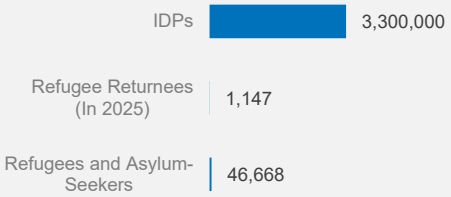
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

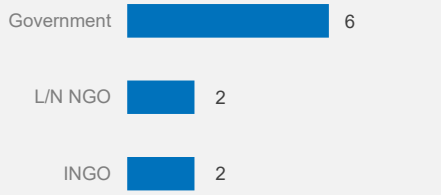
POPULATION

3.35M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works



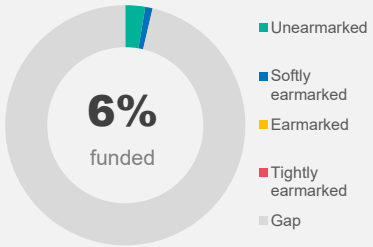
PARTNERS

10 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2026



FUNDING

110M Funding required for 2026 *(as of 28 February 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
FEBRUARY 2026

Families Flee Drought in Wajid, Somalia, in February 2026. © UNHCR/NRC

OVERVIEW

Somalia's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) warns that nearly 6.5 million Somalis, or one-third of the population, will face crisis levels of hunger or worse by March 2026, an increase of 1.7 million people since January. This includes two million people experiencing severe hunger (IPC Phase 4). Furthermore, more than 1.8 million children under the age of five are projected to face acute malnutrition, with nearly 500,000 at risk of becoming severely malnourished. Beyond its health impacts, the worsening drought is severely undermining food security through widespread crop and livestock losses, while also driving large-scale displacement as vulnerable families seek assistance. Severe funding shortfalls in late 2025 and early 2026 have led to interruptions in humanitarian aid, with 600,000 vulnerable people losing access to food or cash assistance. Humanitarian access also remains constrained by conflict. Without immediate funding, the combined effects of climate shocks, conflict, and limited aid capacity will accelerate displacement and further deepen the humanitarian crisis across Somalia. According to OCHA, although 4.8 million people are in need of assistance, the 2026 response has been "hyper-prioritized" to reach only 2.4 million people due to funding constraints.

In February, Somalia's security environment remained complex and precarious. Despite Al-Shabaab attacks on security forces and government personnel, the total number of incidents had decreased to 69 by mid-February, down from 99 in the previous reporting period. Reported activity included six terrorism-related incidents, 16 armed clashes, and 35 crime-related incidents, alongside localized clan violence and routine law enforcement operations. On the political front, the rift between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States remained critical following the Somalia Future Council (SFC) meeting on 17 February. The SFC proposed prioritizing indirect elections in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and South West State, as well as expanding the delegate-based system, while the Federal Government reaffirmed its commitment to one-person, one-vote elections and rejected any return to indirect models.

