Each year, Sida conducts a humanitarian allocation exercise in which a large part of its humanitarian budget is allocated to emergencies worldwide. The allocation and subsequent disbursement of funds takes place in the beginning of the year to ensure predictability for humanitarian organizations and to allow for the best possible operational planning. Sida’s humanitarian assistance is based on the four humanitarian principles, in particular impartiality, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on “needs alone”, giving priority to the “most urgent cases of distress”. Therefore, Sida’s allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as; the scale of humanitarian needs (number of people in need), the severity of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the number of people targeted for the humanitarian response, the financial coverage of the respective humanitarian appeal, national capacities to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to forgotten crises. Sida also strongly supports the humanitarian coordination structures.

For 2021, the Somalia crisis is allocated an initial 135.8 MSEK. Close monitoring and analysis of the situation in Somalia and the Somali hosting refugee camps in Kenya will continue throughout the year and inform possible decisions on additional funding.

1 Crisis overview

1.1 Humanitarian overview

The crisis in Somalia is one of the most complex, fragile and protracted in the world. Recurrent climate shocks, armed conflict and insecurity, combined with political and socioeconomic factors, continue to drive humanitarian needs in the country. During 2020, the country’s humanitarian situation was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, significant flooding and the worst desert locust upsurge in decades. Combined with ongoing and protracted displacement, there are currently 5.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in Somalia, this figure is expected to rise to 5.9 million in 2021.

Conflict continues to be one of the main drivers of Somalia’s humanitarian crisis. Insurgent armed groups remain the largest source of insecurity, carrying out indiscriminate attacks,

1 Sida’s humanitarian funding to the Somalia crisis in November 2020 was 200.2 MSEK and 2020 initial allocation was 135 MSEK
kidnappings and forceful recruitment of children. Insecurity impedes access for humanitarian organisations and restricts people’s ability to support and protect themselves. The escalated violence in the first half of 2020 triggered roughly the same number of new displacements as recorded for the whole of 2019 at approximately 189,000.

With two-thirds of Somalia’s population living in rural areas, the population is also highly vulnerable to impacts of extreme climate conditions, leading to food insecurity and displacement. The floods in 2020 affected more than 1.6 million persons and displaced approximately 716,000. The cyclone Gati that made landfall in Puntland in November 2020 displaced alone more than 40,000 people. The desert locust upsurge further deepened overall food insecurity and crop and pasture production is estimated to be 10 to 15 per cent lower than the long-term average. The latest projections estimate that 2.1 million Somalis will face acute food insecurity crisis (IPC Phase 3 or higher) through December 2020.

The rate of malnutrition among children in Somalia is critically high and the national GAM rate is at 11.8 percent (serious). South-West State is of greatest concern, ranking very low in all assessed nutritional indicators. Acute watery diarrhoea and cholera continue to be endemic throughout Somalia. Twenty nine flood-affected districts reported cases of cholera and cholera related deaths the past year.

Trends and outlook

Ongoing armed conflict and insecurity in Somalia will continue to drive displacement and elevate protection concerns in 2021. The elections running in to 2021 are expected to create unrest and there is fear that Al Shabab will take advantage of the conflict in Ethiopia and subsequent instability as Ethiopian troops are likely to withdraw from Somalia.

In early to mid-2021, the acutely food insecure population is likely to rise to over 2.5 million due to the influence of the La Niña developing and the impact of consecutive, below-average rainfall seasons. Climate induced hazards and shocks are likely to continue and the devastations caused by cyclone Gati will have lasting effects into 2021. Furthermore the locust infestation is expected to have a significant impact on the next harvest season, increasing food insecurity in rural areas. The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to put additional pressure on Somalia’s already strained health system and have a negative impact on the economy. It is estimated that remittances will decline by as much as 50 per cent.

Somali refugee situation

Approximately 805,000 Somali refugees are hosted in other countries with the majority residing in Kenya, Yemen and Ethiopia2. The refugee camps of Kakuma and Dadaab and to a certain extent Nairobi, Kenya host some 269,000 refugees from Somalia. With the Kenyan

2 The Somali refugee situations in Ethiopia and Yemen will be covered by the Humanitarian Crisis Analysis for the respective crises.
government’s removal of the prima facie recognition3 of Somali nationals in 2015, as well as the suspended registration of new arrivals there are serious protection concerns for those undocumented residing in the camps, as they are at risk of arbitrary detention and face restrictions in accessing some basic services and food aid. Opportunities for returns to Somalia remain limited.

