Somalia

1-31 May 2021

At the end of May, following a National consultative summit between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States, the political leaders of the country finally reached an agreement after months of electoral stalemate. The the main electoral issues agreed included holding the elections within 60 days of the agreement, which is in August. UNHCR continued to provide protection, assistance and solutions to persons of concern across the country, as well as to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY INDICATORS

2.95 million IDPs

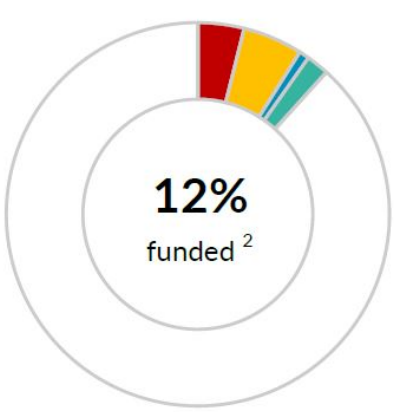
13,269 asylum-seekers
11,666 refugees

131,633 refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 25 MAY)

USD 157.7 M

requested for the Somalia operation



Funded
12%
18.5 M

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The political impasse in the country was finally resolved at the end of the five-day National Consultative Summit between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States in Mogadishu, resulting in the political leaders of the country reaching an agreement after months of electoral stalemate. According to the agreement, both levels of governments will coordinate on the electoral process and prepare the country for elections in 60 days, meaning elections are scheduled to be held in August 2021.

The main electoral issues agreed included replacement and reconstitution of the appointments of the federal and state electoral management bodies; resolution to the seats of the electoral management committee for Somaliland; details on how to conduct the elections in Garbaharey in Gedo region, including arrangements regarding the electoral security; establishment of a nine-member Security Committee responsible for electoral security; reaffirmation of the commitment to implement the minimum 30% women's quota in the both Houses of Parliament. The long-awaited agreement was welcomed by the international community.

The security situation in the country remained volatile with regular attacks against military bases, as well as civilians. Access in some parts of the country was further challenged by floods.

In addition to conflict and insecurity, flood-induced displacement took place in several parts of the country. For example, more than 300 households were displaced in Hargeisa, Somaliland at the beginning of the month, due to flash floods caused by heavy rains. According to PRMN report, conflict and drought has displaced over 450,000 people between January and May 2021.

Achievements

PROTECTION

'Help' website for refugees and asylum-seekers

- UNHCR Somalia has launched its **'Help' website** for refugees and asylum-seekers. This public website provides refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as

Somali refugees in the region, with information on their rights and duties, and on the available assistance and services in Somalia. It also includes information on how to report fraud or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) committed by UNHCR or partner staff.

Multipurpose cash assistance

- In May, close to 6,900 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs.

Prevention and response to SGBV

- Across the country, 220 individuals were reached through awareness-raising campaigns on identification and prevention of SGBV, the majority of which were carried out in IDP sites.
- UNHCR partners also continued regular activities on the identification, prevention and response to SGBV. In May, 329 SGBV survivors were provided with psychosocial counselling, 40 were provided with medical assistance, 30 with material assistance and 36 with legal assistance.

Legal assistance and counselling

- In May, 250 individuals received legal assistance in Somaliland, including legal representation before the court of law, and advocacy for release from police custody or detention centres. In Somaliland, legal representation was provided by five local lawyers, supported by UNHCR.
- A partner-organized training on Housing, Land and Property rights took place in Mogadishu.

UNHCR staff member welcomes Somali refugee returnees from Dadaab, Kenya, who arrived on 27 May as part of the voluntary repatriation of 17 individuals to Mogadishu and Kismayo. © UNHCR

Somali refugee returnees

- As of 31 May, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 92,199 Somali refugee returns from neighbouring countries and beyond. Out of the total, 85,220 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, and smaller numbers from Djibouti, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea and various other countries.
- Under the voluntary repatriation programme from Kenya, a total of 17 individuals returned from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Mogadishu and Kismayo. All refugee returnees received return packages and temporary accommodation, if required.

Telling the Real Story campaign volunteers and UNHR staff are conducting community outreach and awareness at BoqolkaBuush IDP site in Bossaso. © UNHCR

Telling the Real Story project

- In May, the Telling the Real Story project started its outreach activities in various locations across Bossaso city, Puntland. The main objective of the outreach activities of the TRS is to provide accurate information about the dangers of *Tahriib* (irregular movement) to the target communities and debunk the misinformation by smugglers and their agents.
- Bossaso is one of the major hubs of migration and human trafficking activities. TRS/UNHCR volunteers have so far reached 1,800 households in Boqolka

buush, Waberi IDP and Xamarweyne IDP sites, as well as in the reception centre in Bossaso, with awareness-raising activities.

Protection Cluster

In May, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, reached:

167,454 individuals through protection monitoring and **662** individuals were referred to specialized services.

3,393 individuals through community-based mental health and psycho-social support services, comprising of 3,703 girls, 3,158 boys, 1,699 women and 1,253 men. The total includes 255 older persons and 138 individuals with disabilities.

35,144 individuals with information about GBV prevention and mitigation services, of which 10,404 were children.

79,184 individuals (54,508 children) with various child protection services, including child protection messaging, psychosocial support, case management, family tracing and reunification, alternative care and reintegration of children associated with armed forces.

7,878 individuals with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, including 4,923 children

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR covered primary school fees for 2,541 refugee and 11 returnee children, and secondary school fees for 307 refugee children and 114 returnee children.
- In south central, UNHCR supported 27 students who are participating in the ongoing grade 8 and form 4 final national examinations.
- UNHCR continued to pay the salaries of 21 teachers in Midnimo School in Kismayo, which provides free primary and secondary education to 816 children (394 boys and 424 girls), of whom 80% are refugee returnees.
- UNHCR conducted quarterly community dialogue sessions in Galkayo on child protection and importance of girl's education, reaching 75 (21 men, 54 women) individuals. The participants included refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, women's advocacy organization members, youth organization members, teachers, religious leaders and traditional elders.

