

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 April 2023



UNHCR dispatched 2,000 core relief item kits in Bardheere in Gedo region of Jubaland State to support the internally displaced and vulnerable host communities who were affected by the recent flooding. © UNHCR / Daud Abdi Ibrahim

OVERVIEW

In April, the effects of climate change and insecurity made the operational environment in Somalia challenging. The second round of government-led military operation against Al-Shabab, referred to as the non-state armed group (NSAG), is yet to begin in Jubaland and South-West State. However, a precarious security situation continued, with reports of sporadic armed conflict and attacks on civilians by the NSAG from across the country. The political and security situation in Laascaanood remained unpredictable, with no substantial peace negotiations on the horizon. The current rainy season has improved water and pasture access, but more rain is needed to recover from the worst drought in four decades. In April, 89,000 internal displacements were recorded, primarily due to drought and flooding, bringing the overall number of internal displacements in 2023 to 912,000.

Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, refugee returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), and development and humanitarian partners remains one of UNHCR's top priorities in Somalia. Moreover, UNHCR, in collaboration with authorities and partners, continued to provide vital protection assistance to vulnerable IDPs and host communities affected by conflict, flooding, and drought. In Somalia, UNHCR leads/co-leads the Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters for the IDP response.

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

- In response to the drought, UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance, cash for NFI, and cash for emergency shelter to 3,255 HHs (19,800 individuals) in Baidoa, Beletweyne, Dhobley, and Dollow.
- In response to the Laascaanood conflict, UNHCR distributed in-kind and monetized core-relief items and emergency shelter assistance to 1,300 HHs (9,600 individuals) in various parts of the Sool and Togdheer regions in Somaliland.
- With the aim of building the technical capacity of local authorities and partners on durable solutions, UNHCR settlement planning experts facilitated a training on the principles of integrated settlement planning, spatial policy, and settlement profiling.

KEY FIGURES

PERSONS OF CONCERN

3M # of persons of concern to UNHCR Somalia

IDPs	3,864,000
Refugee Returnees (Jan 2020 - Apr 2023)	7,388
Refugees and Asylum Seeker	35,461

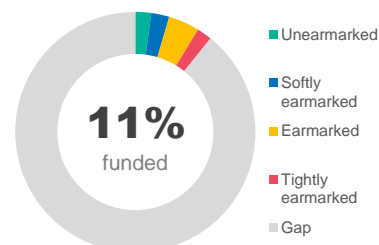
PARTNERS

30 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2023

Government	11
NGO	10
INGO	9

FUNDING

174.2M Funding required for 2023 (as of 5 April)



