

Somalia

1-31 January 2019

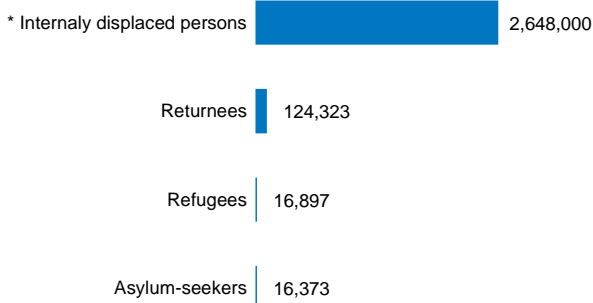
Continued **armed conflict**, **limited access** and **below average Deyr rains** (October-December 2018) were the main factors impacting the operational context.

One third of IDPs, roughly 840,000 people, faced **food insecurity** according to the monitoring agencies and additional 17,000 were **newly displaced** in January.

The **Gu** rains (Mar-June) is predicted to be below average, further **deteriorating the humanitarian situation** of internally displaced Somalis.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

A total of **2.8 million** persons of concern

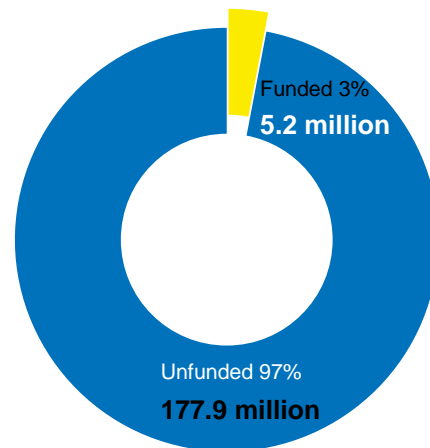


* Estimated internally displaced persons as of 31 July 2018
(Source: Information Management Working Group)

FUNDING (AS OF 9 JANUARY)






USD 183.1 million

requested for the Somalia situation



Graduation of 40 refugees and asylum-seekers from UNHCR's vocational training on entrepreneurship. © GECPD

January highlights

-  **135** refugees and asylum-seekers were **newly registered**
-  **366** Somalis **returned**, 221 assisted and 145 spontaneously
-  **17,000** persons were **newly displaced**, mainly in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Lower Juba regions
-  **1,323** persons **benefited from CRIs**: 1,184 refugees and asylum-seekers and 139 returned refugees
-  The FGS published a new **Policy for IDPs and Returnees in Mogadishu** to strengthen their response framework



In Gaalkacyo, UNHCR assessed the situation of internally displaced Somalis who have been evicted. © DRC/2019

Main developments

Durable Solutions Unit at the Benadir Regional Administration

On 31 January, in Mogadishu, the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) established a Durable Solutions Unit (DSU) to facilitate the durable solutions to the internally displaced Somalis. The primary role of the DSU is to develop policies, service mainstreaming, advocacy and coordination office for displacement affected communities within the BRA.

“Our vision is to ensure that all displaced people have access to secure housing and land tenure, employment, and critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals where they live” said the Mayor of Mogadishu and the Governor of the BRA which hosts over half million internally displaced Somalis, roughly one fifth of the 2.6 million displaced in the country.

UNHCR committed to continue supporting the BRA to find durable solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR in the light of the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) (CRRF) and the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (CRRF).



UNHCR welcomed the establishment of BRA in the search for durable solutions of persons of concern. © UNHCR/Ahmed Ainte, 2019

The BRA Policy for IDPs and Returnees in Mogadishu

On 22 January, the Mayor of Mogadishu and the Governor of BRA signed and approved the BRA Policy for IDPs and Returnees in Mogadishu to strengthen the framework for its response to the internal-displaced Somalis and returnees.

IDPs and returnees in the National Development Plan II for Somaliland

In Hargeysa, UNHCR met with the Minister of Planning to discuss the inclusion of IDPs and returnees in the National Development Plan II for Somaliland. On this occasion UNHCR briefed the Minister on the CRRF and GCR and thanked him for ensuring the rights of persons of concern and appealed to continue to uphold the highest standard of human rights for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR provides protection assistance and support to refugees and asylum-seekers through access to territory, registration and documentation, education, health care, livelihood and self-reliance, cash-based interventions, provision of core relief items, legal support, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response, peaceful coexistence and community-based protection.



A UNHCR colleague welcomed refugees from Yemen at the port in Berbera. © UNHCR/2019

Registration

- As of 31 January, UNHCR recorded a total of 33,270 refugees and asylum-seekers, of which 16,897 were refugees and 16,373 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived from Ethiopia (60 per cent) and Yemen (38 per cent). In January, UNHCR newly registered 135 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 20 newborn babies.

