

# SOMALIA

## Impact of drought: Banadir and Bay regions

### OVERVIEW

Somalia is currently facing the longest drought it has experienced in at least 40 years. Since late 2020, the country has registered five consecutive below-average rainy seasons. The next rainy season in 2023 is forecast to have below-average rainfall levels as well, worsening the crisis and increasing the number of people in need (FEWS NET 13/12/2022 a; UNICEF/WASH Cluster 10/01/2023; IPC 12/09/2022 a). Somalia usually has two rainy seasons: Gu (March–May) and Geyr (October–December). The current drought has surpassed the duration of the previous droughts in 2010–2011 and 2016–2017 (OCHA 31/10/2022).

The drought has disrupted the population's main sources of livelihoods (agriculture, livestock, and pastures), resulting in the displacement of many people. From the beginning of 2022 to 31 October, the number of drought-affected people increased from 3.2 million to 7.8 million (OCHA 31/10/2022). More than 1.17 million people were displaced by drought in 2022, representing an increase of 481% compared to 2021 (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023).

The combined impact of drought on agriculture, rising food and water prices, and the disruption of livelihoods has increased food insecurity levels in Somalia. More than 8.3 million people will likely experience acute food insecurity in the country from April–June 2023 (IPC 13/12/2022 and 13/12/2022 b). In 2022, food prices in Somalia reached their highest levels in ten years (OCHA accessed 09/11/2022).

Bay and Banadir are among the regions most affected by the drought. Bay is the region most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. Around 98% of children under the age of five in this region are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition (IPC 12/09/2022 a). Close to 90% (over 1.15 million people) of its total population are expected to face acute food insecurity levels from April–June 2023 (IPC 13/12/2022 b). Since July 2022, Bay has been one of the regions receiving the majority of the drought-displaced population (IOM et al. 10/10/2022).

Banadir is the most populated region in Somalia and is where the country's capital, Mogadishu, is located. Although it is not the region with the most drought-affected people, it is one of the regions hosting most of the people displaced because of the drought. In 2022, Banadir hosted 422,000 IDPs, of whom 305,000 were drought-displaced (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023). Malnutrition in children is also of high concern in the region, with a global acute malnutrition rate of 69% in children under five. More than 926,000 people are projected to face acute food insecurity from January–March 2023 (IPC 13/12/2022 b).

The humanitarian crisis generated by the drought could worsen in 2023, as the humanitarian response remains underfunded. The least funded sectors are education, protection, and WASH (FEWS NET 13/12/2022 a; OCHA accessed 13/01/2023).

### About this report

**Aim:** this report provides an overview of the humanitarian needs resulting from the current drought in particularly affected regions of Somalia (Banadir and Bay). The report highlights key needs, the key population groups affected, coping mechanisms, compounding factors, access constraints, and response capacities for each area of focus.

**Methodology:** this report is mainly based on the secondary data review of public sources. Additional non-public sources and key stakeholders were consulted. Banadir and Bay were selected because they both have the highest numbers of IDPs, the highest malnutrition rates, and highest levels of food insecurity in the projection until June 2023.

