UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Somalia

POPULATION

3.68M # of people with and for whom UNHCR works

IDPs	3,500,000
Refugee Returnees (Dec 2014 - June 2025)	140,956
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	44,564

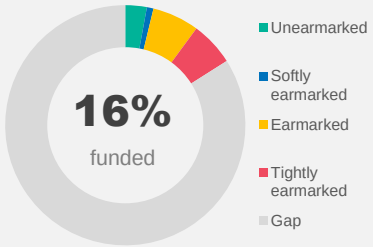
PARTNERS

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 31 August)*



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
AUGUST 2025

Recently Completed Transitional Shelters in Baidoa, Somalia. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Amidst the unprecedented humanitarian funding reductions, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remained fragile in August, with the capacity and resources of key actors to deliver critical life-saving assistance severely weakened. Severe drought conditions have been reported in Mudug, Nugaal, Bari, Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, and Sanaag. Over 2.5 million people are reportedly residing in 26 districts currently classified as moderately or severely drought-affected; of these, nearly 887,000 are in 16 districts that are severely affected. Preliminary findings from a multi-agency assessment in Puntland and Somaliland indicate escalating food insecurity, deteriorating access to water and pasture, and major disruptions to livelihoods. Aid agencies across the country have reprioritized their response to target 1.3 million people, a 72% reduction from the 4.6 million in 2025. The revised Humanitarian and Needs Response Plan requires USD 367 million, which is 74% less than the original ask of USD 1.42 billion.

In August, Somalia continued to experience mixed-intensity security and political developments. Security incidents carried out by Al Shabaab were reported in the Garasbaaley, Yaqshid, and Deyniile districts in the Banadir region; the Baidoa district in the Bay region; and the Afgooye and Baraawe districts in the Lower Shabelle region. Tension between the federal forces and Jubaland security forces persisted, with clashes reported in Belet Xaawo, Gedo region, near the Somalia-Kenya border. On the political front, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met with the Somalia National Salvation Forum interlocutors in Mogadishu; discussions centered on key contested issues, including the constitutional review, election modalities, and Puntland and Jubaland's absence from the National Consultative Council (NCC). Meanwhile, voter registration has been completed in all the districts of the Banadir region, with the list due for announcement on 27 September. This is a crucial step in Somalia's democratic process as it prepares for its first one-person-one-vote elections in decades.

KEY UPDATES

- *High Level Forum:* On 6 August, UNHCR participated in a high-level forum on legal protection in Jubbaland. The event, which included a panel with the Police Commissioner, aimed to address challenges in legal services and improve coordination to support survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) across all districts in Jubaland.
- *Inter-Agency Coordination:* On 26 August, the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs hosted the annual national anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) coordination meeting in Hargeisa. The event convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, health professionals, youth representatives, and influential community leaders. The forum served as a critical platform to reaffirm their shared commitment to eradicating FGM. Participants collectively emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination and fostering united action to achieve this vital goal.
- *Joint Monitoring Mission:* In August, UNHCR Mogadishu field staff monitored partners' project implementation to strengthen field presence. Visits to KAALO, NCRI, Save the Children, Hanano, and AVORD assessed activities for refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs. The team identified operational challenges, including funding gaps, and gathered critical insights on protection risks from community leaders. The team will continue these visits to enhance coordination and support for partners.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- In Hargeisa, for child protection, targeted support, including physiotherapy and referrals, was provided to 24 children. Best Interest Assessments were conducted for four child protection cases to strengthen case management. A mapping exercise of 40 children with specific needs highlighted urgent issues, and three complex cases received home visits for interventions like mental health referrals and shelter.
- UNHCR, through its partner KAALO, provided legal aid to **29** people (25 men, 4 women), including 13 refugees and 16 asylum-seekers. Services included counseling for 13, advocacy for 10 detainees, and representation for 3. Community sessions reached **87** people across four locations: Bossaso (42), Garowe (20 women), Galkayo (10), and Mogadishu (15), raising awareness on GBV, child protection, and legal aid.
- In August, UNHCR operated protection desks in South and Central Somalia, reaching **3,970** individuals (2,646 female, 1,324 male) with awareness sessions on protection and GBV incident reporting. They also referred **353** individuals (269 female, 84 male) to service providers. Furthermore, **24** individuals (20 female, 4 male) with heightened risks received $100 in cash assistance. In Kismayo, psychosocial support was provided to 999 individuals (608 female, 391 male) and conducting awareness sessions for 1,434 individuals (861 female, 573 male) on GBV, child protection, and humanitarian services.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- On 3 August, UNHCR, through its partner KAALO, conducted a one-day training in Mogadishu for law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and policymakers. The session focused on international and national protection frameworks, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, to deepen their understanding of their institutional roles in preventing harm. Additionally, UNHCR's partner, JUCRI, held two workshops in Dhobley and Kismayo to raise awareness about aid diversion and promote equitable access to assistance for vulnerable groups.
- In Kismayo, UNHCR, through its partner JUCRI, established Community Management Committees across six sites, including a Youth Group (10 male, 10 female), Women's Groups (60 females total, 10 per site), and Conflict Resolution Committees (7 members: 4 male, 3 female). In Dollow, the UNHCR hotline received 45 calls in August. Twenty calls from asylum-seekers were about verification delays, while 17 IDPs and 8 returnees requested livelihood and shelter support. All callers received feedback.

