

Somalia

1-28 February 2018



UNHCR staff together with a member of local authorities welcomed Somali refugee returnees from Yemen at the port in Berbera and provided initial return assistance. © UNHCR/February 2018

Main achievements

Return assistance		1-28 February 2018	2018
	Number of Somali refugees that were repatriated	1,779	3,204
	Number of returnees that benefited from core relief items	1,434	2,679
	Number of returnees enrolled in education	692	1,423
	Number of returnees that received reinstallation grants	1,736	2,124
	Number of persons enrolled in livelihood projects	1,085	2,373

Updates on achievements

Since 8 December 2014, beginning with a pilot return activity that later expanded, UNHCR has assisted Somali refugees returning to Somalia with return and reintegration assistance. Somali refugee returnees who opt for voluntary repatriation under the UNHCR programme receive an enhanced return package¹ to support their reintegration and to ensure the sustainability of returns. In the chapters below are achievements made during the month of February.

Protection and return management

First returns from Libya

On 17 February, UNHCR together with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) for Children and Migrants' Rights, and IOM welcomed 11 Somali returnees from Libya. This group of returnees will receive the UNHCR enhanced return package.



UNHCR together with partners at the Mogadishu International Airport welcomed the first group of Somalis from Libya. © UNHCR/February 2018

Cross-border coordination meeting

On 2 and 3 February in Djibouti, the ongoing Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) from Yemen to Somalia was reviewed in a cross-border coordination meeting involving UNHCR Somalia and Yemen, IOM Somalia and Yemen, representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Federal Member State of Puntland and the Somali Ambassador to Yemen. Since September 2017, when the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees in Yemen was launched, 1,215 Somali refugees have repatriated.

Return management

During February, Somali refugees were repatriated by road (from Kenya), by air (from Kenya and Libya) and by sea (from Yemen). On 20 February, the repatriation by road from Kenya

¹ 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 the amount of US\$ 200 per person, unconditional monthly subsistence allowance in the amount of US\$ 200 per household 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 a set of selection criteria and availability of resources.

resumed. This was the first return by road after suspension for 10 months, as movements by road from Kenya to return areas in Somalia were disrupted by rainfall and later by the security situation.



Somali refugees received in Dhobley at the Kenya-Somalia border by UNHCR, Jubaland Refugee and IDP Agency (JRIA) and partner American Refugee Committee (ARC). © UNHCR/February 2018

Country of Origin Information

On 14 February, UNHCR shared Country of Origin Information (COI) updates for the month of February with UNHCR operations in Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti and partners. The COI contains up-to-date information on political developments, the humanitarian situation, displacements and evictions, food security and access to basic services. Information on the current situation supports Somali refugees to make informed and voluntary decisions about their possible return.

Return figures

Country of Asylum	Before 1 Jan 2018	2018	1-28 Feb 2018	Cumulative	
Kenya	75,297	2,791	1,499	78,088	68 %
Yemen (A) ²	814	401	269	1,215	1 %
Other	626	12	11	638	1 %
Sub total	76,737	3,204	1,779	79,941	70 %
Yemen (S) ³	34,176	628	221	34,804	30 %
Grand total	110,913	3,832	2,000	114,745	100 %

Between 8 December 2014 and 28 February 2018, a total of 79,941 Somali refugees have repatriated, including 78,088 from Kenya, 1,215 from Yemen and 638 from other countries of asylum⁴. Since 2014, UNHCR also recorded 34,804 Somalis who have returned from Yemen spontaneously, outside the voluntary return programme.

² Somali refugee returnees from Yemen who opt to be voluntary repatriated to Somalia under the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.

³ Spontaneous Somali returnees from Yemen.

⁴ Out of total 638 persons, 589 from Djibouti, 34 from Eritrea, 11 from Libya, three from Tunisia, and one from Pakistan.

- Between 1 - 28 February, UNHCR assisted 1,779 Somali refugees who opted for voluntary repatriation. Out of 1,779 persons, 1,499 repatriated from Kenya, 269 from Yemen and 11 from Libya.
- During February, UNHCR also recorded an additional 221 Somalis who have returned from Yemen spontaneously, outside of the voluntary repatriation programme.

Core relief items

At the Home Way Station or Reception Centre each household receives a package (one to three, depending on the family size) of core relief items (CRIs). One kit of CRIs consists of three blankets, two 10 litre jerry cans, seven boxes high calorie/energy biscuits, 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 February, 591 kits of CRIs were distributed to 526 households (1,434 persons); 499 kits were distributed to 439 households (1,285 persons) from Kenya, 85 kits to 81 households (138 persons) from Yemen and seven kits to six households (11 persons) from Libya.

Number of kits of CRI distributed per country of asylum

Country of asylum	1-28 February 2018			Cumulative		
	# of kits	# of households	# of individuals	# of kits	# of households	# of individuals
Kenya	499	439	1,285	1,121	724	2,404
Yemen	85	81	138	149	141	263
Other	7	6	11	8	7	12
Total	591	526	1,434	1,278	872	2,679

Education

To ensure that returnee students continue with education, each school-going returnee receives a cash grant to cover their scholastic materials, a school uniform, and education fees for one school year. In 2018, 1,423 returnee students continued with education in Somalia; 1,404 resumed with primary and 19 secondary education.

