Somalia

1-31 August 2021

The operational environment in Somalia continued fluid throughout August. Somalia's operational context remains extremely challenging due to largescale insecurity and countrywide fragility, in particular due to the delayed electoral process. Internal displacements continued throughout the month, as a result of conflict and insecurity, flooding and drought. Further challenges were posed by the pandemic, although country-wide vaccination has started. UNHCR continued to provide protection, assistance, and solutions to persons of concern across the country, as well as to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY INDICATORS

2.95 million IDPs

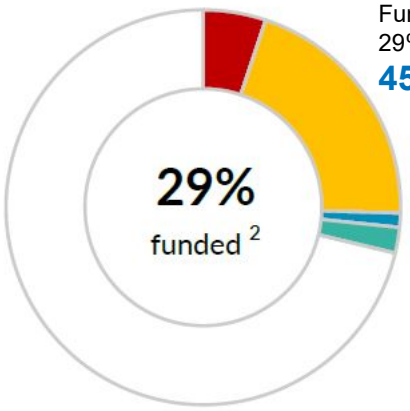
12,614 refugees
14,570 asylum-seekers

133,166 refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

USD 157.1 M

requested for the Somalia operation



Funded
29%
45.6 M

1. UNHCR staff and Outreach Volunteers carrying out awareness raising on the dangers of irregular migration in Omar Binu Khatab primary and secondary school in Dhobley.© UNHCR

2. Future electricians participating in vocational training in Hargeisa. © UNHCR/NRC

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The operational context in Somalia remained highly characterised by the uncertain political climate, related to the delayed elections. Although progress has been made in relation to the elections, they are behind of the set schedule. The international community stresses the importance of completing the elections, in order to avoid Al-Shabaab using the lack of centralized power to advance its agenda and increase its power in the country.

The security situation in the country remained volatile with regular attacks against military bases, as well as civilians. Despite security challenges, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to its persons of concerns, including refugees, asylum-seekers, refugee returnees and IDPs across the country - directly and through partners.

According to the UNHCR-led Protection Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), implemented in partnership with NRC, conflict has been the number one driver of displacement in 2021. Since the beginning of the year, more than 574,000 individuals have been forced to flee their homes. Based on the data collected through the PRMN, the priority needs of displaced individuals on arrival are food (47%), livelihood support (20%), and shelter (15%).

In August, the Protection Cluster, Shelter Cluster and CCCM Cluster, led and co-led by UNHCR, carried out multi cluster needs assessments and data analysis to determine the number of persons in need in 2022, in preparation for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2022.

Achievements

PROTECTION

Multipurpose cash assistance

- In Somaliland, UNHCR provided cash grants to 1,111 households (benefitting 4,481 individuals) for the month of August 2021. In Puntland, 3,117 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with multipurpose cash grants.

Prevention and response to SGBV

- In Somaliland five awareness-raising sessions were carried out reaching 160 refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees. In South-Central, awareness raising activities reached a total of 40 IDPs and refugees.
- UNHCR, through partners, also continued regular activities on the identification, prevention and response to SGBV. Survivors of SGBV were provide various types of assistance. In August, 56 PoCs received medical assistance, 43 PoCs received legal assistance, 49 PoCs received material assistance (such as dignity kits), and 182 PoCs received psychosocial counselling.

Legal assistance and counselling

- In August, 926 PoCs, including refugees and asylum-seekers, received legal assistance through UNHCR partner-operated legal clinics.

Assistance to persons with specific needs

- In August, UNHCR distributed mobility aids to 12 IDPs (9 men, 3 women) living with disabilities, of which nine received wheelchairs and three individuals received crutches, as per their identified needs.
- 1,282 asylum-seekers with specific needs received cash grants, the beneficiaries were selected based on vulnerability assessment.

Somali refugee returnees

- Since 2014, and as of 31 August 2021, a total of 133,166 individuals have returned to Somalia from 14 countries of asylum. Out of the total **92,297** individuals who repatriated with UNHCR's support, 85,318 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, 773 from Djibouti, 542 from Libya, and the remainder from several other countries of asylum. Since 2015, at least 40,869 Somalis have returned on their own (un-assisted).
- In August, under the voluntary repatriation programme from Kenya, 33 individuals returned from Dadaab refugee camp to Somalia. All refugee returnees received return packages and temporary accommodation, if required. Additionally, in August, 189 Somalis returned spontaneously from Yemen.
- The Reception Centre in Berbera received 45 households (101 individuals) as un-assisted (spontaneous) Somali refugee returnees in August. The arrivals who sought UNHCR's assistance upon arrival were provided with temporary accommodation.

