

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE



OVERVIEW

In December, the operational environment in Somalia remained complex. The security environment continued to deteriorate because of indiscriminate attacks by Al-Shabab, hereafter referred to as non-state armed group, and armed conflict between the aforementioned group and the alliance of Somali security forces, local militias, and international security partners. Moreover, the prolonged drought has severely impacted the lives and livelihoods of ordinary Somalis and displaced close to 1.2 million people in 2022 alone.

UNHCR leads/ 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, remains one of the key priorities for UNHCR in Somalia.

UNHCR's key achievements for the month of December are listed below:

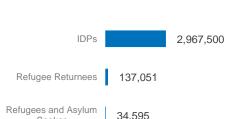
- In Beletwyene, UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance and core relief items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and jerry cans to 3,000 IDPs.
- In Baidoa, South-West State, and Burao, Somaliland, UNHCR completed the construction of 308 transitional and hybrid shelters as well as 179 latrines for the drought affected IDPs.
- UNHCR Somalia received two boats carrying a total of 303 Somali refugee returnees in Berbera arriving from Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR supported 90 drought affected refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community members with training and start-up business grant to promote self-reliance and income generation though fishery-related activities.

KEY FIGURES

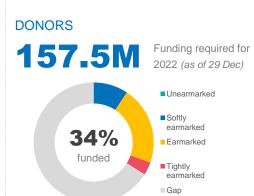
PERSONS OF CONCERN

3.1M

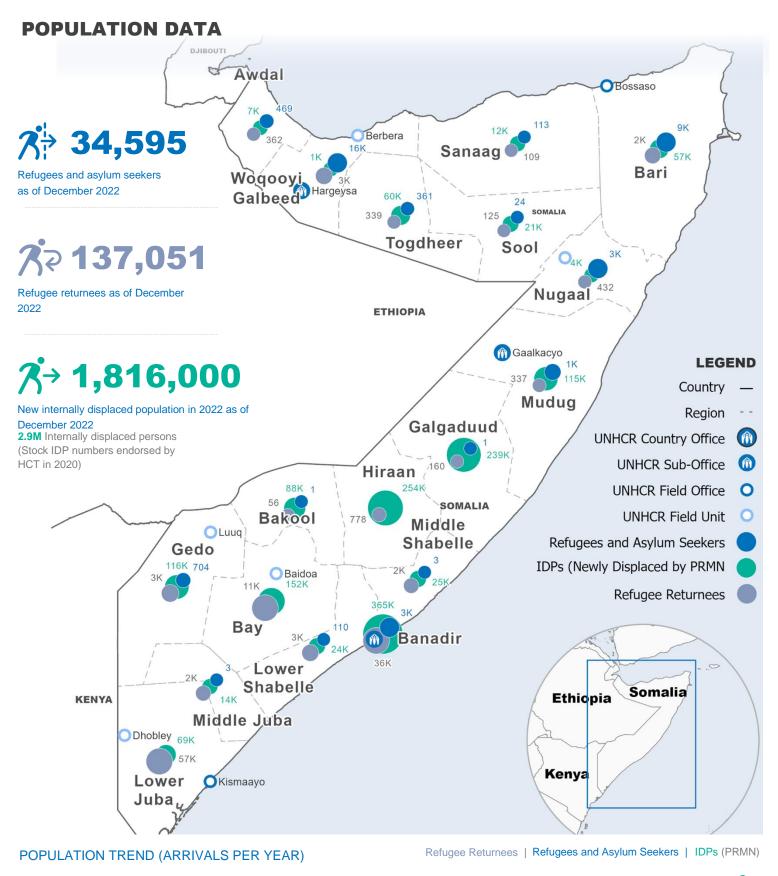
of persons of concern to UNHCR Somalia



PARTNERS # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2022 Government 11 NGO 10 INGO 7











Operational Context

As the year 2022 drew to a close, UNHCR continued to operate in a highly complex environment, largely characterized by the ongoing drought, insecurity, and political tension.

According to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), more than 1.8 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022. This is a staggering increase from 2021, when some 874,000 Somalis were internally displaced. The significant increase can be attributed to the worsening drought conditions in Somalia and the region. The vast majority, some 65% of the newly displaced in 2022 were displaced due to drought. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, livelihood, health, shelter, and water as their priority needs. The priority needs of newly displaced families were food (55%), followed by shelter (16%) and livelihoods (15%). More information can be found on the new online portal for the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/.

