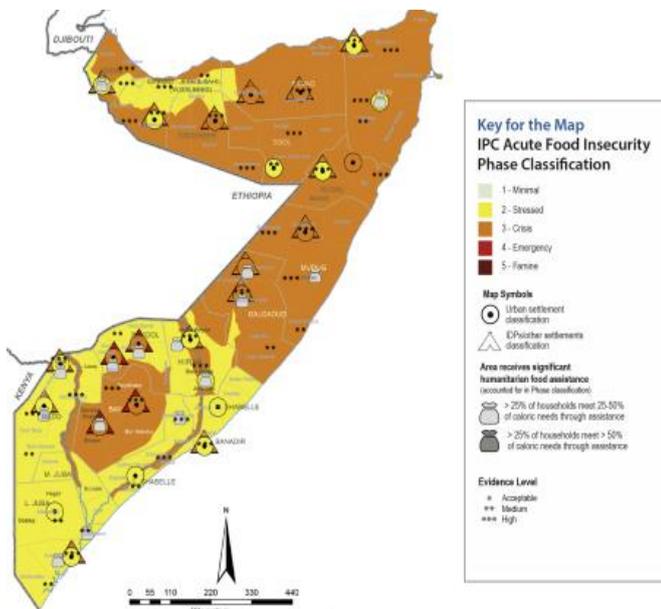




In Somaliland and Puntland people must walk an average of three hours for water that is barely potable. Photo SRCS.

Appeal No: MDRSO025	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 15 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 25 million¹	
Glide No: DR-2025-000172-SOM	People affected: 2.5 million, projected to increase from Oct. to Dec. 2025	People to be assisted: 450,000
DREF allocation: CHF 981,311	Appeal launched: 02/10/2025	Appeal ends: 31/12/2026

¹The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in response to the emergency. It includes the SRCS's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 10 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 15 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



Latest IPC data with projections for Oct. to Dec.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Escalating humanitarian crisis in Puntland and Somaliland: Somalia is facing a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis in Puntland and Somaliland, where prolonged dry conditions have affected over 2.5 million people across 26 districts including 887,000 people in severely impacted areas. Rural communities are experiencing acute shortages of water and food, compounded by significant funding cuts that have severely weakened the humanitarian response.

This is not a seasonal shock, it is a systemic collapse driven by climate change, insecurity and the erosion of essential services. Years of recurrent drought, environmental degradation and collapsing essential services have left communities on the brink. The failure of the 2025 *Gu* rains, usually from March through April, has intensified an already dire situation. Communities now face the threat of another failed *Deyr* rainy season, from October through December.

To ensure that the voices of affected communities are accurately reflected, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), with support from IFRC and partners, conducted a detailed humanitarian analysis between August and September 2025.

This analysis draws on SRCS-led assessments carried out through ongoing emergency response operations and long-term resilience programmes, including Enhanced Vulnerability & Capacity Assessments (eVCA), which capture community perspectives.

The report also incorporates appeals from local authorities, from findings by the Inter-Agency Drought Assessment in Puntland and Somaliland, and from Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)² projections for October through December 2025, published on 23 September. Together these sources provide a comprehensive picture of the humanitarian situation and inform coordinated response planning.

Funding shortfalls and operational collapse: The crisis is being exacerbated by a sharp reduction in global funding. The operational environment has deteriorated significantly, with widespread funding cuts forcing the suspension of essential services, including targeted supplementary feeding programmes, immunization campaigns and basic health and education services. These are not temporary disruptions, they represent a structural weakening of the humanitarian architecture. The result is a widening gap between escalating needs and shrinking response capacity, with women and children bearing the heaviest burden.

Community coping mechanisms and services at the breaking point: Community coping systems are woefully overtaxed. Communities have been sharing resources, relocating and activating traditional safety nets. But without urgent support, these coping systems are at risk of collapsing.

Water scarcity has reached critical levels too. Repeated climate shocks have pushed traditional water sources to the brink, have disrupted agricultural recovery and have triggered widespread displacement. Strategic boreholes are non-functional, water trucking is unaffordable, and contamination is widespread.

² <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159740/?iso3=SOM>

Women and girls are disproportionately affected, often walking long distances to collect water.

