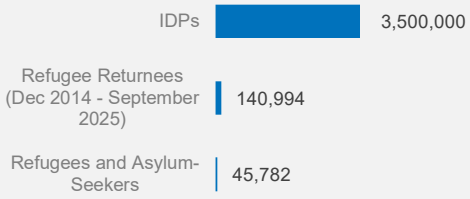
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

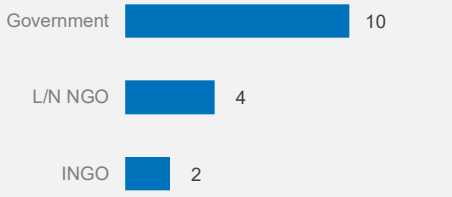
POPULATION

3.68M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works



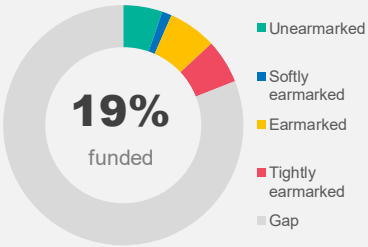
PARTNERS

16 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025



FUNDING

157M Funding required for 2025 *(as of 31 October)*



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

October 2025

Sports for Protection Event in Hargeisa. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian needs in Somalia remained critically high in October, amidst the increasingly difficult global financial environment. Partners' capacity to respond has been severely curtailed due to funding cuts. Aid agencies continued to focus on the reprioritized target of 1.3 million people, representing only 25-30 percent of the households in need of food assistance. In northern and central pastoral zones severe drought conditions leading to crisis food insecurity persisted, with a growing proportion of the population facing emergency. This situation is expected to deteriorate following a 74 percent reduction in humanitarian funding recorded from April to September. According to IOM's displacement tracking matrix over 211,000 people are likely to be displaced between October and December, mainly driven by drought (52%), conflict (44%) and flooding (4%). The 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is only 21% funded, with glaring gaps in key sectors. The Humanitarian Country Team continued to prioritize the revised one-year Centrality of Protection Strategy, focusing on risks of exclusion and denial of access to assistance, risks associated with forced displacement, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and assets.

The security environment across Somalia remained volatile, with Al-Shabaab sustaining a mix of high-intensity armed engagements and low-level asymmetric attacks. By mid-October, the number of reported security incidents slightly decreased to 70 from 71 in the first quarter, specifically,10 terrorism-related incidents,16 incidents of armed conflict/clashes, and 31 crime-related incidents. Key developments included ongoing clan clashes in Bay Region (Dinsor), and clashes between Somalia National Army and Jubaland Forces in Kismayo. Meanwhile, the Benadir Regional Administration officially reopened three major roads in Mogadishu that were previously closed due to security concerns, to improve public mobility, alleviate traffic congestion, and stimulate economic activity in the capital. The Mayor of Mogadishu presided over the event.

