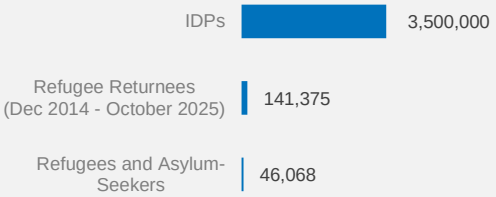
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

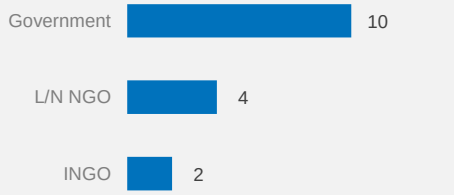
POPULATION

3.68M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works



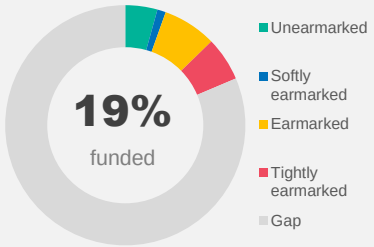
PARTNERS

16 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025



FUNDING

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



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

November 2025

Livelihoods: Livestock watering in Dollow, Somalia. © Solomon Ngari/UNHCR

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian needs in Somalia remained critically high, amidst the increasingly difficult global financial environment. November 2025 was dominated by a severe drought emergency, officially declared by the Federal Government on 10 November, following failed Deyr rains. This crisis has caused critical food and water shortages, heightened malnutrition, and increased displacement, driving urgent humanitarian appeals. Over 4.4 million people were projected to face acute food insecurity (through December), while 1.85 million children were projected to suffer acute malnutrition through July 2026. In Gedo alone, 33,500 households were in critical need of water. Major drivers of the crisis included the failed Deyr rains, conflict, high food prices, and livestock loss. With only 23.7% of the 2025 HNRP requirement funded, there are significant funding gaps across key sectors like WASH, Food Security, and Health. With approximately one-quarter of the population facing severe acute food insecurity, urgent scale-up of livelihood support and food assistance is required immediately to prevent the collapse of local livelihoods, widespread food shortages, and loss of life.

The security situation remained highly volatile. Al-Shabaab maintained pressure in South-Central regions, countered by stepped-up Somali operations. Mogadishu faced persistent urban insecurity with targeted improvised explosive devices (IEDs), counter-terrorism raids, and violent land dispute protests. Elsewhere, tensions escalated as Somaliland rejected Somali government visas. The Somalia Civil Aviation Authority warned airlines against flying passengers to Hargeisa without Somali e-visas, threatening penalties. Somaliland, on the other hand, required all operators to seek prior airspace authorization.

