



SITUATION OVERVIEW



8.25 million
people in need

16.9 M Total population



Over 1.6 million people
displaced by drought

since January 2021



Over 100,000 people
affected by flashfloods

since the start of the *Gu* season



6.4 million people lack
sufficient access to water

source: [WASH Cluster](#)

Since the beginning of 2023, Somalia has been impacted with an interlinked cluster of crises. While still affected by one of the most severe droughts in the last decades that has driven mass displacement, widespread death of livestock and a devastating food and water crisis, the country is now also receiving heavy rains which are causing flash floods and increased risk of riverine flooding in some areas. These natural hazards are greatly affecting both host communities and internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements, where people are suffering from malnutrition and death of livestock, while at the same time facing water-borne disease outbreaks such as cholera, higher risk of landslides and destruction or damage of infrastructure, property and farmlands. The loss of livelihoods and assets is further heightening people's vulnerabilities, thus hindering the capacity for later recovery.

Based on the [recent IPC assessment](#), it is projected that 6.5 million people across Somalia are facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between April and June 2023. Among these, up to 223,000 people are expected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in the most impacted areas of the country. Despite humanitarian efforts, the latest reports warned that approximately 1.8 million children will face acute malnutrition, including 477,700 children who are likely to be severely malnourished from January to December 2023.

At the same time, it is estimated that [more than 100,000 people have been affected by riverine and flash flooding](#) in the past weeks, with displacements reaching over 130,000 since the start of the *Gu* season. In addition, clashes between government forces and militias in Laascaanood in the Sool region resumed in the beginning of the month, after a few weeks of relative calm that followed initial negotiations. Yet, the most recent shelling of the crossfire is targeting key infrastructures, including hospitals and water supply systems, making it more difficult for people to access essential services and thus increasing the number of people fleeing the city.

The total number of displacements due to natural hazards since January 2021 reached over 1.8 million by the end of March 2023. Out of the total, [1,670,091 people have been displaced by drought](#) alone, representing a 7 per cent increase from the previous month. Most displaced people have moved towards major Somali cities and towns as they seek humanitarian assistance, while others are crossing into neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. Displaced populations live in congested settlements, where they often face poor sanitation and hygiene conditions and are at risk of eviction by landowners. Additional pressure on critical services like water, sanitation and health due to the current drought poses a severe threat to their well-being.



623,454 people reached
with 213,320,771 litres
of clean and safe water

through boreholes and shallow wells

January 2022 - March 2023



648 displacement sites
supported hosting
806,274 IDPs in Baidoa, Xudur,

Doolow, Luuq, Baardheere, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Belet Weyne, Jalalaqsi, Buldo Burto and Jowhar.

March 2023



More than 69,900
people reached with
free health care

in displacement sites
and hard-to-reach areas

March 2023



276,594 people
supported with
emergency shelter and/
or in-kind

January 2022 - March 2023



IOM DROUGHT RESPONSE FUNDING



Request: **USD 300 M**
Target: **3.6 million people**
Funding gap: **USD 147 M**

SOMALIA NEEDS YOUR HELP

DONATE TODAY

SUPPORT IOM'S LIFE-SAVING
ASSISTANCE

IOM EMERGENCY CRISIS RESPONSE

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, United Nations agencies and local partners to address the immediate needs of crisis induced IDPs and host communities.

