

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

MARCH 20, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The Horn of Africa is likely to experience its sixth below average rainy season between March and May, followed by potential flooding later in the year, according to meteorological agencies.
- The number of people in Somalia facing Crisis levels of acute food insecurity is likely to rise to 6.5 million, with 233,000 likely to experience Catastrophe, according to FEWS NET and the IPC TWG.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announces \$331 million in USG funding and launches JEOP 2.0 to provide emergency food assistance across Ethiopia.
- USAID/BHA announces more than \$126 million in funding for Kenya following increase in humanitarian needs in 2022.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA ¹	\$898,386,013
	State/PRM ²	\$12,000,000
Total		\$910,386,013

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Sixth Below Average Rainy Season Predicted for the Horn of Africa

Below-average rainfall is expected to persist during the Horn of Africa's March-to-May rainy season, marking the sixth consecutive poor rainy season in the region and extending a record-long drought that has resulted in poor crop production and livestock conditions, according to a February 22 report from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC). The ICPAC forecasts rainfall levels will likely be 40 to 50 percent below average across the majority of Ethiopia and Somalia, and in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), with rainfall levels in parts of central and southern Somalia and eastern and southern Ethiopia potentially less than 50 percent of long-term averages. Additionally, an El Niño weather pattern—associated with warming of the ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean—may form during the second half of 2023, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), an association of UN, donor government, and non-governmental entities. This pattern will likely lead to low rainfall through September followed by heavy rainfall between October and December, resulting in additional short-term shocks, such as flash flooding and the increased spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera. IGAD has reiterated the FSNWG's previous call for an immediate scale-up of humanitarian and disaster risk reduction programming to mitigate the impact of climatic shocks on vulnerable populations in the Horn of Africa.

6.5 Million People Are Predicted to Face Acute Food Insecurity in Somalia

The number of people facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Somalia will likely rise from 5 million to 6.5 million from April to June, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Somalia IPC Technical Working Group (TWG).³ The April-to-June projection represents a 30 percent increase compared to the organizations' January-to-March outlook. Of the 6.5 million individuals projected to face Crisis or worse outcomes, 233,000 are likely to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity during the same period.⁴ While the high levels of primarily U.S. Government (USG)-funded life-saving assistance delivered in Somalia has helped to avert worse food security outcomes in the country as of early 2023, if materialized, these projections would represent the highest number of people to face Crisis or worse outcomes since the drought began in 2020.

Although severe, the current food insecurity projections are less dire than the Somalia IPC TWG previously estimated in December 2022. Some food price decreases alleviated the financial burden on low-income households in drought-affected areas, while relief actors—including USG partners—scaled up emergency food, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming, which helped mitigate the severity of the ongoing food crisis. Despite this, the Somalia IPC TWG noted that certain communities in Somalia continue to face a credible risk of Famine through June, such as displaced populations in Bay Region's Baidoa town and Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu, as well as agropastoral populations in Bay's Burhakaba District. To address these risks, FEWS NET maintains that humanitarian organizations must sustain high levels of multi-sector assistance through at least the upcoming July-to-September dry season to avoid Famine outcomes.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

⁴ A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

Secretary of State Blinken Announces \$331 Million in USG Funding to Ethiopia, Launches JEOP 2.0 During Visit to the Region

Secretary of State Blinken announced \$331 million in USG humanitarian assistance funding—including \$319 million from USAID/BHA and \$12 million from State/PRM—to Ethiopia and launched USAID’s five-year Joint Emergency Operation 2.0 (JEOP 2.0) initiative during a visit to Ethiopia’s capital city of Addis Ababa between March 15 and 16. The newly announced funding and large-scale food consortium led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), intends to respond to the acute food insecurity needs of approximately 8.5 million people across Ethiopia. JEOP 2.0—consisting of food assistance provided by a consortium of non-governmental organization (NGO) partners—will provide Ethiopians with U.S.-sourced emergency food commodities, such as cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, in six of the 11 Ethiopian regions impacted by conflict and drought.

Secretary Blinken’s announcement came shortly after the UN—in partnership with the GoE and other international humanitarian organizations—released the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ethiopia on February 28, requesting nearly \$4 billion to provide 24.5 million people with life-saving assistance. The HRP prioritizes three strategic objectives: to address immediate life-saving needs, provide safe and inclusive access to essential services, and contribute to supporting and building linkages towards recovery and resilience. Relief actors have observed some improvements in the humanitarian situation in northern Ethiopia following the end of the two-year conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front in November 2022. In addition, the UN reports that pockets of Oromia, Sidama, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions are showing signs of improved rainfall and vegetation levels following the past two rainy seasons. However, communities across eastern and southern Ethiopia continue to endure the effects of drought, economic shocks, and localized conflict, which have exacerbated internal displacement, increased protection risks, and diminished local access to food, water, and other necessities. The anticipated sixth consecutive poor rainy season in Ethiopia is expected to exacerbate needs in drought-affected areas. Furthermore, the UN notes that new risk factors may be emerging in southern Ethiopia, including disease outbreaks, overgrazing of limited available pasture, and resource-based conflict.

USAID/BHA Announces \$126 Million in Emergency Food Assistance for Kenya Following First Lady Jill Biden’s Visit to the Region

On February 27, USAID/BHA announced more than \$126 million in additional funding to provide approximately 1.3 million people in Kenya living in Emergency—IPC 4—conditions with emergency food assistance, including in-kind food and cash-based assistance, as well as nutrition services. The announcement followed First Lady of the United States Jill Biden’s visit to Kenya between February 24 and 26, which included a meeting with drought-affected communities in Kajiado County. The USG is the largest donor supporting the humanitarian response in Kenya, providing more than \$366 million in assistance in FY 2022.

