

Source: Thomas Grimes



World Health Organization
WHO

Topic A: Mitigating the Impact of Malnutrition and Health Emergencies in the Horn of Africa

In 2024, the region of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHOA) accounted for 22% of the global humanitarian caseload. Emergencies in the region involve food security, droughts, epidemics, and displacement. Health threats include malnutrition, cholera and other water-borne diseases, malaria, dengue, rift valley fever, yellow fever, Mpox, measles, and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Millions of people in the GHOA are facing acute hunger due to one of the worst droughts in recent decades in the region, as well as conflict and instability. Many families have been displaced in the search for food, which often causes a deterioration in hygiene and sanitation, which has caused outbreaks of infectious diseases that, combined with low existing vaccination coverage and health service availability, have become a major concern.

The World Health Organization has coordinated with partners in the health sector to strengthen its response in the region to combat the worst effects of food insecurity and to give access to healthcare to the people in the GHOA. As more people continue to be affected by this crisis, the United Nations has deemed it necessary to act to ensure food and health safety for the individuals in the Greater Horn of Africa.