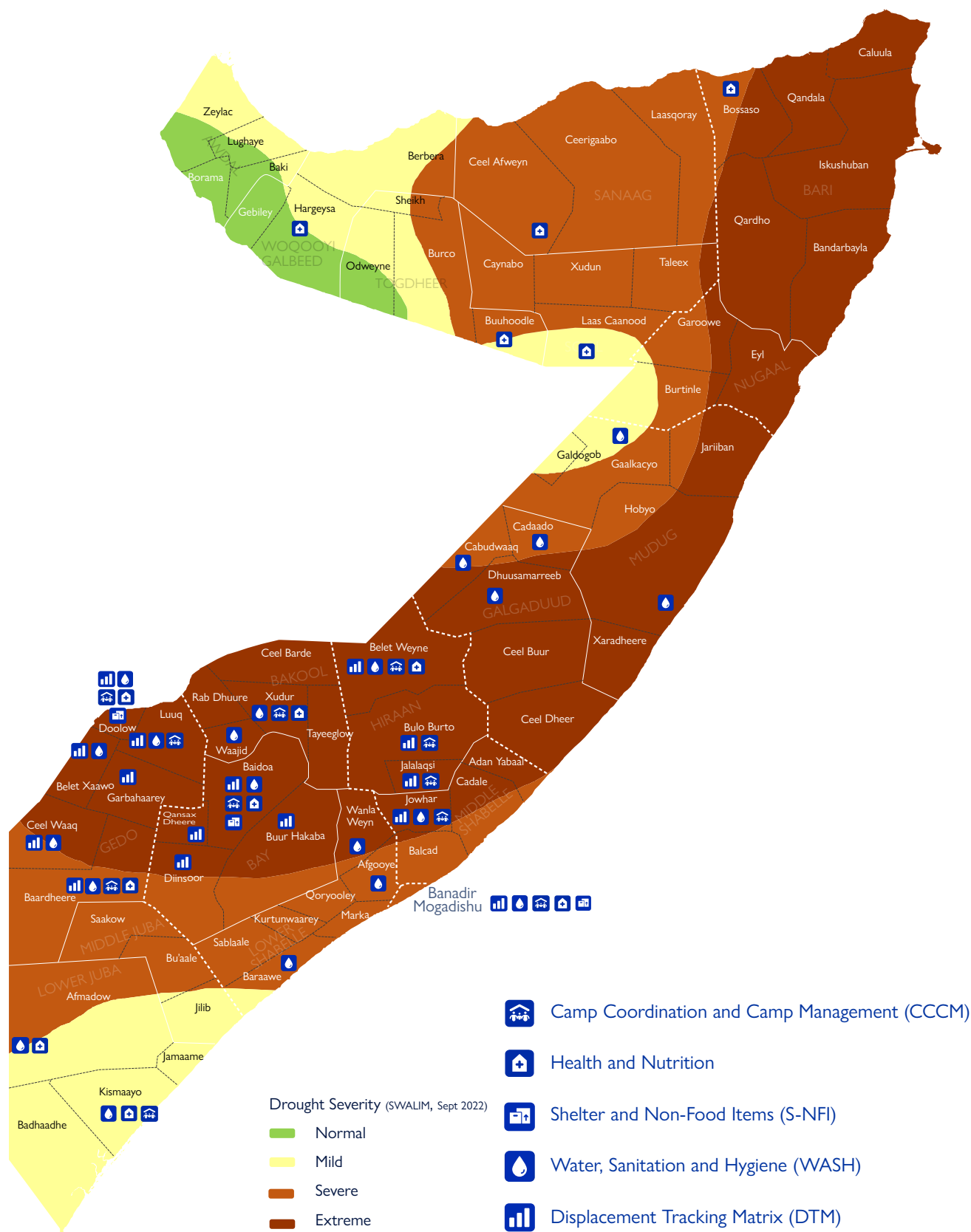
IOM's crisis response continues to assist IDPs arriving at urban centers in increasing numbers with an integrated package of multi-sectoral life-saving assistance. Complementarily, IOM is scaling up its presence and support in more secondary towns in drought affected areas, aiming to reach people closer to their place of origin. In that manner, IOM contributes to mitigating the substantial movement and increased pressure on basic services in the main urban centers. Simultaneously, with the arrival of the rainy season in mid-March, IOM teams

are assessing the situation on the ground to identify the most urgent needs required by the affected families. River levels are expected to fluctuate in the coming weeks with a high risk of flooding and cholera outbreaks along the entire Juba and Shabelle River channel, which will likely shift part of the assistance currently delivered by the Organization.

