

Somalia

1-30 April 2021


In April, the political and security situation in Somalia intensified, following the announcement of the President Farmajo to extend his term by two years. Various political negotiations took place.

In addition to the political turmoil, the security situation remained tense, with continuous insecurity, leading to further displacement of the civilian population.

Despite the challenging operational environment, UNHCR continued to provide protection, assistance and solutions to persons of concern across the country.

KEY INDICATORS

 **2.95** million IDPs

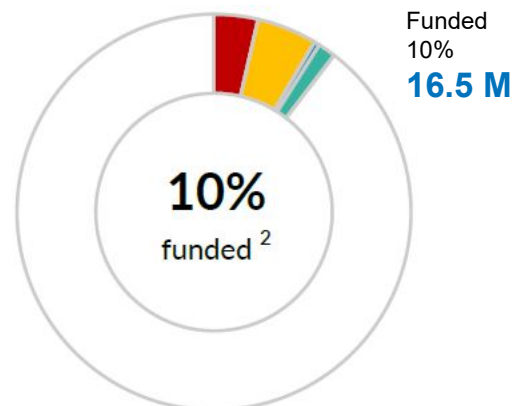
 **13,269** asylum-seekers
11,666 refugees

 **131,633** refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 20 APRIL)

USD 157.7 M

requested for the Somalia operation



UNHCR's partner is conducting a comprehensive livelihoods needs assessment at the waystation in Baidoa. © UNHCR

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Political tension in Somalia remained high throughout the month. The term of former president Farmajo was extended by two years, a decision which was later over-turned. The international community condemned all types of extension and urged the political leaders to ensure alignment with the 17 September agreement. At the end of the month, the negotiations over organizing of elections remained ongoing.

The overall country security situation remained tense, volatile and unpredictable during the month, with regular attacks by Al-Shabaab. In addition, the ongoing political tensions led to clashes and displacement in Mogadishu.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the country decreased slightly in April. The Ministry of Health has started vaccinating the population with COVID-19 vaccines received under the global COVAX programme, however roll-out was slower than expected. Slow roll-out can be explained by vaccine hesitancy among the population as well as the ongoing month of Ramadan. UNHCR continued to support healthcare authorities and PoCs in order to prevent and respond to the pandemic.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Registration

- As of 30 April, UNHCR recorded a total of 25,368 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 11,860 were refugees and 13,508 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived from Ethiopia (69%) and Yemen (27%). In April, UNHCR registered 12 new-born babies of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Multipurpose cash assistance

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

Prevention and response to SGBV

- Across the country, 4,915 individuals were reached through awareness-raising campaigns on identification and prevention of SGBV, the majority of which were carried out in IDP sites. Key messages during the outreach included encouraging community members to end the culture of silence and to encourage survivors and others to report instances of SGBV whenever they occur.
- UNHCR partners also continued regular activities on the identification, prevention and response to SGBV. In April, 372 SGBV survivors were provided with psychosocial counselling, 27 were provided with medical assistance, 18 with material assistance and 12 with legal assistance.
- Furthermore, 11 PoCs were reached through advocacy interventions by UNHCR partner-operated protection services.

Support to persons with specific needs (PWSN)

- In Somaliland, 17 IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs benefitted from support, including physiotherapy, psychosocial counselling, distribution of mobility devices as well as referral to further care.

Legal assistance and counselling

- In April, 39 individuals received legal assistance, including legal representation before the court of law, and advocacy for release from police custody or detention centres.
- In Somaliland, two community legal awareness-raising sessions, including components on SGBV, reached a total of 527 PoCs.
- To increase the capacity of authorities, UNHCR conducted two training sessions for 32 Government officials in Somaliland on various issues relating to refugee law and protection.

Somali refugee returnees

- As of 30 April, UNHCR has received a total of 131,886 Somali refugee returnees from 14 different countries of asylum. Out of the total 92,182 who have repatriated with UNHCR's support, 85,203 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, and smaller numbers from Djibouti, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea and various other countries.
- Under the voluntary repatriation programme from Kenya, a total of 10 households returned from Dadaab refugee camp to Mogadishu, and a further 14 households to Kismayo in April. All refugee returnees received return packages and temporary accommodation, if required.
- In Hargeisa, 50 returnee households (58 individuals) received cash grants for the months of April and May.
- In April, the reception centre at Berbera received 60 Somali refugee returnees from Yemen, through the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.