KEY UPDATES

- *Looking Ahead:* On 23 October, the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) launched the Mogadishu Transformation Plan (MTP) 2026-2030, presided over by the Deputy Governor, Isse Mahmoud Guure. The MTP serves as a strategic framework for the capital's development priorities over the next five years, focusing on infrastructure, services, jobs, governance, and climate adaptation. The event brought together federal directors-general, Somali Chamber of Commerce, civil society organizations, and BRA officials.
- *Refugees and Returnees:* In October, the Berbera Reception Centre received the sole 2025 ASR boat, bringing **68** Somali returnees (21 males, 28 females, 19 children) from Yemen. Additionally, **12** Yemeni nationals and **6** Syrian refugees arrived. Cumulative 2025 new arrivals are **288** Yemeni and **8** Syrians. The centre also received **17** unassisted Somali returnees, increasing the 2025 total spontaneous returnees to **136** (84 males, 52 females).
- *High Level Meetings:* The Deputy Representative/OIC, Ms. Mandy Owusu, continued proactive high-level engagements with key donor partners. Discussions focused on the evolving situation in Somalia, UNHCR's work plans, efficiency measures, as well as strategies for strengthening partnerships to ensure continued support for the Somalia operation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In October 2025, UNHCR/NCRI in Mogadishu registered **309** individuals: 3 asylum-seekers, 16 refugees, 2 others of concern, and **288** returnees. **188** Proof of Registration (PoR) certificates were printed (2 asylum-seekers, 3 refugees, 183 returnees). Since January 2025, NCRI registered **827** individuals (226 asylum-seekers, 285 refugees, 288 returnees, 28 others of concern). **2,016** identity cards (1,740 refugees, 366 asylum-seekers) and **1,830** PoR certificates were issued. No ID cards were printed in October due to material shortages.
- Protection services were delivered across Galkayo, Garowe, Gardo, and Bossaso. Under gender-based violence (GBV), KAALO supported 9 female survivors with comprehensive care: psychosocial support (PSS), legal, medical, and livelihood assistance. In Child Protection, three cases (2 boys, 1 girl) received case management and referrals; caregivers got livelihood support, and two cases were referred for extended Best Interests Procedure. Additionally, 10 highly vulnerable individuals (6 females, 4 males) received Individual Protection Assistance (IPA).
- In October, the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MoRHA)/UNHCR registered **344** new individuals in Hargeisa and Berbera: **112** asylum-seekers, **146** refugees, and **86** Somali returnees. Yemenis and Ethiopians accounted for 35% each, Somali returnees 25%, and other nationalities 5%. Since January, **3,647** individuals were registered (2,305 asylum-seekers, 1,091 refugees, 242 returnees, 9 others). MORHA issued **431** documents this month (162 asylum certificates, 269 refugee ID cards), contributing to a total of 16,463 documents issued since January.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In the South Central region, under the livelihood component, **50** youth (**25** Baidoa, **25** Benadir) completed a five-month vocational training in electricity installation. AVORD will link graduates to internships and provide start-up toolkits to facilitate income generation. Separately, the KAALO team visited women who received **$380** business grants in September 2025 to assess progress and provide technical support in bookkeeping/loan management. Beneficiaries were observed to be progressing well and felt empowered.
- In Hargeisa, Joint Counselling Desk supported **366** individuals (155 refugees, 211 asylum-seekers, 1 returnee) with concerns over finance, livelihoods, documentation, education, and healthcare. The Legal Clinic held an awareness session for **61** people on protection services and documentation importance. Separately, social workers reached **80** vulnerable individuals in outreach, providing psychosocial counselling. Additionally, awareness sessions at two schools reached **120** students with information on higher education and vocational pathways.

Shelter and NFIs

- On 12-14 October, UNHCR partner AVORD and HCRI completed a three-day vulnerability assessment across eight IDP sites in Beledweyne, targeting 200 vulnerable households fleeing conflicts. The goal is to provide Emergency Shelter Kits, and AVORD is initiating the construction of 200 emergency shelters.
- In October 2025, UNHCR's shelter partner successfully completed the construction of 79 permanent shelters, each equipped with latrines, at the Qansaxleey Solutions Site in Dolow. This was done to enhance durable solutions for displaced populations and offer them safety, stability, and dignity.
- UNHCR and Puntland's Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD) recorded **1,062** families displaced by the Almiskad conflict near Balade. While most integrated into Bossaso, none received emergency aid. CCCM assessments in **16** Garowe IDP camps found critical gaps in food, water, education, and health. Elsewhere, **22** new IDP cases were registered and **24** complaints resolved in Gardo, while Bossaso saw **10** cases and **15** complaints resolved.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In Hargeisa, Protection help desks in the 18 May and Oog IDP sites identified **62** urgent protection cases, of which **59** received tailored counselling, emergency assistance, and referrals. Additionally, NRC community paralegals conducted awareness sessions, reaching **1,494** residents with information on human rights, available services, and exploitation prevention. UNHCR's Legal Clinic supported **372** individuals with legal aid and monitoring visits to detention sites. 30 of 36 detainees found were released. Additionally, **20** households (72 individuals) received emergency cash to prevent eviction and acute protection risks.
- KAALO provided legal aid to **48** people (14 refugees/34 asylum-seekers), yielding **28** counselling sessions, **15** releases from detention, three court cases, and two mediations. UNHCR trained MoIFAD staff on refugee status determination, followed by MoIFAD pre-screening **767** asylum-seekers. KAALO's sensitization reached **100** direct participants (55 women, 45 men) and over 600 indirectly, promoting coexistence and women's leadership.

