

Annual Results Report

2023

Somalia

Acknowledgements

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

2023 saw both conflict and flooding occur in Somalia, with subsequent impacts on displacement. The El Nino weather pattern triggered flooding in October-November 2023, affecting 2.8 million people, with about 118 deaths, according to the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA). The UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) recorded some 1.7 million internal displacements because of flooding. According to OCHA, flooding and heavy rain inundated 41,000 hectares of land, destroying food crop and livelihood of millions while inflating food prices as well as damaging at least 224 schools. This placed returning communities and the displaced households at an increased risk of vector-borne disease like malaria and dengue and a shortage of clean water owing to contamination of water sources, lack of sanitation facilities, and an increase of Acute watery Diarrhea (AWD)/cholera cases have all been reported from flood affected areas.

Government counter-insurgency operations against Al-Shabaab (AS) in the central part of Somalia, particularly Galmudug and Hirshabelle states, and subsequent reprisal attacks by AS saw massive displacement take place, with insecurity/conflict the second leading cause of displacement overall (650,000 displacements). The conflict in the Amhara region of Ethiopia prompted an influx of asylum seekers into Puntland, straining UNHCR's response capacity amidst declining funding. Additionally, the number of displaced Syrians who were previously in Sudan and are now seeking asylum in Somalia have also increased, posing further challenges. Women, children, persons with special needs and disabilities, and minority groups have borne the brunt of the conflicts and floods, facing more challenges in their living conditions and wellbeing.

The security situation in Somalia remains unpredictable, impacting UNHCR operations and the overall humanitarian response. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland on 1 January, 2024, granting Ethiopia access to the sea in return for political recognition of Somaliland, has escalated tensions between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Somaliland. This includes civil unrest and protests, with the potential to spiral into a regional conflict.

UNHCR operations in Somaliland have continued smoothly, except in Lascaanood district which is not accessible to humanitarian organizations due to conflict between the Somaliland army and the SSC armed militia which led to 100,000 individuals seeking refuge in Ethiopia, while another 100,000 were displaced across Puntland. The families that have been forcefully displaced by this conflict and who live in locations that are controlled by the militia cannot benefit from humanitarian assistance through Hargeisa. However, the restive area is accessible from Puntland, subject to conducive security environment. UNHCR provided protection and assistance, including cash aid, dignity kits, emergency shelter, and non-food items.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons enjoy living in a safe and secure environment in line with national and international protection frameworks

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.23%	96.23%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

The protection environment for refugees, asylum seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) remained favorable, with UNHCR providing access to asylum procedures for those needing protection. However, since 2020, UNHCR has not been allowed to conduct registration for the Ethiopian Oromos. In 2023, an estimated total number of 1,500 forcibly displaced persons arrived in Somalia who had not been registered on an individual basis.

96 percent of the refugee and asylum-seeker population, or 38,269 refugees and asylum seekers individually registered plus an estimated 1,500 refugees/asylum-seekers who have not been registered on an individual basis in Somalia in 2023 had access to asylum procedures, starting with registration and documentation.. This registration has for the most part allowed refugees and asylum-seekers to live in Somalia without harassment from authorities. However, recent police raids targeting migrant populations have resulted in refugee and asylum-seeker groups being apprehended, detained, and at times mobilized to the borders for deportation. UNHCR has been able to successfully intervene in most instances, with only four cases of refoulement known to UNHCR.

Under the law in Somalia, freedom of movement for refugees and asylum-seekers remains possible and thus UNHCR reports freedom of movement at 100 percent of the registered population. However, for the unregistered and undocumented, movement remains limited. IDPs, as citizens of Somalia, retain the full right to move freely in the country.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Affected populations and most vulnerable persons strengthen their resilience, proactively mitigate the effects of climate change and their essential needs are met

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	0.13%	0.13%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.48%	2.48%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Returns	0.00%	0.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.70%	84.70%

According to the baseline results of the second wave of the Somalia High Frequency Survey report, the average national poverty rate is at 69 percent, measured against a poverty line of USD 2 a day. Although the World Bank's 2019 poverty assessment does not include refugee and asylum-seeking communities, poverty appears to be widespread in all communities, with higher incidence in the refugee community due to inadequate nutrition, poor shelter standards, and limited access to livelihood opportunities. The poverty rate among the refugees and asylum seekers is likely to be updated in the next poverty assessment taking place in 2024.

During the reporting period, UNHCR worked to improve the living conditions of forcibly displaced people and their adaptation capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change. UNHCR and partners worked together to improve capacity and resources to provide increasingly sustainable water services and cleaner energy. According to the 2023 Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) report, 61.4 percent of forcibly displaced persons have access to drinking water services, 65 percent have cleaner lighting energy and 50.2 percent have access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services (household toilet). To promote sustainable use of natural resources, UNHCR and partners provided training on climate smart agriculture practices as part of the livelihood package.

According to the RMS report, only 0.13 percent of IDPs, 2.48 percent of refugees and 0.61 percent of refugee returnees reside in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities (electricity, shelter, health access and drinking water).

Through the UN Country Team, UNHCR and partners continued to advocate and support the Government of Somalia and humanitarian and development partners to create or expand the inclusion of refugees and forcibly displaced people into national climate change adaptation and social protection programmes.

UNHCR maintained strong collaborations with its partners and government led health systems for an inclusive and integrated approach. Monitoring reports and assessments revealed that 84.7 percent of refugees and other displaced persons had access to basic health services. However, insufficient financing limited the access of urban refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities to advanced forms of health

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Forcibly displaced, stateless and other affected persons improve their self-reliance with better access to socio-economic opportunities and engagement with development partners

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	50.00%
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Returnees	98.97%	98.97%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.66%	64.65%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Returnees	33.63%	33.63%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.95%	33.95%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Returnees	16.81%	16.81%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.95%	70.95%

UNHCR and partners worked to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for forcibly displaced people to support them in becoming more resilient and achieve self-reliance. In terms of participation in the labour market, 3.1 percent of forcibly displaced people are engaged in salaried or self-employment activities across

the labor market. UNHCR continued to advocate for the implementation of the Kampala Declaration on Employment, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Region. The final draft of the Refugee Act 2019 was passed by Parliament and recently signed by the President.

To facilitate the integration of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates into the job market, UNHCR in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) organized a workshop on professional integration in Hargeisa. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among employers and the private sector and advocate for the employment of Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDP). The workshop brought together private companies, the Chamber of Commerce, and Government officials. Through the provision of a cash grant, UNHCR and partners supported livelihood initiatives that aimed to improve FDPs access to self-employment and financial services, including opening bank accounts. UNHCR and partners also advocated for the inclusion of FDPs in the socioeconomic programmes of other development actors to enable them move from poverty and dependency to self-reliance and lasting solutions.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Refugees, IDPs and returnees have improved access to alternative pathways and a range of durable solutions

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1	1
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14	14
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

Modest durable solution gains were achieved in 2023. Five refugees departed for resettlement, and twenty-four were submitted for consideration. UNHCR also made progress through complementary pathways, with fourteen people departing for third countries, and seventeen admitted during the reporting period.

Advocacy for Government land donations in many locations across Somalia to support the reintegration of IDPs continues to support momentum among humanitarian and development actors to collaborate on durable solutions.

