



HIGHLIGHTS

30,728

Arrivals from Yemen since
27 March 2015

8,067

Refugee returnees from
Kenya since 8 December 2014

109,378

Evictions in Mogadishu
since January 2015

346,061

New displacements since
January 2015

Population of concern

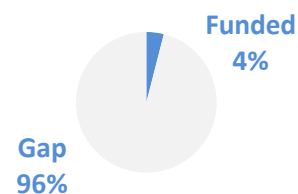
A total of **1.16 million** people of
concern

By category

Category	Total PoC
IDPs	1,106,751
Refugees (mainly Ethiopians)	3,020
Asylum seekers (mainly Ethiopians)	10,448
Prima facie refugees (Yemenis)	5,394
Refugee returnees from Kenya	8,067
Somali returnees from Yemen	27,007
Total	1,160,687

Funding

USD 101.9 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

120: 71 national staff, 20 international staff
21 affiliate workforce, 8 UN volunteers

Offices:

4 offices: 1 Representation in Mogadishu, 2 sub-offices located in Hargeisa and Galkayo, 1 Field Office in Bossaso and; **4** field units located in: Garowe, Kismayo, Dhobley, Luuq, and support office in Nairobi

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- As part of the UN integrated mission to Somalia (UNSOM), UNHCR maintains close collaboration with UN agencies, local and international NGOs and Somali authorities at country and field levels in a joint effort to provide assistance and durable solutions to the people of Somalia.
- As a lead agency of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and the implementation of the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), UNHCR spearheads productive partnerships with over 60 national and international NGOs.
- Since 2012, UNHCR leads the Somalia Return Consortium, a group of nine UN agencies and NGOs providing coordinated and standardized assistance to IDPs who opt to return and reintegrate in their areas of origin to end displacement.
- To coordinate effective response to the Yemen crisis, UNHCR and IOM co-lead a country-level inter-agency Task Force on Yemen Situation.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

South Central

Dhobley

Voluntary return movement from Kenya to Somalia resumed on 9 January 2016 after a two-month suspension due to the road conditions. Return routes had become impassable following heavy Deyr rains on both sides of the border. During the month of January, eight convoys with a total of 1,902 individual (366 households) refugee returnees arrived in Dhobley Border Way Station safely. They were provided with basic services, including accommodation, hot meals, clean water, sanitation and medical assistance. Following the announcement of the resumption of convoys to Somalia, there has been an increasing trend of refugee movement benefiting from the Voluntary Repatriation project. UNHCR and IOM staff in the Border Way Station also provide information to returnees on road conditions for the further leg of their journey and the return package made available in the areas of return.



Reception of returnees at the Border point by Jubaland officials and UNHCR © UNHCR/Yussuf H.



Returnees disembarking from the pre-paid buses in Dhobley Way Station © UNHCR/Yussuf H.



Returnees departing from Dhobley Border Way Station to their destination © UNHCR/Yussuf H.

Luuq

Between 16 and 31 January, 2016, 22 households (98 individuals) have made their return to Luuq in seven different convoys. The returnees, 55 males and 43 females, were warmly received, verified on ProGress Lite at the Way station and provided with wet feeding, hygiene and sanitation facilities and accommodation for one night.



DRC team receiving returnees at the WS © UNHCR/Ahmed A. January 2016



Returnees Receiving Food Ration and NFI kits © UNHCR/Ahmed A. Jan 2016



Returnees Receiving Food Ration and NFI kits © UNHCR/Ahmed A. Jan 2016



Returnees Receiving MRE Training in WS © UNHCR/Ahmed A. Jan. 2016

Baidoa

In Baidoa the month of January saw the largest number of returnees recorded to date: the Way Station received 166 families (923 individuals) and provided everyone with return a package.





Refugee returnees arrival in Baidoa way station © UNHCR/M. Abdikarim, January 2016

Galkayo

UNHCR continues its efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). In January, 20 survivors of attacks (eight victims of rape, six of sexual assault and six of physical assault) were provided with psycho-social support and referral to multi-sectoral services. GBV partners continue to work on raising awareness on prevention and response to GBV. In the current reporting period, social workers have conducted awareness sessions reaching some 270 internally displaced women and men of different age groups in Haloboqad and Bulobacley . Topics ranging from women empowerment, adolescent girls and early marriage to community roles in GBV prevention were covered. Protection and GBV Working Group meetings chaired by UNHCR were held at UNHCR Galkayo on 19 and 21 January to discuss national protection cluster strategy, protection cluster priorities and the GBV work plan for 2016.

Following the forced eviction of 87 households from the Mustaqbal 1 settlement, UNHCR has been receiving more reports of evictions in Mustaqbal 2, where private owners have requested the IDPs to move to another settlement. A protection reporting mechanism has been established. UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council - Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (NRC - ICLA) staff continue their advocacy efforts with authorities seeking to secure permanent solutions for IDP households facing eviction threats.

Following the December 2015 conflict, UNHCR protection teams continue to regularly visit IDP settlements in Galkayo to monitor the situation. IDPs have voiced concerns regarding poor living conditions in all settlements that were visited.

