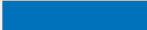


POPULATION

3.68M

of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs  3,500,000

Refugee Returnees (Dec 2014 - Feb 2025) | 140,910

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | 43,449

PARTNERS

16

of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2025

Government  10

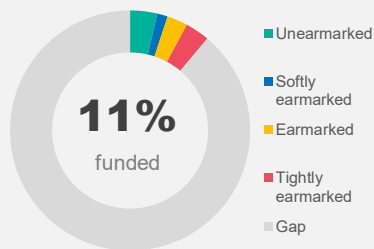
L/N NGO  4

INGO  2

FUNDING

157M

Funding required for 2025 (as of 30 April)



IMPACT STATEMENTS

1. PROTECT

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons enjoy living in a safe and secure environment in line with national and international protection frameworks.

2. RESPOND

Affected populations and most vulnerable persons strengthen their resilience, proactively mitigate the effects of climate change and their essential needs are met.

3. EMPOWER

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons improve their self-reliance with better access to socio-economic opportunities and engagement with development partners.

4. SOLVE

Refugees, IDPs and returnees have improved access to alternative pathways and a range of durable solutions.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

April 2025



Community Leaders in Taalacad IDPs Settlement, Galkayo. © Ngari/UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amid decreasing global humanitarian funding, the humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate in April. The 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Somalia projected 5.98 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, with 4.57 million targeted for help. Approximately 4.6 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, and 1.8 million children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Overall, over 47 per cent of the country's population is affected by conflict, floods, drought, disease outbreaks, and displacement that disrupt lives and livelihoods, resulting in dire humanitarian needs.

In April 2025, Somalia continued to experience significant security and political developments that have implications for both domestic stability and regional security dynamics. Al-Shabaab launched a series of lethal attacks across Somalia, targeting both civilian, military and government establishments. Reports indicate a rise of incidents in towns and villages surrounding Mogadishu. In the meantime, the transition process of UNTMIS is ongoing, with its mandate concluding on 31 October 2026, and the first phase ending on 31 October 2025, amid continued shrinking funding to the operation. The emerging security situation is impacting programming, especially in the hard-to-reach areas, as well as those under the control of insurgent groups.

On the political front, the ongoing tension between the federal government and some federal member states continued to weaken the government's ability to counter insurgency, thus making groups like Al-Shabaab to exploit internal divisions and expand its influence and reach.

KEY UPDATES

- **Verification:** In April 2025, UNHCR Sub-Office in Hargeisa, in partnership with the Ministry of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs, launched a verification exercise for refugees and asylum-seekers in Somaliland. By the end of April, 6,268 individuals (1,596 cases) were verified – comprising 3,306 asylum-seekers and 2,962 refugees. A total of 5,759 identity documents were reissued, including 2,729 refugee ID cards and 3,030 asylum certificates.
- **High level meeting:** On 30 April 2025, UNHCR joined an AFPs (UN agencies) meeting in Beletweyne with the Hirshabelle Vice President and UN agencies to discuss ongoing activities and challenges emerging from the funding cuts. Agencies reported reprioritization impacts, while the Vice President reaffirmed support for humanitarian efforts, especially in ensuring access and security for partners.
- **Funding cuts:** UNHCR estimates that 1.4 million women, girls and children will lose access to essential specialized gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services due to inadequate funding. Since January 2025, over 45,000 internally displaced persons had been forcibly evicted, 56% from the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) alone. Nearly 1,000 children formerly associated with armed groups may not receive assistance and risk (forced) re-recruitment.

ACHIEVEMENTS**Protection**

- In April 2025, KAALO (UNHCR protection partner) addressed GBV cases across four towns (Bosasso, Garowe, Galkayo, and Gardo) offering medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Under its justice program, 42 refugees and asylum-seekers (RAS) received legal aid, leading to 15 releases from detention. KAALO also provided emergency assistance to vulnerable individuals and joined UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior, Puntland (MOIFAD) in verifying 2,450 refugees in Garowe. Due to limited funding and rising tensions, especially among women, KAALO plans to strengthen advocacy, community engagement, and collaboration with MOIFAD to promote self-reliance and peaceful coexistence.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR's legal aid partner provided one-time emergency cash assistance to 24 households (105 individuals) facing eviction or homelessness due to rent arrears, helping reduce risks like GBV, insecurity, and child protection issues. UNHCR also distributed cash to cover tuition fees for 305 refugee students. Through this stream of cash interventions, UNHCR Somalia aims to enhance transition to and retention of refugee children in public secondary schools in Somaliland.
- In April, UNHCR successfully completed the distribution of 1,090 solar lanterns targeting 545 households in Barwaqo Durable Solution site with each household receiving two lantern lamps, to improve the safety and security of the households during the night. Solar lanterns reduce reliance on hazardous and costly fuel-based lighting sources and contribute to better health outcomes by reducing indoor air pollution and lowering the risk of fire accidents.

**Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- In April, UNHCR's Kismayo Field Office, in collaboration with NRC, conducted community engagement sessions to address fraud scams targeting vulnerable groups. Awareness sessions in IDP sites reached 400 households (250 female-headed), aiming to prevent exploitation by promoting vigilance and resilience. Key stakeholders, including government and humanitarian actors, participated. Additionally, UNHCR and SWSCRI (community-based protection partner) held awareness sessions in catchment areas 2 and 7 on site regulations, housing, land and property rights, fire prevention, and access to services. Fifteen community leaders attended and were urged to share the information, helping to strengthen community protection and trust in humanitarian support.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR and its partners engaged forcibly displaced persons through multiple feedback mechanisms, including hotlines, suggestion boxes, and in-person counseling, reaching over 205 individuals. Through its community-based protection partners, UNHCR provided targeted support to 25 individuals with specific needs, delivering psychosocial counseling, physiotherapy, and follow-up care. Referrals to relevant service providers were made where necessary.

**Shelter and NFIs**

- In Galkayo, following the reprioritization, efforts focused on identifying suitable implementation sites through collaboration with Galmudug authorities, including Galmudug Commission for

Refugees and IDPs and the Ministry of Planning Investment and Economic Development (MOPIED). Joint assessments identified three potential sites near Dhusamareb, each facing challenges such as lack of services, flooding risks, and unclear land tenure. Additional sites in Abudwak were also proposed for evaluation. Coordination with UNHCR led to prioritizing Girible, Bossaso, for intervention. However, major constraints remain, particularly inadequate infrastructure and unresolved land tenure issues in Dhusamareb, requiring legal due diligence and further engagement with local authorities.

**Climate and Other Emergency Responses**

- In April 2025, Puntland recorded 3,994 arrivals (94.2% men, 6.53% women, 1.42% children) and 1,246 departures (87.6% men, 9.1% women, 3.3% children), indicating a predominantly male migration flow. The Bossaso One-Stop Centre was launched by MOIFAD, UNHCR, and local authorities to centralize services for RAS. A verification exercise in Garowe, led by MOIFAD, UNHCR, and KAALO, faced logistical challenges but yielded lessons for future planning. MOIFAD also implemented security operations to disrupt smuggling and protect migrants, alongside awareness campaigns and data collection at entry points. Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) meetings were established to enhance coordination.
- In Hargeisa, during the reporting period, 140 refugees and asylum seekers – primarily from Yemen, Syria, and Ethiopia – were registered. Among them, nine were new arrivals in Berbera, while the rest were children added to family cases during verification. Additionally, 21 Somali returnees from Yemen were registered.

**Durable Solutions**

- In April, UNHCR Field Office in Kismayo, in coordination with AVORD and JUCRI, conducted a vulnerability assessment in IDP sites targeting 2,000 newly arrived households displaced by drought and conflict. The assessment aimed to identify the most vulnerable households for assistance, with tarpaulin distribution planned as the initial response.

**Education**

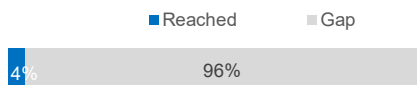
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, in collaboration with Save the Children, covered three months of school fees (January–March 2025) for 504 primary and 229 secondary school students. This financial support ensures that RAS' children have continued access to education across the city.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR facilitated parent mobilization sessions in primary schools to address concerns raised by refugee guardians regarding recent fee increases by some public school administrations. These sessions also aimed to promote meaningful parental involvement in school management and decision-making. Additionally, UNHCR participated in the Ministry of Education's monthly coordination meeting with education partners to review progress, identify challenges, and develop strategies to enhance education services.

CLUSTER RESPONSE



93,394

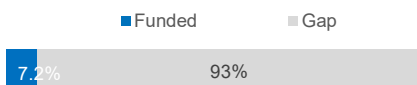
of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs



3.3 M People in need

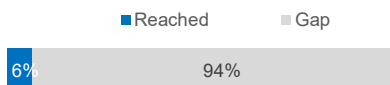
2.4 M People targeted

166 M Funding required



79,744

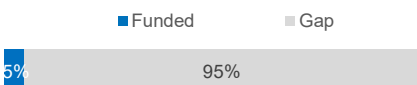
of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster



4.1 M People in need

1.3 M People targeted

60.8 M Funding required



1,091,216

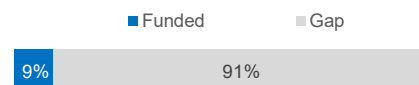
of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster



2.4 M People in need

1.9 M People targeted

44.6 M Funding required



Protection Cluster

In April, UNHCR conducted successful advocacy with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and secured a commitment for funding the most critical specialized protection activities, such as the reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups, family tracing and reunification, and case management for GBV survivors. The Protection Cluster has conducted a reprioritization exercise and will now target 400,306 persons in 2025, representing 16% of the initial planned target (2.4 million displaced people) for 2025, before the funding cuts. Specialized protection services have decreased by 50% in the first quarter of 2025 (14 out of 23 locations in 2024). 81 protection partners are offering 73 protection-related services overall.