Persons of Concern	Before 2019	January 2019	2019	Total
Refugees	16,781	115	115	16,896
Asylum-seekers	16,354	20	20	16,374
Total	33,135	135	135	33,270

Refugee Status Determination

- In January, UNHCR conducted first instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews for 22 cases (55 asylum-seekers from Ethiopia). One Ethiopian refugee was granted refugee status and received a refugee certificate by UNHCR.
- UNHCR also raised awareness for 25 asylum-seekers on RSD process, waiting time for RSD interviews and for receiving an RSD decision.

Resettlement

- In January, UNHCR submitted seven cases (36 refugees from Ethiopia) for resettlement to Sweden and raised awareness on basic principles, criteria for resettlement, as well as global trends and yearly quota for Somalia with 40 refugees from Ethiopia (25 in Bossaso and 15 in Hargeysa).

Cash assistance

- In January, UNHCR provided monthly subsistence allowance to 2,140 refugee and asylum-seeker households (6,743 persons) to meet their basic needs: 697 households (3,419 persons) from Ethiopia, 1,385 households (3,182 persons) from Yemen, 43 households (95 persons) from Syria, 11 households (32 persons) from Eritrea, 3 households (8 persons) from Palestine and 1 household (seven persons) from Bangladesh.

Core relief items

- In January, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 301 households (1,184 persons): 238 households (1,009 persons) whose shelters were damaged by rain received a CRI kit in Bossaso, 42 households (46 persons) who arrived from Yemen received a CRI kit in Berbera and 21 households (129 persons) received a package of clothes in Gaalkacyo.

Health

- In January, UNHCR enabled access to the health care services to refugees and asylum-seekers: 2,448 cases to primary health care services and 221 cases to the secondary and tertiary health care service.

Education

- In January, schools in Somalia were closed for the Mid Term Closure. UNHCR will resume with enrolments in February.

Community empowerment and self reliance

- In January in Gaalkacyo, UNHCR provided small-business grants in the amount of US\$ 1,000 to establish or enhance an existing business to 40 refugees and asylum-seekers. After establishing or enhancing their business, each recipient will be able to generate an income and support their household.



Nuradin, an Ethiopian refugee with his family at a newly established vegetable retail store in Gaalkacyo. © GECPCD/2019

Returned refugees

In 2014, UNHCR began supporting Somali refugee returnees who opt for voluntary repatriation to Somalia. Each refugee household is provided with an enhanced return package aimed at re-establishing their life in Somalia. Since 2014, 123,300 Somalis returned spontaneously or through an assisted programme. Over 880,000 Somali refugees remain displaced in the world, mainly in neighbouring countries.



Somali refugee from Yemen returned home and was received by a UNHCR colleague at the port in Berbera. UNHCR provides each returnee with refreshment, meal and water, upon arrival. © UNHCR/2019

Return figures

- As of 31 January 2019, UNHCR received a total of 124,323 Somali returnees from 12 countries of asylum. Of the total 87,711 who repatriated with UNHCR support, 82,917 were from Kenya, 3,545 from Yemen, 783 from Djibouti, 353 from Libya, 68 from Sudan, 34 from Eritrea, 4 from Tunisia, 3 from Angola, 2 from Gambia, 1 from Pakistan, 1 from Ukraine and 1 from Cambodia. While 36,612 Somalis returned on their own from Yemen.
- In January, UNHCR supported the return of 221 Somali refugees: 140 from Yemen, 77 from Kenya and 4 from Sudan. During the same time, 145 Somalis returned spontaneously from Yemen.

Assisted Returns				
Country of Asylum	Before 2019	Jan 2019	2019	Total
Kenya	82,840	77	77	82,917
Yemen	3,405	140	140	3,545
Other	1,245	4	4	1,249
Sub total	87,490	221	221	87,711
Spontaneous Returns				
Yemen	34,467	145	145	36,612
Total	123,957	366	366	124,323

Return assistance

- Upon arrival in Somalia, returnees are provided with an enhanced return package, which consists of: a core relief item (CRF) kit¹, an unconditional one-time reinstallation grant of US\$ 200 per person and an unconditional monthly subsistence allowance amounting to US\$ 200 per household for 6 months, an unconditional monthly grant for food rations for 6 months (provided by WFP), an education grant of up to US\$ 25 per school-going child per month for 1 school year, 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 targeting criteria and availability of resources.

Reinstallation grants

- In January, UNHCR provided reinstallation grants to 139 returnees (63 households) from Yemen. Some arrived at the end of January and their reinstallation grants will be released in February.

Core relief items

- In January, UNHCR provided 67 kits of CRIs to 63 households (139) persons from Yemen. Returnees received from 1 to 3 CRI kits depending on the size of household and CRIs are provided in kind or as a conditional cash grant to amount of US\$ 60 to 66, depending on local market prices, to purchase CRIs locally.

