

SOMALIA

1-29 February 2020

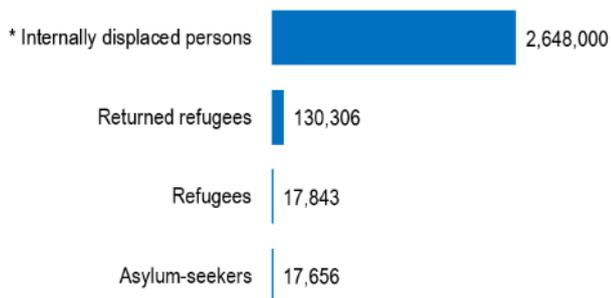
The operational context in the month of February has been marked predominantly by **armed and inter-clan conflicts and drought conditions**.

Around **37,000 persons have been newly displaced**, bringing the total to 72,000 internally displaced in 2020, out of which 53,000 persons (74 per cent) were displaced as a result of armed conflicts.

There is a **high likelihood of river floods** due to a forecast of above-average rainfall during the *Gu* season (April-June), according to a monitoring **agency**, which can result in new displacements.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

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

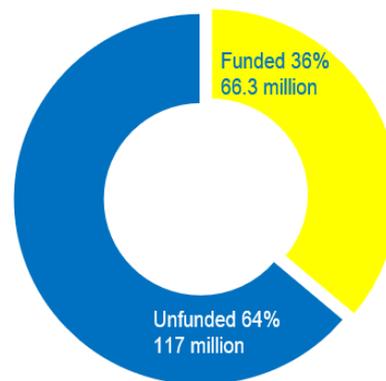


* Estimated internally displaced persons as of 31 July 2018
(Source: Information Management Working Group)

FUNDING (AS AT 31 JANUARY)

USD 183.3 million

requested for the Somalia situation



FLOOD RESPONSE

As of 29 February, UNHCR provided [life-saving assistance to more than 198,000 persons affected or displaced by floods or rains](#) since October 2019. Distribution of humanitarian assistance included: 17,387 non-food item kits, 11,068 emergency shelter kits, 4,000 dignity kits, 4,000 portable solar lamps and 80 street solar lamps (installed).



An internally displaced family in Belet Weyne giving feedback to UNHCR Representative (right) about assistance provided by

The UNHCR Representative, Mr Johann Siffointe and Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Mohamed Affey, visited Wabishabele settlement in Belet Weyne and meet with families severely affected by floods late last year. They also met with the President of the Hiirshabelle State of Somalia, Mohamed Abdi Ware, and Clan Elder Ugas Hassan Ugas Khalif Ugas Roble to discuss durable solutions for the flood-induced displacement situation in the district.

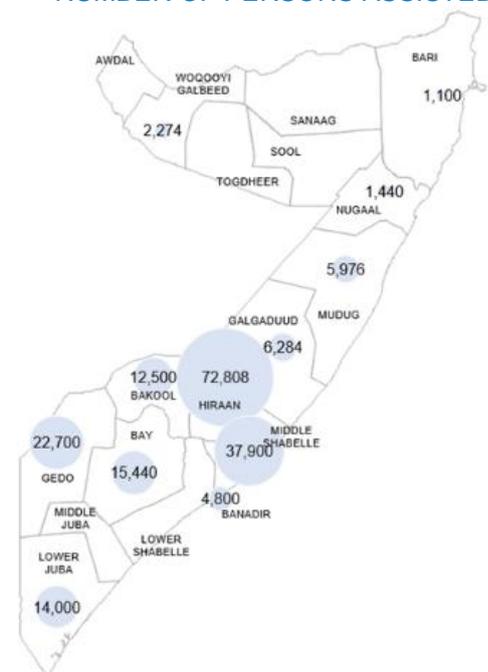
Flood was the main reason of internal displacements in 2019. Out of a total 770,000 internally displaced persons in 2019, 54 per cent (416,000 persons) were forced to leave their home due to flood.

