

## POPULATION

**3.35M** # of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs  3,300,000

Refugee Returnees (In 2025) | 1,147

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | 46,668

## PARTNERS

**10** # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2026

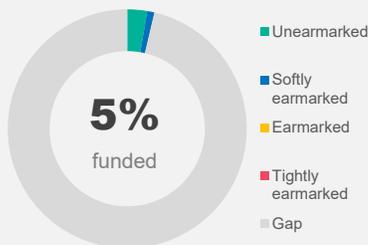
Government  6

L/N NGO  2

INGO  2

## FUNDING

**110M** Funding required for 2026 (as of 31 January 2026)



## 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

**JANUARY 2026**



NFIs Distribution to Families of Displaced Population in Kismayo, Somalia. © UNHCR

## OVERVIEW

On 26 January, the Federal Government of Somalia in collaboration with the UN and humanitarian actors, launched the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). The HNRP is seeking **USD 852 million** to assist **2.4 million** people in need, which is only **50** percent of those in need. In 2026, an estimated **4.8 million** people require urgent humanitarian assistance. While this represents a **20** percent decrease from 2025, the drop is due to a more rigorous prioritization of needs, rather than a true improvement in conditions. The 2026 requirement represents a **40** percent reduction from the 2025 requirement (USD 1.42 billion). To move beyond emergency relief, humanitarian actors are prioritizing the nexus approach, effectively linking humanitarian aid with long-term development and peace-building efforts. By aligning the humanitarian strategy with national priorities and working alongside local and international partners, the humanitarian actors aim to tackle the root causes of vulnerability and build lasting resilience. However, without immediate funding, the intersection of climate shocks and constrained aid capacity will accelerate population displacement and worsen the humanitarian crisis across Somalia.

In January, the security landscape across Somalia remained complex, characterized by persistent Al-Shabaab attacks against Somali Security Forces, government personnel, and AUSSOM troops. The number of reported security incidents rose to **86**, up from **76**. Key incidents included: **20** armed conflicts/clashes (an increase from 16), **12** terrorism-related incidents (a decrease from 15), and **28** crime-related incidents (down from 30). On the political front, on 17 January, President Mohamud and Prime Minister Barre attended Abdulqadir Ahmed's inauguration as President of the North-East Regional State, affirming strong federal support. Elsewhere, the National Independent Electoral Commission published the final distribution of the 390 seats in the Benadir regional council following the 25 December elections.

## KEY UPDATES

- **Displacement:** Severe displacement occurred across Jowhar and Afmadow districts due to escalating conflict and drought. In Jowhar, **3,580** households (21,480 individuals) were displaced in Xawaadley. Of these, **380** households moved to hard-to-reach riverine areas, while 200 sought refuge in Jowhar town. Concurrently, drought forced **3,000** households from neighboring villages into riverine zones. In Afmadow, **476** households (2,856 individuals) were displaced from Qalaawiley and Xagar Geel due to extreme hunger and water shortages. These populations have migrated as a last resort, seeking urgent humanitarian assistance to survive deteriorating conditions.
- **Documentation:** In Hargeisa and Berbera, UNHCR and the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs registered **170** individuals (111 asylum-seekers, 59 refugees). Additionally, **276** documents, including 146 asylum certificates and 130 refugee IDs, were issued. Overall, new arrivals plummeted 38.4% as Yemen boat security checks intensified.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Protection

