UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

POPULATION

3.68M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs	3,500,000
Refugee Returnees (Dec 2014 - Nov 2024)	140,938
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	43,782

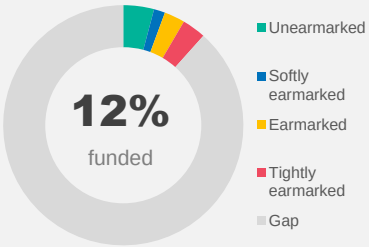
PARTNERS

16 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025

Government	10
L/N NGO	4
INGO	2

FUNDING

157M Funding required for 2025 *(as of 31 May)*



IMPACT STATEMENTS

1. PROTECT
Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons enjoy living in a safe and secure environment in line with national and international protection frameworks.

2. RESPOND
Affected populations and most vulnerable persons strengthen their resilience, proactively mitigate the effects of climate change and their essential needs are met.

3. EMPOWER
Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons improve their self-reliance with better access to socio-economic opportunities and engagement with development partners.

4. SOLVE
Refugees, IDPs and returnees have improved access to alternative pathways and a range of durable solutions.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

May 2025

Handover Ceremony of Permanent Shelters in Adado Integrated Solutions Site, Somalia. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amid decreasing global humanitarian funding, the humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate in May. The 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Somalia projected 5.98 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, with 4.57 million targeted for help. Approximately 4.6 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, and 1.8 million children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Overall, over 47 per cent of the country's population is affected by conflict, floods, drought, disease outbreaks, and displacement that disrupt lives and livelihoods, resulting in dire humanitarian needs.

In May 2025, Somalia continued to experience mixed intensity security and political developments that have implications for both domestic stability and regional security dynamics. The overall security situation across Somalia remained tense, marked by ongoing military operations, clan conflicts, and localized civil unrest. In southern and central Somalia, particularly in the Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions, armed conflict between the Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab (AS) appeared to slow down, with no major territorial changes reported. In Galmudug, the Somali SNA and local forces engaged AS near Dhusamareb. Puntland forces clashed with the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) in Qandala, supported by a U.S. airstrike. Tensions remained high between the Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn-Khatumo administrations and Somaliland authorities.

On the political front, the ongoing tension between the Federal Government and some Federal Member States continued to flare up. While visiting Nairobi, Somaliland President Abdirahman Abdullahi 'Irro' inaugurated the newly upgraded "Somaliland diplomatic mission", which used to be a liaison office. Following the visit, Kenya issued a statement reaffirming its respect for Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which appeared influenced by pressure from both the Federal Government of Somalia and China.

KEY UPDATES

- *Joint field visit to IDP sites:* In response to the devastating impact of the recent heavy flooding in Mogadishu (Deynile and Kahda districts), UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) and AVORD (shelter partner), conducted a needs assessment mission in IDP camps on 18 May, to assess the damage and identify urgent humanitarian needs. Similar assessments were done in Dhobley through an inter-agency team to assess the condition of the IDPs, identify gaps and challenges, and to share information with partners to guide responses. Following the field visit, UNHCR provided 2,000 NFI kits to the most vulnerable households in Kahda and Deynile.
- *Partnerships with Private Sector*: In May, UNHCR in Mogadishu partnered with the Hormuud Salaam Foundation and distributed $64,000 among 177 households of 320 individuals who returned to the country through Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR), with each individual receiving a $200 reinstallation grant. The grant allows the returnees to immediately meet their basic needs in a flexible and dignified way and to facilitate their further reintegration.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In South Central Somalia, UNHCR operated protection desks in response to conflict and climate-induced emergencies, focusing on community mobilization activities, reaching 1,848 individuals (1,430 females and 418 males) with awareness-raising sessions on reporting protection and gender-based violence (GBV) incidents and the available services in Mogadishu, Beletweyne, Jowhar, Dollow, Baidoa, and Hudur. Over 196 individuals with protection needs were referred to service providers across all locations. Additionally, 28 individuals with heightened protection risks were provided with individual protection assistance in the form of cash amounting to $100 per person.
- In Galkayo, 54 school-based child rights club members (30 boys, 24 girls), including children with disabilities, received refresher training on child protection principles and club leadership. This initiative has strengthened peer-led advocacy and child participation in school communities.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR's legal aid partner provided one-time emergency cash assistance to 24 households (122 individuals) facing eviction or homelessness due to rent arrears, helping reduce risks like GBV, insecurity, and address child protection issues. UNHCR also distributed three months' subsistence allowance to 68 households (225 individuals), which aimed at supporting vulnerable households in Somaliland. In addition, UNHCR through the Legal Clinic, supported 424 individuals offering a range of services such as legal counselling, mediation, advocacy for their release from detention, initiation of court proceedings, and referrals to other service providers.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In May, UNHCR's Hargeisa office and partners supported the forcibly displaced populations through various feedback platforms—hotlines, mailboxes, and in-person counselling—reaching over 164 individuals. Among them, UNHCR through its community-based protection (CBP) partner, supported 22 individuals with specific needs, offering psychosocial counselling, physiotherapy and follow-up care. Where applicable, referrals to other service providers were made.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR and its partners provided training to 20 community volunteers (13 women, 7 men), enhancing their knowledge and skills on solutions for harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), child labour, and exploitation. They now serve as key advocates for child protection within their localities.

