

# Somalia

February 2021


Growing steadily, UNHCR's operational footprint in Somalia dates back thirty years. Today, UNHCR is present in ten countrywide locations, with its Representation Office based in Mogadishu. Despite many gains, Somalia's operational context remains extremely challenging due to largescale insecurity and countrywide fragility.

Multiple crises including erratic climate shocks, reoccurring and persistent conflict, disease outbreaks and an unprecedented desert locust infestation contribute to protracted and new displacements impacting millions of Somalis. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

UNHCR provides protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, IDPs, refugee returnees and vulnerable hosting communities. Repatriation of returnees and emergency humanitarian response within Somalia are also central to UNHCR's mandate.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

 **2.6 million** IDPs

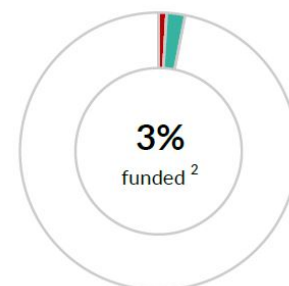
 **13,247** asylum-seekers  
**11,478** refugees

 **131,633** refugee returnees

## FUNDING NEEDS

**USD 154.1 M**

(As of 15 February 2021)



Funded  
**3%**  
**4.8 M**

 Tightly earmarked  
 Earmarked  
 Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)  
 Unearmarked (indicative allocation)  
 Funding gap (indicative)

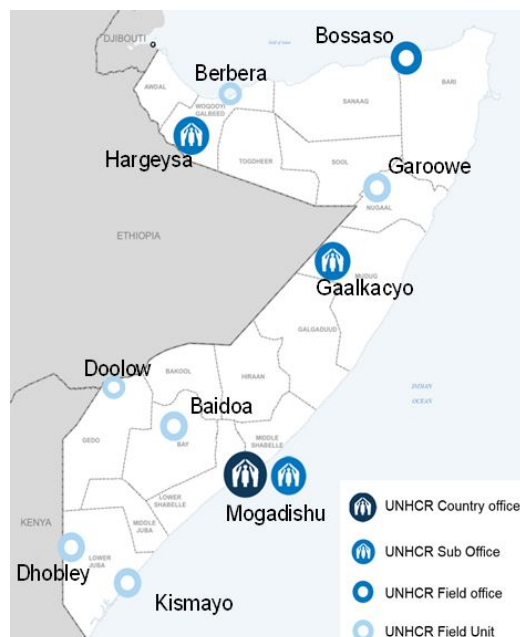
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 117 National Staff
- 47 International Staff
- 27 Affiliated Workforce

### Offices:

- 1 Representation Office in Mogadishu
- 3 Sub Offices in Galkayo, Hargeisa and Mogadishu



## Working with Partners

In Somalia, UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter Clusters and co-leads the CCCM Cluster.

## Main Activities and Achievements

### Refugees and asylum-seekers

- Under its core mandate, UNHCR **monitors** the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia, to ensure their adequate protection and well-being.
- UNHCR provides access to **essential services** (including education and healthcare) as well as **material and financial assistance** to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR assists refugees in Somalia to find **durable solutions**, such as local integration and resettlement to a third country.
- UNHCR supported the drafting of the Federal Republic of Somalia Refugee Act, a landmark tool in the protection of refugees in Somalia. The **Refugee Act** is currently with the Parliament of Federal Government of Somalia, with its endorsement expected in the course of 2021.
- In 2020, UNHCR completed the **biometric identity management system (BIMS)** registration exercise of refugees and asylum-seekers. The verification of the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country through biometric registration ensures that UNHCR's assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals and households.

### Somali refugee returnees

- Safe, dignified and **voluntary repatriation** of Somali refugees from Kenya is governed by the Strategy for Voluntary Repatriation of Somali Refugees from Kenya to Somalia and their Reintegration, 2020-2022, in conjunction with the IGAD Nairobi Declaration/ Plan of Action and the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs given that the 2013 Tripartite Agreement expired.
- Since 2014, UNHCR has assisted in the repatriation of 85,171 Somali refugee returnees from Kenya. In addition, 5,416 individuals have returned from Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) programme, while smaller numbers of Somalis having returned from other countries including Djibouti, Sudan, Libya and Eritrea.
- UNHCR has implemented **post-return monitoring (PRM)** of refugee returnees. Through PRM, UNHCR and partners can assess the level of reintegration of returnees and address the causes of any challenges in reintegration.
- UNHCR provides refugees returnees with various support to ensure their **reintegration** in the community, including access to livelihoods (including vocational

training and business start-up grants), land and education as well as financial and material assistance upon return.

### **IDPs**

- The humanitarian response to the internal displacement in Somalia is a coordinated effort by various stakeholders including the authorities, international organizations, as well as national and international NGOs. UNHCR leads the **Protection Cluster** and the **Shelter Cluster** and co-leads the **CCCM Cluster**.
- By availing expert support in legislative drafting, UNHCR supported the drafting of the Federal Protection and Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Act, which is currently with the Government following a validation workshop that took place on 18 November 2020. The **IDP Act**, once enacted, will provide the national legal framework for the rights of IDPs emanating from international treaties and standards.
- UNHCR will continue to lead the **Protection and Returns Monitoring Network** (PRMN), tracking displacement and rights violations among IDPs, and increasing efforts for the greater use of PRMN data in shaping response to internal displacement.
- UNHCR and partners provide **shelter and NFI assistance**, either in-kind or through cash grants, to IDPs and vulnerable host communities across the country. NFIs and emergency shelter are **lifesaving** interventions in the face of climate or conflict-based emergencies.
- Eviction and limited housing, land and property (HLP) rights remain a significant protection concern in Somalia. UNHCR continues to support and work closely with local authorities and IDPs to promote **land tenure** and **adequate documentation** for IDPs.
- Among other UNHCR's responses for IDPs are capacity-building of authorities, partners and community leaders, peaceful coexistence projects, as well as prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence.

## External / Donors Relations

### Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia operation in 2021

Republic of Korea (1.5 M)

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (22.1 M) |  
Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M)

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco |  
Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore |  
Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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