Health systems are collapsing as well. Many maternal and child health facilities are closed or barely functioning due to lack of supplies, staff and therapeutic programmes. Disease outbreaks are on the rise, threatening already vulnerable populations with measles, pertussis (whooping cough) and diphtheria.

Food insecurity has reached crisis or emergency levels in many districts now too. In some areas, livestock losses exceed 80 per cent, devastating pastoralist livelihoods and eroding purchasing power. Several districts are approaching IPC Phase 4 (“Emergency”) thresholds. Malnutrition is rising sharply with this, especially among children under 5 and pregnant or lactating women.

There is now a growing trend of rural-to-urban migration, as families move in search of water,

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Somalia is thus facing a deepening humanitarian crisis driven by these severe funding cuts, by climate shocks, by disease outbreaks and by insecurity. The northern regions of Puntland and Somaliland are particularly affected.

With global funding sharply reduced, many humanitarian agencies have withdrawn, leaving SRCS as the sole organization in some areas. In these communities, SRCS remains the primary—and often the only—source of support.

In response, SRCS activated anticipatory and recovery mechanisms in April of this year, reaching over 150,000 people in Puntland and Somaliland with early warning activities, cash assistance, health services through mobile clinics and rehabilitated water systems. However, the scale of need still far exceeds current resources.

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 25 million to scale up SRCS’s community-led, multi-sectoral response and reach 450,000 of the most affected and vulnerable people. This represents 18 per cent of the overall affected. The response is designed to meet emergency needs and to build community resilience by providing durable solutions.

food and humanitarian assistance. Pastoralists are on the move, often relocating to already overstretched settlements.

The closure of Gender-based Violence (GBV) centres due to funding cuts has left thousands without access to critical services. Protection risks are escalating as well, particularly for women, girls and persons with disabilities.

Somalia’s natural environment continues to degrade too, due to recurrent droughts, deforestation and overgrazing, further intensifying food insecurity and displacement.

Without scaled-up assistance and anticipatory planning, communities already under strain may face a new wave of food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protection risks, compounding the crisis and pushing systems beyond their limits.



“I walked one hour to Tageer to get water and will walk another one hour back”, said Bile Katum, pastoralist. “We’re struggling with food and water, and our animals are dying from diseases”. His camel is already suffering from eye disease.

