

SOMALIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-28 February 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,106,000

Total estimated number of Somali IDPs

12,239

Total number of non-Somali Refugees/Asylum Seekers

6,810

Forcibly evicted in Mogadishu in February 2015

769

Spontaneous cross-border movements from Kenya and Ethiopia registered during January upon arrival in Somalia

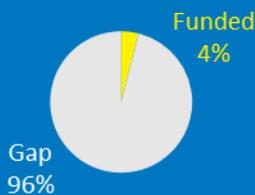
1,772

Supported refugee returns from Kenya since 8 December 2014 to 1 March 2015

FUNDING

USD 79,321,576

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

- Strengthen monitoring and data collection of returnees at Bossaso Port in cooperation with partners and local authorities
- Ensure durable solutions is mainstreamed in all activities
- Ensure access to registration procedures for new asylum seekers and RSD procedures for refugees in Puntland & Somaliland
- Strengthen reintegration efforts and strategic partnership with development actors in areas of return in South Central Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

- During February - the third month of the Pilot Phase for UNHCR support to Somalia refugee returns from Kenya – a total of 497 Somalis returned to areas of origin in Somalia. The six months Pilot Phase offers support to Somali refugees in Kenya who origin from Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo. Since the launch of the six months Pilot Phase on 8 December 2014 and until end of February, 1,954 persons have received support to return and reintegrate. **Return updates are published on weekly via @UNHCRSom**
- A new UNHCR supported garment factory in Galkayo and a carpentry/welding workshop employing members of the IDP and host community, has been established as part of UNHCR's Seeds for Solutions Projects. Production and marketing is ongoing with orders were received directly from local individuals, companies and mosques including: 60 school uniforms for boys and girls, 1,600 sanitary kits, 345 bed sheets and 69 items incl. school chairs, doors, gates and cupboards. **The factory is open for orders – contact UNHCR for more information.**
- In Somaliland, the Ministry of Education's approve access to national education for refugee and asylum seeker children. **UNHCR continues advocacy and helps prepare to enroll refugees and asylum seeker children for the coming scholastic year.**
- In South Central, construction of a larger Border Way Station in Dhobley is at the final stage. The permanent Way Station will strengthen the refugee return infrastructure, along with the temporary Border Way Station already and Home Way Stations in the three pilot areas of return (Kismayo, Luuq and Baidoa). **The new Border Way Station in Dhobley will have a daily capacity of 250 persons with access to basic services including accommodation, hot meals, clean water, sanitation and medical assistance.**



Population of concern

A total of **1.12 M** persons of concern in Somalia

Non-Somali Asylum Seekers | 9,495

Non-Somali Refugees | 2,744

IDPs | 1,106,000

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

On 6 February, Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali 'Gaas', Interim Juba Administration (IJA) Leader Sheikh Ahmed Islam 'Madobe', and Interim South West Administration (ISWA) President Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, issued a communiqué at the conclusion of their first ever consultative meeting which started on 4 January. The four leaders agreed on a number of points including the establishment of the Senior Leaders Consultative Forum for the FGS and regional authorities with the next meeting to be held in Garowe in April.

Following the endorsement by the Federal Parliament of the new Cabinet, UNHCR Representative meetings on 9 February with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Planning & International Cooperation. Meeting scheduled with new Minister of Interior in March to strengthen UNHCR's collaboration with federal authorities.

In Central Somalia, on 10 February, violence erupted between Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama (ASWJ) militia and pro-FGS forces in Guri Ceel district in the Galgaduud region, about 400 km north of Mogadishu. 10 to 20 people were reportedly killed, while 20-35 were injured. The ASWJ group had been fighting alongside pro-FGS forces against Al-Shabaab (AS), but this partnership recently broke down over power sharing disagreements. An inter-agency assessment mission in Guri Ceel by humanitarian actors including UNHCR on key priority needs identified shelter, water and food for the around 28,000 people (4,500 households) displaced.

On 20 February, a complex Al Shabaab attack at the Central Hotel in Mogadishu where 200 people, including FGS ministers and officials, attended Friday prayers. 28 people were reportedly killed and 54 injured.

In Somaliland, on 22 February, local media reported that the border between Somaliland and Djibouti was closed by Djiboutian authorities. No official statement has been made as to the reason why the border was closed.

