

SOMALIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 September 2014

KEY FIGURES

1,106,000

Total number of Somali IDPs

12,051

Total number of non-Somali
Refugees/Asylum Seekers

7,318

New IDPs due to AMISOM/SNAF
military offensive (as of 30 September)

34,254

Forcibly Evicted in Mogadishu since
January 2014

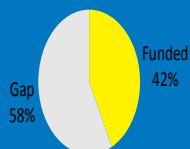
9,927

Cross-border movements into Somalia
from Kenya and Ethiopia since January
'14

FUNDING

USD 69,887,454

requested for the operation in 2014



PRIORITIES

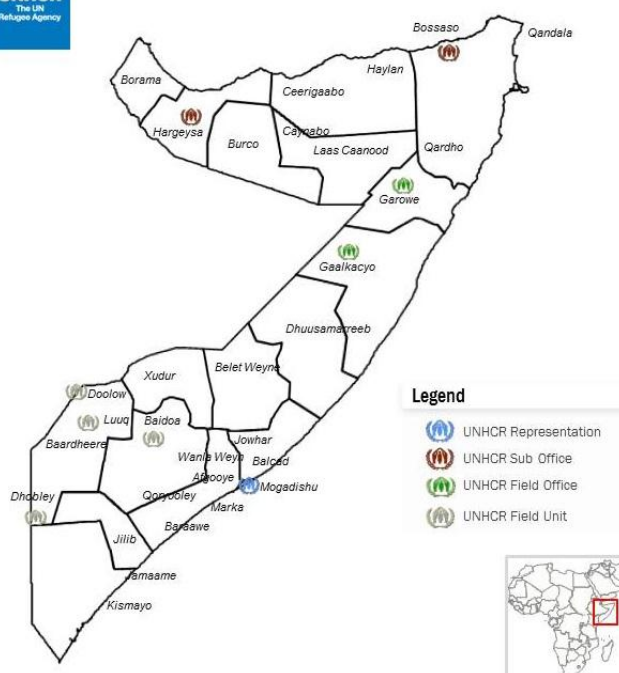
- Pursue sustainable solutions to displacement for IDPs in Somalia and Somali refugees in the region
- Strengthen partnership with development actors to create conducive conditions for return and reintegration

HIGHLIGHTS

- Forced Evictions: 34,254 civilians, mainly IDPs, were forcibly evicted in Mogadishu from January to early October 2014. Evicted families were pushed towards the outskirts of Mogadishu, where face lack of physical security and access to basic services.
- Military Offensive displacements: Second phase of AMISOM/SNAF offensive 'Operation Indian Ocean' has caused an estimated 7,318 new displacements since it was launched late August.
- Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS): September 2014 marks the highest number of recorded monthly arrivals on the Yemeni coast since 2006. An estimated 12,768 migrants/asylum-seekers from the Horn of Africa made the crossing via the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. UNHCR describes 2014 as the deadliest year at sea for migrants/asylum-seekers crossing to Yemen.
- High level delegation of the Somali Federal Government attended UNHCR 65th EXCOM session in Geneva, while the Somali President also co-chaired a high level meeting on Somalia at the side on the UN General Assembly, New York.



UNHCR Offices in Somalia



Population of concern

A total of **1.12 M** persons of concern

Non-Somali Asylum Seekers | 9,511

Non-Somali Refugees | 2,540

IDPs | 1,106,000

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Ahmed Abdi Godane, leader of Al Shabaab (AS), was killed in a US military drone attack on 1 September. Subsequently, the Somali Federal Government (SFG) announced a 45-day amnesty to AS insurgents who denounce violence and decide to join the peace process. Al Shabaab named Abu Ubaidah Ahmad Umar (also known as Ahmed Diriye Omar), as the new leader. Somali authorities, especially in Mogadishu and in Garowe, have warned of possible reprisal attacks. The SFG, AMISOM and the UN heightened their alert status across Somalia. Attacks were conducted by AS in different locations in Lower Shabelle and Mogadishu.

Second phase of AMISOM/SNAF military offensive - 'Operation Indian Ocean' - started late August. It is ongoing in Hiraaan, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions, and has caused over 7,000 new displacements (mainly to Belet Weyne and Middle Juba). First phase - 'Operation Eagle' (March-April 2014) - caused around 73,000 displacements.

Somalia's Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed officially opened the South-West Region Conference on 14 September in Baidoa after a protracted mediation process led by the Federal Speaker of Parliament. In Kismayo, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud opened a reconciliation conference on 16 September.

