

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE



Distribution of Non-Food Items in Southern Somalia. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to be precarious in November, with over six million Somalis reported needing humanitarian assistance. This is because of continued armed conflict, insecurity, climate change, outbreaks of diseases, and economic disruption.

The overall political and security situation in Somalia was characterized by uncertainty. Political antagonism between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Jubaland continued following the re-election of Jubaland President Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madobe. The key factors contributing to insecurity across Somalia were armed conflict between the Somali Security Forces and Al-Shabaab, hereafter referred to as the non-state armed group (NSAG), clan conflicts, and indiscriminate attacks by the NSAG.

Amid a challenging operating context, UNHCR, in collaboration with authorities and partners, continued to provide vital protection assistance to vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities affected by conflict, insecurity, and climate change. Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, refugee returnees, and IDPs in collaboration with the FGS, Federal Member States (FMS), and development and humanitarian partners remains one of the top priorities for UNHCR in Somalia. For the IDP response, UNHCR leads/co-leads the Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters in Somalia.

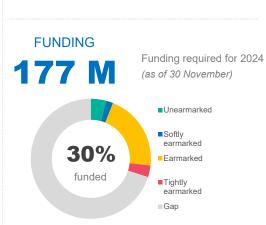
Some of UNHCR's key achievements for the month of November are:

- Durable solutions: In November 2024, 311 permanent shelters, 175 transitional shelters and 241 emergency shelter kits were provided to vulnerable displaced families across Somalia.
- High-Profile Mission: UNHCR Sub-Office Mogadishu, in collaboration with NCRI and AVORD, visited the Baytal Mal and Isoomar IDP sites in Daynile to evaluate the impact of Non-Food Items distributions and assess further needs. The mission discussed challenges such as limited access to basic services and emphasized the need for continued collaboration to address gaps and improve services.
- Protection: The NDRA registered a total of 441 individuals, comprising 105 refugees, 151 asylum seekers, and 185 Somali returnees (158 assisted and 27 unassisted) mainly from Yemen (145), among this number it included 10 newborns. Additionally, the NDRA issued 486 documents for 200 refugee identity cards and 286 asylum seeker certificates.
- 16 Days Campaign: As part of the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR organized events to create awareness of SGBV reaching over 1,130 participants (350 in Galkayo, 200 Garowe, 50 Mogadishu, 150 Baidoa, 250 Kismayo, 70 Dhobley and 60 in Dollow).

KEY FIGURES

of people with and for whom UNHCR works POPULATION DATA IDPs 3,864,000 Refugee Returnees (Dec 2014 - Oct 2024) 140,155 Refugees and Asylum Seeker 41,164







₹ 41,164

Refugees and asylum-seekers

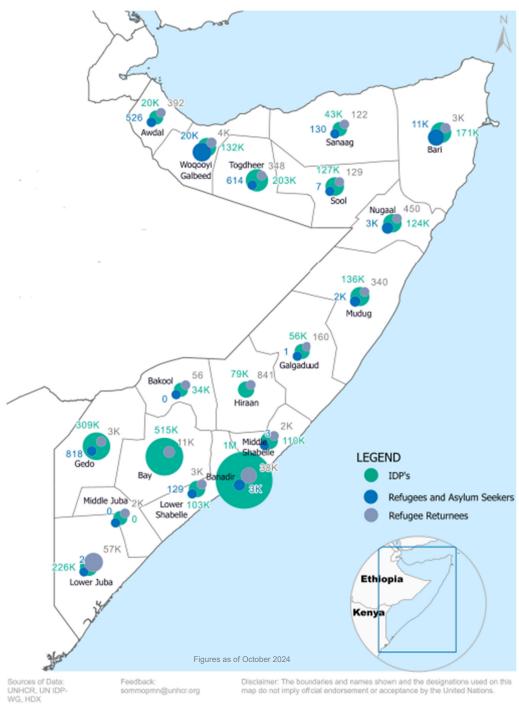
%⊋ 140,155

Refugee returnees from December 2014

%→ **428,000**

Internal displacements since January 2024

3.86M Internally displaced persons (Stock IDP number, Source: Somalia IDP WG)