- In Hargeisa, **310** legal assistance cases were received, primarily involving Ethiopian nationals. The majority of cases were related to rent and evictions (**254** cases). Beneficiaries included **238** women, **72** men, **242** asylum-seekers, and **58** refugees. **287** cases (**93%**) were resolved through counseling (263), court (19), mediation (1), police (1), and detainee releases; 23 remain ongoing. Following **37** monitoring visits, 3 of 7 detained Ethiopian asylum seekers were released. Budget cuts and housing tensions between host communities and refugees and asylum seekers remain critical challenges.
- Across South-Central Somalia and Mogadishu, UNHCR and partner KAAALO strengthened community-based protection Help Desks in Deynile, Beledweyne, Jowhar, and Dolow, conducted awareness campaigns on GBV, child labor, and harmful practices like FGM and early marriage, reaching **823** individuals (**569** females, **254** males). These sessions successfully resulted in the referral of **351** individuals with heightened needs to specialized services. In Mogadishu, a targeted session at the NCRI engaged **33** refugees and asylum-seekers (8 women, 2 girls, 4 boys, 19 men) on the critical importance of reporting rape within 72 hours. This campaign highlighted the availability of free medical and psychosocial support, empowering the community to take a proactive role in survivors' recovery. These efforts ensure that displaced populations are informed and can access life-saving assistance.
- In Hargeisa, to strengthen child protection, **six** female foster parents (5 Ethiopian refugees, one Yemeni asylum-seeker) were identified and appointed to take care of neglected children. They were selected based on their stable backgrounds and strong caregiving capacities. These women provide secure environments and emotional support, ensuring the health and well-being of children in their care.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Hargeisa, the Peaceful Co-existence Centre, in collaboration with UNHCR, held a community awareness session aimed at informing forcibly displaced persons about available protection and assistance services, the effects of the reduced funding, and its impact on UNHCR services and assistance to forcibly displaced persons in Somaliland. The session reinforced the significance of community awareness, engaging **29** attendees (20 females and 9 males), consisting of **15** refugees and **14** asylum-seekers, predominantly of Ethiopian nationality (27), with 2 participants from Yemen.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) registered **72** individuals, including **53** asylum-seekers and **19** refugees. Additionally, a total of **30** Proof of Registration (PoR) certificates were printed, comprising **21** for asylum-seekers and **8** for refugees. Overall, the NCRI issued a total of **264** identity cards, including **179** for refugees and **85** for asylum-seekers.

### Shelter and NFIs

- In Kismayo, UNHCR and partner AVORD distributed essential non-food items (NFIs) to **600** conflict-displaced households who fled Jamame District. **300** households received full NFI kits, while **300** received plastic sheeting for emergency shelter. Facilitated by

CCCM partners and the Jubaland Commission for Refugees and IDPs (JUCRI), this coordinated intervention provided critical materials to establish temporary housing and restore basic living conditions for the affected population.

- UNHCR in Hargeisa concluded its regional NFI distribution in Borama, providing **103** refugee and asylum-seeker households with two sleeping mats and two mosquito nets each. These essential items aim to improve hygiene, provide basic comfort, and prevent malaria among vulnerable families. This distribution marks the completion of a broader response initiated in December, which successfully reached a total of **1,743** households across four regions: Hargeisa, Berbera, Borama, and Burao. This large-scale intervention underscores UNHCR's commitment to addressing the immediate needs of displaced populations facing resource scarcity and harsh environments.

### Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In Hargeisa, the UNHCR conducted household vulnerability assessments for five households to determine cash assistance eligibility based on established criteria. Additionally, the distribution list for the January–March 2026 monthly subsistence allowance, covering 58 households, was finalized and submitted for processing to ensure continued financial support for the vulnerable families affected by climate and other shocks.

### Health

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR Field Unit successfully received 215 physical medical files belonging to individuals living with chronic illnesses. These files were handed over by Hanano, the former health partner responsible for managing the health services for the refugees and the asylum-seekers in Mogadishu before the transition. The handover exercise was conducted smoothly, with representatives from both Hanano, the CEO, and the UNHCR Mogadishu field team present to verify and review the files. All 215 files were checked for completeness and accuracy, ensuring that each person's monthly medications are accurately captured and recorded against his or her name. The files are now in custody of the UNHCR Mogadishu Office for storage and are currently handled by the community-based protection staff.

### Education

- In Hargeisa, the Head of UNHCR Sub-Office and technical team met with the Minister of Education to advance the finalization of the refugee education transition MoU amid funding constraints, reaffirming commitment to inclusive education for refugee and host community children. UNHCR confirmed technical clearance of the MoU, pending final Ministry inputs, while noting that the transition has been accelerated due to reduced funding, with interim support including scholastic materials, uniforms, and temporary stipends for three Ministry technical staff to support system integration and joint resource mobilization. Key next steps include data sharing, development of a joint transition action plan, MoU signing, and preparation of a resource mobilization concept note, with the draft expected for Ministry review in early February. Additional updates include pending January stipends for Ministry staff and the successful handover of 32 sets of school furniture to a primary school in Maroodi-Jeeh by NRC and UNHCR to improve the learning environment.

**CLUSTER RESPONSE**

**15,499**


# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

■ Reached ■ Gap


**3.1 M**


People in need

**1.9 M**


People targeted

**93 M**


Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap


**6,081**


# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap


**2.63 M**


People in need

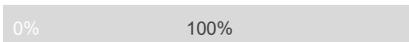
**1.63 M**


People targeted

**27.3 M**


Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap


**68,149**


# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap


**2.0 M**


People in need

**1.0 M**


People targeted

**17 M**


Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap


**Protection Cluster**

In January 2026, the Protection Cluster partners assisted **15,499** individuals through specialized services, including community-based protection, psychosocial support (PSS), individual assistance (cash and in-kind), and case management. Interventions included mine action surveys, clearance, and explosive ordnance risk education. Displaced persons received support to secure housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, obtain tenure documentation, and prevent evictions. The total reached included **3,598** girls, **2,956** boys, **5,504** women, **3,270** men, and **171** elderly persons. Notably, **172** persons with disabilities benefited from these specialized protection activities.