KEY UPDATES

- *Legislation:* On 19 November in Mogadishu, the Upper House endorsed the nine commissioners of the National Independent Human Rights Commission. Federal Minister of Family Affairs and Human Rights Development, Ms. Khadija Mohamed, confirmed that the nominees had previously been approved by the Cabinet on 3 July and endorsed by the House of the People on 11 October.
- *Registration and Documentation:* In November, the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MORHA) and UNHCR registered **172** new individuals (112 asylum-seekers, 58 refugees, 2 Somali returnees) in Hargeisa and Berbera. Nationalities were **67%** Ethiopian and **26%** Yemeni. The Hargeisa office issued **326** documents (197 asylum certificates, 129 refugee IDs). Cumulatively, **16,789** documents have been issued since January 2025, strengthening protection mechanisms for the forcibly displaced persons.
- *High Level Meetings:* The Deputy Representative/OIC, Ms. Mandy Owusu, continued proactive high-level engagements with key donor partners – including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Discussions focused on the recently approved AfDB Dollow project, the evolving funding and drought situation in Somalia, and strategies for strengthening partnerships to ensure continued support for Somalia.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In November 2025, UNHCR, KAALO, and NCRI distributed dignity kits to **100** vulnerable women and girls (89 women, 11 girls) from the refugee and asylum-seeker community in Mogadishu, Banadir. This action supports their dignity, health, and protection from violence. Elsewhere, KAALO distributed mobility aids (wheelchairs) to **10** persons with disabilities (5 male, 5 female). Additionally, **24** individuals (10 male, 14 female) received food assistance to improve well-being. Through protection help desks across 11 locations, **4,992** individuals (3,363 female, 1,629 male) were reached via PSEA/GBV sensitization, with **549** individuals (406 female, 143 male) referred to specialized services.
- In Galkayo, KAALO supported **10** female GBV survivors (8 asylum-seekers, 2 refugees) with comprehensive case management, psychosocial, and medical/livelihood support. Additionally, **21** vulnerable children (11 boys, 10 girls) received child protection case management. Individual Protection Assistance was given to **23** persons in need (16 asylum-seekers, 7 refugees) facing severe challenges like food insecurity. In Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, and Galkayo, **378** individuals (254 female, 110 male, 14 children) participated in refugee rights awareness sessions covering protection, access to basic services, and freedom of movement.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR and its partner Legal Clinic (LC) supported **542** individuals with legal aid services (counseling, court support, and referrals). The LC monitored **37** detention sites, where **51** forcibly displaced persons (45 male, 6 female) were detained. Through various interventions, **48** detainees were successfully released. Additionally, the Joint Counselling Desk provided advice to **388** individuals (68% females) concerning finance, livelihood, and documentation. UNHCR and LC held an awareness session for **79** individuals (54 females) on accessing services and the importance of carrying valid legal documents.
- In Hargeisa, two protection help desks at the 18 May and Oog IDP sites identified **62** cases requiring urgent support. **59** cases received comprehensive services and referrals, while **3** cases received one-time emergency cash. Additionally, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) paralegals reached **1,494** residents through awareness sessions on rights and preventing abuses.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR donated **89** assorted furniture and ICT equipment to community centers and partners. Items distributed included office desks, tables, cupboards, plastic chairs, and ICT equipment such as desktop/laptop computers, photocopiers and printers. The equipment will facilitate capacity building as well establishment of small businesses.
- UNHCR and the Ministry of Women, Family Affairs, and Human Rights (MoWFAHR) in Jubaland conducted training to strengthen inter-ministerial referral pathways for improved service delivery. Separately, in Mogadishu, UNHCR, NCRI, and Dahabshill completed physical verification for **200** vulnerable households selected for livelihood grants. Each verified household received a cash transfer of **$1,000** through e-Dahab SIM card to start businesses and reduce dependency.

Shelter and NFIs

- In Bossaso, construction of 46 owner-driven permanent shelters with latrines was completed. The corresponding land title deeds are currently being printed by the municipality. Additionally, the registration and distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) were finalized for 400 households across the Mudug and Bari regions. Upcoming activities include distribution of the land title deeds, conducting post-distribution and post-construction monitoring for the NFI kits and permanent shelters in Girible, Bossaso, and various IDP settlements.
- UNHCR, local authorities, and partners handed over permanent shelters to vulnerable families, including 60 permanent shelters with latrines and corresponding title deeds in Baidoa, 79 permanent shelters with latrines in Qansahley IDP camp, Dollow. The distribution of 200 emergency shelter kits was completed in Beletweyne for conflict-displaced households. In Kismayo, AVORD distributed **1,000** mosquito nets to **500** households.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR commenced and completed distributing NFIs to **200** refugee and asylum-seeker households. Each family received two sleeping mats and two mosquito nets. This intervention aims to improve living conditions, promote health, and reduce vulnerability by preventing vector-borne diseases.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- Below-average Deyr 2025 rains have severely deepened the crisis in Galmudug, leading to acute water shortages and displacement risk, affecting **13** villages in Hobyo. The acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is extremely critical at **24.8%** in Gaalkacyo IDP sites. WFP cash assistance was suspended for over **15,000** households due to funding cuts, exacerbating vulnerability and threatening the collapse of coping mechanisms.
- UNHCR's partner, AVORD, finalized vulnerability assessments in Banadir and Beledweyne. The exercise successfully identified and registered **3,000 households** in Banadir for NFI support and **240 households** in Beledweyne for emergency shelter kits. Distributions will commence once UNHCR confirms the final beneficiary lists.

