

SOMALIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 January 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,106,000

Total estimated number of Somali IDPs

12,266

Total number of non-Somali Refugees/Asylum Seekers

7,318

New IDPs due to AMISOM/SNAF offensive (as of 30 September 2014)

28,926

Forcibly evicted in Mogadishu in January 2015

1,455

Spontaneous cross-border movements from Kenya and Ethiopia registered during January upon arrival in Somalia

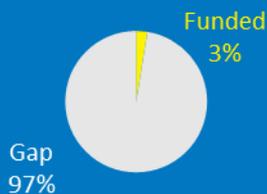
789

Supported refugee returns from Kenya since 8 December 2014

FUNDING

USD 79,321,576

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

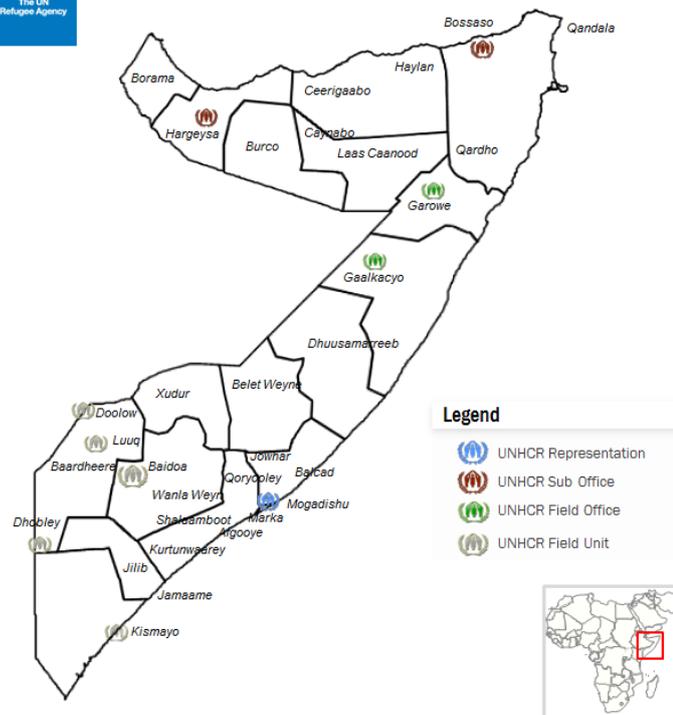
- Mainstreaming of Durable Solutions within the New Deal Compact - establishing of a DS Task Force under PSG 4-Economic Foundations and PSG 5-Revenue and Services
- Support local integration and return & reintegration projects through coordination with humanitarian & development actors

HIGHLIGHTS

- During January, 789 Somali, now former refugees, crossed the border from Kenya to return to Kismayo (583), Baidoa (187) and Luuq (19). The six months Pilot Phase offers support to Somali refugees in Kenya who have decided to return home to one of three designated areas of origin. Since the Pilot Phase was launched on 8 December 2014, a total of 1,275 persons have received return and reintegration support.



UNHCR Offices in Somalia



Population of concern

A total of **1.12 M** persons of concern

Non-Somali Asylum Seekers | 9,511

Non-Somali Refugees | 2,540

IDPs | 1,106,000

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

2015 started up-hill at the Somali Federal Government level, with a political crisis that caused three months of absence of effective Government and left the Somali Federal Parliament divided and distracted. Following his appointment as new Prime Minister, the third in two years, on 25 December 2014, Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke – former Somali Ambassador to the US – had to withdraw his two first proposed Cabinet line-ups. On Monday 9 February, Prime Minister Sharmarke presented a third and revised Cabinet line-up of 66 members (26 Ministers, 14 State Ministers, and 26 Deputy Ministers) and managed to have the vote of confidence from the Parliament. Most of the Cabinet members are technocrats/professionals, coming from the young Somali diaspora.

The Juba regional assembly process in Kismayo, Lower Juba region, has been ongoing with the support of IGAD. The Interim Jubba Administration (IJA) advised that clan mapping in each district of the Lower and Middle Juba regions has been completed. Next step is a vetting process to determine who are genuine ‘clan elders’. In parallel with the regional assembly process, preparations continued in Garbahaarey, Gedo region, for the *Midimo* (Unity) II conference that will include the participation of Marehan clan elites who are opposed to the IJA. The traditional senior clan leadership of the Marehan appears to be divided in their support to the IJA.