1,853 Somali refugees returned to Somalia in 2023, raising the total number of returnees from January 2020 to December 2023 to 8,978, largely from Yemen. The activity was undertaken in partnership with IOM with a total of 1,464 refugee returnees assisted.

A statelessness study conducted by the Ministry of Interior of the federal government of Somalia, revealed that the current legislative and policy framework limits proper technical operation and implementation, which may exacerbate existing risks for at-risk individuals and vulnerable groups. Inconsistencies between the Provisional Constitution and the constitutions of the Federal Member States highlight the need to address issues related to citizenship and political rights. It is also challenging for individuals or groups to access citizenship documents or be recognized as stateless due to a lack of formal statelessness determination procedures and capacity.

The National Action Plan to end Statelessness 2021-2024 (NAP), includes a draft Citizenship bill that is to be reviewed by the Cabinet and subsequently by the Federal Parliament for further revision and approval, while the draft Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Bill is at the Lower House of the Federal

Parliament for approval. It is anticipated that legislation shall be enacted within the 2024 programmatic year.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

UNHCR sought to ensure refugees and asylum seekers have access to necessary protection services, such as legal assistance, the Protection Minimum Service Packages, and others. However, access to asylum procedures has been limited, as the Government of Somalia does not yet have functioning asylum procedures, though an asylum bill does remain for signature by the president. Consequently, UNHCR is fully responsible for determining refugee status. However, funding limitations have meant UNHCR cannot fully meet these needs due to insufficient personnel. As such, a refugee status determination backlog persists.

UNHCR has sought to enhance the self-reliance of forcibly displaced people. Access to decent work remains a limitation as there is no legal framework within Somalia allowing asylum-seekers and refugees to work. 91 percent of refugees and asylum-seekers are unemployed in Somalia, meaning that only 9 percent of the refugee population currently has access to decent work. This challenge does not apply to returnees. As Somali nationals, 100 percent of returnees currently have access to decent work in the job market.

Until Somalia passes its asylum law or a provision within its existing labour law, asylum-seekers and refugees will continue to experience challenges to achieving self-reliance through the formal labour market. At the same time, according to the World Bank Joint Data Centre for Forced Displacement, 77 percent of IDPs are living under the poverty line.

Results Monitoring Survey findings indicate that only 1.6 percent of persons served by UNHCR in Somalia reside in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities, such as electricity, shelter, health access, and drinking water. Among this figure, 1.9 percent asylum-seekers, 9 percent refugees, 0.2 percent IDPs, and 0.9 percent returnees reported physically safe and secure settlements.

While UNHCR seeks to enhance the self-reliance of refugees, the need for new avenues to secure solutions in Somalia persists. Existing complementary pathway opportunities, such as the Community Sponsorship program for New Zealand, are a promising avenue for refugees to access third countries. UNHCR continued to provide education and advocate for the inclusion of refugees into the national education system. Challenges to these efforts included insufficient numbers of qualified teachers, and inadequate resources affecting the delivery and quality of education. Accessibility is also a challenge for some returnees children who are living in areas where the insurgent group have a strong presence and are therefore inaccessible. This resulted in low enrolment and retention rates for returnee children. Moreover, due to low levels of English proficiency, complementary pathways for targeted populations remain limited, and it is a challenge to secure solutions for a third country. Travel documentation is also likely to be a barrier in cases where travel with a valid national passport or other conventional travel document is required.

UNHCR has a limited capacity for complementary pathways processing in Somalia in the absence of a dedicated budget. It is challenging to provide the needed support required for individuals, in particular for labour mobility. A devoted partner may be required to support this initiative and assist displaced populations with the needed support to achieve solutions through complementary pathways.

In 2023, while five refugees successfully departed for resettlement to a third country, UNHCR did not have any assigned quota for resettlement in Somalia cases in countries where they have a physical presence, and this is not the case in in Somalia. Consequently, without an allocated resettlement quota specific to Somalia, resettlement targets were not possible to achieve in 2023.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Throughout 2023, the operation has been effectively engaged in strengthening its partnership with development actors at the local and regional level including FAO, AFDB, UN Habitat, and UNDP. As part of the ongoing effort to build the capacity of national staff to engage with development actors, 15 national staff were enrolled into a hands on development learning programme aimed at equipping them with skills in collaborating and engaging with the development actors. This training will continue throughout 2024.

In building partnerships with development actors to support our delivery of protection assistance to forcibly displaced populations within the operation, several joint proposals and concept notes were submitted. This included a successful proposal to the African Development Bank, with UNHCR as the lead agency for 20 million under the Prevention Envelope of the Transition Support Facility, in partnership with UN Habitat, FAO, UN Women, and IOM.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By 2025 forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to asylum, respect for non-refoulement, registration and documentation

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.23%	100.00%	96.23%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	39.96%	78.00%	39.96%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	20.00%	85.00%	20.55%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.29%	100.00%	56.29%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to UNHCR's database and records a total of 4,114 refugees and asylum seekers (1,703 refugees & 2411 asylum seekers) were registered in Somalia.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

People with international protection needs have access to fair and efficient asylum procedures according to international and regional standards.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,324.00	183.00	1,324.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	85.00%	0.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.25%	100.00%	10.25%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR Somalia conducted Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processing for 2,430 Asylum seekers out of which 249 from Ethiopia were rejected. A national asylum bill has been drafted; however, its signature remains with the President. In Somaliland

the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Law No. 103/2023 came into force in April 2023. Since July 2023, UNHCR has been working closely with the NDRA to transition RSD functions to the government. This transition will take place once an asylum capacity assessment has been concluded, NDRA RSD personnel for the pilot are identified, and the key RSD priorities are set out in the 2024 PWP. A phased, gradual transition has been underscored. UNHCR envisages the average processing time between refugee and asylum-seekers registration to first instance asylum decision to decrease with this transition.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2025 Somalia makes progress in meeting its pledges made during High Level Segment on Statelessness

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR collaborates with the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) in implementing activities aimed at preventing Statelessness in Somalia. Regarding Protection policy and law, the Federal Government of Somalia is progressively advancing the enactment of various legislative documents, including revising key drafts such as the Refugee Act, IDP Act, Citizenship Law, and important provisions in the Provisional Constitution. The Refugee Act has now received presidential assent but was still a draft awaiting presidential approval during the reporting period. Simultaneously, the draft legislation for the domestication of the Kampala Convention (IDP Act) is undergoing revision at the House of People level, which is the first chamber of the Parliament. Additionally, the draft Citizenship bill is to be reviewed by the Cabinet and subsequently by the Federal Parliament for further revision and approval, while the draft Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Bill is at the Lower House of the Federal Parliament for approval. It is anticipated that legislation shall be enacted within the 2024 programmatic year.

The Federal Government's decision to review the Provisional Constitution marks a significant advancement, indicating progress. The revision will resolve many existing legal conundrums, pave the way for a direction for Mogadishu's status and enable a transparent electoral process. Once the Federal Parliament approves, a referendum involving all eligible Somali nationals will be conducted. This approval represents a critical initial step by the Government to align its legal framework to prevent, reduce, and protect individuals who may face the risk of Statelessness within the nation.