1.2 Affected population

Communities living in conflict areas and exposed to indiscriminate attacks face high risks of death and injury, limited freedom of movement, exploitation, forced recruitment, land grabbing, destruction of livelihoods, and limited access to services and humanitarian assistance. Often, communities living in areas regained by government forces or their allies are left without protection once these forces withdraw, and as a result many are forced to leave their homes and livelihoods.

The population affected by acute food insecurity are vulnerable to increased malnutrition, disease outbreaks in addition to multiple protection risks. Common coping mechanisms include reducing the number and diversity of meals, early marriage and hazardous child labour, voluntary family separation and displacement.

There is an estimated 2.6 million displaced persons4 in Somalia. The majority live in informal and unplanned settlements under poor living conditions and face forced eviction and other rights violations as a common threat. In the past year close to 200,000 persons were evicted mainly in Banaadir region, where Mogadishu is located. Displaced children and young people, particularly those from Al-Shabaab controlled areas face risks of arbitrary arrest and often live in fear. Gender Based Violence (GBV) affecting particularly women and girls is widespread, with displacement aggravating the risks. For many displaced communities durable solutions remain elusive which prolongs existence in undignified and vulnerable circumstances.

2 The humanitarian response

2.1 National and local response

The humanitarian capacities of national and local authorities remain limited, but there is increasing government engagement, capacity and willingness to lead and be part of the coordination and response. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) is the government entity that primarily liaises with the HCT through its Inter-Ministerial Emergency Response Committee. The MoHADM operates the National Humanitarian Coordination Centre (NHCC) which was launched to manage disasters and

3 A prima facie approach means: the recognition by a State or UNHCR of refugee status on the basis of readily apparent, objective circumstances in the country of origin (UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection 11)

4 The IDP figure for Somalia is disputed as IDP profiles and needs vary between those in a protracted situation and those displaced only for weeks or a few months. A common displacement database is being developed and JIIPS is undertaking an IDP profiling exercise.
interact with the humanitarian cluster system. At state level, increasing capacities are also seen in the disaster management agencies of Somaliland and Puntland, however the interaction between these entities and the Federal Member States’ relevant ministries remains ill-defined and at times competitive.

National Somali NGOs continue to be large in numbers and key for the efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. Given significant access challenges, the role of local and national responders is fundamental. The Somali Red Crescent Society also has wide presence in most regions of Somalia and is growing its network with the support of ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and red Crescent Societies. The support from Somalia diaspora continues to be significant and around one-fifth of Somali households receive overseas remittances.

2.2 International response
The UN works as an integrated mission in Somalia, which calls for a clear distinction between the instruments for political stabilisation and independent humanitarian aid. The international humanitarian agencies are organised and coordinated within the cluster system under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team. Coordination among the main traditional donors works well and the Humanitarian Donor Group is currently co-chaired by ECHO and the Netherlands. More advocacy is required to include non-traditional donors in the humanitarian coordination structures, such as Qatar, Turkey, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The Somali refugee response in Kenya is coordinated by UNHCR together with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Other main partners are the UN Country Team, international and national NGOs, and the Kenya Red Cross Society.

2.3 Challenges and risks for the humanitarian response
The operating environment in Somalia remains complex and dangerous. Humanitarian agencies face huge challenges including bureaucratic constraints, access impediments, movement restrictions, insecurity and violence. Safety and security concerns impact both humanitarians ability to reach people in need in a timely manner and the ability of vulnerable people to access humanitarian assistance and protection. An estimated 1.3 million persons are living within territory controlled by Al-Shabaab and remain largely out of reach for humanitarian actors. Challenges with delivering humanitarian assistance are further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including movement restrictions and other government directives, disruptions to imports and national supply chains, availability of basic commodities and increased prices. Somalia continues to rank among the world’s most corrupt countries, exposing humanitarian agencies to high financial risk and issues of accountability.

