

SOMALIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 November 2014

KEY FIGURES

1,106,751

Total number of Somali IDPs

12,340

Total number of non-Somali
Refugees/Asylum Seekers

31,043

IDPs due to floods in Middle Shabelle,
Gedo and Hiraaan regions

52,608

Forcibly Evicted in Mogadishu and
Kismayo since January 2014

12,363

Cross-border movements into Somalia
from Kenya and Ethiopia since Jan 2014

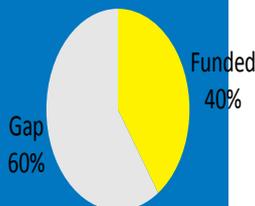
12,500

IDPs assisted to voluntary return to
their areas of origin in Oct-Nov 2014

FUNDING

USD 69,887,454

requested for the operation in 2014



PRIORITIES

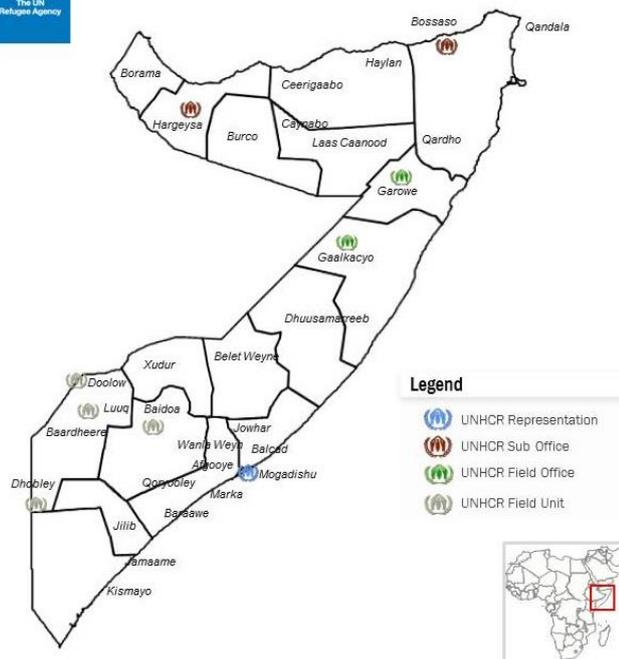
- Registration of new asylum seekers and RSD interviews in PL
- Identify land for IDPs local integration
- Capacity building activities
- Peaceful co-existence projects
- Provision of basic needs and essential services
- Strengthen monitoring at Bossaso port

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 31,043 people were displaced by floods in November, most of them in Middle Shabelle (Jowhar), Gedo (Bardheere) and Hiraaan region (Jalalaqsi). UNHCR has responded with NFI distributions.
- 12,500 IDP returnees received assistance by the UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium to voluntary return to their areas of origin in South Central Somalia and Somaliland as a solution to their displacement.
- Federal Government of Somalia, together with Interim Juba Administration, decided by end of November to re-open the Kenya-Somalia border to allow refugee returnees to lawfully cross the border and receive assistance under the Pilot Project on voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya.
- International stakeholders confirm commitment to durable solutions to Somali displaced at side-event to the New Deal Compact HLPF in Copenhagen on 18 November 2014.



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 | **2,789**

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

A power struggle between the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and his Prime Minister (PM), Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, affected the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) for the whole month of November. The crisis was finally resolved on 6 December, when the Federal Parliament passed a vote of no-confidence against the PM.

Despite the political crisis, the Somalia High Level Partnership Forum (HLPF) took place in Copenhagen on 19-20 November, to take stock and review progress on the New Deal Compact endorsed in September 2013 in Brussels. On 18 November, a side-event on solutions to displacement was organized in Copenhagen by the Solution Alliance Somalia (SAS) and DRC, with the participation of UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Ministers from Denmark, Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as representatives from the World Bank and UNDP.