Considering the current political dynamics between Somalia and Somaliland, it is likely the revision of the referendum for Provisional Constitution will be delayed. In its oversight capacity, UNHCR will strengthen its support to both governments in this initiative. UNHCR's advocacy endeavors and partnership with The Government of Somaliland have yielded significant achievements, including the passage of The Child Act 2023, the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Act 2023, and the introduction of National Development Plan III during the 2023 program cycle. These legislative measures and policy initiatives underscore the commitment to protecting the rights and providing protection to individuals who are forcibly displaced and stateless within Somaliland, emphasizing the government's responsibility towards this vulnerable population.

The establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) in Somalia represents a pivotal stride towards implementing a secure and comprehensive national identification system, as mandated by the Identification and Registration Act (Law No. 009 of March 2023). Since the ID system began in the reporting period, close to 40,000 individuals were successfully registered. This extensive registration campaign propels the overarching identification initiative and reveals crucial data on individuals facing the risk of statelessness.

The National Action Plan (NAP) to eradicate statelessness, covering the period 2021-2024, has achieved notable milestones, including the establishment of a task force and the publication of a qualitative study on individuals at risk of statelessness, as per the pledges made during High Level Segment meeting on Statelessness by the Government in 2019. The ongoing advancements in amending laws, such as the citizenship bill, and the progressing stages of acceding to statelessness conventions underscore the dedication to addressing statelessness concerns effectively.

Significant progress was achieved in meeting the set indicators, including the successful implementation of

three capacity-building workshops for government officials targeting statelessness in Warsheekh - Hirshabelle State, Baidoa - Southwest State, and Mogadishu. Additionally, a three-day workshop retreat was organized to review and amend the citizenship draft bill, followed by a two-day workshop for legal experts and inter-agency members to review the draft citizenship bill, culminating in the subsequent pending submission to the Cabinet. Furthermore, two consultation workshops were conducted for the statelessness conventions, and the launch of the Statelessness study, supported by UNHCR, as part of its commitment to the High-Level Segment meeting. The Ministry also convened a technical level taskforce meeting to monitor the progress of implementing the National Action Plan (NAP).

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless persons will have improved access to services in addressing risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse (GBV)

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons with protection risks and specific needs are identified and monitored to provide specific assistance

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	29.30%	68.00%	29.30%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.25%	75.00%	51.25%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	44.44%	75.00%	44.44%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	89.27%	85.00%	89.27%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.01%	85.00%	88.01%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Returnees	86.02%	85.00%	86.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	79.13%	75.00%	79.13%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.01%	90.00%	93.01%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Returnees	71.62%	65.00%	71.62%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Somalia remains complex and challenging, as the country faces multiple humanitarian and development crises that increase the risks and impact of GBV on women, girls, men, and boys. The drought and food security crisis, new and chronic displacements, and the political instability have exacerbated the vulnerability of women and girls to GBV and hampered their access to services.

The lack of legal and policy frameworks to protect and support GBV survivors and to hold the perpetrators accountable has also created a culture of impunity and tolerance for GBV and has discouraged GBV survivors from seeking justice and redress. The sexual offence legislation drafted in 2018 has not been passed by the Federal Government. Somaliland and Puntland have faced challenges in implementing their respective laws.

GBV actors, including UNHCR and its partners, have been working hard to provide quality and comprehensive services. Prevention and response related interventions targeting GBV survivors include GBV awareness campaigns and trainings, GBV case management, PsychoSocial Support (PSS), and

referral services, support in the establishment and operation of safe spaces, mobile teams, and women's centers, distribution of cash and voucher assistance, provision of dignity and menstrual hygiene kits, advocacy for and support towards the development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks, and strengthening the coordination and collaboration among GBV actors. In Hargeisa, through its GBV partner WAAPO, UNHCR extended the GBV intervention program to drought- and conflict-affected IDPs, with the main target being the most vulnerable women and girls in the settlements. In 2023, a total of 14,921 persons (9,932 women and 4,989 men) were provided with GBV services, including safety and security (safe houses), hygiene supplies, relocation support, referrals, PSS case management, legal and medical referrals, and awareness-raising and education on GBV prevention and responses.

With the aim of ensuring that individuals residing in settlements are physically secure and have access to basic amenities, UNHCR, in collaboration with its CCCM partner ACTED, has improved site safety in 52 locations in Somaliland by conducting site maintenance and improvement activities, as well as monitoring site risks and vulnerabilities. These enhancements are intended to reduce GBV risks and enhance the protection of the site environment for the displaced population. The 52 sites' site maintenance committees received training in Managing Disaster Risk Reduction, Site Improvements, Safety and Security On-Site, Camp Management, and Site Maintenance. Additionally, site maintenance tools and supplies to conduct and improve site maintenance activities were provided to all site maintenance committees.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Child protection, prevention and response enabled and sustained.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.41%	70.00%	62.41%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	1.24%	60.00%	1.24%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.63%	45.00%	0.63%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.63%	15.00%	0.63%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, the Child Protection prevention and response outcome area was newly introduced as a standalone output. UNHCR developed a tool that was utilized in various community outreach activities for a pilot children-at risk mapping exercise. The implementing partner successfully identified 133 children at risk (63 of whom were female) out of a total of 214 mapped individuals.

The identified children encompassed various categories, including out-of-school children, children engaged in child labour, unaccompanied minors, and those with serious medical conditions. Among them, 53 children received psychosocial counseling and were referred to other services. Additionally, 76 children (42 of whom were female) were referred for case management to external service providers, aligning with efforts to prevent and respond to child protection risks. This achievement exceeded the target of 150 referrals.

UNHCR also organized a two-day training session on Best Interests Procedures for staff and partners. Afterwards UNHCR worked closely with partner caseworkers to provide coaching and feedback. As a result, 3 Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) and 1 Best Interests Determinations (BIDs) were successfully conducted, surpassing the set targets. Another 2 BIDs and 7 BIAs were initiated in the reporting period and

are underway.

In Somaliland, UNHCR through partner DAN, reached 1363 IDP children during the drought and Sool conflict emergency. Key protection services offered to included mobility devices for children with specific needs; psychosocial counseling; and awareness and communication sessions with communities on the importance of inclusion of children in IDP sites, the different services available at the sites, and how to prioritize children during the provision of humanitarian assistance.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

By 2025 forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to quality legal remedies in relation to their fundamental rights

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Somalia, while a national framework on asylum remains with the government for consideration, refugees and asylum-seekers have benefited from the protection space in the country, and there are few reports of refugees or asylum-seekers having been arrested for immigration or legal status reasons. Through UNHCR's legal clinic and routine monitoring activities of detention centers, police stations, and border entries, UNHCR identified refugees and asylum-seekers who were wrongfully detained and UNHCR was able to intervene successfully on their behalf.

UNHCR's legal aid project has made positive strides in improving access to legal assistance, reducing arbitrary detentions and deportations, and fostering positive public attitudes toward forcefully displaced people.

In Somaliland, 208 monitoring activities were conducted, resulting in a 94 percent successful intervention rate for detained forcibly displaced individuals who were mistargeted through police roundups of migrants and undocumented individuals. To better help avoid such happenings, UNHCR conducted capacity-building training with police, immigration, and border guards. In Somaliland, 177 individuals working for the authorities were trained in 2023.