Health

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, through Hanano, provided primary healthcare services to **338** patients (**148** males**, 190** females). The patients included **291** from Yemen (**139** males**, 152** females), **33** from Somalia (all female), **7** Tanzanians (**3** males**, 4** females), **6** Syrians (**5** males**, 1** female), and **1** male Sudanese. Services comprised consultations, screenings, lab investigations, treatments, and specialized referrals. Additionally, **18** patients received free ambulance services.
- Over **789** forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) accessed healthcare in Hargeisa and Berbera, including emergency, maternal and child health, and consultation services. UNHCR also handed over advanced medical equipment and ICU beds to Hargeisa Group Hospital to strengthen diagnostic/critical care for both FDPs and host communities.

Education

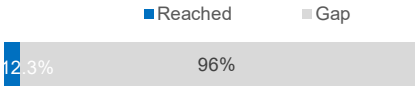
- UNHCR is advancing refugee education transition with the Ministry of Education (MoE). NRC and partners verified **549** newly eligible students in October, submitting lists for CBI and tuition fee coverage. Additionally, NRC covered national certification fees for **152** learners who passed their Grade 8 and Form 4 exams, ensuring academic progression. UNHCR, via NRC, also initiated procurement of school furniture for targeted public schools.
- Save the Children paid **$9,609** to cover school fees for **620** refugee/asylum-seeking children across 60 schools in Mogadishu, ensuring continued access. The support reached **401** primary and **219** secondary learners. Additionally, the partner paid monthly salaries of **$300** and **$400** for one community mobilizer and one MoE focal person, respectively. Separately, DAFI students received their Quarter 4 allowances, with each student getting **$685** for various entitlements.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

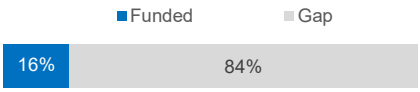
protectioncluster SOMALIA

294,947

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



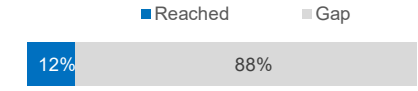
3.3 M	People in need
2.4 M	People targeted
166 M	Funding required



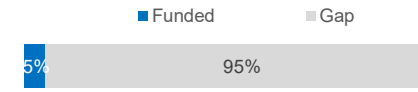
SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

153,101

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



4.1 M	People in need
1.3 M	People targeted
60.8 M	Funding required



CCCM Cluster SOMALIA
CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1,110,050

# 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 October, Protection Cluster partners supported **40,152** individuals with specialized services, including community protection, PSS, individual cash/in-kind assistance, and case management. Assistance also covered mine action (survey, clearance, and risk education) and securing Housing, Land, and Property **(HLP)** rights for displaced persons to prevent eviction. The beneficiaries reached included: **10,674** girls, **9,863** boys, **11,001** women, **6,635** men, and **1,979** elderly persons. Of the total, **2,085** persons with disabilities received specialized protection activities. The Somalia Humanitarian Fund **(SHF)** launched a **$10 million** Reserve Allocation for drought in northern Somalia (Bossaso, Laas Qoray, Hargeisa, Zeylac). The Protection Cluster received **$500,000** of this funding for integrated Child Protection and GBV: **$400,000** (Bossaso) and Protection: **$100,000** (Laas Qoray). This funding supported mobile/static protection desks, IPA, case management (including for intimate partner violence (IPV)/sexual violence survivors and unaccompanied children), and community-led protection initiatives. The Cluster aims to reach **5,500** individuals with these interventions.