New IDP displacement was reported to UNHCR on 24 February at Saaxdheer (Qudhac Maqsin) due to fighting between Khatumo and Somaliland (Sool region). Consequently, 150 households were displaced to Toga (20 KM away from Saaxdheer), 80 households to Gumburka, 50 households to Yamaysley and 70 households to Salax. UNHCR organised NFI distributions.

New Somaliland Cabinet introduced on 28 February, effective from 8 March. President of Somaliland mission to Turkey for talks with FGS on separation not yet started due to the presence of Somalilanders on the Somalia side. June elections postponed.

At the Interim Juba Administration (IJA) level, elders representing the diverse clans in the regions of Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo met to agree on the vetting process to identify suitable candidates to qualify for the IJA parliamentary seats. The process is advancing despite significant delays from Gedo region where Marehan clan is divided, one supporting IJA and one against.

Achievements

Protection

Protection Cluster

- Protection Cluster Somalia is led by UNHCR and co-led by DRC. In February 2015, 50 partners were trained on use of mobile technology to implement the Protection Cluster's pre- eviction assessment tool as part of efforts to strengthen protection of IDPs and other civilians on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights in collaboration with UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster. This capacity is available in Mogadishu for partner wishing to implement a pre- eviction assessment of settlements at risk of forced eviction. As part of a Protection Cluster mission to Bossaso and triggered by forced eviction of the Enji settlement in Bossaso town, the Protection Cluster initiated the development of an inter-cluster post- eviction assessment tool. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Benadir has shown interest in the tool for Mogadishu. The Cluster works to improve the eviction monitoring system for better coverage and data quality in Mogadishu. In February, the Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) decided to develop an thematic Protection Cluster strategy as a new fundraising tool. Work is to commence in March.



From the People of Japan



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



UKaid
from the British people



Italian Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



Common Humanitarian Fund



CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, UNHCR through implementing partner APD supports response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) project. The numbers of beneficiaries utilizing the services are increasing daily. GBV survivors (IDPs, returnees, host and receiving communities) receive psychosocial counseling, medical care, dignity kits and food vouchers. UNHCR GBV referral mechanism available to victims in Kismayo and Dhobley.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR provided psychosocial and medical support to 11 GBV victims including two rapes, two attempted rapes and seven physical assaults. Through GECPD implementing partner, UNHCR continued to support the running of two community offices in IDP settlements in Galkayo (Halaboqad and Buulo Baaley) where IDPs meet to organise activities and seek information/report GBV in confidentiality.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR Eligibility Officer and Registration Assistant conducted a two-day workshop on international protection, registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. The aim is to build the capacity of the Puntland Ministry of Interior's Refugee Affairs Department (RAD) in Garowe, UNHCR's partner in registration of new asylum seekers. The workshop served as introduction or refresher to RAD staff to ensure the continued protection of refugee and asylum seeker population. UNHCR's legal partner, KAALO, provided legal counselling to 31 refugees and asylum seekers in February. Eight cases were represented in court, and 17 cases visited in detention in Bossaso and Garowe. UNHCR partner GRT held 20 GBV related counselling sessions and provided counselling for 10 individuals.
- In Somaliland, there are currently 2,153 refugees (499 cases) and 6,805 asylum seekers (2259 cases) as of 28 February. One Syrian Asylum Seeker registered in 2015. 17 new arrivals are pending registration (18 of 2014/9 of 2015). A total of 17 RSD interviews were conducted in February and an array of complementary interviews and one appeal paper reviewed. 10 cases (43 individuals) were recognised as refugees in February. Refugee Status Determination (RSD) training with UNHCR's implementing partner Legal Clinic, Eligibility Committee, Immigration authorities, and UNHCR staff, was conducted and will continue until July 2015. Training on profiling, local integration and code of conduct were carried out.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, 94 cases are pending appeal review by UNHCR Hargeisa - 2,153 cases are pending first instance RSD processing.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, implementation of education services for refugees started during the reporting period. 57 refugee children continue to be enrolled in primary schools since 2014.
- In Bossaso, 449 refugee and asylum seeker children currently enrolled in school through UNHCR's implementing partner GRT.
- In Somaliland, following the Ministry of Education's approval that refugee and asylum seeker children have access to the national public education, meetings took place with education partners. On 25 February, a workshop was conducted in order to discuss and to welcome the instruction from the Minister of Education. School headmasters agreed to enroll refugees and asylum seeker children in the upcoming scholastic year in August 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, refugee protection trainings to be conducted for head masters and teachers. Assessments are currently underway with 450 school children enrolled at Sheikh Madar refugee school (phase out in June).