On 27 January, a two-day New Deal Compact Peace-building and State-building Goal 4 (PSG 4 – Economic Foundations) working group meeting in Garowe was launched by Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali ‘Gaas’, who welcomed participants from across Somalia including: Somali Federal Government, interim regional Administrations, foreign embassies, international organisations, NGOs and the UN. UNHCR presented the possible establishment of a sub-working group on Solutions for the Displaced under PSG 4 (Economic Foundations) and PSG 5 (Revenue and Services). The meeting reviewed the New Deal process and focused specifically on the action plan, milestones and project concepts for PSG 4. President Gaas encouraged productive discussions in order to make 2015 the ‘year of delivery’ in line with the UN vision, and highlighted that authority, responsibility, and resources should be shared equally.

In Somaliland, the security situation remained calm although crime is on the rise in Hargeisa, perpetrated by youth gangs, targeting mostly women. The Ministry of Interior responded to this new trend with serious measures including extensive prison sentences. The gangs have on several occasions targeted UN cars throwing stones and spitting. Tensions over the disputed Sool, Sanaag and Cayn regions continued.

Achievements

Protection

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by DRC together with the Shelter Cluster is increasing its work on Housing, Land and Property Rights in Somalia. The Cluster standardized the UNHCR piloted pre-eviction assessment tool, which allows to better ensure that evictions are carried out in line with international standards and to improve the response to evictees. Training of partners is planned for February, in Mogadishu initially. The Protection Cluster was participating in the partners brief for the After Action Review of Operation Indian Ocean addressing protection concerns associated with the concluded military offensive. The Cluster has furthermore concluded the CRC process and selected partner projects on GBV, child protection and HLP for the first CHF funding allocation in 2015.

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central, on 19 January 2015, 30 households in Bureyle IDP settlement, Luuq (Gedo region) were evicted by gatekeepers. They were provided with new land by the local administration. Eviction assessments were done and shared with UNHCR Protection Unit and Protection Cluster.



From the People of Japan



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



UKaid
from the British people



Italian Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



Common Humanitarian Fund



CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

- In Galkayo, distribution of up-to-date refugee certificates to all refugee families was concluded. An interagency assessment of IDP settlements in South Galkayo was led and conducted by UNHCR in order to determine gaps and needs in protection, health and living conditions.
- In Bossaso and Gardo, approximately 49,000 IDPs live in 35 settlements while another 10,000 live in 11 settlements in Garowe. The majority of the IDPs living in Puntland originate from South Central Somalia. There are currently 822 asylum seeker cases (2,439 individuals), and 118 recognised refugee cases (366 individuals) registered with UNHCR Bossaso, originating primarily from Ethiopia. Additionally, Bossaso serves as a main crossing point for Yemen over the Gulf of Aden and thus the region experiences broad mixed migratory movements. In Bossaso, the first Protection Cluster meeting of 2015 was held in January with high attendance of cluster members. UNHCR's new partner, Agency for Peace & Development (APD), working with UNHCR on GBV response and prevention, conducted a two day training event for IDP focal points working closely with the organization. UNHCR's legal aid partner, KAAALO, provided legal counselling to eight beneficiaries, monitored five cases in detention, and represented three cases in court during January.
- In Somaliland, as of end of January 2015, there are 2,104 refugees as well as 6,843 asylum seekers. One Syrian asylum seeker was registered. 22 asylum seekers are pending registration (18 of 2014, 4 of 2015). A total of 15 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted and an array of complementary interviews. Two Eligibility Officers are currently working on RSD processing. Two cases (seven individuals) were also recognized as refugees. A training session on refugee law was conducted including RSD definitions, the concept of well-founded fear and persecution (overview/methodology). This is part of a six-month training programme for Government, partners, and UNHCR staff. Furthermore, a training strategy has been drafted.

UNHCR implementing partner Legal Clinic received and supported 46 legal cases (18 criminal and 28 civil).

Subsistence Assistance was reviewed and 74 cases deleted from the monthly allowance distribution as the panel did no longer identify them as extremely vulnerable cases.

As part of current capacity building initiatives, the administration conducted an in-house workshop on UNHCR's revised policy on Performance Management. The workshop was attended by all staff members.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Limited monitoring and data collection capacity of returnees at the port in Bossaso.
- Limited baseline data is available with regard to IDPs in Somaliland. Currently, 94 asylum seeker cases are pending appeal review at UNHCR Hargeisa Sub-Office, as well as 2,266 cases pending first instance RSD processing.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, 52 refugee children were enrolled in primary school with the support of UNHCR.
- In Bossaso, as of January 2015, 451 refugee and asylum seeker children were enrolled in school; 231 of these are girls. 134 children were provided with transportation assistance to facilitate their regular attendance at school.
- In Somaliland, the Child Protection Working Group took up intensive advocacy efforts for refugees to have access to public education.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Somaliland, 228 first grade refugee/asylum seeker students are still not enrolled in public primary school since September 2014. Continuation of advocacy took place (positive letter received during first week of February 2015).





