UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

September 2024

UNHCR, local authorities, and partners received the first batch of Somali Refugee Returnees in 2024 under the Assisted Spontaneous Returns programme from Yemen in Berbera, Somaliland.

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to be precarious in September, with over six million Somalis reported to be in need of humanitarian assistance. This is because of continued armed conflict, insecurity, climate change, outbreaks of diseases, and economic disruption. The Protection and Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN), which has been tracking internal displacement trends for the past 17 years, recorded some 4,976 internal displacements in September of which 47% were due to conflict/ insecurity and 24% were due to climate change.

The overall political and security situation in Somalia were charactered by uncertainty. The relationship between Somalia and Ethiopia remained frosty after Türkiye's efforts to mediate the two over the disputed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somalia failed. The key factors contributing to insecurity across Somalia were armed conflict between the Somali Security Forces and Al-Shabaab, hereafter referred to as the non-state armed group (NSAG), clan conflicts, and indiscriminate attacks by the NSAG. In September, insecurity affected Bay, Banadir, and Lower Shabelle the most.

Amid a challenging operating context, UNHCR, in collaboration with authorities and partners, continued to provide vital protection assistance to vulnerable IDPs and host communities affected by conflict, insecurity, and climate change. Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, refugee returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collaboration with the FGS, Federal Member States (FMS), and development and humanitarian partners remains one of the top priorities for UNHCR in Somalia. For the IDP response, UNHCR leads/co-leads the Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters in Somalia.

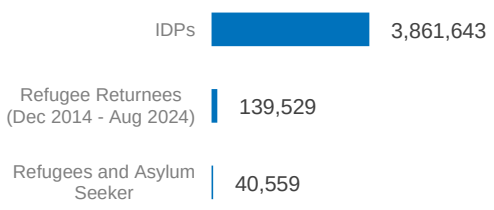
Some of UNHCR's key achievements for the month of September are:

- UNHCR completed the construction of a total of 316 shelters in September. 117 of these were permanent shelters at the Harwanag Integrated Solutions Site in Adado, Galmugud; 136 were transitional shelters at the Barwaqo-2 IDP site in Baidoa, South-West State; and 63 were permanent shelters at the Luglow Solutions Site in Jubaland.
- UNHCR and partners received the first two batches of Assisted Spontaneous Returnees (ASRs) from Yemen in Berbera, Somaliland. In total, 252 ASRs were received. They were biometrically registered and provided with a phone, SIM card, accommodation, hot meals, and various other services, including health screening, gender-based violence (GBV) support, and information about their areas of return. Furthermore, the returnees received onward transport allowance for their areas of return in Somaliland and Puntland, as well as air transport for those returning to the south and central part of Somalia.
- UNHCR Representative Mr. Charles Mballa completed his familiarization mission to Dollow, Gedo region in Jubaland. He visited Kaharey and Ladan IDP sites, where he monitored recently constructed transitional shelters. He also convened meetings with community leaders, local authorities, partners, and other UN agencies, emphasizing the importance of strengthening protection assistance and solutions to all forcibly displaced people.
- In Mogadishu, 100 refugees, refugee returnees, IDPs, and host community members completed UNHCR-supported business skills training.