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### KEY FIGURES

+1 M

PEOPLE DISPLACED  
BY DROUGHT IN 2022

+8 M

PEOPLE WILL LIKELY  
EXPERIENCE ACUTE  
FOOD INSECURITY  
IN THE COUNTRY  
FROM APRIL-JUNE 2023

69%

OF CHILDREN  
UNDER 5 IN BANADIR  
EXPERIENCE GLOBAL  
ACUTE MALNUTRITION

98%

OF CHILDREN  
UNDER 5 IN BAY REGION  
EXPERIENCE GLOBAL  
ACUTE MALNUTRITION

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## SITUATION PER REGION

### Key characteristics/information

	BANADIR REGION	BAY REGION	SOMALIA
Total population (2022)	2.87 million (IPC 13/12/2022)	1.28 million (IPC 13/12/2022)	16.95 million (IPC 13/12/2022)
Total number of drought-affected people (as at Jul 2022)	1 million (OCHA 18/08/2022)	703,000 (OCHA 18/08/2022)	7.8 million (47% of the total) (OCHA 18/08/2022)
Proportion of drought-affected people (as at Jul 2022)	40% (OCHA 18/08/2022)	67% (OCHA 18/08/2022)	47% (OCHA 18/08/2022)
Total number of people facing acute food insecurity – Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse (Jan–Mar 2023 projections)	Approximately 926,330 (IPC 28/09/2022)	Approximately 1.07 million (IPC 28/09/2022)	Approximately 6.36 million (IPC 13/12/2022 b)
Proportion of population facing acute food insecurity – IPC 3 or worse (Jan–Mar 2023 projections)	32% (IPC 28/09/2022)	83% (IPC 28/09/2022)	37% (IPC 28/09/2022)
People experiencing global acute malnutrition (Aug 2022 to Jul 2023 projections)	383,460 (IPC 12/09/2022 a)	214,990 (IPC 12/09/2022 a)	1,785,710 (IPC 12/09/2022 a)
Proportion of acutely malnourished population under five (Aug 2022 to Jul 2023 projections)	69% (IPC 12/09/2022 a)	98% (IPC 12/09/2022 a)	54% (IPC 12/09/2022 a)
Absolute poverty rate, 2021	71% (OCHA 29/12/2021)	71% (OCHA 29/12/2021)	69% (OCHA 29/12/2021)
People internally displaced by drought who departed from the region as at 12/2022	305,000 (UNHCR accessed 10/01/2023)	170,000 (UNHCR accessed 10/01/2023)	1.35 million (IOM et al. 10/10/2022)
People internally displaced by drought who arrived in the region as at 12/2022	3,000 (UNHCR accessed 10/01/2023)	321,000 (UNHCR accessed 10/01/2023)	
Main source of livelihood	Sale of crops, agricultural labour, self-employment (FSNAU 19/01/2017)	Agricultural labour, pastoralism (FSNAU 19/01/2017)	Agro-pastoralism (IMF 17/11/2022)

## Banadir region

Banadir, also known as Benaadir, is the most populated region in Somalia, with a population of over 2.87 million (IPC 13/12/2022 b). The capital city of Mogadishu occupies the majority of the region (Govt. Somalia accessed 08/11/2022).

Banadir hosts the highest number of drought-displaced people in Somalia (305,000 from January–December 2022) (OCHA 18/08/2022). The total number of IDPs hosted in Banadir as of September 2022 is 800,000 (IPC 12/09/2022 a). In 2022, there was a sudden increase in the number of drought-displaced people arriving in the camps in the region, where food insecurity levels were already previously high. The rapid arrival of so many IDPs has increased the risk of famine (IPC Phase 5, also known as Catastrophe) (IPC 12/09/2022 a and 02/12/2022).

From January–March 2023, more than 926,000 people in Banadir are expected to face severe acute food insecurity, with people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity levels. More than 117,000 people are projected to face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food insecurity levels. This number (926,000) represents an increase of more than 17% compared to October–December 2022 and is the second-highest projected number for all Somali regions. Projections for April–June 2023 indicate a further 20% increase, with 1.1 million people facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) (IPC 13/12/2022 b).

## Bay region

Close to 1.1 million people in Bay region are projected to face severe acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) from January–March 2023, including over 150,000 facing IPC 5 levels. The current drought is expected to severely affect two districts of Bay region in particular: Baidoa and Buurhakaba. As at 13 December 2022, the IPC Famine Review projected IPC 5 levels of food insecurity for these two districts for April–June 2023. Projections for April–June 2023 indicate that 1.15 million people in Bay, or close to 90% of the population of the region, will face severe food insecurity (IPC 13/12/2022 b).

Drought displacements from and towards Bay region have continued to increase since the beginning of 2022, as people leave their homes in search of food, water, pasture, and basic services. Recent reports indicate considerable movements of drought-displaced people to IDP sites in various districts, including Baidoa district in Bay Region (IOM et al. 11/12/2022). Baidoa is the district with the second-largest number of IDPs after the capital Mogadishu (MSF 12/10/2022).

Despite Bay region hosting the second-largest number of IDPs in the country, the majority of drought-displaced people (321,000) who originated from there have left the region. Most of the drought-displaced people in Bay come from its different districts (UNHCR accessed 16/11/2022). In June 2022, the region received only 2% of the people displaced by drought in

the country, but this number increased to 35% from October–November (IOM et al. 08/08/2022, 10/10/2022, and 20/09/2022).

According to reports by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit in Somalia, the July 2022 harvest in Bay region was less than 20% of the 1995–2021 average. At the same time, since mid-2021, at least 10% of the total livestock population in the region has died because of drought (FEWS NET/FSNAU 05/09/2022).

In December 2022, which marks the end of the Gu rainy season, Bay region did not receive any rain (FEWS NET 23/12/2022). The lack of rain is affecting agropastoralist communities and their livestock (Radio Ergo 06/01/2023).