At the community level, UNHCR also facilitated legal awareness sessions, promoting understanding of legal rights and obligations, and fostering peaceful coexistence, with 305 participants benefiting in Somaliland

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2025, women and youth will have greater participation in leadership structure at federal and state level and inclusion of national socio-economic programmes.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), leadership, partnership and community mobilisation enhanced

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	61.00%	70.00%	61.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Returnees	100.00%	95.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	50.00%	55.00%	50.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.33%	40.00%	33.33%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Returnees	50.00%	55.00%	50.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As observed in and the 2023 Rapid Gender Assessment conducted by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster under the leadership of UNHCR, there is a greater interest and participation from women and youth in taking up leadership roles and responsibilities within their communities. UNHCR supported the establishment of inclusive governance structures within IDP communities and provided them with community leader capacity building. UNHCR played a key role in ensuring women and youth participate in all coordination meetings where their voices are heard, and they became decision makers.

In 2023, UNHCR organized 166 CCCM site-level coordination meetings in Adado, Abudwaq, Guriel, Dhusamareb, South Galkayo, Garowe, Bossaso, Burtinle, Qardo, Kismayu North, Dhobley, Baidoa and Hargeisa districts. The meetings were attended by more than 1,000 stakeholders involved in IDP affairs and included camp management committees, local (state and regional agencies) authorities, and humanitarian service providers operating in those districts. The primary purpose of the coordination meetings was to identify gaps in service provision and to discuss the need for an equitable and first-line emergency response for drought and flood-affected IDP populations living in IDP sites. UNHCR identified several gaps in service provision, which included inadequate and lack of timely access to safe drinking water, food, and shelter, insufficient access to nutrition and other essential services for new arrivals joining the IDP camp, inadequate access to sanitation facilities, limited access to livelihood opportunities, inadequate protection for vulnerable individuals and families. A lack of coordination between service providers and local government within sites was noted. UNHCR and CCCM cluster's coordination structures at state level were able to reverse identified gaps.

Utilizing the CCCM cluster's NAT.2.0 registration system, UNHCR and its partners conducted daily tracking of new arrivals in IDP sites in Adado, Abudwaq, Guriel, Dhusamareb, South Galkayo, Garowe, Bossaso, Burtinle, Qardo, Kismayu North, Dhobley, Baidoa and Hargeisa Districts, and during tracking, UNHCR recorded 9,669 households (58,000 individuals) joining in 282 sites. New arrivals received services including site orientation sessions and information on available humanitarian services within sites and MUAC screening for malnourished individuals mainly children, and pregnant/lactating women. Referrals to other service providers were also offered.

Joint Safety Audit assessments were conducted across 100 sites in Baidoa, Garowe, Bossaso, Adado, Dhobley, Afmadow and South Galkayo to look at GBV and other protection risks to ensure the safety of IDPs especially women & girls. Recommendations from the assessments were presented to all participating stakeholders to ensure mitigation measures are in place to reduce identified risks. The recommendations guided UNHCR's CCCM activities that are protection mainstreamed; recommendations included providing strong and non-transparent building materials, doors that lock, putting in place protective physical structures

such as fences and protection walls, installing lighting in and around shelters, establishing education facilities, and rehabilitation of WASH facilities.

Utilizing CCCM cluster's Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM)/Zite Manager platform, UNHCR and its partners recorded a total of 3,264 CFM cases. Out of these cases, 74 percent were successfully resolved, and 36 percent were referred to other partner organizations for assistance. Most complainants were women (78 percent). Most of the IDPs registering complaints and seeking assistance fell within the age range of 30 to 59 years (75 percent), followed by those between 18 and 29 years old (20 percent). UNHCR and its partners hotline numbers were functional 24/7 and beneficiaries could call if they had any questions about services or complaints about site-level assistance.

Site maintenance committees were engaged in removing garbage, clearing feeder roads, and bushes, and digging pits for proper waste management. 4,550 IDP community members were engaged in 303 clean campaigns and rehabilitation of latrines, to improve the living conditions of the displacement sites.

Integrating gender and protection considerations into all aspects of programming is essential for promoting women's empowerment. UNHCR constructed 24 community information centers which were used to create gathering/safe spaces for women and girls, establish reporting mechanisms for GBV incidents, and promote women's participation in camp governance structures that are critical for ensuring women's safety and empowerment in camp settings.

Various coordination groups enabled UNHCR to share information and best practices, and to pool efforts to create a more unified and efficient response through the leadership of CCCM cluster. UNHCR also benefited from better access to information and resources from various stakeholders including government counterparts and humanitarian actors who were willing to collaborate and contribute to CCCM activities such as joint site verifications and safety audits assessments.

UNHCR through its implementing partners conducted MUAC screening for malnourished children, and pregnant/lactating women and as well screened for other vulnerabilities once they fell under the criteria then they were referred to the nearest service providers for immediate assistance. The MUAC and Vulnerability screening activities gave UNHCR the leadership to supply the list of people in need and malnourished children.

UNHCR and its Partners observed the importance to support the formation of these committees to promote strengthening diversity and inclusion among IDP communities allowing minority and marginalized communities voicing their concerns. Also adhering to 50/50 men and women on equal representation, youth, PLWDs and minorities had enhanced decision making process for matters affecting the community in IDP sites.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to core relief items cash assistance and basic household needs

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.72%	30.00%	25.72%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.03%	20.00%	11.03%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Returnees	11.11%	20.00%	8.51%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, 9,841 refugees and 1,805 returnees were supported with multi-purpose cash grants to meet various needs including monthly subsistence allowance, scholastic materials for students, emergency shelter assistance, burial costs and relocation and reinstallation for GBV survivors exiting the safehouse

The 2023 Post Gu seasonal food security and nutrition assessment results found that due to funding constraints, availability of vital humanitarian assistance such as cash assistance, food aid, and wash program support will be limited. Humanitarian assistance (food and cash but also others) has continued to play a critical role in preventing worsening food insecurity and nutrition outcomes in many areas.

In 2023, the severe funding shortages have forced humanitarian partners to scale down their response, prioritizing the most vulnerable in areas with the greatest severity of needs. Due to the gravity of the needs and the limited resources, the support to cash assistance and core relief items were thus impacted, leading to a low achievement as opposed to the initial planned target.