KEY FIGURES

DISPLACEMENT AFFECTED POPULATIONS

3.9M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works

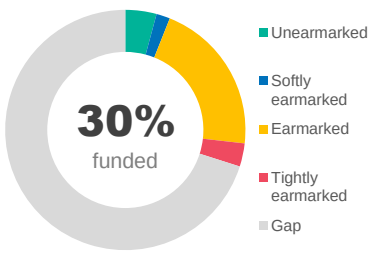


PARTNERS

29 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024

FUNDING

177 M Funding required for 2024 *(as of 30 September)*



POPULATION DATA

40,559

Refugees and asylum-seekers

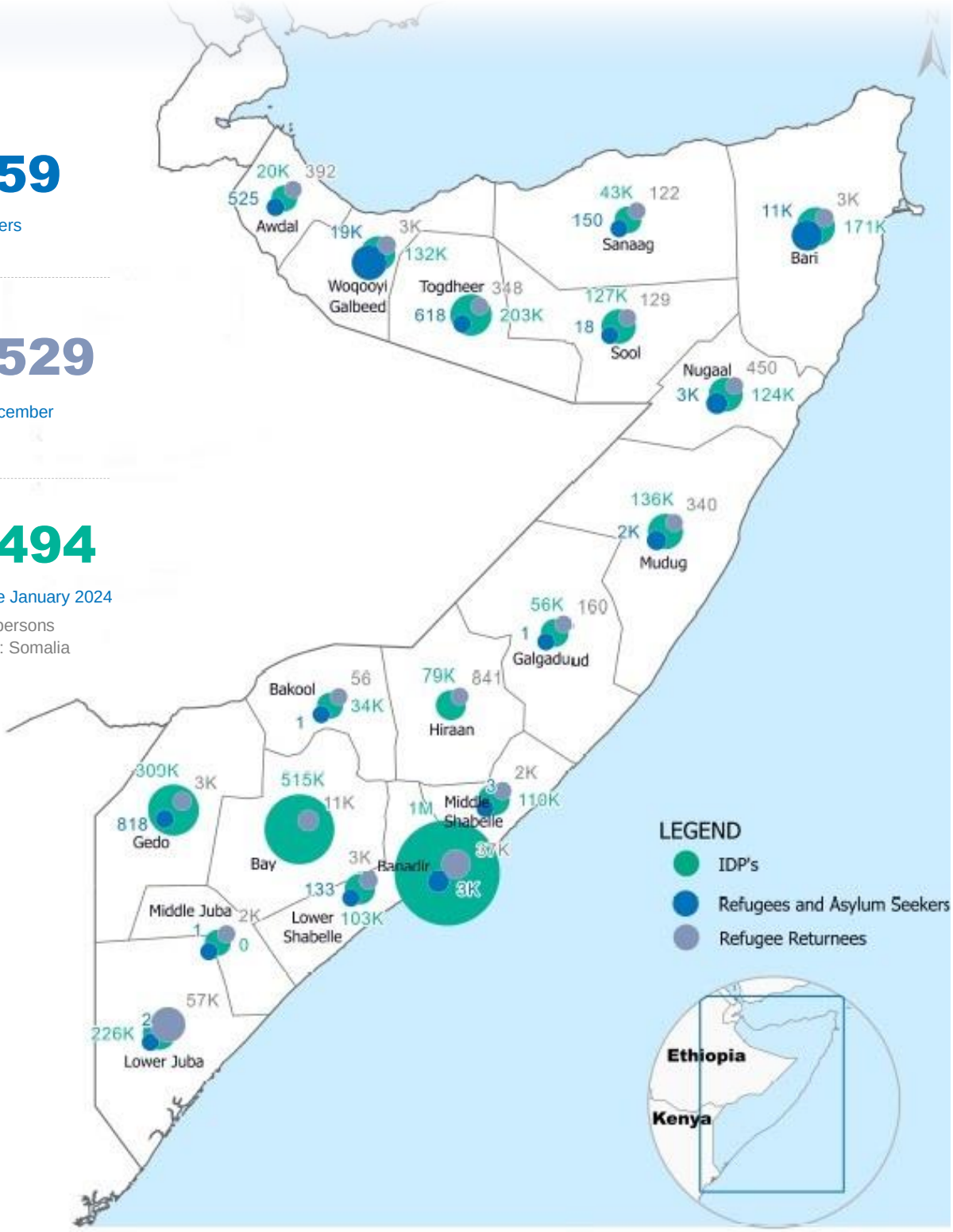
139,529

Refugee returnees from December 2014

347,494

Internal displacements since January 2024

3.86M Internally displaced persons (Stock IDP number, Source: Somalia IDP WG)



