






Somalia

1-31 January 2018



Somali refugee representatives from Dadaab refugee camps arrived to Baidoa on a four-day Go and See visit to familiarize themselves on the situation in Somalia in order to make an informed decision about possible return. © UNHCR/January 2018

Main achievements

Return assistance		1-31 January 2018	2018
	Number of Somali refugees that were repatriated	1,424	1,424
	Number of returnees benefited from core relief items	1,245	1,245
	Number of returnees enrolled in education	712	721
	Number of returnees received reinstallation grants	389	389
	Number of persons enrolled in livelihood projects	1,847	1,847

Updates on achievements

Go and See visit

UNHCR organized a Go and See visit for Somali refugees in refugee camps in Dabaab (Kenya).

Through Go and See visits, refugees familiarize themselves with the situation in Somalia. This gives them the opportunity to make an informed and voluntary decision in case they wish to return.

A four-day Go and See visit was attended by 37 Somali refugee representatives. One group of 20 refugees visited Baidoa and another group of 17 refugees visited Mogadishu. From 15 to 19 January, the representatives met with government officials, visited education and health facilities and met with returnees, IDPs and partners.



A team of Somali refugees that conducted a Go and See visit to Mogadishu. © UNHCR/January 2018

A group of refugees visiting Baidoa expressed a wish that return to Baidoa should resume by air, instead of by road. Furthermore, they expressed the need to improve access to education, health and other services and to allocate land for returnees by the State of South West (SSW). The President of SWS, who also met with refugees, assured them of land for permanent houses and emphasized the SWS is ready to receive them if they choose to return. The President of the SWS also urged UNHCR and state Ministry of Resettlement and Diaspora Affairs (MoRDA) to resume return flights to Baidoa.

Cross-border coordination meeting

Cross-border coordination meeting aims to review the management coordination for return. It also discusses measures to ensure that returnees can make informed and voluntary decisions determined by the conditions, absorption capacity and assistance in the country of origin.

On 23 January in Nairobi, UNHCR, partners and government counterparts conveyed a cross-border coordination meeting related to Voluntary Repatriation from Kenya. Representatives from the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), the Jubbaland Refugee and Internally Displaced Person's Agency (JRIA), and the Ministry of Refugees and Diaspora Affairs (MoRDA) of the SSW also attended the meeting.

The main issues discussed included the resumption of road convoys subject to security clearance, the need for additional support to develop education in major return locations, and the need for close coordination between government, humanitarian and development actors on reintegration site development, in particular on ensuring water accessibility.

Return support to Somali refugee returnees

Repatriation is considered one of the three traditional durable solutions. UNHCR, therefore, provides support to Somali refugee returnees who opt for a voluntary repatriation. Under the Repatriation Programme, refugee returnees are provided with the enhanced return package¹ to help them to achieve reintegration and self-reliance after their return home. Chapters below show specific achievements towards return and reintegration.

Protection and return management

Return management

Throughout January, return of Somali refugees from country of asylum to Somalia was assisted by air (from Kenya and Tunisia) and sea (from Yemen). Due to road inaccessibility from the *Deyr* rains (October-December 2017), and insecurity in areas of return in Somalia, return convoys² from Kenya remain temporarily suspended.

During January, UNHCR together with local authorities, security actors and partners assessed the security environment in the areas of return. The team concluded that the security environment is feasible again and that road convoys from Kenya to Somalia can resume.

Country of origin information

On 12 January, UNHCR Somalia shared the Country of origin information (COI) for the month of December 2017 with UNHCR operations in Kenya and Yemen. COI included topics on the Security, Humanitarian and drought situation, and access to basic services. COI supports counselling by UNHCR and partners at Return Help Desks (RHD) and ensures that Somali refugees receive a comprehensive overview of the situation in Somalia to make informed and voluntary decisions about their return.

Return figures

Country of Asylum	Before 1 Jan 2018	1-31 Jan 2018	Cumulative	Per cent
Kenya	75,297	1,292	76,589	68 %
Yemen (A) ³	814	132	946	1 %
Other	37	1	627	1 %
Sub total	76,148	1,424	78,162	(70 %)
Yemen (S) ⁴	34,176	407	34,583	30 %
Grand total	110,913	1,831	112,745	100 %

Since the beginning of the launch of the pilot project of the voluntary repatriation in December 2014, a total of 78,162 Somali refugees were repatriated; 76,589 from Kenya, 946 from Yemen

¹ The enhanced return package consists of unconditional core relief item kits (one to three, depending on the family size), an unconditional one-time reinstallation grant in the amount of US\$ 200 per person, unconditional monthly subsistence allowance in the amount of US\$ 200 per household for six months, an unconditional monthly grant for food rations for six months (provided by WFP), an education grant up to US\$ 25 per school-going child, a conditional grant of up to US\$ 1,000 for shelter per household and conditional enrolment in self-reliance and livelihood projects based on a set of selection criteria and availability of resources.

² The temporary suspension of the road convoys was put in place on 5 April 2017 following security incidents and subsequent *Deyr* rains.

³ Somali refugee returnees from Yemen who opt to be voluntary repatriated to Somalia under the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.

⁴ Spontaneous Somali returnees from Yemen.

and 627 from other countries of asylum⁵. During the same period, UNHCR recorded 34,583 Somalis who have returned from Yemen spontaneously.

- During the month of January, 1,424 Somali refugees were repatriated; 1,292 from Kenya and 132 from Yemen.
- UNHCR also recorded 407 Somalis who returned from Yemen unsupported during the same period.