Shelter Cluster

In April 2025, Shelter Cluster partners provided non-food item (NFI) and emergency shelter support to 17,820 individuals (2,970 households), in three districts – Caynabo, Hargeisa, and Kahda – located in the regions of Sool, Waqooyi Galbeed, and Banadir, respectively. According to PSMN data, 6,587 individuals were displaced between 1-30 April 2025 – mainly by conflict and insecurity, affecting 2,893 individuals, followed by drought, 1,544 people. The top five regions receiving the highest number of new arrivals were: Middle Shabelle (1,633), Bari (1,479), Sanaag (720), Sool (638), and Hiraan (439). Shelter was identified as the second most critical need by 29% of respondents, following food as the top priority. The ongoing funding cuts have posed a challenge for partners responding to the immediate displaced population. To enhance coordination with the government, the Shelter Cluster held a one-day session with the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) focal point to discuss key aspects of the cluster framework, including shelter coordination mechanism, response strategies, operational capacity, geographical coverage, and the government's role in shelter interventions. The cluster is planning to roll out the Shelter Typology Mapping Tool to support identifying and mapping various shelter types across the Federal Member States in Somalia.

CCCM Cluster

CCCM Cluster partners conducted 134 site-level coordination meetings across 20 districts, including Baidoa, Daynile, Cadaado, Doolow, Galkacyo, Kahda, Kismaayo, Hargeisa, and Bardhere, to strengthen coordination with all stakeholders. Cluster partners conducted 186 coordination meetings at the site level in Somaliland, aimed at strengthening inter-agency collaboration, identify gaps and challenges, and assess community needs. Safety audits were conducted in 82 IDP settlements, including 68 sites in Baidoa, 3 in Ceel Berde, and 11 in Xudur. Cluster partners monitored 431 IDP sites in 32 districts in Somalia. Of these, 421 sites had active partner presence – 158 sites had child protection service providers, while 273 sites had general protection actors. Overall, 258 sites (66%) had at least one protection service provider, while 146 sites (34%) had none. Health services were available in 264 sites (61%), while WASH services were available in 218 sites (51%). 91% of sites lacked emergency shelter and NFI services.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Shariifo's Journey to Stability through Shelter in Adado

Shariifo Osman Elmi, a 40-year-old mother of seven children, once lived peacefully in the rural village of Caad in Harardheere district, Galmudug State. Her life took a tragic turn two and a half years ago when violent clashes forced them out. She and her family escaped to Adado, and lived in a crowded informal IDP settlement, with no basic services. *"We lost everything, our livestock, our land, our future," shariifo recalls, "we were left with no hope."* That changed when Shariifo benefited from the local integration shelter project, funded by UNHCR through NRC, reaching 117 vulnerable families. Shariifo's family received a two-room permanent climate-resilient shelter with latrine, built from local durable materials.



Impacts

- ✓ The shelter was designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, protecting her children from respiratory illnesses caused by cold and heat. *"This is not just a house, it's a safe space, and a home for my family,"* she says.
- ✓ Shariifo was issued a title deed in her name, giving her land tenure security for the first time. *"We finally feel like permanent residents, we no longer fear being evicted."* Having legal proof of ownership has boosted her sense of identity and dignity, enabling equal participation in the community.
- ✓ A new borehole supplies clean water for free; a mobile health team visits regularly; and local authorities support schooling. *"My children are healthier and going to school. We are no longer surviving, we are living."*
- ✓ Partnership with and leadership by the local government, facilitated land allocation and service provision, showcasing effective decentralized leadership in durable solutions. Shariifo's involvement in the shelter construction empowered her family.
- ✓ Though unfamiliar with mobile money or budgeting, her family managed the process independently. Her eldest son even contributed labour, gaining skills in construction and plumbing. *"We learned how to build and how to manage a budget. We didn't just receive help; we became part of the solution."* Shariifo encourages others to integrate into host communities, she dreams of further improvements for safety and advocates for permanent solutions. *"We're not going back to Caad. There's nothing there. Here, we have peace, opportunities, and a future."*
- ✓ Her case is one among the 117 households now tracked through local registration and monitoring systems, providing evidence on what works in durable solutions. Shariifo's story is a living example of possible outcomes when humanitarian response links directly to long-term recovery, achieving stability through shelter, rights, services, and resilience.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 17.5 million** as of 30 April 2025. 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 2025 | USD

USA 3.3 million | **Japan** 2.0 million | **Austria** 1.4 million | **Germany** 598,219 | **Switzerland** 340,136 | **Canada** 126,000

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Italy 5.1 million | **Finland** 3.2 million | **Norway** 2.8 million | **Australia for UNHCR** 2.4 million | **Canada** | **Private donors**

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Sweden 74.1 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **España con ACNUR** 25.2 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 11.4 million | **Germany** 10.8 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | **Private donors**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [UNHCR Somalia](#)
- UNHCR Somalia: [Global Focus](#)
- UNHCR Somalia: [Operational Data Portal](#)
- Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network dashboard ([PSMN](#))
- [Protection Cluster](#)
- [Shelter Cluster](#)
- [CCCM Cluster](#)

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