



HIGHLIGHTS

32,075

Arrivals from Yemen since 27 March 2015

13,397

Refugee returnees from Kenya since 8 December 2014

131,762

Evictions in Mogadishu since January 2015

471,952

New displacements since January 2015

Population of concern

A total of **1.19 million** people of concern

By category

Category	Total PoC
IDPs	1,106,751
Refugees (mainly Ethiopians)	23,289
Asylum seekers (mainly Ethiopians)	11,161
Prima facie refugees (Yemenis)	6,489
Refugee returnees from Kenya	13,397
Somali returnees from Yemen	27,832
Total	1,188,919

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; **4** Field Units located in Garowe, Kismayo, Dhobley and Luuq; 1 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 the month of April 2016, UNHCR and partners received and provided assistances to 771 individuals, comprising 133 households, of voluntary refugee returnees from Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. Upon arrival at the Border Way Station, the returnees were received by Jubaland Refugee and IDPs Agency (JRIA), UNHCR and IOM. They were provided with basic services, namely hot meals, clean water, sanitation facilities and overnight stay. Protection and medical screening were conducted to identify and assist vulnerable individuals.

In the course of protection monitoring of return convoys, two pregnant women past their due date were identified and referred to Dhobley General Hospital for further medical screening. The doctor who carried out the examinations confirmed the situation and informed UNHCR that the women were not fit to travel due to the nature and distance of the journey. UNHCR and IOM way staff counseled the women to stay in Dhobley until delivery, but the offer was declined and the women opted to continue their journey to their final destinations, Kismayo and Baidoa.



Photo 1. Kenya Government Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) handing over Movement passes to Jubaland Refugees and IDPs Agency (JRIA) and UNHCR at Border. @UNHCR/Yussuf H. April 2016



Photo 2. IOM data clerk engaging in offline verification of voluntary Refugee Returnees in Dhobley Border Way Station. @UNHCR/Yussuf H. April 2016



Photo 1. Refugee returnees preparing for departure from the Border Way Station @UNHCR/Yussuf H. April 2016

Photo 2. Lorries waiting to transport refugee returnees to Kismayo as destination of return from Border Way Station @UNHCR/Yussuf. H. April 2016

Kismayo

During the month of April, UNHCR and partners managing the Way Station received and provided assistance to 106 households, comprising 613 individuals. At Kismayo Home Way Station, the returnees were provided with meals, one night accommodation, NFI (non food item) kits and livelihood start up cash grants of \$ 100 per person, with a maximum ceiling of \$ 600 per household. Returnees with special needs were referred to partners for additional assistance. A total of 36 returnees were referred to partner WASDA and supported with unconditional cash grants and NFIs. One pregnant woman and two other cases were referred to Kismayo General Hospital for medical support. Protection assessments were conducted upon arrival of every convoy.

Due to the effect of the Gu rains on the roads, flights carrying refugee returnees have begun and the 29th convoy of the year to Kismayo arrived by air.



Photo 1. DRA handing over the returnees movement pass to JRIA and UNHCR

Photo 2. Returnees arriving at the Home Way Station after having travelled by road from Dhobley.

Photo 3. Returnees receiving assistance at the Way Station.

In partnership with ARC (American Refugee Committee), a reintegration project aimed at providing short term and middle employment opportunities for returnees (60 %), IDP (20 %) and vulnerable host community members (20 %) continued throughout the month of April. Through this reintegration project, 250 beneficiaries have been employed through CFW (cash for work) in the rehabilitation of schools playgrounds, 25 women received skills training in making fishing nets, 25 men were trained in electrical and boat engineering and 80 beneficiaries received micro-finance training.



Workshop trainees attending an electrical session.
@UNHCR/Mahat/Kismayo.



Micro-finance beneficiaries receiving business skills training
@UNHCR/Mahat/Kismayo.

Luuq

During the month of April, 15 households of refugee returnees from Kenya, comprising of 51 individuals (30 males and 21 females) returned to Luuq in four convoys. The returnees were warmly received, accommodated and provided with comprehensive return packages, as per standard operating procedures. Protection assessment and monitoring of returnees at their final destination was also conducted. The beginning of the Gu rains has halted road convoys to Luuq since 17 April. The last convoy, the 28th, took 10 days to arrive Luuq due to the impassable roads caused by the rains. The issue of the absence of mosquito nets in the return package was raised by returnees.



A mobile ProGres Sever has been fully set in Luuq and registration of Somali refugee returnees from Yemen has begun. Five such households were registered on ProGres in April, but Luuq Way Station is hindered by a limitation of connectivity.



Returnee Children Playing at Luuq Way Station.
@ UNHCR/Ahmed Ali, April 2016



Returnees receiving mine risk education (MRE) training
@UNHCR/Ahmed Ali, April 2016

Galkayo

A 31 March a PBIED (Person Borne Improvised Explosive Device) attack in Galkayo claimed 8 lives, including the Regional Chief Accountant of the Ministry of Finance and two IDP children. The terrorist organization Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. Following this, threats and physical attacks were increasingly directed towards persons of concern by opportunistic elements within the host community, including the assassination of three persons of concern, the injury of two persons of concern by armed militia (identities remain unknown), a general strike against the presence of IDPs by women and youth groups, and dissemination of a threatening letter in IDP settlements instructing them to leave. Local authorities have increased their coordination efforts in response by adding security check points in strategic locations and increasing police patrols of IDP settlements.

