

SOMALIA NEWSLETTER

UNHCR IN 2017

A **whole-of-society approach**: new way of providing assistance to the community and finding durable solutions for persons of concern



844,467

persons in need provided life-saving assistance



US\$ 27.7 million

provided in cash assistance to **83,000** persons



36,747

Somali refugees provided with return assistance



8,306

persons provided with livelihood opportunities

Throughout the year, UNHCR Somalia provided life-saving assistance to 844,467 persons in need, provided return assistance to 36,747 Somali refugees who opted for voluntary repatriation, provided livelihood opportunities to 8,306 persons, provided cash assistance in amount of US\$ 27.7 million to 83,000 persons, assisted 6,580 new arrivals from Yemen, and tracked displacements and protection incidents of 1.13 million newly displaced persons¹ through the UNHCR-led Protection Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) project.



The UNHCR Representative welcoming Somali refugee returnees from Kenya at the Kismayo Airport. © UNHCR/November 2017

In 2017, UNHCR Somalia continued with the implementation of a new approach while providing immediate and long-term assistance in order to find lasting and sustainable solutions for all persons of concern, including host community. The new approach, called a **whole-of-society approach**, has been developed based on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). All 193 members of the United Nations have joined the vision laid in the CRRF by signing the New York Declaration.

¹ Some figures in this Newsletter are provisional and might be adjusted after the final verification.

A whole-of-society approach

UNHCR Somalia made significant steps in order to implement a new way of working aimed at finding [durable solutions for persons of concern, including members of host communities in Somalia](#). One of the main principles of the whole-of-society approach, as envisioned by the New York Declaration, has been translated into a regional document, the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, [to find lasting solutions for Somali refugees in the region](#). The Government of Somalia has drafted its National Action Plan.

Voluntary repatriation

In 2017, UNHCR Somalia [provided return assistance to 36,747 Somali refugees](#) who were repatriated with support from UNHCR programmes: 35,409 from Kenya, 814 from Yemen, 521 from Djibouti, two from Tunisia and one from Eritrea. Furthermore, in 2017 UNHCR Somalia constructed 1,041 shelters and 442 latrines, provided subsistence allowance to 12,008 households (57,710 persons)² and reinstallation grants to 37,470 persons (7,960 households), provided livelihood opportunities to 6,722 persons, enrolled 14,586 students in school year 2017/2018 and targeted 38 public premises or locations for improvement; including eight schools, three football stadiums, two health and two community centres, one market and one boat centre, and beautifying 18 districts.



Constructed shelters and latrines in Kismayo will be a new home of returnees, IDPs and local community. © UNHCR/May 2017

The largest UNHCR operation using CBIs in Africa

With the distribution of over US\$ 27.7 million to 83,000 persons of concern (over 16,500 families) Somalia became the largest UNHCR operation using cash-based interventions (CBIs) in Africa and the fourth largest in the world. About 58,000 were returnees: 37,500 arrived in 2017, while 20,240 came in 2016 and their balance monthly subsistence allowances were paid in 2017. Over 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers received subsistence allowance and around US\$ 6.5 million was distributed through partners for education, livelihood, shelter and core relief items.

Response to Yemen situation

UNHCR in Somalia provided protection and humanitarian assistance to persons of concern fleeing from Yemen. In 2017, [6,580 new arrivals](#) reached Somalia from Yemen, including 5,515 Somalis, 1,014 Yemeni refugees and 51 third country nationals.

² Note: 4,048 households (20,240 persons) arrived in 2016 and their balance monthly subsistence allowances were paid in 2017.

Humanitarian response

Implementation of a humanitarian response in Somalia is coordinated through a [cluster approach](#). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, Shelter and NFI Cluster and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. In 2017, clusters led or co-led by UNHCR [reached 3,191,278 persons](#); the Protection Cluster assisted 763,966 persons, the Shelter and NFI cluster assisted 927,312 persons and CCCM Cluster established CCCM mechanisms in 607 IDP sites, reaching over 980,000 IDPs in sites. Through the Detailed Site Assessment, the CCCM cluster reached 1.6 M IDPs and covered 1,751 IDP sites in 22 districts.

Life-saving assistance

The year 2017 was marked as a year of drought. UN in Somalia quickly adapted to prioritize humanitarian response to those who were affected by drought by providing life-saving assistance. Since the beginning of drought in November 2016 to December 2017, UNHCR has provided [life-saving assistance to 844,467 people in need](#): 485,208 with water, 268,352 benefited from Core Relief Items (CRIs), 42,713 with health, sanitation and hygiene activities, 32,449 with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other protection interventions, and 15,646 with cash assistance.