September–October is normally the planting period in Bay region, but in 2022, the lack of water because of drought impeded farming populations from irrigating their crops (FAO accessed 16/11/2022). Aside from the lack of rainfall, many farmers have also had to move, resulting in many cultivation areas not being used (The Guardian 11/10/2022).

## KEY NEEDS

### Food security

In Somalia, about 8.2 million people are projected to suffer from acute food insecurity from April–June 2023. This figure represents an increase of 47% compared to October–December 2022. The areas of the country projected to be the most affected are Baidoa district in Bay region and Mogadishu in Banadir (IPC 13/12/2022 b; FEWS NET 13/12/2022 b).

### Banadir

IDP settlements in Mogadishu are expected to face Famine (IPC Phase 5) food insecurity levels from April–June 2023. Staple food prices in 2022 increased by nearly twice compared to the five-year average between 2016–2021 in Mogadishu's main markets. Given below-normal rainfall projections for the Gu rainy season, prices are likely to remain high in the coming months (FEWS NET 13/12/2022 a and 04/01/2023; IPC 13/12/2022 a). The price of safe water was six times higher in December 2022 compared to the beginning of the year (IPC 13/12/2022 a).

## Bay

Large food consumption gaps exist in the region. With the failing of the July 2022 Gu season harvest, most food security indicators project Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity outcomes for the region. This has resulted in communities utilising various coping strategies, including consuming immature crops, gathering wild food for consumption or to sell for income, selling livestock, and begging. Humanitarian assistance has yet to keep up with the needs of communities, with cereal prices staying high. The price of maize grain in Somalia in December 2022 doubled compared to the five-year average between 2016-2021 (FEWS NET 04/01/2023). One main cause of this increase is the limited supply arriving from neighbouring countries (FEWS NET/FSNAU 05/09/2022).

The severe food insecurity situation in Bay region is currently affecting IDPs and the urban poor population the most (IPC 12/09/2022 a; OCHA 31/1/0/2022).

## Health

Less than 30% of Somalis have access to health services (Gele 30/09/2020). The country provides 0.9 hospital bed per 1,000 inhabitants, lower than the global mean of 2.9 beds per 1,000 inhabitants (WorldData accessed 23/01/2023). About 58% of the population in Somalia has not been immunised for hepatitis, measles, diphtheria, and tetanus (WB accessed 12/01/2023). Diseases such as measles are also on the rise in the country because of a reduction in vaccination coverage (OCHA 31/10/2022). Between 1 January and 10 July 2022, a cumulative number of 7,796 cholera cases and 37 associated deaths were reported in 25 drought-affected districts, including those in Bay and Banadir (WHO 20/07/2022).

## Banadir

Health workers in Banadir are already reporting that hospitals are overwhelmed because of an increase in the number of acutely malnourished children. From January–September 2022, the Banadir hospital went from receiving 120 to about 230 children per month (Bangkok Post 09/06/2022). In Mogadishu, there is only one government hospital, which means that many people must either wait for care at the overburdened public hospital or pay large amounts of money to be treated privately (OHCHR 05/04/2022). Faced with a sudden increase in the number of displaced people, including people suffering from malnutrition, medical facilities in Mogadishu are operating at capacity (SBS News YouTube 01/06/2022). In drought-affected districts, some diseases, such as cholera and measles, were detected in 2022 (WHO 18/12/2022 and 27/04/2022; FAO 07/11/2022). As at 18 December, Banadir had 5,140 cumulative cases of cholera and/or acute watery diarrhoea (WHO 18/12/2022).

## Bay

Although measles is endemic in Somalia, the current drought conditions are worsening the situation. By September 2022, suspected measles cases had risen by five times compared to the same period in 2021, with the majority involving children under five. Poor vaccination coverage and the effect of malnutrition on children's immune systems are making them more susceptible to contagious diseases (OCHA 31/10/2022). In Baidoa district (Bay region), approximately 30% of treated children are above five years of age and are mostly from displaced families (MSF 12/10/2022).

Between January 2021 and 10 July 2022, WHO reported about 2,000 cumulative cases of cholera in Baidoa (WHO 20/07/2022). From May–August 2022, Médecins Sans Frontières recorded 14,112 cholera patients in Baidoa (MSF 12/10/2022).

## WASH

Across Somalia, approximately 6.4 million people, including one million IDPs, face acute water shortages (UNICEF/WASH Cluster 08/01/2023; OCHA 31/10/2022). Only 52% of the population has access to basic water supplies (UNICEF accessed 31/10/2023). Private water vendors are not subject to extensive regulation, resulting in the high prices of safe water. The drought has led to water price increases of up to 250% (OCHA 31/10/2022). The population often collects water from contaminated sources or from private vendors, increasing their risk of contracting waterborne diseases. 28% of the population practises open defecation (UNICEF accessed 31/10/2023).