Operational Context

UNHCR in Somalia continued to operate in a highly complex and volatile environment characterized by insecurity due to armed conflict, indiscriminate attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs), violent clan clashes, political tension, and climate change. The humanitarian crisis in Somalia is severe. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 6.9 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance in 2024. Recurrent shocks, including climatic events, conflict, insecurity, and disease outbreaks, continue to exacerbate needs. About 4.3 million people remain acutely food insecure, and malnutrition rates among children under five remain high.¹

The rate of internal displacement owing to conflict and insecurity increased significantly. According to the UNHCR-led Protection and Solutions Returns Network (PSMN), 2024 (as of October) has witnessed more than 428,000 displacements within Somalia, with the Gedo, Bay, and Banadir recording the highest number of displaced population inflows. Food, shelter, water, livelihood, and health were the top needs of the newly displaced families. The PSMN online interactive dashboard provides more up-to-date information about displacement and the protection needs of IDPs.

Somalia also hosts 41,164 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 66% are women and children; 30% are school-age children (6-17 years); and 26% are women and girls of reproductive age (13-49 years). Most refugees and asylum-seekers (65%) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (29%), Syria (4%), and other countries (1%). Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers (74%) reside in urban or peri-urban settings mainly in the Woqooyi Galbeed, Bari, Nugaal and Banadir regions, in the north (predominantly) and southern Somalia to a lesser extent. Since December 2014, 140,155 refugees have returned to Somalia from countries of asylum, mostly Kenya and Yemen – with UNHCR directly assisting 96,041 individuals primarily through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

The ongoing armed conflict between the Somali Security Forces and the NSAG, recurring clan conflicts, and reprisal attacks by the NSAG created a volatile operating environment for humanitarian actors, leading to the displacement, injuries, and deaths of many ordinary Somalis. Reports of armed conflict and indiscriminate attacks by the NSAG were recorded across the South and Central parts of the country. on 3 November, Al-Shabaab fired seven 107 mm rockets towards the Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA) protected area in Mogadishu, out of which four projectiles landed within the AAIA protected area. Similarly, Jubaland State experienced the highest number of clan-related conflicts, which resulted in casualties and displacements.

The political antagonism between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Jubaland continued following the reelection of Jubaland President Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madobe. Meanwhile, tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia persisted, primarily due to political differences caused by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland in January 2024. On the security front, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) succeeded the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) as of 1 November 2024, following the conclusion of UNSOM's operations on 31 October 2024, as per the UNSC Resolution 2753. This change reflects the progress on security in Somalia and aligns with the Federal Government of Somalia's request for a two-year phased transfer of UNSOM's functions to the United Nations Country Team by October 2026. That said the NSAG continues to inflict instability and security situations across Somalia.



Update on Achievements



Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

• 16 Days Campaign: As part of the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR organized events across various locations in Somalia to create awareness on prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) reaching over 1,130 participants (350 in Galkayo, 200 in Garowe, 50 in Mogadishu, 150 in Baidoa, 250 in Kismayo, 70 in Dhobley and 60 in Dollow).

Sports for protection

Sports for protection activities were organized across all regions in Somaliland. The primary objectives of these activities are to foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the population we serve and host community members. The aim is to create a harmonious and inclusive community where all members – refugees, IDPs, host community members, and returnees – can live together in mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. The activities include sport activities for children, marathon, football tournaments, women's football and volleyball, and sport activities for persons with disabilities.



Football match in Hargeisa. © UNHCR

Community-based protection

• In Bosasso, Roving Protection Desks actively operated across 10 sites with Protection Monitors conducting weekly visits to these sites to provide information and assist individuals with protection concerns access required services. Monitors conducted 5 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with key community 3 stakeholders and 100 home visits besides observing the general needs and service gaps within the settlements.

