

Baidoa and Burhakaba

Famine alert 1 | 6 September 2022

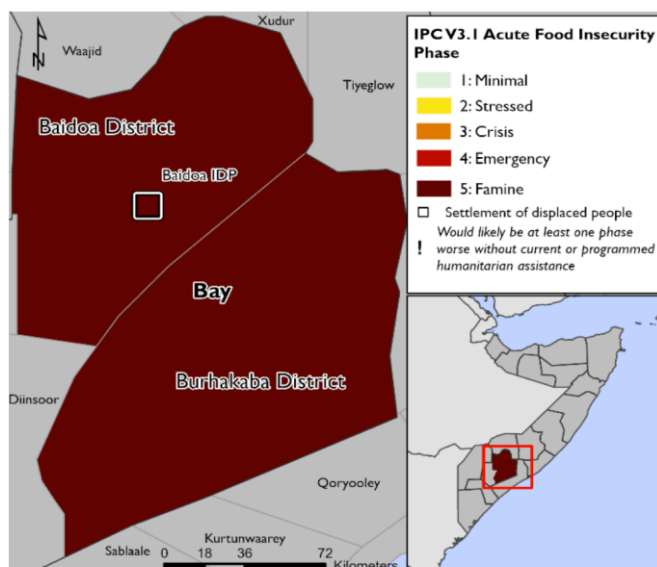


ACTED

For months, Baidoa and Burhakaba have been trending towards famine conditions. [Alerts have been raised](#) and the situation has continued to deteriorate.

For months, it has seemed only a matter of time before the specific technical indicators converged upon a famine declaration. As of 6 September, Baidoa and Burhakaba are as close to famine as can be without actually being in famine. In the [words of ERC Martin Griffiths](#), 'famine is at the door, and today we are receiving a final warning'.

For months, communities have suffered from failed rains, conflict and inflated food prices. It is unsurprising we find ourselves where we do. Two keynote reports released on 5 September confirm the impact on families:



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Projected food security outcomes, Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, October-December 2022

- Amongst Baidoa IDPs, the acute malnutrition rate is 28.6%. Amongst Baidoa and Burhakaba agro-pastoralists, it is 24.9%. As compared to a famine threshold of 30% ([IPC](#));
- Amongst Baidoa and Burhakaba agro-pastoralists, the crude death rate is 1.69, compared to a famine threshold of 2. The under-five death rate is 3.72, compared to a famine threshold of 4 ([IPC](#));
- Levels of acute malnutrition among children, and the rate of hunger-related deaths, are expected to meet famine thresholds between October and December 2022 ([FEWS NET/FSNAU](#)).

In short, there will be famine unless there is an '[urgent funding surge](#)'.

Key messages

- **A famine declaration should not be a pre-requisite for additional funding:** Families in Baidoa and Burhakaba are already in a catastrophic situation. It appears that IPC 3 (crisis) and IPC 4 (emergency) are becoming normalized. The need for additional funding is clear, and the time for that additional funding is now to avoid famine.
- **Humanitarian actors must urgently prioritize their responses:** Notwithstanding the need for more funding, there are significant resources already in play in Somalia. Humanitarian actors must urgently recognize the exceptional situation and make quick, difficult decisions to divert assistance to priority areas. This will likely mean NGOs ceding comfortable programming in urban and peri-urban areas to push further into harder to reach locations, embracing the capacities of local organizations.
- **Vulnerable groups must be centralized in responses:** Targeting must extend beyond classical conceptions of vulnerability to include minority clans. IDP arrivals from minority clans are often the most in need due to their weaker [circles of social connectedness](#).



Testimony: Hafat-3 IDP site, Baidoa

Hafat-3 is an informal IDP site located in Baidoa, home to 780 people. According to ACTED site-profiling data, the main reasons for displacement are: food (90%); water (33%); and insecurity (31%). 65% of IDPs have a 'poor' Food Consumption Score, and 33% are 'borderline'.

'Thousands of people are joining the already crowded IDP sites, which is further deteriorating the humanitarian situation in the sites. People are dying. In Hafat-3, there have been four reported deaths in the last three weeks due to hunger.'

Liban Mukhtar, ACTED Southwest State Area Coordinator

ACTED's approach is straightforward:

1. Enter the IDP site as a CCCM actor;
2. Directly respond to vulnerable households with cash assistance;
3. Engage other actors (in this case, WASH and health) to fill in service gaps.



Hafat-3 is one example but the story is repeated across the many IDP sites in Baidoa. [ACTED has a presence in many of them](#), but new sites are emerging as new arrivals continue to come.

'Humanitarian assistance on the ground is coming too late. It is time for us to collectively stand together and save the lives of people in Baidoa and Burhakaba, instead of regretting the impact later.'

Liban Mukhtar, ACTED Southwest State Area Coordinator





ACTED operations in Baidoa and Burhakaba

Southwest State is ACTED's largest area of operations in Somalia. ACTED has access and is implementing a range of humanitarian programs in both Baidoa and Burhakaba.



93 IDP sites

provided with site-level coordination and management



86,352

individuals receiving cash assistance



25,920

individuals accessing newly constructed latrines



48,096

individuals accessing clean and drinkable water



5,892

individuals receiving shelter kits

ACTED current priorities in Baidoa and Burhakaba

 **Scale up and speed up:** ACTED is committing all its available resources to avert famine:



An additional 24,780 individuals will receive cash assistance to meet their food needs;



At least 37,020 individuals will receive water trucking;



Additional coordination structures will be installed in new IDP sites;



Additional shelter kits will be distributed in IDP sites.

 **Prioritize responses and centralize vulnerable groups.**

 **Demonstrate impact and advocate for additional resources.**



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