The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and man-made factors, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world. Due to decades of poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and lack of development, the humanitarian situation remains critical in the country. Prolonged drought conditions have been devastating for Somali communities and continue to drive displacement, while ongoing conflict impacts protection and human rights, reduce resilience and hinder access to basic services.

In March and April, Somalia continued to face the locust crisis, as the locust swarms continued to grow and spread in the country. Furthermore, flash and riverine flooding, caused by heavy Gu rains in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands caused high water levels in the Juba and Shabelle river and affected 1.1 million people, displacing 415,000 people. On 16 March, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Somalia. Read IOM’s weekly COVID-19 Updates published in March and April here.

IOM contributed to the COVID-19 response in Somalia to halt further transmission of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including the socio-economic impact. For detailed information on IOM’s COVID-19 activities per programmatic area, please read more in IOM’s Weekly COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Updates.
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

**CCCM teams improve the living conditions and protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in sites and settlements and ensure equitable access to services and assistance of all persons in need in the regions of Kismayo, Doolow and Baidoa.**

Movement Trend Tracking (MTT) data for the months of March and April revealed 1,826 entries into and 672 exits from IDP sites in Baidoa. Individuals cited insecurity and a shortage for food as their reasons for leaving their home areas, while those leaving Baidoa were returning to their home areas to manage farmland.

To celebrate the International Women’s Day, jointly with IDP women groups, IOM organized different events in Baidoa and Doloow. In Baidoa, the celebration brought together 100 female IDP leaders and focused on eliminating discrimination against women and increasing women’s participation in camp management. In Kabasa IDP site, an event was organized by women groups who showed theatre plays about the role of women in the society.

The CCCM team also initiated a drainage excavation project to prepare for flash floods. A total of 1,580 meters were dug in locations vulnerable for flooding while sandbags were used to protect flood prone areas. The excavation was done by 350 casual workers selected from the IDP community. All 67 sites in which the drainage system was developed were not affected by the heavy Gu rains and floods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baidoa</th>
<th>Doolow</th>
<th>Kismayo</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171</td>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complaints received through the CFM</td>
<td>Complaints received through the CFM</td>
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</table>

In Kismayo, as the demand for land increases, three sites were given eviction notices. IOM and partners are following up to provide a solution by liaising with landowners to ensure that agreements are in place between Jubaland Refugees and IDPs Affairs (JRIA) and landowners, to reduce evictions.

In response to the needs of community members, general clean up campaigns were organized in Kismayo and Doolow. A total of 336 community volunteers participated in the campaign in Kismayo and cleaned nine IDP sites, while in Doolow 63 community members cleaned two IDP sites.
World Water Day, with the theme water and climate change, was celebrated on 22 March. IOM celebrated by conducting a social media campaign to advocate for environmentally sustainable water system solutions, and supporting government-led activities in Kismayo and Hargeisa.

In South West State, IOM completed the construction of 500 sanitation facilities for displacement affected communities in Baidoa. With this support, 2,000 households (12,000 individuals) living in 31 IDP settlements have access to sanitation facilities. Additionally, a borehole was completed in Bonkay village, including the construction of a conveyance system and storage. Trainings were held for five Community WASH Committees, eight hygiene promoters and six community water user and sanitation volunteers on how to treat water at the source and household level using chlorine and aqua tabs, and systematic water quality monitoring.

In response to the impact of flash floods in South West State, IOM rehabilitated three strategic communal water sources damaged by the 2019 Deyr rains. With support from CERF, the rehabilitation allows for access to sustainable and clean water for 7,500 crisis affected mobile populations residing in Hudur district town.

Meanwhile, piping was rehabilitated to allow for water points to flow to the health facility and schools in Garbaharey town, Gedo region, with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AfDB also supported tree planting activities to reduce environment degradation around strategic boreholes in seven villages in Galmudug State.

Finally, in coordination with the Ministry of Water, IOM handed over the completed solar powered shallow wells in Qamqam village in Kismayo.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Adequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to prevent dehydration and reduce the risk of water-related diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and other potential outbreaks. IOM Somalia’s WASH emergency programmes focuses on the immediate provision of WASH services to affected populations across Somalia. These interventions are among the highest priorities following the onset of any crisis, natural disaster or complex situation.