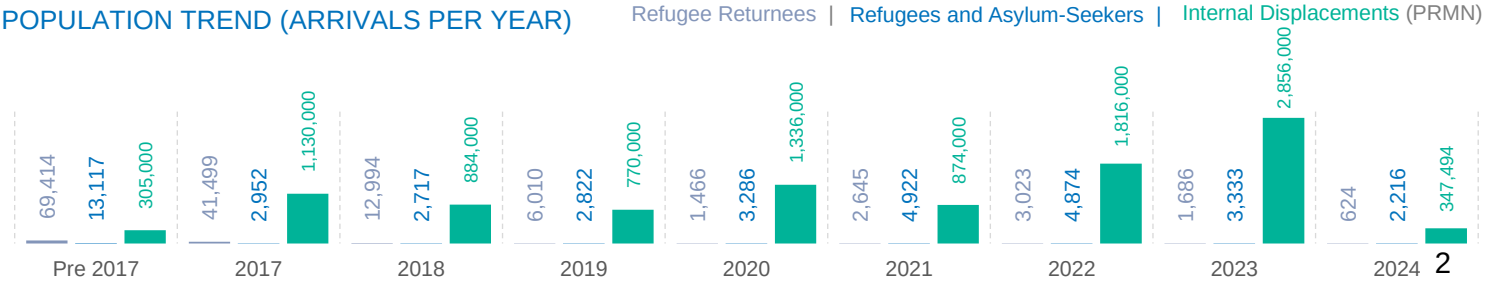
Sources of Data: UNHCR, UN IDP-WG, HDX

Feedback: sommopmn@unhcr.org

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

POPULATION TREND (ARRIVALS PER YEAR)

Refugee Returnees | Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | Internal Displacements (PRMN)



Operational Context

UNHCR in Somalia continued to operate in a highly complex and volatile environment characterized by insecurity due to armed conflict, indiscriminate attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs), violent clan clashes, political tension, and climate change. The humanitarian crisis in Somalia is severe. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 6.9 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance in 2024. Recurrent shocks, including climatic events, conflict, insecurity, and disease outbreaks, continue to exacerbate needs. About 4.3 million people remain acutely food insecure, and malnutrition rates among children under five remain high.[1]

Although the rate of internal displacement owing to conflict and insecurity slowed down in September, according to the UNHCR-led Protection and Solutions Returns Network (PSMN), 2024 has witnessed more than 347,494 displacements within Somalia, with the Gedo, Hiran, and Lower Juba recording the highest number of displaced population inflows. Approximately 4,978 internal displacements occurred in September alone, with nearly half (47%) of the displaced attributed to conflict or insecurity and nearly a quarter (24%) due to climate change. Food, shelter, water, livelihood, and health were the top needs of the newly displaced families. Middle Juba, Gedo, and Lower Juba regions reported the greatest number of IDP arrivals, accounting for 59% of the total displacements. Women and children, who face heightened protection risk, make up 80% of the displaced population.[2] The PSMN online interactive dashboard provides more up-to-date information about displacement and the protection needs of IDPs.

Somalia also hosts 40,559 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 66% are women and children; 30% 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 (65%) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (30%), Syria (4%), and other countries (1%). Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers (74%) reside in urban or peri-urban settings across the Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, both of which are in the northern part of the country. Furthermore, since December 2014, 139,529 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Kenya, followed by Yemen. UNHCR has directly assisted 95,461 individuals from the total number of refugee returnees, primarily through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

The ongoing armed conflict between the Somali Security Forces and the NSAG, recurring clan conflicts, and reprisal attacks by the NSAG created a volatile operating environment for humanitarian actors, leading to the displacement, injuries, and deaths of many ordinary Somalis. Reports of armed conflict and indiscriminate attacks by the NSAG emerged from Bakool, Bay, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Banadir (Mogadishu). Notable incidents in September include three indirect fire attacks in Mogadishu and Kismayo in Lower Juba, targeting the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and UN facilities. Similarly, Galmudug State experienced the highest number of clan clashes, which in some cases resulted in casualties.

On the political front, in a speech at the UN General Assembly in New York, Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre appealed for international assistance to bolster the new peace operation, following the African Union's Peace and Security Council's (PSC's) endorsement for a follow-on mission to replace ATMIS in 2025 with the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission (AUSSOM). This transition is critical for ongoing peacebuilding efforts and security operations in the region. Tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia persisted, primarily due to political differences caused by the January Memorandum of Understanding between Ethiopia and Somaliland. The third round of Türkiye-mediated talks between the two countries was cancelled in September, but both sides remain open to future negotiations.

The FGS has proposed a two-year transition from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to a United Nations Country Team (UNCT). This transition aims to better align with Somalia's national priorities and evolving needs. The UNCT and Somali institutions will gradually take over responsibilities over the two-year period, with a reduction in UNSOM personnel and budget and a focus on building capacity within Somali institutions. A detailed transition plan will be developed in consultation with the FGS and will commence in November 2024. The current timeline expects the FGS and UNCT to fully absorb all functions currently managed by UNSOM by the end of the transition in October 2026.