Core relief items

One of the components of the enhanced return package is the unconditional provision of a kit of core relief items. Each Somali refugee returnee household receives a package (one to three, depending on the family size) of core relief items (CRI) at the Home Way Station. One CRI kit consists of three blankets, two 10 litre jerry cans, seven boxes of BP-5, three soap bars, three sleeping mats, one plastic sheet, two cooking pots, one large spoon and kitchen knife, five table spoons, plates and metal cups.

- A total of 687 kits of CRIs have been distributed to 346 households (1,245 returnees) that have been repatriated in January.

Number of kits of CRI distributed per country of asylum

Country of asylum	1-31 January 2018			Cumulative		
	# of kits	# of households	# of individuals	# of kits	# of households	# of individuals
Kenya	622	285	1,119	622	285	1,119
Yemen	64	60	125	64	60	125
Tunisia	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	687	346	1,245	687	346	1,245

Education

School-going returnees are supported with an unconditional grant in amount of up to US\$ 25 to cover education fee for a period of nine months (one school year). Each school-aged returnee also receive a school uniform and scholastic materials.

- From 1 to 31 January, 731 Somali returnee students have been enrolled in education for the first time. Out of 731 returnees, 698 were from Kenya and 34 from Djibouti.

Total enrolment per location and level of education in 2018

Location	1-31 January 2018			Cumulative		
	Primary	Secondary	Sub total	Primary	Secondary	Grand total
Kismayo	467	-	467	467	-	467
Mogadishu	254	10	264	254	10	264
Total	721	10	731	721	10	731

⁵ Out of total 627 persons, 589 from Djibouti, 34 from Eritrea, three from Tunisia, and one from Pakistan.

Cash assistance

To address the immediate needs of the returnees upon their arrival home, UNHCR provides two unconditional cash grants: **reinstallation grant and subsistence allowance**. Reinstallation grant is provided one time to each refugee returnee in the amount of US\$ 200 per person. Each refugee returnee household is also entitled to subsistence allowance in the amount of US\$ 200 for a period of six months. The first instalment of subsistence allowance is released one month after a returnee household's arrival.

Reinstallation grants

- In January, UNHCR provided reinstallation grants to 369 refugee returnees (91 households); 360 returnees (87 families) from Kenya, 28 returnees (11 families) from Yemen and one person from Tunisia.

Number of returnees received reinstallation grant per country of asylum

Country of asylum	1-31 January 2018		Cumulative	
	# of individuals	# of households	# of individuals	# of households
Kenya	360	87	360	87
Yemen	28	11	28	11
Tunisia	1	1	1	1
Total	389	99	389	99

Subsistence allowance

- In January, 13 households (28 returnees) from Yemen received their subsistence allowance.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

In order to help returnees to re-establish their lives after living years abroad, the enhanced return package offers livelihood opportunities. Livelihood projects follow a "whole-of-society" approach, including returnees, displaced persons and the host community, on one side to promote social cohesion and on the other side to find durable solutions for the entire society.

- In January, 1,847 persons, including 1,121 returnees, 389 IDPs and 337 members of the host community, were engaged in livelihood programmes. Out of 1,847 persons, 1,300 were part of a cash-for-work (CfW) programme, 194 were enrolled in technical and educational vocational training (TEVT) and 353 were assisted with self-employment opportunities.

Number of persons enrolled in livelihood programmes per activity

Activity	1-31 January 2018	Cumulative
	# of individuals	# of individuals
Cash-for-work	1,300	1,300
Technical and educational vocational trainings	194	194
Access to self-employment	353	353
Total	1,847	1,847

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure

Rehabilitation or construction of public infrastructure, such as health or educational facilities, roads or markets, is core to strengthening community resilience and ensuring sustainable reintegration. In January, 1,300 persons (850 returnees, 300 IDPs and 150 members of the host community) were enrolled in improvement of public infrastructure through CfW activities.

- In Mogadishu, the beautifying of 12 districts of Benadir region through a CfW that targeted 1,000 persons is on progress as well as rehabilitation or construction of 10 premises: five schools, four community resources and one training centre.
- In Kismayo, UNHCR partner ARC registered 200 beneficiaries (100 returnees, 70 IDPs and 30 members of the host community) to construct the road from the shelter settlement to Kismayo town.
- In Afmadow, UNHCR partner ARC registered 100 beneficiaries (50 returnees, 30 IDPs and 20 host community) to plant trees in Afmadow district.

Technical and educational vocational training (TEVT)

One of the livelihood programmes is TEVT. Through TEVT returnees are equipped with the necessary technical skills to help them in accessing employment opportunities. Besides trainings, which last usually from three to six months, beneficiaries receive start-up kits. Throughout January, 194 persons (98 returnees, 56 IDPs and 40 host community) were part of TEVT.

- In Kismayo, UNHCR registered 45 beneficiaries (23 returnees, 11 IDPs and 11 members of host community) in TEVT to obtain skills in tailoring, IT and networking, electrics and construction.
- In Hargeysa, UNHCR enrolled 149 beneficiaries (75 returnees, 29 IDPs and 45 members of host community) in vocational trainings.

Access to self-employment, information and communications technologies

UNHCR has established two support centres which offer persons of concern vocational training, access to internet, information on employment opportunities or a place to gather with other centre members. In January, 353 beneficiaries (173 returnees, 33 IDPs and 147 members of host community) visited centres; 188 in Kismayo and 165 in Hargeysa.

- In Kismayo, 188 persons visited the Return Support Centre where 58 became new members, 20 attended classes in literacy and 15 in tailoring and 30 in computers.
- In Hargeysa, 165 persons were provided assistance at the Peaceful Co-existence Centre where they access classes in language, computer, literacy and accounting.

External / Donor relations

Donors who have contributed to the operation in 2018



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