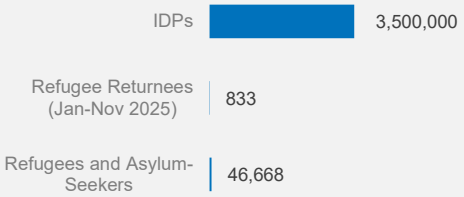
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

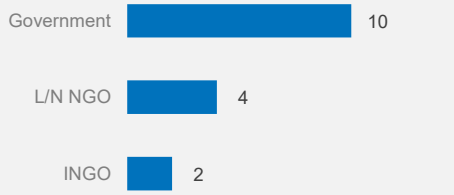
POPULATION

3.55M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works



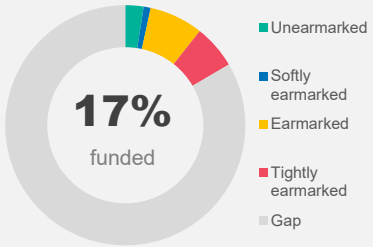
PARTNERS

16 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025



FUNDING

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



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

DECEMBER 2025

Distribution of start-up kits to livelihood project beneficiaries. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian needs in Somalia remained critically high, amidst the increasingly difficult global financial environment. The January–March 2026 Jiilaal dry season is set to exacerbate Somalia's deepening drought emergency, intensifying water scarcity, livestock mortality, and acute food insecurity. With livelihoods collapsing and water prices soaring, authorities estimate that **4.61 million** people are already affected. By December 2025, approximately **120,000** individuals were displaced to overcrowded urban sites as rural conditions became untenable. This crisis is escalating at a critical juncture: severe funding shortfalls have forced humanitarian partners to scale back essential programs. As of late December 2025, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan remains critically underfunded at only **26%** (**$374.5 million**) of the required **$1.42 billion**. Without an urgent injection of resources, the intersection of extreme climate shocks and diminished aid capacity will accelerate population displacement and worsen the humanitarian catastrophe across Somalia.

In December, the security situation remained highly volatile in the Banadir Region with increasing targeted terrorism and violent crime. Al-Shabaab intensified attacks on security forces and government installations, notably a suicide bombing at the Xero-Nacnac training camp that killed seven recruits, and grenade strikes in Deynile and Kahda. Violent crime also surged, civic activity saw workers at Aden Adde International Airport strike over unfair dismissals, though operations continued. Despite this instability, a city-wide curfew on December 25 enabled a peaceful local council election, with residents voting orderly under heavy security – the first in more than 50 years. On the political front, the Somalia Future Council conference (an opposition bloc) convened a conference on 17 December in Kismayo, bringing together former presidents, Prime Ministers, and Ministers – amid growing tensions over the electoral process and constitutional review.

KEY UPDATES

- *Partnerships and Capacity-building:* To strengthen system-wide response to protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Puntland, KAALO trained 65 government and justice officials on legal frameworks and PSEA. Additionally, 30 individuals received legal aid and mediation, while 24 protection committee members were trained to enhance community-led GBV prevention and referral pathways.
- *Registration and Documentation:* In December, UNHCR and the NCRI registered **193** individuals (12 asylum-seekers, 7 refugees, and 174 returnees), with all receiving Proof of Registration certificates. Cumulatively since January 2025, the NCRI has registered **1,534** individuals (298 asylum-seekers, 330 refugees, 878 returnees, and 28 others). Over **2,016** ID cards were distributed, reaching **1,740** refugees and **366** asylum-seekers. These efforts remain vital for ensuring legal identity and access to rights for displaced populations.
- *16 Days of Activism:* On 8 December, UNHCR Hargeisa hosted the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, launching a specialized awareness campaign focused on preventing digital abuse, engaging **100** women. Additional comprehensive education sessions reached over 100 women**,** addressing the multi-dimensional aspects of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic, to strengthen community-based protection and prevention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR and the Legal Clinic provided physiotherapy and mobility assistive devices to 40 individuals with severe disabilities. This included specialized support for 10 children with conditions such as Cerebral Palsy and Hemiplegia to enhance independence. Additionally, 34 refugee children from the MENA community participated in a recreational initiative on 17 December. These activities promoted psychosocial well-being and physical development while raising critical awareness of safety and help-seeking mechanisms for vulnerable children.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and KAALO provided Individual Protection Assistance of **$110** each to 31 vulnerable refugee families to mitigate food insecurity. To support the 2025 Participatory Assessment (PA), UNHCR trained enumerators in protection ethics and KOBO data collection. The subsequent PA exercise successfully engaged **100** individuals (refugees/asylum-seekers and IDPs) in Mogadishu and **60** participants in Dollow, utilizing an Age, Gender, and Diversity approach. These assessments identified protection risks and community capacities to inform future programmatic cycles and strategic planning, ensuring that upcoming interventions are evidence-based and responsive to the specific challenges faced by forcibly displaced communities in accessing essential services.
- In Galkayo, despite an eight-month suspension, MOIFAD successfully pre-screened **1,400** individuals from Puntland's refugees and asylum-seekers community. In Bossaso, the Ministry operationalized a One-Stop Center, co-locating MOIFAD, UNHCR, and municipal services to streamline refugee and IDP assistance. Furthermore, during a December 2025 protection training, MOIFAD disseminated data from a **22**-family household survey and a **2,000**-household intention survey to policymakers and law enforcement, significantly strengthening evidence-based decision-making and regional protection strategies.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR participated in the "My Somalia, My Future" exhibition, where 30 displaced youth used art to share their aspirations. This initiative aligns youth perspectives with the UN Cooperation Framework to ensure more youth-centered programming. Additionally, 50 youth graduated from AVORD's TVET program, completing courses in tailoring and electrical work. Graduates received specialized startup kits including Juki sewing machines and materials, while electrical students received toolkits, multimeters, and safety gear. These market-relevant skills and resources empower displaced families to generate income, fostering resilience and contributing to local economic recovery. UNHCR and Dahabshiil further disbursed livelihood grants of **$1,000** each to **172** vulnerable households.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR and Save the Children (SCI) celebrated the graduation of **75** refugee students from a TVET program at Hargeisa Technical Institute, specializing in aluminum fabrication, tailoring, beauty, and electrical installation. Graduates received certificates and starter toolkits to promote self-reliance. Furthermore, **294** refugees completed Business Development Services training in entrepreneurship and financial literacy. This intervention builds on previous UNHCR initiatives aimed at equipping participants with skills to scale up their small businesses.