**Shelter Cluster**

Using 2025 resources, Shelter partners reached **6,081** individuals with plastic sheeting to maintain and reinforce emergency shelters, helping preserve minimum habitability standards. Transitional shelter assistance was provided to **40** individuals, and four households affected by fire received full NFI kits from UNHCR to restore essential living conditions. Construction of **266** permanent shelters in Dollow is underway, advancing durable, climate-resilient housing solutions

**CCCM Cluster**

During the reporting period, CCCM partners recorded **1,177** new households (**3,976** individuals) across 195 sites in 11 districts. Displacement was primarily driven by **drought (55.1%)** and **conflict (32.2%)**, with arrivals concentrated in **Kahda (32.1%)**, **Baidoa (20.5%)**, and **Dayniile (12.5%)**. Alarmingly, only **6%** received humanitarian aid, and the cluster continued to advocate for service delivery. In response to increasing fire incidents—including a recent blaze in Garasbaley affecting **33** individuals—partners launched awareness campaigns and shelter decongestion. Strategically, the cluster is managing the **CCCM-Shelter merger** and co-leading the **R2T2 Workstream** on Gatekeepers and Aid Diversion, together with the Risk Management Unit of the Resident Coordinator's Office and the ProCap Adviser. Leveraging their unique field-level interface with gatekeepers, the cluster is developing critical standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the humanitarian community.

**STORIES FROM THE FIELD****Destitution to Sustainable Livelihood: The Story of Qaali Osman Nuur Ahmed**

Qaali Osman Nuur Ahmed, a mother of ten, is originally from Afgooye, in southern Somalia. In 2001, following conflict and insecurity, Qaali was forced to flee and settled in Bossaso as a displaced woman, with her five girls and five boys. In Bossaso, Qaali had no stable shelter, income, or support system. As a mother of a large family in a completely new environment, her immediate concern was survival, finding food, basic shelter, and ways to provide for her children. The early years were extremely challenging, but despite the hardship of displacement, she remained determined to protect and support her family.

The years that followed saw her face eviction twice, losing what little she had managed to build. Each eviction meant starting afresh, rebuilding shelter, searching for food, and protecting her children from the harsh living conditions. In 2024, Qaali's life changed again, this time for the better. Due to her vulnerability status, she was selected by the Technical Selection Committee and became one of the 44 beneficiaries who received a durable solution shelter in Girible, constructed by UNHCR through the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). For the first time in years, Qaali enjoyed a stable and secure home. The permanent shelter gave her safety, stability, and renewed hope.



Qaali's stability allowed her to start earning income through petty trade (buying and distributing ice in the nearby market). It was physically demanding work, but it allowed her to earn a small daily income - her daily household expenses were only \$2 per day, because her business was very small and her income was limited, she slowly saved money and was able to open a small shop. Step by step, her confidence and income grew. Her diligence in saving allowed the construction of a water storage tank, buying water in bulk, and reselling it to the community, significantly increasing her daily earnings.

"I manage my expenses carefully daily, my basic daily operational cost is about \$7, from which I contribute \$2 to Ayyuto (traditional community savings group), I also pay for electricity and other basic needs. But even with these expenses, my income has gradually grown. Today, I run my small business independently and support my household with dignity." Said Qaali.

Now that she has security and a growing business, Qaali dreams of expanding her shop. If she gets additional investment, she plans to increase her stock, possibly add food items and household goods, and expand her water supply business. With better access to financing and support, her income could significantly increase, allowing her to become fully self-reliant and improve her family's living conditions. Qaali's story is one of resilience from displacement and eviction to stability and entrepreneurship. A testament that durable solutions in the form of a permanent shelter and access to seed financing can transform destitution into a sustainable livelihood.

**DONORS**

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2026 amount to **USD 5.78 million** as of 31 January 2026. 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 the Somalia Operation in 2026 | USD**

**Germany** 680,765

**Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2026 | USD**

**Sweden** 79.8 million | **Norway** 61.6 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Germany** 27.8 million | **Switzerland** 22.1 million | **Ireland** 14.5 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million |

Algeria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | 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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