Before the start of the drought, only 52% of the population in Somalia had access to a basic supply of drinking water, and 28% of the population regularly practised open defecation (UNICEF accessed 25/01/2023).

## Banadir

IDP sites have been reporting severe water shortages since 2021 (UNICEF/WASH Cluster 11/04/2022). The sustained drought and increase in displaced people add further pressure to this issue (OCHA 17/12/2021). Nearly 28,700 drought-displaced people lack access to WASH services in the region (UNICEF/WASH Cluster 11/04/2022).

IDP camps do not have adequate sanitary conditions, heightening the risk of outbreaks of preventable medical conditions, such as acute watery diarrhoea, respiratory infections, and diseases, such as cholera (UNICEF 11/03/2022).

## Bay

In Baidoa (Bay region), over 108 IDP sites hosting 124,000 people, with regular new arrivals, lack adequate water and sanitation facilities. Southwest state, which includes Bay region, has seen acute increases in water prices of up to 250% because of the rising demands for water and depleting water resources (OCHA 31/10/2022). This lack of clean drinking water and sanitation services has led to a heightened risk of disease outbreaks, especially in IDP camps in Baidoa (UNICEF/WASH Cluster 13/10/2022).

## Nutrition

Several factors, including drought, rising food prices, crop failures, and the slow response of humanitarian assistance, have led to approximately 1.8 million acutely malnourished people in Somalia, of whom around 513,500 are severely malnourished (IPC 12/09/2022 a; FEWS NET 31/08/2022). UNICEF reports that at least 330,000 children require life-saving treatment for acute malnutrition (UNICEF 23/08/2022).

## Banadir

From August 2022 to July 2023, 69% of children under five in the region are projected to be acutely malnourished (IPC 12/09/2022 a). The territories most affected by malnutrition are rural areas, which are facing food shortages as a result of the drought, and IDP camps, which have less and less capacity to receive and care for IDPs because of the rapid increase in their numbers and the lack of funding (FEWS NET/FSNAU 13/12/2022). In August 2022, one child every minute was admitted to Mogadishu hospitals for severe acute malnutrition. Malnourished children are about 11 times more likely to die from diarrhoea and measles (UN 18/10/2022).

## Bay

From August 2022 to July 2023, 98% of the children under five in the region are projected to be acutely malnourished. The most affected territories are those with large agropastoral populations, such as the districts of Baidoa and Buurhakaba. Since many of these populations live on subsistence crops, the drought has led to higher levels of malnutrition, with people unable to use their land and feed themselves (IPC 12/09/2022 a; FEWS NET 31/08/2022).

## Shelter and NFI

Drought-driven displacement in Somalia increased by 481% in 2022 compared to 2021, affecting more than 1.17 million people from January–December 2022 (UNHCR accessed 13/01/2022). Many IDPs in Somalia have built makeshift shelters that, despite lacking adequate sanitation and other hygiene facilities, protect them from harsh weather conditions (Shelter

Cluster/UNHCR 12/10/2022). Recently displaced people have less access to adequate shelter construction because of a lack of funds for the humanitarian response and the rapid increase of IDPs in the country. As a result, many of them have little privacy, live in overcrowded conditions, and are exposed to high temperatures (Shelter Cluster/UNHCR 15/12/2022).

## Banadir

**In 2022, 305,000 drought-displaced people arrived in the region, an increase of more than 369% compared to 2021** (UNHCR accessed 13/01/2022; IOM et al. 11/12/2022). Most of the displaced population in Banadir come from Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (IOM et al. 10/10/2022). Given projections of increased food insecurity and an upcoming Gu season with low rainfall levels, displacement within Banadir is likely to continue throughout 2023 (UNICEF/WASH Cluster 10/01/2023; IOM et al. 20/09/2022; IPC 05/09/2022).

People leave their communities in search of food, water, pasture, and basic services. Banadir is one of the regions receiving the most displaced people in the country, partially because it is where the capital is located, but also because some farming areas of the region are less affected than the rest of the country (OCHA 13/07/2022; The Guardian 11/10/2022).

Shelters are overcrowded and have poor sanitation and hygiene conditions (IOM 07/11/2022). Other displaced people are staying in informal camps, where they are often outdoors and without NFIs, such as blankets, mosquito nets, and kitchen items (IOM 07/11/2022; OCHA 31/10/2022).