Health

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, provision of primary health care services to refugees initiated in February with Galkayo Medical Center.



- In Bossaso, UNHCR partner GRT continue to ensure that quality health care is provided to refugees and asylum seekers. During February, GRT referred 106 cases to the Bossaso General Hospital, including 25 emergency referrals, and 69 referrals in Garowe.
- In Somaliland, a health comparative review started in four hospitals in Hargeisa to provide health services to vulnerable refugee/asylum seekers with the inclusion of the UNDP medical officer. Health Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was finalised in February and shared with UNHCR's partner HYDA for endorsement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, a recent assessment identified 15 medical patients who cannot be treated locally due to the absence of medication and/or medical capacity. 18 vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees identified with serious medical conditions and in need of monthly medication. UNHCR is exploring support.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFI Cluster

- The UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster Somalia, co-led by UNHABITAT, is increasing mobile data collection with an on-line 4W matrix to ensure evidence based monitoring. The tool was rolled out in all regions during January and February. The draft of the pilot Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) rapid assessment in Mahadey was reviewed and to be adapted to both IDP and other settings (rural, urban poor, etc.). The Cluster is at the final stages of presenting the M&E framework, which will be disseminated and refined in the first session of a two weeks training in April. Further emphasis will be put on local solutions and beneficiary participation. Reports on all mapping exercises in South Central are being compiled and to be shared.

Achievements and Impact

- In Bossaso, UNHCR responded to the forced eviction of IDPs from a settlement in Bossaso's city centre through the distribution of 140 NFI kits to affected households. Through the UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster, evicted IDPs are supporting the construction of transitional shelters and latrines for households relocating to the land identified by the authorities.
- In Somaliland, a shelter/NFI meeting with UNHCR partners was conducted to evaluate 2014 NFI distribution activities. All NFI distribution partners were present and agreed on clear guidelines for 2015 distribution exercises, focusing on group distribution. IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers were identified as Persons of Concern for 2015 NFI distributions.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- In Somaliland, UNHCR partner AAH trained women's groups in business management as part of livelihoods activities. Discussions with Refugee Committees on Subsistence Allowance, Resettlement, RSD, education phase out, livelihoods, legal and health issues.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, construction of a larger Border Way Station in Dhobley is at the final stage. The permanent Way Station will strengthen the refugee return infrastructure, along with the temporary Border Way Station already and Home Way Stations in the three pilot areas of return (Kismayo, Luuq and Baidoa). The new Border Way Station in Dhobley will have a daily capacity of 250 persons with access to basic services including accommodation, hot meals, clean water, sanitation and medical assistance.

UNHCR also drilled a borehole in Dhobley which to provide regular supply of water to the Way Station and assist the local community in accessing clean water. Discussion is ongoing between UNHCR and the local community on the possibility to set up water kiosks and piping system for provision to IDP settlements and local community.



In Baidoa, Bay region, UNHCR through its partner INTERSOS, is providing support to refugee returnees from Kenya. The Way Station is part of the UNHCR reception infrastructure established to provide return and reintegration support. 35 returnee families (174 individuals) passed through the Way Station in February.



UNHCR funded construction/rehabilitation of Bayhaw Hospital, Baidoa. This enhances availability of medical services, strengthen the reintegration process of returning IDPs and refugees, and support peaceful co-existence among people in the receiving communities. The hospital serves 100-120 patients daily with free medical services.

First refugee returnees from Kenya originating from Luuq, Gedo arrived to the Way Station in February (8 HH/33 ind.). ProGres Lite, a biometric system, is used for verification. The returnees stayed one night, and received the return and reintegration package before proceeding home.



