

SOMALIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

MAY 19, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Nearly 1 million

Somalis Experiencing Crisis or Emergency Levels of Acute Food Insecurity

USAID-Funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) – April 2015

1.1 million

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Somalia

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – April 2015

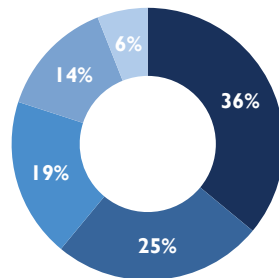
971,100

Somali Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – May 2015

\$863 million

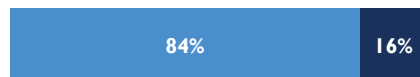
Funding Requested for the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) in Somalia
UN – May 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Health (36%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Info Management (25%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (19%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (14%)
- Protection (6%)

USAID/FFP FUNDING



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid
- Cash Transfers for Food

HIGHLIGHTS

- Al-Shabaab attacks continue to target civilians, humanitarian workers, and government officials
- Nearly 1 million Somalis are experiencing acute food insecurity, with conditions projected to deteriorate in some areas of southern Somalia through June
- April-to-July *gu* rains are likely to improve pasture, water availability in parts of northern Somalia

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO SOMALIA TO DATE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$8,737,696
USAID/FFP ²	\$62,614,200
State/PRM ³	\$22,950,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA	\$94,301,896

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The security situation remains volatile in parts of Somalia, as al-Shabaab militants continue to conduct armed attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) officials. On April 20, al-Shabaab detonated explosives near a van operated by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nugal Region's Garowe town, resulting in six deaths and injuring nine persons.
- FEWS NET released an April-to-September food security outlook for Somalia in late April, reporting that nearly 1 million Somalis are experiencing Crisis or Emergency—IPC 3 and 4—levels of food insecurity.⁴ Limited household cereal stocks, above-average food prices, and heightened insecurity are expected to result in a deterioration of food security in some parts of south-central Somalia over the coming months.
- To date in FY 2015, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$94 million in humanitarian assistance to assist conflict-affected and other vulnerable populations in Somalia.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Insecurity affecting humanitarian access persists across Somalia. Armed actors conducted more than 340 violent incidents—targeting civilians and humanitarian personnel—between March 1 and April 20, according to the UN.
- On April 20, al-Shabaab detonated explosives near a UNICEF van in Garowe, killing six people and injuring nine others. Al-Shabaab members also conducted multiple attacks in Somalia’s capital city of Mogadishu during March and April, resulting in at least 36 deaths, including the death of Somalia’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari.
- Fighting between armed groups and the Somalia National Army (SNA) in Galgadud Region’s Guri Ceel town displaced at least 63,000 people—approximately 90 percent of the town’s estimated population of 70,000 people—in early February, the UN reports. As of mid-March, approximately 60 percent of IDPs had returned to Guri Ceel. Needs assessments conducted by relief actors in early and mid-March indicated that shelter support, relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance are priority needs among those who were unable to return home. Surveyed IDPs also expressed ongoing concerns regarding protection issues, including gender-based violence, involvement of children in armed conflict, and family separation. Relief agencies have distributed WASH kits to 1,500 families, provided two-month unconditional cash transfers to 300 households, and supplied basic household items to 550 families.
- UNHCR High Commissioner António Guterres traveled to Somalia on May 9 and met with key FGoS officials—including President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke—to discuss the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya. The High Commissioner also met with regional leaders in Lower Juba Region’s Kismayo town to discuss scaling up voluntary returns. To date, since the November 2013 Tripartite Agreement, signed by UNHCR, FGoS, and the Government of Kenya (GoK), approximately 2,000 Somali refugees have returned from Kenya to three south central districts in Somalia—Baidoa, Kismayo, and Luuq. State/PRM is providing nearly \$61 million to support UNHCR’s protection and assistance programs for refugees and IDPs in Kenya and Somalia.
- Above-average April rainfall in eastern Ethiopia and south-central Somalia resulted in flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, displacing approximately 16,500 people and damaging an estimated 6,600 hectares of crops in Buur Hakaba town, Bay Region; Galkacyo town, Mudug Region; Jowhar town, Middle Shabelle Region; and Lower Shabelle Region’s Sablaale and Wanla Weyne towns. In response, humanitarian organizations delivered 7,000 sand bags to prevent further breaches of the river embankments, while providing 1,100 hygiene kits and assisting with the decontamination of flood-affected areas.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- The April-to-September FEWS NET food security outlook for Somalia reports that nearly 1 million Somalis are experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity. Agro-pastoral areas of southern Somalia that experienced a below-average January/February *deyr* harvest are likely to experience Crisis level food insecurity during the April-to-June lean season, while food security in riverine livelihoods zones in Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions is likely to deteriorate between May and June. FEWS NET attributes this forecast to reduced cereal availability following a below-average off-season harvest in March, and reduced agricultural labor income likely caused by river flooding in April and May. Average-to-below-average *gu* rains between April and July will likely improve food security in northern Somalia through September, increasing livestock production and improving water availability and pasture quality.
- In parts of Bakool and Hiran regions, al-Shabaab blockades and ongoing conflict between al-Shabaab militants and SNA–African Union Mission in Somalia forces have disrupted trade and reduced transportation access and labor opportunities. As a result, the most vulnerable households in the area will likely experience Emergency level food insecurity through September, according to FEWS NET.
- In mid-March, USAID/FFP provided approximately 14,440 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food commodities, valued at approximately \$25 million, to the UN World Food Program (WFP) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Somalia. Continued USAID/FFP funding enables WFP to assist vulnerable populations through general food distributions, hot meals, food-for-assets and food-for-training activities, targeted and blanket supplementary feeding,