Furthermore, IOM is centering its response on implementing longer-term initiatives that strengthen the resilience, livelihoods and coping capacities of displaced and host communities to enable them to withstand future shocks. Efforts are also being made to provide evidence-based data on displacement dynamics and cross-border mobility.



IOM CRISIS RESPONSE MAP - OPERATIONAL PRESENCE



Find more information about the severity of the drought through the latest [FAO SWALIM Drought Update](#)
For more information on displacement, please view the [IOM, OCHA and UNHCR dashboard on Displacement](#)



Response to Laascaanood conflict

In addition to its ongoing assistance for the drought, IOM Somalia is coordinating and leading the emergency response to the latest displacements from Laascaanood, in the Sool region, where clashes between government forces and militias have forced thousands of people to flee.

An integrated action is being coordinated by providing multi-sectoral life-saving support to communities that were affected by both the drought and conflict through provision of access to clean and safe water sanitation and hygiene, shelter and non-food items (NFI) and access to free healthcare. In coordination with the local authorities, IOM is currently providing 5,000 families (estimated 30,000 individuals) with hygiene and NFI kits, emergency water trucking, emergency shelter material (plastic sheets) and medical kits and healthcare services,

in addition to one-time installment of complimentary multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). The support is being provided in Sool (Kalabaydh and Xir Xir villages) and Ceyn (Buhoodle and Widh Widh villages) regions, which host the highest number of conflict-affected communities.

Additionally, IOM is supporting OCHA in the verification of displacement figures and dynamics in the region. The team verifies population estimates through remote surveys in 27 locations in Buuhoodle and Laascaanood districts. The results are shared with OCHA and partners to inform their responses. Through flow monitoring IOM is able to report the increasing flow of cross border movements from Sool region towards Ethiopia since March, escaping the conflict.

Ladan Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Site in Doolow, Gedo.

Since November 2022, IOM has been working on the full reconfiguration and redesign of the Ladan IDP site in Doolow (Gedo), which currently hosts over 15,000 people. This integrated action is a successful example of combined IOM programming with a strong collaboration with the local authorities, who have committed their full support to the project.

The general poor planning of the site has led to overcrowding of makeshift shelters, lack of privacy, insufficient sanitary conditions, disorganized paths and insecurity. IOM's restructuring after taking over the site's management focuses on the improvement of security and space rationalization.

As of March, a total of 17 hectares of bush clearance has been completed and 1,500 households have been registered through IOM's Biometric and Verification (BRaVe) system, who will then be allocated new demarcated plots. IOM has also finalized the construction of 200 shared Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines which are placed close to dwellings, to allow rapid, safe, and secure access. Furthermore, the installation of a 20 kilometers drainage system is ongoing, which will cover the entire site. In addition, due to the recent rains, and in prevention to the immediate flooding in the area, IOM is working with the community to construct emergency

drainage works, which consisted of small trenches and berms at household level to protect IDP shelters from flood waters.

Additionally, since January 2023 IOM is constructing 1,500 upgradable emergency shelters which will accommodate drought-displaced families. To enhance the community's empowerment, IOM has engaged 120 unskilled laborers to construct the shelters under cash for work (CFW) modality, which injects cash back into the local economy. The typology of these shelters allows for these to be upgraded through the addition of mudbricks, which makes the shelters more sustainable for the households. Twenty pilot improved shelters are being built as a pilot, and if proven successful, will be expanded to all the target households.

The effective rationalization of space and introduction of structure has attracted many partners and services including a school, nutrition centre, medical clinic, and a women's space, among others. The installation of streetlights has also helped strengthen the security of the site overall. The site is a good example of sustainable site planning and development from a multi-sectorial approach that tackles IDPs' needs in a comprehensive manner.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

IOM currently support 648 out of the total 3,639 sites across 11 districts in Somalia. As of end of March, IOM is the sole CCCM partner in four districts in Somalia, being these in Doolow (133 sites), Luuq (52 sites), Jalalaqsi (7 sites) and Bulo Burto (3 sites). In addition, CCCM also supports a high percentage of the total sites in other districts, such as in Baardheere 83 per cent (29 sites) and Kismayo 64 per cent (112 sites). In other districts, CCCM is covering an overall smaller percentage in comparison with the districts' total existing sites, yet the total number is quite high. Such is the case in Xudur, where it covers 34 per cent (25) of all sites, Baidoa 27 per cent (168 sites), Belet Weyne 33 per cent (39 sites), Jowhar 29 per cent (6 sites), and Mogadishu 3 per cent (74 sites).

