

SOMALIA

1-31 March 2020

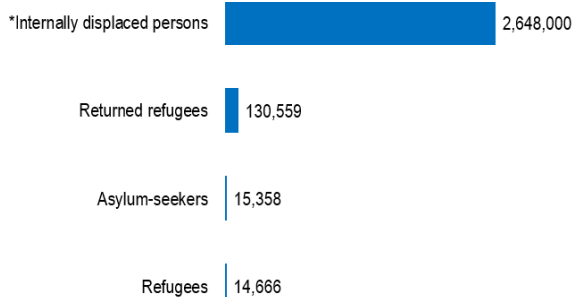
The operational context has been predominantly marked by necessary measures imposed by Government, UN and partners across Somalia to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

According to the UN in Somalia's inter-agency Country Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, 520,000 internally displaced persons may require additional COVID-19-related support beyond the existing humanitarian response.

Somalia's 2.6 million IDPs, scattered across 2,000 congested and impoverished IDP settlements across the country, are at heightened risk of COVID-19 contagion, including the related health, socio-economic and protection risks.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

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

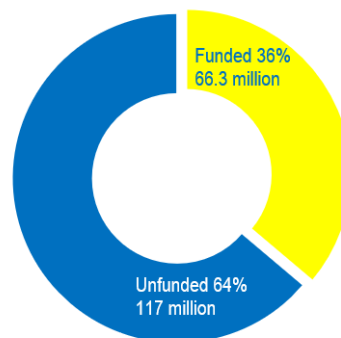


* Estimated internally displaced persons as of 31 July 2018
(Source: Information Management Working Group)

FUNDING (AS AT 31 JANUARY)

USD 183.3 million

requested for the Somalia situation



Internally displaced women during demonstration on how to wash hands to prevent infections in Gaalkacyo.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Somalia has one of the most protracted and complex humanitarian crises in the world. With over 2.6 million [internally displaced persons \(IDPs\)](#) living in over 2,000 highly congested settlements, there is [exceptionally high risk for wide-spread community transmission of the virus](#). Somalia has extremely limited capacity to prevent and respond to an outbreak of COVID-19. UNHCR supports Somalia to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through the following:

- **Access to territory and non-refoulement:** Somalia suspended international and domestic flights as well as entry by sea, but land borders have remained open. UNHCR strongly advocates to Government partners to observe international human rights and refugee protection standards to allow those who seek refuge in Somalia to do so through quarantine and health checks, and to preserve the human rights principle of non-refoulement. UNHCR's voluntary and assisted repatriation of Somali refugee returnees programme is currently suspended.
- **Basic items:** The most vulnerable displaced households (refugees, returnees and IDPs) will receive multi-purpose cash assistance to address their basic needs and domestic items.
- **Capacity development:** UNHCR started developing capacity of IDP site leaders on prevention and response to COVID-19 who will further educate displaced persons in IDP sites.
- **Evictions:** The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster and field Offices have advocated for an immediate moratorium on evictions in the context of COVID-19.
- **Health:** Through targeted information and awareness raising expected to reach 123,000 persons, UNHCR and partners are informing persons of concern on ways to protect themselves against the virus. Displaced persons may use a hotline through which they can report suspected cases. Distribution of hygiene kits which include soap or hand sanitizers to 76,000 persons and sanitary materials to 3,000 women are underway. UNHCR plans to install 19 hand-washing facilities at health centres and reception centres benefiting approximately 800 persons per day. UNHCR donated 13 tents to the Federal Government of Somalia to serve as quarantine and treatment centres in Mogadishu, and 30 tents to Government in Hargeisa to serve as screening at border points.
- **Livelihoods:** UNHCR is exploring and supporting business opportunities arising as a result of COVID-19 (e.g. production of face masks and other medical apparel).
- **Displacement and Protection Monitoring:** The UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network](#) and [Somalia Protection Monitoring System](#) report on forced displacement and protection concerns where COVID-19 is a contributory factor. A special protection monitoring exercise is being rolled out to ascertain COVID-19 related protection incidents, such as forced evictions, violence (including SGBV), discrimination and lack of humanitarian access.
- **Shelter and NFI:** High-risk IDP sites are being targeted for decongestion and upgrading of shelter and provision of non-food items (NFI), with plans for UNHCR to support 27,600 IDP if funding is obtained.