Over 210 (185 Females and 25 Males) individuals with various protection concerns were reached through the desks with 130 (110 Women, 15 Men and 5 Children) individuals with specific protection needs having their information uploaded through the Kobo tool.

In Garowe, Roving Protection Help Desks in 15 sites in Garowe (7) and Gardo (8) provided services and information on available services and referral pathways to forcibly displaced persons with protection needs and concerns, reaching 170 (123 female and 47 males) people including IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers. Over 25 people with specific protection needs had their information uploaded into the Kobo tool. In Gardo, 326 (253 female and 73 males) were reached through the Protection Desks with 85 having their information uploaded.



UNHCR staff monitoring the protection help desks, New Bula Gaduud IDP site, Kismayo. © UNHCR

Legal Aid

- In Hargeisa, Legal Clinics extended assistance to 562 forcibly displaced persons, offering a variety of essential services, including legal counselling, mediation, advocacy for release from detention, initiation of court proceedings, and referrals. Out of the total 562 cases, 541 were resolved successfully.
- 37 monitoring exercises were conducted across police stations and detention facilities in Somaliland, focusing primarily on the Maroodi-Jeeh and Sahil regions. During these assessments, 7 individuals, comprising 4 asylum seekers and 3 refugees, were discovered to be detained for various offenses. Among these detainees, 1 was released through mediation efforts and court representation. The Legal Clinic continues to offer ongoing legal support to the 6 detainees who remain in custody.
- The Legal Clinic organized a one-day community awareness session, for 50 participants from diverse community backgrounds, as part of the ongoing 16-day activism campaign, to promote the prevention and eradication of violence against women and girls, as well as enhance the legal response mechanisms available to vulnerable populations. This includes facilitating access to the national justice system for survivors of violent incidents and providing timely information on the reporting mechanisms for such incidents.





Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

- In South Central Somalia, a one-time Multipurpose Cash Assistance was provided to vulnerable communities in Dolow and Mogadishu, from the Hormuud Foundation. A total of \$200,000 was disbursed to 190 HHs of refugees and asylum seekers in Mogadishu and 10 HHs in Dolow with each HHs receiving \$1000 meant to start new business or expand if the household had existing business. Beneficiaries were identified through socio economic and livelihood assessment in Mogadishu and Dollow. The support is mean to promote sustainable livelihoods, economic independence, resilience and self-sufficient among vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers households in Mogadishu and Dolow.
- In Hargeisa, the Disability Action Network (DAN) conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Berbera involving 15 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) community members to examine livelihood opportunities and challenges. The assessment sought to identify needs and potential solutions for economic self-reliance, addressing demographic groups like women, older individuals, and disabled individuals.
- DAN further conducted an FGD with 15 HECA community members (7 female and 8 male) to examine livelihood opportunities and challenges in Borama. The assessment sought to identify needs and potential solutions for economic self-reliance.



Shelter and NFI

The implementation of durable solutions interventions continued across Somalia in the IDPs and RAS hosting sites. The interventions aim to enhance the physical protection and improve basic living conditions for IDPs in the country. During the reporting period, 241 emergency shelter kits were provided to newly displaced populations, 311 permanent 2-room houses were completed in two locations (194 in Luglow, Kismayo and 117 in Adado, Galgadud), 295 transitional shelters were completed and handed over (100 in Adado, 75 in Togdheer and 120 in Baidoa).



Newly constructed semi-permanent shelters at the Barwago-2 Site in Baidoa. © AVORD



Flood and other Emergency Responses

Following the recent flood displacement, in Xawadley Village, Balcad district, which affected more than 5,000 HHs, UNHCR responded by providing lifesaving cash assistance to the most vulnerable 500 HHs who were identified via the UNHCR's vulnerability assessment with the support of the Hirshabelle Commission of refugees and IDPs. The most vulnerable HHs received multi-purpose cash assistance, with each household receiving \$100 through Hormuud.



