

1. Summaryⁱ

15	6.48 million	70 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	70 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

Somalia’s humanitarian crisis, long characterised as protracted or chronic due to recurring droughts, floods, conflict, displacement, and economic shocks; is entering into a highly acute phase. The situation is especially alarming as severe drought, collapsing livelihoods, rising acute malnutrition, increasing displacement, and expanding disease outbreaks are all converging simultaneously. At the same time, humanitarian assistance is at its lowest level in more than a decade, leaving limited capacity to mount a large-scale response.

OCHA estimates that 4.8 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2026. According to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, 3.4 million people were in IPC Phase 3 or above between July and September 2025, a number which is projected to rise to 4.4 million between October and December 2025. In addition, the caseload in IPC Phase 4 is expected to reach 1 million by early 2026. Over the next quarter, Somalia’s displaced population is projected to increase by more than 200,000 people compared to August 2025, bringing the total number of people living in displacement to over 4 million by December 2025.¹ In 2025, recurring climatic shocks have been intensified by local inter-clan conflicts as well as the broader conflict between the Somali state and non-state armed groups.

Sida’s humanitarian allocation on life-saving, integrated interventions especially across Food Security, Protection, Health, Nutrition, and WASH Sectors. Prioritising rural and hard-to-reach areas will be essential to ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind and to help prevent further displacement into urban centres.

¹ DRC, [Global Snapshot #6 -October 2025, DRC/AHEAD](#) (Accessed December 2025).

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Widespread poverty, conflict and recurring climatic shocks drive displacement, food insecurity and protection risks in Somalia. Limited access to basic services exacerbate the humanitarian needs. Food insecurity and malnutrition are among the most acute needs, with national median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence above 14 per cent. Between July 2025 and June 2026, it is projected that approximately 1.85 million children aged 6 to 59 months will suffer from acute malnutrition (GAM). Within this group, an estimated 420,000 children are expected to be affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM).² Health and WASH represent the largest share of people in need (PIN), as disease outbreaks such as cholera are exacerbated by poor sanitation and weakened immunity. Severe drought conditions have intensified food insecurity and depleted water and pasture.

Vulnerable groups include internally displaced people (IDPs), minority clans, marginalised communities, and pastoralists. Women and girls are particularly exposed to gender-based violence (GBV) and experience disrupted access to sexual and reproductive health services. Children under five are highly vulnerable to malnutrition and disease, while pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and chronically ill individuals face significant barriers to accessing services. Women-headed households and households with a high number of children or without regular income are disproportionately affected due to limited mobility, documentation barriers, and entrenched clan and patriarchal gatekeeping. Differences in needs are evident across gender and age. Women and girls face heightened risks of violence and exclusion from aid, while boys face higher risks of forced recruitment into armed groups and forced labour. Children, especially under five, are at greatest risk of acute malnutrition and disease and elderly and disabled individuals struggle with mobility and access.

Protection needs are concentrated in conflict zones and in overcrowded IDP sites, where communities face risk of GBV, eviction and secondary displacement. Main threats to safety are armed conflict and insecurity, including deadly violence, arbitrary executions, forced displacement, and destruction of property. Arbitrary arrests and restrictions on humanitarian access prevent communities in conflict areas from receiving humanitarian assistance.

Geographic areas with high concentration of needs include the central and southern districts of the country, where there is a higher concentration of population and overlapping shocks. However, climate related shocks affect nearly the whole country and humanitarian needs in the northern districts have increased during 2025.

In November 2025, The Federal Government of Somalia declared a National Drought Emergency due to the failure of the Deyr rainy season. Consecutive failure of rainfall during past rainy seasons are leading to a collapse of livelihoods, water and food shortages and deteriorating health conditions. Given the already high level and severity of needs, lack of assistance will inevitably lead to loss of

² IPC. Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation 2025. (29 September 2025).

lives. 4.4 million people are expected to face acute food insecurity during the period October-December 2025.³ Urban and rural poor host communities, including marginalised farmers and pastoralists, face structural poverty and limited access to basic services. Hard-to-reach areas, especially conflict zones and remote drought-affected districts, remain inaccessible to aid. Displacement sites are highly vulnerable to disease outbreaks due to overcrowding and poor sanitation. Repeated displacement and loss of livelihoods is increasing harmful coping strategies and exposure to GBV, while essential services remain scarce or inaccessible.