Upon their arrival, IOM provides direct support to the families at the sites, allocating plots for them to settle, and organizing information sessions on the services and assistance available, thus improving their capacity to make informed decisions during their displacement. In March, 8,513 newly arrived households (estimated 51,078 individuals) affected by drought received information sessions. Moreover, CCCM organizes monthly training and community meetings with the Camp Management Committees (CMCs) to strengthen their capacity to support newly arrived IDPs on the sites. Such activities follow IOM's approach that a community-designed and community-led response is essential to better and in a timelier manner address the increasing needs of drought-affected individuals.

In addition, during the first weeks of the month the fourth phase of the First-Line Response (FLR) project – IOM Somalia's integrated multi-sectorial package of life-saving

assistance to drought-affected families in urban contexts – kicked off with the first biometric registrations in both Baidoa and Banadir (Dayniile and Kahda districts). The registration of beneficiaries is being done through IOM's Biometric Registration and Verification (BRaVe) system, registering a total of 14,535 families in Baidoa and Mogadishu, within the month.

806,274 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS SUPPORTED in Baidoa (229,538), Xudur (9,588), Doolow (134,381), Luuq (88,259), Baardheere (73,937), Kismayo (57,029), Mogadishu (148,256), Belet Weyne (36,617), Jalalaqsi (11,964), Bulo Burto (5,541), Jowhar (11,164)

648 DISPLACEMENT SITES SUPPORTED in Baidoa (168), Xudur (25), Doolow (133), Luuq (52), Baardheere (29), Kismayo (112), Mogadishu (74), Belet Weyne (39), Jalalaqsi (7), Bulo Burto (3) and Jowhar (6)

138,511 people reached through **147 OUTREACH COMMUNITY AWARENESS SESSIONS** in **232 SITES**

397 people supported with **CASH FOR WORK** activities, of which **65%** were women

IOM promoted community-driven response through:

- **46** informal **CCCM TRAININGS** to CMCs for **3,187** participants, including camp leaders and representatives
- **65** clean-up campaigns in the sites, where **2,337** people participated



VIDEO: [Improving access to clean safe water for drought affected communities](#)

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

IOM is the co-lead, together with UNHCR, of the CCCM Cluster in Somalia. The CCCM Cluster has quickly expanded its coverage and operations across Somalia, increasing the number of sites and beneficiaries supported by the Cluster. A total of 1,293 sites are currently established with CCCM mechanisms, which represents 39 per cent of all sites in Somalia. This marks the largest number of CCCM managed sites since the Cluster's inception. This expansion of operations took place during the last quarter of 2022, when IOM, ACTED and DRC expanded their services to sites with acute humanitarian needs. The total number of people reached by CCCM mechanisms in March reached over 1.6 million individuals.

As part of the Clusters ongoing response to the recent rains, flood risk maps shared by the CCCM Cluster highlighting IDP sites at the district-level that have a high/extreme risk of flooding to prompt last stage preparedness activities. This data will serve to inform the responses of humanitarian partners to the emergency.

Moreover, after a successful pilot in Baidoa last month, IOM, led by the CCCM Cluster, rolled out the New Arrivals Tracking (NAT) 2.0 methodology to all IOM-managed IDP sites by mid-March. Through the NAT 2.0 IOM identifies, verifies,

and records the most urgent and immediate needs of IDPs, and shares them with the Humanitarian Clusters to trigger immediate emergency responses. This inter-cluster approach enables humanitarian clusters to mobilize partners' responses in a more integrated and efficient manner. IOM also supports partners in identifying the newly arrived households, advocating for increased support and attention to ensure that they receive immediate registration and assistance from those operating in the area. By the end of March 5,112 newly arrived households were registered, using this new methodology.