Shelter and NFIs

- In Kismayo, UNHCR in collaboration with AVORD and JUCRI distributed plastic tarpaulins to 2,000 IDP households as a mitigation measure for the upcoming rainy season. Targeted families were mainly the newly arrived IDPs affected by climate shocks and insecurity in hard-to-reach areas of Lower Juba.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR in collaboration with the CCCM partner NRC, carried out service monitoring across all 6 IDP sites. NRC also facilitated site-level coordination meetings aimed at addressing critical sectoral gaps within the targeted 6 IDP sites. These meetings brought together key stakeholders at site level to discuss specific needs and challenges faced by the IDP communities and to develop strategies for effectively addressing these gaps. The coordination efforts focused on enhancing service delivery and ensuring a more integrated and comprehensive response to the needs of the displaced populations in the targeted 6 IDP sites.
- In Mogadishu, the CCCM Cluster in collaboration with the Protection Cluster facilitated a two-day capacity-building training for 15 NCRI staff, equipping them with knowledge and tools to effectively coordinate site-level activities, engage with displaced communities, and ensure the delivery of essential services in line with CCCM standards. Topics covered included: Camp Coordination and Camp Management principles, Protection mainstreaming and accountability to affected populations, GBV, among others.

Health

- In Galkayo, A total of 105 children (47 boys, 58 girls), including 17 children with disabilities, received individual and group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid in safe, child-friendly spaces. These services contributed to improved emotional well-being and resilience among vulnerable children.
- In Hargeisa, Berbera, and Mogadishu (Hanano hospital), 1,055 forcibly displaced individuals received assorted essential healthcare services, including emergency treatment, C-sections, outpatient care, and maternal and child health services. In Mogadishu, 20 patients received free ambulance services ensuring timely access to urgent medical support.

Durable Solutions

- Enhanced Verification & Issuance of Documents: In Hargeisa, a total of 6,595 individuals, including 3,374 asylum seekers, 3,199 refugees, and 22 others of concern, were verified. Additionally, a total of 5,428 identity documents were issued, including 3,208 asylum certificates and 2,220 refugee ID cards. Document issuance increased significantly since the commencement of the verification exercise, attributed to new documentation for expired ones and a change of government counterpart from the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) to the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MORHA).

Education

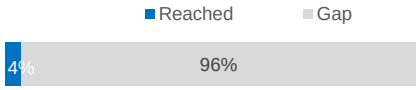
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, in collaboration with Save the Children, provided school fees support, covering 3 months to 77 DAFI scholarship beneficiaries in Baidoa (38), Mogadishu (32), and Kismayo (7), with each student receiving a payment of $685, ensuring continued access to quality higher education, by removing financial barriers.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, in partnership with Somaliland's Ministry of Education, monitored three primary schools to address concerns from refugees and asylum-seekers regarding unpaid school fees. UNHCR reiterated its commitment to education by providing cash assistance for secondary school tuition and scholastic materials for primary students. Transition activities, including Back-to-School campaigns, child protection training, and capacity building for Ministry of Education staff, are ongoing and will continue through June and July.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

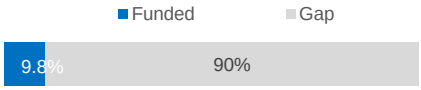
protectioncluster SOMALIA

129,005

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



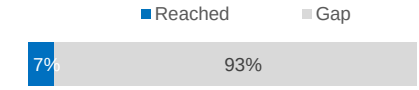
3.3 M	People in need
2.4 M	People targeted
166 M	Funding required



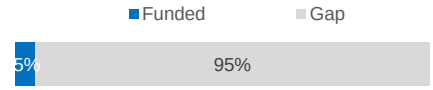
SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

84,131

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



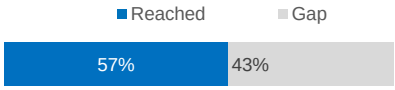
4.1 M	People in need
1.3 M	People targeted
60.8 M	Funding required



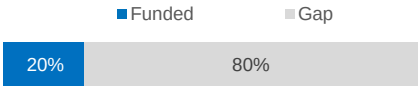
CCCM Cluster SOMALIA
CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1,070,115

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster



2.4 M	People in need
1.9 M	People targeted
44.6 M	Funding required



Protection Cluster

In May, 35,611 individuals were supported by the Protection Cluster partners with specialized protection services such as community-based protection, community self-protection, psychosocial support services, individual protection assistance (cash, in-kind), referrals and protection case management. Also included were beneficiaries of areas released for safe use through mine action survey and clearance and training on explosive ordinance and risk. Training was also given to IDPs taking appropriate actions to secure their housing, land, and property (HLP) rights and acquire secure tenure documents. Overall, 5,428 girls, 5,596 boys, 14,464 women, 8,888 men and 1,235 elderly persons – including 7,328 persons with disabilities, were supported with specialized protection activities.