During the period, vulnerability reassessments for 3,430 individuals benefiting from Subsistence Allowance (SA) were completed vis-a-vis periodic review and verification of beneficiaries' identities and vulnerabilities. It is within this exercise that the office uncovered possible fraudulent registrations mainly among the Yemen refugee population who matched to the UNHCR Yemen database as also being Somali refugees in Yemen. As a result, the office identified a need for refugee and asylum seeker population verification.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to shelter in safe settlements with minimal natural or man-made threats, risks, and hazards

PoCs have access to shelter in safe settlements with minimal natural or man-made threats, risks and hazards

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	0.37%	5.00%	0.37%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.12%	10.00%	1.12%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Returnees	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	63.79%	85.00%	63.79%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.76%	100.00%	86.76%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Returnees	88.89%	70.00%	88.89%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Puntland during the reporting period, as per the original target of 100 permanent shelters in Bossaso, UNHCR partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) completed the registration and verification of 100 households that benefited from permanent shelters with accompanied latrines at the Girible 2 durable site in Bossaso. The implementation was done through a community-driven approach, where the beneficiaries received full payment for the construction of their shelter with latrines. NRC, in close collaboration with

UNHCR, local government officials, and community leaders, formed the selection task force and the NRC technical team developed the site plan with oversight from UNHCR. The construction of all 100 shelters was completed during the second quarter of the project which enabled UNHCR to plan an additional 50 Shelters in the settlement, which were completed during the third quarter. All were female-headed households, comprising a total of 903 individuals. To ensure the sustainability of the project, training on shelter construction and maintenance was conducted for the selected beneficiaries to ensure that they had the required skills to maintain their new shelters. In addition, community consultations were undertaken to obtain feedback on the project and to ensure that the construction plans met the needs and preferences of the beneficiaries. UNHCR, through NRC, also constructed 78 permanent shelters with latrines in Qardho during the 4th quarter. Beneficiaries' selection of these 78 HHs was jointly done by NRC, UNHCR and local authorities. 51 out of 78 selected HHs were IDPs while 27 HHs (150 individuals – 59 males and 91 females) were refugees' families from Yemen. As per the proposal, the initial target was the construction of 85 Transitional Shelters but after consultation with UNHCR, the typology was changed to permanent shelters and the number was reduced to 78 from 85 because of the increased unit cost for permanent shelters. In Somaliland, NRC as UNHCR's Shelter Partner and NDRA jointly conducted a rapid assessment in three recently established IDPs settlements in Burao namely: Xayer, Mulac and Durdur Daan Bari. Among these three IDPs settlements, Durdur Daan bari was selected as the beneficiaries in this settlement owned the land while the beneficiaries living in the other two settlements did not own land. In Durdur Daan bari settlement, a total of 37 transitional (Hybrid) shelters with 27 latrines were successfully constructed. With regards to the provision of land title deed document, Burao Municipality, with support from UNHCR, prepared and issued 37 permanent land title documents to these households. The construction was done through a community-driven approach. Each household was provided with USD 595 for construction labour cost and for procurement of construction materials such as sand, rubble stones, gravel, water etc. Imported materials such as corrugated iron sheets (CGI) sheets, cement, timber, concrete block etc. were procured by NRC directly and delivered to each household. Savings made from the fund enabled NRC to rehabilitate the Refugee and Returnees reception centre in Berbera. The rehabilitation entailed the replacement of all deteriorated roofing structures in the male and female dormitories, replacement of the damaged or burnt electrical appliances including electrical ventilation fans, air conditioners, application of oxide roof paints and wall damages repairs.

In South Central UNHCR partner Somalia African Volunteer for Relief and Development, AVORD has achieved its planned objectives in 2023, improving the lives and prospects of forcibly displaced persons in Somalia. As part of its efforts to promote reintegration and resilience, UNHCR through AVORD provided 339 transitional shelters for vulnerable families in Baidoa (145) and Dollow (194). These shelters were resilient and respectful of the local culture and identity of the IDPs. They offered more than just shelter; they enabled recovery, integration, and lasting solutions. In addition, UNHCR provided emergency shelters to 320 households in humanitarian crisis in Banadir. The activity was complemented with 135 family tents and 30 street solar lamps to enhance protection among the target group. 88 permanent shelters were repaired in Luglow; these shelters were durable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally friendly, giving the IDPs a sense of dignity, security, and identity. The shelters also enhanced the living conditions and well-being of the IDPs, who faced many challenges such as insecurity, poverty, and gender-based violence. The shelters also shielded the IDPs from harsh weather conditions and diseases and improved the safety and privacy of women and girls. To promote access to shelter in safe settlements with minimal natural or man-made threats, risks, and hazards, an off-grid solar power system, eight solar streetlights, and a pipeline extension at a transit center in Dollow District of Gedo region in Somalia were installed. These provide renewable and sustainable energy solutions, enhance nighttime security and visibility at the transit center. The solar power system consisted of solar panels, batteries, and an inverter, and it supplied reliable and clean power for various purposes at the facility, such as lighting and water pumping. The solar streetlights were strategically located to increase nighttime safety and visibility for the users and visitors of the transit center. The pipeline extension connected the center to the water supply and improved access to utilities.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to sustainable health care and reproductive services through advocacy for the inclusion of refugees into existing public health services provided by government

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.25%	93.00%	60.25%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.79%	93.00%	80.79%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress stalled during 2023. The Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel showed a 6% decline, from 87% baseline to 81% in 2023. Though UNHCR is not the only contributor to achieving the desired outcome result, factors like shrinking funding and a weak health system contributed to this result. Two Maternal and Child Health (MCH) facilities were closed due to budget constraints, one in Mogadishu and one in Hargeisa. During this period, a total of 21,482 forcibly displaced persons accessed primary health care and 4,553 received secondary and tertiary referrals. There were 45 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases reported in Mogadishu.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to equitable and sustainable primary, secondary and tertiary education and continue advocacy with national government in the inclusion of children in the national education system in Somalia

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.51%	10.00%	3.51%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.15%	60.00%	17.15%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugees are normally not considered for the limited higher education opportunities that are available in Somalia, and those who are considered cannot afford to pay required expense for their studies. In 2023, the DAFI programme supported 268 students (40.74 percent female) to access tertiary education. With the goal of equipping refugee and refugee returnee youth affected by conflict and crises with the skills, knowledge, and networks to become professionals in their communities, the program promoted self-reliance, qualified human resources, social, civic, and leadership abilities.

In 2023, 41 (16 female) students graduated from different faculties while, 30 (37 percent female) were selected and enrolled of the total 650 applicants to the Programme. 1 female refugee, a DAFI programme beneficiary was awarded a master's degree scholarship by a university in Somaliland from where she obtained a first degree with first class honors in 2023. To improve the scholar's English language 50 (10 female) were enrolled into an English language training program. The training is aimed at enhancing the academic success of scholars by equipping them with language skills necessary for their studies. Proficiency in English enables DAFI scholars to excel in their coursework, engage with academic materials, and effectively communicate their ideas. The Somalia education program is aligned to the UNHCR Education Strategy for Somalia 2020-2024 that aims at inclusion of refugee children into the national education system. In 2023, UNHCR supported 6,507 refugee children to access primary school education. To facilitate the transition, UNHCR has adopted Cash Based Interventions (CBI) for scholastic materials and improvement of government schools' infrastructure in Somaliland. Construction of a perimeter wall

was completed in Dollow, In Puntland all schools are community owned private schools. Advocacy for inclusion continues with transition to public schools begun in Somalia, with 2375 refugee children transitioned to public schools in Somaliland. There are very few public schools in South-Central and Puntland regions which remains a challenge to these goals. . To improve the transition rate to public secondary schools, which remains very low, UNHCR provided school fee support to a small portion of refugees (316 individuals) at the secondary school level.

UNHCR facilitated uninterrupted school attendance and enhanced education performance for refugee children through provision of scholastic materials through CBIs. In 2023, 6,507 refugee children in primary school (including 3288 girls), and 1379 refugee children in secondary school (including 649 female) received cash assistance to cover the cost of exercise books, pencils/pens, textbooks, and uniforms. A further 799 students in Mogadishu were supported with the cost of school meals.

