



HIGHLIGHTS

31,798

Arrivals from Yemen since
27 March 2015

12,474

Refugee returnees from
Kenya since 8 December 2014

131,762

Evictions in Mogadishu
since January 2015

415,808

New displacements since
January 2015

Population of concern

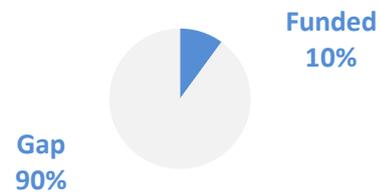
A total of **1.17 million** people of
concern

By category

Category	Total PoC
IDPs	1,106,751
Refugees (mainly Ethiopians)	3,086
Asylum seekers (mainly Ethiopians)	11,057
Prima facie refugees (Yemenis)	5,743
Refugee returnees from Kenya	12,474
Somali returnees from Yemen	27,681
Total	1,166,792

Funding

USD 101.9 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

120: 81 national staff, 20 international staff
12 affiliate workforce, 7 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 and Luuq, plus a 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

Dhobley

Voluntary Refugee return movements to Somalia from Kenya via the Dhobley Border Way Station have remained sustained during the month of March 2016. The trend of the movement has been increasing with every convoy and the process has been strengthened to allow more refugees who have expressed their desire to return home to do so. During this period, UNHCR and partners have provided assistance in Dhobley Border Way Station to 1,878 individuals comprising 352 households. On 24th March 2016 the Voluntary return movement to Somalia from Kenya was put on hold following a security incident described below, but the halt was temporary and convoys returned on the road after a few days.

On 21 March a group of refugee returnees (12 households, for a total of 80 individuals) traveling in a convoy of four self-rented commercial minibuses were reported fired upon in the vicinity of Buale in Middle Jubba at around 20h30 local time. On the approach to Buale, in Middle Jubba, around sunset, one of the vehicles developed a mechanical problem, which forced the convoy to stop in the middle of the road. According to passenger reports, as they were waiting for the repairs to the vehicle, they saw an unidentified warplane make a pass and the drivers of the minibuses immediately alerted the passengers to disperse to the field, upon which time the warplane is said to have dropped explosives in the vicinity of the convoy. All passengers hid in the bushes for the remainder of the night and restarted to travel in the morning of 22 March toward Baidoa. There were no reports of injury or death. UNHCR has enquired with relevant actors regarding the incident and no air activity has been acknowledged, which leads to the conclusion that the reported explosions were more likely consequence of a mortar attack by Al Shabaab.



Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) Kenya Government handing over Movement passes to Jubaland Refugees and IDPs Agency (JRIA) and UNHCR at Border @UNHCR/Yussuf H. - March 2016.



Returnees Disembarking from Pre-Paid Buses at Dhobley border WS @ UNHCR/Yussuf H. - March 2016.



Refugee Returnees departing from Dholeb Way Station with self-organized commercial mini-buses heading to their final destinations @UNHCR/Yussuf H. - March 2016

Luuq

During the month of March, 18 returnee households, comprising 67 individuals, from Dadaab were welcomed in Luuq and supported under the current refugee return program. The returnees were received, accommodated for one night and supported with the comprehensive return package. Protection assessment was also done upon arrival of each convoy.

On 17 March, a group of returnees on 21st road convoy travelling to Luuq along the border lost their way and crossed inadvertently into Kenya. The returnees were stopped and arrested at El-Khalow town (eight km from El-Wak, on the Kenya-Somalia border) by local Administration Police at 8:00 am. The returnees, three households (14 individuals) which had left Dholeb Way Station the previous day, were released after eight hours of custody with the support and intervention of the El-Wak authorities and DRA (Department for Refugee Affairs). They did not report any Protection risk related to their capture and custody.



Refugee Returnees upon arriving at Luuq Home Way Station @ UNHCR/Ahmed Ali - March 2016



Returnees Verification of ProGress Lite Luuq WS @UNHCR/Ahmed Ali March 2016



Returnees receiving Assistant; Food Ration, NFIs and Temporary shelter Luuq WS @ UNHCR/Ahmed Ali - March 2016

Kismayo

Kismayo Home Way Station has received 168 households, for a total of 904 individuals, during the month of March. Upon arrival, the returnees were verified, accommodated and provided with the return assistance package, consisting of NFI (non food item) kits, phones with pre-registered numbers and unconditional cash grants of \$100 per person, with a maximum ceiling of \$600 per household. There has been a shortage of food rations in the Way Station, hence the returnees that arrived in March did not receive any food. There have been rising tensions related to the security of the return route, as there has been fighting between Al Shabaab and AMISOM between Qoqaani and Afmadow and AS have killed a number of civilians that they caught cutting wood for charcoal and has abducted many more. Nonetheless, no returnee has been directly affected by these incidents during the month of March.