24,742 INDIVIDUALS assisted with SAFE WATER through WATER TRUCKING

60,490 INDIVIDUALS assisted with SAFE WATER through the WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

11,240 INDIVIDUALS GAINING ACCESS TO DIGNIFIED, SAFE, CLEAN & FUNCTIONAL Latrines

1,187 HOUSEHOLDS provided with HYGIENE KITS

51 HYGIENE PROMOTERS RECRUITED & TRAINED

90 COMMUNITY HYGIENE WORKERS RECRUITED & TRAINED

43,667 PEOPLE reached with HYGIENE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

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Migrant Health Division (MHD)

The Migrant Health Division (MHD) delivers and promotes accessible, equitable and comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes which contributes towards the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants, enabling them and host communities to achieve social and economic development. IOM Somalia MHD aims to deliver basic health care services for migrants and mobile populations who face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services due to the reoccurring drought and continuous conflict.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

On 12 March, the MHPSS project under the UN Peace Building Fund was officially launched in Mogadishu. IOM initiated a rapid MHPSS needs assessment in Doolow, Baidoa and Kismayo, to determine the needs and resources that will help in the design of the specific project activities and various types of MHPSS supports. Additionally, IOM recruited 11 psychosocial support workers to respond to the influx of new arrivals (returnees and migrants-on-transit) in Hargeisa, Bossaso and Mogadishu.

NUTRITION

IOM increased its nutrition services through outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP), targeting children under five years of age with malnutrition. A total of seven new OTP sites in Doolow, Baidoa and Dhobley, and Bardera were opened. Ministry of Health seconded staff were trained on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines and counselling practices. During the reporting period, a total of 16,769 children under five years of age were screened. Mothers were also counselled about exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding in order to improve the nutritional status of children.

CLINICAL MENTORSHIP

A clinical mentorship training was held in March in Addis Ababa for twenty national mentors from Somaliland, Puntland and Banadir regions who were selected by the Ministry of Health of the respective states. The participants were trained on symptoms and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, clinical protocols and case management. With the clinical mentorship programme, IOM contributes to improved HIV and TB service provision in Somalia, targeting displacement affected populations, mobile populations and host communities.
Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI)

The Shelter team consults with internally displaced people and local authorities on the provision of shelter and non-food items (S-NFI) to vulnerable populations. Depending on the affected community’s vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, IOM provides identified populations with transitional shelters or more permanent structures through in-kind and/or cash-based intervention.

3,000 households (26,128 individuals) received **S-NFI KITS** in Berdale **IN RESPONSE TO FLOODS**. Each household received a value of **USD 200 FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER KITS AND NFIS, AND UNCONDITIONAL CASH SUPPORT OF USD 50.**

3,000 households (23,607 individuals) received **NFI VOUCHERS** in Berdale and Tosweene.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM Somalia Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) strives to provide localized, up-to-date information on the basic needs of the target population, cross border mobility, displacement figures and trends in drought affected areas.

**29,937 ENTRIES INTO SOMALIA**

**16,383 EXISTS FROM SOMALIA**

Due to COVID-19 and border closures, a **59%** decrease was observed.

DTM published its annual report for 2019. The DTM team observed 260,073 movements in 2019; 46 per cent were incoming, while 54 per cent were outgoing. The majority of those interviewed came from Ethiopia (72 per cent), Kenya (12 per cent) and Djibouti (8 per cent). The majority of those leaving were attempting to reach Yemen (50 per cent), Ethiopia (33 per cent), Kenya (10 per cent) and Djibouti (6 per cent). Most movements were motivated by three main factors seasonal/agriculture (27 per cent), forced movement due to conflict (23 percent), or natural disasters (15 per cent).

For additional information you can download a copy of the DTM Movement Trend Tracking 2019 Annual Report for Baidoa [here](#), Doolow [here](#) and Kismayo [here](#).

Visit [dtm.com/somalia](http://dtm.com/somalia) to find DTM latest reports and dashboards.
Recovery and Durable Solutions (RDS)

The Recovery and Durable Solutions (RDS) Unit works to bridge humanitarian, development and peace/state building efforts and operationalize a paradigm shift from aid-agency driven modalities to one where the government and community co-design and lead their nationally aligned and owned programming. IOM Somalia RDS Unit activities promote: durable solutions for returnees and IDPs; increased social cohesion; improved government capacities to lead on durable solutions at Federal Member States and district levels in urban and peri-urban areas.