Telling the Real Story project

- In August, UNHCR through its outreach volunteers in Baidoa and Dhobley conducted awareness raising campaigns on the dangers of irregular movements, reaching 55 and 1,004 IDPs respectively.

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR rehabilitated two public primary schools in Hargeisa.
- In August, a total of 5,388 refugee and 288 returnee students attended primary and secondary schools with UNHCR's support.
- UNHCR, through a partner, distributed learning materials, including uniforms, to 1,148 refugee and asylum-seeker students in Somaliland.
- UNHCR, through a partner, conducted a back-to-school awareness-raising campaign to encourage parents and caregivers to send children to school. The campaign was carried out through a community sensitization session and wider dissemination of messaging through loudspeakers. Approximately 400 individuals in the targeted villages and IDP sites were reached.
- The Somalia operation received 100 slots for the DAFI programme for tertiary education for this year, out of which 85 slots have already been filled. Through a partner, UNHCR is supporting the selected candidates to secure a spot in recognized universities. UNHCR is also working to fill the 15 remaining slots.
- In South-Central, UNHCR, through its implementing education partner continued to engage all relevant stakeholders and conducted community mobilization and learning events that hosted community education committees (CECs), Parent-teacher associations (PTA), and key officials from the MoE. Mobilization and advocacy improve community participation in school meetings, increases reintegration and increases access to quality primary and secondary education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and the vulnerable host community.

The residents of Israac village in Galkayo receive back-to-school sensitization. © UNHCR

HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- As part of UNHCR's regular healthcare activities in August, a total of 1,243 refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and hosting communities were provided with primary healthcare, 182 individuals with secondary healthcare, and 71 were referred to further care, including tertiary healthcare.

Prevention of and response to COVID-19

- An isolation unit and a quarantine center continued to be supported in the Berbera regional hospital.
- One-time emergency assistance provided to 300 refugee and asylum-seeker HHs (1,509 Individuals) in Somaliland.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR through the South-West Sate Commission for Refugees and IDPs conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to identify vulnerable beneficiaries from IDPs and Returnees for COVID-19 CBI assistance. A total of 309HHs were assessed of which 269HHs were selected that met the set vulnerability criteria. 108 returnees and 161 IDPs.
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- In August, 1,541 individuals were reached with COVID-19 awareness raising messages in Baidoa.
- In an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, UNHCR, through a partner, provided handwashing units and IEC materials in six school in Kismayo and Baidoa.

SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFIS

Shelter/NFI Achievements and Impact

- In Somaliland, 350 HHs (benefitting 2,940 individuals) received NFI kits in two identified hotspot areas (including risk of eviction) in August. This is part of a larger project to provide emergency assistance to IDPs living in nine sites across Somaliland.
- In Somaliland, 25 female refugee students received dignity kits in August 2021.
- Under its emergency assistance, UNHCR paid the second tranche of cash-for-shelter to 1,000 flood-affected IDP HHs in Beletweyne and Jowhar, benefitting a total of 6,000 IDPs in both locations.

- UNHCR handed over 282 houses in the Girible settlement to the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MOIFAD) to issue land ownership certificates to the selected IDP households.
- UNHCR distributed NFI kits to 35 IDP households (benefitting 220 individuals) who were affected by a fire outbreak in Riga IDP settlement, in Garowe.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Camp coordination and management activities

- In August, UNHCR, through a partner, conducted camp management committee (CMC) training for 30 IDPs (20 women, 10 men) in Kismayo.
- Through a partner, UNHCR conducted a three-day capacity building training on camp management and camp coordination for 30 participants (16 women, 14 men) drawn from camp management committees, IDP camp leaders and village head representatives in Dhobley.
- Through a partner, UNHCR carried out a service monitoring and mapping exercise in 15 IDP sites across Galmudug state. The service mapping identified major gaps in health services in all the fifteen sites.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Peaceful coexistence

- Activities in the partner-operated Peaceful Coexistence Center in Somaliland continued in August. Activities included psychosocial counseling, assistance to persons with specific needs, vulnerability assessment, general counselling, as well as vocational training and language classes.

Community Empowerment

- UNHCR, through partner, conducted a two-day capacity-building training for 30 IDPs (17 men, 13 women). The participants included community leaders, Government officials (police and civil servants), members of protection committees, PoCs and partners. The aim was to build the communities' capacity on key protection issues, particularly individuals at risk of harm, individuals at increased risk of mental or physical abuse or neglect, as well as safeguarding and protecting children as a collective responsibility.