At the Global Refugee Forum, the Federal Republic of Somalia, pledged to “find a permanent solution for the recurring flood/drought cycle that leads to displacement along the Shabelle and Jubba river regions”.

NATIONAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS STRATEGY

The Durable Solutions Secretariat under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia is taking the lead in [developing a National Strategy on Durable Solutions](#). UNHCR provided technical inputs on the inception report and is continuing to support the development of this strategy, which is crucial in the implementation of the [Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia](#). With 2.6 million internally displaced persons Somalia is the fourth largest country in the world with IDP population and second in Africa. The population of internally displaced in Somalia increased for 60 per cent compared to 2015 when 1.1 million were displaced internally.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia are provided with protection assistance and support by the government and UNHCR through access to housing, 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.

- As of 29 February, UNHCR recorded a total of 35,499 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 17,843 were refugees and 17,656 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia are from Ethiopia (61 per cent) and Yemen (37 per cent).

REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKER COMMITTEE

Gaalkacyo (Puntland) is home to 850 refugees and asylum-seekers which are dispersed across Mudug region. In order to foster relationship between the refugees and asylum-seekers and host community, UNHCR facilitated annual board election of the [Refugee and Asylum-seeker Committee](#). The committee also appointed focal points for health, SGBV and legal matters. Such committees are one of the tools to reach out to refugees and asylum-seekers, identify and address their needs, as well as foster peaceful co-existence between the refugees and asylum-seekers and the members of host community.



REGISTRATION

UNHCR continued with Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) registration of all refugees and asylum-seekers living in Somalia to enhanced standard registration activities and help to better register and protect people verify their identity and target assistance for the forcibly displaced in the country.

- In February, UNHCR registered 181 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 99 new-born babies, 109 from Ethiopia, 70 from Yemen and two from Syria.

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

- In February, UNHCR conducted first instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews with one (six in 2020) asylum-seekers who had sought international protection in Somalia according to the [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#).

CASH ASSISTANCE

- In February, 6,751 persons (6,815 in 2020) persons received monthly cash assistance to meet their basic needs such as housing and food.

EDUCATION

Many school-going children are not able to afford education due to lack of public schools and fees at private schools. UNHCR provides access to education by financing school fees, school uniforms and scholastic materials and in some cases transportation.

- In February, UNHCR facilitated access to education to 5,600 school going children (2,473 in Hargeisa, 2,200 in Bossaso, 651 in Mogadishu and 276 in Gaalkacyo).

- In Bossaso, Garoowe, Gaalkacyo and Qhardo 2,600 school-going children have received scholastic materials, namely: school uniforms, books and pencils.

HEALTH

UNHCR continue providing access to primary healthcare services to all refugees and asylum-seekers in spite of mostly inadequate healthcare facilities. Secondary and tertiary healthcare services are limited due to lack of funding.

- In Gaalkacyo (Puntland), 30 refugees and asylum-seekers with special needs were provided walking sticks, hearing aids, wheelchairs and bathroom chairs.



TELLING THE REAL STORY

The Telling the Real Story is a community-based campaign that strives to provide a counter-narrative to myths and untruths about irregular movements. The campaign informs the community of the full scope of the dangers associated with irregular movement to Europe, reveals the challenges and problems related to living in Europe, and debunks the myths about life in Europe.

- In January and February, 56,900 persons were reached through community-based outreach activities such as awareness raisings, book reading sessions, community-dialogue sessions, radio messaging, career counselling, debate competitions, distribution of books, sport events and focus group discussions.



REFUGEE RETURNEES

In December 2014 UNHCR started assisting repatriate Somali refugees who sought refuge outside Somalia. After the beginning of the crisis in Yemen in March 2015, thousands of Somali refugees in Yemen returned to Somalia on their own, outside UNHCR programme. Around 760,000 Somalis are still displaced outside Somalia, most of them sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen.



