

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 November 2022



Internally displaced Somalis, majority of whom are women and children, live in makeshift shelters at the Kabasa IDP site in Dollow. Thousands have fled their homes in search for food, shelter, and drinking water as the country experiences the worst drought in 40 years. © UNHCR/Nabil Narch

OVERVIEW

In November, the operational environment in Somalia remained complex. There was rising level of insecurity due to indiscriminate attacks on public space by Al-Shabab, hereafter referred to as non-state armed group, and armed conflict between the aforementioned group and the alliance of Somali security forces, local militias, and international security partners. The prolonged drought has severely impacted the lives and livelihoods of ordinary Somalis and displaced more than 1.1 million people in 2022 alone.

UNHCR leads/ co-leads Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters in Somalia. Working together with partners and authorities, UNHCR continued delivering lifesaving protection assistance to the vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities affected by the drought. Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, refugee returnees, and IDPs, who are living in a protracted displacement situation, remained one of the key priorities for the UNHCR in Somalia.

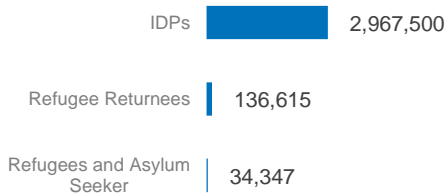
Key achievements drawn out from UNHCR's interventions in November are listed below:

- A new online portal for the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) is now available at <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>. The PRMN portal now provides daily displacement updates to inform the displacement and protection situation, hence enabling coordination for a real-time response by the humanitarian community.
- UNHCR through its partner distributed core relief item kits/ NFIs to more than 8,300 HHs (approximately 50,000 individuals) to support the drought affected IDPs with household supplies to meet their basic needs.
- During the reporting period, 33 refugees departed for third country resettlement to Sweden, bringing the total number of refugees resettled in 2022 in countries like Canada, Norway, and Sweden to 91.

KEY FIGURES

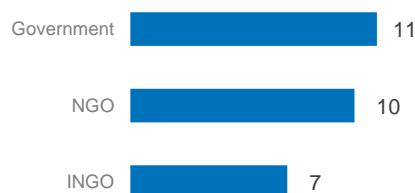
PERSONS OF CONCERN

3.1M # of persons of concern to UNHCR Somalia



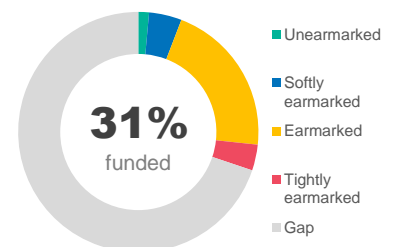
PARTNERS

28 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2022



DONORS

157.5M Funding required for 2022 (as of 24 Nov)