UNHCR also distributed teaching material including whiteboard markers and stationery directly to schools. It also equipped seven classrooms in six schools with furniture. UNHCR's contribution incentivizes schools to accommodate more refugee children and improves the quality of education and the learning environment.

UNHCR conducted information campaigns to encourage parents and guardians for refugee children to enroll their children in public primary schools to improve enrolment and reduce drop-out rate of refugee students.

UNHCR Somalia continues to provide a one year education program for primary and secondary education to all returnee children as per the enhanced return. The support included payment for school fees, scholastic materials and other additional support to vulnerable children including those with disabilities to complete their primary education. UNHCR, through partners, enrolled 106 returnee children (44 female) in primary school, and 12 (5 female) in secondary school. UNHCR also completed the construction of a perimeter wall in Dollow, and the training of 30 teachers, education administrators and school management committee. As the number of returnees has reduced over the years, the enrollment also reduced significantly.

To support the Somalia government's effort in providing quality education to the children, in 2023 UNHCR supported 30 teachers with Diploma teacher training program in Kismayu with the aim of improving the quality of education outcomes for refugee and returnee learners in Somalia.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

By 2025, more forcibly displaced and stateless persons will have access to decent work, formal employment, or self-employment

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	73.99%	100.00%	73.99%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.51%	100.00%	92.51%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Returnees	83.33%	100.00%	80.39%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	7.30%	25.00%	7.30%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.43%	35.00%	3.43%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Returnees	0.00%	45.00%	0.00%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.20%	80.00%	97.20%

13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Returnees	93.90%	80.00%	93.90%
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Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners contributed to the improvement of livelihoods and resilience among forcibly displaced people and host communities through promoting income-generating activities, providing access to finance, and vocational and skills training to facilitate access to employment.

Enterprise development and business support remains the first option for improving self-reliance and promoting the economic inclusion of Forcibly Displaced People (FDP). During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners provided support to 193 FDP-owned enterprises, improving income earnings. The beneficiaries were men and women engaged in street and market's businesses in Gardho (49 percent), Garowe (24 percent) and Galkayo (27 percent). Based on business plan analysis, each household received \$1000 USD as startup capital to start a new business or strengthen an existing enterprise.

According to the 2023 RMS, 10.2 percent had self-reported positive changes in their income compared to the previous year. Despite the massive importance of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector, many of the SMEs in Somalia are unable to realize their full potential. One of the leading elements contributing to the low performance of SMEs is limited access to finance, the current global economic crisis, and inflation.

To help refugees and asylum seekers take the first step towards formal financial inclusion, UNHCR and partners supported FDP-owned businesses to open bank accounts in local banks and used this channel to support FDP's livelihood activities with the goal of progressively facilitating FDPs access to financial services offered by these financial services providers. The enterprise development programme has supported the creation of village savings and loans associations (VSLAs). These community credit structures have provided starter capital to its members who have now established micro-businesses, and many can meet their basic needs.

The skills and vocational training interventions contributed to the reduction of unemployment even if the level of reduction in employment is not very significant and major efforts remain to be made in this area. During the period under review, UNHCR and partners provided 285 refugees and others forcibly displaced people with skills and support to increase their access to labor market opportunities. Training was provided in Beautification (Henna), Aluminum works, Electricity, Cooking and Tailoring. In Mogadishu, 145 refugees, IDPs and host community successfully completed vocational in Carpentry, Plumbing, Beauty salon, Tailoring and Mobile repairing. Implementing partners also provided necessary basic tools and equipment required for graduates to initiate and pursue the self-employment opportunity for which they have been trained. Given the increasing difficulty for women to work, UNHCR and partners have placed particular emphasis on women's employability through strengthening women's entrepreneurial capacity and vocational training.

Regarding linkage of TVET graduates to employment opportunities, UNHCR and partner (NRC) organised a workshop in Hargeisa, which aimed to advocate private sector and local employers for increased access of FDPs to employment opportunities. 33 individuals from private companies, Chamber of commerce, Government officials, Banks, and partners participated in this event.

It is important to note that the global economic crisis appears to have exacerbated the negative impact on household incomes and therefore their ability to save, leading to a decrease in the proportion of people using financial services and a slight increase in the proportion of people declaring positive changes in their income compared to the previous year

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons will have access to information to CoO, available services in return areas and reintegration programme in line with UNHCR Somalia Return and Reintegration Strategy

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	50.00%	100.00%	51.04%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Voluntary return by Somali refugees from Yemen remained the durable solution of choice for many Somali refugees; hence, UNHCR supported the return and reintegration as an integral part of its responsibility for promoting durable solutions. Additionally, Somaliland also received and supported Somali returnees from Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, and China. To promote informed return decisions, UNHCR updated and shared with UNHCR Yemen areas of return information sheets.

Through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) project, UNHCR in Somaliland received and supported 1853 individual Somali returnees from Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, and China. This achieved target presents a significant increase from the 697 ASRs received in 2022. Additionally, 154 (93female, 61 male) unassisted returnees also received and accessed protection services, including biometric registration, temporary accommodation, and hot meals.

To facilitate the reception conditions, UNHCR, the government, and its partners provided open, safe, and dignified reception arrangements for returnees coming through Berbera Port and Hargeisa International Airport. The political will and commitment of both the Yemen and Somalia governments to ensure the smooth implementation of the project cannot be overemphasized. With the buttress and the support of the Somali government to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project until the point of reintegration, there has been an increased intention of Somali refugees in Yemen to return voluntarily to their country of origin, and UNHCR has helped facilitate their return with safety and dignity.

Access to documentation is critical to facilitate the full integration of the returnees in Somalia. Somalia officials conducted nationality screening and issuance of travel documents from the countries of asylum, which promoted access to documentation by the returnees. The 2023 Results Monitoring Survey report shows that 100 percent of the sampled returnees had legally recognized identity documents or credentials. Relatedly, based on the same survey, 19 percent of the refugee returnees under five years were registered with the civil authorities. Access to these documents facilitated the reintegration process, enabling the returnees to enjoy the associated legal, sociocultural, economic, and civil-political rights.

To promote the reintegration process, UNHCR supported the assisted spontaneous returnees with reinstallation grants and monthly subsistence allowances for a maximum period of 6 months. Additionally, UNHCR distributed NFIs and phones with sim cards to the returnees, while WFP provided food support.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Vulnerable refugees depart for emergency resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities are expended for refugees and asylum seekers.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21	100	21
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	365.00	365.00	365.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	50	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, in Somalia, 21 individuals were referred to the Regional Bureau for resettlement consideration ranging from legal and physical protection needs, medical needs, to women at risk. Among them, five families comprising of 10 individuals were accepted for resettlement by Finland and Canada. Three families of five individuals departed for resettlement. In terms of processing, 365 days is the average. In Somaliland, where they have processed cases on an urgent basis, the average has reduced to 241 days.

5 families, of 14 individuals, departed to Canada through private sponsorship for family reunification and UNHCR facilitated issuance of their exit clearances by NDRA. They included 4 families of 10 Yemeni refugees and 1 family of 4 Syrian refugees.

