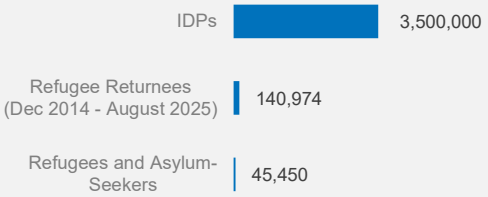
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

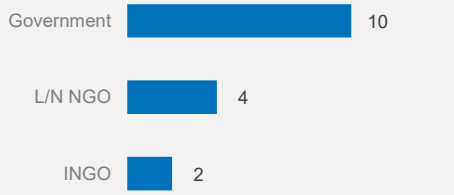
POPULATION

3.68M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works



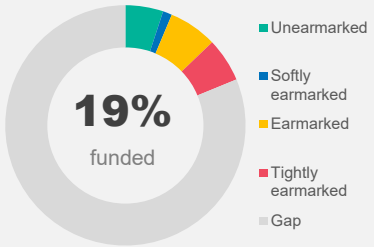
PARTNERS

16 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025



FUNDING

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



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
SEPTEMBER 2025

Non-Food Items Distribution in Hiran Region, Somalia. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amidst the increasingly difficult global financial environment, the situation in Somalia remained fragile in September, with the capacity and resources of key actors to deliver critical life-saving assistance severely limited. According to FSNAU, 3.4 million people, or 18 percent of the population, faced crisis or worse food insecurity between July and September. Nearly 1.85 million children under five faced acute malnutrition, 421,000 of whom are severely malnourished. Severe drought conditions persisted in northern and eastern regions. 2.5 million people are affected in 26 districts, with 900,000 residing in 16 worst-affected districts. The Humanitarian Country Team continued to prioritize the revised one-year Centrality of Protection Strategy, focusing on risks of exclusion and denial of access to assistance, risks associated with forced displacement, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian assets. Aid agencies continued to focus on the reprioritized target of 1.3 million people (a 72% reduction) from 2024.

The security environment across Somalia remained volatile, largely driven by Al-Shabaab (AS) attacks, inter-clan violence, and armed crime. By mid-September, the total number of reported security incidents dropped from 72 to 62. Crime incidents fell from 38 to 24, while terrorism incidents rose slightly from 8 to 10. Key developments included persistent AS activity (IEDs) in Baidoa and Kismayo. Inter-clan conflict between Marihan and Moallimweyn in Luuq escalated, with mortar fire hitting an IDP camp on September 20. On the same day, forced evictions in Mogadishu Daynile district led to protests resulting in civilian casualties. Additionally, clashes were reported between Somalia National Army forces and Jubaland forces in Gedo region near Belet-Hawo (September 18) following a border incursion. Meanwhile, in late September, South-West State witnessed a series of heavy airstrikes by international partners, targeted at AS bases across the Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Middle Juba regions - killing and injuring several senior AS leaders.

