

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 September 2022



Ongoing construction of transitional shelters and transit center in Ladan IDP Site in Dollow. ©African Volunteers for Relief and Development (AVORD)

OVERVIEW

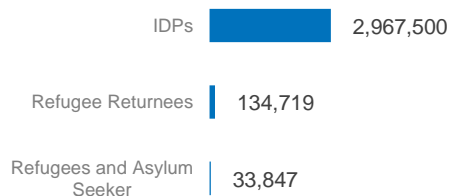
In September, the operational environment for Somalia remained challenging. The security situation deteriorated with the escalation of armed conflict between the non-state armed group Al-Shabab (AS) and the coalition of Somali security forces and local militias. The current drought has displaced more than a million people and south and central parts of Somalia are at the brink of famine. UNHCR through its leadership in Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters and together with partners and authorities, continued delivering lifesaving protection assistance to the vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities affected by the drought. The operation also prioritized durable solutions for refugees and protracted IDPs. Key achievements from September are listed below:

- UNHCR Somalia received the first batch of 150 Somali refugee returnees from Yemen under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme which was suspended since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNHCR Somalia has developed a "Vulnerability Assessment" (VA) tool to place the protection needs of women, children, elderly persons, and vulnerable groups at the center of the scale-up to the drought response. Data collection started on 11 September with 5,888 HHs (approximately 35,328 individuals) assessed across by the end of September.
- In Puntland, 4,865 refugee and asylum seeker HHs (13,593 individuals) received one-time multipurpose cash assistance amounting to USD 100 per HH to cope with the effects of the drought.

KEY FIGURES

PERSONS OF CONCERN

3.1M # of persons of concern to UNHCR Somalia



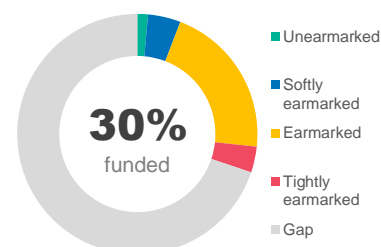
PARTNERS

28 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2022



DONORS

157.5M Funding required for 2022 (29 Sep 2022)