[1] *https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2024-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-hnrp-summary*
[2] *Somalia Factsheet - Key Figures (As of 29 Feb 2024) - Somalia | ReliefWeb*

Update on Achievements

In September, UNHCR Representative Mr. Charles Mballa completed his familiarization mission to Dollow, Gedo region in Jubaland. He visited Kaharey and Ladan IDP sites, identified as potential locations for implementing solution projects. In the Ladan IDP site, he monitored recently constructed transitional shelters and visited the UNHCR-run multipurpose transit center, which provides space to coordinate protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and other humanitarian activities for the displaced persons. He also convened meetings with community leaders, local authorities, partners, and other UN agencies, emphasizing the importance of strengthening protection assistance and solutions to all forcibly displaced persons.

UNHCR Representative gets briefed about UNHCR's interventions at the Ladan IDP site in Dollow. © UNHCR

Protection

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR, through its partners, identified and supported at least 81 new and existing GBV cases via protection desks, hotlines, one-stop GBV centers, and a safehouse, among other support channels. The survivors received safe shelter and meal support, psychosocial counseling, medical, legal, and law-enforcement referrals, and cash assistance, among others.
- In Hargeisa, Somaliland, a high-level Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Advocacy Convention was held on 17 to 18 September, primarily supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, Action Aid, Save the Children, and UNHCR. The meeting brought together Members of Parliament and Senators from Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and beyond, along with civil society organizations, UN agencies, health professionals, religious leaders, activists, and advocates. They collaborated on strategies to eradicate FGM. Key discussions focused on policy advocacy, knowledge sharing, and regional collaboration, culminating in the approval of a comprehensive FGM policy. This policy outlined actionable strategies for advocacy and community engagement, emphasizing culturally sensitive approaches to address the severe impacts of FGM, which affects 98% of women and girls in Somaliland.
- UNHCR helped organize sports events for youth in Garowe, Puntland State, to celebrate International Peace Day, featuring a marathon for boys and a basketball tournament for girls. Around 200 youth from various displaced and host communities participated, highlighting the role of youth in promoting peace and resilience. The girls' basketball match emphasized gender equality, women's involvement in peacebuilding, and also raising awareness about GBV. Government officials and civil society organizations attended, reinforcing a commitment to gender equality, GBV prevention, and the protection of vulnerable groups.
- UNHCR, through its partner, disseminated information, education, and communication (IEC) materials in Dollow and Kismayo in Jubaland State to raise awareness about GBV, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child protection (CP). In Dollow, four IDP sites received 25 stickers each with protection messages. In Kismayo, 136 IEC materials were distributed to the Qamqam and New Luglow IDP sites. These materials are crucial for informing communities about their rights and available services, which enhances support for vulnerable populations.

Community based protection, support to persons with specific needs, community engagement and awareness raising

- UNHCR, through its partner, provided psychosocial support to 20 IDPs, including 18 women and 2 men in Dollow. This initiative not only addressed immediate health needs but also offered ongoing mental health support, enhancing the well-being and safety of vulnerable populations. Moreover, the initiative referred 50 individuals (39 women and 11 men) for essential health services, ensuring they had the necessary transportation to access these facilities.
- UNHCR-supported Roving Protection Help Desks operated across 63 sites in Puntland and Galmudug states, reaching 2,419 IDPs with the aim of enhancing access to information and referral services for persons with specific needs. The desks conducted home visits, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews with community leaders and other stakeholders. The desks in Puntland facilitated 23 referrals, primarily for psychosocial support, while in Galmudug they identified and recorded 1,116 cases requiring protection services using the Kobo tool.

- In Somaliland, the three UNHCR-supported helpdesks in Burao, Oog, and Widhwidh identified 17 cases requiring urgent protection support, including GBV response, and 34 cases that required referrals to service providers, such as shelter and health.
- In Mogadishu and Baidoa, UNHCR, through its partners, conducted the monthly community-based protection network (CBPN) meeting for 60 IDPs (53 female and 7 male). The discussion focused on the safe identification and referral of protection cases identified.
- UNHCR, through its partner, reached and counseled 591 refugees and asylum-seekers (236 male and 355 female) on issues such as financial aid, refugee status determination (RSD), and resettlement options. Additionally, UNHCR directly supported 183 individuals, implementing appropriate measures such as counseling sessions and referrals to relevant partners.
- UNHCR, through its partner, organized an awareness-raising session about the importance of mental health well-being and psychosocial counseling for 40 refugee women and girls at the community center (PCC).