Between 17 and 19 January UNHCR conducted a mission to a number of refugee and asylum seekers concentration areas to monitor the protection situation of refugees and vulnerable asylum seekers, in particular those that lost their businesses due to demolitions ordered by the government. Access to income and employment was consistently mentioned as a priority, in addition to food and proper shelter.

UNHCR is in the process of renewing refugee certificates, updating records of new born babies and conducting registrations (seven individuals belonging to four households, during this reporting period) and continues to provide regular counseling.

Somaliland

Professor Walter Kälin, 2004-2010 Special Representative of the Secretary General on the human rights situation of IDPs, has been engaged by the UN to advise Somalia and Somaliland on developing a comprehensive durable solutions strategy for IDPs. From Saturday 31 January to Monday 1 February, Prof. Kälin was in Hargeisa, where he met with government, local authority and civil society representatives to discuss modalities of the inclusion of displacement specific elements in development plans and programs. The Mayor of Hargeisa informed Prof. Kälin about an urban planning scheme aimed at improving the quality of life of IDPs who have settled in the city and its environs. During his stay in Hargeisa, he was also advised by the displaced communities about their

current situation. IDPs shared with Prof. Kälin their vision on how the authorities should address their urgent needs through the development of infrastructure such as roads, transportation, and communal services.



Walter Kaelin mission in Hargeisa, IDP settlement State House © UNHCR/W.Trojan, January 2016

Registration

A total of 323 individuals (163 cases) -including 150 Yemenis, 143 Ethiopians, 22 Somali Returnees, 3 Eritreans, and 5 other nationals- were registered by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Reconstruction (MRR&R) as asylum seekers in the month of January 2016. In the same period, a total of 19 new born baby individuals were added to the registered caseload during at UNHCR Hargeisa Office and one urgent Refugee Status Determination (RSD) case was processed. Registration of Ethiopian new arrivals was left suspended in January by the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, and as agreed with MRR&R, it will be resumed beginning of February 2016.

Incident at sea

On 8th of January, the Somaliland coast guards rescued a boat ("Xarsho") which had been carrying 106 individuals (all Ethiopians), 24 of whom died at sea and another 13 on land after the rescue. The 69 survivors were found to be suffering from a number of critical health conditions - fatigue, emaciation, dehydration, skin disease and in need of psycho-social support. Ten of the rescued individuals were admitted at the Erigavo Regional Hospital for urgent medical assistance. IOM provided Non Food Items (NFI), food, water, medical supplies, engaged local community and government officials in Erigavo and has arranged the logistics to transport the other 59 survivors from Erigavo to Berbera/Hargeisa as soon as their conditions had improved. At the Reception Centre in Berbera, UNHCR and its partners carried out a screening of 62 migrants: 37 individuals were identified as asylum-seekers with protection issues, while the remaining 25 reported to be economic migrants. MRR&R has been asked to register the new asylum-seekers as soon as they had arrived in Hargeisa.

Deportation of Ethiopians

On 02 of January, the government of Somaliland issued new directives on Security and Immigration which introduce visa requirements for foreigners living in Somaliland or who is need to enter Somaliland territory. All foreigners must apply for the relevant visa (work permit, study permit, or businesses license) before 1 February 2016. The directives are unclear with regard to the status of asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs. On 18 of January, Immigration and Police officers arrested 465 Ethiopians, among them 160 registered as asylum seekers or refugees. With the support of Legal Clinic, MRR&R, IOM and UNHCR, these persons of concern were then released. Arrests and deportations of Ethiopians continued in the following days, but Legal Clinic was able to secure the release of those registered as asylum seekers and refugees. MRR&R has also worked very closely with Immigration authorities to extend the date of enforcement of this immigration directive, which has now been pushed back to 25 February. With the support of UNHCR, MRR&R has also engaged in the renewal of refugee and asylum seeker certificates and secured appointments for newly arrived Ethiopians who wish to be registered as asylum seekers. In January 2016, a total of 500 Ethiopians (433 refugees and 67 asylum seekers) were issued with the relevant certificates in a renewal exercise that was conducted urgently during from 28 to 31 January to prevent the deportation of Ethiopians by the Somaliland Government.



Ethiopians' Documentations Renewal/Issuance Exercise, © UNHCR/B. Alhakri, January 2016

Yemen Arrivals

During the month of January, seven boats caring 123 New arrivals from Yemen arrived in Berbera, Somaliland. The number exceed the arrivals of December 2015.

Between March 2015 and the end of January 2016, a total of 9,672 individuals (3,119 families) have fled to Somaliland as a consequence of the ongoing hostilities in Yemen. These include 7,801 Somali returnees, 1,724 Yemeni nationals, 114 Ethiopians and 22 other nationals. As all Yemeni new arrivals are recognized as prima facie refugees, Yemeni nationals now represent 54% of the total active refugee population in Somaliland. A total of 2,732 Yemeni refugees (1,416 cases) have been registered by MRRR in Hargeisa since 28 March 2015 and a total of 179 Yemeni asylum seekers (102 families, persons who were in Somalia before the outbreak of hostilities in Yemen) have been registered by MRRR in Hargeisa as of 31st January 2016.