KEY UPDATES

- *High-level meeting*: Between 21 and 25 February, UNHCR Deputy Representative conducted a strategic familiarization mission to Somaliland, where she met with the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MoRHA), government authorities, partners, displaced communities, and refugee representatives. The mission focused on assessing urgent protection gaps and strengthening engagement with the primary government counterpart.
- *Displacement:* On 16 February, the Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) reported a significant surge in displacement, with approximately 949 households, or 5,694 individuals, arriving in the Banadir region due to severe drought. Key protection risks identified include gender-based violence, child recruitment by armed actors, and exploitation through child labour. These displaced families urgently require emergency shelter, food assistance, and immediate WASH interventions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In Hargeisa, through its partnership with the Legal Clinic, UNHCR provided legal assistance to 64 individuals, including legal counselling, mediation and court follow-up. Emergency cash assistance was provided to three households, comprising 13 individuals, who were at risk of eviction. Monitoring teams carried out 34 visits to detention facilities in Maroodi-Jeeh and Sahil and identified 33 internally displaced detainees. Legal interventions resulted in the release of 31 individuals, while two cases remain pending. Best Interests Assessments are ongoing for three high-risk children. A mapping exercise also facilitated referrals to health and education services for refugee and asylum-seeking children.
- MoRHA and UNHCR registered 148 new arrivals in Hargeisa and Berbera, bringing the total number of registered new arrivals since January 2026 to 322 individuals. To support legal protection, 462 documents were issued, including 233 asylum-seeker certificates and 229 identity cards. In addition, 115 verification interviews have been conducted since the start of the year to address double registration and strengthen data accuracy across relevant ministries.
- In February 2026, Protection Help Desks in Deynile, Beledweyne, Jowhar and Dolow conducted awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and child labour, reaching 785 individuals, including 573 women and girls and 212 men and boys. In addition, 281 individuals with heightened protection needs, including 204 females and 77 males, were referred to specialized services. UNHCR also provided individual protection cash assistance of USD 100 each to 10 vulnerable individuals, including 8 females and 2 males, to help address urgent humanitarian needs.
- In South Central Somalia, UNHCR partner KAALO conducted two counselling sessions in Mogadishu in February for women and girls at risk of GBV. On 5 February, five individuals from the refugee community, including four women and one girl, participated in a dialogue session at the NCRI centre. On 23 and 24 February, a further five individuals, including four women and one girl, received support. The sessions strengthened participants' awareness of their rights and provided information on available legal, livelihoods and health services for GBV survivors.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR partner KAALO conducted a two-day workshop in Mogadishu for 30 participants (12 male, 18 female), including asylum seekers and host community members. Focusing on child protection and GBV prevention, the training empowered the Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) to use survivor-centered, confidential reporting methods. These networks are vital for identifying risks, preventing harm like child marriage, and facilitating timely referrals through community policing and early response structures to enhance local safety and awareness.
- In Hargeisa, the Joint Counselling Desk assisted 161 individuals, including 46 refugees and 115 asylum seekers, with referrals related to livelihoods, documentation and healthcare. UNHCR and the Legal Clinic also reached 36 refugees, the majority of whom were women, in Cakaara through outreach on legal rights and psychosocial support. A coordination meeting with community committees addressed urgent concerns, including arrests, documentation challenges and the severe impact of funding cuts on refugee livelihoods. These interventions helped sustain critical protection services and advocacy for displaced populations in Somaliland.

Shelter and NFIs

- In February, UNHCR in Kismayo, together with partner AVORD, distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 1,084 drought-displaced households from neighbouring villages. Of these, 700 households received full NFI kits, while 384 households received partial assistance in the form of plastic sheeting. Supported by CCCM partners and JUCRI, the distribution enabled affected families to establish temporary shelters and meet basic needs, thereby improving living conditions for displaced populations. This coordinated response helped ensure the timely delivery of essential assistance to vulnerable families affected by the ongoing drought.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In February, Berbera remained the primary entry point, receiving 24 Yemeni refugees and 14 Somali spontaneous returnees. Since January 2026, a total of 39 refugees have arrived. Although a Somaliland directive temporarily suspended arrivals, advocacy by UNHCR and MoRHA enabled two boats to disembark in mid-February, followed by the arrival of 16 refugees on 28 February without incident.
- On 16 February, UNHCR recorded a significant influx of 949 households, or 5,694 individuals, into Daynile, Banadir, driven by severe drought. Cross-border movements in Dolow involved 198 individuals, including 106 departures to Ethiopia and 92 arrivals into Somalia. In addition, 220 households from Beledhawa crossed into Kenya to access government food distributions for drought-affected populations.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR participated in key coordination forums, including inter-sector and child protection meetings, to address deteriorating drought conditions, which have now reached IPC Phase 4. Discussions focused on the relocation of households from the Nasahablood IDP site and the prioritization of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR also engaged with MoRHA on the 2026 strategic framework for durable solutions. In addition, a national consultation on menstrual health and hygiene resulted in commitments on tax exemptions and policy integration, creating further opportunities for UNHCR to support inclusive services for displaced and host community women.

Health

- In Hargeisa, access to healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers has deteriorated significantly since January 2026 following the discontinuation of UNHCR-supported services and the partnership with Hargeisa Group Hospital. This interruption has left patients with chronic conditions, including diabetes and mental health disorders, at severe risk due to limited medical supplies. During the reporting period, eight emergency cases were recorded, but treatment was constrained by limited capacity. Community leaders have therefore urgently appealed to the authorities to address these growing medical needs and critical service gaps.