Towards the end of September, UN flights to Galkayo were suspended due to political tension between Galmudug Administration (Galkayo South) and Puntland (Galkayo North) over the airport revenue and restriction allegedly imposed by Puntland on Galmudug officials to access the airport, controlled by Puntland. On 26 September, the situation escalated when Galmudug President, Abdi Hassan Awale 'Qaybdiid', announced a ban on Galkayo Airport. Puntland and Galmudug deployed troops on both sides of Galkayo North and South. The situation has stabilized and the ban has been lifted, in response to calls for dialogue from the SFG and the international community.

The security situation in Somaliland has remained calm although criminality is increasing in Hargeisa due to young gangs, targeting mostly women. In the eastern regions of Sool-Sanaag-Cayn, tensions over the ongoing territorial dispute with Puntland continued, albeit without violent episodes. The Djibouti and Ethiopia borders remains closed. Since 1 September, the UN has been asked to pay a fee of USD 306 for all resident one year visas for Somalia.

As stressed in the FSNAU Technical Release on 2 September, over 1 million people in Somalia face acute food insecurity, up by 20 per cent from 857,000 six months ago, many of them internally displaced. The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance/livelihood support is now over 3 million. The situation is likely to deteriorate further until the start of the short Deyr rains in October.

Achievements



Protection

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by DRC implemented service provision for survivors of protection violations, separated and unaccompanied minors, children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, capacity building and prevention activities. The Puntland Gender-Based Violence Working Group (GBV) led by the Somali Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs, UNFPA and other actors supported a 14-year-old female survivor of rape to receive timely justice and legal redress. The High Court of Garowe sentenced the perpetrator to 20 years in prison. The national GBV Working Group is preparing for the donor round table in Nairobi to fundraise for activities in the 2014-2016 strategy. GBV and Protection mainstreaming trainings were conducted for 26 females and 45 males in Hargeisa and Kismayo and 37 males and five females in Belet Weyne. The Child Protection Working Group conducted training for 41 enumerators and commenced assessments in various regions. The assessments will inform child protection programming in Somalia in 2015.

Achievements and Impact

- A 'whole of system' review mission was conducted by the Brookings Institute in Nairobi, and in Somalia with UNHCR support on the ground. The mission relates to a study commissioned by UNHCR and OCHA, the objective of which is to review the performance of the humanitarian system in achieving protection outcomes, with a view to identifying measures to ensure the centrality of protection in humanitarian action. This includes the humanitarian system's ability to prevent and respond to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, inter alia by strengthening the roles of protection clusters and other humanitarian actors, and their strategic and operational interactions with each other and with other key actors.
- In South Central, together with the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), UNHCR organized a one day workshop on protection against forced evictions on 2 September in Mogadishu. The workshop was attended by all 17 District Commissioners, the Deputy Mayor and members of the Benadir Administration, representatives of the Police, the Ministry of National Security, the Disaster Management Agency (DMA under the Ministry of Interior and Federalism) and UNSOM (Human Rights unit). One of the training's objectives was to agree on Standard Operating Procedures that would then be rolled out in various districts in Mogadishu, with support from the BRA. The workshop was followed by a series of advocacy interventions towards federal and regional authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders in relation to large-scale forced evictions witnessed, mainly, in Hodan district. However, evictions took place in the immediate aftermath of the workshop.
 UNHCR and the Ministry of Health are working on the roll out of a pre-eviction assessment tool in Mogadishu. The implementation of the tool that puts IDPs and others occupying public property at the centre of the activity aims at exploring alternative arrangements for forced evictions. UNHCR Shelter Cluster partners, the Benadir Regional Administration and DMA are also involved in the exercise.
 Discussions on the finalization of the New Deal's framework relating to Peace and Security-building Goal 3 (Justice) are ongoing. UNHCR's engagements relates mainly to capacity building of authorities through training and other technical support and community empowerment, in relevant areas.
 The Ministry of Interior and Federalism (MoIF), the National Democracy Institute (NDI) and UNHCR completed a two-day workshop on Citizenship (22-23 September). The workshop was attended by all members of the MoIF's drafting committee of the amendments to the 1962 Law on Somali Citizenship and was chaired by the Minister of Interior and Federalism. As a result, a series of improvements have been incorporated to the draft amendments. UNHCR will support the public consultations process on the draft amendments of the law, in October-November 2014.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR and Relief International conducted RSD and Durable Solutions workshop to address concerns of refugees and recently rejected asylum seekers. The resulting impact was a greater understanding of RSD process, type assistance that UNHCR is able to provide and management of expectations.
 IDP registration implemented by Mudug Local Government with UNHCR oversight, started in August and is in progress with approximately 50% complete.
 GBV/SEA workshop was conducted by UNHCR for 27 refugee women to increase awareness on GBV and SEA related issues as well as referrals pathways for medical, legal and psych-social assistance.
 On 21-22 September, UNHCR participated in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Peace events organized in collaboration with GECPD. The event included sports days and arts performances by community youth and school clubs. The event was aimed at enhancing women and child protection through creation of linkages between peace and elimination of all forms of violence against women and children.
- In Bossaso, in celebration of Eid, and through direct implementation, UNHCR distributed 165 goats to 330 refugee, asylum-seeker and IDP households in six different settlements in Bossaso City.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR in close partnership with other humanitarian agencies and government counterparts worked to monitor the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in both protracted and more recent settlements in Hargeisa. Similar fact finding missions are planned in order to visit the IDPs settlements in other regions such as Burao, Berbera, and Borama. A common response plan will follow.