## People displaced in Banadir (arrivals)



Source: (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023)

## Bay

At least 180,000 drought-displaced people have arrived in Bay region, the vast majority of whom were displaced from July–December 2022. From January–May 2022, Bay received, on average, less than 10,000 drought-displaced people monthly, compared to 30,000 in July. Although the number has since been declining, in November, over 26,000 people arrived in the region (IOM et al. 11/12/2022).

Most displaced people have departed from the districts of Diinsoor (37,000 people) and Qansaxdheere (38,000). Baidoa is the district that has received most of the displaced people (75,000) (UNHCR accessed 16/11/2022). Many of the people displaced in Bay region are in overcrowded settlements with poor access to drinking water and sanitation and hygiene facilities. Since displacement could continue at very high levels in the absence of rainfall, these conditions could worsen (IPC 12/09/2022 b).

### People displaced in Bay (arrivals and departures)



Source: (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023)

## Livelihoods

As of 2019, about 70% of the population of Somalia lived in poverty (WB 01/04/2019). The majority of the population derive their livelihoods from pastoralism or agropastoralism (FSNAU/FEWS NET 30/06/2016). Nearly three-quarters of rural households and the displaced population are poor. Aside from pre-existing poverty, the drought has also disrupted livelihoods, particularly affecting agropastoral populations, fishermen, and the population living from agriculture (UNHCR 12/04/2021; FAO 2021).

### Banadir

Increased inflation affects both IDP and host communities in Mogadishu. IDPs arriving from Bakool, Bay, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Shabelle regions usually leave their homes with little savings given the extended impacts of the long drought (IOM et al. 10/10/2022; Bangkok Post 09/06/2022). Resulting high prices hamper their access to food and essential items (Bangkok Post 09/06/2022). The disruption in their livelihoods is likely to aggravate the already prevalent malnutrition in children, as some families report eating less food per day with the little money available (The Guardian 18/02/2022). Many of the displaced population depend on agriculture and livestock, and the drought has disrupted their main sources of income. Host communities feel the impact through business closures and reduced incomes (The Guardian 08/06/2022).

### Bay

Bay and Bakool regions, located in Southwest state, are often referred to as the country's breadbasket. Over 80% of the country's staple, sorghum, is produced across Bay region in rain-fed farms, while livestock (goats and camels) are reared in Bay and Bakool regions and sold at high rates at markets across the country. The current drought has resulted in the displacement of agropastoral communities in search of food and pasture to meet daily needs, affecting the production of essential food items (RVI 24/03/2022; ACTED 15/03/2022).

## KEY POPULATION GROUPS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT ACROSS SOMALIA

### Children

**Children are among the groups most affected by drought. Their lives are the most at risk when it comes to acute malnutrition. Furthermore, displacement in search of food also impacts their school attendance, and some are forced into early marriages and forced labour.** Diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea often have more severe effects on children who are malnourished (Verite accessed 25/01/2023, Hove-Musekwa et al. 07/12/2010; UNICEF 14/10/2022). Approximately 1.5 million children under five face acute malnutrition in Somalia. The number of children facing severe acute malnutrition is expected to increase by 25%, from 143,190 in December 2021 to 513,000 by July 2023 (IPC 12/09/2022; IPC 03/2021).

The large number of people on the move as they search for food and safe water has led to an increase in the number of children without access to education. An estimated three million children (70% of the total number of children in the country) have dropped out of school, some of them to help their parents obtain more income (FCA 07/11/2022; Trócaire 27/07/2022). Half of the children in IDP camps also have no access to education (FCA 07/11/2022). Although there is little data available to evaluate both crises separately, it is possible that school dropouts also may have increased as a result of COVID-19 (Abdirahman 2021).

Among the children who have been displaced with their families since 2021, about 63% are not receiving education (OCHA 31/10/2022). Other reasons for school dropouts are school closures, the withdrawal of teachers because of the non-payment of their salaries, and the loss of parents' livelihoods (CARE 10/05/2022; ECW 18/11/2022). Several schools have had to close, either because of water shortages or because their teachers were displaced or left the profession (Trócaire 27/07/2022). An additional 900,000 children in Somalia are at risk of dropping out of school as of November 2022 (ECW 18/11/2022; The Guardian 22/09/2022). This figure adds to the already existing crisis of the lack of access to education in the country; in 2019, only 30% of school-age children were receiving formal education (Concern Worldwide US 03/12/2019).