Awareness raising session on the importance of mental health well-being organized at the Peaceful Coexistence Center in Hargeisa. © DAN

Child Protection

- In Hargeisa, Somaliland, UNHCR and its partner identified 17 children at-risk who are currently not attending school. All of them have been placed under case management, where they have received psychosocial counseling to address their individual circumstances and support their emotional well-being.

Legal assistance

- In Somaliland and Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, provided legal assistance and support to 286 individuals, mainly refugees and asylum-seekers. Services included emergency shelter support, legal counseling, mediation, legal advocacy for release from custody, initiation of court processes, legal representation before the court, and referral to other service providers, among others. Furthermore, UNHCR, through its partners, conducted 60 monitoring visits to police stations and detention centers in Maroodi-Jeeh and Sahil regions in Somaliland and in Bossaso, Garowe, and Galkayo in Puntland and advocated for the successful release of 23 refugees and asylum-seekers from custody.

Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- In September, UNHCR and partners received the first two batches of Assisted Spontaneous Returnees (ASRs) from Yemen in Berbera, Somaliland. In total, 252 ASRs were received. They were biometrically registered and provided with a phone, SIM card, accommodation, hot meals, and various other services, including health screening, GBV support, and information about their areas of return. Furthermore, the returnees received onward transport allowance for their areas of return in Somaliland and Puntland, as well as air transport for those returning to the south and central part of Somalia. Out of the total ASR arrivals, 194 individuals returned to various locations in the south and central parts of Somalia. All returnees will receive one-time payment of a reinstalment grant, six months' worth of subsistence allowance, as well as an education grant to cover nine months of school fees for school-going children.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR distributed subsistence allowance cash assistance for at least 3 months to help 121 refugee-returnees from Yemen who returned in 2023 reintegrate into their areas of return.
- In Somaliland, the National Refugee and Displacement Agency (NRDA) registered and biometrically enrolled 645 refugees and asylum-seekers in UNHCR's corporate, centralized, web-based identity and case management system, proGres. These individuals originated from Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, and Sudan.
- In Somaliland, NDRA processed a total of 1,015 documents. These included 796 asylum certificates and 219 refugee cards. Out of these, 642 documents, comprising 136 refugee identity cards and 506 asylum certificates, were replacements for expired identity documents. New arrivals received 373 documents, including 83 refugee identity cards and 290 asylum certificates.

Durable solutions

- The Federal Government of Somalia National Solutions Pathway Action Plan was launched on 4 September. Following a consultative process at the federal and state level, in which UNHCR participated as one of several stakeholders, the action plan was developed aimed at ensuring solutions for 1 million internally displaced persons through enhanced access to essential services, sustainable livelihoods and employment opportunities, housing, security of tenure, improved social welfare, and building resilience.

- Through the UNHCR-supported resettlement program in Somaliland, a male refugee departed to Canada.

Statelessness

- UNHCR's Regional Bureau of the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes organized the Regional Statelessness Meeting in Dar es Salaam, where the Government of Somalia committed to several key actions for 2025. These include finalizing accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions and initiating the membership process for the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Somalia also pledged to amend citizenship laws to remove gender discriminatory clauses and ensure compliance with the transitional constitution. Additionally, the government will support the Civil Registration improvement program to ensure birth registration for all. These commitments align with the broader goals discussed at the meeting, which included reviewing progress since the 2019 High-Level Segment and planning future actions to end statelessness.

Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

- In Mogadishu, 100 individuals, consisting of 76 males and 24 females, successfully completed a business skills training program supported by UNHCR. This group included 60 refugees, 27 returnees, 10 IDPs, and three women from the host community. The training covered financial management, bookkeeping, business planning, and marketing to enhance business development skills and economic resilience. The goal was to facilitate labor market access, promote entrepreneurship, and empower communities toward self-reliance. So far, 27 participants have received USD 1,000 in loans after presenting their business plans, while the remaining 63 are preparing to submit their proposals to a microfinance institute.
- In Mogadishu, 20 individuals (18 women and 2 men) completed their UNHCR-supported vocational training programs in tie and dye and beauty salon skills. They also received start-up kits to launch their own businesses and to foster their economic empowerment and self-reliance.