As part of UNHCR supported reintegration projects in Luuq, a communal slaughter house has been rehabilitated. The building was handed over to the slaughter house committee in the presence of local authorities, UNHCR and its implementing partner DRC.

- In Galkayo, drilling of a borehole in Salama 2 local integration settlement was initiated, and is to be completed in March. The borehole will provide water to integrating IDPs and host communities, supporting peaceful co-existence and local integration. A garment factory employing women and a carpentry/welding workshop for men (IDPs and host community members) has been established as part of UNHCR's Seeds for Solutions Projects. Progress is made in terms of production and marketing with orders were received directly from local individuals, companies and mosques including: 60 sets of school uniforms for both boys and girls, 1,600 pieces of sanitary kits, 345 bed sheets and 69 items incl. school chairs, doors, gates and cupboards. **The factory is open for further orders from any interested customers, incl. NGOs, aid agencies, authorities and private persons.**



Constructive dialogue during 2014 yields positive results in Bossaso. Dialogue has taken place involving the Puntland Government and Elders with the aim to expand solution-oriented programming for IDPs living in protracted displacement in settlements and under harsh conditions. On 21 February 2015, local residents donated a piece of land (2km x 400m) to the Bari Province Administration for IDPs that wish to settle permanently and integrate as a solution to their situation. A ceremony took place to make the positive development and the event was attended by multiple stakeholders and covered also by local media.



- In Somaliland, clearance was requested from the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRR&R) for one Ethiopian family willing to voluntarily return to Ethiopia.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Complaints from returnees at Way Stations about sorghum/porridge meals provided. Returnees request for rice meals and tea.
- Exploration of Mandera-Belet Hawa route for the returnees intending to return to Luuq. The currently used Liboi-Dhobley-Luuq is long, tiresome and tough, say refugee returnees who have used the route.

Working in partnership

As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR works closely with other UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels, in joint efforts to provide assistance and durable solutions to the people of Somalia. Through weekly inter-agency meetings and other platforms, UNHCR actively engages in coordination and information-sharing, particularly with UNSOM and OCHA. As a lead agency of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and the coordination of the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), UNHCR spearheads productive partnerships with more than 60 national and international NGOs.

- Since mid-2012, the UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium - a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs – has coordinated and supported IDP returns. The Consortium has further supported refugee returns from Kenya through reception infrastructure and assistance to return and reintegrate in areas of origin. See more at www.somaliareturnconsortium.org [new website]
- UNHCR Sub Office Galkayo covers operations in Hiraan and Galgaduud regions (Central Somalia) and Mudug regions (Puntland). Programmes are implemented in partnership with four NGOs – namely Danish Refugee Council, Relief International, Galkayo Medical Center, Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development. Other operational partners include UNOCHA, UNDSS, NRC and UNICEF. UNHCR’s cooperation with the Government and humanitarian clusters continued in February 2015 incl. activities undertaken by the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster and the Durable Solutions Working Group. UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster chaired by Danish Refugee Council in Galkayo is engaged in the implementation of three joint shelter projects
- UNHCR Field Office Bossaso works with local and international NGOs, Puntland authorities, and UN agencies to address protection concerns and pursue durable solutions for persons of concern in the region. UNHCR leads the Bossaso Protection Cluster, co-chairs the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) with IOM, and heads the Durable Solutions Working Group with local authorities. Shelter Cluster and monthly Inter-Cluster Coordination meetings are undertaken in Bossaso and Garowe.
- UNHCR Sub Office Hargeisa, through its Multi-Functional Team (MTF) composed by key staff members, conducted the 4th quarter (final) financial and performance verification with partners on projects implemented in 2014. In agreement with the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRR&R), one vehicle was transferred under ownership to the MRR&R and two vehicles were released through the MRR&R for re-deployment to Government offices in Puntland and Mogadishu. Partner Protection Unit/Programme Unit monthly meeting was conducted to discuss joint training and awareness raising activities in January-March 2015. A draft training strategy was jointly developed and is currently reviewed. UNHCR met with its partner NRC to discuss the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), Mixed Migration prevention and response mechanisms as well as Standard Operation Procedures. Field reporting mechanisms were agreed upon and finalized.



