

Somalia

1-31 January 2021

Heading into 2021, the operational context in Somalia remained characterized by the uncertain political situation in the country. The electoral impasse continued in January.

Simultaneously, Somalia continues to battle multiple threats, including largescale conflict and insecurity, natural disasters and a new wave of COVID-19.

Despite the challenging operational environment, UNHCR continued to provide protection, assistance and solutions to persons of concern across the country.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



2.6 million IDPs



13,247 asylum-seekers
11,478 refugees

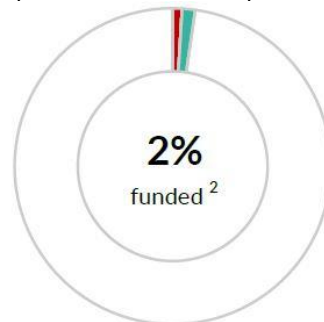


131,633 refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 27 JANUARY)

USD 154.1 M

requested for Somalia Operation



Funded
2%
3.5 M



UNHCR team conducts a focus group discussion (FGD) with refugee and asylum-seeker women in north Galkayo, Puntland State. © UNHCR

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The operational context in Somalia remained fluid and complex throughout January 2021. Access remained restricted by conflict and insecurity and was further compounded by challenges associated with the outbreak of COVID-19.

January marked the beginning of a new project cycle for UNHCR and partners. To start new projects, partners held consultations with authorities at different levels, persons of concerns as well as other stakeholders. Various sensitization meetings aimed at consulting and informing stakeholders about the objectives, scope, target beneficiaries and mode of delivery of various projects were undertaken. UNHCR and partners promulgated messaging to displaced communities to raise awareness about available services and how to access them.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Registration

- As of 31 January 2021, UNHCR recorded a total of 11,478 refugees and 13,247 asylum-seekers in Somalia. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are from Ethiopia (70%) and Yemen (26%). In January, UNHCR registered 112 new refugee and asylum-seeker arrivals, including nine new-born babies.

Refugee returnees

- In January, UNHCR supported the return of 53 Somali refugees from Eritrea.
- As of 31 January 2021, a total of 131,633 Somali refugees have returned from 14 countries of asylum with UNHCR's support. Out of the total 92,150 individuals who have repatriated with UNHCR's support, more than 85,000 individuals returned from Kenya, some 5,400 individuals from Yemen, and the rest from various countries including Djibouti (773), Libya (542), Sudan (143), and Eritrea (87). In addition, 39,483 Somalis have returned from Yemen without UNHCR's support, including 197 individuals in January 2021.
- All returnees are provided with assistance, depending on the location the assistance includes cash grants, NFI kits and support with various services.

Assessments

- Early January, UNHCR-led multi-agency team, consisting of local and international NGOs as well as the local authorities, to conduct a rapid needs assessment for 121 newly displaced households at Hayan IDP settlement in south Galkayo, following an attack by Al Shabaab to the Ba'adwine and surrounding villages. The main objective of the rapid need assessments was to determine the actual number of displacement and to determine the needs of the displaced families.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR carried out participatory assessment across the country, including focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews (KII). The assessments targeted refugees and asylum-seekers, IDPs, and refugee returnees. Selected locations are those with high concentrations of different populations of concern, and were selected in consultation with partners and authorities, and carried out upholding the principles of age, gender and diversity.



UNHCR and PoCs in a participatory assessment session in Hargeisa on 11 January 2021. © UNHCR

Multipurpose cash assistance

- In January, a total of 6,924 individuals were provided with cash assistance. This figure includes 1,109 refugee households (4,571 individuals) in Hargeisa who received their two-month cash allowance for January and February. Individuals who were unable to physically collect their cash from the financial service providers were reached through home visits, taking COVID-19 precautions into consideration. Cash assistance targets severely vulnerable households in meeting their most basic needs.
- In addition, 274 refugees and asylum-seekers who have lost their income due to COVID-19 or have other specific needs (such as medical needs), were provided with one-off cash grants.

Prevention and response to SGBV

- In January, 84 SGBV survivors were reported and provided with relevant assistance, including material, legal, medical, and/or psychosocial.

Legal assistance

- 338 individuals were provided with legal assistance and legal representation through legal clinics and lawyers dedicated on refugee law. Support included

legal advice, representation in court and advocacy for release from the police stations and detention centres.

Protection Cluster

The achievements of the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, in January include:

Protection partners reached a total of 2,141 individuals (over 31% are children, 40% women and 7% persons with disabilities) through **protection monitoring**. A total of 2,197 persons with specific needs and heightened vulnerability were provided with protection-oriented support and 3,256 individuals were reached through awareness raising on protection issues. Furthermore, a total of 8,848 individuals reached through community awareness campaigns.

The Child Protection AOR partners reached a total 22,069 people (including 10,332 children), with various **child protection services**: child protection messaging (7,264 individuals), psychosocial support (3,220 children, case management (2,307 children), family tracing and reunification, alternative care and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups. In addition, partners continued to identify children with disabilities to ensure their protection needs are met during the COVID-19 pandemic. In January, a total of 111 children with disabilities were reached with child protection services.

