



# SOMALIA

## FACTSHEET

October 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

**29,640**

Arrivals from Yemen since  
27 March 2015

**5,253**

Refugee returnees from  
Kenya since 8 December 2014

**77,314**

Evictions in Mogadishu  
since January 2015

**178,973**

New displacements since  
January 2015

## Population of concern

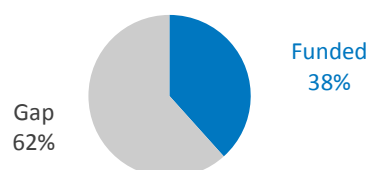
A total of **1.16 million** people of  
concern

### By category

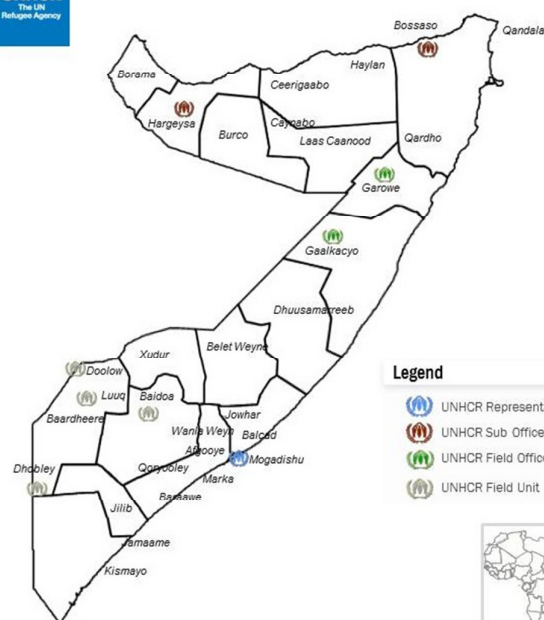
Category	Total PoC
IDPs	1,106,000
Refugees (mainly Ethiopians)	2,862
Asylum seekers (mainly Ethiopians)	9,728
Prima facie refugees (Yemenis)	4,015
Refugee returnees from Kenya	5,253
Somali returnees from Yemen	26,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154,140</b>

## Funding

**USD 100 million** requested



### UNHCR Offices in Somalia



## UNHCR Presence

### Staff:

**119:** 73 national staff, 20 international staff  
**18** affiliate workforce, 8 UN volunteers

### Offices:

6 offices and 4 field units located in: Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Bossaso, Garowe, Galkayo, Kismayo, Dhooley, Luuq, Baidoa, Nairobi (Support Office)

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR maintains close collaboration with UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels in a joint effort to provide assistance and durable solutions to the people of Somalia. Through weekly inter-agency meetings and other communication channels, UNHCR actively engages in coordination and information-sharing, particularly with UNSOM and OCHA.
- As a lead agency of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and the coordination of the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), UNHCR spearheads productive partnerships with over 60 national and international NGOs.
- Since 2012, UNHCR leads the Somalia Return Consortium, a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs providing coordinated and standardized assistance to IDPs who opt to return and reintegrate in their areas of origin to end displacement. Together with IOM, UNHCR also leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF).
- To coordinate effective response to the Yemen crisis, UNHCR and IOM co-lead a country-level inter-agency Task Force on Yemen Situation, established by the Humanitarian Coordinator, as well as field-level New Arrivals Task Forces in Somaliland and Puntland.
- UNHCR has been coordinating with humanitarian and development partners, as well as government at federal and regional levels, to develop an Action Plan designed to improve socio-economic conditions in Somalia and support refugees willing to voluntarily return from Kenya into Somalia, in order to make their reintegration back home more secure and sustainable. The two-year plan is aligned with the Somalia New Deal Compact framework and Humanitarian Response Plan, and will focus on improving security and law enforcement, rehabilitation of infrastructure and environment, expansion of access to education, water and sanitation services, health care provision, shelter, agriculture and the creation of job opportunities. At the same time, there will also be increased support for hosting communities, in particular in Kenya, which has been hosting hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees over the last two decades. The Action Plan was presented at the Pledging Conference co-hosted by UNHCR and the European Union on 21 October 2015, in Brussels.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

#### South Central regions

- On 24 October, in Luuq 40 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households have been evicted from government buildings in Luuq (the former district offices of the Ministry of Defense and Communications and the district bank) because local authorities need the premises. The 40 households have now been moved to other IDP settlements in the district. UNHCR conducted post-eviction monitoring. The provision of temporary shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs) is planned for the resettled IDPs.
- UNHCR and partners have organized several meetings with Dhobley local authorities, advocating for land tenure agreements on behalf of IDPs in five settlements surrounding Dhobley town who have expressed intention to pursue local integration, as a durable solution to their protracted displacement. Currently, IDPs in Dhobley live on privately owned land, which hinders the implementation of sustainable projects and the construction of essential infrastructures. Local authorities have pledged to donate land, but UNHCR has yet to receive any documentation in this regard.
- In Kismayo, UNHCR advocacy efforts resulted in a two-month extension for two IDPs settlements (located in a theater and a former maize processing factory) that were issued with eviction notices. Also, post-return monitoring assessment conducted on 32 refugee returnee households highlighted the fact that the major challenges these people faced on their return were lack of shelter, unemployment and limited access to education and health. Meanwhile, protection cluster and emergency inter-cluster meetings have been conducted to draw a contingency plan for El Niño preparedness through awareness promotion and resource mobilization.

