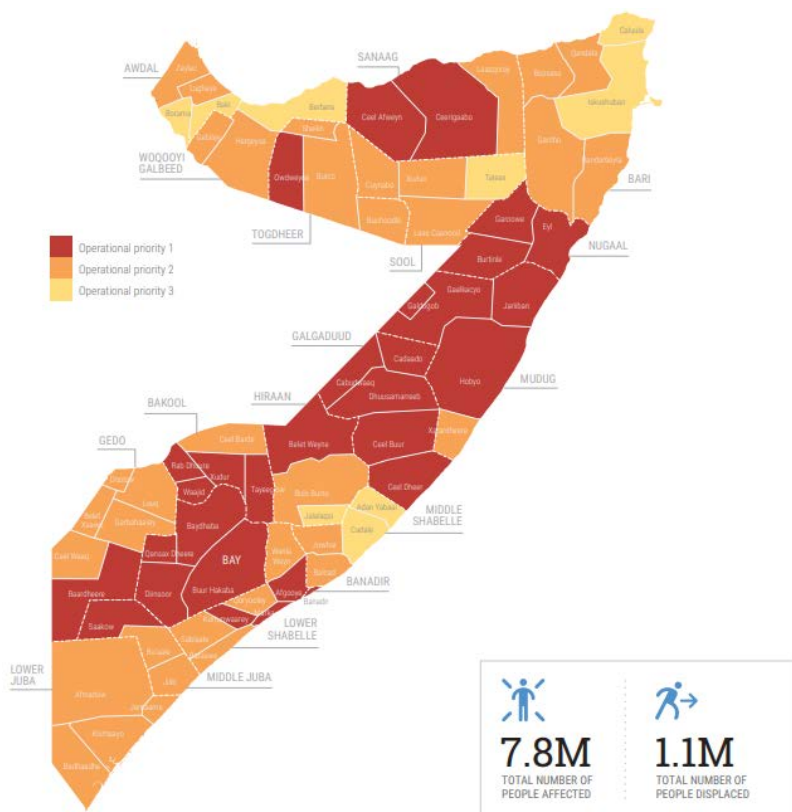


SITUATION UPDATE



Source: OCHA Current Drought Operational Priority Areas—October 2022

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps has distributed hygiene kits to 3,350 households in Galkacyo camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and WASH kits to 489 caregivers of malnourished children admitted at the Galkayo South Hospital.
- International Medical Corps conducted 114 days of water trucking for the rural pastoral communities of Galkacyo district, helping more than 24,342 people.
- Between July and September, International Medical Corps reached 90,186 children under five and 81,906 pregnant/lactating mothers through drought-related nutrition interventions.

Hunger is rising in Somalia following a historic fourth consecutive failed rainy season since 2020 and the worst drought in 40 years, with 7.8 million people—almost half of the population—affected. According to OCHA, as of the end of October, 6.7 million people are facing acute food insecurity, and 1.1 million people have 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), estimated to affect at least 300,560 people across the country.¹

Between January and September 2022, 864 children died while receiving treatment for severe wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition.² According to UNICEF, at least 330,000 children in Somalia need lifesaving treatment for severe wasting—much more than the 190,000 who required treatment during the country's 2011 famine.³ Outbreaks of disease have spiked, with 10,440 recorded cholera cases and 59 deaths across 25 drought-affected districts since January 2022. The WASH Cluster reports that 6.4 million people are affected by significant water shortages, with 14 out of 18 regions being severely affected. Migration by pastoralists and their livestock continues to increase, as people compete for limited safe water and 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

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is working in Banadir, Bay, Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions to provide humanitarian assistance. So far in 2022, we have:

- Provided WASH support, including the distribution of 5,350 hygiene kits to internally displaced persons (IDPs)

¹<https://fews.net/east-africa/somalia>

² UNICEF Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report No.9

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>

in all International Medical Corps sites, including Jowhar riverine villages. We also delivered WASH to 489 caregivers of malnourished children who were admitted to Galkacyo Hospital

- Constructed 260 latrines for IDPs, and conducted routine rehabilitation and maintenance on 50 latrines at International Medical Corps-operated healthcare facilities.
- Conducted routine household visits to promote hygiene activities, including providing a safe water chain, safe food handling, handwashing with soap, and prevention of acute watery diarrhea and cholera, benefiting 45,389 people.
- Constructed eight boreholes and rehabilitated six solar-powered wells by installing water kiosks for IDPs in Galkayo, giving sustainable access to safe water to 56,800 people.
- Constructed two 50m³ concrete elevated water storage tanks in Galkayo to enhance borehole storage capacity and reduce the frequency of pumping water, and eased the burden of fuel consumption on the submersible pumps and generator.
- Conducted 114 days of water trucking under the OCHA Somalia Humanitarian Fund grant for Galkayo rural pastoral communities, which helped 24,342 people during the “Jiilaal” dry season, when water was much needed.
- Provided a range of nutrition services, including providing maternal, infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) nutrition influencers with key IYCF messages, cooking demonstrations and the screening and referral of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women.
- Established static and mobile nutrition units across Banadir, Bay, Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions.
- Provided health services, including case management of infectious diseases such as measles, acute watery diarrhea and COVID-19, and provided medical supplies.
- Reached 53,945 beneficiaries from July to October through outpatient consultations from different facilities, and provided support for treatment of communicable diseases, reproductive health, non-communicable diseases and injuries.
- Conducted mental health activities, including consultations, psychosocial support, community awareness sessions on mental health well-being and psychological first aid.
- Provided protection services, including gender-based violence (GBV) case management services, women’s and girls’ safe spaces, awareness-raising to prevent GBV practices and distribution of dignity kits.
- Reached 7,672 people between July and October through GBV awareness-raising activities, and provided 293 GBV survivors with case management services, including individual psychosocial support and clinical management of rape.

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, 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. We will continue 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>