

KENYA & SOMALIA



Due to the combination of protracted conflict and the heightening effects of climate change, millions in Kenya and Somalia—including both citizens and asylum seekers—are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Country Context

Frequent attacks by Al-Shabab, an Islamist insurgent group based in Somalia, persist despite regional and international efforts to combat the group. Somalia remains in a protracted humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing violence or displaced by a lack of economic opportunity emigrating to Kenya. The entire Horn of Africa is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. During the regular rainy season in 2019, the region saw below-average rainfall. October 2019, however, was one of the wettest months on record. This rainfall caused flash floods; mudslides and landslides; spikes in food and fuel prices; and the destruction of crucial infrastructure, impacting over half a million people. Recent disputes over oil rights have caused further tensions between Kenya and Somalia.

Key Figures



Over 6 million

people in Somalia and Kenya are food insecure



3.5 million

Kenyans are water insecure



2.6 million

Somalis are internally displaced



Over 479,000

refugees and asylum seekers are hosted by Kenya, the majority of whom are Somali



\$1.03 billion

requested for humanitarian response in Somalia

How is the U.S. Involved?

Under the Trump Administration, the U.S. escalated the battle against Al-Shabab, maintaining a small military presence in Somalia and increasing the amount and frequency of airstrikes against the extremist group. The U.S. is the largest provider of humanitarian aid to Somalia, and Kenya is one of the 12 target countries for Feed the Future.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Existing drought recovery efforts were impeded by a well below-average rainy season in early 2019 that produced southern Somalia's lowest cereal harvest in decades—50% lower than expected.
- Kenya and Somalia restored diplomatic and economic ties in November 2019, after months of dispute over access to oil rights on the Indian Ocean.

Responses and Actions

- Humanitarian agencies and their partners have reached at least 105,000 flood-affected people in Somalia, but significant gaps remain in the provision of assistance.
- In mid-2019, the humanitarian and donor communities worked with the Somali government to scale-up and prioritize an emergency drought impact response plan for Somalia, mobilizing over \$900 million in funds. Unfortunately, despite the influx of funding, several sectors remain underfunded, limiting the reach and impact of WASH, health, and nutrition programs.
- Feed the Future programs in Kenya have seen a 40% reduction in the prevalence of stunting in children under five.

InterAction has a Horn of Africa working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport.