Shelter and NFIs

- To ensure access to essential hygiene items, UNHCR's partner, KAALO, and community leaders conducted a vulnerability assessment of 250 vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeker women and girls in Mogadishu. The assessment focused on reproductive-aged women, those with disabilities, female-headed households, unaccompanied adolescent girls, pregnant or lactating women, and GBV survivors. The process identified 150 eligible women and girls, with the remaining 100 expected to be finalized soon after further verification.
- In Dollow, UNHCR began building 79 permanent shelters in Qansaxley camp, creating temporary jobs for over 120 IDP men and women. In Baidoa, UNHCR and AVORD started constructing 60 shelters at the Barwaqo II site, completing 44 to date, with 16 more underway and 34 latrines being excavated. Additionally, UNHCR provided emergency shelter, distributing tarpaulins to 116 households evicted from two sites in Kismayo.

Climate and Other Emergency Responses

- The Joint Counselling Desk supported **348** individuals (164 refugees, 183 asylum-seekers, 1 returnee), addressing concerns on finances, documentation, and education. Awareness sessions on legal documentation reached **638** people. Additionally, **50** youth were trained on self-reliance, and GBV campaigns reached **252** participants, with **18** survivors referred for specialized services.
- UNHCR, through its partner Legal Clinic, provided legal aid to **341** individuals through counseling, mediation, advocacy for detained persons, and court proceedings. Additionally, four households (**19** individuals) received emergency cash to prevent eviction and homelessness. This intervention aimed to mitigate risks such as gender-based violence, child protection violations, and heightened insecurity.
- On 4 August, the Enhanced Individual Verification Exercise was completed in Hargeisa. The active refugee and asylum-seeker population in Somaliland is now **14,508** individuals, comprising 7,533 asylum seekers and 6,975 refugees. A further 844 individuals are on hold for verification.

Health

- In August, **705** forcibly displaced individuals in Hargeisa and Berbera accessed a range of healthcare services. The assistance provided included emergency care, outpatient consultations, and maternal and child health services. Additionally, referrals for secondary medical treatment were facilitated for those who required specialized care.

Durable Solutions

- In August, the Berbera Reception Centre, jointly managed by UNHCR and its partners, received 17 Yemeni refugees and 7 spontaneous Somali returnees. All new arrivals received immediate support, including transportation from the port, temporary accommodation, three daily meals, and access to telephone and internet services. They were also given transportation allowances to help them with their registration process in Hargeisa.

Education

- In Hargeisa, the new academic year's registration and enrollment exercise was successfully concluded. A total of 529 refugee and asylum-seeker students were enrolled across five regions: Awdal, Maroodi Jeeh, Saahil, Sanaag, and Togdheer. Maroodi Jeeh recorded the highest enrollment, with 404 students (207 female and 197 male). This exercise was a collaborative effort between UNHCR, refugee committees, Somaliland authorities, and partners.
- In August, the DAFI program disbursed USD 37,445 for 78 students across the country. Challenges like language barriers, trauma, and cultural beliefs contribute to dropouts.