Entering the new year, the situation is likely to worsen, as below average rainfall is projected for the upcoming April-June rainy season. Shortfalls in humanitarian assistance will likely push 8.3 million people to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity between April and June 2023, including more than 700,000 people facing famine conditions or Catastrophe level (IPC Phase 5). The prolonged and extreme conditions have resulted in higher-thannormal deaths, and excess mortality will continue to accumulate unless assistance is further scaled up and sustained.¹

In December, the security situation in Somalia remained tense and unpredictable resulting in unknown number of fatalities, injuries, and displacement of some 16,000 individuals within the country. The armed conflict between the coalition of Somali National Army (SNA), local clan militias, and international security partners against the non-state armed group continued on multiple fronts, including Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Galgaduud regions.

The reporting period saw an increase in political difference and turmoil. In Baidoa, South-West State and Laascaanood, Somaliland, simmering tensions boiled over and resulted in violence, displacement of civilians, and loss of lives. In Puntland, although the six opposition parties and Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni reached an agreement over the upcoming local election, the overall political situation remained restive. Furthermore, the political difference between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Puntland widened, as evident by the latter's reluctance to sign a joint communiqué of the National Consultative Council (NCC) meeting.

Somalia hosts some 34,595 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which 70% are women and children; 32% are schoolage children (6-17 years); and 26% are women and girls of reproductive age (13-49 years). 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, 137,051 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Kenya followed by Yemen. From the total refugee returnees, 93,683 individuals have been assisted by UNHCR through Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) movements from Yemen.

¹ The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely serious; assistance must be sustained and improved to continue to prevent famine - Somalia | ReliefWeb



Update on Achievements



At the 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took place between 7-8 December in Geneva, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) was represented by Abdihakim Hassan Ashkir, the Deputy Minister of MoIFAR. On the second day of the High Commissioner's Dialogue, the Deputy Minister co-moderated a Special Session on "Development Cooperation to Address Internal Displacement" along with Ms. Kelly T. Clements, UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner and Mr. Robert Piper, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Solutions to Internal Displacement. UNHCR Somalia continues to work closely with MoIFAR to support protection and solutions for persons UNHCR works with and for in Somalia, particularly in areas related to nationality and statelessness.

On 5 December, the UNHCR Deputy Representative delivered a Keynote Address on the opening day of a three-day Somalia National Dialogue on Forced Displacement, which was sponsored by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and co-facilitated by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) and Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR). The workshop's objectives were to reflect on the state of forced displacement in Somalia and the existing policy and institutional frameworks in light of the changing and emerging contexts; review the progress of the implementation of the regional and global commitments under the Nairobi Declaration and its thematic areas, the pledges on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF); identify good practices, opportunities, and areas where Somalia requires further support in responding to forced displacement; and build synergies and strengthen collaboration between development and humanitarian actors in addressing forced displacement. During the second day of the workshop, UNHCR delivered a presentation on global trends and frameworks on forced displacement.

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR through its partner identified and/or supported 95 new and existing GBV cases in December. Services to
 the survivors included safe house support, psychosocial counselling, medical and legal referrals, and provision of
 dignity kits, among others.
- UNHCR and partners continued to raise awareness against GBV across the country. In Baidoa, community outreach and awareness campaigns on GBV prevention and response were held in 8 IDP sites. In Galmudug State, partners conducted awareness and protection monitoring in 10 IDP settlements located in Guriel, Abudwaq and Dhusamareb districts, reaching more than 1,000 individuals. During the awareness sessions, GBV and female genital mutilation (FGM) referral pathways were shared with the communities, urging them to immediately share information whenever violations occur. In Bossaso and Galkayo, drama, songs, and poems were used to address ill effects of violence against women and girls, reaching more than 500 refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs.

Capacity building, community engagement, and awareness raising

- In Somaliland, UNHCR through its partner organized a two day training for government officials in Erigavo, Sanaag region, and a day long community awareness workshop in Hargeisa. The main goal of the training, which was attended by 56 police, immigration, and coast guard officials, was to increase their legal understanding of refugee law and international protection to advance refugee protection at the national level. The community-level workshop to raise awareness on the same topics was attended by 58 refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, IDPs, and prominent host community members such as elders and religious leaders.
- To increase public awareness on the dangers of irregular movements or tahriib, UNHCR through volunteers conducted numerous Telling the Real Story (TRS) outreach awareness activities across South-Central Somalia. For example, in Baidoa and Dhobley awareness sessions were held across multiple IDP sites, reaching 540 individuals.
- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center in Hargeisa, a total of 231 individuals received counselling and case referrals. Most of the advice sought was for financial insecurity followed by concerns on refugee status determination (RSD) and issues related to subsistence allowance. Where appropriate, cases were referred to appropriate partner for further assistance.