Galkayo

UNHCR, through its partner GECPD (Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development), continues to contribute to the prevention of and response to gender-based violence. In March GECPD documented and supported nine cases of GBV survivors, four of them children. Two minors were referred to Galkayo Medical Centre (GMC) for further medical support. Case management and appropriate services have been offered, including psycho-social support, health assistance and legal counseling.

During the reporting period, GECPD continued to carry out SGBV awareness and outreach. On 21 March, 30 community representatives (elders, religious scholars, youth and community leaders from Salama1&2 and Madina Marawara) participated in awareness sessions on GBV. Community-based protection mechanisms discussed during the session had a especial emphasis on key mechanism to protect women and girls.

UNHCR Protection staff met with refugee community leaders on 23 March. Lack of economic opportunities, security concerns and access to tertiary education remain the main challenges presented. On 29 March, UNHCR facilitated a focus group discussion session with 25 refugee women in which various matters on women-specific needs and challenges were discussed. Refugee women raised concerns that they are under-represented in community leadership and reported some level of discrimination. Action points were developed and solutions were proposed to promote the role of women at the community level.

As action point from the Protection Cluster working group meeting, UNHCR participated in a conflict resolution and peace-building session between local Kulmiye & Doyale IDPs and their immediate host community. The event was aimed at promoting coexistence between the two groups and the creation of a positive environment for all.

Through GECPD, a GBV information sharing session was held on 20 March. It was attended by 25 participants (19 males and six females), including court officials, police and IDP representatives. The objective of the meeting was to enhance cooperation between law enforcement agents and the IDP community in an attempt to enhance access to justice for survivors of GBV. GBV legal challenges were discussed. The police committed to do more in investigating GBV incidents and encouraged communities to support their efforts by volunteering information and helping them identify and arrest the perpetrators.

To mark International Women's Day, during the first week of March, in partnership with the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDAFA), community women support groups, girls' associations from universities and schools in Galkayo, GECPD organized a series of activities aimed at sensitizing on GBV and enhancing girls' rights to education. The activities included radio and social media campaigns, intra-school debates, youth sports events and a public forum. The forum was organized on the morning of 8 March, bringing together an estimated 400 persons, including IDPs from four settlements, students' association members, teachers, youth groups, men groups, women groups, private sector actors and local authorities led by the Galkayo Mayor and a Regional Representative from MOWDAFA.



Participants following forum proceedings @UNHCR/ F. Majan -i March 2016



Hagardaamo (harassment) performance lamenting the exclusion of girls from education and the overburdening of those in school with social responsibilities @UNHCR/ F. Majani - March 2016

As part of the continuous protection monitoring UNHCR Sub Office Galkayo conducted monitoring mission on IDP families in Margaaga and Salama 1&2 settlements. Livelihood opportunities and financial security were the major concerns raised by the IDP populations in terms of local integration.

As action point from the 17 March protection/HLP meeting, UNHCR facilitated a follow-up Housing Land and Property (HLP) meeting attended by UNOCHA, NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), DRC (Danish Refugee Council), the local municipality at Garsor village Chief of Section, a Director from the Ministry of Public Works and a representative of the Governor’s Office. The meeting was aimed at reaching common ground on how to deal with HLP issues and contribute to the development of guidelines to support acquisition of permanent land for IDPs. Members actively discussed and analyzed the context of land donations and criteria for reliable and trustworthy land donations.

Bossaso

Following the fighting between Al Shabaab and Puntland state security forces in the coastal areas of Nugal and Mudug regions , UNHCR protection team continues to monitor closely the situation to verify if there are people of concern (POCs) living in those areas. No major displacement has been reported, as these areas are mainly home to pastoralist villages. In addition, the police launched an operation against AS in a number of Bossaso villages, where they arrested around 200 AS suspects. Security officials also mentioned over the media that they had arrested an Ethiopian man carrying a pistol, a member of the Oromo community in Bossaso. The police are yet to give further details on the case, but the information spread throughout the city, where some Ethiopian residents have denounced a climate of fear. As a result of this, the Puntland Ministry of Interior has arranged a meeting with the regional administration to discuss the safety of refugee and asylum seekers in Puntland.