POPULATION DATA

35,461

Refugees and asylum seekers as of April 2023

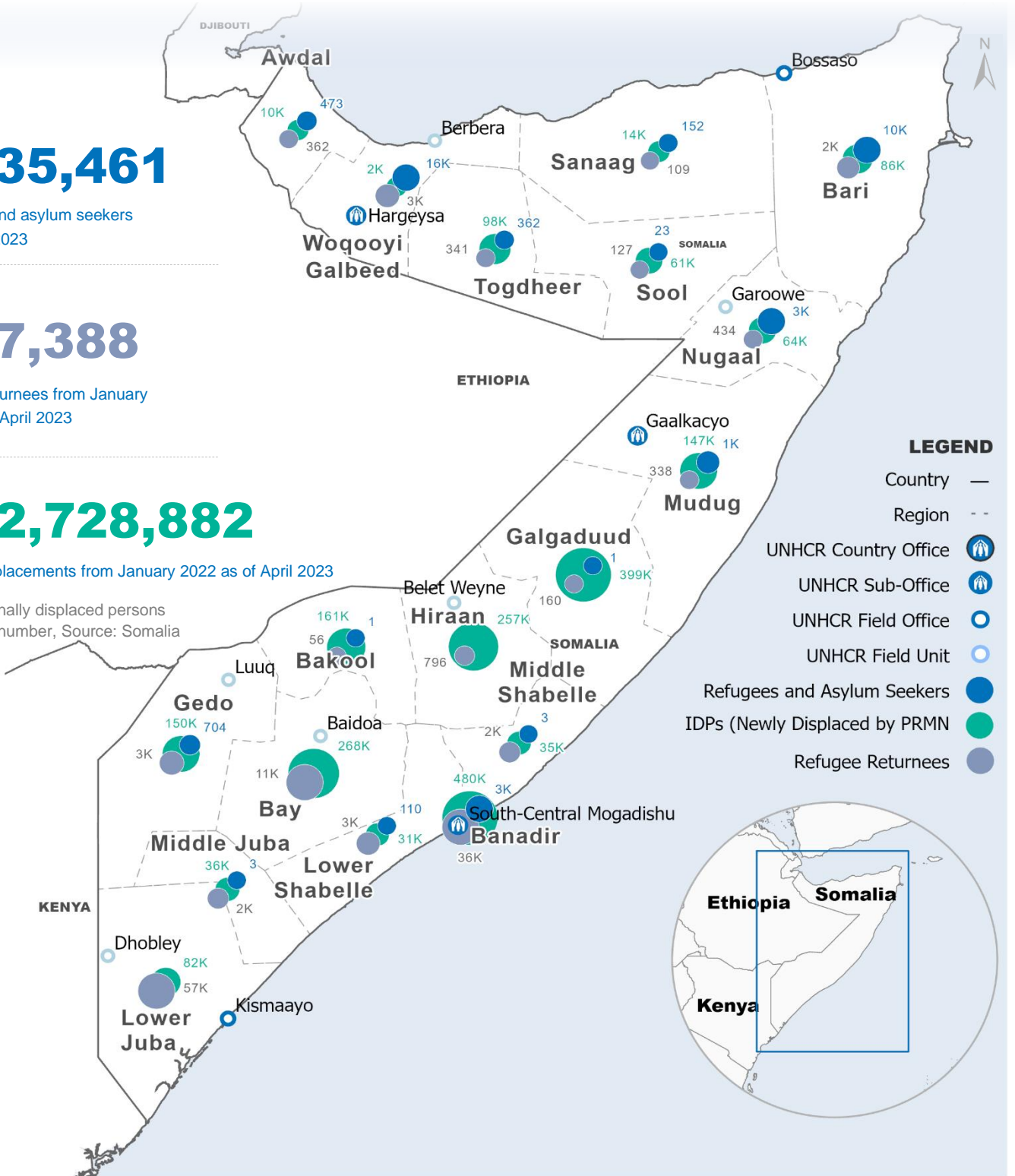
7,388

Refugee returnees from January 2020, as of April 2023

2,728,882

Internal displacements from January 2022 as of April 2023

3.86M Internally displaced persons (Stock IDP number, Source: Somalia IDP WG)



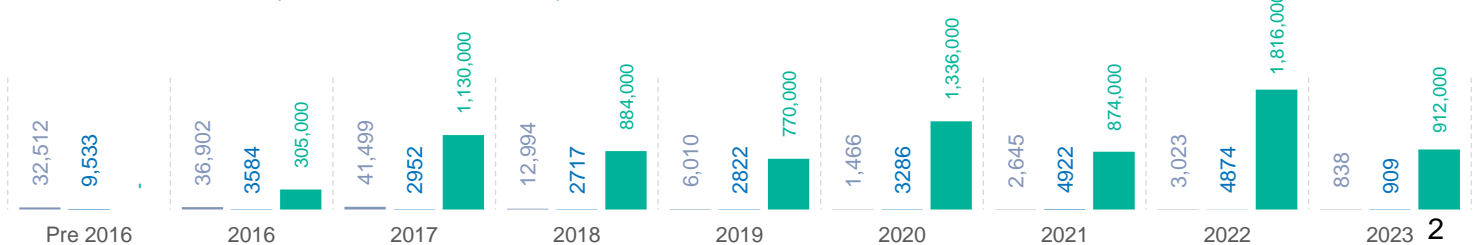
Sources of Data: UNHCR, HDX

Feedback: sommopmn@unhcr.org

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

POPULATION TREND (ARRIVALS PER YEAR)

