

20 September 2024

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.7 / 5	6.9 million	5.2 million	\$1.6 billion	37%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNO 2024)	People targeted in the response plan (HRP 2024)	Required to reach the target (HRP 2024)	Of the required funding secured (FTS Sept 2024)
147 MSEK	-	76,5 MSEK	223,5 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2024	

Somalia remains one of the most severe and complex humanitarian crises in the world. The worst drought conditions in over 40 years, coupled with widespread insecurity, the government-led offensive against Al-Shabaab (AS), flooding and poverty have resulted in mass displacement, emergency levels of food insecurity and alarming rates of malnutrition. Violence against civilians is common, including sexual violence and gender-based violence (GBV). Somalia ranks first at the Inform Risk Index meaning that Somalia is extremely vulnerable and any additional shock will have devastating impact on the needs of the population.

During 2023, favourable rains have eased the most severe effects of the worst drought situation in a long time. However, the ongoing El Niño has resulted in flooding and flash floods among the riverine areas and in Baidoa affecting more than one million people as of early November 2023. The consequences of El Niño have added to the already large displaced population in Somalia and the number is likely to increase further in the coming months.

Security remains one of the key concerns in Somalia, affecting access to the population in need of humanitarian assistance. The withdrawal of the African Union's Mission African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024, with an anticipated result of increased insecurity and conflict as it will leave a vacuum that the Somali security sector most likely will not be able to fill. As the international peacekeeping mission leaves, violence between clan militias and non-state armed groups is feared, leaving civilians at heightened risk of violence and displacement. In addition, a conflict broke out in the disputed area of Laas Canood between Somaliland and Puntland in early 2023, which led to over 300 deaths and further streams of displacement.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

The Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) shows a decrease of people in need (PiN) from 8.25 million in 2023 to 6.9 million in 2024 (about 40 per cent of Somalia's population). The decrease of PiN is partly due to the massive scale-up of humanitarian assistance during 2022-2023 which averted famine, but also thanks to beneficial rainfalls that have slightly alleviated the impact of drought. Out of these, 5.2 million will be targeted in the HNRP that has a funding requirement of USD 1.6 billion. In the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, it is estimated that 4.4 million experience crisis levels of food insecurity (Phase 3 or higher), out of whom 982,000 experience emergency levels (IPC Phase 4). Currently, it is estimated that 1.6 million children are facing acute malnutrition, including over 403,000 who are severely malnourished. Increased prevalence of communicable diseases, including cholera and measles, driven by low vaccination levels, lack of safe and potable water, and recent flooding, directly contributes to rising levels of acute malnutrition.

The prolonged drought and escalating insecurity have led to massive internal displacements, forcing an estimated 1.5 million from their homes in 2023 – seeking life-saving services such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food, nutrition and basic health services in urban areas. The majority of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from previous crises (famine in 2011 and during the 2016/2017 drought) have not returned to their rural communities and it is likely that the current crisis will have the same outcome. Women, children and minority groups in IDP camps remain particularly at-risk of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, exploitation and abuse. Women and children make up over 80 per cent of the displaced population and are often forced to trek long distances to access water and shelter, making them more vulnerable to GBV. Boys, on the other hand, are more at-risk to be recruited into armed groups.

Although the second phase of the government-led offensive against Al-Shaabab (AS) has momentarily paused, the security situation in Somalia remains extremely volatile. With ongoing conflict between AS, clan militias and the federal government, Somalia is one of the most challenging and dangerous operating environments in the world for humanitarian workers. The insecurity and access challenges make the humanitarian space limited and more expensive to operate in while also leaving large populations in need of assistance in hard-to-reach areas.

The famine of 2011 was a watershed moment, as in the 1991-92 famine, people from marginalised groups were the main victims, estimated to constitute half of 285,000 deaths. This pattern reinforced concerns that marginalised groups were susceptible to exclusion in the targeting and delivery of humanitarian assistance. It was identified that a dedicated focus to ensure that the humanitarian principles are upheld, targeting the people most in need without bias or political interference was needed.

The Secretary General commissioned report on Post Delivery Aid Diversion (PDAD) gained light on systematic aid diversion throughout Somalia. Although aid diversion is not new to Somalia, it was intensified during the famine prevention response in 2022 as more than \$1.5 billion was poured into the country and a 'no regrets' policy was adopted as saving lives was

urgent. Addressing the systemic failures and mitigating risks of aid diversion is, and should be, a key priority in the humanitarian community, making sure scarce humanitarian resources reach those in need of assistance for their survival and protection.

The drought has led to the collapse of livelihoods (thus purchasing power) for farmers and herders, a sector that provides employment for approximately 80 per cent of Somalia's population and 60 per cent of the GDP. This in combination with the extremely low domestic capacities to cope with any shock leaves the whole country at risk of deteriorating food insecurity. Sustained levels of humanitarian assistance are therefore required to avoid a further deterioration in food insecurity and malnutrition. Although the humanitarian situation in AS-controlled areas is not fully known, information received from IDPs displaced from these areas has provided a grim picture of the situation and humanitarian needs in these locations.

3. The humanitarian response

In response to the increased risk of famine in Somalia, the Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) Principals activated the humanitarian system-wide Scale-Up Protocol for Somalia in August 2022, which ended in September 2023. As part of the Scale-up, an Operational Peer Review (OPR) was undertaken in May to June. In addition, as a response to the UN Secretary General commissioned report on Post Distribution Aid Diversion, an action plan has been developed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) focusing on implementing recommendations identified in the report. These two processes provided an opportunity to reflect on the direction and performance of the response and identify support areas for the humanitarian system. During 2024, Sweden will, through its strategic partners, in the wider humanitarian donor group and in the HCT, advocate that the response outlined in the HNRP takes into account the learning from these processes.

