

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 October 2022



UNHCR field staff interacting with internally displaced Somalis as they line up to receive water by their makeshift dwellings at Kabasa IDP site in Dollow. Thousands have fled their homes as the country experiences the worst drought in 40 years. © UNHCR/Nabil Narch

OVERVIEW

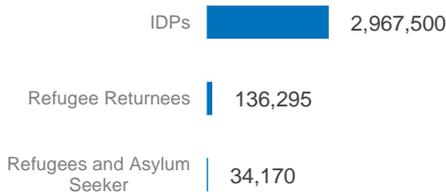
The operational environment for Somalia continued to remain challenging in October. The security situation continued to deteriorate with the escalation of armed conflict between Al-Shabab, hereafter referred to as non-state armed group, and the alliance of Somali security forces and local militias. The current drought has displaced more than a million people in 2022 alone, with famine looming over parts of south and central Somalia. UNHCR leads or co-leads Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters in Somalia. Working together with partners and authorities, UNHCR continued delivering lifesaving protection assistance to the vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities affected by the drought. Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, refugee returnees, and IDPs, who are living in a protracted displacement situation, is also one of the key priorities for the UNHCR in Somalia. Key achievements drawn out from UNHCR's interventions in October are listed below:

- As of 31 October, UNHCR and partners used the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) tool to assess over 33,000 HHs (approximately 198,000 individuals) across all regions to support targeted for assistance distribution (cash and in-kind) for drought affected displaced population.
- In Dollow and Dhobley, UNHCR through its partner distributed core relief item kits to 3,500 HHs (approximately 22,700 individuals) to support the drought affected IDPs with household supplies to meet their basic needs.
- UNHCR in coordination with National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) successfully conducted verification of 2,455 refugees and asylum seekers in Banadir. The verification is a comprehensive registration exercise that seeks to capture detailed individual level information from refugees and asylum seekers.

KEY FIGURES

PERSONS OF CONCERN

3.1M # of persons of concern to UNHCR Somalia



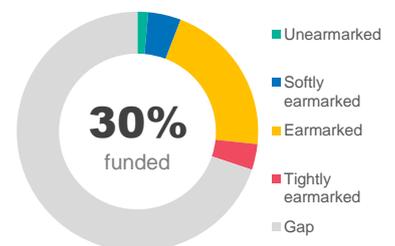
PARTNERS

28 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2022



DONORS

157.5M Funding required for 2022 (as of 25 Oct)