Education

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, NCRI and the RAS Education Committee mapped 209 parents representing 580 students at the NCRI Community Centre, in mid-February. The exercise was undertaken to facilitate the direct payment of school fees to parents following the discontinuation of the partnership with Save the Children due to funding constraints. UNHCR and NCRI also coordinated with the Refugee Education Committee on this arrangement. The Committee raised concerns that growing household financial pressures could result in these funds being diverted away from education.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

protectioncluster SOMALIA

25,675

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

Reached 1.4% | Gap 98.6%

3.1 M	People in need
1.9 M	People targeted
93 M	Funding required

Funded 12% | Gap 100%

SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

6,141

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

Reached 0.4% | Gap 99.6%

2.63 M	People in need
1.63 M	People targeted
27.3 M	Funding required

Funded 0% | Gap 100%

CCCM Cluster SOMALIA

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

68,149

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

Reached 7% | Gap 93%

2.0 M	People in need
1.0 M	People targeted
17 M	Funding required

Funded 0% | Gap 100%

Protection Cluster

In February 2026, Protection Cluster partners provided specialized services to 25,675 individuals through community-based protection, self-protection initiatives, psychosocial support services (PSS), and individual protection assistance delivered through both cash and in-kind support. The response also included supported referrals and comprehensive protection case management. Assistance further reached individuals in areas officially cleared and declared safe through mine action surveys, as well as those trained in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). In addition, partners supported beneficiaries in securing housing, land and property (HLP) rights, obtaining secure tenure documentation, receiving HLP-related training, and preventing forced evictions. The total number of people reached included 6,626 girls, 5,714 boys, 6,851 women, 4,723 men, and 1,761 older persons. Of these, 2,753 were persons with disabilities who benefited from specialized protection interventions.

Shelter Cluster

Shelter partners continue to face significant resource constraints. Despite these limitations, partners have cumulatively assisted 6,141 individuals. In February, 10 households, comprising 61 individuals, received Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) in Dollow and Baadhere. To inform the distribution of non-food items (NFIs), a Protection Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by UNHCR with support from the Puntland coordination team in Bari and Mudug identified significant shelter vulnerabilities among displaced populations. The assessment found that 22 per cent of households identified shelter as a priority need, while only 1 to 5 per cent had received shelter assistance in the previous six months. The findings also highlighted widespread tenure insecurity, with 83 per cent of households in Bari and 55 per cent in Mudug residing on private land, and up to 46 per cent facing risks of eviction, underscoring the scale of unmet shelter needs.

CCCM Cluster

During the reporting period, CCCM partners recorded 1,177 newly displaced households, comprising 3,976 individuals, across 195 sites in 11 districts. Displacement was primarily driven by drought (55.1 per cent) and conflict (32.2 per cent), with most arrivals concentrated in Kahda (32.1 per cent), Baidoa (20.5 per cent) and Dayniile (12.5 per cent). Alarmingly, only 6 per cent of newly arrived households received humanitarian assistance, and the Cluster continued to advocate for improved service delivery. In response to an increase in fire incidents, including a recent blaze in Garasbaley that affected 33 individuals, partners launched awareness-raising campaigns and implemented shelter decongestion measures. At the strategic level, 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. Building on its unique field-level interface with gatekeepers, the Cluster is developing critical standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the humanitarian community.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

From Displacement to Stability: Samaan's Journey in the Girible Local Integration Site, Bossaso.

Samaan Hussein Elmi, a 24-year-old mother of five, has lived through repeated displacement since her family fled Qalafe in southern Somalia in 2005. Conflict and drought forced them to abandon their livestock and walk for days without food before reaching Bossaso, where they first settled in the 100 Bush IDP site with her aunt.

Samaan Hussein in her shop at Girible 1 IDP Site. ©UNHCR

What followed were years of uncertainty and hardship. Their shelter was destroyed by fire, forcing the family to move again. Later, after Samaan married at the age of 15, eviction displaced her young family once more, this time with a three-month-old baby. They eventually settled in Tawakal IDP site, where they lived in rented accommodation under extremely difficult conditions. The site lacked basic sanitation facilities, open defecation was common, and insecurity exposed women and children to heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence.

Samaan's situation changed when UNHCR and its partners supported her relocation to the Girible 1 local integration site, where she received a permanent two-room shelter with a latrine. For the first time in many years, her family had access to secure tenure, safer living conditions and greater stability.

"A new chapter started for me. My children's health improved, and my husband found work. I now have permanent land with secure tenure, and we even opened a small shop. Today, all five of my children attend school. We feel safe and secure. Girible is truly home, thanks to UNHCR and the local authorities who changed our lives."

Samaan's story highlights the transformative impact of durable solutions for internally displaced families. Access to secure shelter, land tenure, basic services and livelihood opportunities not only restores dignity and safety, but also enables families to rebuild their lives and invest in their future..

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2026 amount to **USD 6.11 million** as of 28 February 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: **Global Focus**
- UNHCR Somalia: **Operational Data Portal**
- Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network dashboard (**PSMN**)
- **Protection Cluster**
- **Shelter Cluster**
- **CCCM Cluster**

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