



HIGHLIGHTS

31,453

Arrivals from Yemen since
27 March 2015

10,370

Refugee returnees from
Kenya since 8 December 2014

125,600

Evictions in Mogadishu
since January 2015

377,078

New displacements since
January 2015

Population of concern

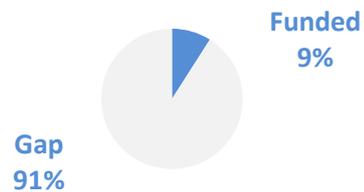
A total of **1.16 million** people of
concern

By category

Category	Total PoC
IDPs	1,106,751
Refugees (mainly Ethiopians)	3,020
Asylum seekers (mainly Ethiopians)	10,448
Prima facie refugees (Yemenis)	5,394
Refugee returnees from Kenya	8,067
Somali returnees from Yemen	27,007
Total	1,160,687

Funding

USD 101.9 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

120: 71 national staff, 20 international staff
21 affiliate workforce, 8 UN volunteers

Offices:

4 offices: 1 Representation in Mogadishu, 2 sub-offices located in Hargeisa and Galkayo, 1 Field Office in Bossaso and; **4** field units located in: Garowe, Kismayo, Dhobley, Luuq, and support office in Nairobi

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR maintains close collaboration with UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels in a joint effort to provide assistance and durable solutions to the people of Somalia.
- As a lead agency of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and the implementation of the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), UNHCR spearheads productive partnerships with over 60 national and international NGOs.
- Since 2012, UNHCR leads the Somalia Return Consortium, a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs providing coordinated and standardized assistance to IDPs who opt to return and reintegrate in their areas of origin to end displacement.
- To coordinate effective response to the Yemen crisis, UNHCR and IOM co-lead a country-level inter-agency Task Force on Yemen Situation.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

Dhobley

During this reporting period, UNHCR and partners assisted 2,292 individuals, comprising 454 households, of voluntary refugee returnees from Kenya to Somalia at the Dhobley Border Way Station. During the month of February 2016, eight road convoys of returnees arrived in Dhobley and were assisted with hot meals, access to water and sanitation and lodging for one night. Protection and health screening exercises were also conducted and vulnerable individuals were identified and assisted. UNHCR Somalia provided onward transport allowance to four families of voluntary refugee returnees from Dadaab who had returned without any return assistance, including the unconditional cash grants (transport allowance). According to Dadaab, this group of refugees had been registered in the refugee database, but somehow had been listed in ProGres as having spontaneously returned to Somalia and thus had missed receiving food assistance for three months.



Returnees disembarking from the pre-paid buses in Dhobley Way Station © UNHCR/Yussuf H. Feb 2016



Returnees settling down in the shaded waiting areas in Dhobley Way Station shortly after arrival from Dadaab © UNHCR/Yussuf H. Feb 2016

Baidoa

Baidoa had been receiving growing numbers of returnees since the beginning of the year and this trend has increased during the reporting period of 1-29 February, with a total of 189 household arrivals (970 individuals) received in the way station and provided with a complete return package on their way back home to join their families.

With Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) partnership, a three-month strengthening of livelihood and peaceful coexistence project was launched in Baidoa. The project also entails activities aimed at providing to short and medium term employment opportunities for returnees and members of host communities, consisting of cash-for-work (CFW), business startup grants and coexistence initiatives. The first such CFW activity has been launched in sanitation improvements and weather road rehabilitation, involving 200 workers as beneficiaries (70% returnees and 30% belonging to the host community). They will work for three months, 26 days per month, to earn \$100 as monthly wages. Community coexistence forum committees (21 members) were given an extension after their contributions were found to be essential in enhancing reintegration and peaceful coexistence and overseeing the running of the project.

Galkayo

Professor Walter Kälin, Special Advisor to the DSRSG/RC/HC on Internally Displaced Persons, was accompanied to Galkayo by the UNHCR Somalia Deputy Representative, the Protection Cluster Coordinator, and other UN agency representatives. The mission included visits to IDP settlements and meetings with local authorities from North and South Galkayo and humanitarian agencies operating in the field. Durable solutions for IDPs and inclusion of IDPs in development planning were the main topics of discussion.