UNHCR has joined UNDP in building the capacity of 180 junior and mid-rank police officers to raise their awareness and understanding on international protection, Somaliland asylum procedures and referral pathways. The training lasted one day in each of the two groups.

The Somaliland Ministry of Interior has registered 15 cases of Syrian asylum seekers (52 Individuals).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Deportations from KSA and forced displacement continued to be witnessed during the reporting period. Close to 1,600 civilians were displaced, mainly, in Lower Shabelle in the context of the military offensive while another 9, 217 were reportedly displaced because of insecurity (mainly clan fighting) in the Shabelles, Hiraan, Juba and Galgaduud. Around 6,000 civilians, including many IDPs, were forcefully evicted from settlements in Hodan district. Forced evictions had dramatically increased at the end of August 2014. Civilians forcefully evicted or threatened with forced eviction are in need of viable alternatives, including compensation and shelter. The obligation of States to refrain from, and protect against, forced evictions from home(s) and land arises from several international legal instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11, para. 1), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 27, para. 3), the non-discrimination provisions found in article 14, paragraph 2 (h), of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and article 5 (e) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- In Somaliland, the main gap is limited baseline data available with regard to Somaliland IDPs. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to register newly arrived asylum seekers. Until now, only Syrian new arrivals were registered and 22 new arrivals of mainly Ethiopian nationality are pending registration since January 2014.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, there are currently 42 refugee children enrolled in primary school. UNHCR, through Relief International is providing school books, uniforms and bags. The number of enrolled children is increasing every week compared to recent months when there was resistance due to removal of a bus previously taking refugee children to school. Rehabilitation of a classroom block at Bardaq primary school is on progress, the school is attended by refugees and host community. This will contribute to peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities.
- In Bossaso, with September being the beginning of the new school year, UNHCR, through implementing partner Gruppo per le Relazioni Transculturali (GRT), began student enrolment which will continue until mid-October. GRT currently funds 470 Refugee and Asylum-Seeker children to go to school, provides school uniforms for all new enrollments, and provides exercise books to students. In an effort to minimize the distance children have to travel to school, this year GRT expanded the schools that they work with from two to five o'clock, and facilitated the transfer of children to the new schools.
- In Somaliland, refugee students have resumed yearly schooling of 2014/2015 academic year at the refugee Sheikh Mader School. A small taskforce consisting of UNHCR, UNICEF and NRC has engaged the Ministry of Education to allow refugees and asylum-seekers to have access to public schooling system, which is not possible for the refugee and asylum-seeker children at the moment. The taskforce has plans to conduct follow up advocacy meetings with the minister of education and is currently in the process to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Galkayo, there were initial fears of harassment held by refugee parents in sending their children to school, this led to low enrolment in schools but through a series of meetings with UNHCR and the Government this fear is subsiding and enrolment is slowly improving.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and Galkayo Medical Center (GMC) held a meeting with the refugee health committee to improve reporting and referral mechanisms for refugees and birth and death registration. The meeting resolved that all expectant and delivering mothers should be brought to the hospital to access birth notification and certification. Provision of health assistance to refugees is on progress and 24 refugees were attended to during the reporting period.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR, through implementing partner GRT, provided medical, psycho-social and material support to Refugees and Asylum-Seekers. GRT aims to target 50 GBV survivors whose families will receive \$100 worth of dry food.
- In Somaliland, HYDA continued to provide health assistance to refugees and asylum seekers as well as supplementary feeding to 200 individuals. A medical case verification exercise was continued furthermore jointly with HYDA.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, health SOPs are still in the drafting process, and the absence of these impacts on coordination and delivery of services to persons of concern. Some complicated medical cases cannot be treated in Somaliland and UNHCR primarily supports access to basic health care.



Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by NRC, has finalized an infrastructure mapping exercise in Mogadishu. The exercise is ongoing in Galkayo and will be completed in Somaliland and other locations in South Central by the end of 2014, if funds are secured. The objective of the infrastructure mapping exercise is to provide a useful and timely 'snapshot' of the IDP settlements in the different locations, with a main aim to map out the basic services that IDPs can access in their respective settlements. The aim of the study is to produce quick turnaround 'baseline data' that would enable further production of a map of all settlements including a perimeter, a density check and a plot of all facilities accessed by IDPs.

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, UNHCR moved 3,136 NFI kits and 500 NFI kits to World Vision and Danish Refugee Council respectively. DRC will distribute the kits to refugee returnees in Luuq. World Vision will distribute the kits in Gedo region, in October.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR in partnership with INTERSOS completed construction of 150 permanent shelters for local integration during the reporting period. This brings the total number of permanent shelters constructed since 2013 to 200. By August, 100 shelters had been occupied by the integrating beneficiaries, this enabled IDPs own decent houses, the remaining 100 will be occupied in October. In addition to shelter 100 NFI kits comprising of plates, cups, jerrican, blankets, sleeping mats, saucepans etc. were distributed to 100 locally integrating IDPs in Salama 2. This enabled integrating IDPs own household items as a means to cope with life in their new homes. The 100 families already occupying their shelters were given title deeds to their new homes. The title deeds were provided by the local authority and distributed by UNHCR with the presence of the local authority.
- In Bossaso, since January 2014, 88 shelter kits were distributed to households in need. Beginning in October, implementing partner, Arid Semi-Arid Land (ASAL), will distribute 4,000 NFI kits to refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs in Bossaso, Garowe, and Gardo. ASAL has completed the assessment to determine which settlements will receive the NFIs, and is currently registering the individual households.

- In Somaliland, UNHCR in collaboration with the Shelter Cluster including DRC, NRC and MRRR continued the distribution of NFIs to IDPs and public facilities such as hospital and prisons in Hargeisa, Borama, Gabiley and Labisagale.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, 30 IDP and host community boys successfully completed a vocational skills training course in carpentry and welding funded by UNHCR and implemented by GECPD. The graduates additionally received tool-kits to enable them to be self-sufficient and continue working with the skills they gained.
In partnership with DRC, 100 families at Salama 2 were provided with cash relief assistance. This will contribute as an immediate coping mechanism for locally integrating people in Salama 2 and address their most urgent needs and mobilize their assets for other activities.
In collaboration with GECPD implementation of seeds for solutions project was started during reporting period, project site and 40 beneficiaries have been identified for garment/tailoring production in Galkayo.
- In Bossaso and Garowe, through implementing partner Kaalo Aid and Development, two workshops were conducted on 'Conflict Resolution,' and 'Fair Pre-Trial and Trial Procedures for Law Enforcement Institutions.' The police, members of the judiciary, the Ministry of Security, NGOs, and the Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Community attended the workshops.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Locally integrating communities lack long term livelihood means like skills training, access to employment, agriculture and livestock to enable their attainment of durable solutions.



Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, UNHCR in collaboration with DRC, the Local Authority, INTERSOS and GECPD continued monitoring the locally integrating population in Salama 2 integration site.
UNHCR in partnership with DRC started construction of a 20X20M communal market at Salama local integration site. The market is intended to provide space for business activities for the community as well as enhance peaceful co-existence.
- In Bossaso and Garowe, in close participation with implementing partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and local authorities, UNHCR is facilitating the voluntary return of 250 IDP households to identified safe areas in South Central Somalia before the end of 2014. The intention survey is expected to be completed by October with movement beginning by December. At the end of September, UNHCR began the initial stages of establishing a Durable Solutions Working Group in which NGOs and local authorities will actively participate.
- In Somaliland, the Somalia Return Consortium concluded the Intention Survey exercise in four regions including Hargeisa, Burao, Lasanod and Borama. Data analysis is underway but early results show indications of voluntary returns.
- A six month pilot project on support to spontaneous voluntary refugee returns from Kenya to Somalia is expected to commence in near future. UNHCR will support return and reintegration and the pilot project steps are meant to ensure the voluntariness and an informed decision by the refugees. UNHCR is providing up-to date information on the situation on the ground, particularly on the impact of the military offensive, at the Return Help Desks set up in Dadaab. The overall current conditions in Somalia are not conducive for a large scale return, but UNHCR will, during the pilot phase, provide assistance to refugees that decide to return despite the lack of condition conducive to returns, voluntarily decide to go back. The three pilot areas – Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo – have been selected according to comprehensive set of criteria, including the presence of local authorities/Somali Federal Government,