Under the pilot project for Community Sponsorship programme for New Zealand, Somalia submitted 8 families of 22 individuals for consideration. At year end 3 families of 3 Yemeni refugees had progressed to medical assessments while the rest were not accepted as the pilot had closed.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2025, local institutions and communities will be resilient to increase local integration for displaced communities

By 2025, the capacities of local institutions and communities are strengthened to increase the resilience and social cohesion of displaced communities for durable solutions

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	IDPs	1.91%	5.00%	1.91%
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.56%	70.00%	1.56%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.43%	5.00%	7.43%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Returnees	5.56%	5.00%	3.67%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

2023, through the RMS, it was reported that 1.91% of IDPs, 1.56% of Refugees and asylum-seekers, and 3.78% refugee returnees were reported to have secured tenure rights to housing and/or land. While for those with access to protection systems in Somalia, 7.43% of Refugees & asylum-seekers, 3.6% of refugee returnees, and 2.35% of IDPs reported access to such systems in the country. Given the current findings in 2023, tenure rights, and property rights to housing should be enhanced and considered in 2024.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR was guided by the Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach, which aimed to promote gender equality and inclusion of vulnerable groups in the response. All UNHCR interventions were needs and vulnerability based. UNHCR and partners conducted participatory assessments, with support from local authorities, in locations across the country covered by Sub-Office (SO) Galkayo, SO Hargeisa and SO

Mogadishu to gather accurate information on specific protection risks and the underlying causes to understand capacities, and to hear proposed solutions.

UNHCR has established transparent beneficiary selection processes where the most vulnerable and those in need benefit from assistance, utilizing the KOBO-enabled “Vulnerability Assessment” (VA) tool to support a more granular level analysis of affected populations and to ensure the protection needs of women, children, elderly persons, and vulnerable groups at the centre of the scale-up to the drought response.

UNHCR and partners regularly engaged in sensitization/ awareness raising with the communities on available protection and assistance programs, including selection criteria. Each sub-office location has established hotline phone numbers designed to receive complaints and feedback on various protection issues. UNHCR-funded partners also maintained their own internal complaint mechanisms designed to receive complaints and feedback. In 2023, UNHCR has initiated the development of an inter-agency complaint mechanism approved by the HCT to eventually roll out for other agencies to use, particularly to address aid diversion, which will be accessible to all considering AGD.

Section 3: Resources

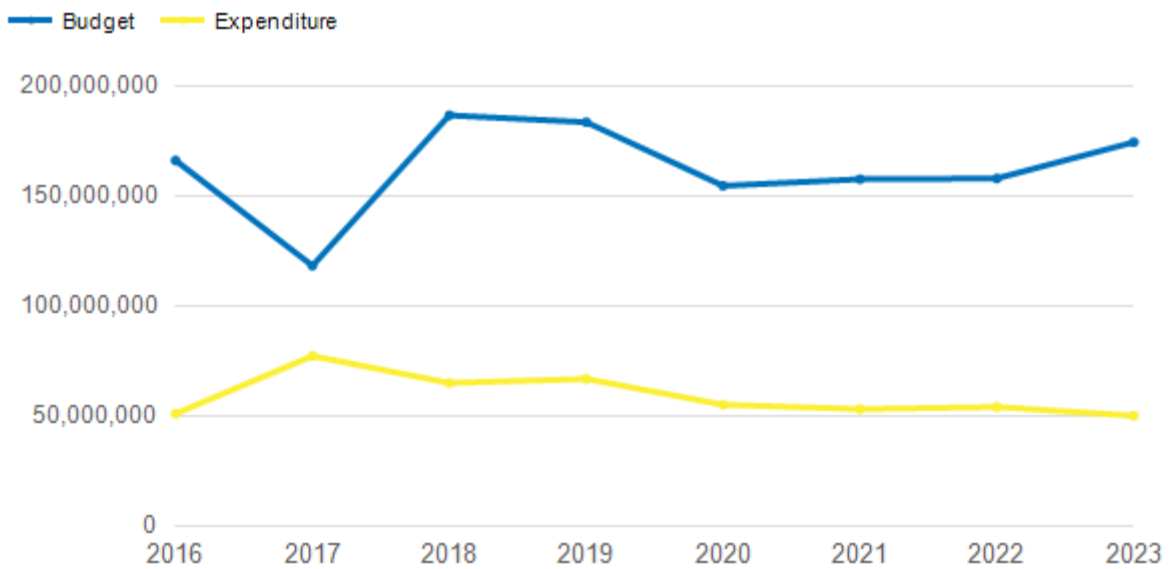
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

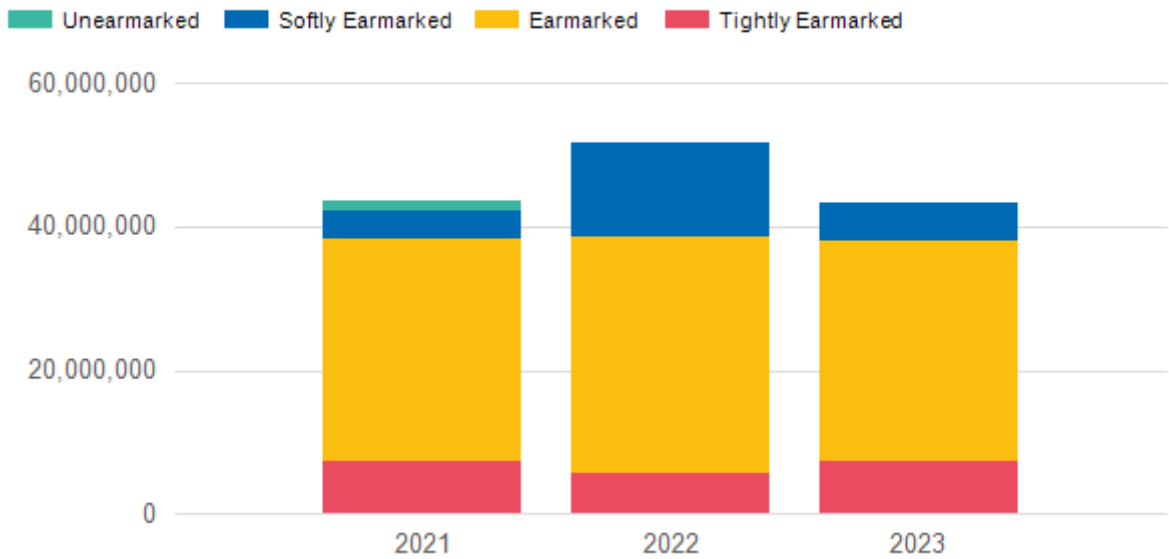
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	30,479,657	13,877,381	45.53%	13,877,381	100.00%
IA2: Assist	68,315,753	21,615,547	31.64%	20,457,185	94.64%
IA3: Empower	26,863,343	5,045,192	18.78%	5,045,192	100.00%
IA4: Solve	48,515,749	10,605,583	21.86%	10,605,583	100.00%
All Impact Areas		810,147			
Total	174,174,503	51,953,851	29.83%	49,985,342	96.21%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,961,473	1,719,206	58.05%	1,719,206	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,526,544	776,802	50.89%	776,802	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,332,626	152,645	11.45%	152,645	100.00%
OA4: GBV	18,192,725	9,290,370	51.07%	9,290,370	100.00%
OA5: Children	3,261,473	614,988	18.86%	614,988	100.00%
OA6: Justice	1,368,272	601,081	43.93%	601,081	100.00%
OA7: Community	9,208,466	4,570,600	49.63%	4,570,600	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	21,906,255	10,151,588	46.34%	8,993,226	88.59%
OA9: Housing	29,911,919	4,185,494	13.99%	4,185,494	100.00%
OA10: Health	6,989,235	1,932,550	27.65%	1,932,550	100.00%
OA11: Education	19,087,054	3,178,162	16.65%	3,178,162	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	26,863,343	5,045,192	18.78%	5,045,192	100.00%
OA14: Return	7,711,445	2,232,959	28.96%	2,232,959	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,164,119	1,468,506	46.41%	1,468,506	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	13,187,782	1,999,274	15.16%	1,999,274	100.00%
EA17: Systems	7,501,771	3,224,287	42.98%	3,224,287	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		810,147			
Total	174,174,503	51,953,851	29.83%	49,985,342	96.21%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