- In Garowe, UNHCR trained 12 teachers (9 men, 3 women) on alternative and positive disciplinary approaches and provision of psychosocial and psychological first aid support, child safeguarding and PSEA policies as well as teachers' Code of Conduct and ethics.
- UNHCR supported five technical officers from the MoE in carrying out quality assurance and joint student-monitoring exercises across Mogadishu and Kismayo, Baidoa, Afmadow, Dolow and Dhobley districts.

HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- As part of UNHCR's regular healthcare activities in May; a total of 1,848 individuals, including refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members, were provided with primary healthcare, 63 individuals with secondary healthcare, and 40 were referred to further care, including tertiary healthcare.

Prevention of and response to COVID-19

- An isolation unit and a quarantine center continued to be supported in the Berbera regional hospital.
- More than 12,000 returnees, IDPs and host community in Kismayo and Baidoa received messages on COVID-19 prevention and response. The activity was jointly conducted by the UNHCR-led Protection cluster led by UNHCR and (GBV/Child Protection AORs) and the Government.
- 1,502 refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs, including the elderly, received cash grants as additional support in relation to COVID-19.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, a total of 918 refugee and asylum-seeker households received one-off cash grants to help them meet their basic needs.

SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFIS

Shelter Cluster

The Somalia **Shelter Cluster**, led by UNHCR, is a coordination mechanism that supports people affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

In May, the cluster partners reached **20,250** people with NFI kits, and **3,666** people with shelter assistance. So far in 2021, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached

only 147,752 individuals (6%) of the targeted 2.3 million individuals with NFI assistance, and 112,129 individuals (5%) of the targeted 2.4 million individuals with shelter assistance.

According to PRMN report, conflict and drought has displaced over 450,000 people between January and May 2021. Most of the displaced have arrived in Banadir, Bay, Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Hiraan and Lower Shabelle regions. The displaced are in urgent need of emergency shelter and NFI according to partner assessments.

Achievements and Impact

- In Dollow, UNHCR handed over title deeds to the 50 families who received the UNHCR-provided Refugee Housing Units (RHUs). The title deed distribution exercise was attended by the shelter partner and local authority.

IDPs in Dollow receive their land title deeds for a newly built Refugee Housing Unit. © UNHCR

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster conducted a half-day training for CCCM partners to showcase key strategic approaches of the Cluster both nationally and sub-nationally, as well as to highlight best practices nationwide.

The Cluster also conducted a workshop for state-level CCCM Cluster focal ppoits, to better streamline activities and reporting, as well as to improve coordination.

CCCM Cluster partners conducted Rapid Gender Assessments in Bossaso, Gardo, Baidoa, Kismayo, Dollow, Wanlaweyn, Berdale and Diinsor to assess their perception of community members regarding women leadership roles.

The CCCM Cluster held a GBV/PSEA referral workshop for partners and CFM operators in an effort to streamline effective and confidential channels for reporting and referring GBV cases and reporting PSEA in IDP sites.

Camp coordination and management activities

- UNHCR, through partner, started the installation of 10 solar-powered streetlights in Danwadag IDP site, in Dhobley. Improved lighting in IDP sites will help to mitigate further risks of GBV cases and enhance the safety of residents, in particular of women.
- UNHCR partner conducted a two-day training on-site planning and security of tenure for 30 (11 women, 19 men) community leaders, camp leaders, local authorities, and humanitarian partners in South Galkayo.
- A total of 1,608 people across the four IDP sites in Adado, Abudwak, Guriel, and South Galkacyo were reached with information campaigns, which aimed to promote good practices on hand washing and social distancing in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Peaceful coexistence

- Activities in the partner-operated Peaceful Coexistence Center in Somaliland continued in May. Activities included psychosocial counseling, assistance to persons with specific needs, vulnerability assessment, general counselling, as well as vocational training and language classes.

Community Empowerment

- UNHCR partner (DRC) conducted GBV and child protection awareness raising campaign in various women and girls' centres in IDP camps. The activity was aimed at increasing community understanding and awareness of GBV issues, its effects in the community, and potential mitigation measures. The campaign reached 160 individuals, most of the whom were women and adolescent girls in the camps since they comprise the most vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Livelihoods

- In Baidoa, UNHCR completed the distribution of live stocks, agricultural inputs/seeds and fuel to the 130 selected households.
- In Mogadishu, UNHCR registration exercise for the second phase of the business and vocational skills training was conducted for 100 refugees and asylum seekers, Somali returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities. The selected participants will undertake a two-month vocational training course, including both theory and practical lessons.
- In Bossaso, UNHCR conducted identification and selection of vulnerable refugees, supported returnees and host community members to benefit from livelihood grants to engage in income generation and economic occupation activities in Bosaso. A total of 131 refugees, 15 IDPs and host community members as well as two returnees are enrolled in a three-day capacity-building training in entrepreneurship and business management.
- UNHCR conducted the identification and selection of 54refugees, IDPs, host community and returnees (32 women, 22 men) for business cash grants to engage in income generation and economic activities in Galkayo.

Women participate in a catering/hospitality class organized by UNHCR's partner COOPI. © UNHCR

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some US$ 18.46 million.

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 unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia operation in 2021
United States of America (7.7 M) | **Japan** (4.5 M) | **Republic of Korea** (1.5 M) | **Sweden** (0.6 M) | **CERF** (0.5 M) | **France** (0.2 M)

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021
Norway (80 M) | Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (26 M) | Private Donors Spain (21.5 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (10.8 M)

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