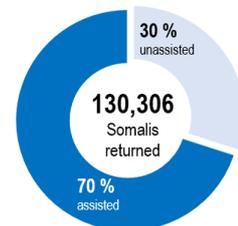
A UNHCR colleague waiting to welcome Somali refugee returnees from Yemen at the port in Berbera.

RETURN FIGURES

As of 29 February, UNHCR received a total of 130,306 Somali returnees from 13 countries of asylum. Out of total **91,673 who have repatriated with UNHCR support**: 84,974 from Kenya, 5,221 from Yemen, 822 from Djibouti, 467 from Libya, 143 from Sudan, 34 from Eritrea, three from Tunisia, three from Angola, two from the Gambia, one from Pakistan, one from Ukraine, one from Cambodia and one from China. While **38,633 Somalis returned on their own** from Yemen.

- In February, 134 Somali refugees have been repatriated from Yemen through the UNHCR facilitated programme. Repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya remains suspended due to the security reasons in the areas of origin.
- During the same period, 134 Somalis returned **unassisted, on their own**, from Yemen and entered either in Berbera or Bossaso.

TYPE OF RETURN	BEFORE 2020	FEB 2020	2020	TOTAL
ASSISTED RETURN	87,490	134	134	91,673
UNASSISTED RETURN	38,430	134	203	38,633
TOTAL	125,920	268	337	130,306



LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

- In February, 75 persons (75 in 2020) were enrolled in an enterprise training and a village savings and loans association: 50 in Mogadishu and 25 in Dollow.
- In Kismayo, 38 persons (23 members of the host community, 10 refugee returnees and five IDPs) were registered and assisted at the Returnee Support Centre. The youth were informed on available opportunities in the centre such as education programs, career counselling and the availability of psychosocial support. Also, a total of five refugee returnees got employment in Kismayo.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED SOMALIS

Somalia is one of the most complex and protracted humanitarian crises in the world. Recurring climatic shocks (droughts and floods) and decades of armed and inter-clan conflicts left 2.6 million Somalis displaced internally and living in 2,000 overcrowded sites. Assistance to internally displaced persons in Somalia is provided through clusters. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/NFIs cluster and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster.

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

The UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network](#) (PRMN) reports on displacements, protection risks and incidents underlying such movements.

- In February, the PRMN recorded 37,000 newly displaced persons: 25,000 persons were displaced due to armed conflict between Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a and Somali National Army in Galgaduud region; 11,000 persons were displaced due to drought, lack of livelihood and destroyed crops by desert locusts mainly in Sanaag region; and 1,000 persons due to lack of access to humanitarian assistance, health and education especially in Bari region.
- In 2020, 72,000 persons have been internally displaced: 53,000 persons (74 per cent) due to conflict, 17,000 persons (24 per cent) due to drought and 2,000 persons (two per cent) due to other reasons.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT CLUSTER

The CCCM Cluster, co-lead by UNHCR, oversees the living conditions and protection of IDPs in sites and/or settlements. So far this year, the CCCM assisted 695,292 IDPs (50 per cent of the targeted 1.4 million IDPs) with site improvement activities, established coordination mechanisms in 718 sites (45 per cent of the targeted 1,600 sites).

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



PROTECTION CLUSTER

The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, covers a wide range of activities that are aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of all individuals exposed to humanitarian shocks and their consequences. In February, the Cluster provided assistance to 82,967 persons with humanitarian services relating to child protection; gender-based violence prevention and response; housing, land and property, explosive hazards; and protection support to other vulnerable people. In 2020, the cluster provided support to 154,955 persons (eight per cent of the total targeted 1.9 million persons).



Awareness raising on FGM in Dhobley.



Awareness raising on FGM in Dollow.