POPULATION DATA

34,170

Refugees and asylum seekers
as of Oct 2022

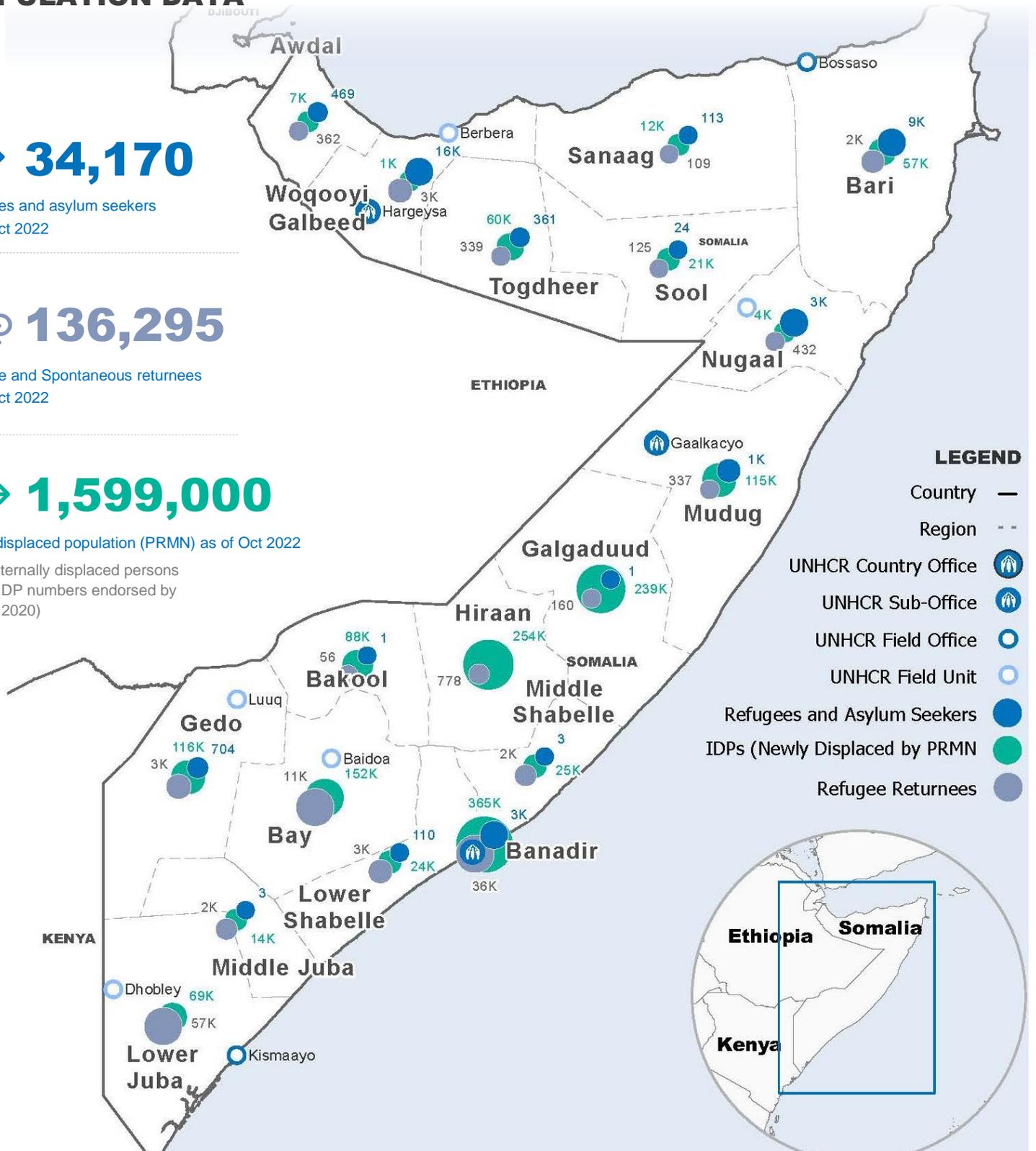
136,295

Refugee and Spontaneous returnees
as of Oct 2022

1,599,000

Newly displaced population (PRMN) as of Oct 2022

2.9M Internally displaced persons
(Stock IDP numbers endorsed by
HCT in 2020)



POPULATION TREND (ARRIVALS PER YEAR)

Refugee Returnees | Refugees and Asylum Seekers | IDPs (PRMN)



Operational Context

For the reporting period, the operational context in Somalia remained complex and characterized by risk of famine, insecurity due to armed conflict, and unpredictable political situation.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), some 1.59 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022. In October, 192,000 new displacements were recorded, which is an increase by 10 per cent compared to what was reported in September. For the reporting month, 101,000 individuals were displaced by the drought; 70,000 due to conflict/insecurity; and 10,000 by flood. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, livelihood, shelter, and protection as their priority needs.

The current drought in Somalia has surpassed the 2010-11 and 2016-17 droughts in terms of duration and severity. Four consecutive failed rainy seasons has led to 7 million people experiencing crisis levels of hunger¹ and more than 1.2 million people in displacement since 2021. According to Gender Based Violence (GBV) AoR, 79% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are women and children. Displaced women and girls have reported a rise in rape, sexual harassment, and violence, and as such according to the findings of a recent assessment, 35% of women and girls living in IDP sites felt unsafe to move freely. According to UN OCHA, 1.5 million children across the country are facing acute malnutrition and 66% of the population in need of protection services in Somalia are children at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The climate crisis is expected to continue well into 2023, with the current season projected to yield moderate to below average rainfall.

The overall security situation in Somalia remained volatile. The armed conflict between the coalition of Somali National Army (SNA) and local clan militias against the non-state armed group continued. The non-state armed group claimed responsibility for the twin blasts, which left more than 120 dead and more than 300 injured in a busy junction in Mogadishu on 29 October. The attack is considered to be the deadliest attack by the group in the last five years. It is anticipated that the non-state armed group will carry out similar retaliatory attacks in response to the ongoing military campaign in which they have lost hundreds of fighters.