Online interactive dashboard

UNHCR Somalia has also launched an [Online Interactive Dashboard](#) for internal displacements monitored by the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Trends of origins and arrival points of displacements over 2016-2017 can be viewed according to primary cause, region or time of displacement.



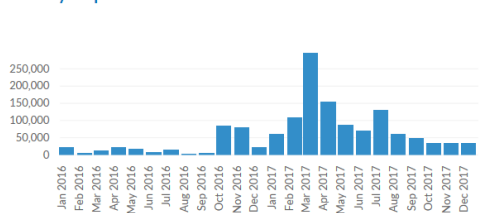
SOMALIA INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Displacements Monitored by UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN)

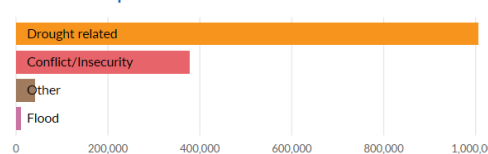
Total Displacements

1,435,000

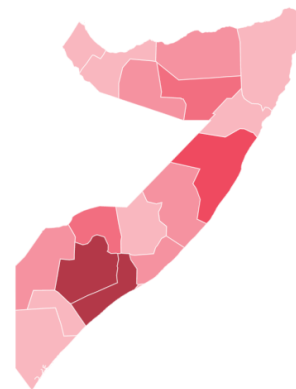
Monthly Displacements



Reasons for Displacement



Departure Regions Map



Departure Regions



Internal displacements

Throughout the year, UNHCR Somalia has [identified and reported on displacements of populations](#) in Somalia as well as on protection incidents in partnership with NRC through the Protection & Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN). Based on PRMN reports, at least [1.13 million individuals have been newly displaced during 2017](#). Out of this figure, for 893,000 the primary reason recorded for displacement was related to drought, 203,000 for conflict and insecurity and 34,000 other reasons. However, it should be noted that the underlying causes of displacement in Somalia are often complex and intertwined – the pressures imposed by the drought are exacerbated by widespread conflict and insecurity and lack of access for humanitarian support in many areas.

UNHCR's footprint

UNHCR in Somalia has 11 offices: one Branch Office in Mogadishu, three Sub-Offices in Galkacyo, Hargeysa and Mogadishu; one Field Office in Bossaso; five Field Units in Baidoa, Dhobley, Garoowe, Kismayo and Luuq; and one Support Office in Nairobi.

A total of 157 staff members: 96 national and 40 international staff, 13 affiliate workforce and eight international UN volunteers and over 50 international and national partners have been providing assistance to persons of concern.



All staff meeting chaired by the UNHCR Representative in Somalia after the incident in Mogadishu on 14 October which has left around 500 persons dead, over 300 injured and 200 are still missing. © UNHCR/October 2017

Funding

UNHCR assistance was possible because of generous contributions from donors, which have contributed US\$ 55.8 million, representing 47 per cent of the total US\$ 118.7 million requested for the operation in 2017. This newsletter edition shows the main achievements of UNHCR Somalia made in 2017.

Donors

UNHCR Somalia is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with non-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as to those who have contributed directly to the situation: United States of America, Japan, European Union, CERF, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Priv Donors Germany, Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation, MBC Al Amal, Canada, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Jassim & Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation, GSK, LDS, Priv Donors Switzerland, UNIQLO Co., Ltd, Priv Donors USA and Priv Donors Italy



Integrated shelter settlement for returnees, IDPs and local community

On 18 December in Kismayo, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, together with the Vice President of the State of Jubaland and returnees opened a settlement with 100 shelters as well as a school, a Mother Child Health Centre, a Police Station, a community market and four shallow wells. An integrated shelter project accommodated 100 families; 60 returnee, 20 IDP and 20 families from the host community. The project embodied the approach enshrined in the New York Declaration, taking into consideration a whole of society by ensuring durable solutions for all.

During the visit, the High Commissioner pledged to continue investing in housing, education and livelihoods for returning refugees, IDPs and the local population.



The High Commissioner [right] and the Vice President [middle] handing over the shelters to beneficiaries. © UNHCR/ December 2017

See also: [UN refugee chief finds Somalia suffering from instability and drought, but sees hope](#)

Omar (*not his real name*) is a 60-year-old internally displaced person who is a beneficiary of the shelters implemented by UNHCR through American Refugee Committee (ARC) in Kismayo. He used to live at Mareerey, a small town famously known for its sugar production, and had a fully functioning sugar factory until the break of the civil war. He became internally displaced and was moving around with his family for safety in various locations within the Middle and Lower Juba regions and looking for a better means of survival. He has been internally displaced in Kismayo for more than three years and one morning, he was called to be informed that he is the beneficiary of the constructed shelters funded by UNHCR.