POPULATION DATA

 **33,847**

Refugees and asylum seekers
as of Sep 2022

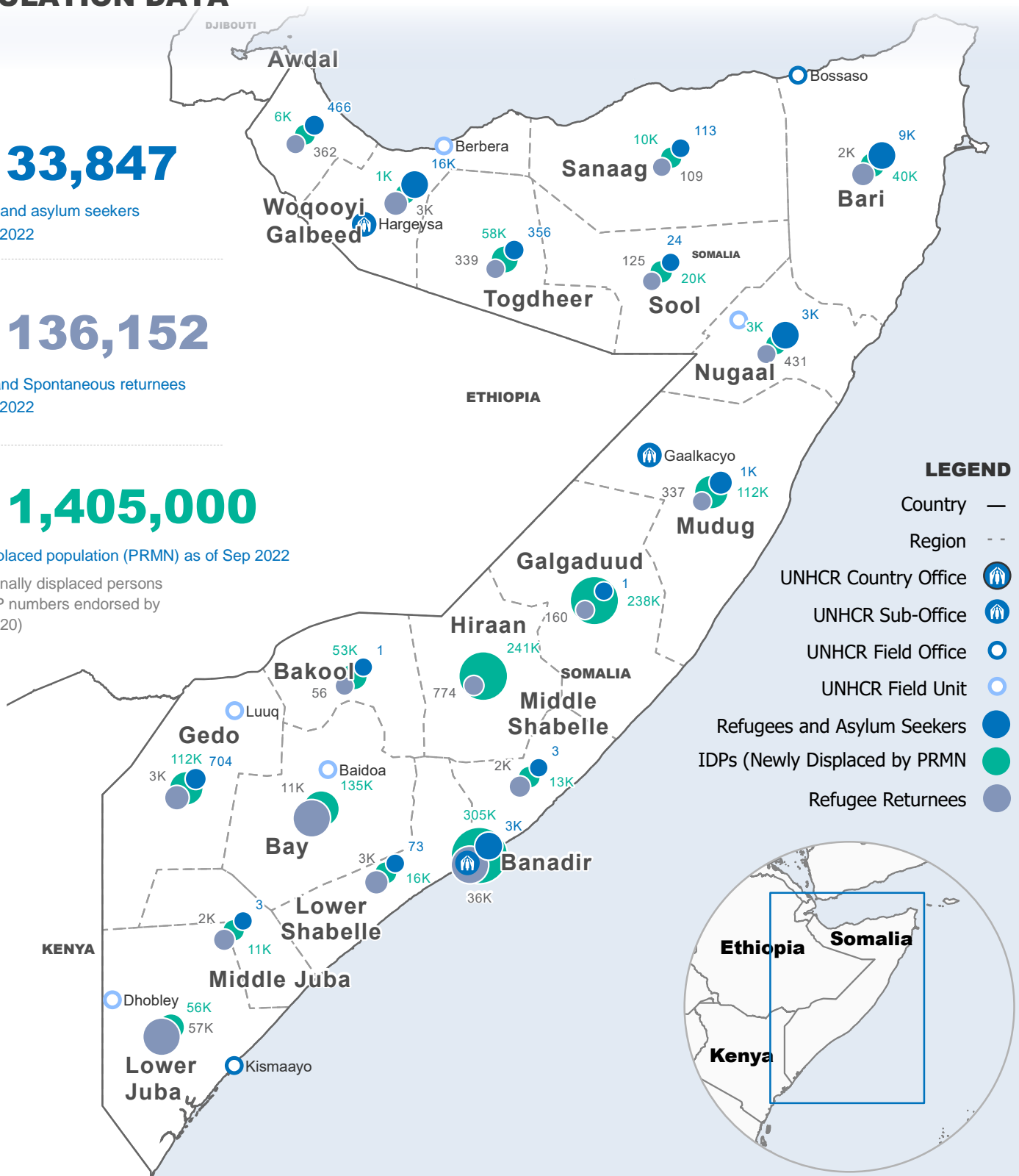
 **136,152**

Refugee and Spontaneous returnees
as of Sep 2022

 **1,405,000**

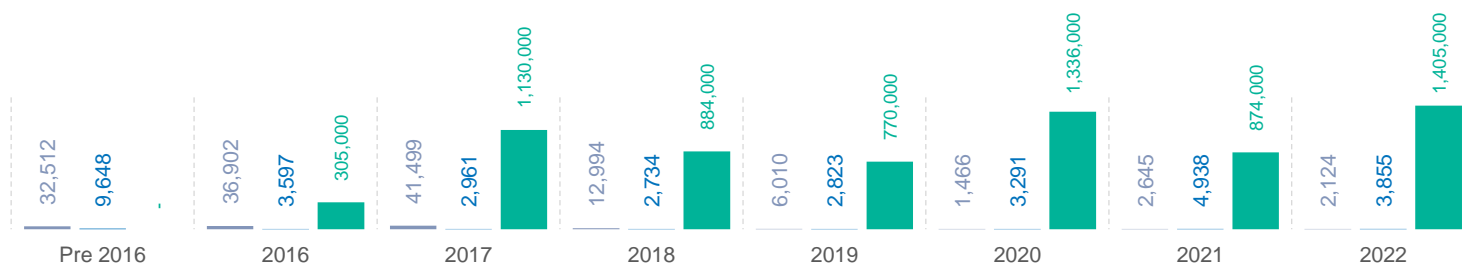
Newly displaced population (PRMN) as of Sep 2022

2.9M Internally displaced persons
(Stock IDP numbers endorsed by
HCT in 2020)



POPULATION TREND (ARRIVALS PER YEAR)

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



Operational Context

For the reporting period, the operational context in Somalia remained complex and characterized by risk of famine, insecurity due to increase in armed conflicts, and fragile political situation.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), some 1.4 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022. In September, 172,000 new displacements were recorded, among which 101,000 were triggered by conflict and 68,000 by the drought. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, shelter, water, and livelihood support as priority needs.

The adverse effect of climate change vis-à-vis the current drought has impacted more than 7.8 million people, putting Somalia at the forefront of global climate emergency. More than 1 million people have been displaced since the beginning of the drought in 2021. At least 41 per cent of the population is expected to face acute food insecurity through December, with parts of southern and central Somalia projected to be in famine between October and December 2022, if assistance is not scaled up and sustained. The coping capacity of the most vulnerable has vastly reduced due to impact of four consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, sharp increases in food prices, and conflict.¹

The security situation in the country remained tense, particularly in south and central Somalia, where Somali National Army (SNA) and local clan militias started their offensive against AS. On the other hand, the non-state armed group attacks against the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Somali security forces, and government officials went unabated. The armed group also increased the use of road-side explosive devices, resulting in indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

In September, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) organized a two-day National Consultative Council (NCC) meeting, chaired by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, with the Federal Member States (FMS). Main discussions included security issues and assisting people affected by the country's drought. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre and Presidents of the FMS. In the meeting, the leaders also agreed to expedite talks between Somalia and Somaliland and to strengthen cooperation between government agencies at both levels to ensure people's trust in the government and to work for political stability.

