

IPC Report Flags Rapidly Deteriorating Food Security across Somalia

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Nearly 6.5 million Somalis face high levels of hunger, and more than 1.8 million children face acute malnutrition due to worsening drought, the Somali government and UN agencies have warned in a new report.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report indicates that a third of the population – 6.5 million people – are expected to face crisis levels of hunger or worse (IPC 3 and 4) by March, an increase of 1.7 million people since January.

This includes two million individuals experiencing severe hunger (IPC 4). More than 1.8 million children under five will also face acute malnutrition in 2026, almost half a million of them likely to be severely malnourished. The drought is also having a devastating effect on agriculture, with widespread crop and livestock losses in addition to large-scale displacements of people.

"The drought emergency in Somalia has deepened alarmingly, with soaring water prices, limited food supplies, dying livestock, and very little humanitarian funding," said George Conway, Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. "Urgent life-saving assistance is essential to save lives and prevent a collapse of pastoral and farming livelihoods, as the coming months are critical with no rains expected at least until the next Gu rains in April-June."

Humanitarian needs remain immense, with current assistance addressing only the most basic survival requirements after critical funding shortfalls have left aid agencies with no choice but to reduce rations and the number of people who are able to be assisted with life-saving support, including food, nutrition, health, and – water and sanitation.

Although the Gu rains expected between April and June 2026 may provide some relief, the situation will remain critical, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) warned on

Tuesday.

The country's food security situation is deteriorating at an alarming rate because of prolonged dry conditions. Intensified drought has triggered widespread food insecurity, mass displacements, crop failures, livestock losses, rising food prices, and disrupted livelihoods, the report says. It indicates that food security and malnutrition rates are expected to deteriorate rapidly until the end of March 2026, with two million people classified as living in Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4).

“The severity of this drought is undeniable and deeply alarming,” said Mohamud Moallim Abdulle, the Commissioner of the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA). “Millions of our people are facing crisis levels of hunger, with many families already in emergency conditions, and an unprecedented number of children suffering from acute malnutrition. Somalia is once again at a critical crossroads as climate shocks, displacement, and declining humanitarian funding push vulnerable communities beyond their coping capacity. The tragic loss of lives in Bardhere today is a stark reminder that behind this crisis are real families in distress. We urgently call on international partners, the Somali diaspora, businesses, and civil society to scale up immediate support. SoDMA remains fully committed to strengthening coordination, enhancing transparency, and ensuring the most efficient and accountable use of the limited resources available. Together, through collective action and shared responsibility, we can save lives and protect livelihoods before conditions deteriorate further.”