Internally displaced persons during awareness raising session on COVID-19 in Baidoa.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

- **Registration:** As of 31 March, UNHCR recorded a total of 30,024 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 14,666 were refugees and 15,358 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers are from Ethiopia (64 per cent) and Yemen (34 per cent). UNHCR commenced a Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) verification exercise of the refugees and asylum-seekers population in November 2019. This comprehensive verification exercise was completed in Puntland and the Banadir region, but was suspended in Somaliland in March to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Results of the exercise reveal a decrease of 5,901 refugees/asylum seekers as compared to the cumulative February figure. The decrease in the number of refugees/asylum seekers is due to 5,607 de-activated cases of no-shows (for which an analysis is underway), resettlement (11 cases), spontaneous departures (210 cases), death/other closure (73 cases). The verification exercise revealed an increase of 117 new refugees/asylum seekers, including 38 new refugees/asylum seekers and 79 new-born babies (74 Ethiopians, 25 Yemenis and 18 Syrians).
- **Refugee Status Determination:** UNHCR suspended Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews as a precautionary measure to avoid person to person contact and attendant risk of the virus' spread. In 2020, UNHCR conducted 23 interviews with asylum-seekers seeking international protection in Somalia.
- **Resettlement:** UNHCR suspended certain activities related to the resettlement programme due to COVID-19, such as interviews. All departures to a third country are currently suspended. In 2020, 35 refugees departed to Canada or Sweden.
- **Education:** Somalia closed education facilities, schools and universities, to mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19. As a result, 5,600 school going children did not continue with education. In light of the school suspension, UNHCR commenced planning for educational alternatives, such as, digital learning platforms.
- **Health:** UNHCR started informing asylum-seekers and refugees on basic steps to protect against COVID-19. The majority of asylum-seekers and refugees will receive hygiene kits (which includes soap and/or hand sanitizer) as part of the COVID-19 prevention response. UNHCR also plans to install 19 hand-washing facilities at health centres and reception centres.
- **Livelihood:** In Bossaso, Dholeb, Garoowe, Kismayo, Mogadishu and Qardo 393 persons have been enrolled in vocational trainings. Livelihood activities were put on hold because of COVID-19 prevention and social distancing measures, but entrepreneurial options for production of face masks and medical apparel are being explored.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

UNHCR together with internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, and the hosting community observed International Women's Day based on this year's theme [I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Right](#). Participants shared the economic, cultural and political challenges they face. Women spoke of heightened challenges in the areas of access to vocational trainings, limited access to health care services, evictions, absence of the rule of law and inadequate shelters.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

UNHCR through its Global Learning and Development center facilitated a five day workshop for 31 government officials of the Ministry of Interior ("Training of Trainers"). The workshop was preceded with six weeks of a self-study phase. The objective was to build the capacity of trainers' knowledge on Refugee Law and international human rights, so that they may pass this knowledge to their colleagues and more effectively implement their daily work to provide protection and solutions to displaced persons in Somaliland.



REFUGEE RETURNEES

In December 2014 UNHCR started assisting Somali refugees in Kenya who wished to repatriate. After the beginning of the crisis in Yemen in March 2015, thousands of Somali refugees who had sought refuge in Yemen began returning to Somalia despite the lack of an official return programme. In the absence of a Tripartite agreement and organized returns, UNHCR began providing assistance to such individuals in 2017. Approximately 760,000 Somalis remain displaced as refugees outside Somalia, with most having sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen.