Distribution of a start-up kit to help set up a beauty salon in Mogadishu. © COOPI

- In Beletweyne, Hirshabelle, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed a donkey cart each to 15 vulnerable IDP HHs. Donkey carts are an important means of transportation and can also help generate income for vulnerable families.
- In Dollow, 10 male asylum-seekers successfully completed UNHCR-supported Solar System skills training, focusing on solar technology, panel installation, maintenance, and energy efficiency. The training equipped the participants with the knowledge to promote sustainable energy solutions and contribute to their communities' quality of life.
- In Dhobley and Kismayo of Jubaland State and Beletweyne of Hirshabelle State, UNHCR, through its government partners, employed 213 beneficiaries, 40 women in Dhobley, 40 in Kismayo, and 133 individuals (109 female and 29 male) in Beletweyne in a cash for work programme, providing individuals with earning opportunities through productive work aimed at improving hygiene standards and mitigating environmental risks.
- In view of the office's new strategic direction of supporting self-reliance of the forcibly displaced persons, the UNHCR office in Hargeisa, Somaliland, conducted 593 livelihood assessments, accepting 311 cases for livelihood grants.

Flood and other Emergency Response

- UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner, distributed dignity kits to 100 refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable host community members in North Galkayo, Puntland. This initiative aimed to support displaced women and girls of reproductive age who are at risk of gender-based violence (GBV). During the distribution, the partner also conducted awareness sessions on GBV, other protection risks, available support and referral mechanisms for survivors, and menstrual hygiene. Moreover, 309 women and girls of reproductive age have been identified and registered in conflict-affected areas of Galdogob and South Jariban districts in Mudug region and Abduwak in Galgaduud region to receive monetized dignity kits.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partner, completed the assessment and registration of 2,790 IDP HHs for multipurpose cash assistance support, specifically targeting those affected by conflicts in the eastern regions.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, together with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs and the Daynile District Commissioner, launched an IDP profiling exercise to register 4,000 households (approximately 24,000 individuals)

who will receive NFI in preparation for the upcoming rainy season. Thus far, UNHCR has registered 1,406 households (3,013 individuals) for assistance.

- In Bossaso, UNHCR, through its partner and location authorities, registered 250 HHs for multipurpose cash assistance and 241 HHs for emergency shelter kit distribution. The registered are IDPs who recently faced éviction at the Al-Kheyr IDP site.
- UNHCR and its partner have completed the identification and registration of 1,390 IDP HHs affected by clan conflicts and climate change in Puntland (Bossaso, Garowe, Galdogod/Jariban, and Lasqoray) and Galmudug (Abduwak) states for multipurpose cash assistance, with each HH scheduled to receive USD 120.

Shelter and NFI

- At the Harwanag Integrated Solutions Site in Adado, Galmudug, UNHCR, through its partner, has completed the construction of 117 permanent shelters and latrines. These shelters are part of the plan to locally integrate IDPs and other forcibly displaced people at the site to find durable solutions, ending their displacement predicament.
- At the Barwaqo 2 Site in Baidoa, South West State, UNHCR, through its partner, has completed the construction of 136 shelters out of the planned 194 shelters. These semi-permanent shelters aim to provide safe, dignified, and sustainable living spaces for the IDP population; hence, they contribute to their well-being, security, and resilience in the face of displacement challenges.

Newly constructed semi-permanent shelters at the Barwaqo- 2 Site in Baidoa. © AVORD

- In Luglow, Jubaland, UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner, has successfully constructed 63 permanent shelters and the equivalent number of latrines, out of a planned total of 150 shelters and 150 latrines. The goal of this initiative is to integrate the IDPs locally at the Luglow Solutions Site and guide them towards sustainable solutions.
- At the IDP sites in Luglow and Dhobley, UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner, installed more than 50 solar streetlights with the aim of illuminating dark areas to make the surroundings safer for the IDP population, especially women and girls.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary, secondary, tertiary, or maternal and child health care services in Mogadishu, Puntland, and Somaliland, primarily to 1,405 refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as a handful of refugee returnees, IDPs, and host community members. The services provided included consultations and medical screenings, laboratory investigations, emergency inpatient services, obstetric services for women undergoing normal births, immunizations, dietary advice for individuals with chronic diseases, ambulance services, and referrals to specialized hospitals. Additionally, the program provided emergency inpatient, outpatient, and obstetric services, along with referrals, to 144 refugee returnees and 15 refugees and asylum-seekers in Berbera, Somaliland.

