



Somalia

Unless humanitarian assistance is urgently scaled up, famine is expected in late 2022 due to unprecedented multi-season drought

Highlights

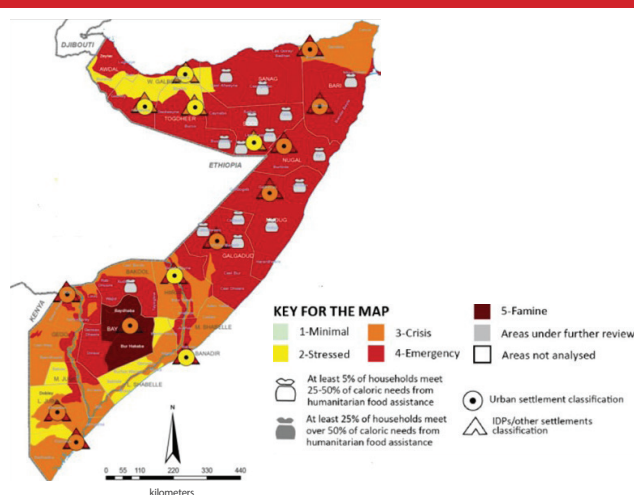
- Famine is expected to occur in Bay Region between October and December 2022, if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up.
- About 6.7 million people, over 40 percent of the total population, are projected to face severe acute food insecurity, including over 300 000 people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe).
- The dire food insecurity situation is the consequence of a prolonged drought that began in late 2020, compounded by the protracted conflict and hikes in international prices of foodstuffs and fuel caused by the war in Ukraine.
- As meteorological forecasts point to below-average October–December 2022 “Deyr” rains, food security conditions are expected to deteriorate.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, unless humanitarian assistance is urgently scaled up, famine is expected to occur between October and December 2022 in Bay Region, for rural communities in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baidoa town.¹

At the national level, about 6.7 million people (over 40 percent of the total population) are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity over the same period in the context of an anticipated scaling down of humanitarian assistance in late 2022. This figure includes about 4.2 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), 2.2 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 300 560 in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) .

The famine projected in Bay Region and the overall deterioration of the food insecurity situation that occurred in 2022 mainly reflect the failure of the

Figure 1: Somalia - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) (projection October–December 2022)



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation, 2021. Map modified to comply with the United Nations map No. 4045 Rev. 8.1, 2018.

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

¹ The analysis and evidence for the famine projection was subsequently reviewed and technically vetted by the Famine Review Committee (FRC) – a panel of independent international food security and nutrition experts.

April–July “Gu” rainy season, which exacerbated the prevailing drought conditions that started in late 2020. Assessed as the most extensive and persistent in 40 years, the drought caused widespread crop and livestock losses and the displacement of more than 1 million people from rural areas since January 2021. The impact of the drought on households’ food security has been compounded by the prolonged conflict and by hikes in international prices of wheat and fuel caused by the war in Ukraine.

Cereal production of 2022 main “Gu” (April–June) season crops, harvested last July and normally accounting for about 60 percent of the country’s total annual cereal output, is estimated at 50 percent below average, resulting in the fifth consecutive season with a reduced cereal output. Crop failures are reported in several areas, including the two districts of Bay Region where famine is expected to occur.

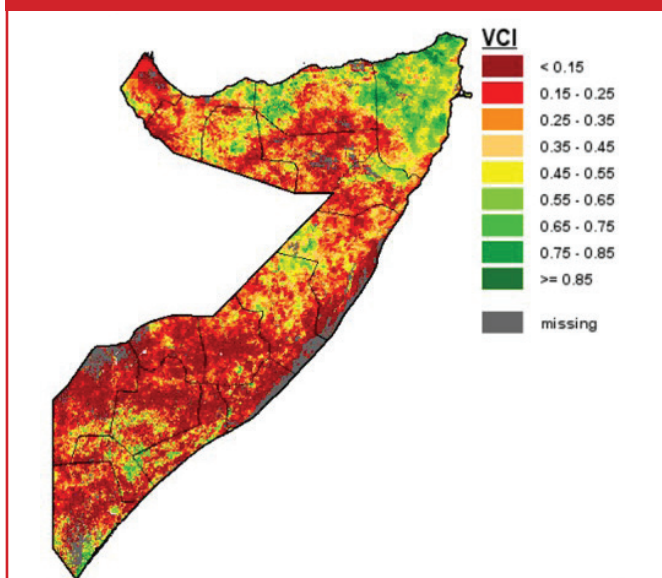
In southern agropastoral areas and central and northern pastoral areas, the drought led to severe shortages of pastures and water which resulted in widespread animal emaciation, low birth rates adversely affecting milk production and the death from starvation of about 3 million animals since mid-2021.

Despite some declines in August as newly harvested “Gu” crops were commercialized, prices of locally produced maize and sorghum remained up to twice their year-earlier levels in most markets due to insufficient supplies. In Mogadishu, prices of imported wheat in August were about 50 percent higher than 12 months earlier, due to high international prices.

Livestock prices declined over the past several months as the prolonged drought had a negative impact on livestock body conditions. In Burao market, one of the main livestock markets in the Horn of Africa, prices of goats in August were 10 to 15 percent lower than one year earlier. With the rising prices of cereals, the livestock-to-cereal terms of trade for pastoralists have deteriorated during the last 12 months, with the equivalent in sorghum of one goat in Burao declining from 81 kg in August 2021 to 58 kg in August 2022.

As meteorological forecasts point to below-average October–December 2022 “Deyr” rains, overall food security conditions are expected to deteriorate. Humanitarian assistance, covering food, nutrition, healthcare and water, needs to be urgently scaled up in order to avert a famine in Bay Region and the collapse of rural livelihoods, leading to large population displacements across the country.

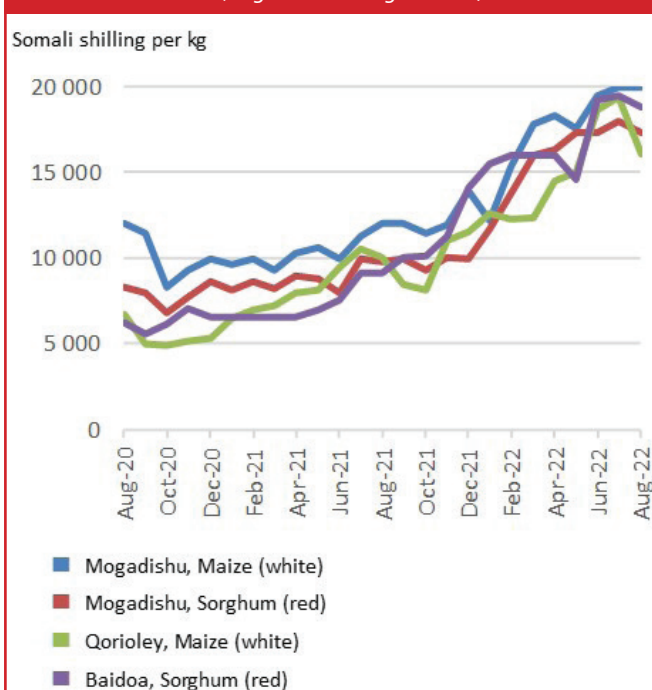
Figure 2: Somalia – Vegetation Conditions Index (VCI) (June 2022)



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation, 2022. Map comply with the United Nations map No. 4045 Rev. 8.1, 2018.

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Table 1: Somalia – Retail prices of cereals in select markets (August 2020–August 2022)



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool, 2022.

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