

SOMALIA FACT SHEET



Population of concern:
1,366,275

Zone	Asylum Seekers	IDPs	Refugees
Puntland (PL)	3,655	84,000	365
Somaliland (SL)	4,824	142,600	1,831
South Central (SC)	0	1,129,000	0
Total	8,479	1,355,600	2,196

CURRENT STATISTICS

As of 11 October 2012

New arrivals of Somali refugees in the region
62,657

Total Somali refugees in the region
1,028,267

ACHIEVEMENTS

As of 11 October 2012

All Actors	UNHCR's Contribution
Total EAPs Distributed	37,601
Total beneficiaries of EAPs	225,606

Percentage of UNHCR's contributions **35%**

MIXED MIGRATION

Year	Departures	Somalis	Non-Somalis
2010	53,487	18,873	34,614
2011	103,154	27,350	75,804
2012	80,653	17,471	63,182

OPERATION

- One Branch Office located in Nairobi.
- Two Sub Offices in Hargeisa, Somaliland and Bossaso, Puntland.
- Three Field Offices in Mogadishu, Garowe and Kalkayo.
- Two Field Units in Dollow, Dhobley and
- One planned Field Office in Baidoa.

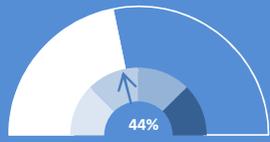
STAFFING

UNHCR - Somalia has 19 International and 69 National staff, 12 Affiliates and 10 UN Volunteers (37 Nairobi, 73 Field)

FUNDING

(millions)
Required:
\$48.00
Funded:
\$20.89
Shortfall:
\$27.11

Funding Level



Only 28% of the \$48.0Million required based on needs assessment has been met.

Major donors in 2012



UNHCR Operation highlights

Somalia is the country generating the third highest number of refugees in the world, after Afghanistan and Iraq.

Somali people are facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today. One in three Somalis is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and one in every three children living in the South-Central region is malnourished.

UNHCR leads protection and emergency relief interventions targeting almost 1.36 million IDPs, in addition to delivering protection and assistance to over 2,100 refugees in Somalia.

General Situation

Somalia generates the third highest number of refugees in the world (after Afghanistan and Iraq). As at 11 October 2012, there were **1,028,267 Somali refugees** in the region, mainly hosted in Kenya, Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania and Uganda and almost **1.36 million** Somalis internally displaced within the country, settled mainly in the South-Central region.

62,657 Somalis have so far sought refuge in neighboring countries in 2012. As of 11 October 2012, **1,600** people were internally displaced while in September alone, another **24,000** were internally displaced, mainly in South Central Somalia, in particular from the coastal city of Kismayo.

Somalia is the most affected country within the Horn of Africa by the ongoing drought, widely regarded as the worst in 60 years. Consecutive seasonal rain failures have led to sky-rocketing food prices, in a country already devastated by two decades of civil war.

An estimated 3.7 million Somalis are now in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Increasingly, Somalis are leaving their homes, walking thousands of kilometres in search of food, most of them ending up in IDP settlements within Somalia and refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia, in extremely malnourished conditions.

With the term of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) having ended in August 2012, a new parliament has since been created, electing **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as President**. President Hassan then named **Abdi Farah Shirdon as Prime Minister**. Since the fall of the Siad Barre's regime in 1991, Somalia fell into the hands of armed opposition groups, who divided the country along clan lines, and still continue to control large parts of the country.

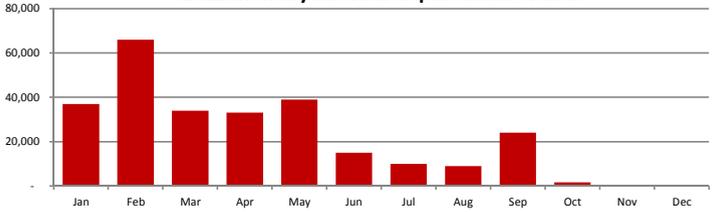
Most of Somalia continues to be in security level 5 (high), with Mogadishu and other areas on level 6 (extreme). Ongoing conflict continues to restrict humanitarian access and hamper delivery of life-saving assistance. Distribution of emergency / temporary shelter materials and other relief items and protection cum livelihood interventions are the activities carried out by UNHCR in favour of IDPs.

As of 28 September, UNHCR has distributed 33,578 emergency assistance packages (EAPs) for 201,642 people in Mogadishu and other districts within southern Somalia. These EAPs include kitchen sets, sleeping mats and plastic sheeting that would aid the most vulnerable population in crisis.

IDPs

In 2012, the number of IDPs in Somalia is estimated to be approximately **1.36 million** most of whom fled Mogadishu in 2007 and 2008, due to increased military activities between pro and anti-government forces. Up to 120,000 of them now live in makeshift shelters along the road linking Mogadishu to Afgooye, some few kilometers to the west of the capital.