Lastly, widespread displacement is driving the establishment of new displacement sites or increasing the population of existing displacement sites. There is an urgent need for increasing community engagement and awareness initiatives that can enable individuals to make informed decisions in accessing services. In March, CCCM partners provided community orientation sessions across 495 sites, targeting new arrivals to inform about service availability, emergency referral information and complaints and feedback mechanisms. During March 2023, a total of 8,293 cases were recorded through the CCCM's Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM). This represents an increase of 7 per cent compared to the previous month.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The moderate to heavy *Gu'* rains experienced in the last weeks in parts of central and southern Somalia, particularly in areas around the Ethiopian border over the last week, have significantly increased Juba River levels. The consequent flash floods in Baardheere district (Gedo region) are increasing the risk of water overflowing and surge of illnesses such as cholera and measles, along the entire Juba and Shabelle River channel, affecting host communities and some IDP settlements, where the WASH unit was already supporting the local community. The team is currently assessing the situation on the ground and the urgent needs required. The team is well-prepared to mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases as well as flood preparedness and is planning to scale up daily operational presence and hygiene promotion campaigns in the sites with higher needs.

Water Infrastructure

Despite the rains received in some parts of the country, drought conditions persist across Somalia. The ongoing state of emergency in south-central Somalia is exacerbating forced displacement and subsequent population movements, triggering the influx of displaced persons from rural to urban and peri-urban centers. IOM is prioritizing the rehabilitation, extension of existing water systems and construction of new boreholes in rural areas of drought-affected districts.

In the month of March, IOM completed the rehabilitation of one borehole in Galkayo (Mudug region), and one shallow well in Belet Xaawo (Gedo region). These two improved water sources alone are providing safe and clean water to an estimated 9,300 additional people.

267,990 PEOPLE were reached with **104,250,771 LITRES** of clean and safe **WATER** through **117 SHALLOW WELLS**

355,464 PEOPLE were reached with **104,536,000 LITRES** of clean and safe **WATER** through **44 BOREHOLES**

623,454 PEOPLE in total assisted with sustainable **WATER SUPPLY**

SINCE JANUARY 2022:

623,454 PEOPLE IN TOTAL ASSISTED WITH SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY have been constructed or rehabilitated in Bay (30), Hiraan (5), Lower Shabelle (12), Gedo (31), Lower Juba (14) and Middle Shabelle (6), Xudur (7), Mudug (2) and Waajid (7)

44 BOREHOLES have been constructed or rehabilitated in in Bakool (1), Bay (4), Galguduud (14), Lower Juba (2), Lower Shabelle (3), Banadir (2) and Galmudug (18)



Emergency Water Trucking

Emergency water trucking activities ensured the provision of life-saving water to drought-affected communities as surface water communal strategic water sources are drying up. Through this, IOM provided a minimum of 7.5 liters of water per person per day in Gedo, Hiraan, Sool, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions, as some of the most affected areas in the country.

26,774,280 LITRES OF CLEAN WATER were distributed to over **96,804** new **PEOPLE** through **EMERGENCY WATER TRUCKING** across **5 REGIONS**

Hygiene and Sanitation

As of March, a total of 129,168 people are being supported with improved sanitation conditions since January 2022. Additionally, a total of 109,992 people were directly reached with hygiene promotion activities aimed at improving hygiene practices and reducing the spread of water-borne diseases. From the total, 3,000 hygiene kits were distributed in Galkayo (Galmudug State), to the pastoralist communities residing in the most rural areas.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI)

Depending on the affected community's vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, IOM provides identified populations with NFIs and emergency, transitional shelters, or more permanent shelter support through in-kind and/or cash-based interventions.