Shelter Cluster

In May, Shelter Cluster partners provided Non-Food Items (NFIs) and emergency shelter support to 4,387 individuals (737 households). This assistance targeted displaced and vulnerable households across three districts: Beletweyne (Hiraan region), Dollow (Gedo region), and Qandala (Bari region). Overall, partners assisted a total of 84,131 individuals (13,355 households) between January and May, covering fourteen districts: Afmadow, Beletweyne, Bossaso, Badhan (Laasqoray), Caynabo, Ceerigaabo, Dollow, Galdogob, Hargeisa, Hobyo, Jariiban, Kahda, Kismayo, and Qandala. According to the 5W data, Kismayo district recorded the highest number of beneficiaries reached, while Beletweyne district had the lowest. In total, 77,572 (92%) received NFIs, 6,372 (8%) with emergency shelter kits, and 187 partial NFI kits.

CCCM Cluster

UNHCR/CCCM jointly with the Shelter Cluster and UNHCR partners (NCRI & AVORD) conducted rapid needs assessment in IDP sites affected by floods in the Kahda and Daynile districts of Banadir. HCRI (UNHCR Implementing Partner) carried out similar assessments in IDP sites in Beletweyn, Jowhar, and Balcad and facilitated responses to the flood-affected households. Safety audits were also conducted in 82 IDP sites (Baidoa 68, Ceel Berde 3, and Xudur 11). The assessments highlighted concerns around overcrowding, lack of privacy and security, insufficient/poorly maintained WASH facilities, limited health and education services, inadequate nutrition support, and overall safety risks within the camps. Funding cuts have curtailed redress by partners. The CCCM Cluster and Government counterparts conducted site verifications in 74 IDP sites in Beletweyne, with results indicating that the displaced population has increased by 5,609 since April 2025. 43% of the sites are at high or extreme risk of eviction, and 13% have recently received eviction notices. Furthermore, 72% of IDP sites in Beletweyne are exposed to high or extreme flood risks; mitigation measures for the two threats are urgently needed. CCCM assessed a total of 339 sites in May to determine the availability of services across 32 districts of Somalia. The mapping shows that 316 of the sites evaluated have insufficient and non-functional latrines, while 267 out of 339 sites have not received hygiene kits. 54% of the IDP sites also lack nutrition services. UNHCR/CCCM provided in-person capacity-building training to 15 NCRI field and programme staff. The training aimed at preparing government staff to manage seven IDP catchments (over 720 sites hosting 355,746 individuals) in Kahda and Daynile. MoIFAD/UNHCR/CCCM partner in Puntland have completed services mapping and conducted site monitoring for 12 sites across Gardo.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Dividends of Durable Solutions – the Story of Deka

Deka Abdullahi, a 48-year-old mother of eight, is among the beneficiaries of UNHCR's durable solutions and livelihoods programmes in Luglaw, Kismayo district, where she received a two-room permanent house on a 600 square meter piece of land, along with 10 goats to support her family's livelihood needs.

Deka and her family were formerly agropastoralists, but they lost all their means of livelihood during the 2011 famine in Somalia. They sought asylum in Kenya, where they lived for six years before voluntarily returning to Somalia in 2017 through UNHCR's repatriation programme.

Upon return, the family received six months of assistance and lived in a rental home. After the support ended, they could not afford the rent and moved to the Dalxiska IDP camp, where they stayed until January 2024. At that time, they were selected as part of the many beneficiaries enjoying the dividends of the Luglaw shelter project by UNHCR.

Comparing her previous life in Dalxiska IDP camp, and her new residential house, Deka had this to say, "We are now much better. We have our own house and land."

Deka takes care of the goats and is very optimistic that they will multiply and increase in number very soon. She says, "four months ago, we were given 10 goats, and as of now, four of them have given birth, increasing the number to 14. We are getting milk for family consumption from our goats."

Her husband has also found more job opportunities as a casual labourer in farming and construction, enabling him to support the family financially. In addition, their children now attend a nearby school free of charge.

Deka expressed appreciation to UNHCR for the support and hopes that similar assistance will be extended to her former neighbours who are still living in the Dalxiska IDP camp.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 18.3 million** as of 31 May 2025. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have already contributed to the Somalia Operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia Operation in 2025 | USD

USA 3.3 million | **Japan** 2.0 million | **Austria** 1.4 million | **Germany** 598,219 | **Switzerland** 340,136 | **Canada** 126,000

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Italy 5.1 million | **Australia for UNHCR** 3.2 million | **Finland** 3.2 million | **Norway** 2.8 million | Canada | Private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Sweden 74.1 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **España con ACNUR** 25.2 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 15.2 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Germany** 10.8 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Philippines | Qatar | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Private donors

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **UNHCR Somalia**
- UNHCR Somalia: **Global Focus**
- UNHCR Somalia: **Operational Data Portal**
- Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network dashboard **(PSMN)**
- **Protection Cluster**
- **Shelter Cluster**
- **CCCM Cluster**

CONTACTS:

- **Phoebe Mukunga,** Associate External Relations Officer, mukungap@unhcr.org
- **Yang Du,** Associate External Relations Officer, du@unhcr.org

@UNHCRSom @UNHCRSom