Since early February and into March, the Bossaso office has conducted POCs awareness initiatives with regards to certificate distribution to both asylum seekers and refugees in Bossaso. The team visited residential areas of POCs and managed to mobilise them into coming to UNHCR offices and collect their certificates.

UNHCR is reintroducing refugee certificates, updating records of new born babies and conducting registrations at the Reception Centre.

A total of 493 individuals –including 73 Yemenis, 13 Ethiopians, 294 Somali returnees and 2 other nationals- have been registered by the UNHCR with the Puntland Ministry of Interior as asylum seekers, refugees or Somali returnees between February and March.



Reception Centre-Bosaso © UNHCR/S. Barre - March 2016

Somaliland

Two refugee status determination (RSD) interviews were conducted and five pending RSD assessments were finalized during the month of March.

The Refugee Committee and the Protection Officer had a meeting on major issues of concern affecting asylum seekers and refugees in Somaliland. The discussion centered on threats to the physical security of refugees come from a variety of sources, including organized crime, errant military and police forces, anti-government militants, local populations and the refugee community itself. UNHCR has recorded since the beginning of the year 95 cases of persons of concern who were targeted and became victims of crimes and abuse. Preventive and corrective steps ought to build on cooperation with national law-enforcement mechanisms. Physical protection against crime, low-level violence and harassment, particularly of women, must be enhanced through rule of law mechanisms. The authorities admit that the poorly paid and undisciplined police and security forces in Somaliland are a part of general security problems. The issuance of plastic personal identification documents to asylum seekers and refugees should enhance the legal security of persons of concern and law enforcement authorities have to respect the legal value of such identity card issued to any foreigner seeking asylum in Somaliland.

UNHCR and the Department of Immigration held a meeting to discuss the procedures and conditions related to refugee and asylum seeker data sharing. UNHCR advocated for legislative and technical safeguards for the shared data and called for signing a data sharing agreement with the Government ex post facto. It explained to the newly appointed Immigration Commissioner why sensitive data that UNHCR has collected reflecting particular protection needs, health conditions, and sexual orientation etc. cannot be shared with the authorities. The parties also discussed how the bio data must be protected and a UNHCR expert provided some basic suggestions in terms of where the data is to be stored, who should have access to it and password protection. The Immigration Commissioner agreed with the suggestion of a promulgation of a penal provision for punishment of breaches of data protection standards.

Following Women's International Day and the communication by the High Commissioner on gender equality, UNHCR held a meeting with its partners to discuss achievements and challenges related to gender equality in Somaliland. During the meeting, partners agreed that the most important challenge of gender inequality in Somaliland is related to Gender Based Violence (GBV), which needs to be addressed at the national level. Effort needs to be put in drafting a Gender National Policy and in mapping existing activities with different stakeholders to mainstream gender inequality issues. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has started advocating at the national level for the revision of the citizenship law, which currently prevents women to pass/transfer their nationality to their children. It has been also discussed that UNHCR as mandated agency on the issues of stateless persons can take the initiative in advocating changes to the discriminatory provisions in the law, to help identify gaps and prevent statelessness in Somaliland. The recommendation that all partners agreed on is that gender mainstreaming is a key strategy to tackle the issue and it requires that the government and other stakeholders integrate gender issues into all aspects of laws, policy and planning.

A joint UNHCR and AAHI (Africa Action Help International) mission conducted a field visit to Humbaweyn village, located about 30 km from Hargeisa on the Berbera Road, where a registered Yemeni refugee has started an agricultural Livelihood project implemented by AAHI and funded by UNHCR. The project has already created jobs for four Yemen refugees, who are getting monthly incentives of an average of USD 150 per month. Their produce has already entered the local market, as they supply four restaurants in town, earning an income of USD 200 per week. If the project receives sufficient water and additional support to improve equipment and other activities, such as poultry farming, beekeeping and ploughing, twenty other Yemenis could join the farming activity and the average income could grow to USD 4,000 per month. A large amount of seeds was provided to increase vegetable variety.



Tract of agricultural land in Humbaweyn ©UNHCR/Ibrahim J. Ismail - March 2016

Drought Response

Severe drought has hit parts of Somaliland and Puntland, affecting hundreds of people, who are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. According to an assessment conducted by the government, the western regions (Awdal, Sele, Gabiley and Maroodi Jeex) have been severely affected, resulting in the death of the majority of livestock, particularly goats, sheep, and cattle in the coastal and Guba areas. The most affected population are the people who have moved their livestock from the Ethiopian border area down to the coast, which has received heavy rains. A high number of livestock, including the animals of burden (camels and donkeys for transportation), have died as a result of starvation. As reported by the Government and aid agencies, the major needs are life saving measures such as emergency water trucking, emergency food aid and restocking with agricultural support for long term resilience.