Education

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, through its partner, supported 866 refugee, asylum-seeker, and refugee returnee students (438 girls and 428 boys) at the primary and secondary levels with their monthly school fee. Scholastic materials were also distributed to 139 refugee and refugee returnee students in primary and secondary schools.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, through its partner, completed rehabilitation work at Ali Hussein Primary and Secondary School, enhancing the school's learning environment. The rehabilitation also included the replacement of 32 windows along with essential repairs to classroom doors and latrine facilities. Furthermore, the size of windows in nine classrooms was increased, allowing for more natural light and improved air circulation.
- Following the success of the back-to-school campaign in July, UNHCR's education partner in Somaliland reported a total of 451 new enrolments (219 girls and 232 boys) in primary education in the Awdal, Maroodi Jeeh, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions.

Capacity building

- In Hargeisa, Somaliland, UNHCR, in collaboration with its legal partner, organized specialized workshops targeting law enforcement agencies on International Protection, asylum access, and border management in the context of mixed movement populations in Borama, Wajaale, Hargeisa, and Berbera. The workshops aimed to enhance the technical knowledge and operational capacity of 100 officials drawn from key government agencies, including immigration, border control agencies, coastal guards, and border police. The training provided in-depth guidance on international protection principles and the legal obligations related to the non-refoulement principle. Participants were trained to better identify asylum-seekers and refugees within mixed migration flows, as well as to differentiate between irregular migrants, trafficked persons, and individuals in need of international protection. The workshops also focused on practical aspects of asylum access, outlining the roles of each government agency in facilitating appropriate asylum procedures at the border and ensuring that individuals have access to fair and efficient registration and referral systems.
- In Baidoa, UNHCR conducted protection training for 60 World Food Programme (WFP) enumerators on accountability to affected populations (AAP) and community-based protection. The purpose of the training was to equip the enumerators with the skills to identify and mitigate protection risks within communities, promoting a safer environment for vulnerable groups.
- UNHCR organized a training session in Bossaso for ten Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Democratization (MoIFAD) staff members who work with asylum-seekers in Bossaso and Garowe to enhance their registration skills. The training focused on the proGres v4 registration module and emphasized protection principles and ethical considerations.

Cluster Coordination and Leadership

protectioncluster SOMALIA

675K[3]

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

Reached 25% | Gap 75%

3.8 M	People in need
2.7 M	People targeted
173 M	Funding required

Funded 18% | Gap 82%

Shelter Cluster Somalia
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

936K

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

Reached 67% | Gap 33%

4.6 M	People in need
1.4 M	People targeted
80 M	Funding required

Funded 13% | Gap 87%

CCCM Cluster SOMALIA
CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1.4M

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

Reached 52% | Gap 48%

3.3 M	People in need
2.7 M	People targeted
61 M	Funding required

Funded 32% | Gap 68%

[3] The cumulative number includes September data from the Protection Cluster and Housing, Land and property and Explosive Hazards Areas of Responsibilities (AoRs).

Protection Cluster

- With the support of the Global Protection Cluster, the Protection Cluster has released its Advocacy and Communications Strategy. The strategy defines primary communication and advocacy goals, outlines the priority protection risks being addressed, identifies target audiences, validates procedures for activity implementation, and provides a detailed action plan outlining specific activities, indicators, timeframes, and roles and responsibilities. The strategy is adaptable to the emerging protection trends and priorities, the evolving protection landscape, and key strategic decision-making from the humanitarian leadership.
- The Somalia Protection Cluster, in collaboration with its four Areas of Responsibility (AoRs), convened a four-day workshop to unite over 25 participants from line ministries, chairs of the four AoRs, and key partners. The aim was to enhance efforts to safeguard vulnerable populations in the region, with a particular emphasis on the four strategic pillars of the Protection Cluster Response Strategy: protection of civilians, response prioritization, integrated approaches across sectors, and operationalization of frontline protection responses.
- Together with OCHA's Information Management and Access Units, the Protection Cluster has been co-chairing the conflict shock analysis and prioritization for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). For the first time, Somalia has integrated the conflict shock analysis into the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 2.0, which aims to identify the districts and population estimates most affected by conflict throughout the country. This process has led to the identification of 20 districts and 4.4 million people affected by conflict, according to the inter-sectoral analysis. This conflict shock analysis will support the cluster's frontline operational response planning for protection and ensure that conflict is prioritized in the humanitarian response in Somalia.
- In close collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and the Area-Based Approach Operational Cell (ABC-OC), the Protection Cluster has defined the minimum package and timelines for protection responses under the Integrated Response Framework (IRF). The IRF is an inter-sectoral and integrated response that aims to respond to emergencies in Somalia between 7 and 14 days after the incident. The protection response now has a well-established package that includes: a) protection desks for providing high-quality specialized protection services, such as protection monitoring, case management (including protection, CP, and GBV), feedback mechanisms, psychosocial support, and referrals; and b) protection of civilians, such as community-led protection initiatives and supporting the coordination and response across sectors by doing things like conflict sensitivity analysis, mediation, and making sure IDP sites are safe places for civilians.