Community empowerment and self reliance

- In January, UNHCR started with rehabilitation of the Dhobley General Hospital and construction of the SGBV Help Desk at the Police Post. It is estimated that 86,400 persons will benefit indirectly from constructed/rehabilitated public facilities, 72,000 from hospital and 14,400 from the Help Desk.



Construction of the Dhobley General Hospital which will be available to around 72,000 persons. © UNHCR/2019

¹ 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.

Internally displaced Somalis

Years of complex conflicts, insecurity and drought have left around 2.6 million internally displaced. Most of them rely on humanitarian assistance which is provided through the clusters.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

The CCCM Cluster, co-lead by UNHCR, oversees the living conditions and protection of IDPs in sites and settlements. As of 31 January, the CCCM has reached 790,946 IDPs representing 44 per cent of the annual target of 1.8 million IDPs. The cluster members also established CCCM mechanisms in 697 sites and settlements (41 per cent) out of targeted 1,926 sites.

- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:** The protection and improvement of the living conditions for IDPs were limited by restricted humanitarian access in some parts of south and central Somalia, lack of information at the site, lack of land tenure and forced evictions, and low levels of community participation.

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

The Shelter and NFIs Cluster led by UNHCR assisted to 2,844 persons: 1,500 benefited from rehabilitation of shelters and 1,344 from emergency shelter kits (ESKs). Construction tools, materials and assistance on construction through Cash-for-Work were provided to persons whose houses were damaged by Cyclone Sagar in Woqooyi Galbeed region. ESKs were provided to people in Banadir, Bay and Middle Shabelle regions.

- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:** The Federal Member States have allocated land in several locations for the construction of permanent shelters and relocation of internally displaced Somalis. South West State of Somalis in Baidoa, Puntland State of Somalia in Gaalkacyo, Galmudug State of Somalia in Gaalkacyo and Jubaland State of Somalia in Kismayo. Due to insufficient resources, the Shelter and NFIs Cluster was unable to support the Federal Member States in constructing permanent shelters and relocation of internally displaced Somalis.

Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR provided support to over 50,000 persons with protection services, child protection and support to GBV survivors. The Protection Cluster monitored the relocation of IDPs in Baidoa and Gaalkacyo to a new settlement to ensure a rights-based approach. The Protection Cluster also met with the Eviction Unit of the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) to discuss evictions and agreed to develop a training programme to enable the BRA to contribute to prevention of eviction.

- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:** Eviction of IDPs from their settlements continues, affecting 43,000 people in January alone. There is a need to reinforce post-eviction monitoring and assistance to affected vulnerable families, and strengthen intervention to prevent evictions.

UNHCR support to internally displaced Somalis

New displacements

- In January, around 17,000 persons were newly displaced according to reports from the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network](#) (PRMN). More than half (53 per cent) of displacements were reported due to drought-related causes (mainly in Lower Juba and Bay regions), one third (35 per cent) were related to conflict or insecurity (mainly in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Lower Juba regions) and some (11 per cent) were related to other reasons (mainly in Sool and Mudug regions).²

Reason of displacement	2018 cumulative	1-31 January 2019	2019 cumulative
Flood	281,000	0	0
Drought-related	256,000	9,000	9,000
Conflict-related	320,000	6,000	6,000
Other reasons	26,000	2,000	2,000
Total	883,000	17,000	17,000

SGBV

- In January, UNHCR reached 1,696 persons with SGBV prevention and response: 1,427 persons have been reached through awareness raising activities, build capacity of 120 members of partners, 52 survivors were provided with psychosocial counselling, 44 received medical assistance, 40 legal assistance and 13 material assistance.

Community empowerment and self reliance

- In January, UNHCR enrolled 200 persons (140 IDPs, 33 members of the host community and seven returnees), 70 from Gaalkacyo, 50 from Caadado, and 80 from Dhuusamarreeb in a technical vocational education and training on barber, beauty therapy, blacksmith, carpentry, cooking, farming, hospitality, solar energy, masonry, mobile and radio repair, and tailoring.



IDP women enrolled in class on farming are cultivating land and planting vegetables in south Gaalkacyo. ©WISE/2019

² Figures are provision and are subject to verification.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 5.2 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Germany 7.1 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

United Kingdom 31.7 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Uruguay | Private donors

Contact

Caroline Van Buren, Representative, Somalia

vanburen@unhcr.org, Cell: +252 616 141 315, Cell: +254 731 688 141

LINKS

[Somalia: Global Focus](#) - [Somalia: Information sharing portal](#) - [UNHCR Somalia](#) - [@UNHCRSom](#)
- [Facebook: UNHCR Somalia](#) - [Somalia internal displacement](#)