- During February, 692 Somali returnee students were newly enrolled in school after their returned to Somalia.

Total enrolment per location and level of education in 2018

Location	1-28 February 2018			2018		Grand total
	Primary	Secondary	Sub total	Primary	Secondary	
Baidoa	133	-	133	133	-	133
Kismayo	392	4	396	859	4	863
Mogadishu	135	5	140	389	15	404
Hargeysa	23	-	23	23	-	23
Total	683	9	692	1,404	19	1,423

Cash assistance

To support re-building lives of Somali refugees, UNHCR provides two types of cash assistance.

Each returnee is entitled to a one time reinstallation grant in the amount of US\$ 200 and each family to subsistence allowance in the amount of US\$ 200 for a period of six months. The reinstallation grant is provided immediately upon their return, while the six payments of subsistence allowance is initiated one month after arrival.

Reinstallation grants

- During February, a total of 1,736 returnees (515 families) received their reinstallation grant; 1,481 returnees (397 families) repatriated from Kenya and 254 returnees (117 families) from Yemen.

Number of returnees received reinstallation grant per country of asylum

Country of asylum	1-28 February 2018		2018	
	# of individuals	# of households	# of individuals	# of households
Kenya	1,481	397	1,841	484
Yemen	254	117	282	128
Other	0	0	1	1
Total	1,736	515	2,124	613

Community-based support

The most vulnerable returnees and other vulnerable persons in return communities, including IDPs, are targeted for support in community-based projects aimed to achieve self-reliance.

Livelihood interventions are focused on improvement of public infrastructure and building the capacity of persons of concern.

- During February, 1,085 persons were provided with livelihood opportunities; 300 were part of a cash-for-work (CfW) programme, 410 were enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TEVT) and 375 were assisted with self-employment opportunities.

Number of persons newly enrolled in livelihood programmes per activity

Activity	1-28 February 2018	2018
	# of individuals	# of individuals
Rehabilitation of public infrastructure (CfW)	300	1,300
Technical and vocational educational trainings	410	410
Access to self-employment	375	663
Total	1,085	2,373

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure

In February, 300 persons (150 returnees, 100 IDPs and 50 members of the host community) were enrolled in improvement of public infrastructure through CfW activities.

- In Afmadow, 100 persons (50 returnees, 30 IDPs and 20 host community) started with planting trees, fencing the Afmadow Public Park and cleaning Afmadow district, namely, an airstrip, bushes and 0.5 kilometre of a road.

- In Kismayo, 200 persons (100 returnees, 70 IDPs and 30 members of host community) started rehabilitating the road from a shelter settlement to Kismayo town and already improved one kilometre (out of three) of the road.
- A rehabilitation and construction of 10 premises and beautifying of 12 districts of Benadir region through a contractor and 1,000 persons through CfW was temporarily on hold due to the changes of a new counterpart at the Banadir Regional Administration.



The rehabilitated road leading from a shelter settlement to Kismayo town. © UNHCR/February 2018

Technical and Vocational Education and Training

During February, 410 persons (250 returnees, 110 IDPs and 50 members of the host community) were part of TEVT.

- In Baidoa, 100 persons (70 returnees, 20 IDPs and 10 members of host community) started with a shelter project. The group will be trained on how to build and improve shelters. Each person will also receive a cash grant to construct or rehabilitate their own house.
- In Baidoa, 80 Somali youth (40 returnees, 32 IDPs and eight members of the host community) started with trainings on carpentry (60 persons) and metal fabrication (20 persons).



A group of 60 Somali youth (30 returnees, 24 IDPs and six members of host community) started with trainings in carpentry. © UNHCR/February 2018

- In Kismayo, 80 persons (35 returnees, 28 IDPs and 17 members of host community) were started with classes in tailoring, IT and networking, electrics, construction and catering.
- In Hargeysa, 150 persons (105 returnees, 30 IDPs and 15 members of the host community) were registered and started with vocational trainings in tailoring, cooking, plumbing and electronics.

Access to self-employment, information and communications technologies

UNHCR provides also support to institutions which assist persons of concern with various activities to gain new skills and knowledge to become self-reliant. During February, 375 persons (192 returnees, 44 IDPs and 139 members of the host community) were supported in Kismayo (291 persons) and Hargeysa (84 persons).

- In Kismayo, 291 persons (161 returnees, 37 IDP, 93 members of the host community) were provided with assistance at the Return Support Centre. Out of 291 persons, 148 became new members of the centre, 10 attended classes in Information Technology (IT), 30 in literacy, 20 in tailoring and 80 in computers. Furthermore, in February three persons also achieved formal employment.
- In Hargeysa, 84 persons (31 returnees, seven IDPs and 46 members of the host community) continued with trainings at the Peaceful Co-existence Centre in language, computer, literacy and accounting.

External / Donor relations

Donor(s) who have contributed directly to the Somalia operation

European Union | UN-Habitat | Italy | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Sweden

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