Somalia also hosts some 33,847 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which 69 percent are women and children. The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers (68 percent) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (28 percent) and Syria (3 percent). 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, 136,152 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their country of asylum, mostly from Kenya followed by Yemen.

¹ Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (18-29 September 2022)[EN/AR/SO] - Somalia | ReliefWeb

Update on Achievements

Protection

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR through its partner identified and/or supported 63 new and existing GBV cases in September across the country. Services to the survivors included safe house support, psychosocial counselling, relocation support, medical and legal referrals, and provision of dignity kits, among others.

Community engagement and awareness raising

- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center in Hargeisa, a total of 449 individuals received counselling and case referrals. Most of the advice sought was for financial insecurity followed by refugee status determination (RSD) issues and subsistence allowance related concerns. Cases were referred to appropriate partner for further assistance. In addition, beneficiaries received information about the services provided by UNHCR and partners.
- To increase public awareness of the dangers of irregular movements or *Tahriib*, UNHCR resumed Telling the Real Story (TRS) outreach awareness activities, reaching 50 individuals in Dhobley.

Legal assistance

- In Puntland and Hargeisa, UNHCR through its partner provided legal assistance to 437 refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community members. Assistance included, among others, legal counselling, mediation, legal advocacy to release from police custody, legal representation before a court, birth certificate and national ID issuance, and shelter assistance.

Registration and reception

- UNHCR Somalia and UNHCR Yemen successfully collaborated on the first Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) movement of Somali refugee returnees from Yemen since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 29 September, 150 Somali refugee returnees arrived safely at the Berbera port where they were received UNHCR, partners, and Berbera Immigration authorities. The returnees were transported to the Berbera Reception Centre, which is maintained by UNHCR in partnership with Danish Refugee Council (DRC), where they received initial accommodation and undertake registration for return assistance. In collaboration with IOM Somalia, all Somali refugee returnees from Yemen arriving through the ASR are being supported with onward transportation assistance to their final destinations in Somalia. Since September 2017, UNHCR has collaborated with IOM, governmental counterparts, and other partners working in Somalia to support 5,566 Somali refugees to return home through the ASR programme.



UNHCR and partners receiving refugee returnees arriving from Yemen in Berbera Port. ©UNHCR

- Further to the ASR programme, UNHCR and partners at the Reception Center in Berbera port also received four additional self-managed boats with 44 spontaneous refugee returnees and 22 refugees from Yemen.

- In Bossaso port, Puntland, UNHCR and partners received two boats from Yemen, carrying 76 asylum seekers and refugees from Ethiopia, Syria, and Yemen. From the total arrivals, 39 individuals opted to receive assistance from UNHCR and partners and thus were accommodated at the Reception Center.
- On 4 September, UNHCR participated in a consultation workshop in Mogadishu organized by the Office of the Prime Minister - Office of the Special Envoy for Migrant's and Children's Rights (OPM-OSE) on the development of a National Migration Policy (NMP) Framework. The consultation included representatives from UNHCR, IOM, the Somalia Police Force, and various ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). This was part of a series of consultations conducted across Somalia with representatives from FGS, Federal Member States (FMS), and UN agencies, as well as civil society organizations, youth, and other community representatives. UNHCR made recommendations in line with the 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration, developed by UNHCR to assist governments and others by incorporating protection considerations into migration policies.



UNHCR's partner organized a caretaking session for persons of specific needs and their care givers in Hargeisa. ©DAN

Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and Resettlement

- In September, 30 interviews were conducted, reaching 69 individuals; 19 RSD assessments for 57 individuals were submitted, and 15 cases consisting of 34 individuals were reviewed or finalized.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services and referrals, including maternal and child health care, to 3,711 refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host communities in Hargeisa, Mogadishu, and Puntland.
- In Puntland, UNHCR's partner increased the number of contracted hospitals from four to five after signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Qaran Pharmaceutical and Hospital and in Garowe to improve access to health services for refugee and asylum seeker community.

Education

- In September, UNHCR and partner Windle International Somalia celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of refugee learners from universities in Somalia with support from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) programme. This includes three graduates from Admas University who have attained degrees in Social Work, Development Studies, and Human Resource Management, and one graduate from Gollis University who attained a degree in Civil Engineering. Since 2019, UHHCR Somalia has supported 175 refugee learners in Somalia through the DAFI programme, and a further 50 refugee learners will be added in the current academic year.