Shelter Cluster

Cumulatively, from January to October 2025, the Shelter Cluster reached **25,163** households (**153,101** individuals) across **22** districts. Kismayo recorded the highest reach (**28,815** individuals), and Berbera the lowest (**600** individuals). The Cluster's overall coverage stands at **12%** of the HRP target, reflecting a significant response gap due to ongoing financial constraints. In October 2025, partners provided standard NFIs, permanent and emergency shelters, and partial NFI kits to **2,476** households (**14,838** individuals). This included **780** households (**4,668** individuals) receiving complete standard NFI kits in Kismayo, where another **70** households (**420** individuals) received emergency shelter (family tents). Additionally, **1,580** households (**9,474** individuals) received partial NFI kits in Gubabley, Karaan district, and **46** households (**276** individuals) benefited from permanent shelters in Bossaso. Cluster partners also distributed clothing items to **1,500** drought-affected households (**8,998** individuals) in Kismayo. Between April and October 2025, Shelter Cluster partners provided plastic sheets to **16,608** households (**99,657** individuals) across six districts (Afmadow, Balcad, Belet Weyne, Dharkenley, Kahda, and Kismayo) in response to conflict and flood displacement.

CCCM Cluster

UNHCR and its CCCM partner (MoIFAD) recorded **1,062** families displaced by the Almiskad conflict, mainly from the Balade area. These displaced individuals, primarily women and children, integrated into the Bossaso host community, though they have yet to receive emergency assistance. The CCCM Cluster is advocating for aid. UNHCR/CCCM partner HCRI prevented a forced eviction order in Kalkal IDP Camp affecting **90** households (**540** individuals). HCRI is currently negotiating with the landowner. Site monitoring across **20** managed IDP sites by HCRI recorded **60** new arrivals fleeing Boco, Qalafe, Bakool, and Mustaxiil due to drought. UNHCR/CCCM partner SWSCRI convened a meeting discussing eviction updates. They supported Daarow IDP site (**125** households/**750** individuals) and Biliskay (**70** households/**450** individuals), which received short eviction notices, with legal agreement documents. SWSCRI also led awareness campaigns on HLP rights and preparedness for the upcoming Deyr season.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Asho's Journey of Hope and Resilience Amid Displacement – Starting Over After Drought and Conflict

Four years ago, Asho Diriye Abdullahi, a 45-year-old mother of six, fled her home in Hayo, Lower Juba region, after drought and conflict devastated her community. Once an agro-pastoralist, Asho and her family lost their livelihood as prolonged drought led to severe water shortages and the collapse of their way of life.

Now living in Danwadag IDP site in Dhobley, Asho continues to rebuild her life with remarkable strength and determination. Through UNHCR and its livelihood partner COOPI, she received start-up capital of $750 to support her family's recovery.

Asho Feeding Her Stock © UNHCR

"The assistance was incredibly helpful," Asho recounts. "It offered stability and a sustainable income opportunity amid uncertainty and multiple displacements."

With the start-up support, Asho purchased 15 goats, helping her and other former pastoralists restore their livelihoods after losing livestock to drought.

"We now feel a sense of dignity," she adds. "We have settled with a reliable source of income, which has improved our living conditions and restored comfort and hope."

Despite her resilience, she continues to face challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education for her children and sanitation services.

Asho appeals for sustained humanitarian aid to support families like hers striving to rebuild their lives with dignity after displacement. Her story stands as a testament to the resilience of displaced communities and the transformative impact of livelihood support.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 29.87 million** as of 31 October 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

USA 14.55 million | **Japan** 2.0 million | **Austria** 1.36 million | **Germany** 598,219 | **Switzerland** 340,136 | **Canada** 126,000

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 8.1 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 7.1 million | **Italy** 5.1 million | **Norway** 4.8 million | **Finland** 3.2 million | **UK for UNHCR** 2.6 million

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

Sweden 74.1 million | **España con ACNUR** 57.3 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 41.6 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 38.6 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **Germany** 25.1 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 24.4 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Private donors in Italy** 19 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Private donors in the Netherlands** 12.7 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 12.4 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kazakhstan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Spain | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **UNHCR Somalia**
- UNHCR Somalia: **Operational Data Portal**
- Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network dashboard (**PSMN**)
- **Protection Cluster**
- **Shelter Cluster**
- **CCCM Cluster**

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