People with specific needs

 In Mogadishu and Dollow, UNHCR through its partner distributed mobility aid devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers to 20 persons living with disability.



Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- In December, UNHCR Somalia received two boat movements carrying a total of 303 Somali refugee returnees in Berbera arriving from Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. All movements were conducted in partnership with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) in Mogadishu, and the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) in Somaliland, while ground and air travel from Berbera to Mogadishu was supported by IOM. Since 2017, UNHCR and IOM have collaborated to support 6,007 Somali refugees to return home from Yemen through the ASR programme. In addition, five other self-managed boats carrying 32 Yemeni refugees and 14 spontaneous Somali returnees were also received in Berbera port.
- In Bossaso, Puntland, UNHCR and partners received two self-managed boats from Yemen carrying a total of 149 individuals including 121 spontaneous Somali refugee returnees and 28 Yemeni refugees. Out of the total arrivals, 96 individuals were accommodated at Reception Centre supported by UNHCR.



UNHCR and partners distribute NFIs to Somali returnees from Yemen under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme in Berbera. ©UNHCR

The verification of refugees and asylum seekers, which is a comprehensive registration exercise that seeks to capture detailed individual level information including biometric data from refugees and asylum seekers, continued in Bossaso. Some 7,615 individuals have been verified thus far. Upon verification, refugees and asylum seekers received new certificates. The exercise is expected to improve refugee and asylum seeker data, paving the way for more focused and targeted assistance.

Legal assistance

In Puntland and Somaliland, UNHCR through its partner provided legal assistance to 458 refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community members. Assistance included legal counselling, mediation, advocacy to release from police custody, legal representation before a court, birth certificate and national ID issuance, and referral to other service providers.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

In December, 28 interviews were conducted reaching 121 individuals, 37 RSD assessments were submitted covering 144 individuals, while10 cases comprising 32 individuals were reviewed and/or finalized.



- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services and referrals, including maternal and child
 health care, to 2,025 individuals. The health services primarily benefited refugees and asylum seekers in 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 1,072 patients (680 female, 589 males). Hand washing facilities were also maintained at the entrance and other public areas within the hospital premises.
- In Afgoye, Baidoa, Dinsoor, and Hudur districts, UNHCR's partner conducted COVID-19 prevention awareness raising, reaching 312 HHs (1,872 individuals).

Education

- In Puntland, UNHCR supported 711 refugees and asylum-seekers children enrolled in primary and secondary schools with transportation support. Students in the 6-8 year age group who live more than two km away from schools received the support to ensure their safety and to incentivize parents to send their children to school.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR through its partner distributed 4,268 textbooks to five schools, where most of the students from displaced communities could not afford to buy textbooks.





Drought Response (Risk of Famine)

- UNHCR in Somalia continued to support the mainstreaming of protection in drought response activities. UNHCR conducted a training for WFP staff and their partners in Baidoa on protection mainstreaming principles in the context of the delivery of food and cash assistance and responding to individual cases. In Baidoa, ahead of the WFP food distribution, partners were brief on the protection risk assessment tool to be rolled out during registration in sites where minority groups reside. Likewise, a training session for Protection Desk enumerators working in five (5) IDP sites on responding to individual protection concerns they may come across at the Protection Desk using Prepare, Look, Listen and Link concepts was delivered in Baidoa. They were also briefed on the importance of service mapping and the Protection Desk Counselling and Referral Guide which are being developed for Baidoa.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR supported 90 drought affected individuals, including refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community with training and start-up business grant to promote self-reliance and income generation though fishery-related activities. The training content was developed by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and helped the beneficiaries acquire skills and knowledge related to operating and maintaining fishing gear, repairing boat engine, fish processing, and catching and storing fish. The training comprised of theoretical as well as practical sessions. The grant amount, on the other hand, was used to procure fishing equipment such as boats, engines, and fishing gears.
- In Somaliland, in collaboration with the partners and IDP community committees, UNHCR provided business skills training to 61 drought affected IDPs. Moreover, 47 business applications were assessed and approved for small business grants.
- In Beletwyene, UNHCR through its partner distributed small business grants to 25 IDPs, who had earlier received business skills training. Each beneficiary received USD 800 to start their businesses.



