

POPULATION

4.0M

of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs  3,864,000

Refugee Returnees (Dec 2014 - Jan 2025) | 140,894

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | 42,117

PARTNERS

16

of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025

Government  10

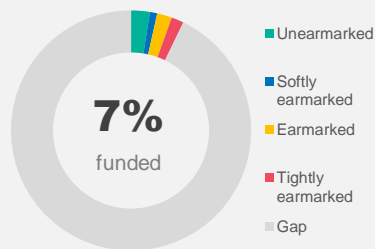
L/N NGO  4

INGO  2

FUNDING

157M

Funding required for 2025 (as of 28 February)



IMPACT STATEMENTS

1. PROTECT

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons enjoy living in a safe and secure environment in line with national and international protection frameworks.

2. RESPOND

Affected populations and most vulnerable persons strengthen their resilience, proactively mitigate the effects of climate change and their essential needs are met.

3. EMPOWER

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons improve their self-reliance with better access to socio-economic opportunities and engagement with development partners.

4. SOLVE

Refugees, IDPs and returnees have improved access to alternative pathways and a range of durable solutions.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

February 2025



Distribution of solar lanterns in Dollow, aiming to improve people's safety and security during the night. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amid decreasing global humanitarian funding, the humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate in February, with some 3.4 million people experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity, due to worsening drought conditions, conflict, insecurity, disease outbreaks, high food prices, and economic disruption. This number is expected to rise to 4.4 million, between April and June when below-average rains are forecast.

In February 2025, Somalia experienced significant political and security developments that have implications for both domestic stability and regional security dynamics. The Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held discussions with President Hassan Shiekh to mend the strained relations between Ethiopia and Somalia – following Ethiopia's plans to lease a portion of the Somaliland coastline. The duo also agreed on the formalization of Ethiopian troop deployments in Somalia.

On the political front, Somalia's newly established National Electoral Commission reaffirmed its commitment to holding a universal suffrage election in 2026, despite a boycott by Jubaland and Puntland. The federal government has defended its decision to extend the terms of regional state leaders, to facilitate electoral reforms and transition. Elsewhere, the SSC-Khatumo administration declared full autonomy from Somaliland, marking a significant development in the region's political landscape.

KEY UPDATES

- **Legislation:** On 5 February, the "Launch and Stakeholder Engagement for Somaliland Parliament's Legislative Acts" event was convened, highlighting several important legislative bills under debate that aim to improve key protection sectors in Somaliland. The bills discussed include: National Health Act (New Bill), Higher Education Act (New Bill), FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill, Rape Bill Review and Delay (House of Elders), and the 3rd Amendment of Labour Law No. 31/2020 among others.
- **Lighting Households:** In February, UNHCR in collaboration with JUCRI and AVORD distributed 540 solar lanterns, aimed at improving protection outcomes through enhanced safety and security of the households during the night. Solar lanterns reduce reliance on hazardous and costly fuel-based lighting sources, which contribute to poor health outcomes through indoor air pollution and risk of fire accidents. This initiative reached at least 510 households (70 in Kaharey, 270 in Laden and 170 in Dhobley).
- **Disability Rights Law:** In February, the President of the South-West State signed the Disability Rights Bill into law, marking a significant milestone in the protection of the rights of individuals living with disabilities in the State. The law will facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. The bill was passed with a majority vote.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In February, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs in Hargeisa registered 1,359 individuals, including 1,200 asylum-seekers, 133 refugees, 10 individuals of 'other concerns', and 16 Somali returnees (including 2 recyclers). In addition, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs issued 1,415 documents, including 176 refugee identity cards and 1,239 certificates for asylum-seekers.
- Following a large-scale police investigation in Bossaso and offensive against ISIS in Qandala, 155 refugees and asylum-seekers (9 females and 146 males) were arrested and detained in Bossaso (133 individuals), Garowe (18 individuals), Gardo (1 individual), and Galkayo (2 individuals). UNHCR's consistent advocacy in collaboration with legal partner KAALO and the Ministry of Interior (MOIFAD), led to the release of 142 individuals from different police stations. UNHCR, through KAALO, also provided legal counselling to 9 individuals (3 males and 6 females) affected by the operation, movement restrictions, and potential robbery and retaliation from the host community.
- UNHCR, in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), established protection desks in Hudur, Bay Region, Kahda and Daynile in Mogadishu, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, and Baidoa to address protection needs such as gender-based violence, child protection, and other human rights violations affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable communities. The desks offered a range of services including protection monitoring, case management, psychosocial support, and community outreach. In February, the desks provided services to 89 vulnerable individuals with each receiving \$100 to address their immediate needs.


Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Marking the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, on 6 February, UNHCR through NRC in Dollow, convened an event to build capacity and raise awareness about female genital mutilation, and advocate for its end. UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls, including asylum-seekers, refugee returnees and IDPs. The joint event featured speeches from the Ministry of Human Rights and Family Affairs, Dollow women's group, local authorities, protection partners, and community members. They all called for strengthening alliances to accelerate efforts and building momentum to eliminate female genital mutilation.
- UNHCR through KAALO conducted community engagement, mobilization, and complaint response mechanism (CRM) sensitization sessions for refugees and asylum-seekers committees in Bossaso, Gardo, Galkayo, and Garowe. The primary focus was to create awareness of the active projects, introduce the lawyers and social workers, provide the contacts of key frontline staff for easier referrals, and disseminate and address concerns raised.


Shelter and NFIs

- In Burao, UNHCR's Hargeisa office conducted a field mission to monitor and verify the physical completion of 96 transitional shelters, benefiting 96 households (576 individuals). This initiative is part of UNHCR's broader efforts to support durable solutions for IDPs by addressing their immediate shelter needs while enhancing stability and resilience.
- In February, UNHCR's shelter partner AVORD completed a vulnerability assessment targeting the 250 most vulnerable households for one-time multi-purpose cash assistance following the displacements reported in Afamdow. UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) has recorded 435 newly arrived households in Afamdow due to the persistent drought in Hagar district. The most pressing needs include food, emergency shelters, communal latrines, non-food items (NFIs), and safe drinking water.


Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- Through the CERF contribution, UNHCR with partners distributed 2,500 NFIs in Puntland and Galmudug, reaching 750 and 500 households in Gadogob North and Jariiban North respectively and 800 and 450 households in Galdogob South and Jariiban South respectively. Another 1,700 households have been registered for cash assistance (emergency shelter and NFIs) in the two regions.
- In February, the Dhobley Field Unit, in collaboration with the immigration department, carried out cross-border movements monitoring in Dhobley and recorded 426 individuals (254 females, 172 males) (all Somalis) crossing the border, with 229 outgoing movements to Kenya and 197 individuals incoming movements to Somalia. Drought and insecurity remain primary drivers of the movement.


Durable Solutions

- In Galkayo, the Ministry of Interior convened a multi-stakeholder coordination meeting for the Durable Solutions Working Group - bringing together 5 key line ministries (Women & Family Affairs, Environment, Planning, Health and Interior), 3 UN agencies, 3 INGOs, 3 LNGOs, 16 IDP camp leaders representing 3,983 households, the Mayor and Governor. The meeting reviewed key achievements and challenges. Integration programmes, IDPs integration into the host communities, land allocation for IDPs and comprehensive needs assessment to evaluate the living conditions were highlighted. Lack of high schools and basic services such as water, healthcare, and sanitation were underscored.


Education

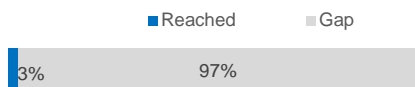
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR in partnership with NRC, the District Education Office and community committees, undertook a monitoring initiative aimed at evaluating the enrolment rates for refugee and asylum-seeker students in public educational institutions. This exercise also identified key barriers around retention and factors contributing to truancy.

CLUSTER RESPONSE



61,734

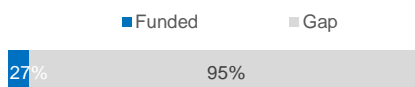
of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



3.3 M People in need

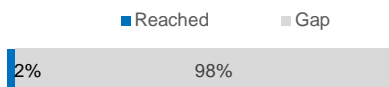
2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required



51,424

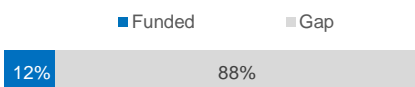
of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



4.1 M People in need

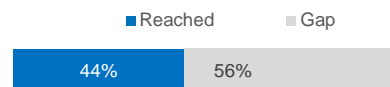
1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required



834,946

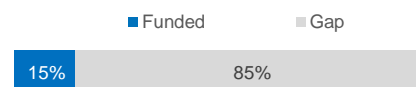
of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster



2.4 M People in need

1.9 M People targeted

44.6 M Funding required



Protection Cluster

- In February, a reprioritization exercise to rationalize the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was conducted – 30 districts have been prioritized for drought response. The Protection Cluster seeks to ensure the inclusion of districts impacted by prolonged dry conditions and conflict, and those with large numbers of minority and marginalized groups. The Protection Cluster and AoRs are developing advocacy messages for the Heads of Cluster Lead Agencies, urging them to prioritize protection as an integral part of the response.