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



Operational Context

UNHCR continued to operate in an extremely challenging context in Somalia. The risk of famine has decreased as a result of continued humanitarian aid, slightly better rainfall, increased agricultural production, and reduced food prices; nonetheless, overall humanitarian needs remain high. Climate-related displacement, owing to drought and floods, as well as insecurity, have heightened protection concerns, particularly for women and children, who account for more than 80% of Somalia's internally displaced population. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV) because they lack access to basic services and goods such as food and shelter. Since the beginning of the year, more than 23,000 probable cases of watery diarrhea have been reported.

In April, the overall security situation remained fluid. Although the Somali security forces has yet to commence the second phase of military action against the NSAG in South-West State and Jubaland, sporadic armed conflict and reprisal attacks by the NSAG continued. Furthermore, tensions remained elevated in Laascaanood, with periods of general calm interspersed by intermittent skirmishes between the Somaliland security forces and the armed Dhulbahante clan members. Despite calls for unconditional cessation of hostilities in Laascaanood by international partners and mediation efforts by leaders of the Hawiye, Digil, and Mirifle clans from Mogadishu and South-Central Somalia, the chance for immediate peace is low.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), 89,000 displacements within Somalia were recorded in April. Out of the total displacements during the reporting month, 61,000, or 69%, were attributed to the drought, 16,000, or 18%, to flooding, and the remaining 12,000, or 13%, to conflict/insecurity and other reasons. The top humanitarian needs of the displaced families were food (74%), followed by livelihood (16%) and shelter (6%). The top three regions that received the greatest number of new displacements in April were Gedo, followed by Banadir and Bay. More up-to-date information about displacement and the protection needs of the IDPs can be found at the new PRMN online interactive dashboard: <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>.

Somalia hosts some 35,461 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 70% are women and children; 31% are school-age 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%). Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers reside in urban or peri-urban settings across the Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, in the northern part of the country. Furthermore, since January 2020, 7,388 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Yemen, followed by Kenya. From the total number of refugee returnees, 2,224 individuals have been directly assisted by UNHCR through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

Update on Achievements

Protection

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR, through its partner, identified and/or supported 114 new and existing GBV cases in April, including those affected by the conflict in Laascaanood. Services to the survivors included safe house support, meal support, psychosocial counseling, medical and legal referrals, and the provision of one-time protection cash support, among others.

Child Protection

- UNHCR's partner facilitated the reunification of 23 unaccompanied and separated children affected by the conflict in Laascaanood with their guardians.

Community engagement and awareness raising

- In Galkayo, Garowe, and Bossaso, UNHCR, through its partner, conducted information sharing and awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers of and alternatives to irregular migration, reaching 234 individuals, including newly arrived Ethiopian migrants. Vulnerable groups on the move, including children and women at risk, received guidance based on their individual needs. While the majority of those contacted found the information provided valuable, many indicated that they intended to continue their travel to their final destination.
- In response to the conflict in Laascaanood, the two protection desks supported by UNHCR in Widhwidh and Yagoori, Sool region in Somaliland, identified 19 cases with protection concerns, of which 11 were supported with one-time protection cash assistance and 8 cases were referred to service providers for relevant support.
- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center (PCC) in Hargeisa, 330 individuals received counseling and case referral support. The majority of the advice sought was for financial insecurity, followed by concerns about subsistence allowance and refugee status determination (RSD). Where appropriate, cases were referred to relevant partners for further assistance.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, through its partner, supported 171 refugees and asylum seekers (133 females and 38 males) with psychosocial counseling, case management assistance, and information on services provided by UNHCR via a protection help desk and helpline.