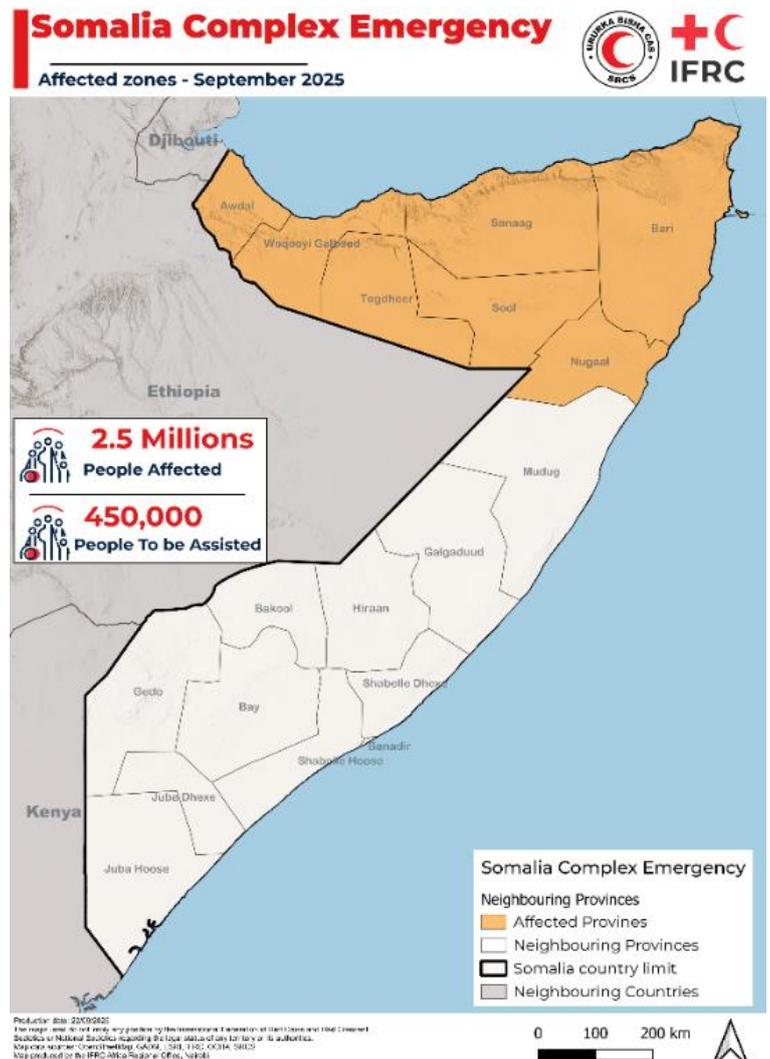
TARGETING

Through this appeal, SRCS aims to assist the communities most vulnerable to, and most affected by, drought, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and service disruptions, all exacerbated by reduced global humanitarian funding. The focus will be on Somaliland and Puntland, targeting 450,000 people mainly from rural and pastoralist communities.

SRCS will take a three-tiered approach to identifying and prioritizing people in need, focusing on tackling the root causes of this humanitarian crisis, ensuring that the response has a durable and resilience-focused impact:

1. Immediate response: strengthen coping mechanisms of families in survival mode through targeted emergency assistance; assist those already affected or at risk of worsening conditions, prioritizing households without access to basic services, based on recent assessments and community input.
2. Durable solutions: prioritize early recovery and durable solutions in access to water, food and health services; all sectoral interventions will be designed and implemented with a focus on durable solutions that strengthen the long-term resilience, self-reliance and well-being of the most affected and vulnerable communities.
3. Anticipatory action: targeting communities at risk of imminent shocks such as drought or disease outbreaks, to reduce impact through early interventions; establish early warning mechanisms and foster anticipatory planning.

This should not be seen as merely short-term action but as part of the same, simultaneously triggered set of interventions in addressing community needs with immediate and lasting impact. The selection of target areas, communities and households will be guided by existing needs assessment data, IPC classifications and community-led verification processes.



"Our only goal is to survive."

Haji Mohamed Malin, 66, a community leader in Xamxamaa village, describes how the drought has driven 70 displaced families to his community, adding to the strain on already limited resources.

"We try to help, but we can barely provide one meal a day," he says.

Water is the most urgent need. All 50 berkads are dry and there's no borehole. A single truckload costs \$250, far beyond what families can afford.

"Ten to fifteen households share one delivery, waiting hours for water from forty-five kilometres away. It doesn't last a week," says Mohamed.

His biggest worry is his four-year-old daughter, Asma.

"She plays with the little water in our tank, watching grass grow around it. I don't know how to explain to her that we may not be able to refill it."



PLANNED OPERATIONS

With support from IFRC and its membership, SRCS will lead a coordinated, multi-sectoral response built around the three pillars below, with cross-cutting activities, for immediate response, durable solutions and anticipatory actions. All activities will be community-led and implemented in coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners.

**Pillar 1: Integrated assistance -
Emergency assistance and
strengthening livelihoods,
empowering communities to
build sustainable income.**

**Pillar 2: Community health
and nutrition - Improving
access to quality health
services and promoting
community well-being.**

**Pillar 3: WASH - Ensuring
safe water access and
improved hygiene
practices for healthier
communities.**

Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI); Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA); Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Environmental Sustainability

National Society Strengthening

Integrated Assistance (Multi-purpose Cash [MPC], Livelihoods and Shelter)



- To meet immediate needs, SRCS will deliver Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) transfers, enabling households to access food, water, healthcare and shelter while preserving



dignity and promoting self-reliance. These cash transfers will complement other interventions, including health and nutrition support, water and sanitation services, practical training, access to tools and strengthened links to essential services and community safety nets. While addressing immediate needs the cash grants also aim to build household resilience and support pathways to durable solutions.