school meals, and mother and child health interventions for the remainder of 2015. To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided approximately \$62.6 million to partners implementing emergency food assistance in Somalia.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- An April 2015 nutrition assessment in Bullo Burte, Hiran, by the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) indicated significant malnutrition and food insecurity among community members. According to the assessment, the global acute malnutrition prevalence in the town was approximately 33 percent among children under the age of five, with severe acute malnutrition prevalence at approximately 19 percent—exceeding the UN World Health Organization (WHO) emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Analysts expect an additional 9,000 Bullo Burte residents to experience Emergency level food insecurity through June 2015, FSNAU reports.
 - Between January and April, health actors reported more than 1,200 suspected measles cases, of which approximately 77 percent were from south-central Somalia, according to the UN. In 2014, health actors in Somalia reported more than 10,200 suspected measles cases in Somalia—approximately 3,400 cases every four months. In February, UNICEF vaccinated more than 5,600 children under 15 years of age against measles.
 - On April 18, USAID/FFP partner WFP launched an effort to deliver sustained food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations in Bullo Burte and neighboring areas. Through a local partner, WFP plans to deliver 120 MT of food assistance and nutritional commodities to approximately 12,000 people between April and June. Due to ongoing road transportation constraints, WFP is utilizing helicopters for food assistance activities.
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PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOODS

- On April 7, the GoK suspended the licenses of 13 Kenyan financial firms that provide cash transfer services to Somali populations in East Africa, according to the UN. Remittances from the Somali diaspora provide essential funds to many communities in Somalia, and Somalis use up to 70 percent of remittances to procure food. The suspensions may result in additional stress to an already fragile humanitarian situation, negatively affecting food security in parts of the country and disrupting humanitarian operations. Following the GoK announcement, 15 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Somalia released a statement highlighting the importance of money transfer services, as relief organizations also utilize the financial firms to pay salaries, contractors, rent, and to deliver aid activities.
 - Between January and April, the UN reported that armed actors committed protection violations—including child recruitment and physical abuse—against more than 670 children across Somalia. As of early May, the UN had enrolled more than 60 children formerly associated with armed groups in reintegration programs.
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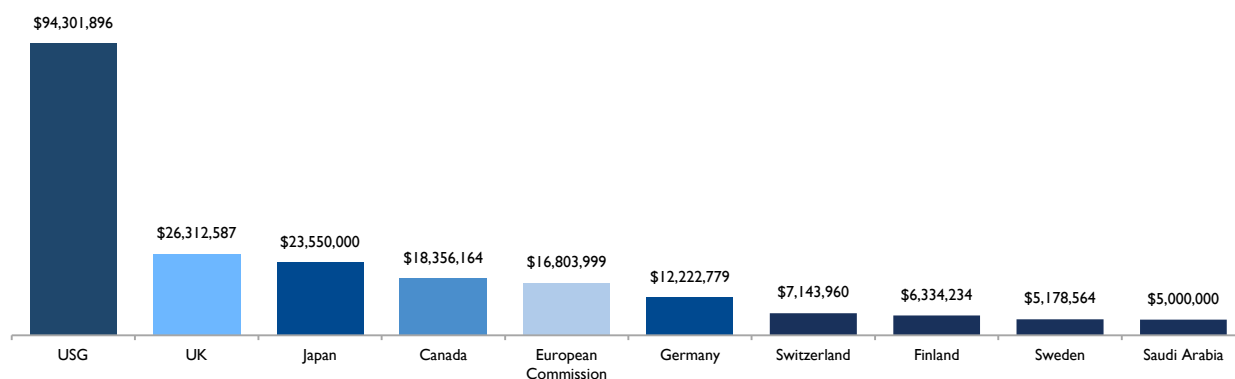
OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of May 15, international donors had contributed approximately \$170 million—20 percent—of the \$863 million required to address urgent humanitarian needs in Somalia according to the 2015 SRP. Health, protection, and WASH interventions have each received less than 5 percent of the required humanitarian funding, while food security and nutrition have received 16 and 23 percent, respectively.
- The low level of humanitarian funding has negatively affected the capacity of relief actors to respond to new humanitarian needs, according to the UN. For instance, 2015 responses by the WASH cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—have utilized carry-over funding from 2014. In March, NGO partners did not have sufficient funds to provide adequate WASH services and shelter kits for approximately 6,900 flood-affected people in Mudug’ Galkacyo town. WFP has reported critical funding gaps, and more than 250,000 vulnerable Somalis may no longer receive emergency food assistance after June or July without additional funds.

CONTEXT

- Since 1991, Somalia has experienced a persistent complex emergency due to chronic food insecurity, widespread violence, and recurrent droughts and floods. The 2011 drought—widely regarded as the country’s worst in 60 years—severely reduced food security among pastoralists and populations in marginal farming areas, resulting in famine in areas of Bay, Bakool, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, as well as among IDPs in Mogadishu and the nearby Afgoye corridor.
- Despite modest improvements in 2014, malnutrition rates in Somalia remain among the highest in the world, and ongoing insecurity in the country—particularly in areas that lack established local authorities and where al-Shabaab is present—contributes to the complex emergency. Sustained life-saving humanitarian assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at protecting livelihoods and building resilience, is critical to help vulnerable households meet basic needs, reduce malnutrition, and protect livelihoods.
- Due to ongoing and anticipated humanitarian needs, on October 1, 2014, U.S. Ambassador James P. McAnulty, Special Representative for Somalia in Nairobi, Kenya, renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Somalia for FY 2015.

2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of May 19, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service, based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG, and reflect the most recent USG commitments in FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2014.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$8,737,696
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$8,737,696
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	31,420 MT of In-Kind and Regionally Procured Emergency Food Assistance for Relief, Nutrition, Safety Net, and Livelihoods Activities	Countrywide	\$52,614,200
Implementing Partner	Cash-for-Work Activities	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$62,614,200
STATE/PRM			

International Humanitarian Organizations	Multi-Sectoral Protection and Assistance Activities to Aid Refugees, IDPs, and Conflict-Affected Victims	Countrywide	\$22,950,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$22,950,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2015			\$94,301,896

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated funding amounts as of May 19, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>