access, presence of other international organizations, etc. The three areas have so far not been directly affected by the AMISOM/SNAF offensives. UNHCR international and national staff have been undertaking field missions to the three pilot locations to assess the situation and the reception infrastructure. Monitoring of the situation on the ground will continue and will be one of UNHCR's main focus in the next months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Galkayo, access to basic services like schools, health and livelihood options present a major challenge for the locally integrating and host community at Salama 2.

Working in partnership

- As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR maintains close collaboration with other UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels, in the 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 more than 60 national and international NGOs. Since mid-2012, UNHCR leads the Somalia Return Consortium, a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs providing coordinated and standardized assistance to IDPs that 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).

- Field Office Galkayo covers UNHCR operations in Hiraan and Galgaduud regions (Central Somalia) and Mudug regions (Puntland). Programs are implemented in partnership with five NGO partners (Danish Refugee Council, INTERSOS, Relief International, Galkayo Medical Center, Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development) and one Governmental partners (Mudug Regional Administration). Other operational partners include UNOCHA, UNDSS, NRC and UNICEF.

UNHCR's cooperation with the Government and humanitarian clusters continued with UNHCR continuing to lead the Protection Cluster as well as the Durable Solutions Working Group. In addition UNHCR is closely collaborating with the Shelter and NFI Cluster co-chaired by Danish Refugee Council.

In August FOG held a one day partners coordination meeting, multi-functional team project monitoring, project visibility, and introduction to the new project partnership agreement were subjects discussed. A monitoring plan was developed to guide project monitoring; partners gained a better understanding of new project agreement and visibility requirements.

Meetings were held with local authorities, GECPD, and DRC concerning the implementation of seeds for solutions and water projects; as a result authorities pledged their commitment in mobilizing community for implementation and success of these projects.

- Sub Office Bossaso covers UNHCR operations in Bari, Nugal and Eastern Sanag Regions, and closely works with five implementing partners in Puntland, other UN agencies, PoC Communities, NGOs, and governmental ministries. UNHCR attends and actively participates in the GBV and Child Protection Working Groups as well as the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) and Shelter Cluster meetings. In September 2014, the Senior Protection Assistant activated the Protection Cluster in Garowe, and met with partners.

- In Somaliland, several Ministers were paid courtesy calls in order to strengthen relations with UNHCR and increase baseline results. The Minister of Justice (linked to previous refusal to have access to prisons), Minister of Planning (linked to financial challenges), Vice Minister of Social Affairs (overall situation in the country with regards to GBV, street kids, peaceful coexistence) were all met with

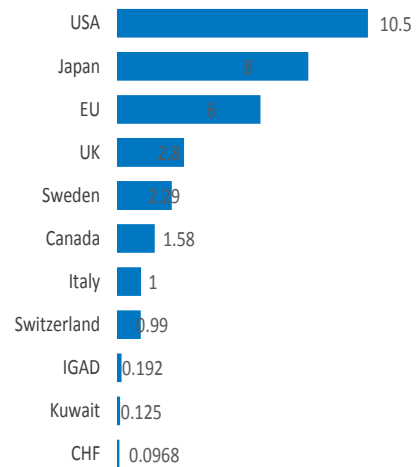
Contacts in view of harmonization on administrative issues with the main UN Agencies have taken place and will continue. UN-Habitat on board for field visits in IDP settlements.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2014, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 29.8 million**, including **US\$ 139.8 million** for the situation.

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.

Funding received (in million USD)



ANNEXES

Headline 1 – Mogadishu Forced Evictions Map

Headline 2 – Impact of AMISOM/SNAF military offensive infographic

Contacts:

Carlotta Wolf, Associate External Relations Officer, wolf@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 734628053 (Kenya), +252 617340259 (Somalia)
 Ernesto Diaz, Information Management Officer, diaze@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 735400426 (Kenya)
 Andy Needham, Public Information Officer, needham@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 733120931 (Kenya)

Links:

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