Health

Achievements and Impact

- In Baidoa, South Central: Completion and handing over of Bayhaw Hospital took place in early January and the Hospital is now providing free medical services for about 100 -120 patients per day with the vast majority being IDPs. The new facility and services improve conduciveness for the sustainable reintegration of returnees.
- In Galkayo, Puntland: UNHCR and its partner Galkayo Medical Center (GMC) met with the refugee committee to plan medical screenings of all refugee families. In January, GMC provided medical screening of 13 households, comprising 43 individuals. The process will continue until all refugee households have undergone medical screening.
- In Bossaso, Puntland: UNHCR’s implementing partner Group for Transcultural Relationship (GRT) continued to provide quality health care to refugees and asylum seekers. 57 persons were referred to Bossaso General Hospital for treatment and 38 for medical assistance in Garowe.
- In Somaliland: revision of health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) took place. Health SOPs structure the health response within Hargeisa in order to provide a more timely access to quality medical services for persons of concern. Health SOPs re-emphasize the importance of exiting parallel health structures and to strengthen referral pathways for medical care.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to limited medical skills, capacities and facilities, it remains a challenge to treat complicated medical cases in Somaliland.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFI Cluster

- The UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster finalised 9 IDP settlement infrastructure mapping exercises in Baidoa, Kismayo, Jowhar, Marka, Diff, Dhobley, Afmadow, Hargeisa and Burao during December 2014 and January 2015. Reports will be finalised and shared in February. The Shelter Cluster further piloted an inter-sectorial rapid needs assessment tool in Mahadey.

Achievements and Impact

In Galkayo, Puntland: In addition to the construction of a community center, owner-driven construction of 51 permanent shelters and pit latrines took place in Salama 2, a local integration site, with keys handed over to the beneficiaries who had carried out individual shelter site clearances. UNHCR Representative visited Salama 2 and met with the now former displaced on 19 January, during a round trip in Somalia.



UNHCR Somalia Representative visiting Salama 2 seeing the new permanent shelters for local integration of IDPs, Galkayo/UNHCR

- In Somaliland: An IDP settlement infrastructure mapping exercise was concluded as well as a half day workshop with humanitarian and development partners.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- In Galkayo, Puntland: The UNHCR Seeds for Solutions projects implemented by Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) included garment production/tailoring training of 40 women and welding/carpentry for 30 men. The participants received equipment, moved into permanent locations and have begun the production of a variety of products.



UNHCR Somalia Representative visiting the Community Garment Production Center and Wooden and Metallic Merchandise Production Center, Galkayo/UNHCR

- In Bossaso and Garowe, Puntland: 120 men and women engaged in the UNHCR supported livelihood programme began 2015 by starting up their new businesses.
- In Somaliland: UNHCR partner, DRC, launched a community empowerment project with a focus on gender aspects, in preparation of the upcoming election of members for the IDP Committee in Ayaha 4 permanent settlement. An IDP committee is part of each permanent settlement, thus four IDP relocation sites are targeted this year in order to strengthen the community development and empowerment.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- In South Central: Return and reintegration assistance was provided to 61 now former IDP households returning from Las Anod and Burco in Somaliland, to Baidoa in Bay region. The group was composed of people returning to rural and urban (50/50) areas who were provided with support in line with the Standard Minimum Package (SMP) offered through the UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium – www.somaliareturnconsortium.org. Returnees are made aware of the Beneficiary Feedback System allowing for dialogue and easy access to an innovative and toll free complaints mechanism. Since the launch of the Voluntary Refugee Return Pilot Phase on 8 December 2014, a total of 1,275 people have decided to give up their refugee status and return to Somalia to the three areas identified for return support during the six months Pilot Phase. Weekly updates are published via @UNHCRSom and on the Somalia Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/country.php?id=197>. In Luuq, Gedo region, rehabilitation of a slaughter house for 20 butchers is under way. Tree trimming in Luuq was completed through Cash for Work project.
- In Galkayo, Puntland: A Durable Solutions Working Group meeting was convened with all stakeholders, including Government officials. A preliminary durable solutions framework was developed by the group. In line with the Somalia Return Consortium standards, 254 NFI kits were distributed to IDP families returning from displacement in Tawakal and Megaga, through UNHCR’s implementing partners DRC and operational partner HACP.
- In Garowe, Puntland: Permanent land measuring 600 m2 was secured for the local integration of IDPs in collaboration with the Puntland authorities.