Livelihoods

- Through a partner, UNHCR handed over a cattle crush to the Ministry of Livestock of the South-West State. The cattle crush is intended for the use of the returnee, IDP and host communities in Baidoa, and will support livelihoods and safety through increased animal safety and decreased risk of injury to animals and humans.
- Through a partner, UNHCR conducted a Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) training for 85 returnee, IDP and impoverished host community households in Kismayo. The GAP training sessions focused on seed production and crop husbandry, integrated pest management, harvesting, and storage.
- Across Puntland and Galmudug states, 75 refugees, 109 asylum-seekers, 140 IDPs, 161 vulnerable host community members and five returnees benefited from a week-long entrepreneurship and business management skills training - topics included bookkeeping, costing, business planning, marketing and customer relations.
- Across Puntland and Galmudug, 145 refugees, IDPs and host community members continued their vocational training in different subject fields, including hair dressing tailoring, electrical works.

A young female participating in a tailoring class in Somaliland. © UNHCR/NRC

- Literacy classes for adults remained ongoing in Somaliland, with 360 students in August.
- In Somaliland, 52 households received cash grants for establishment of small-scale businesses to support the livelihoods of the families.
- In August, 48 businesses affected by COVID-19 crisis received cash grants to support with running costs of their businesses.

Cluster coordination and leadership

Protection Cluster

In August, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, provided the following services:

A total of **39,792** individuals were reached through protection monitoring and **479** individuals referred to specialized services.

A total of **44,603** individuals were provided with community based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services.

A total **110,261** people, inclusive of **60,478** children, were reached with various child protection service (i.e. child protection messaging, psychosocial support services, case management, Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR), alternative care and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG)).

A total of **36,602** individuals received information on available GBV prevention and mitigation services; out of which **12,499** were children.

A total of **2,378** individuals were provided with legal aid including dispute resolution - formal and informal justice forums, legal counselling and advice, referrals, accompaniment of extremely vulnerable individuals and representation of clients reporting Housing Land and Property specific cases.

A total of **2,780** individuals were provided with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), out of whom **2,214** were children.

On 1 August, a **training** on coordination, protection monitoring, IM and humanitarian program cycle was held for 11 sub-national state coordinators and regional focal points.

On 24 August, the Protection Cluster, jointly with the Swiss Cooperation and Minority Rights Group International, presented the findings and recommendations of a report: Minority Inclusion Learning Review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland – Programmes in the Horn of Africa.

Shelter Cluster

The Somalia **Shelter Cluster**, **led by UNHCR**, is a coordination mechanism that supports people affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

In August, the Cluster Partners reached **19,200 people** with non-food items (NFI) kits and **6,300** people with shelter assistance. Cumulatively in 2021, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 199,205 individuals (8%) of the targeted 2.3 million with NFI assistance, and 130,807 individuals (6%) of the targeted 2.4 million individuals with shelter assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: Around 3.2 million people are in need of Shelter and NFI assistance in Somalia. According to the latest PRMN report, conflict and drought displaced over 573,000 people between January and August 2021. On 14 August, non-state actors seized control of Adakibir in Adado district, displacing an estimated 11,100 individuals. A further 9,000 individuals were displaced by riverine floods in Jowhar district. According to cluster partner assessments, the displaced families are in urgent need of shelter and NFIs

CCCM Cluster

The **CCCM Cluster, co-led by UNHCR**, carried out dozens of focus group discussion in IDP sites to gather information and feedback for the identification of needs and development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview of 2022.

The cluster continued to operate its Complaint and Feedback mechanism, through which it collected the highest number of complaints since May this year. Cluster members continued to address complaints and feedback.

Cluster partners carried out various capacity building exercises: 25 IDP women participated in a GBV safety audit training; 63 IDP community leaders were trained on governance, leadership, and management; 233 camp managers were trained o camp management, fire prevention, community participation and CFMs.

In August, a cluster partner facilitated the establishment of camp committees in 25 sites in Berdale.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some US$ 45.6 million. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this 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 2021

United States of America (10.4 M) | **Japan** (4.5 M) | **Republic of Korea** (1.5 M) | **Germany** (1.2 M) | **European Union** (0.9 M) | **Sweden** (0.6 M) | **CERF** (0.5 M) | **Latter-Day Saints Charities** (0.3 M) | **France** (0.2 M)

Thanks to donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2021

United States of America (33 M) | **Private donors Australia** (6.1 M) | **Canada** (5.6 M) | **Private donors Germany** (3.2 M) | France | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | Private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Norway (80 M) | Sweden (66.9 M) | Private Donors Spain (49.7 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (28.4 M) | Germany (26 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (25 M) | Japan (23.4 M) | Private Donors Japan (20.7 M) | France (20.2 M) | | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Private donors Italy (12.3 M) | Belgium (11.9 M) | Private donors Sweden (11.9 M) | Italy (10.7 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

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