

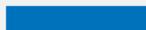
OPERATIONAL UPDATE

March 2025

POPULATION

3.68M

of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs  3,500,000

Refugee Returnees
(Dec 2014 - Feb 2025) | 140,910

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | 43,449

PARTNERS

16

of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025

Government  10

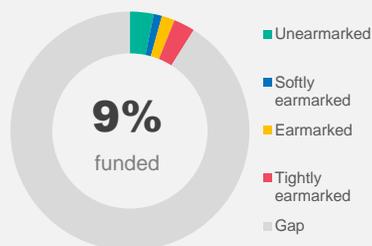
L/N NGO  4

INGO  2

FUNDING

157M

Funding required for 2025
(as of 31 March)



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.



Construction of permanent shelters in Luglow, Kismayo. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amid decreasing global humanitarian funding, the humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate in March, 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 March 2025, Somalia continued to experience significant security and political developments that have implications for both domestic stability and regional security dynamics – with the Al Shabaab reportedly launching mortar attacks indiscriminately and remote-controlled improvised explosive devices (IEDs) targeting the Somalia National Army, civilian homes and government installations in Mogadishu and its environs. Elsewhere in Galkayo and Mudug, inter-clan conflicts were reported, driven mainly by clan-based retaliations, while in Bossaso district in Bari region, armed clashes between the Puntland forces and IS-Somalia were reported. The emerging security situation is impacting on programming especially in the hard-to-reach areas as well as those under the control of insurgent groups.

On the political front, the replacement of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) with the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), took effect in March, amid rising tensions ahead of the 2026 elections.

KEY UPDATES

- **Verification:** In March, the verification exercise for refugees and asylum-seekers in Mogadishu was completed successfully in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI). A total of 2,331 individuals (894 Registration Groups) representing 65% of the active data in Mogadishu were verified.
- **Lighting Households:** In March, UNHCR completed the distribution of 350 solar lanterns targeting 120 households in the Midnimo relocation site, with the remaining going to 55 households in Danwadaag and Hodan IDP camps, with each household receiving two lantern lamps, to improve the safety and security of the households during the night.
- **Launch of Identification Cards:** on 12 March a historic milestone took place in Mogadishu. The Federal Government of Somalia issued identification cards for refugees and asylum-seekers, for the first time marking a significant step in operationalizing the Refugee Act. The Minister of Interior, H.E. Ali Yusuf Hosh, handed over the cards to refugees living in Somalia, symbolizing a new era of legal recognition and protection. The refugee cards are expected to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with access to essential services and long-term solutions, fostering their inclusion and paving the way for a more secure future.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Protection

- Safety and Access to Justice: A total of 41 people that UNHCR serves received legal assistance across three locations – 29 in Bossaso, 4 in Garowe, and 6 in Galkayo. The support provided included 21 detention cases (2 females and 19 males) and 20 instances of legal counseling (5 females and 15 males). The beneficiaries were refugees and asylum-seekers.
- In Hargeisa, collaboration between UNHCR and the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MoRHA), facilitated the issuance of 223 identification documents, including 92 refugee identity cards and 131 certificates for asylum-seekers – key for protection and access to vital services. On the other hand, Legal Clinic assisted 412 individuals, offering a range of services such as legal counselling, mediation, advocacy for their release from detention, initiation of court proceedings, and referrals to other service providers, including the Somaliland police.
- UNHCR, in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), conducted the registration and identification of Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) in several locations in Southwest State – including Baidoa, 229 (100 males and 129 females), Hudur, 229 (100 males and 129 females), Qansahdere, 155 (35 males and 120 females), and Dinsor, 155 (55 males and 100 females). Issues covered included disability-related issues, forced evictions, older persons without caregivers, poor health, medical issues, pregnant and lactating mothers, poor living conditions, orphans, unsupported widows, divorced women, trafficking, forced displacement, GBV, and denial of humanitarian access.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Hargeisa, phase II of the livelihood/multipurpose cash grants kicked off in March, where 259 households were identified with each receiving a livelihood grant of \$1,000 through Amal Bank. This initiative is intended to promote self-sufficiency and mitigate the vulnerability of refugees in Somaliland, while building momentum towards self-sufficiency.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR engaged with partners, refugees and asylum-seekers community leaders to discuss the impact of reduced funding on protection programming activities. Additionally, UNHCR and the South-West State Commission for Refugees and IDPs conducted awareness sessions for 30 committee members from catchment areas 8 to 14, focusing on essential rights, site regulations, access to humanitarian services, fire safety, and measures to prevent and report sexual exploitation and abuse.