In October, after four days of deliberations, the National Consultative Council (NCC) meeting between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) concluded in Mogadishu. Agreements were reached on five priority areas- countering the non-state armed group and advancing a national security strategy; accelerating the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) transition; constitutional review process; one-person-one-vote electoral system; and coordinating response to recurring droughts and climate change.

In Hargeisa, political tension between President Bihi and the opposition parties remained unresolved. The Upper House extended the President's term by two years, a move which is not supported by the opposition, who have insisted that the government should hold timely presidential election. This unfavorable political climate is expected to culminate in street protests, arrests, restrictions on movement, and uncertainty in Somaliland, all of which may impact delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Somalia also hosts some 34,170 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which 69% are women and children. The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers (67%) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (29%) and Syria (4%). School-age children (6-17 years) make up nearly 32% of total population and 34% of households (HHs) are headed by women or children. Most refugees and asylum-seekers reside in urban or peri-urban settings across Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, in the northern part of the country. Furthermore, 136,295 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their country of asylum, mostly from Kenya followed by Yemen. From the total refugee returnees, 93,190 individuals have been assisted by UNHCR through Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) movements from Yemen.

¹ IASC Principals Somalia and Horn of Africa Drought Communication & Advocacy Strategy, September - Dec 2022 - Somalia | ReliefWeb

Update on Achievements

Protection

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR through its partner identified and/or supported 56 new and existing GBV cases in October across the country. Services to the survivors included safe house support, psychosocial counselling, medical and legal referrals, and provision of dignity kits, among others.

Community engagement and awareness raising

- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center in Hargeisa, a total of 412 individuals received counselling and case referrals. Most of the advice sought was for financial insecurity followed by refugee status determination (RSD) issues and medical concerns. Cases were referred to appropriate partner for further assistance. In addition, beneficiaries received information about the services provided by UNHCR and partners.
- In Hargeisa, 40 individuals (29 female, 11 male) were reached through Hotline and provided with remote psychosocial support, case management assistance, information about the service provided by UNHCR through its partner Women Action for Advocacy and Progress Organization (WAAPO).
- To increase public awareness of the dangers of irregular movements or *Tahriib*, UNHCR through volunteers conducted numerous Telling the Real Story (TRS) outreach awareness activities in multiple locations across Somalia. In Garowe, Puntland, two interaction sessions were organized in two different schools, reaching 360 students and teachers. In Galkayo, two events were organized with religious and community leaders and youth from different walks of life, reaching 40 individuals.

Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- The verification of refugees and asylum seekers, which is a comprehensive registration exercise that seeks to capture detailed individual level information from refugees and asylum seekers, was successfully conducted in Banadir. Some 2,455 refugees and asylum seeker were verified, and each individual received either a refugee or an asylum seeker certificate after the verification process. Furthermore, the exercise introduced the latest registration tools, progress version 4 and Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS), to UNHCR's partner and government counterpart, National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), which is responsible for registering refugees and asylum seekers in Banadir. Before the verification exercise, NCRI registration staff were trained and thus were able to use their newly acquired skills in supporting UNHCR to complete the exercise. In November, UNHCR is planning for a similar verification exercise in Puntland, which hosts 13,635 refugees and asylum seekers, with the biggest concentrations in Bossaso and Garowe. The verification exercise is expected to pave the way for more focused and targeted assistance, based on reliable data.
- UNHCR, NCRI, and partners received 63 HHs (121 individuals) who arrived at the Aden Adde International Airport in Mogadishu after returning from Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. The Somali refugee returnees were part of a group of 150 Somali refugee returnees who arrived in Berbera by boat on 29 September. Ground and air travel from Berbera to Mogadishu was supported by IOM Somalia. Since 2017, UNHCR and IOM have collaborated to support 5,566 Somali refugees to return home through the ASR programme.
- In the Berbera Reception Center in Somaliland, UNHCR and partners received 81 new arrivals (1 female, 80 male), including 78 Yemeni refugees and 3 refugee returnees. The new arrivals received registration, food, accommodation, and medical support at the center.