### Women

**For women and girls, droughts often have a twofold impact.** Firstly, as with all people living in drought-affected regions, they have less access to several basic elements, including food and drinking water. Secondly, some customs and traditions can lead them to adopting negative coping mechanisms (Scientific American 10/05/2022). For example, an assessment by CARE found that far more women are food-insecure than men (CARE 18/08/2022). Somali men reported eating smaller portions of meals, while women often reported not eating at all (CARE

31/08/2021). As at August 2022, nearly 184,400 pregnant and lactating women faced acute malnutrition in Somalia (OCHA 24/08/2022). Girls are more than twice as likely as boys to drop out of school during humanitarian emergencies, putting them at greater risk of exploitation and abuse (Theirworld 20/05/2016; Plan International 10/08/2022).

During the drought in Somalia, women have had to walk longer distances to fetch water, exposing them to greater risks of sexual violence along the way (CARE 14/10/2022). Reported incidents of domestic violence have also increased, which could be related to a higher number of IDPs in camps or host communities with no space for privacy (UNFPA 01/03/2021). Women also tend to take on more responsibilities than before the drought, because aside from being responsible for care in their families, they must find jobs to contribute financially to the household. Many of these jobs are informal, and there are accompanying risks of abuse and sexual exploitation (Plan International 10/08/2022; UNICEF 31/12/2022).

The drought has also meant that women and girls must travel longer distances to fetch water, as they are usually the ones doing this work (OCHA 24/08/2022). At least 30% of a group of women interviewed in regions of Somaliland stated that they knew a woman or girl who had been a victim of sexual or gender-based violence during January-July 2022. The most frequently mentioned growing risks were rape; sexual harassment; domestic violence; child, early, and forced marriages and unions; and female genital mutilation or cutting (Plan International 10/08/2022).

During droughts, women face greater constraints in accessing care for gender-based violence or health needs. For example, only 2.4% of women in Somalia reported having access to basic obstetric care, and 9.5% to reproductive health services. Allocating money for sexual and reproductive healthcare to food consumption has been identified as a coping mechanism (UNFPA 01/03/2021).

### IDPs and refugees

The current devastating drought has led to the displacement of entire communities across Somalia, with Bay and Banadir regions currently hosting the majority of displaced people. In Somalia, as at 30 November 2022, there were approximately 2.9 million IDPs, more than 136,000 refugee returnees, and 34,300 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR 15/12/2022). Although most recent displacements have been drought-driven, in 2022, armed conflict displaced more than 607,000 people, while flooding displaced 13,100. 79% of IDPs are women and children, and 35% of them have reported not feeling safe to move freely (UNHCR 09/01/2023 and 17/11/2022). IDPs living in settlements are more likely to face deep poverty. Three out of four IDPs live on less than USD 1.90 per day, and more than half of IDP households face hunger (WB 19/09/2019). 66% of returnee households report that their income is insufficient to meet their needs (UNHCR 30/04/2022; OCHA 24/10/2021).

## Pastoral and agropastoral communities

Somalia is a largely pastoral and agropastoral economy. The drought has severely affected the southern agropastoral areas, as well as the central and northern pastoral areas, leading to widespread animal emaciation and low birth rates and adversely affecting local milk production. Approximately three million livestock had died across the country as at October 2022 (Farmers Review Africa 17/10/2022; OCHA 29/11/2022).

As at August 2022, drought conditions had led to a decline of up to 15% in livestock prices and to the prices of locally produced cereals (maize and sorghum) almost doubling compared to the previous year (Farmers Review Africa 17/10/2022).

## COMPOUNDING FACTORS

### Rising food and fuel crisis

Somalia depends on the Black Sea Grain Initiative – an initiative that allows a safe corridor for the Ukrainian export of grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilisers – for about 90% of the grain that it uses (FCA 07/11/2022; UN 16/09/2022). The initiative was scheduled to last 120 days from its signing on 22 July 2022. On 17 November, it was extended for an additional 120 days, but negotiations are still underway to include other elements of fertilisers and expedite port inspections (Safety4Sea 05/01/2023; World-Grain 12/16/2022; Reuters 17/11/2022). Without an agreement, food prices can increase in the short term (IFPRI 31/10/2022).

The country experienced a 45% increase in fuel prices in 2022 (Logistics Cluster/WFP 08/09/2022). The increase in fuel prices, mostly caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, is worsening the crisis caused by the drought, as it further reduces the already weak purchasing power of people and heightens the vulnerability of the poor (WFP 29/10/2022).