As part of the response to civilian displacements because of conflict in parts of South-Central and other areas of Somalia, ravaging drought situations, and the El Nino emergency, the operation received several budget increases which were fundraised locally. The drought emergency resulted UNHCR to declare an L2 emergency twice translating the magnitude of the drought situation. These series of emergencies demanded swift action for which humanitarian organizations and donors.

By the end of the implementation year, the total operation level budget was USD 48.9 Million as compared at the beginning of the year which was USD 36.5 Million. The operation fundraised with Private Sector Partners and achieved local resource mobilization. By the end of 2023, the operation was 29 percent

funded.

Overall, 59 percent of the operation's budget was directed to partners and 41 percent was used under direct implementation, mainly for Cash Based Interventions (CBI) through financial service providers and centralized procurement of CRIs. MPCA was Identified as one of the most reliable interventions to address the urgent needs of affected persons. The operation successfully realigned resources and increased its capacity to respond to the deteriorating drought situation in the most affected regions of Somalia.

The impact area "Assist" recorded the highest budget at 56 percent (USD 14M), followed by "Protect" at 27 percent (USD 6.8M). This is due to the drought and emerging conflict that required urgent and lifesaving assistance.

Despite the resettlement outcome area receiving the lowest resources, negative impact to the overall protection environment was minimized with other protection assistance. long-term protection, and solutions projects in areas where such projects were feasible.

Despite the operation's limited financial resources, negative impact to the overall protection environment was minimized with other protection assistance such long-term protection, and solutions projects were provided in areas where such projects were feasible. In addition, to ensure that the operation meets the required capacity to respond to the emergencies and minimize the gaps, fundraising and resources mobilization with Private Sector Partners and local donors were done. By the end of 2023, the operation was 29 percent funded.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Registration of the refugees and asylum seekers: In 2023 NDRA registered 1931 individuals. The target for 2024 is to register 4,800 individuals. The renewal of about 12,000 refugee ID and asylum seeker certificates that are about to expire or have already expired is supposed to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.

RSD transition and backlog management: The Somaliland Refugees and Asylum Seekers Law No. 103/2023 came into force in April 2023. Since July 2023, UNHCR SOH is working closely with the NDRA to transition RSD functions to the government with asylum capacity assessment concluded, NDRA RSD team/personnel for the pilot identified and the key RSD priorities set out in the 2024 project agreement. A phased gradual transition is expected to take place, but this depends on the goodwill and collaboration of Somaliland authorities.

RSD backlog reduction: This remains a key concern for Somaliland with marginal progress being made in 2023 due to staffing challenges and compounded by mandate RSD suspension. In the 2024 project agreement, backlog reduction includes advocacy with NDRA for joint RSD processing pending full transition along with exploiting different RSD processing modalities in due consideration of the context.

IDP: UNHCR will continue its involvement in the tri-cluster coordination structures as a co-chair in Protection, CCCM and NFI/Shelter Sectors.

UNHCR SOH through its IDP partners (NRC and ACTED) will extend a wide range of assistance to different IDPs in Somaliland which include provision of classical CCCM activities, Protection monitoring and NFI distributions.

Livelihood: Depending on the availability of resources, the livelihood component will be enhanced in order to promote self-reliance of the refugees and less dependency on humanitarian assistance. Budget constraints will continue to impede the promotion of livelihoods for self-reliance.

CBI: Cash based assistance to the refugees will be significantly reduced because of budgetary constraints and the narrowing down of eligibility criteria with the final goal to phase out the general SA distribution and to only assist the most vulnerable refugee families.

Durable solution: Even though the local integration in Somaliland is not an option available for many forcibly displaced persons (refugees) because of the prevailing political and social-economic dynamics, UNHCR will continue to engage the authorities of Somaliland on finding an alternative status for the refugees of the MENA community

Collaborative efforts and Solutions Pathway: In response to the challenges outlined above, the UNHCR initiated the Somalia Solutions Pathway. This approach engages stakeholders across humanitarian and development sectors, prioritizing government leadership. While emergency response remains crucial for newly triggered displacement due to conflicts, droughts, and floods, the focus is shifting towards protracted situations. A significant achievement within this pathway is the ongoing development of a 5-year plan aligned with the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9), 2020-2024, aimed at phasing out around one million internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in temporary settlements. Through collaboration with on-the-ground actors and the government, a comprehensive needs assessment has been conducted to address IDP solutions. Interventions cover stability promotion, economic growth, governance reinforcement, improved access to education and healthcare, and enhanced urban infrastructure and social cohesion, with links to the private sector. Governments are committed to supporting land tenure security with identified areas. By implementing targeted initiatives in these areas, the Solutions Pathway aims to empower communities, build resilience, and establish sustainable paths towards peace and development in Somalia. UNHCR plays a pivotal role in providing protection advice and funding for assigned UN agencies, ensuring meaningful complementarity in protection activities throughout the process.

Inclusion of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Somalia's Health and Education Systems: Ensuring the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in Somalia's health and education systems is essential for their overall welfare and successful integration into host communities. Critical measures encompass the implementation of integration policies and strategies aimed at achieving equitable access to essential services such as education and healthcare. This includes aligning efforts with sectoral strategic plans like

the health/education Sector Strategic Plan, as well as utilizing tools like HIMS/EIMS and other policies to incorporate refugee and asylum seeker data, which were previously absent. Furthermore, it entails enhancing the capacity of facilities and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to effectively address the needs of refugees and asylum seekers and enhance services such as procurement of equipment and engagement of other actors. Distribution of government issued textbooks given to refugee school-aged children and including the yearly student statistics books.

Lessons Learned from Government Involvement effective collaboration in 2023: Governments have shown a willingness to assume the role of coordinating efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), ensuring durable solutions and comprehensive inclusion of forcibly displaced people into the national system. This has been particularly evident in Puntland. In 2023, a highly effective collaboration with government institutions was observed. This collaboration is crucial in managing the complex issues surrounding displacement and in working towards sustainable solutions. Despite the challenges posed by decreased funding, these collaborative efforts represent a promising approach to addressing the needs of displaced persons.

Impact of Decreased Funding: However, the decrease in funding has had adverse effects on services, especially for refugees and asylum seekers on provision of Education and Health services. This has also resulted in limited livelihood opportunities and subsistence allowances, posing significant challenges for vulnerable people in the communities.



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