- In Somaliland, a group of 400 IDPs (166 households) returned to Awdal and Togdheer regions, with the support of the UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium members and partners NRC, DRC and FCA. Two families/five individuals departed for resettlement in Canada and Norway. UNHCR officially handed over two IDP primary schools, two police posts, a solar light project together with a tree planting project in Digale and Ayaha 4 permanent settlements. UNHCR Representative visited Ayaha 4 settlement and attended the hand-over ceremony on 22 January 2015.



UNHCR Representative at handover ceremony after primary school rehabilitation, community police post and solar lighting project in Ayaha 4 permanent settlement, Hargeisa/UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to political sensitivity, the Somaliland delegation could not attend the second roundtable on durable solutions for the displaced that took place in Mogadishu on 21-22 January, with participants from the Federal Government of Somalia, Puntland, Interim Juba Administration, and Interim South West Administration. A first roundtable, facilitated by UNHCR, was held in Nairobi on 5 November 2014, with the participation of Somaliland. Dialogue on how to maintain the collaboration with other Administrations at humanitarian technical level has taken place with the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (MRR&R). The Somaliland Government is exploring the possibility to host the next durable solutions roundtable in Hargeisa.

Working in partnership

- As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR works closely with other UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels, in the joint efforts to provide assistance and durable solutions to the people of Somalia. Through weekly inter-agency meetings and other platforms, UNHCR actively engages in coordination and information-sharing, particularly with UNSOM and OCHA. As a lead agency of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and the coordination of the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), UNHCR spearheads productive partnerships with more than 60 national and international NGOs. Since mid-2012, UNHCR leads the Somalia Return Consortium, a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs providing coordinated and standardized assistance to IDPs, and since recently also to refugees, who opt to return and reintegrate in their areas of origin to end displacement. Together with IOM, UNHCR further leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF).
- UNHCR Sub Office Galkayo oversees UNHCR Field Office Bossaso and Field Unit in Garowe, and is responsible for projects in Puntland. In Galkayo areas, projects are implemented in partnership with six NGO partners: DRC, NRC, INTERSOS, RI, GMC, and GECPD as well as one Governmental partner, Mudug Regional Administration. Other operational partners include UNOCHA, UNDSS, and UNICEF. New efforts have been launched since January in partnership with OCHA to revive and strengthen the Protection Cluster. All cluster groups require empowerment and strategic direction in order to fully meet the needs and fill gaps for persons of concern.
- Field Office Bossaso covers UNHCR operations in Bari, Nugal and Eastern Sanag Regions, and closely works with six implementing partners in Puntland, other UN agencies, IDP and refugee communities, NGOs, and Government Ministries. UNHCR co-chairs the Durable Solutions Working Group and the Mixed Migration Task Force. UNHCR is further an active participant in the GBV and Child Protection Working Groups, and co-leads the Protection Cluster in Bossaso.
- In Somaliland, bilateral meetings took place between UNHCR and all partners in order to finalize the 2015 agreements. A protection/programme partner meeting was conducted in order to prioritize activities from January to March 2015 and to



discuss joint training plans. Eight Partner Project Agreements (PPAs) were signed, and first installment payment released to seven partners. A courtesy visit was paid by the Head of Office to the Somaliland Minister of Youth, Sports and Tourism to provide an overview of UNHCR’s current activities and to inform on the Peaceful Co-existence center to be built in Ayaha 4 permanent settlement for IDPs and local community.

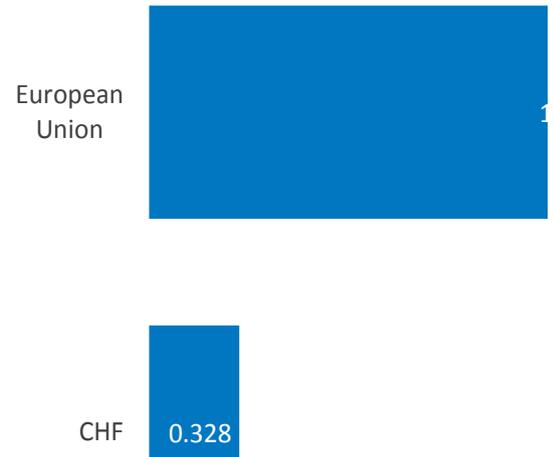
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In January 2015, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **USD 2M**

In 2014, total recorded contributions for the operation amounted to **USD 30.5M** from [United States of America](#) | [Japan](#) | [European Union](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Canada](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Italy](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [IGAD](#) | [Kuwait](#) | [Common Humanitarian Fund](#) | [Central Emergency Response Fund](#)

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Funding received in January 2015 (in million USD)



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Links:

Somalia Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/country.php?id=197>
 UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium website: <http://somalireturnconsortium.org/>
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