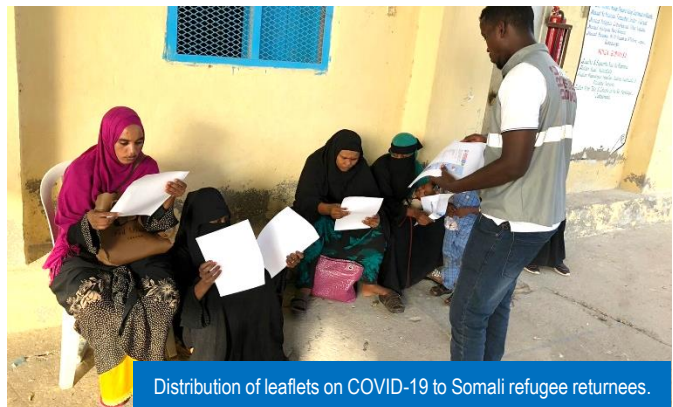
As at 31 March, UNHCR received a cumulative total of 130,559 Somali returnees from 13 countries of asylum since 2014. Among these individuals, **91,870 were repatriated with UNHCR support**: 84,974 from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, 822 from Djibouti, 469 from Libya, 143 from Sudan, 34 from Eritrea, three from Tunisia, three from Angola, two from the Gambia, one from Pakistan, one from Ukraine, one from Cambodia and one from China. An additional **38,689 Somalis have returned (“spontaneously”) on their own** from Yemen without any support or assistance.

CROSS-BORDER MEETING

UNHCR, IOM, and Government Representatives from Somalia and Yemen held a **cross-border meeting on repatriation of Somali refugees from Yemen**. The objective of this cross-border meeting was to formulate a Plan of Action for 2020, discuss existing challenges and explore additional options underpinned by mutual accountability. The Parties re-affirmed commitments to enhance solutions in support of Somali refugees who wish to exercise their right to safe and dignified return, to enhance cross-border information sharing, and to explore new corridors and upscaling of boat returns, and jointly mitigate protection risks related to same.



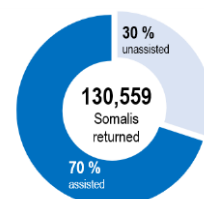
Last return boat before suspension of repatriation.



Distribution of leaflets on COVID-19 to Somali refugee returnees.

- In March, 195 Somali refugees have been repatriated from Yemen through the UNHCR facilitated programme prior to the suspension of the Programme because of COVID-19. Repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya remain suspended because of security reasons in the areas of origin, in addition to the emerging risk of COVID-19 in March. In March, however, 56 Somalis returned **unassisted (on their own)** from Yemen, entering through Berbera and Bossaso.

TYPE OF RETURN	BEFORE 2020	MAR 2020	2020	TOTAL
ASSISTED RETURN	87,490	195	331	91,870
UNASSISTED RETURN	38,430	56	259	38,689
TOTAL	125,920	251	590	130,559



Prior to livelihood and education programs becoming interrupted because of COVID-19, UNHCR enrolled 75 persons in an enterprise training and a village savings and loans association (50 in Mogadishu and 25 in Dollow). This year UNHCR facilitated access to education for 5,165 school-going children (4,546 in Kismayo, 541 in Mogadishu, 61 in Baidoa and 17 in Gaalkacyo). Somalia closed education facilities to mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19 and as a result, educational alternatives are underway.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED SOMALIS

2.6 million Somalis are internally displaced because of reoccurring climatic shocks (droughts and floods) and decades of armed and inter-klan conflicts. Assistance to internally displaced persons in Somalia is provided through clusters led by various UN agencies. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/NFIs Cluster and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster.

RATIFICATION OF THE KAMPALA CONVENTION

On 6 March 2020, the Federal Government of Somalia and UNHCR [deposited the Instruments of Ratification of the Kampala Convention](#) in Addis Ababa, making Somalia the 30th among 55 Member States to ratify this first and only regional legally binding instrument for protection and assistance of IDP. Somalia is the world's fourth largest IDP population in the world and second in Africa. Deposition of the Kamala Convention sends another strong signal of the commitment of [Somalia to work towards the establishment of a conducive protection environment for IDPs](#). UNHCR and government partners are now working closely on the domestication of the Convention.