Health

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, via Hanano hospital, provided primary healthcare to **305** patients (**175** females). This included **259** Yemenis, **31** Somalis, **10** Tanzanians, and **5** Syrians. Services covered consultations and laboratory tests. Additionally, the hospital provided free ambulance services to 14 patients.
- In Hargeisa/Berbera, **789** forcibly displaced persons accessed healthcare services: **435** at primary centers and **354** referred to Hargeisa Group Hospital (HGH). Consultations increased by **13%** compared to September. Ethiopians comprised **81%** of patients, and Yemenis **16%**. **68** returnees received support (**62** primary, **6** secondary). UNHCR also handed over **4** hospital tents to HGH for decongestion and isolation.

Education

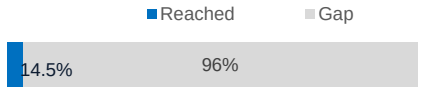
- UNHCR's partner paid school fees for **703** refugee and asylum-seeking children in Mogadishu for a total of **$10,656**, including **224** secondary learners ($18 each), **292** upper primary learners ($15 each), and **187** lower primary learners ($12 each). Additionally, **$2,400** was disbursed to parents of **80** newly enrolled students ($30 per child) for learning materials. For higher education, **$14,899** in semester fees was released for **38** DAFI students across **12** universities in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo.
- In Hargeisa, renovation of **29** schools is ongoing, expected to finish by late December 2025. Budget savings allowed procurement for **16** additional classrooms, improving learning environments and expanding educational capacity.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

protectioncluster SOMALIA

348,490

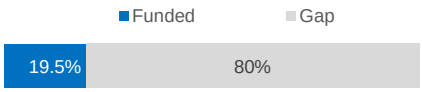
# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



3.3 M People in need

2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required

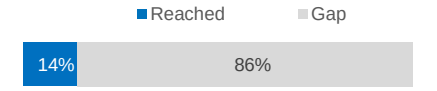


SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

175,484

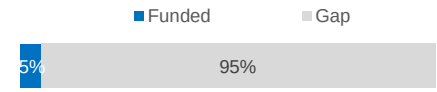
# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



4.1 M People in need

1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required



CCCM Cluster SOMALIA

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

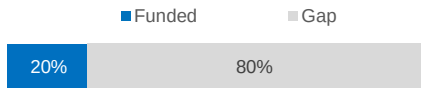
1,280,000

# 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 November 2025, Protection Cluster partners provided specialized protection services to a total of **53,543 individuals**. These services included community-based protection and self-protection initiatives; psychosocial support (PSS); individual protection assistance (cash and in-kind); supported referrals; and protection case management. Beneficiaries also included individuals in areas declared safe following mine action survey and clearance, as well as those trained on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education. Displaced persons received support to secure their Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights, acquire secure tenure documents, and received training on HLP matters and forced evictions mitigation. The overall assistance reached **15,622 girls, 12,872 boys, 14,127 women, 8,923 men, and 1,999 elderly persons**. Notably, **2,736 persons with disabilities** benefited from these specialized protection activities.