Shelter and NFIs

- In response to the February displacement from Hagar district due to persistent droughts, UNHCR provided emergency shelter cash assistance to 250 families (2,202 individuals) in Afamdow through Hormuud mobile money transfers. Each family received one-time cash assistance of \$213 to purchase construction materials and build their own shelters, which

enabled households to meet their basic needs as determined by the individual households' vulnerability assessment.

- Following recurrent conflict and severe drought in Mudug, Bari, and Sanaag regions of Somalia, UNHCR in partnership with NRC provided essential support to the most affected households, ensuring their immediate needs for temporary shelter and essential household items were met, reaching a total of 5,200 households across key districts.
- Elsewhere in Galkayo, under CERF assistance, vulnerable households in Galdogob, Jariiban and Hobyo districts in Mudug benefited from 450 Emergency Shelter Kits, 1,250 NFI in cash, and 2,500 in-kind NFIs. The emergency response in Sanaag and Bari region further expanded coverage, reaching 1,000 households through in-kind NFIs.



Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In March, Puntland witnessed a significant surge in migration, with 3,092 individuals arriving in the region – with men accounting for 94.4% (2,908 individuals) of the arrivals, followed by women at 5.53% (171 individuals), and a small number of children at 0.42% (13 individuals). This demographic distribution aligns with broader regional migration trends, where men often lead movements in pursuit of economic opportunities or to establish stability before relocating their families. The presence of children, hints at a pattern of family migration, potentially driven by the search for safety, improved living conditions, or access to essential services.
- In Dollow, UNHCR, in partnership with NRC, observed 300 individual movements across the Dollow border. 150 households left Somalia for Ethiopia, while another 150 individuals entered Somalia from Ethiopia. All individuals involved were Somali nationals, with the primary reasons for the movements given as drought and search for improved living conditions



Durable Solutions

- In mid-March, UNHCR, IOM, and OCHA conducted a joint field monitoring visit to Luglaw Durable Solutions site, covering the UNHCR/COOPI-built market, which was handed over in February, now fully operational. Both the host community and residents from durable solutions sites are participating as traders and vendors. Most traders are women selling various products, including vegetables and meat. One meat stall trader estimated daily earnings of \$85 from selling goat and camel meat. UNHCR continues to support traders who need small investments to expand their businesses.



Education

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR in partnership with NRC provided 3 months' worth (January to March 2025) of financial support for school and examination fees for 311 secondary school students across Somaliland. Assessments conducted by UNHCR indicate a strong consensus for continued provision of essential Health and Education services.

CLUSTER RESPONSE



70,677

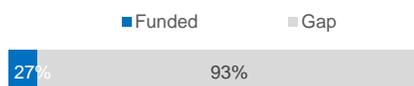
of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



3.3 M People in need

2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required



61,924

of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



4.1 M People in need

1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required



1,091,216

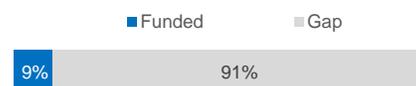
of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster



2.4 M People in need

1.9 M People targeted

44.6 M Funding required



Protection Cluster

UNHCR/Protection implemented several critical protection interventions in the conflict-affected regions of Somalia. In the Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions, UNHCR provided cash assistance (both multipurpose and NFI-specific) to 2,790 households (20,521 individuals), affected by violent conflicts. In Bulla Xaaji and West Kismayo, UNHCR delivered Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to 625 households (4,059 individuals) facing displacement, GBV risks, and family separation. In Luuq, UNHCR conducted vulnerability assessments and provided core relief items and cash assistance to 2,200 households impacted by clan-based violence and forced displacement. UNHCR established a roving protection desk that provided Individual Protection Assistance to 100 GBV and child protection cases. In Jamaame and Kismayo, UNHCR provided Individual Protection Assistance to 669 individuals with specific protection vulnerabilities. In Bulla Xaaji, the UNHCR established referral systems that assisted 451 individuals facing family separation and protection concerns. Under the CERF initiative, UNHCR delivered an integrated protection response to 2,500 individuals in Goldgob.

