

Somalia

1-31 December 2017



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees with returnee students in front of a school in Kismayo. © UNHCR/Kismayo, 2017

Highlights

Main achievements during the month of December

Number of returnees ¹	1,596 Somalis returned to Somalia
Core relief items	510 CRI kits to 314 returnee households (1,055 persons)
Reinstallation grants	1,267 refugee returnees provided with reinstallation grants
Shelters	50 shelters and 33 latrines constructed
Community-based projects	1,976 beneficiaries of community-based projects

¹ Figure shows returnees who have been registered with the UNHCR.

Updates on achievements

UNHCR will continue investing in housing, education and livelihoods

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited Somalia from 17 to 18 December. During his visit the High Commissioner pledged that UNHCR will continue investing in housing, education and livelihoods for returning refugees, IDPs and the local population, and emphasized that UNHCR only assists returning refugees who have made an informed and voluntary decision to return.²

The High Commissioner, together with the Governor of the Benadir Regional Administration and the Mayor of Mogadishu, laid the foundation stone of the Hamar Weyne School, and, together with the President of the State of Jubaland, met with returnees and opened a settlement with 100 shelters as well as a school, hospital, police unit, and community market --- a whole of society approach of the CRRF.

The High Commissioner also met with persons of concern, visited project sites in Mogadishu and Kismayo, and met with the governmental counterparts, including the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Governor of Benadir Regional Administration / the Mayor of Mogadishu, the President of the State of Jubaland, as well as donors and UN representatives in Somalia.

Support to Somali refugee returnees

Somali refugee returnees who opt for a voluntary repatriation are supported by UNHCR, government counterparts and partners. UNHCR provides the enhanced return package³ to all Somali refugee returnee who decided for repatriation through assistance of UNHCR. Specific UNHCR achievements towards return and reintegration are presented below.

Protection and return support

Return management

During December, return movement was assisted by air (from Kenya) and sea (from Yemen). Return convoys⁴ from Kenya to Somalia remain temporarily suspended due to impassable roads made by rains and currently insecurity in return areas in Somalia.

Country of origin information

To ensure that Somali refugees make an informed and voluntary decision about their return, UNHCR in Somalia has shared the Country of origin information (COI) for the month of November with the Return Help Desk in Refugee Camps in Kenya and Yemen. The COI includes the latest information about the humanitarian, security and political situation in Somalia.

Post Return Monitoring assessment

The pilot phase of the Post Return Monitoring assessment (PRM) has started and data collection has been ongoing since the fourth quarter of 2017. The PRM objectives are to monitor the protection situation of the returning refugee population including to identify protection risks and

² See "UN refugee chief finds Somalia suffering from instability and drought, but sees hope", URL: <http://www.unhcr.org/5a3818904.html>, 10.01.2018.

³ The enhanced return package consists of unconditional core relief item kits (one to three, depending on the family size), an unconditional one time reinstallation grant in amount of US\$ 200 per person, unconditional monthly subsistence allowance in the amount of US\$ 200 per households for six months, an unconditional monthly grant for food rations for six months (provided by WFP), an education grant up to US\$ 25 per school-going child, a conditional grant of up to US\$ 1,000 for shelter per household and conditional enrolment in self-reliance and livelihood projects based on the set of selection criteria and availability of resources.

⁴ The temporary suspension of the road convoys was put in place on 5 April 2017 following the security incidents and subsequent Deyr rainfall.

incidents faced by the returning refugee population; to provide a profile of the returning refugee population and to identify households requiring specific protection interventions or other follow-ups.

- The PRM targets the population of voluntary returns from Kenya primarily to South and Central Somalia and uses a household level survey to collect quantitative data. Households are randomly selected from the list of all returnees; and selected protection partners (Danish Refugee Council, InterSOS, and Norwegian Refugee Council) perform the interviews in their respective areas of access through a combination of telephone and face-to-face interviews.
- In the period between 1 October and 31 December 2017, a total of 828 households have been interviewed (76 per cent by telephone and 24 per cent in face-to face interviews). Coverage areas by current region respondent were Lower Juba - 56 per cent, Mogadishu - 24 per cent, Bay - 10 per cent and others (Gedo, Lower Shabelle and Middle Juba) - 10 per cent. Analysis of the results is ongoing and the preliminary report will be issued shortly and updates issued periodically thereafter.

Return figures

Since the beginning of repatriation in 2014, a total of 110,913 Somalis returned to Somalia; 75,297 from Kenya, 34,990 from Yemen (34,176 spontaneous and 814 assisted) and 626 from other countries of asylum (589 from Djibouti, 34 from Eritrea, two from Tunisia, and one from Pakistan).