RDS programming is operational in Jubaland, South West State, and Hirshabelle.

Peacebuilding efforts got a boost in March with a one week awareness-raising session in Balcad, organized by Hirshabelle Insider Peace Network (IPN). Nearly 200 community members who were selected from different socio-economic groups and clans participated in an array of activities such as training in conflict resolution, painting slogans, reciting poetry and songs, and discussing socio-political issues affecting the community. The campaign was intended to support the stabilization efforts of Hirshabelle State by bringing different community members together and training them on conflict resolution mechanisms and creating a platform for the community to raise socio-political issues and concerns with government officials.

After nearly a month of efforts, the Adale reconciliation process concluded on 5 March. Tremendous progress was achieved towards realization of its objectives including, inter alia, resolutions of issues, created a sense of brotherhood and friendly atmosphere among the two sub-clans. A committee was drawn from the two sides with representatives from wider Abgaal clan to oversee implementation of the agreement reached.

IOM was pleased to hand over two projects in Mataban to community leaders including the district’s Chief Police Commander from the Federal Government of Somalia. The projects included 25 solar streetlights, and a market complex. The completion of these projects means that the community members can now move more safely after dark and improve and extend the hours of the marketplace.
Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation (DDRR)

The IOM Somalia Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation (DDRR) Unit works with marginalized youth at risk in Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism (C/PVE) and social cohesion, and supports the Federal Government of Somalia’s National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants.

In March, IOM livelihood field staff received livelihood training so that they can better assist low literacy beneficiaries to operate and manage their income generating opportunities after graduating from the rehabilitation programme. Due to the high unemployment rate in Somalia, upon graduation, most of the beneficiaries will turn to self-employment; therefore, the focus of the training was to equip the livelihood staff with the skills necessary to teach the beneficiaries the best way possible to manage asset, manage daily expenses, identify opportunities and risks, as well as plan ahead financially for the short-term and long-term future.

In Kismayo and Baidoa a group of men beneficiaries were busy utilizing their new sewing skills learnt and created face masks for their family members and the staff. This activity allows the beneficiaries to stay active, while contributing to their communities, which is an important step towards reintegration. Being able to contribute to their families in a productive way makes the beneficiaries feel valuable and capable to do something positive, especially in face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, IOM completed the outreach campaign that used interactive media and participatory techniques to increase community resilience to violent extremism in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. Campaign activities facilitated the creation of safe spaces for reflection on issues connected to violent extremism and the destructive emotional and social impact such violence has on community social networks. More than 1,000 community members were engaged in various outreach activities, such as art-workshops, documentary movies, radio talk-shows and radio-dramas, and more than 500,000 people engaged through social-media participation.
On 15 March, IOM held a closing ceremony for the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) Mentorship Programme in Mogadishu. The ceremony was held to award 11 administration and finance staff and eight human resources staff on completing the four-month Mentorship Programme. The ceremony was attended by the IND Directors of Human Resources, Finance, and Planning and Statistics. The programme aimed to increase effective service delivery of the selected IND departments based on continuous learning and soft skills development provided by expert mentors.

The English Language and Customer Care Training for frontline Immigration officers in Garowe, Galcayo, Bosasso, Baidoa and Kismayo was adjusted ahead of the end of the programme due to COVID-19 related restrictions on large gatherings. East Africa University commenced with online training of frontline immigration officers in mid-April to allow the activity to conclude in May.

During the months of March and April diaspora experts continued to contribute in their areas of expertise especially in the areas of health and education.

The first group of teachers graduated from the newly established Jubaland Teacher Training College. A total of 70 students completed the two-year Primary teachers Education (PTE) and learned teaching methodologies, curriculum delivery and planning and pedagogy. As part of the MIDA FINNSOM project, the College was started by the diaspora expert working at the Ministry of Education in Jubaland.

IOM continues to support the capacity of health service delivery in Somalia, and in March social workers based at Hargeisa TV hospital conducted a one-day training for ten (six female and five male) local doctors and nurses. The objective was to enhance trainee’s technical skills on disseminated evidence-based information to the patients and their families. Elsewhere, three diaspora experts, a paediatrician and community health nurse in Kismayo and a sterilization and theatre Nurse in Garowe expanded the scope of support provided to Garowe General Hospital in Puntland and Kismayo General Hospital in Jubaland.
In celebration of International Women’s Day (8 March) IOM held two focus group discussions (FGD) with 19 female returnees in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. The returnee participants ranged in age from 16 to 29 and were assisted to return back to Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Burao from Libya, South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt, and Tanzania between September 2017 and December 2019. All returnees who participated stated that they undertook their migration journey alone except for one returnee who travelled with her aunt.