3. The humanitarian response

The scope of the Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)⁴ is defined by the shocks (e.g. conflict, climatic events) affecting each district of the country. Out of the 90 districts, 64 districts have experienced between 1-4 shocks and an estimate 7.5 million people

2.4 million	\$850 million	11%
People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2026)	Of the funding secured (HNRP 2026)

are affected. Displacement is no longer considered a shock in itself, but rather as a consequence of shocks. This supports the move away from a status-based response towards a vulnerability and shock-based response. The Humanitarian Donor Group (HDG) recommends to update the scope at mid-year or earlier in case of a new severe shock. Within the current scope, 4.8 million people are identified as being in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. 63 per cent of these reside in 16 districts. Despite a 20 per cent lower PIN compared to 2025, multi-sectoral severity is increasing, with a pronounced convergence of WASH, Health, and Protection concerns, indicating compounding vulnerabilities. The central and southern regions of the country continue to experience the highest severity levels. Additionally, drought conditions and insufficient services in the north are contributing to increased severity in several districts.

In light of limited humanitarian resources, the 2026 response prioritisation focuses on identifying those with the most urgent needs and the most effective strategies to address them. The HNRP target has been reduced by 47 per cent compared to 2025, now set at 2.4 million people. There is an attempt to move away from a sector and activity focused approach and to focus on delivering an integrated response defined by community engagement and expressed preferences. The Area Base Coordination units (ABCs) have been mandated by the HCT to enable the integrated response in priority districts through streamlined, inclusive and operational coordination.

Humanitarian access in Somalia remains complex due to intersecting security, political, logistical and bureaucratic constraints. The presence of non-state armed groups, such as Al-Shabaab continues to pose major obstacles, requiring costly security measures for humanitarian actors.

³ OCHA. [Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency - Situation Report No. 1](#). (27 November 2025).

⁴ OCHA. [Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026 | Humanitarian Action](#)

Contested areas also experience volatile clan dynamics and localised hostilities due to frequent shifts in territorial control. While significant efforts were made in 2025 to meet urgent needs in rural and remote areas, preventing people from moving to urban centres for assistance, the high operational costs may make this approach unsustainable in 2026.

Local actors in Somalia are gaining more recognition in the humanitarian response and are critical operations partners. Yet, they still face challenges related to funding, influence in decision-making, and institutional capacity. Their representation in coordination bodies has improved with the introduction of ABCs, but they are underrepresented in national leadership roles.⁵ Local and national NGOs receive 80 per cent of the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) funding.

The Humanitarian Donor Group (HDG) is co-chaired by ECHO and the Netherlands, and with UK, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Norway being the most active members. There is close coordination between donors and an overall agreement on the priorities for 2026. Sida will continue to be a donor representative on the Advisory Board of the SHF and will also take a stronger role in promoting and advocating for Protection in 2026 humanitarian response.

As of mid-year 2025, key sectors, including Food Security, WASH, and Nutrition have received less than half of the funding that they received in the same period for 2024. To adapt to the new funding situation humanitarian organisations reprioritised their response to target only 1.3 million people, a 72 per cent reduction from the 4.6 million people originally identified in the 2025 HNRP.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Given that needs and risk severity are assessed at the district level in Somalia, Sida will take partners' geographic prioritisation—based on this methodology—into account. The allocation will focus on life-saving, integrated interventions especially across Food Security, Protection, Health, Nutrition, and WASH Sectors.

Prioritising rural and hard-to-reach areas will be essential to ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind and to help prevent further displacement to urban centres. With the highly fragmented security environment in Somalia, local actors often have comparative access advantage due to established community trust, clan networks, and long-term presence. This allows humanitarian assistance to reach remote or high-risk districts where international actors may face restrictions. Sida considers collaboration and/or partnerships with national and local organisations important factors for determining its partnership portfolio.

In order to meet the complexity and challenges of the humanitarian needs and operational response in Somalia, Sida should further consider complementing the allocation with targeted operational partnerships focusing on furthering locally led action, the protection capacity of local actors and innovative enabling and system strengthening initiatives. The Somali Red Crescent is one of the

⁵ ICVA, [Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership - Somalia](#) (2024)

organisations with the largest geographical presence in the country and ability to respond to the range of humanitarian needs in the crisis. Initiatives geared towards strengthening its organisational capacity would further the potential for a more localised and effective response countrywide including in conflict disputed areas. The effects of reduced humanitarian funding and access constraints have led to widespread reduction in protection violation and risk monitoring and prevention activities in the humanitarian response. This could be remediated by strengthening local leadership and capacity to undertake these activities, for which technical and financial support is required. Finally, many of the key pillars of the ongoing humanitarian reset build on the work the humanitarian community in Somalia had already started and was implementing prior to 2025. There are a number of innovative initiatives to enhance and strengthen coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of the humanitarian response Somalia being developed and piloted. However, funding constraints are hindering their timely and successful implementation. Support to a range of these initiative would highly benefit the severely underfunded humanitarian response in the country, as well as further support the reset of the global humanitarian system.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	20,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	15,000,000
Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)	20,000,000
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	15,000,000
TOTAL	70,000,000

ⁱ The 2026 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida’s humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida’s initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida’s initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida’s allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Somalia, the selected source is HNRP 2025 as changes seen in GHO 2026 are being triangulated.