POPULATION DATA

34,347

Refugees and asylum seekers
as of November 2022

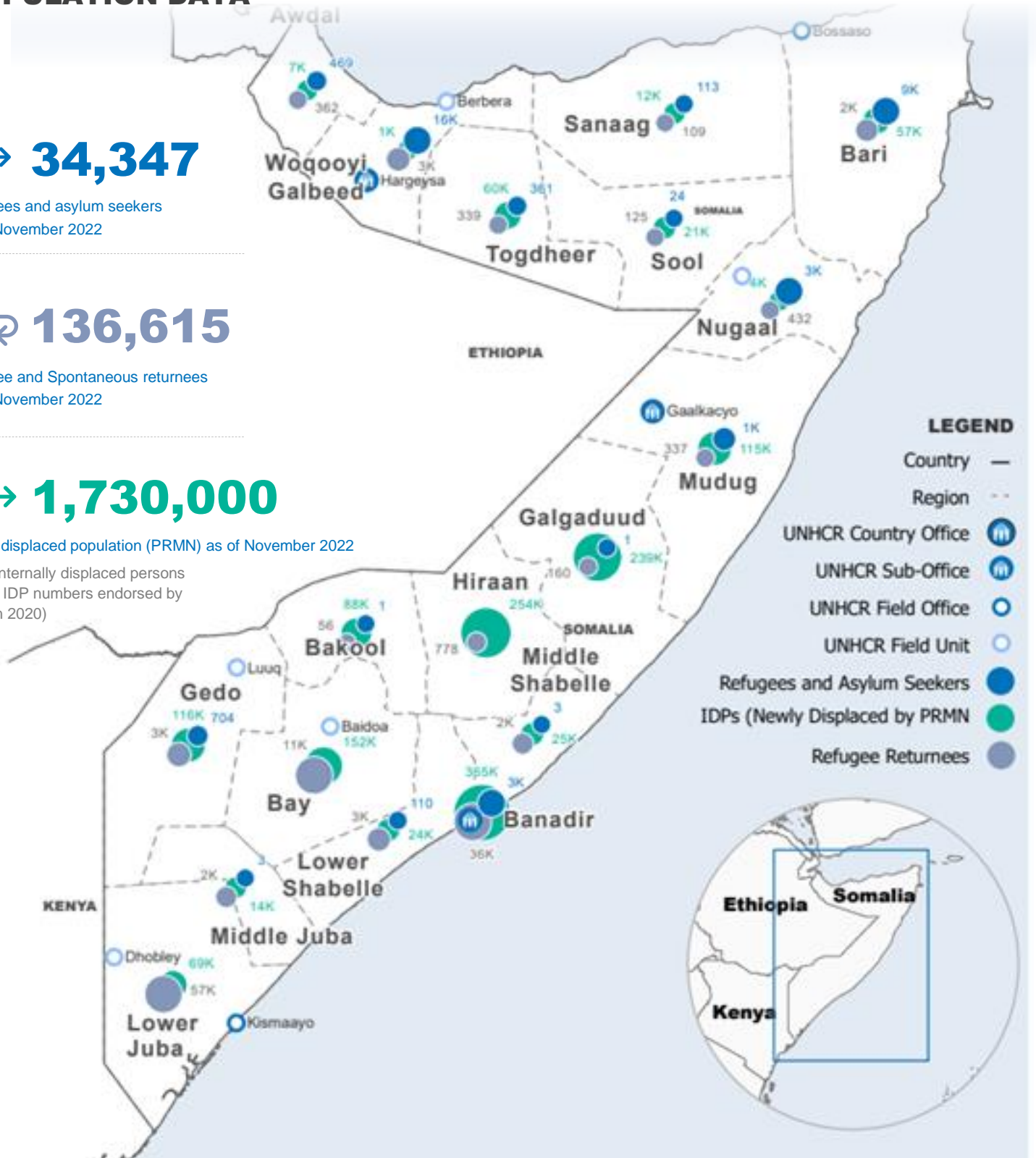
136,615

Refugee and Spontaneous returnees
as of November 2022

1,730,000

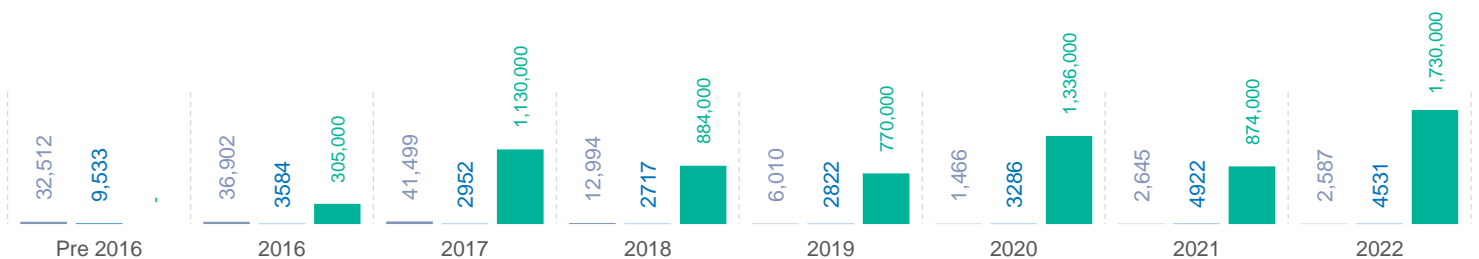
Newly displaced population (PRMN) as of November 2022

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 challenging due to insecurity, climate change, and unpredictable political situation.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), some 1.73 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022. In November alone, 131,000 new displacements were recorded, of which 76,000 individuals were displaced by the drought; 53,000 due to conflict/insecurity; and 2,000 for other reasons. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, livelihood, health, shelter, and water as their priority needs. A new online portal for the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) went live on 29 November under the domain <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>. The PRMN portal now provides daily displacement updates to inform the displacement and protection situation, hence enabling coordination for a real-time response by the humanitarian community.