CLUSTER RESPONSE

protectioncluster SOMALIA

224,615

# of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster and the AoRs

Reached 6.4% | Gap 96%

3.3 M	People in need
2.4 M	People targeted
166 M	Funding required

Funded 15% | Gap 85%

SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

120,565

# of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster

Reached 10% | Gap 90%

4.1 M	People in need
1.3 M	People targeted
60.8 M	Funding required

Funded 5% | Gap 95%

CCCM Cluster SOMALIA

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

1,110,050

# of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster

Reached 58% | Gap 42%

2.4 M	People in need
1.9 M	People targeted
44.6 M	Funding required

Funded 16% | Gap 84%

Protection Cluster

Between July and September, Protection Cluster partners provided specialized services to 39,728 individuals. This included support for housing, land, and property rights, as well as explosive ordinance risk education. The assistance reached 10,176 girls, 10,464 boys, 10,367 women, 6,461 men, and 2,260 elderly persons. Additionally, 4,687 people with disabilities benefited from these activities. Gender-based violence (GBV) cases were also reported, with women and girls being the most affected. Physical and domestic assault were the most common forms of violence. The report urgently calls for sustained donor funding to prevent the closure of critical one-stop centers that provide life-saving services to survivors. Between June and August 2025, more than 215,000 people were newly displaced by conflict in locations like Moqokori and Baidoa. The report highlights severe protection challenges, including attacks on civilians, forced displacement, and gender-based violence. Due to funding cuts, an estimated 1.7 million vulnerable people, including 600,000 children and 220,000 from minorities, now lack access to protection services. The number of service locations dropped from 23 to 14, and the withdrawal of 16 protection monitoring teams and the layoff of 60 frontline staff have created significant protection gaps in key districts such as Kismayo and Garowe, leaving human rights violations unmonitored.

Shelter Cluster

In August 2025, Shelter Cluster partners assisted 9,902 individuals (1,650 households) in Baidoa and Belet Weyne with NFIs and emergency shelter. Cumulatively, from January to August 2025, the cluster reached 120,565 individuals (20,094 households). Kismayo saw the highest number of beneficiaries (23,727), while Hobyo had the lowest (1,350). Between April and June 2025, plastic sheets were distributed for makeshift shelter repairs to 90,287 individuals (15,047 households) across multiple districts. Of the total 120,565 individuals reached, 106,728 (89%) received NFI support, and 7,857 (7%) were given Emergency Shelter Kits. Over the reporting period, 270,000 individuals were internally displaced, with shelter identified as the second-highest priority. In August alone, 34,000 people were displaced, and shelter was their third most urgent need. The Shelter Cluster continues to face significant challenges due to chronic underfunding, which has forced them to leave many in need without adequate support.

CCCM Cluster

In response to rising evictions in Baidoa, UNHCR and its partners launched a risk mapping exercise involving over 70 enumerators to develop prevention strategies. In Kismayo, UNHCR and JUCRI began registering 5,200 households for relocation to Luglow Solutions Land, where they will receive permanent 30x20 plots and title deeds. An awareness campaign led by UNHCR partners in Baidoa engaged 16 catchment committees—with 8 male and 8 female members—on topics like housing rights, eviction prevention, and fire safety. UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD) assessed IDP camps in Puntland due to road construction, which will evict households and demolish 159 shelters and 28 latrines. They are now working to secure alternative land. In Belet Weyne and Jowhar, UNHCR and HCRI conducted activities across five IDP sites, including an awareness campaign that reached 100 households (comprised of 50 women, 40 men, and 10 elderly individuals) to improve living conditions and site safety. New arrivals from drought-affected areas were also registered for assistance.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Displacement to Stability – Samaan's Journey in Girible Local Integration Site – Bossaso.

Samaan Hussein Elmi, a 24-year-old mother of five, has endured a lifetime of displacement since her family fled Qalafe, southern Somalia, in 2005. Conflict and drought forced them to abandon their livestock and walk for days without food before reaching Bosasso, where they initially settled in 100 Bush IDP Site with her aunt.

Samaan Hussein in her shop in Girible 1 IDP Site. ©UNHCR

Years of instability followed. First, their shelter was destroyed in a fire, leading to a second displacement. Later, after Samaan married at 15, eviction forced her young family to move again, this time with a three-month-old baby. The family resided in the Tawakal IDP site again, with rented space. Living conditions were dire, with no latrines, open defecation, and frequent insecurity, including risks of gender-based violence.

However, life changed dramatically when UNHCR and partners registered Samaan for a durable shelter in Girible1 IDP Site. She received a permanent two-room house with a latrine, finally securing land and a safe home.

"*A new chapter started for me. My children's health improved; my husband found work. I have permanent land with secure tenure, and we even opened a small shop. Today, all five of my children attend school. We feel safe and secure. Girible is truly home, thanks to UNHCR and the local authorities who changed our lives.*"

Samaan's story is a powerful reminder of how durable solutions, shelter, security, and access to services can restore dignity and transform the future of displaced families.

DONORS

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2025 amount to **USD 25.15 million** as of 31 August 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 9.2 million | **Japan** 2 million | **Austria** 1.4 million

Germany | Switzerland | Canada | Other private donors

Thanks to softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2025 | USD

Australia for UNHCR 6.2 million | **Italy** 5.1 million | **Norway** 4.8 million | **Finland** 3.2 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 5.6 million

Australia | 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 | **España con ACNUR** 50.7 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 27.3 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 21.7 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Private donors in Italy** 16.7 million | **Germany** 10.8 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million | **Private donors in Netherlands** 11.9 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 11 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kazakhstan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | 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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