Lastly, the inadequate level of humanitarian funding affects actors’ ability to respond. Most clusters report of partners unable to provide sufficient assistance and services in areas affected by displacement, where beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable and the needs are high.
3 Sida’s humanitarian allocation

3.1 The role of Sida’s humanitarian support

The humanitarian situation in Somalia requires a response that addresses immediate lifesaving needs, underlying vulnerabilities and that provides support to restore livelihoods and recovery from the recurrent shocks. Sida has supported humanitarian programmes targeting malnutrition with a multi-sectoral angle including sectors such as food security, health and WASH. Support to protection and access to basic services has been emphasised as protection needs are high and the most vulnerable and excluded groups often face challenges in accessing services. To address some of the underlying vulnerabilities related to recurrent climatic shocks, Sida has supported immediate livelihoods interventions targeting both pastoralist and agricultural communities, through a combination of cash and in-kind assistance.

Overall, Sida has maintained a flexible funding approach to partners and programmes. The Sida Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) played a vital role in addressing new and onset emergencies in Somalia, including the desert locust and flood response. Finally, Sida’s support to the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has enabled an efficient response to remote and hard-to-reach areas and financing of local and national humanitarian actors.

Some lessons learned from previous years that affect the 2021 portfolio include: i) to further ground humanitarian interventions on protection risk analysis and reducing the risks identified by the affected population; ii) increased focus on areas and population groups with limited humanitarian access; iii) strengthen engagement with communities throughout the response in order to ensure a more sustainable and conflict sensitive response.

Sida will support ongoing initiatives to strengthen the humanitarian response in Somalia, including but not limited to the HCT Centrality of Protection strategy action plan, which was endorsed by the HCT in July 2020, the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) collective framework, the Common approach for cash programming, and the Localisation framework lead by the NGO Consortium.

Sida’s humanitarian allocation to Somalia has remained relatively stable over the past two to three years at around 220 MSEK per year. This includes Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) allocations as well as secondments to United Nations organisations.

3.2 Allocation Priorities 2021

Sida’s humanitarian support to Somalia will continue to be guided by the objectives of the HRP and the assessments underpinning the Humanitarian Needs Overview. Sida will consider the protracted nature of the crisis, the deepening of the crisis in certain areas and the vulnerability of IDPs in particular. Priority will be given to areas affected by conflict and/or climate-induced hazards (floods and droughts) still applying a multi-sectoral approach to address food insecurity and malnutrition closely linked to the health and WASH interventions. With 2.13 million persons facing acute food insecurity, this situation could rapidly deteriorate without sustained humanitarian assistance. 850,000 children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished including 143,400 severely malnourished through August 2021. There are high
risks of communicable disease outbreaks due to poor living conditions, including inadequate access to WASH services. This again is a main cause of spread of Acute Diarrheal Diseases, leading to malnutrition. Findings from the 2020 Joint MultiCluster Needs Assessment (JMCNA) show that 53% of the IDPs in Somalia face challenges in terms of access to WASH services.

Protection (including GBV, child protection) will continue to be a priority, with emphasis on applying an integrated protection approach while contributing to identified protection outcomes. The protective environment is weak for the most vulnerable populations. Even if service provision for GBV survivors have improved in some locations, it remains largely inadequate as a result of lack of access, limited/low capacity among service providers and increasing needs. Forced eviction of IDPs from their settlements remains to be a significant protection risk that Sida will continue to address from a humanitarian and development angel.

Moreover, Sida will target the most vulnerable members of the community such as women and children, people living with disabilities and marginalised groups. These groups do not always have equal access to humanitarian assistance and further efforts are required to strengthen inclusion. The response modalities will continue to be a mix of cash transfers and in-kind assistance, respecting the preferences identified by the affected population.

3.3 Partners

Sida’s humanitarian assistance to Somalia and the Somali refugee crisis in Kenya 2021 will be provided through a number of selected partners. The majority of funds are channelled through partners country programmes which enables a high degree of flexibility and allows for rapid interventions or scaling-up when there is a crisis within the crisis.

AAH will provide lifesaving assistance to people affected by crisis in South West, Hirshabelle and Puntland States through health and nutrition services integrated with WASH and food security and livelihoods services. AAH will strengthen community resilience among vulnerable households by providing unconditional cash assistance. The distinct targeting of the most vulnerable and strong integrated approach is considered a merit of this programme. Sida’s support is non-earmarked to AAH’s country program for which an expansion into Sool Region is planned for 2021.