Shelter and NFIs

- In Puntland, the project completed **46** permanent shelters and NFI distributions in Bosaso, with **41** title deeds issued. Protection interventions supported **30** children via individual assistance/ referrals, and **41** dignity kits were distributed to women and girls. In Galmudug's Barwaqo site, **79** latrines and two-room shelters are nearing completion. Critical water infrastructure was installed, with pipeline extensions commencing soon. Post-distribution monitoring for both regions is scheduled for early January 2026.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR jointly with the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs and community committees, completed NFI distributions across Hargeisa, Berbera, and Burao - prioritizing female-headed households, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. In total, **1,640** households received essential mosquito nets and sleeping mats, significantly enhancing living conditions and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable displaced populations.
- In Banadir, UNHCR and AVORD distributed 4,634 sleeping mats and 6,951 mosquito nets to 2,317 households across Kahda and Deynile. Additionally, 336 emergency shelters were handed over to vulnerable IDPs in Beledweyne. These interventions significantly improved safety, privacy, and living conditions for displaced families, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to protection and durable solutions in Somalia.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In Hargeisa, protection help desks at the 18 May and Oog IDP sites identified **40** urgent protection cases, providing tailored counseling, emergency assistance, and specialized referrals. Additionally, NRC community paralegals conducted awareness sessions for **1,706** IDP residents, focusing on human rights and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

Health

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and Hanano provided primary healthcare to **134** patients (70 females), primarily from Yemen (117), Somalia (13), Tanzania (2), Sudan (1), and Syria (1). Services included consultations, screenings, and laboratory tests. Additionally, **15** patients received free ambulance services for urgent, specialized hospital referrals.
- Across Hargeisa and Berbera, 794 displaced persons accessed primary and emergency healthcare. Services included outpatient consultations, maternal/childcare, and specialized referrals, ensuring that refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees maintained access to essential, life-saving medical support.

Education

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and SCI paid $10,662 in school fees and $4,921 in midterm exam fees for 703 refugee students (344 girls). Additionally, the DAFI project provided a $685 allowance for a student at Mogadishu University and $1,592 for an Abrar University student's internship in Nairobi, covering tuition, travel, and living expenses, and helping uninterrupted education and professional development for displaced youth.
- In Hargeisa, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR, and NRC, distributed **720** benches to public schools with high refugee enrolment. This initiative mitigates overcrowding and improves infrastructure, directly supporting the integration of displaced students into the national education system and enhancing learning environments.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