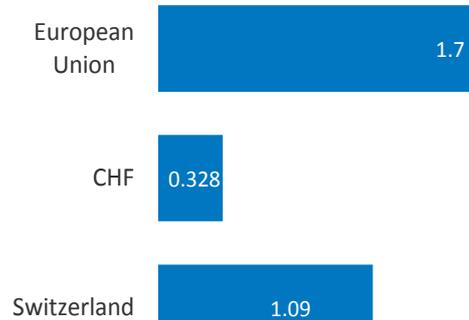
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Up to February 2015, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **USD 3.1 M**

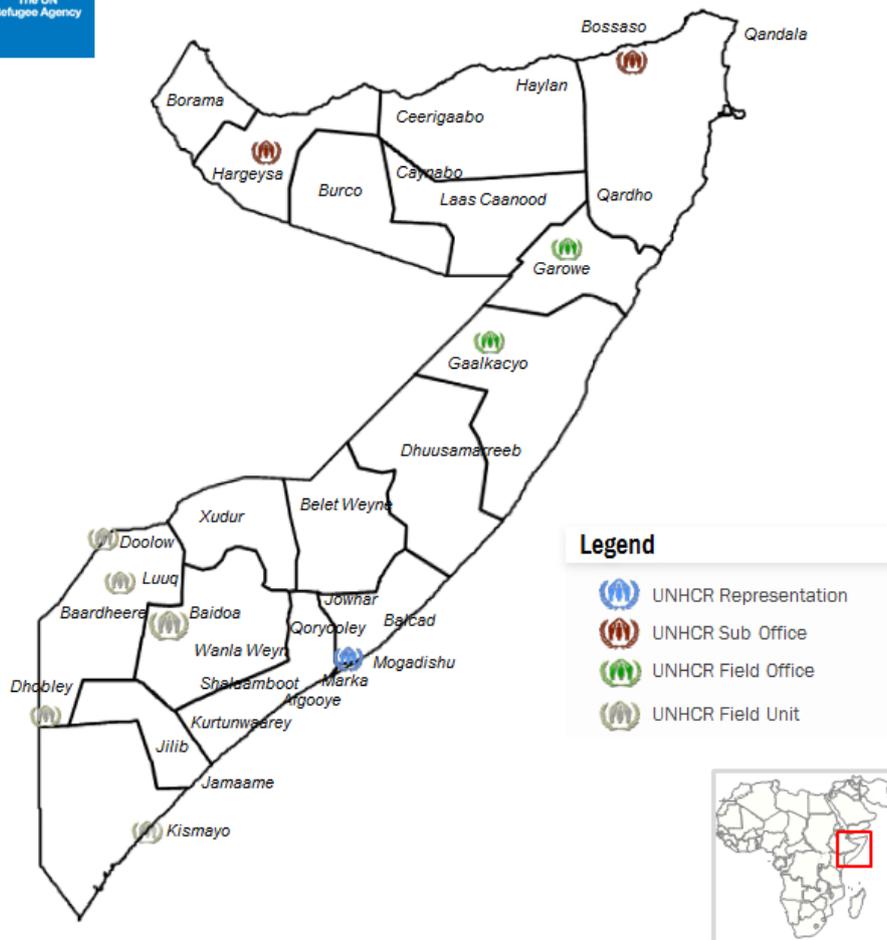
In 2014, total recorded contributions for the operation amounted to **USD 30.5M** from: [United States of America](#) • [Japan](#) • [European Union](#) • [Sweden](#) • [Canada](#) • [United Kingdom](#) • [Italy](#) • [Switzerland](#) • [IGAD](#) • [Kuwait](#) • [Common Humanitarian Fund](#) • [Central Emergency Response Fund](#)

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received in January 2015 (in million USD)



UNHCR Offices in Somalia



Contacts: Carlotta Wolf • Associate External Relations Officer • wolf@unhcr.org • +254 734 628 053 (Kenya) • +252 617 340 259 (Somalia)
 Ernesto Diaz • Information Management Officer • diaze@unhcr.org • +254 735 400 426 (Kenya)
 Alexandra Strand Holm • Communication Specialist • holm@unhcr.org • +254 733 12 11 47 (Kenya)

Links: Somalia Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/country.php?id=197>
 UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium <http://somalireturnconsortium.org/> [NEW]