This announcement follows recent warnings from the UN that humanitarian needs in Kenya’s ASALs are outpacing the scale of the ongoing relief effort. The number of people experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity rose from 2.4 to 4.4 million people between January and December 2022, while nearly 970,000 children ages five years and younger and nearly 142,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were estimated to be acutely malnourished as of February. In response, humanitarian organizations—including USG partners—scaled up relief operations in coordination with the Government of Kenya, and provided assistance to more than 1.7 million people in 2022—66 percent of the 2.6 million targeted—under the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal that was first launched in October

2021. Despite these accomplishments, the UN acknowledged that nearly 1 million people in need did not receive humanitarian assistance in 2022. Moreover, the education, health, protection, and WASH sectors all received less than one-third of requested funding during the year. The Kenya Flash Appeal was only 56 percent funded during 2022, and the UN estimates that nearly 70 percent of its funding came from the USG.

KEY FIGURES



3.4 Million

People in Somalia reached with WFP food assistance in January 2022



13 Partners

Providing health services to vulnerable communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support



530,000

People in Somalia who received nutrition assistance from WFP in December 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and two UN agencies across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced pulses, vegetable oil, and wheat or sorghum—to populations in greatest need, including refugee households. USAID/BHA partners in the region also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets, where available. In Somalia, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides vouchers redeemable for food in local markets to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level, with an estimated 4.4 million people receiving some form of WFP food assistance in December alone; the UN agency distributed more than 9,200 metric tons of in-kind food assistance in Somalia during the month.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and three UN agencies to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia and Somalia. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Working through 11 NGOs and four UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related illnesses and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as identification and treatment of wasting, particularly among children and PLW. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia implement life-saving nutrition services as part of the national health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among drought-affected households.



12 Partners

Providing protection services to drought-affected communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also supporting 12 implementing partners responding to conflict- and drought-generated protection needs across the Horn of Africa. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors. Implementing partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities in the region. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).



17 Partners

Providing WASH support to vulnerable populations through USG-funded WASH activities

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout the Horn of Africa to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, including cholera and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. State/PRM supports WASH activities that assist IDPs, as well as refugees. In addition, through partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and 15 NGO partners, USAID/BHA supports partners in conducting critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict, and providing safe drinking water to 3 million people in need. USAID/BHA also supports activities that train local health workers to prevent and treat suspected cholera cases in their own communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia struggle with a confluence of recurring climatic shocks, widespread food insecurity, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges, exacerbated by persistent conflict and resultant displacement, contribute to sustained humanitarian needs and ongoing complex emergencies. USG humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the Horn of Africa.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall between 2020 and 2022 leading to the most severe drought on record in the Horn of Africa in the last 70 years. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined livestock conditions, livelihoods, and food security. The former USAID Office of Food for Peace and the former USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to heightened food and nutrition needs resulting from drought in Ethiopia between 2015 and 2018, as well as drought in Kenya and Somalia between 2016 and 2018.
- Intercommunal conflicts in Ethiopia have generated displacement, exacerbated humanitarian needs, and impeded humanitarian access since 2018. In Somalia, ongoing conflict—related to al-Shabaab attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to contribute to displacement and food insecurity, while restricting access to livelihoods. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 28, 2022, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson renewed the declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) for Ethiopia for FY 2023 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climatic shocks, including the ongoing drought. On October 19, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Margaret Whitman renewed the DHN for Kenya for FY 2023 due to the drought-driven complex emergency. On October 11, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Larry E. André renewed the DHN for Somalia for FY 2023 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$2,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$4,000,000
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Somali	\$2,230,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$87,491,685
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP	\$13,352,413

Fayyaa Integrated Development Organization (FIDO)	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
Food for the Hungry (FH)	Agriculture, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, SNNP, Somali	\$5,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Oromia	\$3,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Countrywide	\$500,000
Mercy Corps	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
People in Need (PIN)	Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$1,500,000
Plan USA	MCPA, Protection	Amhara, Oromia	\$999,9999
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, WASH	Oromia	\$700,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$63,561,612
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Sidama, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$109,994,219
World Vision	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$3,150,000
	Program Support		\$53,025
TOTAL USAID/BHA DROUGHT FUNDING			\$319,532,952
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA			\$319,532,952
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner (IP)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,300,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$12,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023			\$331,532,952
FUNDING IN KENYA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Nutrition	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$110,600,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$15,659,111
	Program Support		\$44,035
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$126,303,146
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN KENYA IN FY 2023			\$126,303,146
FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			

USAID/BHA			
IPs	Health, HCIMA, MPCA, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$191,450,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$192,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$107,357
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$452,549,915
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023			\$452,549,915
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$910,386,013

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 15, 2023 and reflect estimated values of assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, which are subject to change.

² USAID/BHA emergency funding for the Horn of Africa includes funding in both drought and non-drought areas of Ethiopia, as well as emergency funding in drought-affected areas of Kenya and Somalia. Funding specific to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis response can be found in [Northern Ethiopia Crisis Fact Sheets](#). In drought-affected areas across the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA funding is responding to emergency needs related to drought as well as conflict and other emergency shocks.

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 [interaction.org](https://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)