#### ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Despite declining numbers of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), the magnitude of the crisis worsened in 2023.

# PEAK 2023 (APRIL-JUNE)

# **★**††¶ 6.6M

people or 39% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, 2.5M are IDPs.

This figure is the highest in GRFC history and includes roughly 1.9M in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), although the population in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) declined since 2022. The situation was expected to improve from August 2023.

<1% At least 25% of households 11% meet 25-50% of caloric needs

from humanitarian food

IDPs/other settlements

assistance

classification

Urban settlement

Source: Somalia IPC TWG, April 2023.

Over 40 300 people were estimated to be facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) during the April-June 2023 peak, a significant decrease from 200 000 the previous year due to the positive impact of the 2023 Gu rains and sustained humanitarian assistance. Around 12 000 of them (down from 194 000 in 2022) were Mogadishu IDPs, Baidoa IDPs and Burhakaba agropastoral groups who faced a Risk of Famine in 2022 (IPC, April 2023).

#### **DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023-2024**

# Weather extremes

Households were still highly vulnerable due to the effects of drought between 2020 and 2023. with low food availability and access across most of Somalia. Household food stocks were low after the dismal 2022 cereal harvest and widespread livestock deaths, which reduced livestock products such as milk (FEWS NET, April 2023; FAO-GIEWS, April 2023). Erratic and heavy rainfall driven by El Niño affected the Gu (April-June) and Deyr (October-November) rainy seasons in Hiiraan and south and central Somalia respectively, leading to flooding, displacement and destruction of infrastructure and crops (FEWS NET, June 2023; OCHA, 2023).

### Conflict/insecurity

In addition to causing loss of life, population displacement and property damage, conflict disrupted crop planting activities in Hiiraan riverine areas and localized areas of the Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba regions. The insecurity disrupted trade flows, increasing transportation costs (FEWS NET, June 2023).

**Economic shocks** Staple food (WFP, July 2023), Household purchasing power remained constrained at a time of extreme market reliance, mostly due to reduced domestic production and erosion of livelihoods. Currency

prices declined from April to June 2023 though they continued to be higher than the long-term average depreciation led to higher-thanaverage prices for imported foods

## Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023



Total

17.0M

19%

population 42%

## A protracted major food crisis A

low-income country, Somalia has been classified as a major food crisis in all editions of the GRFC. It has faced high levels of acute food insecurity due to persisting conflict, macroeconomic challenges and recurring drought. The cumulative effects of drought and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 have increased magnitude and severity since 2020. In 2017, 2022 and 2023, populations in Bay and Bakool regions and in IDP camps, faced a Risk of Famine.

### DISPLACEMENT

(FEWS NET, April 2023).



**7**→1.2M **IDPs** 

**₹** 0.04M refugees and asylumseekers

Source: IOM, March 2023

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

### **ACUTE MALNUTRITION**

### 1.8M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in August-December 2023

1.3M MAM

Source: Somalia IPC TWG, April 2023.

and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

0.4M pregnant

Source: Somalia HRP 2023, February 2023,

Better milk availability and access, reduced food prices, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance improved the nutrition situation between late 2022 and late 2023. However, it remained Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) among many population groups, including IDPs, as conflict restricted access to humanitarian assistance and essential services.

0.5M SAM

### **DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024**

Lack of food Access to goat milk improved by the previous protracted drought still affected cow and camel milk availability. High levels of acute malnutrition in some urban areas especially Galkayo - are linked to low incomes and poor food access (IPC, September 2023).

Inadequate services Almost half of the surveyed populations lack access to safe water and sanitation. Heavy October-December 2023 rains linked to the

ongoing El Niño were expected to compromise WASH practices, limit access to health facilities and increase disease outbreaks. Limited humanitarian funding is affecting health and nutrition services with blanket supplementary feeding discontinued (IPC, September 2023).

Inadequate practices Only 8.7 percent of children aged 6-23 months receive a Minimum Acceptable Diet, considered Extremely Critical by IFE Core Group thresholds (HNO, 2023).

#### PEAK 2023 (MARCH-JUNE)



Source: Somalia IPC TWG, April 2023.

1 - Acceptable 2 - Alert 3 - Serious 4 - Critical 5 - Extremely Critical ///, MUAC

Not analysed (•) Urban settlement classification \( \text{\scale} \) IDPs/other settlements classification

Source: Somalia IPC TWG

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine Total population