A community volunteer facilitates an awareness raising session on irregular migration with a female refugee leader in Bossaso . © CIAUD-Canada

Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- In Berbera, Somaliland, UNHCR and partners received four small boats from Yemen carrying three refugees and eight Somali refugee returnees. Five arrivals were transferred to the UNHCR-managed Reception Center for registration, food, accommodation, health screening, and counseling support.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR and partners received nine young male Somali returnees from Libya. The returnees were taken to the way station, where they received counseling, non-food items, and a phone set with sim card.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR distributed subsistence allowances for March and April to cover basic needs for 92 Somali refugee returnee HHs (140 individuals) from Yemen and Kenya.

Legal assistance

- In Somaliland and Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, provided legal assistance to 416 individuals, mainly refugees, asylum seekers, a handful of IDPs, and the host community. Services included legal counseling, mediation, police reporting, intervention with relevant authorities to secure the release of refugees and asylum seekers from police custody, court-related services including legal representation, birth certificate and national ID issuance, and referral to other service providers.

- UNHCR, through its partner, identified and resolved nine housing, land, and property (HLP) disputes across IDP sites in Baidoa, including six disputes over land encroachment and three disputes on land ownership between spouses.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- In April, UNHCR conducted 13 RSD interviews for 15 individuals, submitted 19 RSD assessments for 64 individuals, and reviewed and/or finalized 26 cases consisting of 61 individuals.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services to 2,531 individuals. Services included consultations and medical screening, laboratory investigations, medical treatments, and referrals to specialized hospitals. The health services primarily benefited refugees and asylum seekers across the country, although some refugee returnees, IDPs, and host community members also received health support in Mogadishu and Somaliland.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR, through its partner and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Democratization (MoIFAD), distributed blood sugar and blood pressure measuring devices to 70 refugees and asylum-seekers. Prior to the distribution, the recipients received guidance on the proper usage of devices from medical personnel.

Education

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR provided school meal support to 836 refugee and asylum seeker children. The students received cash for meal support, which acted as an incentive to improve school attendance.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partner, verified the attendance of 664 refugee and asylum-seeker children in four different schools.
- UNHCR supported 30 Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholars to improve their English proficiency with supplementary English language training. In addition, 54 students who completed the same language course were awarded certificates.
- In Garowe, UNHCR supported 100 refugee and asylum seeker children to attend catch-up classes to improve their Somali and English language skills.



Verification of refuge and asylum seeker children attending a school in Somaliland with support from UNHCR. © Norwegian Refugee Council

Drought Response

- In Beletweyne, UNHCR distributed cash in lieu of NFI assistance to 300 HHs (1,800 individuals), with each family receiving USD 100; cash in lieu of emergency shelter assistance to 700 HHs (4,200 individuals), with each family receiving USD 213; and multipurpose cash assistance to cover the basic needs of 390 HHs (2,340 individuals), with each family receiving USD 100.
- In Dollow, UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance to cover the basic needs of 600 HHs (3,600 individuals) and cash in lieu of NFI for 200 HHs (1,200 individuals). Families received a one-time payment of USD 110 for multipurpose cash assistance and a one-time payment of USD 100 for monetized NFI assistance.
- In Dhobley, UNHCR distributed cash in lieu of NFI assistance to 200 HHs (1,671 individuals), with each family receiving USD 100 and multipurpose cash assistance to 600 HHs (3,600 individuals), with each family receiving USD 90.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance to cover the basic needs of 231 HHs (1,386 individuals), with each family receiving USD 90 and cash in lieu of NFI for 4 HHs (24 individuals), with each family receiving USD 100.