- SRCS will support farming, fishing and pastoralist communities through long-term, climate-smart interventions aimed at protecting household incomes and promoting environmental sustainability. In agriculture, this includes the provision of (1) drought-resistant seeds, (2) tools, (3) organic fertilizers, (4) irrigation systems and (5) training in climate-resilient farming techniques, training in pest control and training in post-harvest handling. For fishing communities, SRCS will distribute gear, will offer training in sustainable practices, and will improve infrastructure to enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact.
- Pastoralist communities will benefit from livestock restocking, improved access to feed and water, and the rehabilitation of grazing water points to support herd mobility and herd health. To reduce reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods, SRCS will promote diversification through vocational training, market-based initiatives and support for small businesses. Environmental protection will be integrated across all interventions, with efforts to reduce land degradation, restore ecosystems and build long-term resilience.
- SRCS will provide basic shelter support to people on the move, ensuring safe, dignified and appropriate solutions for displaced households seeking shelter, seeking water, seeking livestock fodder and seeking healthcare, or those fleeing conflict.

Community Health & Nutrition



- SRCS will scale up access to essential health services in underserved and crisis-affected areas. Through emergency mobile clinics and static clinics, communities will receive preventive care, treatment and health education, while long-term capacity is built to strengthen resilience against future health shocks.
- Mobile outreach will be expanded to deliver immunizations, antenatal and postnatal care, and health education. Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will be integrated into community health systems, and coordination with partners will ensure reliable medical supplies and alignment with national health priorities.
- Community-based screening and referral systems will be reinforced to support children affected by malnutrition, with follow-up and defaulter tracing to ensure continuity of care. Health and hygiene promotion will be delivered to prevent childhood illnesses and disease outbreaks, especially in areas where malnutrition and infectious diseases are closely linked. SRCS will also work with partners to ensure access to nutritional supplements and build the capacity of health staff and volunteers for effective case management.
- These efforts will anchor a community-driven, preventive approach to health, aiming to reduce vulnerability and build long-term resilience.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)



- SRCS will scale up access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in underserved and high-risk communities. Emergency response will be supported along with efforts to build durable water infrastructure, such as, *berkads*, shallow wells, sand dams and irrigation systems, with an emphasis on solar-powered technologies and contamination prevention.
- To promote safe hygiene practices, SRCS will distribute hygiene kits to households and schools, and will lead culturally appropriate, community-driven hygiene promotion

campaigns. A WASH package will target pastoralists, farmers, internally displaced persons, and schools, aiming to build sustainable access and resilience across vulnerable populations.

Protection & Prevention

	<p>Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>SRCS will promote climate-conscious practices across all sectors and will support community-led natural resource management to build long-term resilience. Activities include tree planting, soil erosion control through gabions and terraces, and sustainable land and water use integrated into livelihoods and WASH programming. Infrastructure projects will be designed to minimize environmental impact and to enhance climate adaptation. Communities will be actively engaged in environmental stewardship, linking recovery to durable solutions.</p>
	<p>Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI)</p> <p>SRCS will ensure safe, equitable access to services by applying PGI minimum standards across all sectors. Assistance will be tailored to the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, using disaggregated data to guide inclusive targeting. Protection risks will be assessed and mitigated, while awareness campaigns and distribution of dignity kits will support GBV and child protection efforts. Staff and volunteers will be trained in PGI principles, with referral pathways in place to uphold dignity and strengthen community resilience.</p>
	<p>Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA)</p> <p>CEA will underpin all programme activities, ensuring that the affected communities are the ones who shape and strengthen the response. SRCS will promote meaningful participation, transparent communication and responsive feedback mechanisms across all sectors. Staff and volunteers will be equipped with the tools and skills to engage effectively, while dedicated CEA processes will support all response sector interventions, anchoring community ownership and long-term resilience.</p>