In South Central Somalia, the federalization process is ongoing. Following a reconciliation conference held in Kismayo from 17 September to 5 October 2014, the Interim Juba Administration (IJA) on 25 November requested the UN assistance in drafting the Jubaland Constitution, expected to be ready for the inauguration of the Juba regional assembly in early 2015. In Baidoa, Bay region, on 17 November, elders and delegates elected former Transitional Federal Parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden as President of the Interim South West Administration (ISWA). The administrative capital of ISWA was moved to Barawe, Lower Shabelle region.

Galkayo remained relatively stable compared to Galgaduud and Hiraaan regions of Central Somalia. The humanitarian situation in Hiraaan was further worsened by the floods which caused new displacement. During the reporting period a journalist working for Daljir Radio in Galkayo was assassinated, with no arrests made. In Puntland, President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali 'Gaas' continued to focus on the democratization process, and is planning a conference to discuss political rights of minority sub-clans of Puntland.

Following the Somaliland Parliament crisis and public protests on 14-15 November, the Somaliland House of Elders successfully mediated between the parties reaching agreement on withdrawing the motion of impeachment against the Speaker, who is also the major opposition party leader. The security situation has remained calm although threat to foreigners was raised in November and criminality is increasing in Hargeisa from young gangs, targeting mostly women. In eastern Somaliland, tensions over the Sool, Sanaag and Cayn disputed regions continued, without violent episodes.

Achievements

Protection

Protection Cluster

- The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster continues to consolidate the coordination structures in Mogadishu and its decentralized field clusters for a more effective and coordinated protection response. It has conducted a light survey on the protection situation of IDPs affected by the heavy rains and floods in Mogadishu in late November and is currently finalizing the initial impact report while it has responded to few individual protection cases that required immediate follow up. In November, UNMAS has formally requested to establish the Mine Action area of responsibility as a firm strategic part of the PC. Mine Action will be the third AOR activated. A similar process has started for the Cluster to intensify its work on Housing, Land and Property.



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CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central Somalia, sexual violence remains a critical protection concern. From January to November, over 1,000 cases of rape, majority of them IDPs, were reported through the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS). UNHCR is the consolidating agency for GBV data in South Central Somalia. UNHCR through its partner SSWC (in Mogadishu) and APD (in Lower Juba) is engaged in providing medical, psychosocial, legal and material assistance to survivors of Gender Based Violence. In addition to response activities, UNHCR is also engaged in addressing sexual violence at the macro level. Through its partner Legal Action Worldwide (LAW), UNHCR has supported activities aimed at enhancing accountability and legal responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia, AMISOM and donors in addressing sexual violence.

Forced evictions monitoring in Mogadishu and to a lesser extent in Kismayo and other urban areas has continued. The office is concerned about this trend and is currently playing a strong advocacy role and providing technical support to the relevant authorities, to ensure that evictions are conducted in a lawful manner and in consultation with the communities.

UNHCR, in collaboration with Legal Action Worldwide, UNFPA, and UNDP, has been supporting the Ministry of Women and Human Rights to develop the Sexual Offences Bill, the first of its kind in Somalia. The bill is among the 23 priority pieces of legislation going before the Somali Parliament by the end of this year's session.

UNHCR is also supporting the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs in the process of public consultations on the amended bill on Citizenship. These consultations will take place in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa and Garowe.

- In Galkayo, IDP registration implemented by Mudug Local Government with UNHCR oversight since August 2014 was completed in 16 settlements and 6,700 households were registered. Data entry and analysis have started to enable processing of final report. Preliminary report indicates that 2,659 households have shown interest for local integration, 346 for voluntary return and 246 remain undecided.

UNHCR Galkayo participated in a joint assessment mission to Saaxo IDP camp on 4 November. Saaxo is a newly created district in Mudug region, approximately 113km from Galkayo, and home to approximately 387 households with about 90% women and children, displaced from Hiran and Galgaduud region due to drought. Humanitarian needs for IDPs in Saaxo were identified and included water, food, shelter and health.

- The Puntland Refugee Affairs Department (RAD), under the Puntland Ministry of Interior, conducted a registration mission to Bossaso in November 2014. During this mission, 26 new asylum seeker cases were registered with the office consisting of 84 individuals. Additionally, four individuals with special needs were identified.