- The UNHCR-supported protection desks at IDP sites in Puntland's Bossaso, Garowe, and Gardo and Galkayo in Galmudug continued to serve as information hubs and referral points, reaching a total of 328 individuals who raised protection concerns due to a lack of access to basic services such as shelter, food, health, and latrine.
- Through the established GBV and protection helpdesks in Erigaabo in the Sanaag region and in the 18 May IDP site in Burao, Togdheer region in Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partner, provided psychosocial support, counseling, referral services, and one-time protection cash support to 146 individuals.
- In Sool and Togdheer regions in Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partners, reached 188 drought-affected IDPs, of whom 50 persons with specific needs (PSN) were provided mobility devices, 27 individuals received psychosocial counseling, and the remaining 111 individuals benefitted from information and awareness sessions on the inclusion of PSN in different humanitarian services.
- In Galmudug, to provide mental health support to pastoralists who lost their livestock due to the drought, UNHCR, its partner, rolled out roving psychosocial counseling services in close collaboration with the existing protection desks. In April, the team of three counselors provided 24 group and 10 individual counseling sessions.
- In IDP sites in Bossaso, Burtinle, Gardo, and Garowe, UNHCR installed 16 street solar lights and rehabilitated 20 non-functioning street solar lights to mitigate against GBV and enhance the overall safety of the IDP sites.
- To improve the living conditions across 25 IDP sites in Bossaso and Gardo in Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, concluded site cleaning and site improvement activities using the cash-for-work modality that benefitted 200 IDPs. In addition, 62 latrines were rehabilitated, and 45 latrines went through the desludging process in the aforementioned two locations.



Field staff help an IDP record her case/complaint in a UNHCR supported protection help desk in Beletweyne, Hirshabelle. © Somali Women Development Center

Shelter and NFI

- In response to the Laascaanood conflict, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed core relief items (CRI) that consist of basic household items such as blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, and a kitchen set, among others, to 500 HHs (3,000 individuals) in Yagoori, Sool region. Moreover, UNHCR, through its partner, also distributed cash for NFI and cash for shelter to a total of 800 HHs (6,366 individuals) in various locations in the Sool and Togdheer regions hosting IDPs from Laascaanood.
- In Beletweyne, Hiran region of Hirshabelle State, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed dignity kits to 405 IDP women and girls of reproductive age. Case workers and/or protection help desks were able to identify the recipients, who included flood victims.
- In Jowher, Middle Shabelle region of Hirshabelle State, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed CRI kits to 637 IDP HHs (3,822 individuals) who were affected by the conflict in the region.

Capacity building


- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, in collaboration with ACTED, organized and facilitated a capacity-building training on durable solutions targeting local authorities and partners. UNHCR settlement planning experts from Geneva and Uganda facilitated a session covering the principles of integrated settlement planning towards long-term development efforts, spatial policy, and settlement profiling process.
- In Puntland, UNHCR's partner on mixed migration, in collaboration with the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), facilitated a two-day workshop on evidence-based reporting on migration for 30 journalists. The participants learned about the concept of mixed migration, trends, risks, and UNHCR's framework and principles that guide refugee, IDP, and mixed migration responses. Moreover, discussions were held on ethical considerations and the importance of balanced, timely, and inclusive information when reporting on refugee and migrant issues.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR conducted a training of trainers (ToT) on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) for its partners in Somaliland.