A clear articulation of evidence-based geographical prioritisation of the humanitarian response will continue to be a priority. A positive lesson learned from the famine prevention scale-up was the Integrated Response Framework with its' concept of first line and second line responses in displacement and hard-to-reach contexts. This will be a continued prioritised approach during 2024. However, further efforts are required to intensify the shift from status- to vulnerability-based household targeting. As such, Sweden will continue to advocate for joint area-based vulnerability assessments and data sharing agreements between major partners of the response. Furthermore, the scale-up witnessed a significant shift from a Mogadishu-based response to a decentralized response, led from five hubs located in the central and southern parts of Somalia. However, further articulation of a common definition and operational approach for decentralization is needed. Finally, significant progress on the Centrality of Protection was made in the 2023 response, including a focus on reducing marginalization of specific groups. This will continue to be a priority for Sweden and for the humanitarian response in 2024.

The Government of Somalia has during the latter part of 2023 emphasized the need for stabilization efforts in newly accessible areas previously controlled by AS. These efforts are only

possible if these are secured by government forces and from a humanitarian perspective should be based on a needs and vulnerability analysis. More development actors are stepping into this space. The dialogue between humanitarian and development actors has increased during 2023, and resilience programs are increasing in the southern geographical areas of Somalia where the humanitarian needs are consistently the highest.

During 2023 the USA continues to be the largest humanitarian donor to Somalia, accounting for 80 per cent of all humanitarian funding in 2023. Other top donors are Germany, ECHO, Canada and the Netherlands. The HRP for Somalia is only funded at 42 per cent in November 2023, a substantial decrease from the 89 per cent funding rate in 2022. Food security (41 per cent), WASH (51 per cent) and nutrition (27 per cent) are the sectors receiving most funding in absolute terms, while also having the highest funding needs. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and protection remain extremely low funded, 15 per cent respectively.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Considering the immense needs and limited funding that is also projected to decrease further in 2024, there is a need to prioritise based on the most urgent needs. For 2024 Sida will continue its focus on partners that provide life-saving interventions with the aim to prevent displacement, essential first line response to newly displaced people, as well as integrated response to vulnerable IDPs already living in extreme settings. This has manifested itself by supporting strategic partners with the capacity to work in hard-to-reach rural areas and with a geographical focus on South West State and Central areas of Somalia. The sectorial priorities are Health, Nutrition, WASH and Protection (GBV and child protection) which need to be scaled-up and delivered in an integrated way.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
AAH	Health, WASH, Protection, Nutrition	25,000,000 ¹	10,000,000
DRC	Shelter, WASH, Food Security, Protection	30,000,000	-
FAO/FSNAU	Humanitarian data	4,000,000	-
ICRC	Health, Protection	25,000,000	-
IRC	Protection (GBV)	8,000,000	-
SHF	Multi-sector	30,000,000	-
UNICEF	Child protection, Nutrition, WASH	25,000,000	-
TOTAL		147,000,000	10,000,000

¹ Of which SEK 10 million already committed in 2022

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2024		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ²	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
FAO	18,000,000	-
IRC	2,810,170	-
Islamic Relief	4,900,000	-
MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) ³	37,395,000	-
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	2,000,000	-
OCHA Field Coordination ⁴	6,400,000	-
UNHCR	5,000,000	-
TOTAL	76,505,170	-

5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The past and present protracted crisis in Somalia driven by large-scale displacement caused by drought, floods and conflict clearly shows the importance and need of a Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach. Guiding this work is the Somalia National Development Plan-9 (NDP-9 2020-24), the 2021-2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the 2024 HNO and HRP. The UNSDCF 2021-2025 outlines four “Collective Outcomes” (reduce food insecurity, durable solutions, basic social services and climate-induced-hazards) under the strategic priority on Social Development that aim to reduce needs, risks, and vulnerabilities based on the combined and coordinated efforts of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors across the UN system and beyond. The National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020-2024) and the National Water Resource Strategy (2021-2025) outlines solutions to the key underlying causes of vulnerability.

The Swedish government extended the bilateral development cooperation strategy 2018-2022 until the end of 2023 with a smaller yearly budget, reduced from 650 to 480 MSEK/year, and with the instruction to avoid signing new agreements, pending a new strategy. This limited the ability to further deepen the work on the HDP nexus. The strategy portfolio does, however,

² Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

³ Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.

⁴ Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.

include some interventions that are directly linked to resilience-building and complement humanitarian interventions. One such example is FAO Building resilience in Middle Shabelle (BriMS) which initially focused on water access and management (incl. flood management) to improve food security and resilience towards recurring floods and drought. This intervention will be extended to address recovery in the aftermath of El Niño, disaster risk reduction and agriculture activities among the riverine areas. Also, the ADRA WASH Delivery Improvement Program aims to improve sustained access to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion of vulnerable households, pastoral groups and IDPs in fragile areas. It is also worth mentioning that the World Bank activated its crisis response window in response to the escalating drought crisis in 2023. The World Bank is currently the largest partner in the strategy portfolio, supporting not only state-building but also projects within the areas of resilience, agriculture and WASH.

The Strategy Plan for 2024 is intentionally vague given the lack of clarity for next year. Once a new decision is taken by the Swedish government, an operationalisation process will be initiated and the document will be updated. There is an overall recognition that Sweden's development assistance will need to continue to focus on strengthening communities' and individuals' resilience to withstand shocks.

ⁱ The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.