UNHCR has decided to support areas of concern that DRC has identified in providing a bladder runner, core relief Items (CRI) for 200 families (jerry cans, blankets, sleeping mats, soap and plastic sheet) and, in the future, a water tank. While this and the CRIs are awaiting identification of delivery locations, the bladder has already been installed. Save the Children will support the distribution of water in the area, but UNHCR has provided the first round.

UNHCR also distributed sheets to cover water storage facilities in order to reduce evaporation and improve hygiene.



People in Awdal who cannot walk due to hunger and thirst ©Danish Refugee Council - March 2016



Woman in Awdal who lost her donkey waits for assistance ©Danish Refugee Council -March 2016



UNHCR staff installing plastic sheet cover over a water storage Berkerd (circular concrete underground tank) in the drought affected area in Goroyocawl village near Borama, Somaliland, . ©UNHCR/ F. Andi - March 2016



UNHCR staff and community members taking a rest after installing plastic sheet cover over a Berkerd (concrete reservoir) in the drought affected area in Goroyocawl village near Borama, Somaliland. ©UNHCR/F. Andi - March 2016



UNHCR staff and a little girl pose next to the covered Berkerd in the drought affected area in Goroyocawl village near Borama, Somaliland. ©UNHCR/ F. Andi - March 2016



The installation of the water tank in Dila. ©UNHCR/F. Andi - March 2016

Yemeni Operation

Registration/ Documentation

A total of 118 individuals (69 cases) -including 82 Yemenis, 32 Ethiopians, and four other nationals- were registered by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Reconstruction (MRR&R) as Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the month of March.

A total of 95 new born babies and relatives were added to the registered caseload during March at UNHCR Hargeisa Office.

Between March 2015 and March 2016, a total of 9,951 people (3,312 families) have fled to Somaliland as a consequence of the ongoing hostilities in Yemen. This number includes 7,871 Somali returnees, 1,932 Yemeni nationals, 114 Ethiopians and 23 people of other nationalities. As all Yemeni new arrivals are recognized as prima facie refugees, Yemeni nationals now represent 56% of the total active refugee population in Somaliland. Since March 2015, the MRR&R has registered 2,928 Yemeni refugees (1,548 cases) and 212 Yemeni asylum seekers (123 cases)

In March, three Ethiopians cases were provided with refugee certificates and 35 Yemeni prima facie refugee certificates were distributed. Another 880 Prima facie certificates are still pending at the MRR&R, awaiting the Minister's signature and stamp.

Education

Galkayo

All active refugee and asylum seeker school age children have access to and are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools. During the reporting period, 71 children were regularly attending classes at the six primary schools in Galkaco. UNHCR education partner Relief International met with the parent of one child dropout and encouraged the child to resume his education. Relief International continues to monitor child education and school performance.

During the reporting period, refugee and host community school children participated in a two-day sports recreational event and an interactive debate programme focused on safe learning and on how to improve learning skills. During the debate, children expressed the wish to see their schools well-equipped with education materials, including a computer, proper furniture and adequate play grounds for boys and girls.

A Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) meeting was held on 31 March to discuss pupil's performance, school attendance and parent involvement in the education programme.

Bossaso

A total of 1,430 refugee and asylum seekers pupils are enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Puntland, 1,340 in primary and 90 in secondary. UNHCR partner in education GRT (Gruppo per le Relazioni Transculturali) continue to mobilise refugees to ensure they enroll their children in school and provide counseling support to school dropouts and regular absentee students and refer them to the office for further assistance and counselling.

Somaliland

Around 497 students (asylum seekers/refugees) are now enrolled in 20 public schools within Somaliland, 79 of them in secondary schools.

UNHCR Sub Office Hargeisa continues to liaise with students and parents in an effort to increase enrolment in the public school system, while UNHCR and NRC continue to provide school material and furniture to schools hosting refugees and asylum seeker students.

Health

Galkayo

Refugees continue to have access to primary and tertiary medical services. During the month of March, a total of 39 consultations were conducted in Galkayo Medical Centre Primary Health Care. The main reasons for consultations remain upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and obstetric and gynecological problems for women. A patient was referred to secondary and tertiary health care for further follow up. The hospital also supported caesarian section of mothers with complicated delivery. Furthermore, 20 individuals (12 women and eight men), participated in health awareness sessions on communicable diseases.