Access to justice: a mapping exercise and assessment of legal and security service providers in Galkayo was conducted by UNHCR implementing partner on Gender Based Violence (GBV) Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development (GECPD). The objective of the exercise was to understand the gaps in efforts to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors and in the general security of IDPs. The exercise included visits to the three (3) main police stations in Galkayo (Warshad Galley, Miir and Central Police Stations), the Mudug Regional Court and paralegal service providers.

Following Mustaqbal2 IDP household evictions, UNHCR and other protection cluster members conducted a post-eviction assessment of Mustaqbal2 IDPs. Shelter, water and Sanitation were assessed as priority needs of evicted households. The new site is approximately five km from the former settlement.

During the reporting period, 17 GBV survivors were supported with medical referrals, psycho-social counseling, first aid and subsistence/livelihood. This includes 12 rape cases, one attempted rape, three domestic violence cases and one forced marriage. One incident involved the abduction and rape of a seven-year-old IDP girl on her way to a shop in Galkayo. Six IDP women were also gang-raped in two separate incidents by armed men while collecting firewood in South Galkayo; suspects in these incidents were arrested by local police.

UNHCR implementing partner GECPD organized capacity-building training for 50 youth from IDP and host community sports groups in Galkayo on the health risks of FGM as part of "FGM Zero Tolerance Day" activities. Other activities include an interactive session with 200 university students on eliminating FGM and sports activities for 400 youth from six (6) sports teams.

UNHCR implementing partner GECPD conducted a capacity assessment of five (5) men's groups established in five (5) IDP settlements (Halabookhad, Salaama1, Salaama2, Buulo Baaley and Buulo Kontrol) in Galkayo. The objective was to determine the capacity-building needs of the men's groups for supporting GBV prevention and response efforts and enhancing protection for IDPs. The assessment has informed development of a capacity-building plan for the men's groups which will be implemented over the coming 4 months.

Somaliland

Two urgent refugee status determination (RSD) cases were processed during the month of February.

Sustainable co-existence projects in Berbera, Saqhil region. The promotion of sustainable peaceful co-existence between IDPs and host communities was supported with the opening of two local police stations at the Birmaaqo settlement and the "Finland IDPs" settlement in Berbera. The construction project was supported by UNHCR, which attended the handover ceremony held on 14 February with the participation of the Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction.

Joint Government and UNHCR response to sea arrivals in Berbera. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and others departing Yemen continue to risk their lives in their attempts to reach Somaliland. These journeys are being undertaken illicitly, mostly on the board of the fishing boat vessels. The swift disembarkation of those who arrive at the port in Berbera and their transfer to a "place of safety" is a subject of concern for the Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction of Somaliland. The Minister visited the joint registration teams at the reception facility for Yemeni refugees and confirmed the commitment of the Government of Somaliland to respond to sea arrivals in an adequate manner and in compliance with relevant international standards.



Inauguration of Police station in Berbera ©UNHCR/W. Trojan February 2016



The Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction monitors the conditions of registration of returnees and refugees from Yemen at the Berbera Reception Facility ©UNHCR/W.TROJAN/ February 2016.

Hargeisa, possible deportations of undocumented foreigners: In a number of operational meetings conducted during the reporting period with all key national authorities, the Government confirmed its determination to implement its directive against undocumented foreigners sojourning in Somaliland. UNHCR was advised that the official interpretation of the status of IDPs displaced from Central and Southern Somalia views such individuals as foreigners and that they are expected to regularize their legal status, or may face deportation from Somaliland. The Minister of the Interior complained of lack of action on the part of UNHCR as Refugee Status Determination adjudicator under the mandate procedures. Officials are also unhappy with the protracted situations of asylum seekers registered with UNHCR and alleged abuses in the large number of asylum claims that have been submitted. The Mol considers the majority of asylum seekers as economic migrants exploited by traffickers. The UNHCR mandate for RSD was explained to Mol, but the Ministry argued that refugees are a primary responsibility of the State and that the Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction (MRR&R) plans to assume from UNHCR the responsibility for adjudicating in asylum matters. The timeframe the MRR&R envisages for this to happen is seven to eight months, required to train adjudicators and promulgate the Refugee Act. MRR&R also requested that all incidents involving asylum seekers and refugees be reported to them by UNHCR in order to allow for investigations. Standard operating procedures for the Legal Clinic/Faculty of Law have been reviewed in coordination with UNDP following difficulties encountered in performing their work.