To support the capacity and ongoing needs of returned migrants, a skills building training was held for ten returnees in Hargeisa by a photographer on basic photography skills. Five beneficiaries have been previously assisted with in-kind economic reintegration support to start up a photography studio. The aim of the training was to equip returnees with basic skills on visual storytelling and techniques to operate the camera and to be able to tell their stories.

An event was held to celebrate the third anniversary of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Horn of Africa (15 March) for 49 (13 female, 36 male) migrant returnees, community members including university students and government representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Office of Special Envoy for Migrant and Children’s Rights. During the event, the participants took part in an open dialogue on the role of social cohesion and peer to peer support in promoting sustainable reintegration.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In March, IOM conducted three awareness raising sessions through the MRCs in Bossaso and Hargeisa about the dangers of irregular migration, COVID-19 preparedness, services available through MRCs and closure of Yemeni borders. A total of 410 (147 female, 263 male) Ethiopian migrants and community members participated from an internally displaced persons camp in Hargeisa as well as areas in Bosaso frequented by Ethiopian migrants aiming to reach Yemen.

During data collection conducted in Bosasso among young Ethiopian Migrants on the Eastern Route, enumerators informed IOM about the urgent need to provide drinkable water to Ethiopian migrants in Baalada (Mama Oromo) and Tawakal camps. In coordination with the Puntland Ethiopian Community Committee, IOM distributed 8,000 litres of water to 250 Ethiopian migrants in the two locations and is planning weekly distributions to occur in May.
SUPPORT TO STRANDED MIGRANTS

In March, IOM assisted 90 migrants stranded in Bossaso, to return to Ethiopia, while three migrants returned to Ethiopia from Mogadishu. On 26 March, a project implementation agreement was signed with an Ethiopian Community Committee for temporary shelter provision for the migrants awaiting Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) assistance under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. Through this agreement, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative supports the Ethiopian Community Committee in Bossaso with beds and associated materials for shelter and three daily meals to vulnerable Ethiopian migrants and facilitate referral for vulnerability screening.

IN FOCUS

Let There Be Peace: Ceasefire and Reconciliation in Mudug Region, Somalia

Over three decades of intermittent fighting and revenge killing have left the communities of Mudug Region scarred and exhausted. Grieving over the countless lives lost, the communities were desperate for a genuine peace agreement. This watershed event finally came on 15 March 2020, when representatives of the warring clans assembled in the regional capital of Galkayo to endorse the terms of a truce.

To prevent the escalation and spread of violence into the entire Mudug region, the Federal Government of Somalia, the Office of the National Security Advisor (NSA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) rapidly outlined an intervention plan, supplemented by security guarantees from the Somali National Army (SNA). A Joint Ceasefire Committee of elders and a Joint Security Committee were established to facilitate agreements, which culminated in the signing of a ceasefire between the hostile clans. Read full story on the next page.
Let There Be Peace: Ceasefire and Reconciliation in Mudug Region, Somalia

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“The situation is worrying us again and our future is uncertain. The conflict here is deep and has been in place for the past 34 years.”

“The situation is worrying us again and our future is uncertain. The conflict here is deep and has been in place for the past 34 years,” said Mohamud (name changed), a 65-year-old resident from Afbarwaqo village located in the Mudug Region of Somalia. “The youth whose fathers and brothers have been killed by the rival clan neighbours are always in a position to revenge their deceased since there are no law enforcement agents in place,” he continued.

Four months prior, tensions erupted into armed clashes between clan militias of Afbarwaqo and Towfiq villages. The feud prompted the killing of more than 40 individuals and injured close to 60 people, resulting in the loss of property and livestock, and displacing the residents of both villages.

“From the year 2001 until the ceasefire agreement in December 2019, there was recurrent armed conflicts over revenge killings or grazing land,” said Ahmed (name changed), a watchman from Towfiq. “It caused huge displacement, loss of livelihood, lack of access to healthcare and education.”