In the course of January 2016, 17 Yemeni prima facie refugee certificates have been distributed by MRR&R, where another 880 certificates are still pending and waiting for ministerial signature and stamp.

Emergency Financial Assistance has been provided to one Yemeni new arrival family (3 individuals) and another 27 Yemeni families (60 individuals) have been provided with subsistence allowance (SA) for the month of January 2016.

Education

South Central

Galkayo

During the reporting period, UNHCR has continued to provide formal education to 75 refugee and asylum seeker school children in six primary schools. Among them, 72 have taken the mid-term exam. Students' performance is constantly monitored and reported on by education partner Relief International (RI).

Somaliland

Around 480 students (asylum seekers and refugees) are now enrolled in 16 public schools in Somaliland. UNHCR SO Hargeisa will continue to liaise with students and parents in an effort to increase enrolment in the public school system. UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continue to provide school material and furniture to schools hosting refugees and asylum seeker students.

Health

South Central

Galkayo

A total of 21 refugees and asylum seekers received primary health care in the month of January. Though a health facility established in Salama local integration site under the seed for solution project implemented last year, UNHCR continues to support primary health care. In January, 427 cases were assisted with medical consultations and 12 deliveries were conducted, with no neonatal or maternal deaths reported. The local health center is expected to reduce disease and mortality rates and will have a positive impact on the livelihood of these communities.

Somaliland

UNHCR is finalizing the Project Partner Agreement (PPA) with Edna Hospital under the umbrella system. In the meantime, refugees and vulnerable asylum seekers are assisted through direct implementation. A total of 633 refugees and asylum seekers have been assisted in the month of January 2016.

Shelter and NFIs

South Central

Galkayo

In response to the humanitarian needs that resulted from the November-December 2015 conflict, UNHCR local partner Galkayo Medical Foundation (GMF), in collaboration with the Galkayo local authority, has provided emergency shelter to 2,100 most-affected IDPs and their immediate host families living in nine settlements. The items distributed were one plastic sheet, two jerry cans, three blankets, three sleeping mats and three bars of soap. Additionally, 160 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls in reproductive age, including women with disabilities and belonging to female-headed households, expectant and lactating mothers.

Through GMC, UNHCR provided Non Food Items (NFIs) to 270 EL-Nino affected IDPs in eight settlements in North and South Galkayo and to 10 refugee households. The items distributed consisted of one kitchen set, one plastic sheet, two jerry cans, three blankets, three sleeping mats and three bars of soap.

A total of 2,500 Emergency Assistance Packages (EAPs) have been transported by UNHCR implementing partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to Beletweyne, where they will be distributed to vulnerable households that have lost their shelters as a result of El Nino rains.

Following the fighting that erupted in Galkayo at the end of November, 2,100 EAPs and 180 dignity kits were distributed to vulnerable displaced households in December 2015.

Somaliland

Core Relief Items continue to be distributed to vulnerable new arrivals at the reception centers in Berbera. In total 17 EAP kits were distributed in Berbera in January 2016. Since the beginning of the Yemeni crisis, 758 EAP kits have been distributed to vulnerable new arrivals.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Somaliland

Africa Action Help International (AAH-I) and Finn Church Aid (FCA) are the main agencies providing livelihoods support to refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland and to returnees living in Hargeisa. Currently, AAH-I continues to provide livelihoods support to more than 200 refugees and very vulnerable asylum seekers through capacity building in enterprise development and business development services, improving production of plastic bags made from waste materials, promoting links with private partners in Somaliland, establishing self-help and employment groups, improving the value chain in agribusiness and increasing participation of women and youth as entrepreneurs, employers and employees. Some 190 unique business plans that have been developed are waiting for funding.

FCA is supporting Somalilander returnees from Yemen who have come back to fleeing the war. This support spans from registration to referral, with the most important component being the livelihood support aimed at equipping them with viable tools, knowledge and investments in order to set up their new lives in Somaliland.

Durable Solutions

South Central

Galkayo

As part of the continuous protection and human rights monitoring efforts, on 30 January a joint monitoring visit was conducted by UNHCR and local authorities to the new local integration site at Salama and Madina Munawara, which currently hosts over 900 households. Needs expressed by integrating IDPs included a reduction of the water price and extension of the water supply to the newly arrived IDPs from Mustaqbal 1. Other concerns raised regarded the conditions of corrugated galvanized iron shelters and the harsh weather conditions.

Somaliland

Resettlement

One case (three individuals) departed for France on 26 January 2016, another 15 refugees have been provided with counseling on their resettlement status and two cases (four individuals) have been referred to the Regional Support Hub in Nairobi for submission. Formalities and procedures have been initiated for the departure of 51 cases (51 individuals) that have been accepted by Sweden.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [Common Humanitarian Fund \(CHF\)](#) | [European Union](#) | [Japan](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#)

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Links:

Somalia Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/country.php?id=197>

UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium <http://somalireturnconsortium.org/> [NEW]

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