KEY UPDATES

- *Durable Solutions:* On September 30, 2025, UNHCR's shelter partner successfully completed the construction of 60 permanent shelters, each accompanied by a latrine, at the Barwaqo 2 Durable Solutions Site in Baidoa. This effort aims to enhance durable solutions, offering safety, stability, and dignity to displaced households. Additionally, in Dolow, 40 out of 79 planned permanent shelters were completed, each accompanied by a latrines.
- *Registration and Documentation:* UNHCR and the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs, Somaliland, registered 281 new individuals in Hargeisa and Berbera, including 136 asylum seekers, 125 refugees, and 20 returnees. Nationalities included 52% Ethiopians, 35% Yemenis, and 13% Syrians, Sudanese, Eritreans, and Somalis. Since January 2025, 3,303 individuals have been registered (2,193 asylum seekers, 945 refugees, and 156 Somali). 471 documents were issued (229 Asylum Certificates, 242 Refugee ID cards). The cumulative total of documents issued since January reached 16,046.
- *High Level Meetings:* The Deputy Representative/OIC, Ms. Mandy, continued proactive high-level engagements with key donors to address the challenges posed by dwindling humanitarian funding globally. Specifically, she held meetings with the ECHO Regional Head, Mr. Olivier Rousselle, the Technical Assistant for Somalia, Mr. Bruno Rotival, and the U.S. PRM Coordinator, Ms. Annah Mwendar-Chaba. Discussions focused on defining and agreeing on strategies to strengthen partnerships and ensure continued support for the Somalia operation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR and the Legal Clinic supported **24** people with specific needs with specialized care, including physiotherapy and mobility devices. A two-day foster care training was held for **80** caregivers. Four refugee children received a Best Interest Assessment, and a mapping exercise identified **35** at-risk children. Additionally, five children with severe disabilities received mobility aids, strengthening community-based protection and inclusion.
- In September, Protection Help Desks across **11** locations (including Deynile, Baidoa, Kismayo, and Jowhar) conducted extensive awareness campaigns. These sessions focused on preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), abuse, sexual exploitation, child labor, and harmful practices (early marriage, FGM, forced marriages). In total, the sessions reached **3,975** individuals (**2,350** females and **1,625** males). Furthermore, **376** individuals (**290** females and **86** males) with heightened protection needs were referred to specialized service providers. Separately, KAALO and UNHCR held a GBV and child protection session in Mogadishu for refugees and asylum seekers, informing **66** participants **(43** women and **23** girls**)** on reporting GBV within 72 hours and accessing free legal aid.
- In Galkayo and Dhusamareb, eviction risk monitoring identified **975** high-risk households (**547** in Galkayo and **428** in Dhusamareb). No mitigating legal or mediation activities were completed during the reporting period. The identification, however, provides critical data for prioritizing interventions to prevent re-displacement and asset loss. In Abudwaq, the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) documented and followed up on complaints from IDP communities. Complaints related to food security, WASH, and protection remain unresolved, undermining community trust and prolonging vulnerabilities. Follow-up actions have been initiated through the national CCCM cluster to ensure resolution..

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In September, UNHCR supported economic resilience activities, in Beletweyne (Sep 18): **17** vulnerable households received **170** goats (10 per household) from AVORD and HCRI to restore livelihoods and food security. In Mogadishu (Sep 4): **20** vulnerable women (18 refugees, 2 asylum seekers) received business training and a **$380** cash grant each (totaling **$7,600**) via KAALO, boosting self-reliance.
- Community engagement meetings were held in Bossaso, Garowe, and Galkayo with the participation of **59** community members, comprising refugees and asylum seekers. Attendance included 29 males, 23 females, and 7 children. The sessions provided a safe platform for communities to directly identify protection risks and share their concerns with KAALO staff. These engagements strengthened two-way communication, enhanced transparency, and increased community awareness of GBV prevention, legal aid, and psychosocial support referral pathways.

Shelter and NFIs

- In Girible, Bossaso, the construction of 46 permanent shelters and latrines in, reached 73% completion, with handover expected in October 2025. Additionally, registration for NFI distribution was completed, targeting 400 vulnerable households across Bari and Mudug regions: 300 households in Bari and 100 households in Mudug.
- In South Central, UNHCR, AVORD, and Juba Foundation distributed NFI kits to **700** displaced households in Hiran: **350** households each in Bulo Burte and Jalalaqsi. The kits included essential items like blankets and hygiene kits to meet survival needs following conflict. Additionally, UNHCR and AVORD completed a vulnerability assessment in Belet hawa (Gedo). Over **600** most vulnerable households, were identified for a one-time assistance via NFI for cash.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR disbursed emergency NFI cash assistance to **1,900** drought-affected IDP households (**14,703** individuals) across the Sool, Sanaag, Sahil, and Awdal regions, aiming to uphold dignity and reduce negative coping mechanisms.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- Legal aid services were provided to **24** vulnerable persons **(12** females**, 12** males**)**, including **7** refugees (2 Yemenis, 5 Ethiopians) and **17** Ethiopian asylum seekers. Services were delivered across four locations (**9** in Bossaso, **11** in Garowe, **1** in Gardo, **3** in Galkayo). Assistance included **11** counsels**, 5** advocacies**, 7** mediations, and **1** court representation, resulting in the release of **5** detainees and enhanced awareness of legal rights.
- In Hargeisa, Legal Clinic and UNHCR provided legal aid to **391** individuals, services included legal counselling, mediation, advocacy for detainees, initiation of court proceedings, and referrals to competent service providers, including the Somaliland Police. In addition, **15** households, comprising **19** individuals, received emergency cash support to address urgent shelter needs, particularly eviction risks. This intervention aimed to mitigate homelessness and its associated risks, such as gender-based violence.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and NCRI registered **51** individuals: **9** asylum-seekers, **24** refugees, and **18** others of concern. They printed **39** proof of registration (PoR) certificates (9 for asylum-seekers, 30 for refugees). Cumulatively since January 2025, **518** individuals have been registered (223 asylum-seekers, 269 refugees). A total of **2,106** identity cards and **1,642** PoR certificates (distributed to 1,337 refugee and 305 asylum-seeker households) have been issued.