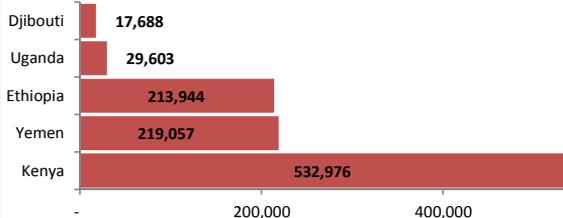
2012 monthly Internal displacement trends



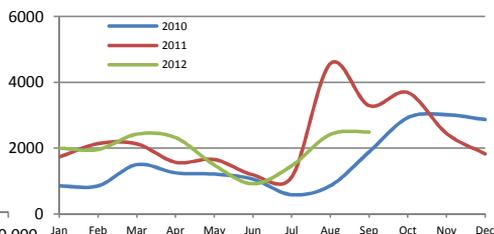
Following relative improvements in the security situation in Mogadishu between February and April 2009, over 65,000 displaced people and refugees had traveled back to the capital from various areas of South Central Somalia and Somaliland, as well as from neighboring countries, such as Kenya and Yemen. Nonetheless, escalating fighting between the main opposing forces have led to hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes in Mogadishu (over 300,000 in 2010 alone).

SOMALI REFUGEES IN THE REGION

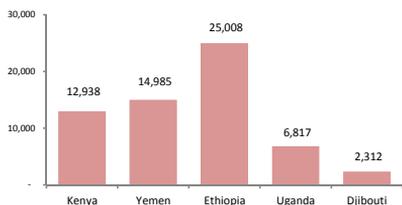
As of 11 October 2012



Yemen arrival trends



ARRIVALS IN 2012



Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Somalia hosts a total of **2,196 refugees** and **8,479 registered asylum seekers**, mainly from Ethiopia. UNHCR's refugee operation is focused in the regions of Somaliland and Puntland, with the overwhelming majority of the refugees and asylum seekers (approximately 70% of the refugees and 90% of the asylum seekers) being hosted in Somaliland and Puntland respectively.

In the absence of a formal national asylum framework, the situation of refugees in Somaliland and Puntland is essentially insecure and the overall protection context remains weak. This is particularly highlighted by arbitrary detention of recognized refugees, as well as the hostility and discrimination towards "foreigners" which impedes access to the (limited) socio-economic opportunities available to the local population. Refugees do not have legal rights to work, and access to protection through law enforcement and justice mechanisms are limited.

UNHCR carries out refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate and also provides health, education, shelter and legal assistance to all recognized refugees, in addition to targeted assistance to extremely vulnerable households of asylum seekers.



Ethiopian women in Bosasso, Northern Somalia, waiting on the shores of the Gulf of Aden for a boat that will transport them to Yemen. A. Webster/UNHCR

Mixed Migration

Tens of thousands of people from the Horn of Africa risk their lives to escape conflict, poverty and recurrent drought, by undertaking a dangerous journey through Somalia and across the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen. Many die during the journey, while others are subjected to abuse and injury at the hands of unscrupulous smugglers. The majority of the persons attempting to use these routes come from two main areas: Ethiopia (Oromo, Ogaden, and Tigrinya regions) and Somalia (Somaliland and South Central regions).

The rates of human smuggling continue to rise every year. In 2010 alone, over 53,000 migrants embarked on the same precarious journey across the Gulf while 93,760 migrants crossed the Gulf in 2011. So far in 2012, **80,653** people, including **17,471** Somalis have undertaken this journey.

UNHCR Somalia, together with IOM, leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF); a task force of humanitarian agencies in developing polices and coordinating responses to protect migrants and asylum seekers who could potentially be smuggled. All the activities implemented try either to prevent smuggling or to respond to urgent needs of its victims.



One of the victims of human smuggling from Somalia to Yemen being buried on the Yemeni shore of the Gulf of Aden A. Webster/UNHCR

To improve the protection of the migrating population, local authorities are trained and sensitized to respect their (migrants) rights. Through radio messages and leaflets, UNHCR tries to inform as many people as possible about the asylum procedures existing in the regions of Somaliland and Puntland, to make all potential refugees aware of the fact that there is an alternative to risking their lives trying to cross the Gulf of Aden.

The information campaign also warns against the dangers of crossing and the limited opportunities available in Yemen, especially for Ethiopians, who are not recognized as prima facie refugees and, in some instances, are reportedly forcibly returned to their country of origin.

UNHCR also carefully registers all potential asylum seekers. All new mothers and expectant women, as well as all female headed families and elderly people, receive special items and shelter material. Psycho-social support and medical assistance is also provided to the vulnerable. In particular, HIV positive asylum seekers receive special attention and assistance in medical centers. In some cases, UNHCR

For more information, contact:

Andy Needham,
Public Information Officer
needham@unhcr.org

+254 20 422 2103; +254 733 120 931

Faith Kasina,
Senior Public Information Assistant
kasina@unhcr.org

+254 20 422 2106; +254 733 121 136

UNHCR Web Portal/Horn of Africa Crisis <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

Major donors in 2012