Cluster Coordination and Leadership



1.39M

 # of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap

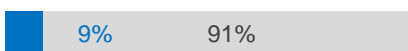


5 M  People in need


3.2 M  People targeted

211 M  Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap



419K

 # of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap



4.9 M  People in need


1.4 M  People targeted

85 M  Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap



1.5M

 # of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap

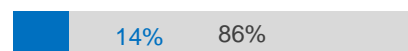


2.8 M  People in need

2.45 M  People targeted

66 M  Funding required

■ Funded ■ Gap



Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster conducted and participated in inter-cluster missions to Mogadishu, Dhusamareeb, and Bardheere and met with authorities, partners, and communities. In all locations, concerns related to exclusion risks and the unavailability of tailored services for persons with specific needs, notably older people and persons with disabilities, were prevalent. In addition, the Protection Cluster looked into the response capacity and related gaps, as well coordination and referral functions, and is working with the state-level Protection Cluster coordinators to implement the recommendations.
- The Protection Cluster convened several consultations with the members of the Protection of Civilian Working Group to anticipate risks to the protection of civilians ahead of the forthcoming military offensive expected to affect South-West and Jubaland states. The Working Group identified measures, including advocacy priorities and community protection dialogues, to contribute toward prevention efforts. Advocacy efforts were immediately launched with the main civilian and military counterparts. The Protection Cluster is also advising the Access Working Group on scenario development to enable protection preparedness and response planning.
- The Protection Cluster worked with other clusters to reduce the exclusion of minority and marginalized group from humanitarian response. In consultation with Minority Rights Organizations, the Protection Cluster is developing a standard operating procedure for identification and fast-track referrals for excluded cases.
- The Protection Cluster reviewed of the Centrality of Protection objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan to engage all clusters toward a humanitarian response to which the do no harm principle is fully centralized in practice.

Shelter Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster partners reached 54,186 individuals with NFIs and 135,703 individuals with shelter assistance in April. Cumulatively in 2023, 419,299 individuals or 30% of the targeted population have received Shelter or NFI assistance from the cluster partners.
- Shelter remains one of the top priority needs of the displaced population. Around 4.9 million people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance in Somalia.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- CCCM Cluster partners conducted site verification assessments to authenticate existing IDP sites and to rule out fake ones in Belet Xaawo district, where 5 sites with 11,800 HHs (70,800 individuals) were assessed.
- Service monitoring activities were conducted across 1,324 IDP sites covering 34 districts under the administration of 16 partners. Overall, 58% of the sites had access to water; 43% of the sites had education facilities within the sites; 47% had access to health facilities; and 61% had nutrition facilities. 88% of the sites were made up of emergency shelters, and only 13% of households claimed to have received cash or food assistance within the last 6 months.
- In April, the number of issues raised through the CCCM-managed complaint and feedback mechanism stood at 4,918, a decrease by 25% compared to the previous month. Most of the complaints raised in April were attributed to food and livelihood needs (1,746), which made up 36% of the total issues recorded, followed by shelter (1,379), and WASH (828), which made up 28% and 17% of the total issues recorded, respectively.
- The CCCM Cluster partners conducted 67 meetings with local authorities in Afgooye, Beletweyne, Dayniile, Galkayo, Khada, Kismayo, and Garbaharrey to discuss early warning alerts for flood and flood risk mitigation and response plans.
- To enhance communication with communities, the CCCM Cluster partners conducted orientation sessions on available humanitarian services, including malnutrition screening in Dayniile, Khada, Beletweyne, Baidoa, and Galkayo. The partners also carried out door-to-door sessions and public awareness-raising campaigns in IDP sites, coupled with the distribution of posters and the erecting of billboards in several sites, with the intention of providing reliable information on available services; a total of 26,115 participants attended these sessions.
- The CCCM Cluster partners conducted site decongestion activities to improve access and mitigate the risk of fire in congested sites, waste disposal management and drainage systems. The partners carried out a total of 887 site improvement activities, including regular site cleanup campaigns to collect garbage/wastes using Cash for Work approach by engaging site maintenance committees and community volunteers.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2023 amount to **USD 18.75 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 2023 | USD

United States of America 6.4 million | **CERF** 3.2 million | **Japan** 3.1 million | **Germany** 1.1 million | **World Food Programme** 0.5 million

Denmark | Other private donors

Thanks to the donors of softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2023 | USD

United States of America 7.2 million | **Canada** 3.9 million | **Finland** 3.1 million | **Private donors Australia** 2.1 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds to UNHCR in 2023 | USD

Sweden 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Netherlands** 34.1 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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