UNHCR together with internally displaced persons, the members of host community, clan elders, religion leaders, IDP site leaders and authorities marked the [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#) in Dhobley and Dollow. Over 400 participants shared their stories and fears, talked about myths and misconception about FGM, gained knowledge on the consequences of FGM, questioned social norms and challenged to abandon FGM practice without stigma.

SHELTER AND NFI'S CLUSTER

The Shelter and NFI's Cluster, led by UNHCR, is a coordination mechanism that supports persons affected by conflicts and natural disasters. In February, 7,044 persons benefited from NFI kits bringing the total to 81,384 persons out of 1.3 million targeted. In addition, 16,164 persons benefited from shelter bringing the total to 86,011 persons out of total 1.4 million targeted.

- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:** Around 2.2 million persons are in need of shelter and NFIs assistance. Lack of prepositioned stocks in key locations hamper timely response to persons in need. The cluster has been severely underfunded which affects shelter and NFI response in an effective manner. Lack of security of tenure especially for displaced persons living in IDP sites makes it difficult to provide durable shelter solution through local integration.



Constructed 200 shelters in Bossaso by UNHCR. © A.M. NCR

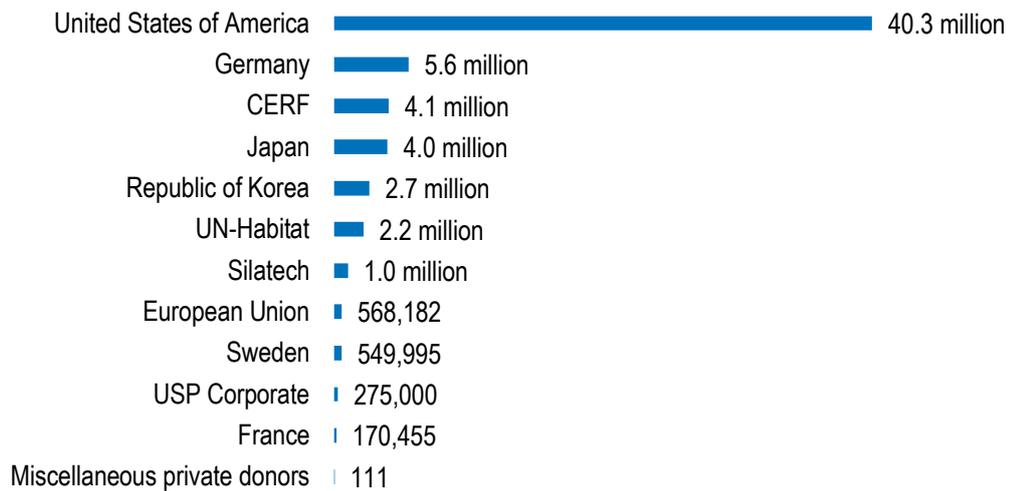
UNHCR constructed 200 permanent shelters in Girible Village, Bossaso. Girible Village is an integrated shelter project located on the outskirts of Bossaso and comprises of a community centre, police post and water kiosks. Beneficiaries include refugee returnees, IDPs and the members of host community.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is extremely grateful for the crucial support provided by donors contributing to the Somalia Operation or, more broadly, global UNHCR programmes.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SOMALIA OPERATION | USD

Earmarked contributions for the Somalia Operation amount to some **US\$ 66.3 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special gratitude is extended to the following major donors for contributions that may potentially be used in the Somalia Operation given their earmarking to a related situation, theme, region, or sub-region:

United States of America 27.8 million | Germany 16.5 million | Private donors Australia 14.7 million | Canada 4.6 million | Private donors Germany 3.3 million | Private donors Bahamas 3.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.8 million

Finland | Japan | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special gratitude is also extended to the following major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR:

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 83 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 43.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 41.8 million | Germany 28.9 million | Private donors Japan 28.7 million | Japan 25.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Italy 20.1 million | Private donors USA 19.1 million | Private donors Sweden 17.8 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Ireland 10.2 million | Private donors China 10 million | Italy 10 million

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LINKS

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