A refugee returnee under the ASR programme being welcomed by UNHCR staff in Mogadishu. ©UNHCR

- In Mogadishu and Baidoa, UNHCR distributed subsistence allowance grants to 44 refugee returnee HHs (66 individuals).
- In Garowe and Bossaso in Puntland and in Mogadishu, UNHCR provided reinstallation cash to eight (8) Somali returnee HHs (approximately 33 individuals) from Libya and Yemen. Likewise, one-time cash assistance was provided to 12 newly arrived Yemeni refugees at the Bossaso Reception Center.

Legal assistance

- In Puntland and Hargeisa, UNHCR through its partner provided legal assistance to 398 refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community members. Assistance included among others, legal counselling, mediation, legal advocacy to release from police custody, legal representation before a court, birth certificate and national ID issuance, and referral to other service providers.

Mixed migration

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR in its capacity as co-chair of the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF), conducted the quarterly MMTF meeting, which had participants from relevant government institutions, UN agencies, and INGOs. The key issues discussed in the meeting included updates from the MMTF work streams, legislation, communication and data gathering processes, as well as countertrafficking updates. The forum agreed to conduct a mixed movement assessment across Somaliland in late November and prepare all groundwork include drafting of the TOR and assessment tools prior to the assessment.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services and referrals, including maternal and child health care, to 3,811 individuals. The health services primarily benefited refugees and asylum seekers in Hargeisa, Mogadishu, and Puntland, although some IDPs and host communities were also reached in Mogadishu.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR through Hanano Hospital distributed COVID -19 PPEs, including face masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves to 1,281 patients (641 female, 640 males).
- In Baidoa, Dinsoor, Afgoye and Hudur districts, UNHCR's partner conducted COVID-19 prevention awareness raising in 16 IDP sites, reaching 125 HHs (780 individuals). Likewise, in Puntland, doctors shared information and helped raise awareness on COVID- 19 prevention, breastfeeding, immunization of young children, hygiene promotion, and dietary advice for patients with chronic diseases, reaching 380 individuals.

Education

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education at the federal and state levels, provided capacity-building training for school headteachers in Banadir, Jubaland, Puntland, and Somaliland on the Education Information Management System (EMIS). Training topics included national and international frameworks for the protection of refugees; mandate of UNHCR; definitions of refugees and other persons of concern and their rights, obligations, and protection needs; the identification of Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs); and inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern in EMIS.
- In Puntland, 3,914 refugees and asylum-seekers children (1,878 girls, 2,034 boys) were enrolled in primary and secondary schools, with UNHCR providing support to cover school fees, scholastic materials, and transportation expenses. There were no dropouts of refugees and asylum seekers from the secondary schools.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR through its partner supported 790 (378 girls, 412 boys) refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in primary and secondary schools with payment of school fee and meal allowance.



Teachers from Garowe and Galkayo pose for a group photo during EMIS training in Galkayo. ©UNHCR



Drought Response (Risk of Famine)

- As of 31 October, UNHCR and partners used the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) tool to assess over 33,000 HHs (approximately 198,000 individuals) across all regions to support targeting for assistance distribution (cash and in-kind). The VA tool supports granular level analysis of affected populations and ensures protection needs of women, children, elderly persons, and vulnerable groups are at the centre of the scale-up to the drought response.
- UNHCR is working closely with WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA to leverage Protection Desks established at the targeted IDP sites to enhance outreach and accountability to affected populations, to mainstream protection as an entry point for referrals to various services, including nutrition, and for identification of persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR, as co-lead of the Somalia Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, facilitated a meeting with cluster coordinators to develop a plan for rolling out PSEA training. The discussion included orientation on the key basic concepts of GBV and PSEA in the context of drought, practical tips on integration/mainstreaming of GBV prevention and PSEA in the cluster response, referral pathways, and reporting mechanisms. A draft PSEA training plan has been shared with the cluster leads.
- In Dollow and Dhobley, UNHCR through its partner distributed core relief item kits to 3,500 HHs (approximately 22,700 individuals) to support the drought affected IDPs with household supplies to meet their basic needs.
- In Banadir, UNHCR through its partner provided 1,000 Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) to drought affected IDPs living in deplorable shelter conditions.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR distributed onetime multi-purpose cash assistance support of USD 150 each to 385 drought affected IDP HHs (approximately 2,300 individuals) to help them meet their basic needs.
- In Baidoa UNHCR distributed livelihood business start-up cash grant amounting to USD 500 each for 40 drought IDPs to help them start their businesses.
- In Qaboobe durable solutions site in South Galkayo and Farjano IDP site in Bossaso, UNHCR installed 20 street solar lights to improve public safety and prevent GBV incidents. Moreover, 26 additional streetlights are being procured to provide public lighting in two additional site.
- The UNHCR in Hargeisa scaled up camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) responses to drought-affected communities by targeting eight (8) additional sites in the eastern Somaliland regions. During the reporting period, UNHCR through its partner began distributing 180 Emergency Shelter Kits (ESK).
- UNHCR, in coordination with partners and authorities in Puntland and Galmudug, identified and registered 3,000 girls and women of reproductive age from IDP and hosting communities for the distribution of monetized dignity kits. Each beneficiary will be receiving USD 65 to purchase female hygiene and sanitation items locally. Same support will also be extended to 526 refugee and asylum seeker girls and women in Puntland.
- The UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) data continues to provide up-to-date information on internal displacement caused by drought, which informs the humanitarian response of the UN and partners.