#### Galkayo

- Following the verification exercise of Somali refugee returnee conducted in September 2015 in North and South Galkayo, registration of 193 households (820 individuals) into the UNHCR ProGres data base has been completed, including 192 returnee households from Yemen and one returnee household from Kenya (spontaneous return). The returnees will be provided with reintegration cash grants.

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- UNHCR Sub Office Galkayo undertook a seven-day mission to Beletweyne to assess the local situation of refugee returnees. This led to the identification of 420 refugee returnee households from Yemen and 65 refugee households that had returned from Kenya. During the mission, UNHCR staff also assessed the situation of the IDPs in Beletweyne and met with the local authority and protection stakeholders. From this initial verification exercise, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the identified returnees were spontaneous returns and around 20 per cent voluntary returns assisted by UNHCR. However, the exact figures will be confirmed in the follow-up registration exercise that will be conducted within the next weeks to register the returnees in ProGres.
- Meetings between local authorities and humanitarian agencies were held in South Galkayo to discuss the opportunity of undertaking an IDP profiling exercise locally. Authorities emphasized the need to implement IDP local integration projects and highlighted that they had allocated land for IDP local integration.
- As part of the El Niño risk reduction efforts, together with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), UNHCR has started protection outreach activities in 15 IDP settlements in North Galkayo. UNHCR-DRC team disseminated information related to the El Niño and risk mitigation measures through the distribution of leaflets and holding public awareness sessions. Information on possible protection implications was shared. These outreach activities will continue in November.
- Following the heavy rains, interagency assessments conducted in Galkayo South and North revealed that over 50 per cent of IDPs in Galkayo are at risk of being affected by the weather. UNHCR Galkayo is in the process of procuring CRIs for distribution to households whose shelters have suffered damage.
- Together with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR conducted a Housing Land and Property (HLP) Workshop for members of the Protection Cluster on land and property rights, including eviction assessment and tools. The workshop was co-facilitated by the Protection Cluster Coordinator, who came on an ad-hoc mission from Mogadishu.

### Hargeisa

- A total of 132 individuals (61 cases), including 119 Yemenis, seven Ethiopians, three Syrians, and three other persons were registered by the Somaliland Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reconstruction (MRRR) as asylum seekers in the month of October 2015.
- A comprehensive training session on the registration process and ProGres data entry was conducted by UNHCR with MRRR registration staff, including seven newly-recruited MRRR staff who will work on registration jointly with the UNHCR team in Berbera reception centre.
- On 18 October 2015, members of UNHCR Protection team met with senior government officials for the monthly Senior Government and UNHCR Coordination Meeting. It was agreed that action will be taken by the end of 2015 to prepare a draft Refugee and Asylum Seekers Act to introduce a legal framework that will incorporate Somaliland's international obligations under the 1951 Refugees Convention into its national law. UNHCR will also deliver training on refugee law to government officials. Somaliland will soon embark on a campaign to notify foreign residents that they will have 30 days to either register as a person of concern with MRRR or leave the country voluntary. After this time, they may be liable to deportation.

### Response to Yemeni Situation

- Between March and October 2015, a total of 29,640 people (5,348 households) have fled to Somalia as a consequence of the ongoing hostilities in Yemen. This number includes 26,282 Somali returnees, 3,138 Yemeni nationals, 177 Ethiopians and 43 people of other nationalities. All Yemeni nationals are recognized as prima facie refugees by the governments of Somaliland, Puntland and Federal Government of Somalia. A total of 4,209 Yemeni refugees have been registered by UNHCR and government authorities between 28 March and 31 October 2015. In order to reconcile discrepancies between the number of Yemeni arrivals recorded at ports of entry and the number of Yemeni registered refugees, a verification exercise is being conducted by UNHCR and authorities to remove cases of dual nationality (Somali-Yemenis).
- In Somaliland, UNHCR provided 20 Yemeni families with emergency financial assistance and 27 Yemeni families with subsistence allowance for the month of October. In Puntland, DRC, through UNHCR funding, distributed subsistence allowance to 202 Yemeni families in Bossaso, Gardo and Garowe.



Verification exercise for prima facie Yemeni refugees in Hargeisa © UNHCR/H. Ochen, October 2015

## Education

### Galkayo

- With support from UNHCR, 75 refugee and asylum seeker children continue to attend primary and secondary education, including 72 refugee children and two asylum seeker children enrolled in primary education (all of Ethiopian nationality, Oromo ethnicity) and one refugee child enrolled in secondary education, also of Ethiopian nationality and Oromo ethnicity. The attendance is monitored through regular contact with school principals and parents.