### Political instability and conflict

**Al-Shabaab** is an armed group formed during the early 2000s in Somalia. According to some estimates, it has 7,000–12,000 members (UN SC 15/07/2022). Al-Shabaab controls large parts of central and southern Somalia, including some of the regions affected by drought (CFR 14/12/2022)

Al-Shabaab has attacked government-affiliated forces, political figures, and soft targets, such as hotels, markets, and government buildings. Between January and December 2022, there were more than 2,940 violence events and more than 6,000 persons killed across the country by armed groups operating in Somalia (ACLED accessed 04/11/2023; TNH 31/10/2022). The armed group was also responsible for a twin car bombing that struck the Ministry of Education on 30 October. The attack, which was a retaliation on the recent offensive made by the Government in Al-Shabaab-controlled territory, killed at least 121 and injured an additional 300 people (HRW 01/11/2022; CNN 30/10/2022). In Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab has executed several attacks against military facilities and public officials. In Bay, the armed group often engages in military operations with the Somali army (ICG 09/2022).

**Interclan conflicts** have intensified as a result of the drought conditions. These conflicts stem from the scarceness of resources and grazing land in rural areas, where populations are less prepared to deal with severe weather conditions. Recently, conflicts over water have become rampant in the country; in August 2022, after violence broke over a borehole, at least 20 people were killed in the state of Galmudug in central Somalia (IOM 07/11/2022; UNHCR 01/09/2022). In Bay region, there have been several clan disputes in the past, mainly over land, water, and pasture ownership (Hassan Barrow 16/09/2020). As people search for resources during the current drought, these conflicts are likely to reappear.

### Further displacement

Somalia has been facing five rainy seasons with below-average rainfall levels. Reduced rainfall activity is also projected for the coming rainy season (March–May 2023). River levels along Juba and Shabelle regions have been decreasing since October 2022 (WHO 18/12/2022; FAO 15/11/2022). The impacts of the drought, including increased food prices, livestock loss, limited food production, disrupted livelihoods, and the increasing dependency on food imports, can make food inaccessible for many households (IPC 12/09/2022 b).

As a result, the number of drought-affected people could increase, and the crisis could lead to forced displacements (Time 13/10/2022). In 2022, the districts from which most people were displaced by drought were Qansaxdheere and Diinsor (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023). These districts heavily depend on agriculture, and some IDPs have stated being displaced as a result of livestock deaths or crop failure (UNHCR 29/09/2022; FSNAU/FEWS NET 30/06/2016). If the drought continues, more people will likely decide to move to less affected areas or to places where they expect to receive some assistance.



## Land degradation and deforestation

From 1990–2022, Somalia experienced more than 30 climate-related hazards, including 12 droughts and 19 floods. These hazards, combined with land degradation (which, from 2000–2015, reached 147,704 km<sup>2</sup> or 27% of the total land area of the country), has considerably disrupted the livelihoods of the population (Govt. Somalia 2020). The agricultural sector (including agriculture, livestock, and fisheries) is the largest employer in rural Somalia (WB 27/07/2022 and 10/06/2022).

From 2001–2021, Somalia lost 4.9% of its tree cover (Global Forest Watch accessed 23/01/2023). The annual deforestation rate in Somalia is almost twice that observed in the rest of Africa and thrice that observed in neighbouring Kenya (WB 07/09/2020). Land degradation and deforestation can have a long-term effect that aggravates droughts, since even when precipitation levels return to normal, there will be less soil capable of absorbing nutrients, making it more difficult to reach pre-drought levels (WB 27/07/2022; UNEP 14/06/2022).

## Remittances

Remittances in Somalia represent about 25% of the annual gross domestic product and more than the total amount of money received from humanitarian assistance and foreign direct investment (Govt. Somalia 2020). An estimated 40% of remittance-receiving households in Somalia rely on remittances to cover their basic needs; for 80% of this figure, remittances constitute at least half of their monthly income. 67% of remittance recipients are unemployed (IOM 08/2020). Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the loss of jobs and income, have reduced the amount of money sent by people from abroad (IOM 14/06/2021; CARE 09/2022). As a result, the flow of remittances was unusually low in 2022 (ECHO 14/09/2022). If this trend continues, humanitarian needs will probably worsen because of people's high reliance on remittances.

Until 2019, urban households tended to receive more remittances from abroad, while IDPs tended to receive them from elsewhere in Somalia (WB 01/04/2019). In the face of the worsening domestic crisis, many IDPs may have also lost access to remittances.

## ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

### Access of people in need to aid

Roughly 900,000 people in drought-affected areas live within Al-Shabaab-controlled territory, where humanitarian access to the population is constrained (AP 26/10/2022).