An IDP receiving his share of core relief items in Kaharey IDP site in Dollow. ©UNHCR



Shelter and NFI

- In Luglaw site in Kismayo, UNHCR through its partner continued the construction of 88 permanent shelters for durable solutions. During the reporting period, 40 shelters were in various stages of progress and pit and septic tank construction for 30 latrines were ongoing.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR through its partner started the construction of immigration offices at three border towns, Beligubedle, and Wajaale in Maroodi Jeeh region and Gorayo Cawl in Awdal region, near the Ethiopian border that saw significant influx from Ethiopia during the previous displacement.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR through its partner distributed fire extinguisher and buckets in five IDP sites to mitigate against the risk of fire.



Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

Community empowerment

- UNHCR in Bossaso conducted PSEA, fraud mitigation, and code of conduct training for 24 individuals, including 14 partners and 10 refugee leaders. The objective of the training was to familiarize the participants with UNHCR Somalia PSEA and fraud policies.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- UNHCR through its partner conducted vocational trainings targeting 110 IDPs, returnees, refugee and asylum seekers and vulnerable host community members in Dollow, Mogadishu, and Kismayo. The trainings were tailored to the needs of the participants and aimed to impart skills necessary to successfully start and run small businesses and enterprises. Courses were offered in information and communications technology (ICT), mobile repairs, beauty salon, camera and video editing, tie and dye, and business management and marketing. The trainees also received a startup grant to incubate their small businesses.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR and its partner continued to monitor the progress and challenges of livelihood interventions. During the reporting period, two refugees affected by the April 2022 fire incident in Waheen market in Hargeisa received business grants to help them re-establish their enterprises and attain self-reliance.



One of the 20 IDPs who received donkey carts in Kismayo as a part of UNHCR's livelihood support programme aimed at building resilience through income generation. ©UNHCR



Cluster Coordination and Leadership



2.8M

 # of beneficiaries reached by Protection Cluster



4 M  People in need

3 M  People targeted

155 M  Funding required



713K

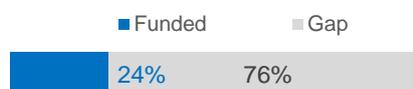
 # of beneficiaries reached by Shelter Cluster



3.6 M  People in need

1.2 M  People targeted

57.7 M  Funding required



1.66 M

 # of beneficiaries reached by CCCM



2.2 M  People in need

1.8 M  People targeted

28.4 M  Funding required



Protection Cluster

- A total of 209,723 individuals were reached through protection monitoring.
- Community based and specialized mental health and psychosocial support services were provided to 9,354 individuals.
- A total of 451 individuals were reached with capacity-building training for duty bearers and community members with a particular focus on minority communities on protection and awareness of rights initiatives.
- To ensure the access to complaint and feedback mechanisms, the Protection Cluster partners on the ground received and responded to feedback and complaint mechanisms from 128 individuals.
- A total of 95 individuals were reached with specialized protection assistance, including victim assistance services.
- A total of 46,266 individuals (including 31,832 children) were reached with various child protection services, such as family tracing and reunification, reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFG), provision of alternative care, case management, psychosocial support, and child protection messaging.
- A total of 45,059 individuals (including 31,959 women and girls) received various GBV services, such as case management support, dignity kit, psychosocial support, legal aid, cash assistance, and awareness raising among others.