A beneficiary participating in a practical training on fish trapping in Bossaso. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR continued to operate Protection Desks, which helped to identify vulnerable individuals who need assistance and also enhanced outreach and communication with the drought affected IDPs. In Dhobley, Protection Desks recorded 480 cases in Danwadag and Hodan IDP sites. Major concerns for the IDPs were shelter, sanitation, and livelihoods. In Kismayo, Protection Desks covered 31 IDP sites and handled 95 child protection, GBV, and general protection cases. Referrals were also made to other clusters / service providers. In Beletwyene, 102 IDPs accessed the two Protection Desks in Gurmad and Webi-Shabelle IDP sites. Lack of referral pathway was identified as a major gap in the two locations.
- As a part of GBV response to the drought situation in Somaliland, UNHCR through its partners provided livelihood assistance to 56 women in Laascaanood, Burao, and Erigavo. Furthermore, 142 individuals received psychosocial and case management support as well as general information about UNHCR's services through a newly established hotline number.
- UNHCR in Somalia hosted a meeting with local NGOs, including minority rights, minority-led, and women-led organizations, on the impact of drought on displacement and protection. The event was co-organized with OCHA, OHCHR, and the Protection Cluster to discuss a preliminary analysis of protection incidents arising in displacement collected by the PRMN. The meeting was organized to develop collective recommendations for inclusion in a short advocacy paper, which was finalized and disseminated to the international community on 9 December.
- UNHCR through its partner distributed core-relief items, which are comprised of basic household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and jerry cans to fulfil one's basic needs, to 2,000 vulnerable IDP HHs in Beletwyene. An additional 1,000 HHs in Beletwyene also received onetime payment of USD 100, as multipurpose cash assistance to help them cope with the effects of the drought.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR through its partner completed the construction of 172 transitional shelters and 43 communal latrines, all of which were handed over the rightful drought affected IDPs. Furthermore, 136 hybrid transitional shelters with latrines were completed in three drought-affected IDP sites in Burao, Togdheer region in Somaliland.



Shelter and NFI

- In Luglow durable solutions site in Kismayo, UNHCR through its partner completed the construction of the planned 88 permanent shelters, which will be used to locally integrate protracted IDP families in order to find durable solutions for them. Along with the shelters, 45 latrines were also completed.
- In Erigavo of Sanaag region in Somaliland, UNHCR through its partner distributed core-relief items consisting of basic household items such as blankets, mats, kitchen set, and jerry cans to 46 asylum seekers from Ethiopia.



One of the 88 permanent shelters in Luglow. ©UNHCR



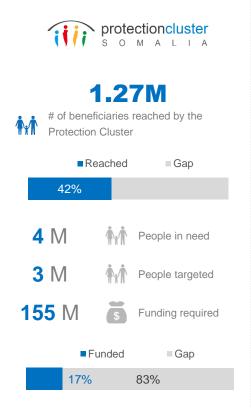
Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

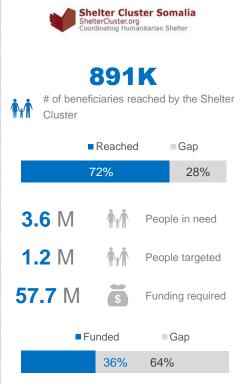
Livelihoods and self-reliance

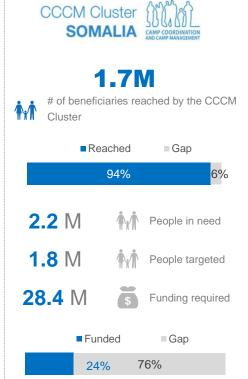
With the aim to create sustainable livelihoods and build resilience for the locally integrated IDP families in Jeehdin durable solutions site in Galkayo, some 100 goats and sheep were delivered to 20 selected female headed households, who received five livestock each. Each beneficiary also received an additional USD 100 to help them construct a shelter for their livestock. The animals were sourced from the local market to helping the local economy.