Since the beginning of 2022, the number of people affected by the drought has more than doubled and drought induced displacement has increased more than fivefold. While the earlier projected famine among agro-pastoralists in Baidoa and Buur Hakaba districts and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baidoa town have not materialized, the climate crisis is far from over, and the worst outcomes have only been temporarily prevented. Somalia is in its fifth straight poor rainy season and below average rainfall is projected for the upcoming April-June 2023 rainy season. Shortfalls in humanitarian assistance will likely push 8.3 million people to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity between April and June 2023, including more than 700,000 people facing famine conditions or Catastrophe level (IPC Phase 5). The prolonged and extreme conditions have resulted in higher-than-normal deaths, and excess mortality will continue to accumulate unless assistance is further scaled up and sustained.¹

In November, the security situation in Somalia remained tense and unpredictable. The armed conflict between the coalition of Somali National Army (SNA), local clan militias, and international security partners against the non-state armed group continued on multiple fronts, including Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Galgaduud regions. On 27 November, the non-state armed group launched an attack on the heavily guarded Villa Rose Hotel, which is adjacent to the Presidential Palace in Mogadishu. At least eight civilian lives were lost in the siege. The non-state armed group likely to carry out similar attacks in response to the ongoing military campaign in which they have lost hundreds of fighters.

Somalia hosts some 34,347 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which 70% are women and children; 32% 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%). School-age children (6-17 years) make up nearly 32% of total population and 34% of households (HHs) are headed by women or children. 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, 136,615 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their country of asylum, mostly from Kenya followed by Yemen. From the total refugee returnees, 93,380 individuals have been assisted by UNHCR through Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) movements from Yemen.

¹ *The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely serious: assistance must be sustained and improved to continue to prevent famine - Somalia | ReliefWeb*

Update on Achievements



Protection

UNHCR published [joint briefing paper](#) between UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The paper, “Living in Fear”, highlighted the plight of conflict-induced displacements in Somalia and associated protection gaps, risks and needs. It further presented community voices from the field on the impacts of the conflicts and proposed several key actions for prevention and response.

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR through its partner identified and/or supported 63 new and existing GBV cases in November across the country. Services to the survivors included safe house support, psychosocial counselling, medical and legal referrals, and provision of dignity kits, among others.
- Under this year’s theme, "Unite! Activism to end violence against women and girls!", UNHCR and partners began commemorating 16 Days of Activism to eliminate gender-based violence. Various activities, such as community dialogue, cultural and artistic performances, poem recitation, and speeches were conducted across the country. The events were attended by a wide cross section of the society including politicians and senior government officials, religious leaders, elders, women and youth leaders, social activists, and professionals to name a few.
- UNHCR through its partners conducted protection and GBV prevention capacity building trainings in South-Central part of Somalia, reaching 115 individuals. Participants included female headed households, IDP and refugee returnee community leaders, government officials, and host community members.



Adolescent girls participating in the launch of 16 Days of Activism in Galkayo, Puntland . ©UNHCR

Community engagement and awareness raising

- To increase public awareness of the dangers of irregular movements or *tahriib*, UNHCR through volunteers conducted numerous Telling the Real Story (TRS) outreach awareness activities in multiple locations across Somalia. In Baidoa, Bossaso, and Kismayo awareness sessions were held across IDP sites, reaching some 1,239 individuals.
- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center in Hargeisa, a total of 453 individuals received counselling and case referrals. Most of the advice sought was for financial insecurity followed by issues related to subsistence allowance and refugee status determination (RSD). Cases were referred to appropriate partner for further assistance. In addition, UNHCR through its partner reached 45 individuals through hotline, providing remote psychosocial support, case management support, and information about services available to the persons UNHCR serves.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR through its partner reached 40 individuals through the Hotline number and provided remote psychosocial support, case management assistance, information about the service provided by UNHCR.

Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- UNHCR published [the eighth round snapshot report](#) of the UNHCR Post-Return Monitoring (PRM) exercise implemented in collaboration with NRC and the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCR). The cumulative data set presented in this snapshot was based on interviews with 3,251 returnee HHs across different return locations in Somalia. PRM findings indicate at least 90% of returnees are satisfied with their decision to return home, mainly attributed to factors such as prospects for family reunification (59%), and the ability to return and live in their places of origin (19%).

- On 28 November, a boat carrying 149 Somali refugee returnees from Yemen arrived in Berbera, Somaliland from Aden, Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. This was the second boat movement of 2022, following the resumption on 29 September of the ASR programme after being suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far this year, 299 Somali refugee returnees have returned through the ASR programme and 5,715 Somali refugees have returned since the ASR programme was launched in 2017. In addition to the above, UNHCR also received six spontaneous refugee returnees and six refugees from Yemen in Berbera Reception Center.
- In Kismayo, UNHCR and partners received 9 Somali refugee returnee HHs (13 individuals) from Kenya. They were supported with food, accommodation, non-food items (NFIs), and mobile phone with sim card.
- The verification of refugees and asylum seekers, which is a comprehensive registration exercise that seeks to capture detailed individual level information including biometric data from refugees and asylum seekers, commenced in Bossaso. Some 4,000 individuals were verified during the reporting period. The exercise is expected to improve refugee and asylum seeker data, paving the way for more focused and targeted assistance.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR distributed subsistence allowance cash grants to 910 refugee and asylum seeker HHs to help them meet their immediate basic needs for the months of November and December.



UNHCR and partners receiving the returning Somali refugees from Yemen under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme in Berbera Port. ©UNHCR

Legal assistance

- In Puntland and Hargeisa, UNHCR through its partner provided legal assistance to 473 refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host community members. Assistance included among others, legal counselling, mediation, advocacy to release from police custody, legal representation before a court, birth certificate and national ID issuance, and referral to other service providers. The protection environment for refugees and asylum seekers remained weak in Puntland, with reports of arbitrary arrests and detention, denial of resource, and general insecurity.

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, 33 refugees departed for third country resettlement to Sweden. While options for durable solutions and access to complementary pathways for refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia remain limited, resettlement remains an important protection tool for refugees with urgent and emergency protection needs. In 2022, a total of 91 refugees have benefited from resettlement to Sweden, Norway, and Canada as their durable solution.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- In November 2022, 26 interviews were conducted reaching 83 individuals, 12 RSD assessments were submitted covering 38 individuals, while 15 cases comprising 83 individuals were reviewed and/or finalized.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services and referrals, including maternal and child health care, to 4,473 individuals. The health services primarily benefited refugees and asylum seekers in Hargeisa, Mogadishu, and Puntland, although some IDPs and host communities were also reached in Mogadishu.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR through Hanano Hospital distributed COVID -19 PPEs, including face masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves to 1,269 patients (680 female, 589 males).
- In Afgoye, Baidoa, Dinsoor, and Hudur districts, UNHCR's partner conducted COVID-19 prevention awareness raising, reaching 512 HHs (3,072 individuals). Likewise, in Puntland, doctors shared information and helped raise awareness on COVID- 19 prevention, breastfeeding, immunization of young children, hygiene promotion, and dietary advice for patients with chronic diseases, reaching 240 individuals.

Education

- In Puntland, UNHCR supported 4,542 refugees and asylum-seekers children enrolled in primary and secondary schools with school and examination fees or transportation expenses. The refugee and asylum seeker students are incorporated within the national education system, and their education is helping them integrate and coexist with the host communities
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR through its partner supported 717 refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in primary schools with payment of school fee and meal allowance.