Shelter Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster partners collectively provided emergency shelter kits (ESKs) and non-food items (NFIs) to 51,424 individuals (8,571 households) through in-kind and cash-based assistance.
- In February, 24,102 individuals (4,017 households) received assistance across seven districts: Galdogob, Hobyo and Jariiban in Mudug; Afmadow and Kismayo in Lower Juba, and Badhan and Ceerigaabo in Sanaag regions – of these, 19,350 individuals (3,225 households) received in-kind (18,000 individuals) and cash (1,350 individuals) assistance for NFIs. Additionally, 4,752 individuals (675 households) received ESKs through cash assistance, with each household receiving a one-time payment of \$213.

CCCM Cluster

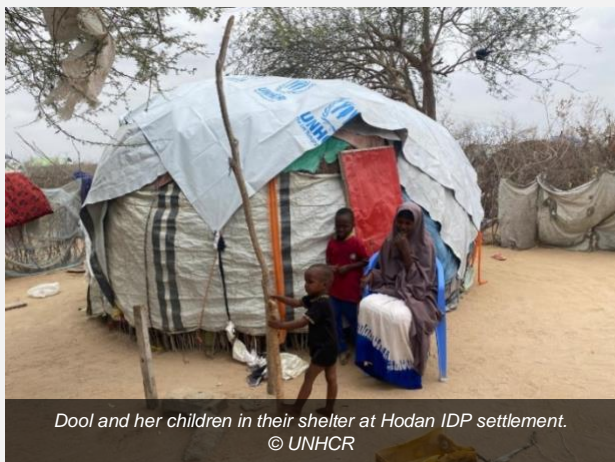
- UNHCR/CCCM partners recorded 1,786 newly forcibly displaced persons seeking refuge in IDP sites in Belet Weyne, Kismayo, and Afmadow – displaced largely due to drought, conflict, and insecurity. Displacement data has been shared with the relevant clusters and implementing agencies for tailored assistance and interventions to the affected populations.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Somalia’s Protracted Crisis: Dool’s Journey of Hope

Dool Mahamed Hassan, 25, a mother of three, now lives in Hodan IDP site in Dhobley, Somalia, after fleeing the devastating drought in Hagar district. Her family, once agro pastoralists, lost their livelihood after consecutive failed rainy seasons leading to severe water and pasture shortages.

“We had no choice but to leave,” Dool recalls. “We walked for seven days to reach Afmadow, hoping for help. Eventually, we arrived at Hodan IDP settlement in Dhobley, carrying only a few belongings.”



Dool and her children in their shelter at Hodan IDP settlement.
© UNHCR

With no resources to buy shelter materials, Dool’s family built a temporary home using sticks, grass, and old plastic sheets. Thanks to CERF funding, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, provided lifesaving non-food item (NFI) kits to the most vulnerable displaced families, including Dool’s. Her family received jerry cans, blankets, a plastic sheet, a solar lamp, a mosquito net, sleeping mats, and a kitchen set, improving their living conditions, offering much-needed comfort and restoring a sense of dignity.

While the support has provided some relief, Dool dreams of a more sustainable future for herself and her children. She hopes to receive skills training that will allow her to earn a livelihood.

“I want to learn a skill that will help me provide for my family. If I had an opportunity to train in tailoring, cooking, or small business, I could earn a living and give my children a better future.”

Despite her resilience, Dool still faces numerous challenges in her new environment. She highlighted limited access to food, healthcare, and sanitation facilities, calling for sustained humanitarian assistance to support families like hers who are striving to rebuild their lives.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 11.3 million** as of 28 February 2025. 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 2025 | USD

Japan 2.0 million | **Austria** 1.4 million | **Germany** 561,709 | **Canada** 126,000

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Norway 2.8 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Sweden 74.1 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Germany** 10.8 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Private donors

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [UNHCR Somalia](#)
- UNHCR Somalia: [Global Focus](#)
- UNHCR Somalia: [Operational Data Portal](#)
- Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network dashboard ([PSMN](#))
- [Protection Cluster](#)
- [Shelter Cluster](#)
- [CCCM Cluster](#)

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