Cluster Coordination and Leadership









Protection Cluster

- In December, the Protection Cluster partners reached a total of 299,408 individuals through various activities.
- The Protection Cluster developed its 2023 HRP strategy focusing on five major pillars:
 - enhancing protection service delivery (including improved linkages with child protection, GBV, HLP and Explosive Hazards actors and other clusters' partners);
 - o revamping protection monitoring system to make it more agile and fit-for-purpose, i.e. informing and triggering humanitarian response;
 - strengthening cluster partners' capacity at sub-national level, particularly in the priority hubs: Banadir, Baidoa, Beletweyne, Galkayo, and Kismayo;
 - o reinstating the pivotal role of protection of civilians in the response, through analysis, advocacy, and response
 - o stepping up efforts to mobilize all clusters and humanitarian actors to mainstream protection, with the focus on measures to strengthen inclusion of minority and marginalized groups and vulnerability-based prioritization.
- The Protection of Civilians Technical Working Group under the Protection Cluster completed the analysis of protection concerns related to the on-going military operations in the Hirshebelle State and produced a Guidance for Humanitarian Leadership on Protection of Civilians with tailored follow-up actions, which was presented at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) forum.
- In Baidoa, the Protection Cluster worked closely with sub-national Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and partners to incorporate protection in the first-line response of the integrated response modalities in hard-to-reach areas through development of life-saving protection messages, supported referrals, and protection service mapping.
- The Protection Cluster enhanced collaboration with Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support Technical Working Group, with a view to mobilizing and capacitating protection partners to strengthen their specialized service delivery in the area of psychosocial support (PSS). The objective was to select and endorse community-based structured PSS programmes to roll-out in 2023 and ensure coherent reporting of PSS activities across the humanitarian system.

Shelter Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster partners reached 132,395 individuals with NFI kits and 67,264 individuals with shelter assistance. Cumulatively in 2022, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 562,980 individuals (70%) of 803,000 targeted with NFI assistance, and 328,083 individuals (76%) of the 430,800 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.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- Monitoring of available humanitarian services was conducted in 1,269 IDP sites covering 38 districts. According to the findings of the monitoring exercise, among others, only 23% of IDP HHs reportedly received food or cash assistance in the last six months; 63% of the sites had access to water; 89% of shelters in the surveyed sites were of emergency/makeshift in nature; and 47% of sites had access to education facility within 20 minute walking range.
- Nine site verification assessments were conducted in 9 districts- Afmadow, Burtinle, Cabuduwaaq, Cadado, Galbaharey, Galgodob, Garowe, Kismayo, and Qardo. A total of 174 IDP sites with a population of 24,632 HHs (145,688 individuals) were verified through the assessments.
- Partners in Dollow, handed over five semi-permanent information centers aimed at serving as temporary reception centers for new arrivals as well as gathering areas for the community members/leaders in Laden, Kaharey, and Qurdubey in Dollow, Garmadow and Boyle IDP sites in Luuq district.
- CCCM partners conducted 143 community level Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities, raising awareness on fire safety, risk of flooding, prevention of cholera and COVID-19. While 1,821 participants attended events, additional community members were reached through delivery of messages on microphone and distribution of IEC materials in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Belethawa Galkayo, Cadado, Cabuduwaaq, Garowe and Kismayu districts.
- CCCM partners supported creation of governance structures for newly established sites where 140 CMCs with 50% women representation including people with disability were formed.
- CCCM partners enrolled 525 community members (300 men and 225 women) to participate in Cash-for-Work activities for 45 days to carryout sites maintenance and site improvement activities through digging drainage systems, pit-holes for garbage collection, bush clearing, and clearing pathways/feeder roads leading to and from IDP settlements. In Dollow, CCCM partners continued reconfiguration and reconstruction plan aimed at decongesting sites and promote proper site planning standards with spaces for community structures and facilities. So far, partners have demarcated 1,500 plots measuring 10mx5m for each household.
- In the CCCM managed complaint and feedback mechanism, 8,952 complaints were lodged in December compared to 8,265 complaints reported in November, which is an increase of 8%. Food Security and Livelihood, Shelter, and WASH issues constituted of 83% of recorded complaints.



Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2022 amount to US\$ 49.25 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 | Germany 8.5 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

Kuwait | Republic of Korea | Denmark | Norway | Other private donors

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

USA 29.3 million | Private donors Germany 17.6 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million

France | Japan | Norway | 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 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors Italy 19.2 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

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

CONTACTS

Magatte Guisse, Representative, UNHCR Somalia

guisse@unhcr.org, Cell: +252 611 634 665 (Somalia)

LINKS

Somalia: Global Focus | Somalia: Data Portal | UNHCR Somalia | @UNHCRSom







Humanitarian Aid