### Hargeisa

- Around 340 students (asylum seekers/refugees) are now enrolled in 15 public schools within Somaliland. Weekly monitoring has been conducted jointly by UNHCR, NRC and the Refugee Committee with the headmasters of local public schools, students and parents to ensure that the enrollment process continues smoothly.
- UNHCR and NRC continue to provide school material and furniture to schools attended by refugees and asylum seekers.
- Since June 2015, UNHCR Hargeisa has been helping to arrange for Yemeni refugee school students to complete their end of year exams. In collaboration with the UNHCR office in Sana'a, arrangements were made for two officials from the Yemeni Ministry of Education to travel to Somaliland to conduct and supervise exams. In October 2015, 65 Yemeni students were able to complete their final exams over a two week period at the Kuwaiti Education Center in Hargeisa. It is expected that the students will receive their results in November 2015.

## Health

### Galkayo

- A total of 26 refugees and asylum seekers received primary health care in the month of October. One emergency case was referred for advanced treatment in Hargeisa and three persons of concern were admitted as inpatients for minor surgeries.

### Hargeisa

- In collaboration with UNHCR, NRC has agreed to support Yemeni new arrivals affected by chronic disease with the financial assistance required to purchase the drugs they need.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Hargeisa

- UNHCR continued to distribute Core Relief Items (CRI) to vulnerable new arrivals from Yemen at the reception centres in Berbera. In October, 12 CRI kits were distributed. Since the beginning of the Yemeni crisis, 673 CRI kits have been distributed to vulnerable new arrivals.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Galkayo

- With the aim of promoting and facilitating IDP socio-economic reintegration, livelihood activities were implemented through UNHCR's partner DRC in Tawakal, Halaboqad and Salama settlements. Based on the business plans submitted by the beneficiaries, 270 households were provided with various business commodities, such as dairy goats and business startup tools/accessories.

### Hargeisa

- UNHCR's partner Africa Action Help International (AAH-I) supported 114 Yemeni refugees with business training and another 109 Yemenis with guidance on business market opportunities. Some 38 Yemenis are now self-reliant as a result of this livelihood support effort.

## Durable Solutions

- On 21 October 2015, in Brussels, UNHCR and the European Union co-hosted a Pledging Conference on Somali Refugees to present the integrated Action Plan for sustainable return and reintegration from Kenya to Somalia. Representatives from more than 40 countries and organizations have pledged Euro 94 million (or USD 105 million) to support Somali refugees in Kenya and help them to voluntarily return to Somalia in safety and dignity. In addition, a pledge was made to provide training and job

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opportunities in Somalia for 10,000 returnees by the American Refugee Committee (ARC). The EU committed €60 million to support the creation of sustainable solutions for Somali refugees in Somalia and in the region. €50 million of that will support the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons in Somalia, for example by increasing access to basic services, enhancing livelihoods and reducing vulnerability in areas of return and departure. A €10 million programme for northern Kenya will provide relief and better opportunities for Somali refugees who find themselves in particularly vulnerable situations when returns are not yet possible.

### South Central regions

- On October 2015, three refugee returnee families from Kenya, numbering 20 individuals (8 females and 12 males), were welcomed at Luuq Home Way Station by UNHCR and partners. The returnees arrived on 8 October and were released on 9 October after one night's accommodation and the provision of return assistance packages, including CRI kit, three-month food rations and unconditional reinstallation cash grant of 100 USD per person (up to 600 USD per family).
- During the month of October, Dhobley Border Way Station welcomed two road convoys comprising 303 refugee returnees from Kenya (52 families) heading to the three pilot areas of return, namely Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo. The total number of returnees provided with support by UNHCR and partners at Dhobley Way Station since December 2014 stands at 3,900 individuals. Voluntary return movements by road from Kenya through Dhobley have been suspended since mid-October due to the rains that make roads impassable on the Somalia side. In order to continue the current return momentum, UNHCR Kenya and Somalia are now exploring the possibility of organizing return flights from Dadaab refugee camps to Kismayo.



Refugee returnees from Kenya receive assistance in Dhobley Way Station after disembarking buses from Dadaab refugee camps © UNHCR/Y. Hussein, October 2015

- In Kismayo, UNHCR's reintegration partner American Refugee Committee (ARC) conducted basic management skill training with fishing cooperatives and micro-finance beneficiaries. Also, skill training on boat and engine repair was conducted for 50 youths (30 returnees, 10 IDPs and 10 vulnerable host community members). Net-making skill courses have also started.



Refugee returnees and host community members receive net-making and boat repair training in Kismayo, as part of UNHCR support to sustainable reintegration through provision of livelihoods assistance © UNHCR/M. Dakane Ali, October 2015

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## Hargeisa

- No families have departed for resettlement during the month of October, but 17 cases (58 individuals) from across Somalia, including 15 cases (56 individuals) from Somaliland, have been submitted for resettlement consideration in Sweden. One case (four individuals) has been accepted for resettlement by France.
- UNHCR is advocating with the Djibouti authorities to allow a group of Ethiopian refugees registered in Somalia to travel to Djibouti so that they can be interviewed by a United States panel completing a resettlement selection mission.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: **Canada | Central Emergency Fund (CERF) | Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) | European Union | Italy | Japan | Private Donors in Canada, Italy and USA | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America**

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### Links:

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

UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium website <http://somalireturnconsortium.org/>

Yemen situation website <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8487>

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