protectioncluster SOMALIA

425,344

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

Reached 17.7% | Gap 82.3%

3.3 M People in need

2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required

Funded 24.2% | Gap 75.8%

SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

198,025

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

Reached 16% | Gap 84%

4.1 M People in need

1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required

Funded 5% | Gap 95%

CCCM Cluster SOMALIA

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1,340,000

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

Reached 71% | Gap 29%

2.4 M People in need

1.9 M People targeted

44.6 M Funding required

Funded 20% | Gap 80%

Protection Cluster

In December 2025, Protection Cluster partners reached **76,854** individuals (including **29,410** women, **17,737** girls, and **8,395** persons with disabilities). Services included psychosocio support, cash/in-kind assistance, mine action (EORE), and housing, land, and property rights support to prevent evictions. During 14–18 December, a nationwide **Participatory Assessment** across Puntland, Somaliland, and South-Central Somalia completed data collection through **70** focus group discussions. Key findings highlighted inflation, funding-related service cuts, and food insecurity; the final report is due January 2026. Additionally, UNHCR co-facilitated the **"My Somalia, My Future"** art event for **28** displaced youth. Participant insights on education, stability, and inclusion will now inform the **UN Country Framework implementation** and inter-agency advocacy for youth-responsive programming.

Shelter Cluster

In December 2025, Shelter Cluster partners supported **3,958 households (22,541 individuals)** across six districts. Monthly assistance included **2,783** in-kind NFI kits, **585 transitional shelters**, **331 Emergency Shelter Kits (ESK)/NFI combinations**, **130 emergency shelters**, and **129 permanent shelters**. Additionally, drought-affected populations received clothing for **6,500 households**, while **34,924 households** across ten districts received plastic sheeting. Cumulatively, in 2025, the Cluster reached **32,866 households (198,025 individuals)** across 25 districts. Despite these diverse interventions, overall coverage as of December reached only **16% of the HNRP 2025 target**. This massive response gap underscores a critical humanitarian shortfall driven by persistent financial constraints, even as displacement from drought, conflict, and flooding continues to accelerate across Somalia.

CCCM Cluster

During the reporting period (December 2025), CCCM Cluster partners utilized NAT 2.0 to record **10,514 new-arrival households** displaced by drought across eleven districts, including Baidoa, Kahda, and Daynile, all seeking urgent humanitarian assistance. In Kismayo, UNHCR partner **JUCRI** led a multi-stakeholder awareness session for IDP leaders, host communities, and police. The initiative focused on mitigating **aid diversion and gatekeeping** during distributions to drought-affected families. Additionally, following eviction notices issued to **197 households** in Daynile District, the CCCM Cluster, HLP AoR, and the Benadir Regional Administration Eviction Task Force conducted joint field verifications at the **Fadxul Maka and Bulo Marer** IDP sites to assess the situation of the affected families and coordinate a protection response.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Finding Hope Amid Displacement: The Story of Abdiqani Mohamed Barre

Livestock Watering ©Solomon Ngari/UNHCR

At 58, Abdiqani Mohamed Barre, originally from the Bari region, lived a content life as an animal herder in the rural areas. However, seven years ago, his world turned upside down when drought swept through his homeland, claiming his livestock and shattering his livelihood. “The effects of the drought forced us to leave everything behind,” Abdiqani shares, his voice heavy with emotion. “Our animals were not just our source of income but our way of life. When they died, we had no choice but to move in search of survival.”

The move to displacement brought its own set of challenges. “Starting from scratch was one of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do,” he explains. “We had no home, no shelter, and no income. My only skill was animal herding, which didn’t help in this new environment.” Life began to change when Abdiqani’s family was identified by UNHCR for support. After a thorough assessment of vulnerable displaced families, his household received cash assistance via mobile transfer. This lifeline, though modest, brought hope during a desperate time.

“The assistance was incredibly helpful,” he recounts. “It allowed us to meet our immediate needs. I bought food for my family, paid overdue school fees for my children, and purchased warm clothes to keep them comfortable during the colder months.” The multipurpose cash assistance provided more than financial relief; it offered stability amid uncertainty. Abdiqani speaks warmly of its impact, “It helped us cope with the challenges of displacement by covering essentials. We felt a sense of dignity in being able to decide how to meet our needs.”

While the cash assistance addressed urgent needs, Abdiqani remains focused on the future. His dream is to rebuild a stable life for his family. “I want a secure home and for my children to continue their education,” he says with hope. “Education will open doors for them that I never had.” Reflecting on the experience, Abdiqani is both grateful and thoughtful. “I deeply appreciate the support we've received,” he says. “But I also hope that programs can prioritize restocking livestock for rural families and offering training to help displaced people adapt to new circumstances. This would empower us to build sustainable lives and move beyond dependency.”

Despite the hardships, Abdiqani embodies resilience and optimism. His story is a testament to the power of assistance programs in transforming lives and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

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**

CONTACTS:

- **Yang Du,** Associate External Relations Officer, du@unhcr.org

@UNHCRSom @UNHCRSom