On 29 October 2022, Al-Shabaab detonated two car bombs in Mogadishu, leaving at least 100 people dead and 300 injured (Reuters 30/10/2022; Al Jazeera 30/10/2022). Al-Shabaab has had control of some areas of Mogadishu in the past; some villages in Bay region are currently under its control (CFR 14/12/2022). The group frequently carries out attacks in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. This type of violence adds pressure on hospitals already overwhelmed by the multiple crises (Reuters 29/11/2022). The group frequently carries out attacks in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. This type of violence adds pressure on hospitals already overwhelmed by the multiple crises (Reuters 29/11/2022).

Interclan clashes, aside from resulting in deaths, often restrict humanitarian aid. Some clan representatives function as intermediaries with humanitarian organisations, meaning the clans in dispute have limited access to some aid (ACAPS 14/12/2022; HRW accessed DD/MM/2022 25/01/2023).

### Access of humanitarians to affected populations

Somalia was the sixth country in the world with the most attacks on aid workers in 2020; a total of 12 attacks included bombings, kidnappings, assaults, and shootings (Humanitarian Outcomes 20/07/2021). In 2021, attacks against humanitarian workers in the country decreased to eight (Humanitarian Outcomes 30/08/2022). 50% of the attacks were in Banadir, and 25% were in Bay region. In 2022, there were three attacks against members of the UN, NGO staff members, and NGO health workers. All three took place in Mogadishu (Banadir region) and Baidoa district (Bay region) (AWSO accessed 22/01/2023).

**Al-Shabaab has established taxes to some NGOs, humanitarian workers or supply providers in regions under their territorial control** (U.S. Department of Treasury 17/10/2022; Bandula-Irwin et al. 11/2021). **This severely hinders the supply of food and other life-saving equipment to drought-affected populations** (BBC 27/09/2022; Bandula-Irwin et al. 11/2021; UN Security Council 2022).

## Physical, environmental, and security constraints

Somalia has a poor highway infrastructure, meaning several areas of the country are isolated and difficult to reach with humanitarian aid (Nations Encyclopedia accessed 13/01/2022; Logistics Cluster/WFP accessed DD/MM/202Y; IRC 15/12/2021; Logistics Cluster/WFP accessed 20/01/2023; IRC 15/12/2021). Flooding worsens this situation, as the few roads available become inaccessible (IRC 15/12/2021).

## RESPONSE CAPACITY

Despite the increase in people in humanitarian need because of the drought, funding for an UN-coordinated response has not increased. In fact, only 66% of the humanitarian response required in 2022 was funded, representing one of the lowest levels of funding since 2011 (OCHA accessed 13/01/2023; OCHA 31/20/2022). According to the IPC, the health and WASH sectors did not have the funding necessary to expand their capacity in the country, and other sectors, such as food security and nutrition, did not have clarity on the funding they will receive in 2023 (IPC 02/12/2022).

In November 2022, the World Economic Forum called for urgent investment in the Somalia crisis (WEF 01/11/2022). At the beginning of 2022, 3.2 million people were reported to be affected by the drought; this number has more than doubled to 7.6 million, making available funds insufficient to reach all the people in need. More than 30 humanitarian organisations are responding to the drought in Somalia (Govt. Somalia/OCHA 20/10/2022). Education, protection, and WASH were the least funded clusters for the drought emergency in 2022, with just 12%, 26.3%, and 28.4% of the funds required respectively being allocated (OCHA accessed 13/01/2023).

In September 2022, the Somali Government was accused of failing to release nearly USD 9.6 million for humanitarian operations to start in the country (AA 14/09/2022). Subsequently, the Government was accused of misappropriating more than USD 90 million, mostly from international donors (GO 22/11/2022). In the past, the Somali Government's ability to respond to emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and droughts, had been very limited (IOM 25/04/2022; The East African 02/11/2022). Somali government institutions are under-staffed and under-resourced to deal with these emergencies (HRW accessed 08/01/2023). There are also areas of Somalia under the control of Al-Shabaab, making the Government's presence rather dispersed throughout the territory (CFR 14/12/2022).

## INFORMATION GAPS

- It is difficult to differentiate the needs of those displaced by war or refugees from other countries from those displaced by drought.
- Some of the people affected by the drought in Mogadishu are not considered part of the humanitarian crisis (e.g., business owners and salaried civilians), but the deteriorating conditions of host communities are likely to affect their conditions as well. Without the necessary assessments, part of the crisis is possibly omitted.