A total of 28,281 individuals were reached with **GBV prevention and mitigation** services; 240 survivors received cash and voucher assistance; 2,619 survivors received dignity kits and material assistance; 1,714 individuals accessed multi-sector GBV services; and 470 women and girls received GBV services through women and girls safe spaces.

Evictions remain a protection concern in Somalia. In January 2021, the HLP AoR prioritised advocacy for the extension of the **eviction moratorium** to ensure it covers both COVID-19 and the upcoming election period. HLP partners continued the provision of cash to evicted families, provided legal aid for HLP specific cases, and distributed information aimed at empowering IDPs with knowledge and skills to exercise and claim their HLP rights.



Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, UNHCR supported the enrollment of 180 refugee returnee students (96 girls and 84 boys) in lower primary education. Regarding the refugee caseload, UNHCR partner was in the process of verifying a list of Yemeni refugees for education support.
- In Puntland, UNHCR partner provided transportation to 444 children who live more than 2 kilometers from school.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR started the assessment of schools to determine the needs for reconstruction and rehabilitation of classrooms and WASH facilities in 2021.
- UNHCR through a partner organization conducted four community mobilization exercises in Kismayo, Mogadishu and Dhobley district reaching over 100 persons (47 male and 53 female), including MoE staff, community education committees (CECs), and parent-teacher committees. Advocacy and awareness-raising focused on prevention of Covid-19, re-enrolment in schools and increasing girls' access to education.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- In January, UNHCR partner-supported hospitals and health facilities provided primary medical care to 319 refugees and asylum-seekers and secondary health care to 190, while 100 PoCs were referred to tertiary healthcare or specialized healthcare services. In addition, 24 suspected refugee patients were tested for Covid-19, with negative results.



A nurse administering measles vaccine to refugee child in Bossaso. @ Save the Children



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, through a partner organization, rehabilitated a borehole in Wadajir settlement by installing a solar system. A technical site assessment was conducted in collaboration with village committees.



The project site of the rehabilitated borehole. © UNHCR



SHELTER AND NFI

Shelter Cluster

In January, the Shelter Cluster, led by UNHCR, reached more than **20,600 individuals** with non-food item (NFI) kits and more than **18,900 individuals** with shelter assistance.

Some 3.2 million people in Somalia are in need of shelter and NFI assistance. New displacement includes some 17,000 people forcefully evicted by Al-Shabaab at the end of December 2020 from seven villages in Marka district, as well as the armed clashes between in Belet Xaawo town in the last week of January, leading to the displacement of more than 43,000 people. The displaced families need shelter and NFI assistance urgently, however the shelter Cluster partners have only limited NFI stocks and no shelter stocks available.

Achievements and Impact

- As a response to the Cyclone Gati, which made landfall in Puntland's Bari region on 22 November 2020, UNHCR's partner organisation carried out field visits and registered 2,600 households for the distribution of NFIs and cash grants for emergency shelter kits (ESKs).
- 4,400 IDPs were provided NFIs, while 1,459 refugee and asylum-seeker girls and women of reproductive age were provided with sanitary materials.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

CCCM Cluster

The key achievements of the CCCM Cluster, co-led by UNHCR, in January include:

More than 42,800 IDPs were reached through **Covid-19 prevention** awareness-raising sessions, which focused on the importance of hygiene and preventative measures. Partners also held sessions for female representatives of the IDP community to tackle rumours and miss-information related to Covid-19.

Partners trained a total of 120 **camp management committees** (CMC) on how to communicate effectively with various stakeholders, including local authorities and humanitarian service providers to advocate for increased service provision at sites.

Achievements and Impact

- A police post was completed and handed over to the authorities in wadajir settlement in north Galkacyo.
- In Bossaso, partner trained 10 staff on CCCM issues, and together with the authorities, participated in the selection of new sites and verification exercises.



Handing over of the police post to the authorities in north Galkayo. © UNHCR



ENERGY

Solar lights

- UNHCR, through partner, procured and installed 30 solar-powered street lights in the Wadajir settlement. Streetlights increase the security, especially of women and girls, in the settlement and enable movement and activities during the dark hours.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Livelihoods

- In Puntland, UNHCR assessed the existing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centers, exploring the possibilities of cooperation in providing vocational training to PoCs to UNHCR.
- UNHCR's partner conducted integrated community-level empowerment sessions on gender equality for IDP women and girls in settlements. Beneficiaries were individuals who have never attended formal education, and therefore they were also provided with basic literacy and numeracy skills, with the aim to increase their prospects of attending vocational training courses and therefore strengthen self-reliance and access to livelihoods.
- UNHCR met with leaders of various displaced communities to inform them of the various livelihoods projects planned for 2021. To assess the livelihoods-related projects carried out in 2020, an end-line surveys was carried out, assessing 567 beneficiaries of previous projects.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 3.5 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia operation in 2021

Republic of Korea (1.5 M)

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (22.1 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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