FAO will assist vulnerable farmers with Cash+ Agriculture packages to secure the livelihoods and mitigate the impact of drought conditions, with focus on engaging women in improving food production and consumption. FAO plays an important role in resilience and livelihoods interventions connected to livestock and agriculture, and Sida also considers FAO’s extensive coverage and out-reach in Somalia an asset. FAO hosts the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) that provides critical information and analysis to guide the overall humanitarian response.

ICRC will continue to reinforce its engagement with authorities, weapon bearers and civil-society groups, to foster understanding and acceptance of its core activities. The ICRC will work with the Somali Red Crescent Society to deliver a multidisciplinary response – immediate, life-saving activities and resilience-building support – for improving livelihoods, water and
sanitation facilities, first aid, primary health care and hospital services – prioritizing areas inaccessible to all but a few other humanitarian actors. Sida considers the ICRC’s strong protection focus and actions, particularly in conflict-settings, unique to the humanitarian operation. Sida’s support is non-earmarked to the 2021 ICRC’s Appeal for Somalia.

Islamic Relief will through this project respond to the immediate humanitarian needs in livelihood and food insecurity, WASH, and protection in Bay region. IR is a new partner adding value by responding in one of the most vulnerable and insecure districts of Birdhale and Dinsoor. These districts are underserved by humanitarian agencies as they were under Al Shabaab control until recently. There are 36 IDP sites in the two districts.

NRC will provide integrated assistance to conflict and disaster-affected populations including refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities across Somalia. The programme-based support will address immediate needs, resilience building and durable solutions through an integrated multi-sectoral approach including livelihoods and food security, WASH, shelter and information counselling and legal assistance and education assistance. NRC adds value to the response with its capacity to address protection risks linked to displacement.

NRC will also contribute to the Somali refugee response in Kenya by improving access to education and legal assistance, strengthening livelihoods and food security, and improved WASH services for people affected by displacement (refugees and host communities).

Somalia Humanitarian Fund will deliver a timely, coordinated and effective response through its standard and reserve allocations, and its ability to respond to shocks. The fund promotes direct implementation and integrated interventions, particularly in response to protracted displacements and basic service provision in underserved, hard to reach locations. The SHF allocates more than 50% of its funding to local and national humanitarian actors.

UNHCR will in 2021 continue to focus on protection monitoring, community engagement and risk communication, as well as the provision of health and hygiene supplies. The UNHCR with its specific mandate within protection will continue to have an critical role to play in Somalia, as the Protection Cluster lead and a strong advocate for the implementation of the Centrality of Protection strategy. Sida will also support the UNHCR as one of the key partners to the Somali refugee response in Kenya.

UNICEF will focus on life-saving health, nutrition, education, WASH and child protection interventions across Somalia. Cash programming is a critical component of its emergency response and it strives to integrate this into existing social protection mechanisms. With the mandate to draw on synergies from programmes in different sectors, UNICEF is well placed to support communities to be more resilient through a multi-sector approach.

WFP will provide food and nutrition assistance enabling approximately 2 million people in Somalia to meet their food and nutrition needs. Preventative and curative nutrition assistance will also be provided and a number of resilience building measure will be scaled up. Sida also considers the WFP to be a key actor within the coordination structure serving as co-chairs for the Somalia Cash Working Group and lead agency for the food security cluster and logistics cluster.
ACT - Church of Sweden (CoS)\(^5\) will through this project focus on humanitarian assistance for displaced Somali populations through their partner Lutheran World Federation in Dadaab (Kenya), with focus on education, protection and livelihoods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended partner for Sida support</th>
<th>Sector/focus of work and response modalities</th>
<th>Proposed amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Against Hunger</td>
<td>Programme-based: Food security, nutrition, health, WASH</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO (incl. FSNAU)</td>
<td>Food security, livelihoods (livestock, agriculture)</td>
<td>16 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>Programme-based: Protection, WASH and health</td>
<td>15 000 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islamic Relief</td>
<td>Livelihoods, food security, WASH and protection</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Programme-based: Protection, food security, WASH, shelter, livelihoods, education</td>
<td>11 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia Humanitarian Fund</td>
<td>Humanitarian Pooled Funds – Multi-sector</td>
<td>30 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Programme-based: Multi-sector, Protection, Displacement</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Programme-based: Health, nutrition, WASH and child protection</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>Food security, livelihoods and nutrition</td>
<td>13 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Response, Kenya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Programme-based: Multi-sector, Protection, Displacement</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Programme-based: Education, protection, food security and WASH</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT – Church of Sweden</td>
<td>Education, protection, livelihoods</td>
<td>5 800 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 135 800 000