Shelter Cluster

- Shelter Cluster partners reached 145,537 individuals with NFI kits and 9,355 individuals with shelter assistance. Cumulatively in 2022, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 445,600 individuals (55%) of 803,800 targeted with NFI assistance, and 267,651 individuals (62%) of the 430,000 targeted with shelter assistance.
- Shelter remains one of the top priority needs of the displaced population. Around 3.6 million people need shelter and NFI assistance in Somalia.

CCCM Cluster

- Service monitoring activities were held in 1,072 IDP sites covering 38 districts to coordinate humanitarian services, avoid overlaps, and address sectoral gaps by referring them to relevant service providers. According to the survey conducted during the monitoring exercise, only 23% of IDP HHs reportedly received food or cash assistance in the last six months; only 63% of the sites had access to water; and 90% of shelters in the surveyed sites were of emergency/makeshift in nature.
- Site verification assessments were conducted in five districts- Kahda, Daynile, Jowhar, Bardheere and Beletwyene. A follow up spot check of sites in Beletwyene by cluster partners indicated that 28 of the 88 verified sites were in fact spurious sites, also known as “Bush Bris.”
- In the CCCM managed complaint and feedback mechanism, 8,926 complaints were lodged in October compared to 9,066 complaints reported in September, which is a decrease by about 2%. Food Security and Livelihood, Shelter, and WASH needs continued to feature as the major concerns recorded by the community members through the complaint mechanism.
- CCCM partners conducted 235 site level community workshops aimed at building capacities of IDPs and camp management committees to self-manage and prepare for possible disasters within their settlements in Baidoa, Galkayo, Kahda and Daynile and to improve their knowledge on gender equality.
- CCCM partners scaled up orientation sessions for new arrivals on available humanitarian services in IDP sites. Messaging and sessions to promote peaceful co-existence between drought and conflict displaced IDPs were held. CCCM partners conducted campaigns which involved 374 volunteers (200 female, 174 male) in 150 IDP sites on promotion of hygiene and sanitation to prevent cholera and acute watery diarrhea.
- Site maintenance activities were carried out across 40 IDP sites in Galmudug, Bardheere, El-waaq, Deynile, and Luuq districts by engaging 1,200 (936 female, 264 male) individuals under cash for work programme, which is aimed at creating income generating opportunities for drought-affected communities while improving the overall living conditions of displacement sites. Each beneficiary received USD 50 as a monthly stipend which helped them to meet some of their immediate basic needs, including food. Site decongestion activities to improve access and mitigate risk of fire, waste management, and drainage cleaning were some of the activities that were carried out under cash for work programme.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2022 amount to some **US\$ 47.97 million**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have already contributed to the Somalia Operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia Operation in 2022 | USD

United States of America (USA) 39 million | **CERF** 2 million | **UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe** 1.3 million | **Japan** 1.1 million | **Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation** 1 million | **European Union** 0.8 million

Republic of Korea | Denmark | Norway | Other private donors

Thanks to the donors of softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2022 | USD

Germany 45.1 | **USA** 29.3 million | **Private donors USA** 15.3 million | **Austria** 14.8 million | **France** 11.6 million | **Private donors Australia** 11.1 million | **Canada** 7.8 million | **Denmark** 7.6 million | **Private donors Germany** 6.2 million | **Australia** 4.4 million | **Switzerland** 4.3 million | **Netherlands** 4 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 3.6 million | **Private donors Italy** 2.4 million | **Spain** 2.3 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2 million

Iceland | Ireland | Japan | Jersey | Luxembourg | Norway | Poland | Private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds to UNHCR in 2022 | USD

Sweden 99.3 million | **Norway** 72.5 million | **Private donors Spain** 56.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 40.9 | **United Kingdom** 40.1 | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 28.6 million | **Germany** 27 million | **Private donors USA** 26.2 million | **Japan** 21.7 million | **France** 18.5 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 16 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million | **Private donors Canada** 11.8 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.4 million | **Italy** 10 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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