- In Somaliland, an Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) Participatory Assessment exercise was planned, organized, implemented and finalized in October/November. In total, 278 asylum seekers/refugees participated in the Focus Groups. In addition to the regular age groups, a special group was conducted with persons with disabilities, parents/teachers committees as well as elders. In total, 28 focus group discussions (7 with male, 7 with females, 14 mixed) were carried out between 9 and 23 October. The main findings were discussed during two workshops in October and will inform program planning for 2015.

In Hargeisa, UNHCR in close partnership with other humanitarian agencies and Government counterparts monitored the situation of IDPs in both protracted and more recent settlements. Fact finding mission was conducted to Burao in October 2014 jointly with MRR&R and UNHABITAT.

Several meetings have been conducted to plan for the '16 days of activism against gender violence' on 25 November-10 December. Activities included awareness raising on early marriage, football competition, dramas/short stories and drawing, audio and mobile community announcements. Radio messages and the development of IEC material were also included.

Since the beginning of 2014, UNHCR Hargeisa and partners have conducted 70 protection training to 2,652 participants, including UNHCR and NGO staff, persons of concern to UNHCR and host communities, University students, committee leaders/Imams, teachers, police and immigration officers, sheikhs, and Government officials from Ministry of Interior and Justice.



Currently, 16 cases are pending registration, mainly Ethiopian but also one case from Yemen, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Seven Ethiopian and one Ugandan asylum seeker were registered (17 individuals) in November.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Monitoring and responding to the needs of returnees from Yemen remains a challenge to UNHCR Bossaso. UNHCR is an active participant in the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) where the relevant stakeholders in the region regularly meet to address concerns and identify solutions for migration into the region.
- In Somaliland, limited baseline data is available with regard to Somaliland IDPs.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, as part of the peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities, rehabilitation of a sewerage system/toilet at Bardaq primary school is ongoing. The school is attended by refugees and host community children. 53 refugee school age children received free education access from primary/intermediate and secondary schools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, 155 first grade refugee/asylum seeker students are still not enrolled in primary school since September. The Ministry of Education still refuses them to attend public schools and has requested a letter from the Ministry of Interior. Advocacy was conducted intensively and the Minister of Interior agreed that refugee/asylum seeker children should be enrolled in Somaliland schools.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, provision of health assistance to refugees is ongoing in partnership with the Galkayo Medical Foundation, and 26 refugee patients received primary health care assistance in November.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR, through implementing partner GRT, provided medical, psycho-social and material support to refugees and asylum seekers in Bossaso and Garowe. In November, GRT distributed 250 dignity kits to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Bossaso and 95 dignity kits in to the same population in Garowe. Additionally, GRT provided tailored support to 35 survivors of GBV.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR's partner HYDA provided health assistance to 3,586 cases and Supplementary Feeding was given to 2,075 individuals in November. A medical verification exercise started in August and is ongoing. Up to date, 63 cases were verified by UNHCR/HYDA. A health case review panel meets regularly to review the cases/medical reports.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The capacity of hospitals to deal with patients in need of isolation facilities is limited in Bossaso.
- In Somaliland, health SOPs are still in the drafting process and the SOPs' absence creates impacts on coordination and delivery of services to persons of concern. Some complicated medical cases cannot be treated in Somaliland as the medical level is very low.



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CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR, in the month of November has been conducting an infrastructure mapping exercise in IDP settlements in Hargeisa, Jowhar and Baidoa. The Cluster has also worked on a rapid needs assessment for the Inter Cluster Working Group, which will be rolled out in Mahadey, Middle Shabelle, in December. The Cluster has also provided support for the pre-eviction assessment in Mogadishu. Three evaluations have been done in cooperation with the Global Shelter Cluster: evaluation on the Cluster coordination as a whole and the impact of emergency, transitional and permanent shelter in Mogadishu, Bossaso and Galkayo. The Cluster has also been rolling out the 4W matrix through the on-line platform.

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, UNHCR has responded to new displacement caused by floods with NFI distributions, in Beletweyne, Hiraan region, and Mogadishu.
- In November, a total of 1,200 NFI kits were released and distributed to flood affected displaced persons in Hiraan region.