Health

- 1,091 (387 Male, 704 Female) refugees and asylum seekers were provided with consultation, treatment, and referral services through five government hospitals in Bosaso, Qardho, Garowe, and Galkayo. Of these, 302 (140 Boys, 162 Girls) were under five-year-old children, 789 (247 Males, 542 Females) were adults, 324 (140 Males, 184 Females) were refugees while 767 (247 Males, 520 Females) were asylum seekers.
- 630 people (120 Males, 510 Females) received integrated counselling (one-on-one) on diet control for patients with chronic diseases, breastfeeding, immunization of young children and hygiene promotion provided by medical doctors in Bosaso, Qardho and Galkayo.



Vaccination of the new-born in Bossaso. ©UNHCR

86 (39 Boys, 47 Girls) under five-year-old children received different vaccinations, while 42 women in childbearing age received different vaccinations including tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccination. Out of the 86 under five years children reached with immunization, 12 (7 Boys, 5 Girls) new-born children received the Bacillus Calmette—Guérin (BCG) vaccine (new-born vaccine for tuberculosis-TB disease), 41 (19 Boys, 22 Girls) under-one-year children received pentavalent vaccine (PENTA) while 33 (13 Boys, 20 Girls) children received the first dose of measles vaccination.



 23 (13 Males, 10 Females) patients were referred to specialized hospitals in Bosaso, Qardho, Garowe and Galkayo for secondary and tertiary medical care.



Education

- UNHCR Education partner, Mercy Corps provided support to a caseload of 866 students across various formal education levels through the payment of monthly school fee assistance. The cohort comprised of 428 boys and 438 girls. Among the beneficiaries are 711 Yemeni refugee students (361 boys and 350 girls) 60 Asylum Seekers (24 boys and 36 girls) and 95 returnees (43 boys & 52 girls) across 80 supported schools in Mogadishu under the 2024 UNHCR's grant. This continuity of assistance ensured the vulnerable children have uninterrupted access to education and continued stay at school.
- Additionally, Mercy Corps provided \$30 of scholastic materials for each newly registered student for the 50 (32 lower & 18 upper) students enrolled in the project from the previous reporting period. Moreover, the project commenced the construction of two classrooms at Tayo Primary & Secondary School in Kismayu, following a large increase in the population of students compared to the available classrooms.



Capacity Building

CCCM capacity-building workshop: In Baidoa, UNHCR, in collaboration with SWCRI, facilitated a CCCM capacity-building workshop for 60 IDPs community management committees drawn from 30 sites managed by UNHCR's CCCM partner in Baidoa, SWRCI. The workshop was aimed at sensitizing the community on collective efforts and communal work in their respective sites to enhance community initiatives such as cleanup campaigns.

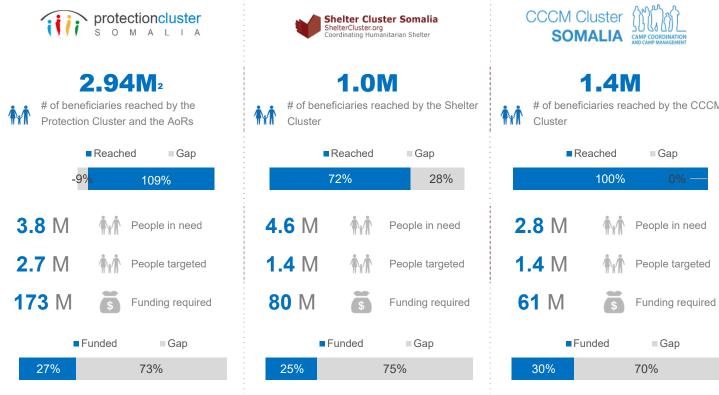


Telling the Real Story (TRS) awareness raising session targeting schools and universities. © TRS