Three DAFI graduates pose for a group photo. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR through its partner supported six schools in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismayo, Dhobley, Dollow with onetime cash grant of USD 2,000 per school. The grant will help the schools pay teacher incentives and promote enrolment of girls among other things. The schools admit refugee and asylum seeker children free of charge and include them in the national education system.
- UNHCR in Afmadow, Dhobley, and Kismayo through its partner distributed sanitary kits to 200 school-attending adolescent girls. The assistance will help girls maintain regular school attendance.

Drought Response (Risk of Famine)

- UNHCR Somalia has developed a “Vulnerability Assessment” (VA) tool to support a more granular level analysis of affected populations and to place the protection needs of women, children, elderly persons, and vulnerable groups at the center of the scale-up to the drought response. The VA tool is being rolled out in all districts currently identified Operational Priority Area 1 (OPA1) with established UNHCR and partner presence to ensure that emergency drought assistance reaches the most vulnerable households in affected populations. Eligibility criteria for inclusion in assistance provision was developed by following a community-based approach through focus group discussion and key informant interviews with girls, women, boys and men within affected populations. Data collection started on 11 September with 5,888 HHs (approximately 35,328 individuals) assessed across Galgaduud, Mudug, and Nugaal regions by the end of September. The VA tool has been presented to clusters and to sub-national inter-cluster coordination groups, where positive feedback and interest has been expressed, and UNHCR is working towards data sharing agreements with other UN agencies to support enhanced inter-agency response.



UNHCR staff assisting a disabled person upon identifying him during the vulnerability assessment exercise in Galinsoor town in Galmudug. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR through its partner conducted periodic protection monitoring and outreach awareness in seven IDP settlements in Guriel, Abudwaq, Adado and Dhusamareeb regions in Galmudug reaching more than 1,150 IDPs. The protection monitoring and outreach teams raised awareness on the risks of GBV and potential strategies communities could employ to prevent the same as well as where to seek assistance. Communities were encouraged to report incidences whenever they occurred to ensure that survivors received the required assistance to avoid long-term consequences such as unwanted pregnancies.
- In Puntland, 4,865 refugee and asylum seeker HHs (13,593 individuals) received one-time multipurpose cash assistance amounting to USD 100 per HH to cope with the effects of the drought.
- UNHCR in Dollow and Dhobley distributed one-time payment of USD 150 each to 400 drought affected IDP HHs to help them meet their basic needs.
- UNHCR in Dollow conducted protection training on GBV, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and Code of Conduct (CoC). The training targeted a total of 86 individuals, including IDPs involved in various self-help groups such as protection committees, women groups, and youth groups as well as camp managers as well as local authorities.
- In Galkayo, UNHCR through its partner conducted five awareness raising and empowerment sessions for 88 women and girls from refugee and asylum seeker, IDP, and hosting communities. The session sought to equip the women and girls with skills and knowledge on how they could protect themselves and their peers against the risk of GBV.
- The UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) data continues to provide up-to-date information on internal displacement caused by drought, which informs the humanitarian response of the UN and partners.



Shelter

- At the Qabobe site in South Galkayo, Galmudug, UNHCR through its partner has completed construction of 93 out of planned 100 permanent shelters, which are aimed at providing durable solutions to long settled IDPs by locally integrating them.
- UNHCR through its partner provided NFI kits to 318 rain-affected IDP HHs in the coastal areas of Awdal region in Somaliland to help them meet their basic household needs.
- UNHCR through its partner has started the construction of 125 transitional shelters for drought affected IDPs in Burao city, Togdheer, Somaliland. This official opening of the construction project was attended by Somaliland's President, key government ministers, and other local authorities. The president and his ministers thanked UNHCR and mentioned that the assistance came at a time when it was most needed.
- UNHCR through its partner in Dollow commenced the construction of 88 emergency transitional shelters and a Reception Centre in Laden IDP site. At the time of reporting, 30 shelters were completed.



Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

Livelihoods and self-reliance


- UNHCR in Dollow through its partner provided USD 400 each as business grant to 20 IDPs who operates small business in Kaharey and Ladan IDP sites. The grant recipients had earlier received skills training. The second tranche will be disbursed after three months, subject to satisfactory progress of their businesses.