IOM has distributed emergency shelter material and the second tranche of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to the registered households. The in-kind distribution included sensitization at distribution points on how to best use the plastic sheets, with particular focus on the specific techniques for fixing the sheets, to avoid contact points with sharp timbers and ensure these are properly tightened to prevent loosening with by wind. Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were prepared and distributed, complimented with a real-time demonstration of the plastic sheet set-up at the locations.

Throughout March, IOM conducted evaluation interviews with families that had been using the test fuel efficient stoves in two communities in Doolow (Kabasa and Qansaxley) since December 2022. Families reported a significant reduction of fuel consumption, a decrease in the amount of smoke and reduced cooking times.

Common Pipeline Program

IOM is establishing a common pipeline for Shelter Cluster's partners, which will allow to assist IDPs in a timelier manner through Cluster partners, in locations where IOM is not present. The call for interest from all the interested partners was collated and shortlisted for revision and submission. Additionally, as of 31 March, the first shipment of 30,000 plastic sheets is pre-positioned in IOM's central warehouse in Mogadishu. From the current stock, 6,000 are already being distributed in Mogadishu, and 10,000 will be distributed in Baidoa. Additional 9,000 are being transported to Laascaanood to support in the crisis response, and 5,000 will be sent to Baardheere in response to the floods.

46,099 HOUSEHOLDS (estimated 276,528 individuals) reached with in-kind and/or MPCA

5,497 HOUSEHOLDS (estimated 32,982 individuals) have been assisted with second trench of Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

120 people have been supported with Cash-for-work activities



VIDEO: [Giving health care access to Somalia's vulnerable communities](#)

Health and Nutrition

With its health and nutrition services, IOM continued to support drought and conflict affected communities in Somalia. The activities aimed at managing and treating severe acute malnutrition (SAM), while reducing morbidity and mortality and improving health-seeking behaviors to prevent disease outbreaks. The nutrition services provided by IOM are implemented as per Somalia's Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) and Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) guidelines. The main aim is to bring the services closer to vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons, hard-to-reach communities, people on the move as well as host communities.

During the month of March, IOM re-activated four emergency mobile clinics in Hudur and Belet Weyne and were deployed mid-March to the area. The mobile teams will provide primary health-care services including both curative services (clinical consultations) and preventive services (routine immunization, antenatal and postnatal care, and treatment of minor ailments, among others). IOM is supporting 7 static health facilities, 2 migration reception centers (MRC), 1 transit migrant reception center and 15 mobile clinics across Elafweyne (1), Afmadow (2), Kismayo (1), Baidoa (4), Buhoodle (1), Lascanood (1), Belet Weyne (2) Hudur and Doolow (3).

As heavy rains erupted in the Xudur district of Bakol region, causing floods that affected the community, IOM pledged to provide five seconded staff with one vehicle to support the needs assessment process in the district. The team will work in collaboration with other humanitarian organizations to ensure a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the situation. In the same light, following the cholera outbreak in Afmadow

district, in Lower Juba region, IOM provided comprehensive support to the district's Ministry of Health, which included the deployment of technical staff to cholera treatment centres, establishment of oxidation reduction potential (ORP) systems at the IOM-supported Waberi health clinic, donation of essential medical supplies, and providing community awareness on cholera prevention and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) home treatment, and on-job training on Cholera and Routine immunization for the facility staff.

IOM also rehabilitated the Bullagadud Health Center in Kismayo, creating a conducive environment for the delivery of integrated primary health and nutrition services.

69,908 people were reached with free **health services**

17,541 (41% male and 59% female) **INDIVIDUALS** were supported with free **HEALTH CONSULTATIONS**

5,128 CHILDREN (88% under 1 and 12% over 1 year old) received routine immunization

238 PREGNANT MOTHERS had successful **DELIVERIES** at IOM supported facilities

15,198 WOMEN and **8,059 MEN** reached with **HEALTH PROMOTIONS** and awareness raising at health clinics

IOM screened **8,888 CHILDREN** (46% male and 54% female) of ages between 6 to 59 months for malnutrition, of whom **551** (6 % per cent of the total) were admitted with **SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION**

7,223 LACTATING WOMEN screened for malnutrition





Protection

IOM works directly with displaced and marginalized communities in camp settings and hard-to-reach areas, bolstering governance and justice mechanisms that ensure protection for the most vulnerable. Specifically, IOM provides support through distribution of dignity kits, capacity building, awareness raising and strengthening of national protection mechanisms. Its primary focus in Somalia is on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), GBV and child protection to IDP sites and surrounding host communities.