- During the month of December a total of 1,596 Somali returnees have returned, 902 from Yemen (396 were voluntary repatriated and 506 returned spontaneously) and 691 were repatriated from Kenya).

Return trends by country of asylum

Country of Asylum	Before 1 Jan 2017	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2017	1-31 December 2017	Cumulative
Kenya	39,888	35,409	691	75,297
Yemen (A) ⁵	-	814	396	814
Yemen (S) ⁶	29,475	4,698	506	34,176
Other	102	524	-	626
Total	69,465	41,448	1,596	110,913

Core relief items

Upon arrival to Somalia, at the Home Way Stations, UNHCR provides each Somali refugee returnee household with a package (one to three, depending on the family size) of core relief items (CRI). One CRI kit consists of three blankets, two 10 litre jerry cans, seven boxes of BP-5, three soap bars, three sleeping mats, one plastic sheet, two cooking pots, one large spoon and kitchen knife, five table spoons, plates and metal cups.

- In December, UNHCR provided 510 CRI kits to 314 returnee households (1,055 persons), 337 kits were distributed to 164 households (690 persons) from Kenya and 173 kits to 150 households (365 persons) from Yemen.

⁵ Somali refugee returnees from Yemen who opt to be voluntary repatriated to Somalia under the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.

⁶ Spontaneous Somali returnees from Yemen.

Education

Under the enhanced return package, each school-going returnee receives an education grant for a period of nine months. Part of the educational component is also a one-time provision of school uniforms and scholastic materials.

- In school year 2017/2018 a total of 14,586 students were enrolled: 10,661 in lower primary; 2,820 in upper primary; and 1,105 in secondary education.
- No new enrolments took place during the month of December; however, UNHCR provided school fees for students already enrolled in school.

Total enrolment per region in school year 2017/2018⁷

Region	Primary lower	Primary upper	Secondary	Total
Banadir	1,330	589	425	2,344
Bay	2,921	672	314	3,907
Gedo	109	-	1	110
Lower Juba	6,279	1,559	365	8,185
Woqooyi Galbeed	22	-	-	22
Total	10,661	2,820	1,105	14,586

Cash assistance

The enhanced return package comprises of two unconditional cash grants, reinstallation grant and subsistence allowance, aimed at supporting initial reintegration of refugee returnees. Each refugee returnee receives an unconditional one-time reinstallation grant in amount of US\$ 200 upon arrival to Somalia at the Home Way Station. Further subsistence allowance, which is provided in amount of US\$ 200 per household, is received for a period of six months and the first instalment is released one month after a returnee's arrival.

Reinstallation grants

- In December, UNHCR released reinstallation grants to 1,267 refugee returnees (339 households); 1,046 persons (249 households) from Kenya and 221 persons (90 households) from Yemen.

Subsistence allowance

- Due to the financial year-end closing no subsistence allowance were distributed in December. Returnees will receive their allowance in January 2018 for two months.

Shelter

UNHCR also provides shelter as part of return assistance package. Provision of shelter is conditional and aimed to facilitate reintegration of most vulnerable returnees.

- In December, 50 permanent shelters and 33 latrines were constructed. Between January and December, a total of 1,041 shelters and 442 latrines that has been built.⁸

⁷ Table shows total number of students including Somali refugee returnees, IDPs and members of host community based to approach 50-40-10, which aims to support 50 per cent returnees, 40 per cent IDPs and 10 per cent members of host community.

⁸ The figures are provisional and can be adjusted after final verification.

Total number of shelters and latrines per location

Town	Kismayo	Afmadow	Baidoa	Total
Shelters	887	124	30	1,041
Latrines	280	62	100	442

- In Kismayo, UNHCR relocated a first group of 202 households (76 returnee, 76 IDP and 50 host community) to their new homes.



UNHCR staff member handing over a house, new home of a returnee in Kismayo. © UNHCR/Kismayo 2017

- In Kismayo, UNHCR completed with construction of a Mother Child Health Centre (MCH), a Police Station, a school, a market and four shallow wells. An integrated shelter project will accommodate 100 households (60 returnee, 20 IDPs and 20 members of host community).
- In Baidoa, UNHCR continued with a shelter project with 100 returnees. Returnees have completed with trainings on how to construct and rehabilitate a house and have received the second of three instalments in the amount of US\$ 200 per person (this amounts in total of US\$ 700), and have started with either constructing or rehabilitating their own houses.

Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

The enhanced return package also supports livelihood opportunities aimed to facilitate and attain self-reliance of persons of concern. Livelihood programmes target not only refugee returnees but also, based on inclusive approach, IDPs and members of host community. In December 1,976 persons (1,337 returnees, 299 IDP and 340 members of host community) were part of various projects. Out of 1,976 persons, 1,260 were part of a cash for work (CfW) programme, 406 were enrolled in technical and educational vocational training (TEVT), 120 in small-business programme (SBP) and 190 were assisted with self-employment opportunities.



Graduation of 60 persons (42 returnees and 18 members of host community) from carpentry. © UNHCR/Baidoa 2017

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure represents one of the core community resilience activities. Improved vital public premises aimed to enable access to basic social and economic rights of persons of concern, such as right to health and education. In most cases core public assets are either constructed or rehabilitated through the CfW approach or through a contractor. During December, 1,260 persons (817 returnees, 247 IDPs and 196 members of host community) achieved the following through CfW activities.

- In Kismayo, rehabilitation of the Kismayo football stadium continued through December, however, some works, as renovation of the V.I.P. lounge, wash rooms, changing rooms, and administration blocs and players substitute coach stadium have been completed.
- Beautifying three districts, Afmadow, Baidoa and Luuq, through CfW programme has also come to the end. 260 persons (100 in Afmadow, 100 in Luuq and 60 in Baidoa) have beautified and cleaned the main roads, airstrips and IDP sites (in Baidoa) for the last three months.
- In Mogadishu, 1,000 persons have been engaged in beautifying 12 districts of the Benadir region through a CfW programme, and rehabilitation or construction of 10 premises: five schools, four community resources and one training centre.
- UNHCR has completed construction of a milk market in Luuq and handed it over to the community for use. The facility will be used by returnees, IDPs and host community. The new milk market addresses one of the gaps identified by the community and adds new infrastructure to people in Luuq.

Technical and educational vocational training

TVET are programmes that last from three to nine months. During that time a person enhances their own human capital by gaining new skills and knowledge. After successful completion of a training each beneficiary receives a start-up kit to start their own business or to join other business. With the end of December all TVET have commenced and the last 406 persons (338 returnees, 30 IDPs and 38 members of host community) completed with programme.

- In Mogadishu, the remaining 110 persons (out of 160) who graduated from the courses in handcraft, computers, mobile repair, catering, beauty salon and motor vehicle mechanic received their start-up kits. All graduates have now received a full package of the start-up kit.



Distribution of start-up kits for 110 graduates of TVET in Mogadishu. © UNHCR/Mogadishu 2017

- In Hargeysa, 136 beneficiaries completed with trainings; 25 in electricity, 20 in painting/decoration, 15 in plumbing, 53 in cooking and 23 in tailoring. A graduation ceremony will be held in January 2018.
- In Kismayo, 100 persons continued with trainings in poultry. During November around 1,200 chickens have been hatched and raised in a chicken egg hatchery. Chickens will be distributed to beneficiaries along with chicken coops.
- In Baidoa, a graduation ceremony was held for 60 persons who have successfully completed classes in carpentry. Each participant has received a certificate and a start-up kit with tool to either establish their own business in carpentry or to join other existing business.

Small-business programme

SBP offers to a beneficiary basic entrepreneurial skills to run his/her own business. SBP trainings usually last from one to three months. Upon successful completion of a programme, each beneficiary receives a start-up kit or cash grant for establishing their own business. This will be followed by mentoring and business development services (BDS) support visits while the beneficiary practices after completing training. During December 120 persons (98 returnees, nine IDPs and 13 members of host community) were part of SBP.

- In Hargeysa, another five persons have established their business (three tie and dye, one tailoring and one auto repair). Remaining 28 persons will continue with trainings and prepare business plans for their own business.
- Start-up grants in amount of US\$ 500 per person were distributed to 50 persons in Luuq to start a small-scale business.
- In Mogadishu, 65 persons received their business grants in amount of US\$ 500 per person and a start-up tool kits to start their own business.

Access to self-employment, information and communications technologies

Two support centres are available for returnees and other persons of concern in order to assist them with linkages to self-employment opportunities through various online platforms aimed at matching skills to needs. In December, 190 beneficiaries (84 returnees, 13 IDPs and 93 members of host community) visited centres; 101 in Kismayo and 89 in Hargeysa.

- In Kismayo, 101 persons visited the Return Support Centre where 58 were provided with information on available opportunities in the region, 20 attended classes in literacy and 15 in tailoring and eight in computers.

- In Hargeysa, 89 persons were provided assistance at the Peaceful Co-existence Centre, where 30 attended classes in language, 23 in computer, 21 in literacy and 15 in accounting.

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