

May - 2013

# SOMALIA FACT SHEET



Population of concern:  
**1,116,745**

Zone	Asylum Seekers	IDPs	Refugees
Puntland (PL)	3,704	129,000	387
Somaliland (SL)	4,723	84,000	1,871
South Central (SC)	0	893,000	60
Total	8,427	1,106,000	2,318

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Number of IDPs assisted to return to their villages of origin in 2013

**10,362**

Total IDPs assisted with EAPs and NFIs in 2013

**31,230**

Reported movements in 2013



<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/country.php?id=197>

## MIXED MIGRATION

Year	Departures	Somalis	Non-Somalis
2010	53,487	18,873	34,614
2011	103,154	27,350	75,804
2012	107,532	23,086	84,446
2013	29,469	4,373	25,096

## OPERATION

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

## STAFFING

UNHCR - Somalia has 16 International and 71 National staff, 16 Affiliates and 9 UN Volunteers (38 Nairobi, 73 Field)

## 2013 Budget Requirements (Millions in USD)

Pillar 1:	\$9,028,661.00
Pillar 4:	\$46,278,094.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$55,306,755.00</b>

## Operation Highlights

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

UNHCR leads protection and emergency relief interventions targeting 700,000 IDPs out of a total IDP population estimated at 1.1 million and over 2,300 refugees in Somalia.

As at 16th May 2013, there were **1,023,722 Somali refugees** in the region, mainly hosted in Kenya, Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania and Uganda and over **1.1 million** Somalis internally displaced within the country, settled mainly in the South-Central region.

**11,516** Somalis have so far sought refuge in neighboring countries in 2013. In the month of April, **15,000** movements were reported in different areas in Somalia due to insecurity, floods, IDP evictions as well as cross-border movements. **920** movements have also been recorded so far in May.

## IDP Returns

As of 30 April 2013, **1,727 IDP families** have been assisted to return to their villages of origin, mainly in the Bay and Shabelle regions. This is 67% of the total planned returns in tandem with the rainy (Gu) season. Another 1,745 families were also similarly assisted in 2012, totalling **3,472 IDP families** assisted to date.

In line with providing durable solutions for returning IDPs, UNHCR together with the Somali National Federal Government has established the Somalia Solutions Platform. This Platform is aimed at defining a strategic solution-oriented strategy in support to the safe and sustainable return and reintegration of these people of concern. The Platform will also define its approach in the contribution to peacebuilding and conflict prevention through local integration initiatives and projects.

The Somalia Solutions Platform is part of an umbrella strategy for refugee returns in the Horn of Africa Region.

## Cross-Border Movements

Spontaneous returns of Somali refugees from Kenya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen continue to be recorded with **3,284** people reported to have moved in April 2013. A total **18,108** refugees have returned from the neighbouring countries into Somalia since January 2013.

## Internal Displacement:

During this period, **9,510** people were internally displaced due to floods (6,730), evictions (1,236), lack of livelihood opportunities (1,131), insecurity (405) and incidents of fire (8). They moved mainly to Shabelle Dhexe, Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Juba Hoose and Bay regions. A total **22,467** people have been displaced since January 2013.

## IDP Returns

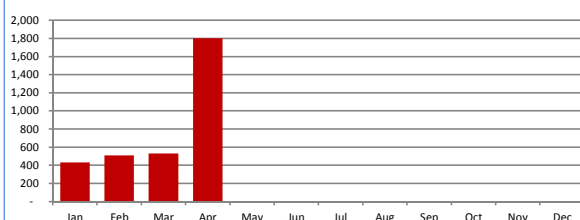
**1,852** IDPs spontaneously returned to their place of habitual residence in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Middle Shabelle regions. A total **3,315** IDPs have returned to their place of habitual residence since January 2013.

## Emergency Response

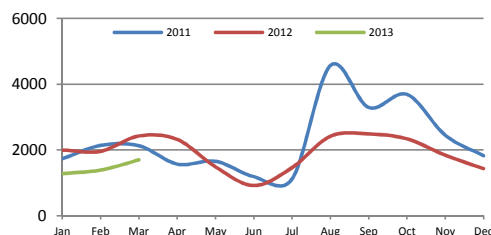
Incidents of floods have been reported in the South and Central regions of the country as in Jowhar, Kismayo and Abudwak districts. Plans for coordinated flood response activities are underway where UNHCR will distribute non food items (NFI) for the affected families. In Abudwak however, UNHCR through an implementing partner distributed **1,252** NFI kits in four out of the seven settlements in the area. An additional 889 kits will be distributed in the coming weeks to cover the entire affected population.



### Spontaneous IDP Returns

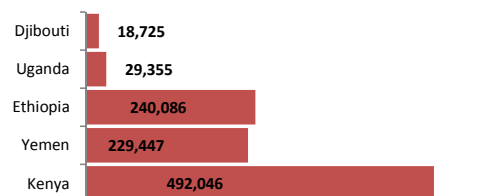


### Somali Arrivals in Yemen



### SOMALI REFUGEES IN THE REGION

As of 17th May



### Protection

UNHCR continues to support the Protection Cluster missions to Al Shabaab vacated areas such as Dhobley, Raskamboni, and Kismayo, in order to understand the refugee and IDP return dynamic and to assess possible protection needs. Currently, UNHCR together with the Protection and Shelter Clusters, are in discussion on the best approach to take to provide assistance and services, to those who have returned as well as those who have remained in-situ historically.

The Protection and Shelter Clusters created a two stage plan for inclusion of IDPs and Cluster members into the Mogadishu IDP relocation plans. The two stage plan is designed primarily to identify information gaps and distinctly vulnerable groups of IDPs. The latter will be targeted for one to one information sharing and consultations about the relocation plan, as well as finding out what their distinctive needs are and how best they can be supported.

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Somalia hosts a total of **2,318 refugees including 60 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu and 8,427 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 being hosted in Somaliland and Puntland.

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. Puntland adopted IDP policy guidelines in December 2012.

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.

### Mixed Migration

Thousands of people from the Horn of Africa, mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia, undertake a dangerous journey across the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen and beyond. They risk their lives escaping conflict, poverty and recurrent drought, in search of asylum, better economic opportunities and a better life. Many die during the journey, while others are subjected to abuse and injury at the hands of unscrupulous smugglers.

**In March 2013, 29,469 people including 4,373 Somalis crossed the Gulf.** 2012 saw the highest number of people undertaking this journey since 2010, with over 107,000 people crossing the Gulf.

UNHCR Somalia, together with IOM, leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF); a task force of humanitarian agencies in developing policies 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 provides subsistence allowances to vulnerable families in need.

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