Drought Response (Risk of Famine)

- The UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) data continued to provide up-to-date information on internal displacement caused by drought, which informs the humanitarian response of the UN and partners.
- As a part of its scaling up of drought response, UNHCR through its partner distributed NFIs to vulnerable IDPs across the multiple locations in the country- 3,000 HHs (18,000 individuals) across four IDP sites in Dollow; 1,788 HHs (10,728 individuals) in Hudur and Baidoa; 1,600 HHs (9,600 individuals) in Khada and Daynile districts in Banadir; 1,500 HHs (9,000 individuals) in Sanaag, Sool, and Togdheer regions of Somaliland; and 500 HHs (3,000 individuals) in Dhobley.
- UNHCR continued to establish and scale up Protection Desks in response to the drought emergency. Following a successful initial pilot in Galkayo of two (2) Protection Desks covering six (6) sites, UNHCR has established 23 Protection Desks across Somalia. A Protection Desk Guidance Note has been finalized to facilitate the process. Protection Desk training was rolled out for staff and enumerators for effective implementation. Each Protection Desk comprises of two enumerators with one member being female. The hope is that Protection Desks will continue into the new year if sufficient resources are available.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR through its partner completed the construction of 143 transitional shelters and 35 communal latrines for the drought affected IDPs. Furthermore, construction of 94 out of the planned 136 hybrid transitional shelters were completed in three IDP sites in Burao, Togdheer region in Somaliland.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR distributed cash in lieu of emergency shelter to 974 HHs. Likewise, 280 emergency shelter kits to 280 IDP HHs (1,680 individuals) in Sool and Sanaag regions in Somaliland were distributed through partner.
- In Baidoa and Galkayo, UNHCR supported 591 HHs (3,546 individuals) through the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance aimed at meeting the basic needs of drought affected.
- In Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, and Galkayo, UNHCR distributed USD 65 per beneficiary as monetized dignity kits to 525 refugee and asylum seeker women and girls.
- Under the GBV response for drought response, UNHCR through its partner in Burao, Somaliland, distributed dignity kits to 240 women and girls IDPs. Case management services which include case identification, medical-legal referrals, safe house support, and counselling were also provided. Moreover, GBV survivors and at-risk women and girls were selected to form business groups to build resilience through livelihood support and grants were related to support the groups.
- In Dollow, UNHCR through its partner conducted business skills training skills dispersed small business grants to 25 drought affected IDPs to increase their resilience through livelihood support.



UNHCR received 2,000 NFI kits in Beletweyne to respond to the drought affected IDPs. ©UNHCR



Shelter and NFI

- UNHCR in Dollow completed the construction of a transit center and 88 emergency transitional shelters in Ladan IDP site.
- In Luglaw durable solutions site in Kismayo, UNHCR through its partner completed the construction of 30 out of planned 88 permanent shelters, which will be used to locally integrate protracted IDP families in order to find durable solutions for them. Along with the shelters, 29 latrines have also been completed.



The newly constructed transit center in Ladan IDP site, Dollow. ©UNHCR



Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- UNHCR through its partner conducted vocational, financial management, and life skills trainings targeting 88 IDPs, returnees, refugee and asylum seekers, and vulnerable host community members in Baidoa, Hargeisa, Mogadishu, and Kismayo. The trainings were tailored to the needs of the participants and aimed to impart skills necessary to successfully start and run small businesses and enterprises. Courses were offered in information and communications technology (ICT), mobile repairs, beauty salon, camera and video editing, tie and dye, and business management and marketing. Moreover, 102 refugees, IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community members in Baidoa, Hargeisa, and Dhobley received grant to incubate their businesses.

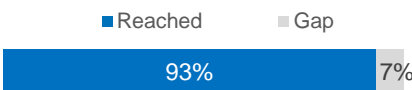


Cluster Coordination and Leadership



2.8M

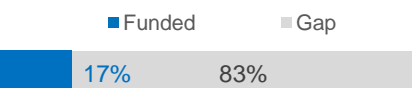
of beneficiaries reached by Protection Cluster



4 M  People in need

3 M  People targeted

155 M  Funding required



Protection Cluster



711K

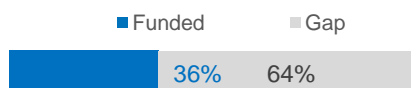
of beneficiaries reached by Shelter Cluster