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established to facilitate agreements, which culminated in the signing of a ceasefire between the hostile clans, stopping the bloodshed and saving lives.

The recurrent conflict is multi-faceted. Clan-based revenge killing is laced with state politics, borders, and boundaries. On the one hand are members of the Omar Mohammed sub-clan (Darod Clan, Majeerten) from Balibusle, supported by the Dir Clan from Towfiq (Puntland State); and on the other hand, are members of the the Sa’ad sub-clan (Hawiye Clan, Habar Gidir) from Bitaale and Afbarwaqo (Galmudug State).

“After the peace agreement in Galkayo, there was a huge relief among us. People were able to sleep well and attend to their daily activities without much fear of attacks at night and revenge assassinations.”

Following a grassroots approach to resolving the crisis, a Peace Committee, equally composed of members from both sides, was established to lead the peace process. With support from IOM, the Federal Government of Somalia played an oversight role, allowing for a community-driven process for peace to organically take shape. The 25-day reconciliation process started in Balibusle then moved onwards to Afbarwaqo, Towfiq, and Bitaale; leading to the validation meeting in Galkayo, which convened over 400 people from the four villages. This comprehensive undertaking provided space for both parties to share their thoughts and outline their plans for better coexistence. The validation meeting in Galkayo was followed by a high priority meeting supported by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) of the Federal Government of Somalia, which focused on solutions for lasting peace in the region. Elders from the region released an official communiqué on the reconciliation process and peace accord on 29 March 2020.

“After the peace agreement in Galkayo, there was a huge relief among us. People were able to sleep well and attend to their daily activities without much fear of attacks at night and revenge assassinations,” explains Halima (name changed), a mother of nine children living in Bitale Village.
The reconciliation was the concomitant sequel to the ceasefire signed on 18 December 2019, as part of the traditional process of brokering peace within the Somali context: ceasefire followed by reconciliation. The latter phase enabled both sides to air their grievances, deliberate overcompensation mechanisms, and address underlying root causes and imminent threats to the peace gains of the armistice.

“The recent Towfiq and Afbarwaqo peace agreement was the first one of its kind after a decade of recurrent armed conflict in the region.”

“The Federal Government of Somalia commits to supporting the Mudug community including peace-building networks and local authorities to conflicts,” stated Abdulkadir Dirshe, Peace and Reconciliation Coordinator (MoIFAR). “This can be done through capacity building; implementation of supportive peace-building programmes that contribute to conflict transformation, peace, and co-existence of divided communities; security improvement; and livelihood development.” He also emphasized the need to: “Capacitate and reform local municipal institutions and promote economic opportunities for stability and overcome the prolonged sustainable peace.”

“The recent Towfiq and Afbarwaqo peace agreement was the first one of its kind after a decade of recurrent armed conflict in the region. I believe that this was the result of the government’s serious efforts and the local people’s trust towards their national government,” explained Ahmed.

The report of the Secretary-General in Somalia with the mention of Towfiq-Afbarwaqo ceasefire and mediation can be found through these links in written format (p. 7) and Amb. Dahir Oman’s speech in video format (8:45).

Building on previous efforts, IOM continues to support the Federal Government of Somalia, civil societies, and grassroots committees to provide space for rebuilding communities. IOM acknowledges that sustaining peace in Mudug will require coherent and long-term support to build the capacity of Somali institutions to deliver good governance and strengthen the rule of law. At the time of writing, IOM is supporting the Somali Government’s reconciliation efforts in Adale district, Hirshabelle State.

“Reconciliation is a long process that takes time, effort, and commitment. It needs consistent and continuous support in addressing root causes of conflict, such as service provision in the event of resource scarcity, to prevent communities from backsliding into crisis,” explained Ilham Gassar, IOM Political and Stabilization Consultant.

The reconciliation activities of IOM Somalia are funded by the European Union’s Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (EU IcSP).
CEASEFIRE AND RECONCILIATION IN MUDUG REGION, SOMALIA

LEGEND

- Region capital city
- Galmudug and Puntland State border
- Villages part of the peace agreement
- Somalia state border
- Somalia region border
- Somalia district border

Villages part of the peace agreement:
- Balibusle
- Afbarwaqo
- Bitale
- Tawfiq

Region capital cities:
- Galkayo
- Jariiban

Map of Galmudug State, Puntland State border, and Mudug Region of Somalia.