Shelter Cluster

- In September, the Shelter Cluster partners reached 1,367 individuals through the distribution of plastic sheets to 82 HHs (476 individuals) in Beletweyne and the construction of 150 transitional shelters in Baidoa and Banadir.
- The Shelter Cluster team completed the People in Need (PiN) calculation for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP). This calculation is based on the affected population data provided by OCHA, which considers the impact of multiple shocks, including conflict, drought, flooding, disease outbreaks, displacement, and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) levels. The Shelter Severity Classification (SSC) identified 5.4 million people in need of shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) support in 2025, covering both displaced and non-displaced populations. This represents an 18% increase from the 2024 PiN figure of 4.6 million.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- The CCCM cluster, in collaboration with local authorities and partners, conducted a site verification assessment at five IDP sites in Dollow, verifying a total of 22,612 HHs (135,426 individuals).
- 39 IDP sites, including 18 in Berdale town in Baidoa, seven in Garbahareey, six in Ceel Afweyn, five in Galkayo, two in Laascaanood, and one in Baardheere, underwent safety audits. These include overcrowded sites with makeshift shelters lacking privacy; insufficient, costly, and poorly maintained WASH facilities; limited access to health services and schools; inadequate nutrition services; and overall safety concerns within the camps. Most sites lacked lighting, drainage systems, and designated safe spaces for women and girls. Additionally, some of the audited locations reported the presence of armed individuals and safety risks associated with accessing essential services.
- CCCM Cluster partners conducted 33 coordination meetings at the site level. The partners identified critical gaps across multiple sectors (WASH, protection, FSL, shelter) during the coordination meetings in Baidoa, Diinsoor, and Baardheere. The meetings significantly enhance collaboration between partners and local authorities, ensuring better allocation of resources and preventing overlap of services/duplication. Partners agreed to draft action plans at each meeting to address specific site needs, with follow-up tasks assigned to responsible partners.
- In September, the number of issues raised through the CCCM-managed complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) system stood at 3,767. Emergency Shelter/NFI accounted for the majority of the complaints raised, followed by WASH requests or complaints. The agencies and clusters addressed and resolved 22% of the issues raised.
- The CCCM Cluster partners conducted service monitoring activities across 1,460 IDP sites, covering 28 districts. Overall, 76% of sites had water access for IDPs. 46% of sites had primary education facilities, while 26% of IDP sites

had them within a 20-minute walk. 56% of sites had access to health facilities within walking distance, and 64% of sites also had access to nutrition facilities within walking distance. 93% of the residents in the monitored sites lived in makeshift emergency shelters, and only 5% of IDP households reported receiving cash or food assistance in the last six months.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2024 amount to USD 53 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.

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia Operation in 2024 | USD

United States of America 35.4 million | **Japan** 6.6 million

Private donors in Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | Leaving No One Behind – The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund | USA for UNHCR | Other private donors

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2024 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 8.3 million | **Finland** 6.6 million | **UNO- Flüchtlingshilfe** 5.2 million | **Italy** 4.9 million | **Norway** 2.8 million | **Private donors in Italy** 2.2 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2024 | USD

Sweden 90.6 million | **Norway** 58.9 million | **España con ACNUR** 49.8 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of)** 36.3 million | **France** 33.6 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 30.4 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island** 28.5 million | **Germany** 25.1 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 22.8 million | **Switzerland** 19.2 million | **Republic to Korea** 18 million | **Private donors in Italy** 14.7 million | **Belgium** 14.2 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Private donors in the Netherlands** 11.2 million | **Australia** 10.7 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 10.3 million

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LINKS

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