On 17 March, UNHCR, OCHA and Galkayo Medical Foundation (GMF) met with IDP leaders from Salama, Mustaqbal, Madina-Al-Munawara, Tawakal and Halabokat to discuss the best way to run the Salama Health Clinic that has been built by GMF with support from UNHCR. On 23 March, UNHCR, OCHA and GMF conducted a follow up meeting with community leaders and other residents of the Salama and Madina-Al-Munawara integration sites to discuss the future of the Salama Health Clinic. All households in the integration sites have been asked to provide monthly contributions (approximately USD \$2) to cover a shortfall in government support in 2016. The proposal was readily accepted and participants in the forum were enthusiastic to increase household participation and ownership of community services. Community members will mobilize to collect household contributions beginning from April 2016.



Salama1&2 community attended health center continuity meeting



Male FGD participants Photo: (James Ferguson)

UNHCR, together with Puntland Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) coordinators, conducted a joint assessment of gaps and needs of GBVIMS users and potential user organizations. The aim of the exercise was to identify exactly which organizations provide GBV services utilizing GBVIMS tools and other potentials users, as well as to highlight main challenges and problems of potential user organizations in GBVIMS data gathering in order to roll out a GBVIMS tool.

Bossaso

Through implementing partner GRT, UNHCR supported primary and secondary health care for refugees in Bossaso, Qardo and Garowe. A total of 1,344 refugees and asylum seekers have been assisted in the month of March: 621 were provided with primary health care and 723 with secondary health care.

Somaliland

A total of 300 refugees and asylum seekers have been assisted in the month of March.

Shelter and NFIs

Galkayo

As part of IDP local integration initiatives, NRC partners are continuing the construction of permanent shelters in Margaaga local integration site. So far, 110 shelters and 70 latrines have been completed, while the remaining shelters and family latrines are expected to be finished next month. The construction of the community center is in progress.

Bossaso

UNHCR has provided two shelter kits and two NFI kits to vulnerable new arrival asylum seekers from Yemen in the month of March.

Somaliland

CRIs (core relief items) continue to be distributed to new arrivals from Yemen. As of 31 of March, a total of 871 CRIs have been distributed to vulnerable families. .

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Kismayo

In partnership with American Refugee Committee, a five-month reintegration project is under way. The project includes activities aimed at providing short term and middle employment opportunities for returnees (60 %), IDP (20 %) and vulnerable host community members (20 %). Through the reintegration project, 250 beneficiaries have been employed in cash for work (CFW) initiatives in the rehabilitation of school playgrounds, while 25 female beneficiaries have received skills training in making fishing nets and 25 males were trained in electrical and boat engine repair.



CFW beneficiaries rehabilitating school playground Kismayo @UNHCR/Mahat Dakane - March 2016



Skill training in fishing nets Kismayo @ UNHCR/Mahat Dakane March 2016

Bossaso

UNHCR partners conducted two awareness meetings with refugees to inform them on their rights and obligations, as well as to assist them to develop community protection mechanisms.

UNHCR, together with implementing partners, conducted a joint vulnerability assessment on Yemeni refugees in Puntland -specifically Bossaso, Qardo, Garowe and Baran- between February and mid-March. UNHCR will use the results of the assessment to base one-to-one assistance and migrate from monthly blanket assistance to all Yemen refugees.

Somaliland

AAHI supported 17 Yemeni refugees with business training and another 15 with business counseling, while 23 Yemeni refugees have become self-reliant following livelihood support through monitoring and mentorship. A community awareness and sensitization campaign was conducted by UNHCR and partners.

Durable Solutions

Bossaso

Onward transport assistance was provided to 68 Somali returnee households (129 individuals) who arrived from Yemen in March to enable them move to their places of origin in South/Central Somalia and Somaliland

Yemen Task Force member agencies in Bossaso conducted an assessment on Somali returnees who have arrived since January this year and have chosen to remain in Bossaso. Six vulnerable households were identified in the assessment and will be receiving reinstallation cash grants, NFIs and shelter kits.

Somaliland

Six cases (28 individuals) departed for Sweden for resettlement, another 10 cases (32 individuals) have submitted their cases for resettlement in Sweden, one case (five individuals) has been submitted to Canada for resettlement consideration and 15 individuals have been provided counseling on their resettlement status.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who will give unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as to the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Japan](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Canada](#)

Contacts:

Luca Nicosia, Associate External Relations Officer, nicosia@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 734628053 (Kenya), +252 617340259 (Somalia)

Links:

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

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

Twitter @UNHCRSom