Shelter Cluster

In November 2025, Shelter Cluster partners supported **3,745** households (**22,383** individuals) across eight districts, including Baidoa, Galkacyo, and Beletweyne. Assistance comprised in-kind NFI kits for **3,185** households, emergency shelters for **421** households, and permanent shelters for **139** households in Baidoa and Dollow. Cumulatively, from January to November 2025, the Cluster assisted **28,908** households (**175,484** individuals). Additional NFI support included the distribution of clothing to **6,500** drought-affected households and plastic sheeting to **16,608** households between April and October to address conflict and flood displacement. Despite these efforts, the overall January-October coverage was only **14%** of the HNRP target, indicating a significant response gap due to financial constraints. To enhance quality and coordination, the National Coordination Team held a two-day refresher workshop in Kismayo in late November, focusing on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and information management to reinforce evidence-based planning and localisation efforts.

CCCM Cluster

UNHCR and its CCCM partners recorded **912** new drought-affected households entering IDP sites, including Baidoa, Daynile, and Marka. This rapid influx severely strains existing services and resources, on already overstretched essential services, humanitarian response capacity, and local resources. In Afmadow alone, partners (Jubaland Commission for Refugees and IDPs (JUCRI) and ACTED) recorded **241** households newly arrived from Dinsor, Hagar, and Sakow. Partners are conducting local response planning and coordinating closely with service providers, using tools like NAT 2.0, site monitoring, and service mapping to identify and address immediate needs.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Fadumo Mohamud Abdile: Overcoming double displacement to achieve multi-generational stability

Fadumo's family. @Solomon Ngari/UNHCR

The challenge: Fadumo Mohamud Abdille, a mother of eleven, has endured more than a decade of hardship and displacement. Over 10 years ago, when conflict erupted in Qoryooley (Lower Shabelle), Fadumo and her family were forced to flee and ended up in Mogadishu. "The journey was not easy she recalls. "I lost so much during the conflict, accompanied by my family of eleven children, we fled to Mogadishu. The road was long and uncertain.

In Mogadishu Fadumo's family faced forced eviction, "I received several eviction notices because I could not afford to pay rent, life was full of hopelessness." After a few months, the family decided to move further north in search of safety and opportunities – settling in Galkacyo's Taalacad IDP Camp, life was extremely difficult, as the family struggled to find work, she remembers the despair.

Durable solutions: Fadumo's family was later successfully relocated to the Jeehdin IDP camp where she received an emergency shelter. Everything changed when UNHCR, in collaboration with the government, registered Fadumo in the Durable Solutions Programme. She was allocated a permanent plot of land with secure tenure. With technical support and designs from UNHCR and NRC, she built a two-room shelter along with a VIP latrine. In early 2022, she secured a USD 1,000 business grant from UNHCR through the Zakat Fund from Eid Charity and accompanying business skills training.

The impact: The impact was life-changing. Fadumo opted for a direct asset investment, purchasing 20 goats. This initial investment has yielded a significant return, with the herd multiplying to over 36 goats. This livestock asset has been crucial for meeting non-food needs: "We have sold some of the goats to meet the pressing basic needs, especially medical care and school fees for the children," demonstrating the success of the grant in securing family well-being and future human capital investment.

Today, Fadumo's children attend school, and she proudly supports her household through her small business. "I now live in dignity. I have my own home, privacy, and a source of income. My children are in school, and I feel secure for the first time in many years. I am deeply grateful to UNHCR and the government for giving me this opportunity."

Fadumo's story demonstrates the transformative power of durable solutions. With land, shelter, and support to rebuild livelihoods, displaced families like hers can move from dependency to self-reliance, living dignified lives with hope for the future.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 29.26 million** as of 30 November 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 | **Austria** 2.51 million | **Japan** 2.0 million | **Germany** 598,219 | **Switzerland** 340,136 | **Canada** 126,000

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 9.1 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 7.5 million | **Italy** 5.1 million | **Norway** 4.8 million | **UK for UNHCR** 2.6 million | **Finland** 2.1 million

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

Sweden 74.1 million | **España con ACNUR** 63.7 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 45.9 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 41.6 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 27 million | **Germany** 25.1 million | **Private donors in Italy** 21.2 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 13.7 million | **Private donors in the Netherlands** 13.6 million | **Ireland** 13.6 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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