In Galkayo, construction of additional 51 shelters at Salama II was started during reporting period. The shelter construction is undertaken in partnership with INTERSOS. By the end of 2014, 201 permanent shelters for local integration will have been finalized. This will bring the total number of permanent shelters constructed since 2013 to 251. By the second week of November, 120 shelters have been occupied by the local integrating beneficiaries, allowing former IDPs to own decent houses. The remaining 30 houses are yet to be occupied.



One-room permanent shelters and police station at Salama II local integration site, Galkayo North/UNHCR

- UNHCR Sub-Office Bossaso, through implementing partner Action Semi-Arid Land (ASAL), distributed 3,673 NFI kits to IDPs, refugee and asylum seekers, and host community households in Bossaso, Garowe and Gardo during the month of November 2014. The remaining 327 NFIs have been transferred to UNHCR warehouse and will await distribution. Additionally, since January 2014, 90 shelter kits have been provided for individuals and families in need.





NFI Distribution with UNHCR implementing partner ASAL, November 2014, Bossaso/UNHCR

- In Somaliland, UNHCR in collaboration with the Shelter Cluster members including DRC, NRC and MRRR continued the distribution of NFIs. Up to date, UNHCR distributed 17,039 blankets, 7,718 jerry cans, 5,433 sleeping mats and 4,991 sanitary items to institutions and persons of concern (IDPs/refugees/asylum seekers) in Hargeisa, Awdal, Labisagaal and Gabiley as well as to detention facilities, hospitals, orphanage, migrant response centers, deportees from the KSA, health posts, street children center, and safe houses. Generally all beneficiaries were pleased to receive at the exception of refugees. Nevertheless they started to collect the NFIs. A post distribution monitoring exercise is planned for in December.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, reintegration community-based projects are ongoing in the three pilot areas of refugees return, namely Baidoa, Luuq and Kismayo. In Baidoa, rehabilitation of three water catchment through cash for work and the rehabilitation of the Bayahaaw hospital; in Kismayo, training in fishery and provision of start-up equipment, rehabilitation of four primary schools, and rehabilitation of 53 water points and 53 latrines; in Luuq, co-existence initiatives through cash for work and support to small enterprises. Through these projects some 700 families are benefitting of short term employment and about 160 of long term opportunities. In Balcad, Jowhar, Beletweyne and Baidoa, more than 3,500 returning IDPs are benefitting of short term employment opportunities as part of the Somali Return Consortium assistance.
- In Galkayo, in collaboration with GECPD, implementation of seeds for solutions project is ongoing. Project site and 40 beneficiaries have been identified while trainings in business skills management for both garment/tailoring production and welding and carpentry workshop has started. 200 families at Salama settlement received cash assistance given as part of integration package to enable them meet their immediate needs as well as cope up with life in the new area.
- UNHCR Bossaso, through implementing partner GRT, provided livelihood and skills training to 120 individuals from the refugee/asylum seeker population in Bossaso (90) and Garowe (30) to enable individuals to start a new business or to expand an existing one. In November, Puntland Elders Network (PEN) conducted two trainings on conflict resolution. There were 40 participants per training consisting of members from IDP communities, elders, police, judiciary and civil society.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR's partner AAH completed a market survey in Hargeisa, which is currently under edit. Findings will inform 2015 activities.