3.4 Strategic humanitarian funding and longer-term assistance

Coherence between hum-dev-peace (HDP) efforts is essential for reducing peoples’ needs, risks and vulnerability, as well as to strengthen their resilience and address underlying causes of crises. Sida’s work is guided by the DAC recommendation on the HDP nexus. Given the high level of unmet needs in Somalia, close collaboration between HDP efforts is required.

The majority of development donors in Somalia align to the National Development Plan-9 (NDP-9). The strategy is articulated around four pillars and where pillar three inclusive economic growth and pillar four improved human development and resilience to shocks offer the main nexus opportunities for humanitarian programmes. The UN Common Country Analysis 2020 also includes nexus as a central component and ties in with the upcoming UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as well as the NDP-9.

Sweden’s Development Cooperation Strategy for Somalia 2018-2022 (500 MSEK/year) looks at resilience, vulnerability, risk and the linkages between development and humanitarian assistance as a starting point for its interventions. Within the framework of the strategy, Sida

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\(^5\) ACT-Church of Sweden is being phased out as a strategic partner to Sida’s Humanitarian Unit, hence the allocation to ACT-Church of Sweden is part of a separate allocation process.
will contribute to lasting peace, strengthened resilience to crises and disasters, increased respect for human rights, gender equality and sustainable environmental and climate development.\(^6\)

The resilience perspective is integrated throughout the strategy, with the aim of addressing the underlying causes of the crisis and dependency on humanitarian assistance. This means joint analysis based on risks and vulnerability, strengthening the complementarities with humanitarian assistance and enhancing the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable to cope with recurrent shocks. The following development contributions builds on and/or complements humanitarian assistance:

FAO/WFP Supporting resilient small-holder farming systems 2019-2021- contributes to the sustainable development of the food system in Somalia.

FAO Building resilience in Middle Shabelle (BRIMS) 2018-2021 – focus on water access and management (incl flood management) to improve food security and resilience towards recurring crises i.e. floods and drought.

Somalia Resilience Programme (SomReP) 2019-2021 – resilience building of the most vulnerable persons, communities and systems in pastoral, agro-pastoral and peri-urban livelihood areas.

EU ILED Social Safety Nets Component 2019-2022 - links the humanitarian cash transfer programmes with the shock-responsive component of the emerging safety net programmes.

World Bank Multi-Partner Fund 2018-2022 – aims to strengthen institutions to deliver services, and to restore economic resilience and opportunities.

UN HABITAT Youth and Urban Regeneration Somalia (YOURS) programme Phase II 2020-2023 – aims to promote employment opportunities for vulnerable urban populations and youth, integration of displaced people, and implementation of durable solutions across Somalia.

SCI (CHASP) Health capacity building and provision 2017-2020 - contributes to linking the two funding streams of humanitarian and development assistance.

UN MDTP (support to UNFPA) 2018-2020 – sexual and reproductive health intervention linking the development and humanitarian assistance.

Opportunities to further increase coherence during 2021:

- Support to Somali local civil society and communities, contributing to the localisation agenda.
- Expand learning and joint initiatives around social protection, cash, IDP response and durable solutions.
- Strengthen the resilience perspective in floods and drought response.

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\(^6\) The four result areas of the strategy: 1) Peaceful and inclusive societies; 2) Human rights, democracy and the rule of the law; 3) Resilience, environment, climate and energy; and 4) Equitable health with focus on SRHR.
4 References


Somalia (HCT) Centrality of Protection Strategy:


FSNAU: https://fsnau.org/special-content/fsnau-early-warning-early-action-dashboard


FEWSNET: https://fews.net/east-africa/somalia

UNHCR 2021 Global Appeal: https://www.unhcr.org/globalappeal2021/#