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 154 000 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-GEWSS, 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 prices declined from April to June 2023 though they continued to be higher than the long-term average (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 depreciation led to higher-than-average prices for imported foods (FEWS NET, April 2023).

**Displacement**

- **1.3M forcibly displaced people by 2023**
- **1.2M IDPs**
- **0.04M refugees and asylum-seekers**

**Acute Malnutrition**

- **1.8M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in August–December 2023**
- **0.4M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023**

**Drivers of Acute Malnutrition 2023–2024**

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

- **Inadequate services**: Almost 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 numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023**

- **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.