"Thanks to the Lord Almighty, great thanks to UNHCR and ARC for their shelter support, I didn't own a single step of land in Kismayo but now I live in my own house, though I don't have the financial ability to fence my land but I am absolutely happy and thankful, previously I had difficulties in paying my monthly rents." recalled Omar when he was informed about shelter.

He is currently living in his new home with his wife and three children.

Re-establishing life in Somalia after fleeing war from Yemen



UNHCR provided assistance to Yemeni refugees who fled the war in Yemen and with support from UNHCR Ali has rebuilt his life in Somalia. © UNHCR/ 2017

Ali (*not his real name*) is a 37 year old Yemeni refugee who arrived in Bosasso with his family in January 2017 due to the war in Yemen. Upon arrival at the Bosasso port, his family was received by UNHCR, partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and government authorities. They were provided with water, food and medical assistance at the reception centre. After Ali and his family were settled in Bosasso, he was selected as a beneficiary for the small-business programme implemented by DRC with support from UNHCR.

As a part of this project, Ali received training on small-business investment and was provided with a start-up grant of US\$ 1,000 to start his own business. He invested his grant in purchasing a car and established a business offering transport services. Ali is now earning an income which is helping him to support himself and his family.

"I am grateful and happy that I am engaged in income generating activity and able to provide for my family needs. [...] My daily income covers the house expenditures [...] and when it is compared with my previous income, it has a big difference." shared Ali.

As of 31 December 2017, Somalia has hosted 10,776 Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2017, UNHCR Somalia has received 1,014 Yemeni refugees and provided the following assistance: registration, core relief items, multi-purpose cash supplement, access to education, access to health, psychosocial support, legal assistance, multifaceted assistance to persons with specific needs, cash assistance and livelihood opportunities.

For the Response to the Yemen Situation, of the total needs assessed amounting to US\$ 7.8 million, UNHCR received generous contributions from donors amounting to US\$ 5.7 million, representing 74 per cent of total requirements.

Solar energy technologies changed lives of an IDP community



UNHCR observes IDPs learn solar power system maintenance. © UNHCR/ 2017

Abdi (*not his real name*), a 29-year-old man, is a father of two living in Tawakal IDP settlement in Galkacyo. With his family of three, Abdi operates a small shop within the settlement on which they rely for their livelihood. October 2017 marked a turning point in his life. He was among the 20 IDP and host community boys selected to undergo a technical and educational vocational training in solar power systems maintenance and repairs. The training conducted by UNHCR partner Galkacyo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD)³ sought to equip and empower communities in IDP settlements to take responsibility for maintaining and repairing solar lights provided by various humanitarian agencies while enabling beneficiaries to acquire employable skills that would help them earn a living.

“I am delighted to have gotten this opportunity to improve my life and that of my community. Now I know much about solar energy. The sun shines everyday each providing me a great opportunity to turn things round for myself and community” says Abdi smile.

The training has also encouraged Abdi to make an addition in his small shop. Through savings from his monthly incentives during the training, he has acquired a solar powered phone charger. He now charges phones for his neighbours and other settlement residents. Tawakal settlement is not connected to the city power grid and hence phone charging services are desperately needed.

“Before, even I had to go all the way to town which is 10 kilometres away, just to charge my phone.” added Abdi.

Besides the charging services, Abdi also spends his evenings in his small shop repairing faulty solar lanterns and chargers for the few other neighbours, who have solar devices, and advising them on how to handle them in order to ensure they yield more power and stay longer. The demand for electricity has grown and Somalia is extremely dependent on energy imports and fossil fuels but most of the community is now understanding the benefits of solar energy. For Abdi, gaining such a skill will definitely increase in value over time and hold much potential in improving his life and that of others.

³ The director of GECPD, Mama Hawa, is a previous recipient of the [Nansen Award](#).



Graduation of 70 IDPs (40 girls and 30 boys) from tailoring, welding, carpentry and garment in Galkacyo. © UNHCR/October 2017

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CONTACT US

Caroline Van Buren

Representative, Somalia

Cell: +252 616 141 315

Cell: +254 731 688 141

Email: vanburen@unhcr.org

UNHCR

Representation in Somalia

UN Compound

Mogadishu International Airport

Somalia

www.unhcr.org