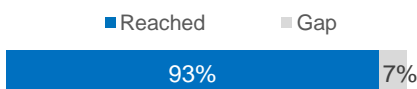


Cluster Coordination and Leadership



2.8M

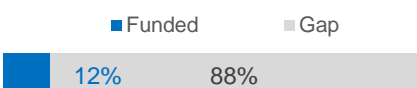
 # of beneficiaries reached by Protection Cluster




4 M  People in need

3 M  People targeted

128 M  Funding required



558K

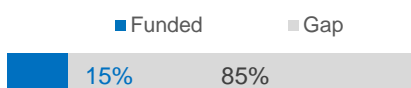
 # of beneficiaries reached by Shelter Cluster




3.6 M  People in need

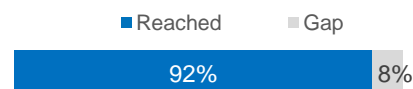
1.2 M  People targeted

57 M  Funding required



1.66M

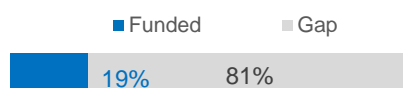
 # of beneficiaries reached by CCCM



2.2 M  People in need

1.8 M  People targeted

28.4 M  Funding required



Protection Cluster

- A total of 177,816 individuals were reached through protection monitoring.
- Community based and specialized mental health and psychosocial support services were provided to 7,168 individuals.
- A total of 226 individuals were reached with capacity-building training for duty bearers and community members with a particular focus on minority communities on protection and awareness of rights initiatives.
- To ensure the access to complaint and feedback mechanisms, the Protection Cluster partners on the ground received and responded to feedback and complaint mechanisms from 128 individuals.
- A total of 123 individuals were reached with specialized protection assistance, including victim assistance services.
- A total of 46,266 individuals (including 31,832 children) were reached with various child protection services, such as family tracing and reunification, reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFG), provision of alternative care, case management, psychosocial support, and child protection messaging.
- A total of 45,059 individuals (including 31,959 women and girls) received various GBV services, such as case management support, dignity kit, psychosocial support, legal aid, cash assistance, and awareness raising among others.

Shelter Cluster

- Shelter Cluster partners reached 52,860 individuals with NFI kits and 133,052 individuals with shelter assistance. Cumulatively in 2022, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 300,063 individuals (37%) of 803,800 targeted with NFI assistance, and 258,316 individuals (60%) of the 430,000 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.

CCCM Cluster

- Service monitoring activities were held in 1,198 IDP sites covering 29 districts to coordinate humanitarian services, avoid overlaps, and address sectoral gaps by referring them to relevant service providers. According to the survey conducted during the monitoring exercise, only 20% of IDP HHs reportedly received food or cash assistance in the last six months; 58% of the sites had access to water; and vast majority of shelters in the surveyed sites were of emergency in nature.
- September recorded the highest number of complaints through the CCCM complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM), since its inception in July 2020. There were of 9,066 complaints in September, which is an increase by 15% against complaints received in August. The sharp increase in the number of complaints could be attributed to the scaling up of CFM activities in the drought response.
- More than 678 community leaders from IDP sites in Afmadow, Baidoa, Burhakaba, Dhobley, Qansaxdhere, and Wajid attended capacity building trainings on topics such as roles and responsibilities of camp management committee, community participation, complaint, feedback mechanism, fire prevention, conflict resolution, GBV and referral pathways, and land tenure and land rights among others.
- The CCCM partners, using the Community Engagement and Accountability tool (CEA), conducted site-level community mobilization and community engagement sessions on available services, safety and security information, and hygiene awareness to name a few, targeting newly arrived families.
- Through cash for work scheme, site maintenance and improvement works were undertaken across multiple IDP sites. IOM CCCM engaged 320 individuals in cash for work to backfill low-lying areas and sandbag upstream areas in 17 IDP sites in Baidoa. Likewise, in Khada, Daynile, and Adado, more than 350 female IDPs participated in site improvement activities. The cash for work scheme not only helped improve the living condition of the IDPs but also enabled income generation for many, including persons living with disability.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2022 amount to some **US\$ 47.51 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 | **CERF** 2 million | **Japan** 1.1 million | **Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation** 1 million | **UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe** 0.9 million | **European Union** 0.8 million

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 | **Canada** 7.8 million | **Private donors Australia** 7.4 million | **Private donors USA** 7.2 million | **Private donors Germany** 3.9 million

IGAD | 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** 51 million | **Private donors Japan** 40.9 | **United Kingdom** 40.1 | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Germany** 27 million | **Private donors USA** 26.2 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 25.6 million | **Japan** 21.7 million | **France** 18.5 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 14.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million | **Private donors Canada** 11.2 million | **Private donors Sweden** 10.4 million | **Italy** 10 million

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

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