Cluster Coordination and Leadership



of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM

Protection Cluster

- UNHCR has been awarded with an additional CERF envelop of USD 400,000 to initiate a Protection frontline response as part of the anticipatory action from the drought. The protection response under this new CERF, targets 15,000 individual to benefit from Protection services and will cover the districts in Southwest State of Xudur, Qansax Dheere, Dinsoor, Baydhaba and Afmadow in Jubaland State.
- The Protection Cluster in collaboration with UNHCR Division of International Protection (DIP), Global Protection Cluster, and the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation organized a 5-day workshop on Protection in Armed Conflict and Humanitarian Negotiation for Protection Outcomes. The workshop counted with 25 field-based participants from UNHCR, partners and other UN agencies such as UNOCHA, NRC, DRC, and several national organizations.
- Protection Cluster has been supporting Special Envoy Office for Stabilization and Civilian Protection in the organization of the first National Civilian Forum. This Forum is bringing Federal and State level authorities with international partners to endorsed and define the action plan for the upcoming implementation of the National Civilian Protection Framework Strategy.

Shelter Cluster

- Cumulatively as of November 2024, essential shelter and non-food items (NFIs) support reached 1,005,736 individuals (169,396 households). Significant gaps remain, with 73 percent of the response consisting solely of plastic sheeting. Additional resources are needed to deliver more comprehensive and diverse NFI assistance that adequately addresses the needs of the affected population.
- In November, 31,369 individuals (5,234 households) were assisted through various response programs, including Emergency Shelter Kit (ESK), Non-Food Items (NFIs), plastic sheets, and transitional shelters across the districts of Afgooye, Baardheere, Baidoa, Balcad, Banadir, Beletweyne, Bossaso, Cadaado and Kismayo.

² The cumulative number includes September data from the Protection Cluster and Housing, Land and property and Explosive Hazards Areas of Responsibilities (AoRs).