Protection cluster members organized an ad hoc meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governor of Mudug (Puntland) on 17 April to discuss the evolving security situation and response efforts by the Governor's office for persons of concern. On 21 April, protection cluster members conducted a rapid assessment of the city centre and 8 IDP settlements. A further meeting was held on 25 April to share rapid assessment results and to discuss improving physical security of IDPs, in particular at the Salama 1 & 2 and Mustaqbal 2B sites, including enhanced community policing and neighborhood watch mechanisms.

Following the abduction and murder of an Oromo refugee and one other individual, UNHCR helped to arrange a meeting on 17 April between the Governor of Mudug (Puntland) and 15 members of the refugee community. The Governor re-confirmed the government's primary responsibility to ensure the safety and security of refugees in their territory, acknowledged efforts to identify and capture those responsible for the criminal act, and indicated that refugees are not a direct target. Refugees were encouraged to contact police and the regional authorities if they have security suspects or threats.

UNHCR and partner Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) distributed dignity kits to 260 women and girls of reproductive age. The selection of beneficiaries, including refugees, asylum seekers, survivors of violence and women with mental health issues, was jointly carried out by UNHCR, GECPD and the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDAFA). UNHCR Dignity kits consist each of three dresses (diracs), shawls, head scarves, petticoats (gogorad), pants with pads and 3 bars of soap.



Photos: Refugee and asylum seeker women receive dignity kits at UNHCR Sub-Office Galkayo © UNHCR/Z. Jama, April 2016

Eight GBV survivors, including 4 rape physical assault cases, were documented and assisted during the reporting period. All survivors received targeted assistance, including medical intervention and counseling based on identified needs. UNHCR also facilitated legal support through MOWDAFA for one rape survivor, whose case is pending in court.

During the reporting period, Puntland Ministry of Interior (MOI) continued screening and pre-registration activities of IDPs in North Galkayo under the supervision of UNHCR.

Bossaso

Registration. A total of 2,991 individuals -including 316 Yemenis, 414 Ethiopians, 2,260 Somali Returnees, and one other national- have been registered by UNHCR registration staff and Puntland Ministry of Interior as asylum seekers, refugees and Somali returnees so far in 2016.



New arrivals from Yemen at the Bossaso Reception Centre

Somaliland

Drought Response. A UNHCR, WFP, OCHA joint mission travelled on 13 April to drought-affected areas in Awdal to attend an Inter-agency Regional Drought Coordination meeting in Borama with government and key humanitarian partners in the region. The UN experts met on the ground the affected population to assess their needs. During the mission, UNHCR inspected the water installation established on the ground with the assets provided to the local population of Dilla village. The Head of Office provided the instructions necessary to ensure that the water installation is serving the community well and maintenance of water tank and pipes according to procedures. Regular controls of the sites is highly recommended in order to keep the UNHCR draught response effective.



UNHCR, WFP, OCHA joint mission to Awdal, © UNHCR/W.Trojan, April 2015



Photo 1. UNHCR staff and community members taking a rest after installing a plastic sheet cover over a Berkerd (concrete reservoir) in the drought affected area in Goroyocawl village, near Borama, Somaliland, © UNHCR/W.Trojan, April 2015

Photo 2. UNHCR delivering a water tank in Dila that will benefit 400 Households and core relief items (CRI) to 200 families. The distributed items include jerry cans, blankets, sleeping mats, soap and plastic sheets, © UNHCR/W.Trojan, April 2015.



Photo 1 and 2. Installation of the water tank in Dila, ©UNHCR/Felix Andi, March 2016

Protection. Due to scarcity of human resources, UNHCR Sub Office Hargeisa has finalized only 16 RSD (Refugee Status Determination) in Somaliland in the course of the year to 27 April. In the month of April, four positive decisions were issued and 10 refugees left for Sweden after their acceptance under the resettlement quota.

Ethiopian Oromo political opponents, journalists, human rights activists, and other civil-society representatives who have sought asylum in Somaliland are facing heightened risk of abduction by Ethiopian security forces on account to the nature of their grievances and resistance against the Ethiopian government. SO Hargeisa has documented a few cases of alleged abductions and has brought them to the attention of authorities at the ministerial level. The competent Minister for asylum matters shared the view in a letter to UNHCR that one of the cases was highly sensitive and “Somaliland is too close in proximity to Ethiopia, whereby the asylum seeker’s life is in jeopardy”.

The Refugee Status Determination Workshop for the Somaliland adjudicators in asylum matters (30 participants) delivered 15 hours of the 50-hour syllabus designed by SO Hargeisa at the request of the Minister competent in asylum matters to enhance the capacity of the national authorities working on the establishment of an asylum reception system in the country. The process of drafting a refugee act has stalled because the authorities are engaged in internal discussions on the model to be adopted and the lead agency that should assume the role of the competent central authority on asylum matters.

