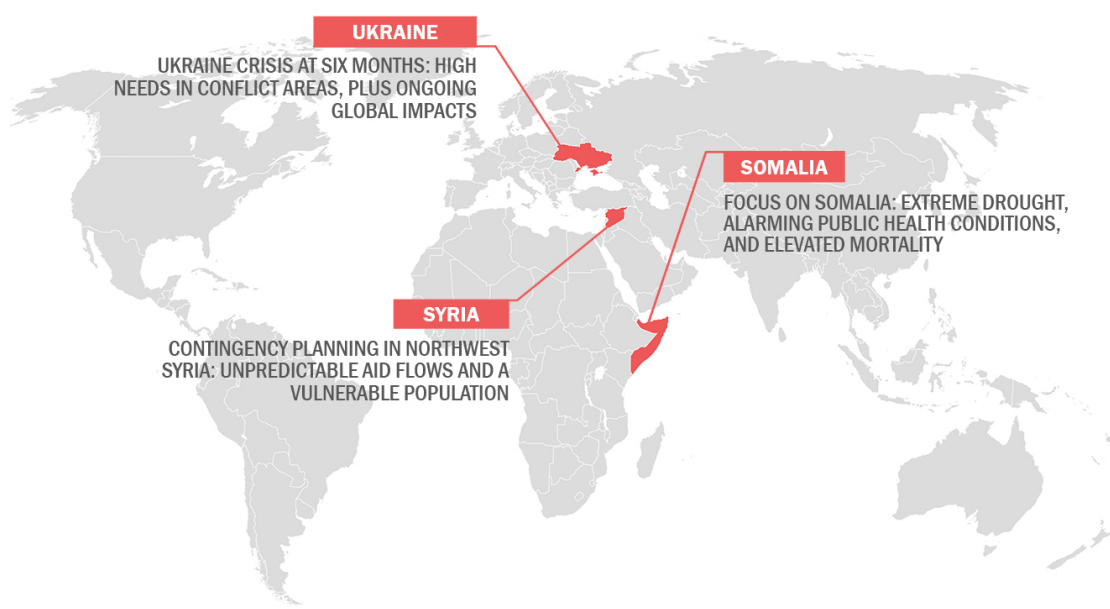


# MEDIA AUGUST 2022 BULLETIN

## Global instability intensifies humanitarian needs in long-running crises

The climate crisis, rising food insecurity, and soaring inflation are being felt in all corners of the globe. Our August Media Bulletin helps make sense of these global dynamics and how they are exacerbating humanitarian conditions in protracted crises like Somalia and Syria. We also take a look at the Ukraine conflict at six months, and how the ongoing crisis is both driving needs inside the country and contributing to rising needs elsewhere.

In this bulletin:



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## SOMALIA

**FOCUS ON SOMALIA:** Extreme drought, alarming public health conditions, and elevated mortality.

For the better part of a year, humanitarian agencies and food security experts have **warned** of a potential famine in Somalia, and although a formal declaration has yet to be made, conditions are dire.

The main driver of these extremely alarming conditions in Somalia has been an unprecedented drought, following four consecutive failed rains that have impacted the wider Horn of Africa region. Considered to be the worst drought situation in over 40 years, the global climate crisis is a likely underlying factor, driving extreme weather and intensifying natural disasters. Other global factors, including rising food prices and an **arguably disproportionate** prioritization of funding and resources towards **the Ukraine response**, have further exacerbated needs.

**Earlier projections** for the May-September period estimated that approximately 7.1 million people across the country were likely experiencing high levels of food insecurity. The humanitarian community now awaits the release of the latest analysis, due in early September. However, there is already clear evidence that poor public health conditions faced by people displacing due to the drought are driving higher mortality – regardless of whether a famine is ultimately declared in these areas. With the prospect of a fifth failed rainy season, it is **crucial to scale up water and sanitation interventions alongside other humanitarian assistance**.

### What is famine?

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), **famine is defined** as “an extreme deprivation of food. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition are or will likely be evident.” Due to the gravity and implications of declaring a famine, the IPC bases this decision on analysis of multiple evidence sources according to specific protocols, and a final determination must be reached through technical consensus and confirmation from a Famine Review Committee. Drivers of extreme food insecurity can be manmade or climate-related – for example conflict, disease outbreaks, economic crises, drought, flooding, or inadequate humanitarian response.