Yemeni arrivals operation, registration and documentation. In the month of February, the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Reconstruction (MRR&R) registered 483 individuals (258 cases), including 132 Yemenis, 349 Ethiopians, and 2 others. A total of 144 new born babies and relatives were added to the registered caseload at UNHCR Hargeisa Office.

Between March 2015 and the end of February 2016, a total of 9,865 people (3,254 families) have fled to Somaliland as a consequence of the ongoing hostilities in Yemen. These include 7,847 Somali returnees, 1,871 Yemeni nationals, 114 Ethiopians and 22 other people of other nationalities. As all Yemeni new arrivals are recognized as prima facie refugees, Yemeni nationals now represent 54% of the total active refugee population in Somaliland.

A total of 2,830 Yemeni refugees (1,491 cases) and 201 Yemeni asylum seekers (116 cases) have been registered by MRR&R in Hargeisa between 28 March 2015 and 29 February 2016.

In the course of February 2016, 11 Ethiopian and one Bangladeshi cases were provided with Refugee certificates and 75 Yemeni prima facie refugee certificates were distributed, while 880 prima facie certificates are still pending at MRR&R awaiting the minister's signature and stamp.

Assistance to New Arrivals from Yemen. Fourteen Yemeni new arrival families (38 individuals) received emergency financial assistance and another 27 Yemeni households (73 individuals) received sustenance assistance in the month of February 2016.

Education

Galkayo

UNHCR, through its implementing partner Relief International (RI), continues to provide primary education for refugee children in Galkayo. A total of 69 pupils regularly attend primary education.

Somaliland

A total of 97 asylum seeker/refugee students are now enrolled in 19 public schools within Somaliland, while another 79 students are enrolled in secondary schools. UNHCR SO Hargeisa will continue to liaise with students and their parents in an effort to increase enrolment in the public school system. UNHCR and partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continue to provide school material and furniture to schools hosting refugees and asylum seeker students.

Health

Galkayo

In partnership with Galkayo Medical Foundation (GMF), UNHCR Galkayo continued to support the implementation of primary health care for refugees and asylum seekers. During the reporting period, 18 refugees and asylum seekers received free consultation and treatment services. Two patients afflicted with complex medical conditions were referred to specialized medical service outside Galkayo.

Somaliland

A total of 249 refugees and asylum seekers have been assisted in the month of February 2016

Shelter and NFIs

Galkayo

UNHCR implementing partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has begun construction of permanent shelters at Margago IDP settlement in North Galkayo. Permanent shelters are benefiting 139 of the most vulnerable households as identified through criteria developed jointly with the IDP community. Prior to the construction a community mobilization exercise was undertaken. The activity is enhancing the local integration of the 974 households in the IDP settlement while the construction has provided livelihood opportunities to IDP and host families.



UNHCR, NRC, and representatives from local authorities and the IDP settlement committee attend an opening ceremony in advance of construction of permanent shelters at the Margago IDP settlement in North Galkayo. © UNHCR/Ali Abdi Ahmed

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Galkayo

UNHCR implementing partner RI conducted a refugee livelihood assessment in North Galkayo to identify possible economic opportunities. UNHCR and RI will jointly formulate livelihood interventions based on the assessment outcome.

Somaliland

Implementing partner Africa Action Help-International (AAH-I) supported 17 Yemeni refugees with business training activities and another 15 refugees with business counseling. A total of 23 Yemeni refugees are now self-reliant following livelihood support through monitoring and mentorship initiatives. A related community awareness and sensitization campaign was conducted.

Durable Solutions

Somaliland

A total of 25 refugees were provided with counseling on their resettlement status during the reporting period, while one case (five individuals) was referred to the HUB for submission. Cases that have been accepted by Sweden are pending departure and related formalities and procedures have been initiated. Discussions are still ongoing between UNHCR and the MRR&R regarding transport of refugees to Djibouti and back for interviews with the US Resettlement mission.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who will give unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as to the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Japan](#) | [United Kingdom](#) |

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Links:

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

UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium <http://somalireturnconsortium.org/>

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