In March 2023, IOM reached more staff and beneficiaries in comparison with the past months. This is attributed to the expansion of the Protection team with staff deployed to field offices across the country. Trainings were offered focusing on protection and GBV mainstreaming, including the principles of

protection, referrals, safe and ethical standards of handling GBV cases, as well as PSEA principles and reporting mechanisms.

IOM Protection focal points conducted referrals, safety audits of the venues and fast-tracking of the vulnerable persons in the queues while waiting for distribution. IOM also launched the Gender Based Violence in Crises (GBViC) Framework in Mogadishu during the second half of the month. The event was attended by governmental representatives, humanitarian agencies, implementing partners and (I)NGOs working in Somalia.

45 IOM staff were trained on **protection mainstreaming, GBV, and PSEA**

108 vulnerable persons were assisted in Mogadishu and Baidoa.



Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

In coordination with the response data providers in the country, IOM supports the drought response by providing high quality data to inform about movements, locations and needs of affected populations.

DTM activated its **Emergency Trend Tracking (ETT)** tool in Gedo (February 2022), Bay (September 2022), Hiraaan (January 2023) and Banadir (January 2023) regions to capture in a timely manner (every week) new drought related displacements. The ETT is a crisis-based tool that tracks sudden displacement, triggered by specific events or emerging crises. The data collected is of a rapid nature to help prioritize humanitarian response and to enable partners to deliver rapid assistance.

For drought-related displacements, through ETT assessments, as of March, 326,128 individuals were reported to be displaced due to drought across 217 settlements in Gedo, and between 18 and 24 March DTM ETT along with CCCM NAT (New Arrival Tracker) recorded 3,076 new arrivals in Bay region. In terms of flood-related displacements, as the Gu rainy season starts, IOM has prepared an ETT tool to capture movements in the four regions DTM is operational, to be used as flooding results in displacements in Baardheere district, in Gedo region. Simultaneously, DTM is working on drought displacement projection analysis to alert on potential future displacements and hotspots.

Country-wide, DTM also provides information on the overall context through its **Flow Monitoring (FM)** activities which capture drought induced cross border movements, along with its Baseline 2 assessment (B2), which notably informs about

the IDP presence and demographics. Flow monitoring (FM) activities provide regular and updated information on the size and profile of population movements, through seven FM points across Somalia at the borders with neighboring countries and the coast. The information and analysis provided by FM aims to contribute to improved understanding of shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the migratory routes.

In addition, in March 2023, IOM launched two exercises in Galmudug region – the **Transhumance Trend Tracking (TTT)** and the Galmudug district profiling (GDP). In collaboration with research partners, IOM is developing a TTT system to provide regular and transparent data on pastoral mobility to contribute to the production, analysis and sharing of information to support evidence-based conflict prevention and mitigation strategies in Galmudug State - a region of Somalia where competition over scarce natural resources is increasing the risk for violent conflict. In March, it was noted that with the arrival of Gu rains coincided with conflict occurrences in some of the locations (Balanbale and Bali Howd) where IOM is monitoring pastoral flows and dynamics. Reports of hostilities in areas between Balanbale and Xerale are similarly emerging due to the increased movement linked to the onset of rains. As per the GDP, it is implemented through a household survey and will provide information on indicators difficult to capture at key informant’s level, such as community dynamics or safety, among others.

The ETT reports can be found [here](#)



VIDEO: [Enhancing mental health care for the displaced persons in Somalia](#)

STORY: [Keeping the environment clean, turning waste to wealth](#)



STORY: [IOM Assists 67 Ethiopian Migrants Stranded in Somalia to Safely Return Home](#)



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