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>IFRC Membership and Movement Coordination</p> <p>This Emergency Appeal adopts a Federation-wide approach, leveraging the collective expertise and resources of active National Societies under a unified response plan. The IFRC Secretariat coordinates contributions, analysis and information sharing to ensure a harmonized response to the hunger crisis. In parallel, SRCS and ICRC will collaborate under the Movement Coordination Agreement, guided by Strengthening Movement Coordination & Cooperation (SMCC) principles and by the Seville Agreement 2.0, to ensure coherent and effective Red Cross Red Crescent operations.</p>
	<p>IFRC Secretariat services</p> <p>IFRC will facilitate an effective Federation-wide response, through support from the surge network, the Nairobi Country Cluster Delegation and the Africa Regional Office. It will focus on strategic operational coordination, technical support, humanitarian diplomacy and National Society Development.</p>
	<p>National Society Strengthening</p> <p>In line with its core mandate, the IFRC Secretariat, Partner National Societies (PNSs) and ICRC will continue to strengthen key areas of the National Society as identified in their organizational National Society Investment Framework (NSIF). Attention will be focused on</p>

the operational and management capabilities in branches that are responsible for programme delivery, with a strong focus on branch development and digitalisation, pre-positioned stocks, volunteer development, fleet capacity, community-based information systems and accountability system strengthening as critical areas.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After December 2026, response to this humanitarian crisis will continue under the [IFRC Network Somalia Country Plan for 2027](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of the ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared promptly, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.



SRCS longer-term water rehabilitation projects – shall well and solarization. Photo SRCS.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT

Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)



Core areas of operation

Community-based Health & Care (CBHC) focuses on preventive, promotive and basic curative health services.

Disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Mobilize communities for inclusive and peaceful environment promoting human dignity, protection, safer access, participation and safety.

National Society Development

Staff and Volunteers

Number of staff:	1,118
Number of volunteers:	20,000
Number of branches:	18
Number of sub-branches:	130

SRCS operates through 18 branches across Somalia, 6 in Somaliland, 3 in Puntland and 10 in South Central, with coordination offices in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. With over 1,000 staff and a strong network of 5,100 active and 20,000 community volunteers across 130 sub-branches, SRCS has deep local reach. Its long-standing presence and trusted networks enable SRCS to deliver lifesaving assistance in remote and high-risk areas often beyond the reach of other humanitarian actors.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC Nairobi Cluster Delegation, in collaboration with the IFRC Africa Regional Office, is providing direct technical support to SRCS and Partner National Societies (PNSs). This support includes active engagement with key partners such as the British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent and Türk Kızılay. Each partner contributes to various aspects of emergency preparedness, emergency response and long-term programming.

To ensure transparency and collective accountability, IFRC will lead Federation-wide reporting for the emergency response, showcasing the unified efforts of the IFRC membership in delivering humanitarian assistance to affected communities. Coordination efforts go beyond immediate relief, encompassing long-term resilience-building and National Society Development initiatives.

The IFRC network's collaborative 'Way of Working' is reflected in regular coordination with both in-country and remote PNSs during strategic planning, multi-year operations and emergency responses. SRCS leadership reinforces this approach by promoting inclusive consultations that support harmonized response and development efforts. Membership coordination is maintained through monthly and ad hoc meetings, fostering shared leadership and strategic alignment.

This approach is further strengthened by the National Society Investment Framework (NSIF), which prioritizes targeted support through the NSIF Dashboard. The framework enhances strategic coordination and ensures coherent engagement across the IFRC membership.

Movement coordination

A Movement Coordination Agreement has been in place since April 2025, providing a framework for collaboration among SRCS, IFRC, ICRC and most Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. ICRC has had a permanent presence in Somalia since 1977 and operates in the country through a network of 12 offices across the country. It is active in the field of Protection (including detention) and assistance in the areas most affected by conflict and violence, both along and across frontlines, in close proximity to the population. The ICRC team consists of 361 staff, including 49 internationals. ICRC works in close

partnership with SRCS and other components of the RCRC Movement. It engages with all parties to the conflict, in collaboration with SRCS.

In response to the drought affecting Somaliland and Puntland, ICRC will only intervene in areas affected by conflict/violence.

External coordination

SRCS is actively coordinating with local authorities, other humanitarian agencies and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to ensure alignment with the broader drought response strategy. Coordination takes place through regular participation in joint meetings convened by OCHA and/or the authorities, where humanitarian actors share updates, plans and assessments. Through these platforms, SRCS contributes to shared assessments and planning processes, helping to minimize duplication of effort, to identify gaps and to ensure that the response complements national efforts.

Contact information

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Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.