3.6 M  People in need

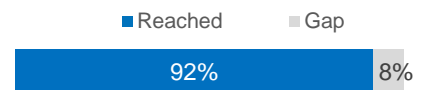
1.2 M  People targeted

57.7 M  Funding required



1.66M

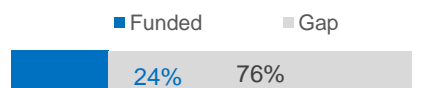
of beneficiaries reached by CCCM



2.2 M  People in need

1.8 M  People targeted

28.4 M  Funding required



- In the context of the compounded impact of armed conflict and drought response, Protection Cluster is changing gears to strengthen protection response and coordination. In this respect, Protection Cluster is developing a Roadmap to Scale up Protection Response and is currently holding discussions with key donors and the Protection Areas of Responsibilities (AOR). The key elements of the Roadmap include:
 - development and guidance for frontline partners on the minimum protection service package (so far, protection sector has been focusing on monitoring and there has been no clear guidance on the services), with integrated protection, CP, GBV, HLP and Mine Action services;
 - revamping protection monitoring system to make it more agile and fit-for-purpose, i.e. informing and triggering humanitarian response;
 - including protection among frontline integrated response modalities, including out-of-site rural and urban areas as well as hard to reach areas;
 - reinstating the pivotal role of protection of civilians in the response, through dedicated analysis, advocacy and response
 - stepping up efforts to mobilize all clusters and humanitarian actors to mainstream protection, with the focus on concrete measures to strengthen inclusion of minority and marginalized groups and vulnerability-based prioritization.
- On 30 November, Protection Cluster joined the mission with the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator to Baidoa, one of the districts at risk of IPC-5 to highlight the relevance of protection response in the Horn of Africa drought crisis, convey protection advocacy messaging to the local authorities, and explain planned step up of the protection response.

Shelter Cluster

- Shelter Cluster partners reached 12,495 individuals with NFI kits and 1,163 individuals with shelter assistance. Cumulatively in 2022, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 435,150 individuals (54%) of 803,800 targeted with NFI assistance, and 276,557 individuals (64%) 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

- Monitoring of available humanitarian services was conducted in 1,183 IDP sites covering 40 districts. According to the findings of the monitoring exercise, among others, only 22% of IDP HHs reportedly received food or cash assistance in the last six months; 66% of the sites had access to water; 90% of shelters in the surveyed sites were of emergency/makeshift in nature; and 46% of sites had access to education facility within 20 minute walking range.
- CCCM partners prioritized site decongestion activities to improve access to services and mitigate risk of fire in congested sites. Site maintenance committees and community volunteers were engaged in waste disposal management, repair or cleaning of drainage systems and regular site cleanup campaigns. Partners conducted flood mitigation awareness campaigns in already mapped flood prone IDP sites in Dhobley, Baidoa, Jowhar, Beletweyne, and Kismayo. Moreover, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) toolkits were distributed to IDP site residents to clear existing drains and create new ones in case of flooding. Partners targeted more than 1,380 individuals including minorities and people living with disabilities to implement site improvement activities through cash for work.
- In the CCCM managed complaint and feedback mechanism, 8,265 complaints were lodged in November compared to 8,926 complaints reported in October, which is a decrease of little over 7%. Food Security and Livelihood, Shelter, and WASH issues constituted of 79% of recorded complaints.
- CCCM partners continued recording large numbers of displaced populations arriving at IDP sites, especially those located in Khada, Daynile, and Baidoa due to the impact of drought in the areas of origin. The newly displaced IDPs received information and orientation on available humanitarian services, peaceful co-existence among residents, cholera prevention, and the general living conditions of site. Moreover, CCCM partners continued to work closely with Nutrition partners to screen and refer malnutrition cases among new arrivals.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2022 amount to some **US\$ 49.25 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 | **UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe** 1.3 million | **Japan** 1.1 million | **Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation** 1 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 | **Private donors Germany** 17.3 million | **Private donors Australia** 10.8 million | **Canada** 7.8 million | **Private donors USA** 7.3 million | **Private donors Spain** 3.4 million

France | 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** 71.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 54.1 million | **United Kingdom** 40.1 million | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 31.4 million | **Private donors USA** 29.6 million | **Germany** 24.4 million | **Japan** 21.7 million | **France** 18.5 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 17.5 million | **Private donors Canada** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million | **Italy** 10 million

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

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