- **Flood response:** In March, UNHCR provided assistance to 18,900 persons affected by floods late last year; 13,050 persons benefited from NFI kits (9,000 in Baidoa, 3,000 in Dhobley and 1,050 in Mogadishu) and 5,840 persons from emergency shelter kits (3,900 in Dhobley, 1,050 in Mogadishu and 900 in Baidoa).
- **Response to tropical cyclone:** In March, UNHCR also provided support to 3,900 persons affected by tropical cyclone PAWAN by distributing conditional cash grant in the amount of US\$ 100 to purchase emergency shelter kits locally.
- **New displacements:** In March, the PRMN recorded 55,000 newly displaced persons. Among these, 44,000 persons were displaced due to armed conflict, 10,000 persons due to drought and lack of livelihoods, and 1,000 persons due to lack of access to humanitarian assistance, health and education especially. In 2020, a cumulative 127,000 persons have been internally displaced, with the following breakdown: 97,000 persons (77 per cent) from conflict, 27,000 persons (21 per cent) from drought and 3,000 persons (two per cent) for other reasons.
- **Camp coordination and camp management cluster:** The CCCM, co-led by UNHCR, assisted 704,473 IDPs (50 per cent of the targeted 1.4 million IDPs) with site improvement activities, established coordination mechanisms in 728 sites (46 per cent of the targeted 1,600 sites). CCCM has reached 216 populated IDP sites across the country with awareness messaging campaigns and key updates to emergency referral pathways using a diverse methodology of small group sessions, door-to-door information dissemination and megaphone use to assure that all members of the community are aware of COVID-19 prevention measures.
- **Protection cluster:** The cluster, led by UNHCR, provided assistance to 72,000 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 226,955 persons (12 per cent of the total targeted 1.9 million persons).

- **Shelter and NFI's cluster:** The cluster, led by UNHCR, reached 55,824 persons benefited from NFI kits; 53,940 persons from emergency shelter kits; and 288 persons from transitional shelter. This brings the cumulative number of people assisted with NFI to 11 per cent out of 1.3 million targeted, and those assisted with shelter to 10 per cent of the 1.4 million targeted. Global movement restrictions have caused increase of NFI price in some of the markets. Delays in implementation of shelter and NFI activities is expected due to suspension of local flights and shortage of materials.



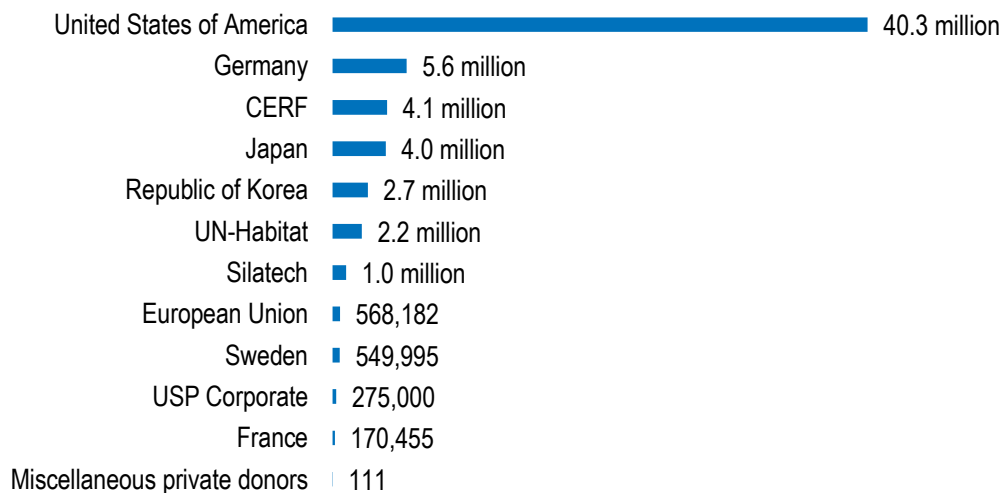
In Berbera, [UNHCR handed over 156 Refugee House Units](#) to the Municipality of Berbera. The Municipality has plans to relocate 156 households to the new site. This is a [first step in achieving durable solutions through location integration](#) for persons affected by drought and conflict.

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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