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to employment, skills training, agriculture and livestock remains a challenge for community self-reliance to be attained. More funds are needed in this sector.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- In the Deyr season 2014 (October-November), the UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium members have assisted 3,184 IDP households, equivalent to approximately 12,500 persons, to voluntary return to their areas of origin in South Central Somalia and Somaliland. Around 10,070 households have been involved in Intention Surveys and 3,000 households in Go and See Visits before the return.
- As part of the six month Pilot Project on voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya, four Way Stations have been constructed in Dhobley (Border Way Station), Kismayo, Luuq and Baidoa (Home Way Stations) to guide and assist spontaneous returnees during the journey. This allows UNHCR to monitor returns and to minimize the protections risks that families are subjected to during their journey from the border to their places of origin. Resources have been provided to UNHCR offices in Kenya and Somalia to ensure that basic return and reintegration assistance will be delivered to spontaneous returnees opting to return in the framework of the pilot project. Following the official decision by the Federal Government of Somalia and the Interim Juba Administration to jointly re-open the Kenya-Somalia border to allow the returnees to cross the border lawfully and in safety and dignity, the Pilot Project is expected to commence on 8 December 2014.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR, in collaboration with DRC, the Local Authority, INTERSOS and GECPD continued monitoring the locally integrating population in Salama II integration site. In partnership with DRC, construction of a communal market (20MX20M) and police station at Salama local integration area was completed and handed over to the community and local authorities on 11 November. A geophysical survey at Salama intended to ascertain availability of water and identify potential borehole drilling site was undertaken and completed. The survey recommended three sites for borehole drilling to serve Salama community. UNHCR's implementing partner DRC is in the process of procuring potential contractors for bore drilling. Tree planting (over 200 trees) at Salama was started through DRC an implementing partner.
- UNHCR Bossaso, in close cooperation with regional and local authorities, established the Durable Solutions Working Group in Bossaso in November. The first meeting, attended by UNHCR, Government authorities, elders and INGOs, was held at the Governor's office one week after a Durable Solutions workshop that provided training to stakeholders in the region. In November, UNHCR's implementing partner DRC completed an intention survey in four IDP settlements reaching 1,743 households. The results of this survey will assist in shaping durable solutions-oriented activities for IDPs in the future.
- As of 30 November, 114 individuals have been submitted for resettlement from Puntland and Somaliland to Canada, France, Norway and Sweden. The total identified resettlement need for 2014 for Somalia is 125 individuals.
- In Somaliland, the Somalia Return Consortium concluded a Go and See Visit, which will inform the voluntary return of Somalilanders in 2014. Seven cases comprising of 26 individuals requested voluntary repatriation from Eritrea.

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).

- UNHCR Field Office Galkayo 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) in the delivery of programs to persons of concern. Other operational partners are UNOCHA, UNDSS, NRC, UNICEF, etc. UNHCR's cooperation with the local Government and humanitarian Clusters continued constructively with UNHCR taking lead role in Protection Cluster as well as Durable Solutions Working Group. In addition, UNHCR is closely collaborating with the Shelter/NFI Cluster chaired by Danish Refugee Council. 2015 planning consultative meeting was held with all partners during the reporting period, this was intended to validate 2015 plans and priorities and ensure that plans are aligned to needs on the ground.
- UNHCR Sub Office Bossaso covers UNHCR operations in Bari, Nugal and Eastern Sanag Regions, and closely works with five implementing partners in Puntland, along with other UN agencies, refugees/asylum seekers and IDP communities, NGOs, and Government authorities. UNHCR co-chairs the newly established Durable Solutions Working Group and is an active participant in the GBV and Child Protection Working Groups as well as the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF).
- In Somaliland, bilateral meetings took place between UNHCR Sub Office Hargeisa and partners in order to evaluate activities in 2014 and plan for projects in 2015. Community empowerment approach was largely shared with partners and the way forward to minimize dependency of IDPs in settlements, due to the nature of those settlements where protracted IDPS are mixed with new cases and refugees. Clear indication was providing on supporting livelihood. For the last two months Ministry of 3R highlighted that following the Decree of 2006, they want the refugee component under their Ministry. We were told that a new updated letter would be provided to UNHCR in a couple of weeks although the Director General was not informed that a Decree was signed in 2011 with regards to AS and under the strict responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2014, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 28.3 million**, including **US\$ 139.1 million** for the situation. UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions from donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds to UNHCR in 2014 as well as donors listed here who have contributed directly to the Somalia operation: [United States of America](#) | [Japan](#) | [European Union](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Canada](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Italy](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [IGAD](#) | [Kuwait](#) | [Common Humanitarian Fund](#) | [Central Emergency Response Fund](#) |

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Links:

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

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