In parallel with the current IPC analysis process, REACH has produced an advocacy brief focused on Baidoa and Buur Hakaba districts in south-central Somalia, where mortality and nutrition outcomes continue to deteriorate. This brief looks at data collected by REACH and also analyses key secondary sources from food security and public health agencies, highlighting the urgent need to respond to elevated levels of acute malnutrition and mortality in these areas.

**Alongside deteriorating food security, vulnerable populations in these areas also face:**

- Ongoing disease outbreaks (measles, cholera, diarrhoea)
- Poor sanitation and hygiene conditions
- Limited access to health facilities
- Extreme water insecurity due to prolonged drought conditions

In addition, the REACH Somalia team collects data from hard-to-reach settlements in the centre and south of the country on a regular basis. The most recent round of this Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) exercise was conducted in May, where 1,805 interviews with key informants from 600 hard-to-reach settlements were conducted.

**Findings from the May round support and confirm concerns over the dire conditions in drought-affected areas:**

- Drought continued to be a key driver of new displacement, as people moved in search of food and water
- Water scarcity was reported to be causing tensions between displaced and host community populations in certain areas
- Crop failure and livestock deaths were widely reported, having a dramatic impact on livelihoods at a time when the prices of food, water, and other commodities were rising

### Further reading

- Read the Baidoa and Buur Hakaba advocacy brief and **Humanitarian Situation Monitoring key findings brief** on our website.
- Watch the video above, where our global team provides further insights on this urgent crisis



## SYRIA

**CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN NORTHWEST SYRIA:**  
Unpredictable aid flows and a vulnerable population

After much uncertainty around renewal of the UN Security Council resolution allowing cross-border humanitarian aid from Turkey into northwest Syria, the resolution was ultimately extended for an additional six months in July. Although the renewal averted an immediate humanitarian catastrophe, concerns remain among response actors regarding long-term planning and the ability to deliver sustained, predictable aid – especially as the fate of any future renewal will again rely on **Security Council geopolitics**.

REACH Syria produced a recent analysis that sheds light on humanitarian conditions in northwest Syria and how large global events are directly impacting vulnerable households that have already endured 11 years of conflict:

- Economic trends in greater Idlib and their humanitarian impacts. This analysis brings together several recent data sources to illustrate why the need for sustained and predictable humanitarian aid to northwest Syria is vital: rapid depreciation of the Turkish lira and market impacts of the Ukraine crisis have **exacerbated needs and vulnerabilities among households, who are turning to negative and at times dangerous coping strategies to meet their basic needs**.

### Further reading

- Read the our **full article** about economic trends and humanitarian contingency planning in northwest Syria, with links to the detailed report.



## UKRAINE

**UKRAINE CRISIS AT SIX MONTHS:** High needs in conflict areas, plus ongoing global impacts

24 August marked six months since the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, which to date has resulted in more than **6.6 million people displaced internally** and nearly **6.4 million refugees** recorded across Europe. Active conflict in recent months has been concentrated in the eastern oblasts, where needs among remaining civilian populations are expected to be severe. The rippling effects of the crisis both in Europe and around the world continue to be felt, especially economic consequences and impacts on global food supply.

Recent research and analysis by REACH teams in Ukraine delve into both internal and external consequences of the ongoing conflict:

- **Humanitarian needs were most severe in assessed settlements closest to conflict areas** – Svitlodarsk in Donetsk oblast, Vodiane in Dnipropetrovska, Pryvillia in Luhanska, and Valky in Kharkivska – according to the latest round of **Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)**, with data collected across 213 towns and villages in government-controlled areas\* between 30 May and 11 June.
- As humanitarian responders begin looking ahead to the harsh winter season in Ukraine, our recent **winterization analysis** looks at the implications of damaged energy infrastructure for conflict-affected populations and their winter heating needs. This analysis found **conflict-related damage to 13 thermal power plants across Ukraine, with the most significant damage in Donetsk, Luhanska, Dnipropetrovska, Poltavska, Chernihivska, and Kharkivska Oblasts**.
- Another infrastructure analysis, this time focused on **damage to grain storage facilities**, has wide-reaching implications for the current food security crisis across multiple humanitarian contexts. Over the last six months **at least 25 grain storage facilities nationwide have been destroyed, severely damaged, or occupied**, putting additional pressures both on grain export capacity and internal food supply.

\*Findings from areas assessed in non-government-controlled areas are available upon request

### Further reading

Read about each of these studies on our Ukraine Crisis Page, where you can also find links to full briefs, factsheets, and reports.

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT, its sister-organisation ACTED and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme UNOSAT.