On 23 April, a group of asylum seekers and refugees organised a sit-in in front of SO Hargeisa, demanding improvement of reception conditions in Somaliland. The number of individuals who violated the security regulations applicable in the restricted zone where the office is located was reduced as a result of mediation efforts which discouraged most from applying blackmail and pressure techniques

to enforce the attention of UNHCR. The Special Protection Unit, UNDSS and UNHCR security personnel were kept informed of the sit-in action around the UNHCR office in Hargeisa.

Yemen operation; registration and documentation. A total of 218 individuals -including 126 Ethiopians, 84 Yemenis and 8 other nationals- were registered by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Reconstruction (MRR&R) as Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the month of April. Between March 2015 and the end of April 2016, 10,018 persons have arrived in Somaliland as a consequence of the conflict in Yemen: 7,894 Somali returnees, 1,987 Yemenis, 114 Ethiopians and 23 other nationals.

Yemen operation: assistance to new arrivals. On 10 April, 49 individuals (36 Yemenis and 13 Somali returnees) arrived on board a commercial vessel at the port of Berbera, Somaliland. On 17 April, another 20 individuals (15 Yemenis and five Somalis) arrived on the ferry “Noba 2”. The trend of spontaneous voluntary returns of Yemeni prima facie refugees is monitored in the port of Berbera. There is a record of 40 such individuals who ventured to return to their country of origin despite warnings that the conditions of return are not safe and dignified. The returnees reported that they left Somaliland due to the lack of basic reception conditions in the country of asylum. They also preferred to return as the countryside appeared to them to be safer in Yemen compared with the risks they faced in Hargeisa. Refugees and asylum had complained recently to UNHCR that they had been victims of extortions, robbery and rapes while sojourning in Somaliland. Before their departure, the returnees did not seek the advice of the authorities and UNHCR counselling services.

Education

Galkayo

UNHCR, through its implementing partner Relief International (RI), continues to provide primary education for 69 refugee children. School attendance was briefly interrupted in April due to heightened fear and anxiety following the abduction and murder of a member of the refugee community. UNHCR and RI conducted a joint rapid assessment of refugee families on 24 April which indicated that children in all but one refugee household had resumed school attendance. RI continues to conduct ongoing education awareness activities with all refugee families. UNHCR, through implementing partner RI, continues to engage refugee children in recreational activities to strengthen social cohesion between refugees and the host community. In April a friendly football match was organized between Barda’ad and Salma Primary schools, which are attended by both refugee and host community children.

Somaliland

Around 497 asylum seeker and refugee students are now enrolled in 20 public schools in Somaliland, 79 of whom in secondary schools. UNHCR SO Hargeisa continues to liaise with students and parents in an effort to increase enrolment in the public school system UNHCR and NRC continue to provide school material and furniture to schools hosting refugees and asylum seeker students.

Health

Galkayo

UNHCR partner Galkayo Medical Centre (GMC) provided primary medical care to 28 refugees and asylum seekers in April. Two patients were referred to secondary and tertiary ophthalmic and orthopedic services inside and outside Galkayo.

Somaliland

A total of 318 refugees and asylum seekers have been assisted in the month of April 2016

Shelter and NFIs

Galkayo

UNHCR, through partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), completed the construction of 150 permanent shelters with family latrines in the Margaga IDP settlement as part of the local IDP integration activities. On 24 April, UNHCR attended a ceremony organized by NRC at the Madina Al-Munawar IDP settlement to mark the achievement of securing 878 land title deeds (permanent land) for households in the Madina Al-Munawar, Margaga, Mustaqbal 2, and Daryel IDP settlements. The ceremony also recognized

244 occupancy certificates for households in the Afartakare, Al Amin 1, and Kulmiye IDP settlements on land leased through the support of local authorities. The deeds and certificates were distributed in the IDP settlements following the ceremony.

Somaliland

CRI (core relief items) continue to be distributed to new arrivals from Yemen. As of 31 March, a total of 871 CRIs have been distributed to vulnerable families.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Galkayo

UNHCR conducted an assessment of all refugee and asylum seeker households for possible livelihood interventions through partner Relief International (RI). A total of 16 refugee households were identified as beneficiaries of business startup grants and provisioning grants to expand or improve existing businesses. The initiative is aimed to enhance refugee self-reliance. UNHCR also continues to provide subsistence allowance to 11 refugee households with heightened vulnerabilities to enable them to meet their basic needs.

UNHCR, through partner NRC, completed the construction of a community centre in Margaga IDP settlement. The new centre strengthens re-integration objectives by providing a place for residents to host community meetings and social activities.

Somaliland

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

Durable Solutions

Somaliland

Six cases (28 individuals) departed to Sweden for resettlement and another 10 (32 individuals) submitted their cases for resettlement to Sweden. One case (5 individuals) was submitted to Canada for resettlement consideration. Another 15 individuals were provided with counseling on their resettlement status.

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: [Canada](#) | [Japan](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#)

Contacts:

Luca Nicosia, Associate External Relations Officer, nicosia@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 734628053 (Kenya), +252 617340259 (Somalia)

Links:

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

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

Twitter @UNHCRSom