- Overall, NFIs reached 3,040 households (18,240 individuals), ESK reached 632 households (3,792 individuals), plastic sheets reached 1,583 households (9,463 individuals), while transitional shelter reached 220 households (1,320 individuals)
- The Shelter Cluster participated actively in the ICCG and provided data (costing, targets, and the People in Need (PIN) figures) and narrative for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP) to OCHA. The Cluster's PIN is 4,114,394 individuals, with a target of reaching 1,261,124 people, with a total requirement of \$60,829,265 in 2025 for shelter implementation.
- The Shelter Cluster facilitated an in-depth session for the SODMA team, focusing on the operational aspects of the cluster's activities. This initiative aimed at enhancing collaboration, better understanding of cluster roles, and alignment with SODMA strategies for shelter responses.
- The Shelter Cluster, supported by the Global Shelter Cluster, and facilitated by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), organized a three-day environmental training workshop, at the Mogadishu Palms Hotel from 11-13 November, the training aimed to strengthen the integration of environmental considerations into shelter responses.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- Service Monitoring: CCCM partners jointly with 14 agencies, including Government counterparts, conducted site monitoring activities in 1,677 IDP sites across 31 districts. Out of the 1,677 IDP sites managed by CCCM partners monitored in November, 568 sites received new arrivals (34%). 89% of the sites hosting new arrivals received community awareness activities on availability of services. Overall, IDPs have water access in 69% of sites. Primary education/ABE facilities are available in 43% of sites, while IDPs in 20% of sites can access primary education facilities within a 20-minute walk. IDP populations in 49% of sites have access to health facilities within a walking distance while facilities for nutrition were available in 58% of sites. 94% of surveyed sites consist of emergency shelter type, 5% of sites have transitional shelters while 1% of sites have permanent shelters. The site monitoring shows moreover that only 4% of IDP households in the surveyed locations have received cash for food or food assistance in kind within the last 6 months. UNHCR's CCCM partner NoFYL conducted site monitoring activities in 17 IDP sites across the districts of Cadado, Dhusamareeb and Galkayo.
- Coordination: CCCM Cluster partners conducted 213 coordination meetings at site level. UNHCR/CCCM organized 120 area-level and site-level coordination meetings in Hargeisa, Kismayu, Burao, Bossaso, Baidoa, Dhusamareb, Galkayo and Garowe.
- Site Verification: IOM and UNHCR CCCM sub-cluster coordinators in Baidoa jointly with Government agencies led and coordinated a pilot site verification exercise at household level in Baidoa, the first of its kind in Somalia. The verification exercise verified 6,322 households (consisting of 26,461 persons) within 5 days in CA10 and CA13. Initial findings establish that the new verification methodology piloted in Baidoa led to the collection of accurate, verifiable actionable, high quality disaggregated data, including vulnerabilities.
- Communication with communities: The UNHCR/CCCM's partner in Somaliland facilitated two-way communication by providing airtime across all 20 targeted sites. The general awareness campaign in the IDPs sites in Bosaso, Qardho and Garowe covered specific topics such as access to services. The campaign also included awareness on the availability and use of a complaint feedback mechanism which is the toll-free number (390), the IDPs were educated and sensitized on how to use the number and the issues they should report.
- Safety Audits (Key Findings): 89 Safety Audit assessments were conducted in 77 IDP settlements, namely 45 sites in Galkayo, 21 sites in Baidoa and 6 sites in Moghadishu (Khada) and Hargeisa each. These include overcrowded sites with makeshift shelters lacking privacy and security, insufficient, costly, and poorly maintained WASH facilities, limited access to health services and schools, inadequate nutrition services, and overall safety concerns within the camps. Most sites lack lighting, drainage systems, and designated safe spaces for women and girls. In addition, the presence of armed individuals and safety risks associated with accessing essential services were reported.
- Site improvement: UNHCR/CCCM, conducted cash-for-work activities in 45 targeted IDP sites, benefiting 1,500 individuals. Community members were engaged in site maintenance and improvement tasks to improve living conditions within the sites and provide livelihood opportunities for vulnerable IDP households. UNHCR/CCCM installed 52 solar lights across 28 IDP sites in Baidoa, Sanaag, and Sool regions. Additionally, UNHCR distributed multipurpose solar lights to 380 households from 30 IDP sites in Baidoa.
- New arrivals: CCCM partners continued recording large numbers of displaced populations arriving in IDP sites in Baidoa, Kismaayo, Khada, and many other districts. In November, at least 24,501 new arrivals were displaced mainly due to the conflict, drought, flooding, eviction and other reasons experienced in the past months. The majority of IDPs originate from Baidoa, Qoryooley, Jamaame, Luuq, and Wanla Weyn districts according to data recorded in CCCM cluster's NAT tool from week 44 to week 48. CCCM Partners continued to closely work with Nutrition Partners to conduct MUAC screening across sites to ensure that SAM and MAM cases are referred to Nutrition partners for immediate assistance.



Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2024 amount to USD 53.5 million. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have already contributed to the Somalia Operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia Operation in 2024 | USD

United States of America 35.4 million | Japan 6.6 million | Central Emergency Response Fund 1.5 million

Germany | Private donors in Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | Leaving No One Behind – The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund | USA for UNHCR | Other private donors

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2024 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 9 million | UNO- Flüchtlingshilfe 6.6 million | Finland 6.6 million | Italy 4.9 million | Norway 2.8 million | Private donors in Italy 2.4 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2024 | USD

Sweden 112.2 million | España con ACNUR 62.2 million | Norway 58.9 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 41.4 million | Japan for UNHCR 38.6 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3 million | France 33.6 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 28.4 million | Germany 25.1 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Private donors in Italy 18.4 million | Republic of Korea 18.1 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in the Netherlands 12.8 million | Sweden for UNHCR 12.7 million | Australia 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Austria | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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