Health

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, through Hanano, provided primary healthcare to **331** patients (164 male, 167 female). Nationalities treated included **286** Yemenis (151M, 135F), **30** Somalis, **9** Syrians, **6** Tanzanians, **2** Ethiopians, and **1** Sudanese. Services spanned consultations, laboratory work, and specialized referrals. Additionally, **24** patients received free ambulance services.

Education

- UNHCR's partner, Save the Children, disbursed $9,725 to cover school fees for 628 children (580 refugees, 48 asylum seekers) across 60 schools in Mogadishu. This included 407 primary, and 221 secondary learners.
- In Somaliland, NRC, the Education team executed a comprehensive verification exercise for Refugee and Asylum Seeker students currently in formal education. This exercise was critical for ensuring accurate enrolment data and confirming that all eligible students receive the necessary support mechanisms. The effort also significantly enhanced coordination with both local education authorities and other humanitarian partners.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

CLUSTER RESPONSE

protectioncluster SOMALIA

254,795

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

Reached 6.4% | Gap 96%

3.3 M People in need

2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required

Funded 15% | Gap 85%

SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

138,263

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

Reached 11% | Gap 89%

4.1 M People in need

1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required

Funded 5% | Gap 95%

CCCM Cluster SOMALIA

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1,110,050

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

Reached 58% | Gap 42%

2.4 M People in need

1.9 M People targeted

44.6 M Funding required

Funded 16% | Gap 84%

Protection Cluster

In September, Protection Cluster partners delivered specialized protection services to **30,180 individuals**. This comprehensive assistance included community-based protection and self-protection initiatives, psychosocial support services (PSS), individual protection assistance (cash and in-kind), supported referrals, and protection case management. Assistance also targeted: a) Individuals in areas made safe following mine action survey and clearance, including those who received explosive ordinance risk education training, b) Displaced persons supported in securing their Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights—specifically, by helping them acquire secure tenure documents, receiving HLP training, and preventing eviction. The assistance breakdown by demographic was: **5,104** girls, **4,559** boys, **15,146** women, **4,299** men, and **1,072** elderly persons. Of the total reached, **2,327** persons with disabilities benefited from these specialized protection activities. Planning for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) has begun. The Protection Cluster participated in the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) workshop (on 30 September) to define the scope, shocks (conflict, drought, floods etc), and prioritization. Discussions focused on resource limitations, agreeing to target intersectoral severity **4 & 5** needs and life-saving activities. Verification by national NGOs and communities is proposed to strengthen the plan.

Shelter Cluster

In September 2025, Shelter Cluster partners assisted **2,950** households **(17,968** individuals**)** through standard complete and partial Non-Food Item (NFI) kits, distributed as cash and in-kind support. Specifically, **1,900** households **(11,396** individuals**)** received cash for NFIs from UNHCR across five districts in Somaliland (Berbera, Caynabo, Ceerigaabo, Lughaye, and Zeylac), **700** households **(4,201** individuals**)** received in-kind standard NFI kits from UNHCR, implemented by AVORD and Juba Foundation in Bula burto and Jalalaqsi (Hiraan Region), **350** households **(2,101** individuals**)** received in-kind partial NFI kits from Human Appeal in Kahda (Banadir Region). Cumulatively, from January to September 2025, the Cluster reached **22,687** households **(138,263** individuals**)** across 21 districts. Kismaayo had the highest coverage (23,727 individuals), while Berbera had the lowest (600). Additional support included plastic sheets provided to **15,986** households **(95,925** individuals**)** between April and September for flood and conflict responses. Overall, the Cluster's response only achieved **11%** of the HRNP target, indicating a significant funding-related gap. According to PRMN, approximately **18,000** people were displaced in September, due to conflict/insecurity (**9,000** individuals), drought (**5,000** individuals) and other reasons (**4,000** individuals). Of these, **19 percent** identified shelter as the second most pressing priority.

CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster advanced several key initiatives in September, focusing on assessments, strategic planning, and site-level management. In Baidoa, UNHCR/CCCM partner SWSCRI completed a four-day Safety Audit Assessment across **12** UNHCR-managed sites (CA13), examining infrastructure, shelters, health services, protection, and education. Final findings and recommendations will be shared with service providers to address gaps. Also in the CA13 area, SWSCRI, registered 162 site-level committees (**72** males, **90** females) across **18** sites, providing each with a **$40** cash grant to facilitate community mobilization and information dissemination. Addressing critical site concerns, the CCCM team, with UNHCR partner JUCRI in Kismayu, addressed a serious health risk at a dumping site near the catchment of one IDP site. Immediate awareness sessions were conducted, though collective action is required to restrict access and prevent outbreaks like AWD. Separately, SWCRI collaborated with ACTED and IOM to conduct a successful awareness campaign in CA 06 and CA 17 focused on Housing, Land, and Property rights, eviction prevention, and fire safety, involving **16** gender-balanced catchment committees. Finally, strategic planning for the 2026 HNRP commenced with the Cluster conducting state-level consultative virtual workshops and a concluding national in-person workshop to define the 2026 CCCM strategy and integrate local issues from government and partners. Simultaneously, UNHCR partner HCRI mobilized humanitarian personnel for a critical household-level verification in five districts of Hirshabele state. This initiative aims to establish a more accurate assessment of the IDP population, moving away from prior site verification estimation methods.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Displacement to Dignity – Fadumo's journey of hope and recovery

Fadumo Abdullahi Abukar, a 45-year-old mother of eight, has endured more than a decade of hardship and displacement. Fourteen years ago, when conflict erupted in Mogadishu following the change of government, Fadumo and her family were forced to flee. "The journey was not easy she recalls. "I lost my elder brother during the conflict. With my husband, our four young children, and my elderly mother, we fled Mogadishu. The road was long and uncertain.

Fadumo and her family in Bossaso. ©UNHCR

Their first stop was Galkacyo, where relatives of her husband gave them temporary shelter and food. After a few months, the family decided to move further north in search of safety and opportunities. In July 2011, they settled in the Banadir IDP site in Bosaso. Life was extremely difficult, as her husband struggled to find work, she remembers the despair.

"I received three eviction notices because I could not afford to pay rent. With my elderly mother depending on me, and my family eating only one meal a day, life was full of hopelessness."

Everything changed when UNHCR, in collaboration with the government, registered Fadumo in the Durable Solutions Programme. She was allocated a permanent plot of land with secure tenure. With technical support and designs from UNHCR and NRC, she built a two-room shelter along with a VIP latrines.

The impact was life-changing. Fadumo began a small business selling goats and charcoal within the durable site. With her income, she managed to extend her house, build a strong protective wall, and install a proper gate, ensuring safety and privacy for her family.

Today, Fadumo's children attend school, and she proudly supports her household through her small business. "I now live in dignity. I have my own home, privacy, and a source of income. My children are in school, and I feel secure for the first time in many years. I am deeply grateful to UNHCR and the government for giving me this opportunity."

Fadumo's story demonstrates the transformative power of durable solutions. With land, shelter, and support to rebuild livelihoods, displaced families like hers can move from dependency to self-reliance, living dignified lives with hope for the future.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 29.47 million** as of 30 September 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 9.6 million | **Austria** 1.4 million

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 7.3 million | **Italy** 5.1 million | **Norway** 4.8 million | **Finland** 3.2 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 6.9 million | **UK for UNHCR** 2.6 million | Germany | Switzerland |

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

Sweden 74.1 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **España con ACNUR** 57.3 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 35.1 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 31.2 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 21.7 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Private donors in Italy** 16.8 million | **Germany** 10.8 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million | **Private donors in Netherlands** 11.9 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 11 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kazakhstan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | 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**

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