Shelter Cluster

In March, the Shelter Cluster (SC) partners collectively assisted 61,924 individuals (9,648 households) in eight districts: Afmadow, Bossaso, Badhan, Ceerigaabo, Galdogob, Hobyo, Jariiban, and Kismayo. 57,172 individuals (92%) received NFI support, while 4,752 individuals (8%) received emergency shelter kits. This response helped address the immediate household needs and critical shelter gaps in these locations. The SC partners provided NFI support to 10,500 individuals (1,750 households), affected/displaced populations through cash in Bossaso, Galdogob and Jariiban. The cluster met with the Ministry of Planning and Public Works and SODMA in March and discussed the Shelter Cluster Strategy, which was approved based on its alignment with national policies. The cluster's assessment of the impact of the U.S. funding cuts, revealed that 60% of emergency shelter activities, 53% of NFI distributions, and 33% of permanent and transitional shelter interventions are affected.

CCCM Cluster

UNHCR/JUCRI/CCCM conducted registration of 195 newly displaced persons in North Kismayo sites who needed life-saving food and water interventions. UNHCR/JUCRI/CCCM coordinated the distribution of 600 food rations provided by Gift of Givers and 600 CRI kits provided by World Vision in several sites in North Kismayo. Aid diversion awareness training was conducted at the Eljale 1 site, reaching 370 persons. The session emphasized the importance of empowering marginalized groups to report systemic exclusion from humanitarian assistance. Participants were informed about the available Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) reporting channels, including the toll-free hotline and in-person feedback desks where they can safely and confidentially report concerns.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD


Guled Abdi Jibriil and his family fled Ethiopia due to conflicts affecting them, eventually settling in Bosaso, Puntland, after walking for nearly two weeks. In his early years, Guled faced language barriers and cultural shock, struggling to recover from the trauma of his difficult journey to seek protection in Puntland.

The UNHCR education focal person in the community, Magaalacad, identified Guled and encouraged his parents to send him to school, where UNHCR provided free education to displaced school-aged students.

Initially, his parents were reluctant to send him to school as they did not understand the importance of education. However, the UNHCR education focal persons persisted, and they eventually agreed to enroll him at Minaaratul Bayda Primary School.

For the first two years, Guled experienced memory issues and did not make much academic progress. Recognized by his math teachers, Guled was enrolled in a psychosocial support programme alongside peers with similar needs. His overall academic performance began to improve, and he thrived socially by making new friends at school.

Guled also joined the football club, evolving into a strong defender. He excelled in science and mathematics and was appointed as a teacher assistant in grade eight and secondary school.

He performed exceptionally well in his form four examinations and subsequently enrolled at Red Sea University (RSU), where he received a partial scholarship to study education with a major in mathematics and physics.

Guled is now a mathematics teacher at Minaaratul Bayda Secondary School, tutoring underprivileged students in his village in the evenings. He also volunteers with organizations that assist refugees. His story is both fascinating and humbling; he is regarded as an asset by the school and is compensated above average.

Guled aspires to become a well-respected mathematician and aims to give back to society. He expresses gratitude towards donors and UNHCR, and implementing partners for providing the education that has shaped his life. He is an example of the impactful work that UNHCR and its partners are doing in Puntland, Somalia.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 14.1 million** as of 31 March 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 | **USA** 1.6 million | **Austria** 1.4 million | **Germany** 598,219 | **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 | **España con ACNUR** 19.2 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 | Costa Rica | 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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