Acute food insecurity among displaced people

The IDP population remained relatively stable compared to 2018 at 2.6 million while the refugee population (from Ethiopia followed by Yemen) increased by 9 percent to 35 600. Returnee flows slowed significantly from 10 800 in 2018 and 36 700 in 2017 to 3 700 in 2019, mainly from Kenya and Yemen (UNHCR, November 2018 & 2019). Displaced people encounter difficulties in accessing labour opportunities and the poverty rate is high among them (WB, 2019). They face vulnerability to illness due to inadequate sanitation in IDP settlements (FEWS NET, October 2019). In 14 key IDP sites assessed, households in receipt of humanitarian assistance faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions (IPC, September 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Weather extremes

In late 2018, the October–December Deyr rains were late and below average with much of central Somalia, as well as parts of the north, receiving rainfall that was only 25–50 percent of average (IPC, February 2019). Subsequently, Gu (April–June) rains started in late April, after almost a month characterized by drought conditions, which severely affected crop germination and establishment in southern key cereal-producing areas.

Abundant precipitation in May did not significantly improve crop prospects as it occurred too late during the growing season (FAO-GIEWS, July 2019) and the Gu harvest in central and southern Somalia was estimated at 60 percent below-average, the lowest since 1995 and even lower than the pre-famine Gu harvest of 2011 (FSNAU and FEWS NET, September 2019).

The Gu-Karan April–September rains in north-western Somalia were also characterized by early season dryness, but heavy late season rains in August and September boosted yields, and cereal production was above the average of the previous five years (FAO-GIEWS calculations based on FSNAU data).

Subsequently, central and southern Somalia received well above average 2019 October–December Deyr rains, with many areas experiencing rainfall that was more than three times the average (NOAA, October 2019).

The abundant precipitation was generally beneficial for agricultural production, and the output of the secondary Deyr harvest was estimated at about 35 percent above the average of the previous five years (FAO-GIEWS, March 2020).

However, the torrential rains also caused widespread flooding, affecting 547 000 people and displacing 370 000 (OCHA, 2019).

1  - Minimal
2  - Stressed
3  - Crisis
4  - Emergency
5  - Famine

Inadequate evidence

Not analyzed

IDP settlement–colour depicts phase

Urban settlement–colour depicts phase

Area would likely be at least one phase worse without effects of humanitarian assistance


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map 51
Somalia, IPC Acute food insecurity situation, January 2019