Refugee returnees from Dadaab receiving NFIs as part of their returnee package at the waystation in Kismayo. © Mercy Corps.

Resettlement

- Three individuals departed for resettlement in April 2021.

Protection Cluster

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

264,712 individuals through protection monitoring and 11 individuals were referred to specialized services

3,393 individuals through community-awareness campaigns, comprising of 617 girls, 470 boys, 1,914 women and 640 men. The total includes 159 older persons and 24 individuals with disabilities

32,748 individuals with information about GBV prevention and mitigation services

127,514 individuals (88,000 children) with various child protection services, including child protection messaging, psychosocial support, case management, family tracing and reunification, alternative care and reintegration of children associated with armed forces

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR covered primary school fees for 3,002 refugee and 391 returnee children, and secondary school fees for 436 refugee children and 114 returnee children.
- In addition, in Puntland, UNHCR covered the payment of examination fees for 177 students in 8th and 12th grade.
- 105 refugee children and seven returnee children were newly registered for primary schools.
- In Puntland, UNHCR continued to support 44 children between 6 and 12 years, who live more than 2 kilometres from school, with safe school transportation.
- Through a partner, UNHCR continued community dialogues to ensure attendance in school and in compulsory examinations for all children of concern. Discussions engaged various stakeholders including community education committees and parent-teacher associations.
- Through partner, UNHCR also continued engagement with the MoE at the federal and member state level to carry out quality assurance and monitoring.
- Under the DAFI programme for tertiary education, the MoUs with participating universities were finalized, which ensures refugee and asylum-seeker students will be at par with Somali nationals. In addition, the payments for the second quarter of the year were finalized; and support was provided to students, as necessary.



UNHCR's partner Mercy Crops carries out joint monitoring with the MoE of South West State in a school in Baidoa district. © UNHCR



Achievements and Impact

- As part of UNHCR's regular healthcare activities in April; a total of 2,385 individuals, including refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members, were provided with primary healthcare, 103 individuals with secondary healthcare, and 34 with tertiary healthcare.

Prevention of and response to COVID-19

- An isolation unit and a quarantine center continued to be supported in the Berbera regional hospital.
- A total of 13 persons of concern received COVID-19 vaccinations.
- 41 referral hospitals were supported to provide COVID-19 treatment.
- In order to address SGBV, 42 female SGBV survivors were assisted with appropriate support specific to COVID-19 response
- A total of 364 people were reached with COVID-19 related messaging and awareness-raising campaigns.
- In order to support persons with specific needs, 14 older refugees and asylum-seekers received specific support in relation to COVID-19 response.
- To improve COVID-19 testing capacity, UNHCR donated 5,000 COVID-detecting rapid diagnostic tests to the health authorities in Berbera, Somaliland.
- To strengthen the COVID-19 response in Mogadishu, UNHCR donated 2,000 gowns to the Ministry of Health.
- In Baidoa, 253 IDPs and returnees, impacted by the ongoing pandemic, received food vouchers. Furthermore, in Dollow, 103 IDPs and returnees have been assessed and registered for the same assistance.


SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFIS
Shelter Cluster

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

In April, the Cluster Partners reached **36,579** people with NFI kits, and **14,647** people with shelter assistance. So far in 2021, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached only 127,502 individuals (5%) of the targeted 2.3 million individuals with NFI assistance, and 108,463 individuals (5%) of the targeted 2.4 million individuals with shelter assistance.

There are only 6,000 NFI kits in stock countrywide with no shelter kits in stock. An additional 8,300 NFI kits and 2,250 shelter kits are in the pipeline however the available stock and stock in pipeline is not sufficient to respond to the shelter and NFI needs of the newly displaced population as well as the needs of the IDPs living in protracted situation.

Achievements and Impact

- Two households, comprising of 10 individuals, received NFI kits due to fire outbreak in a house in Hargeisa.
- A total of 1,430 female refugees and asylum-seekers in Bossaso received dignity kits.
- In Berbera, a total of 144 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) were handed over to families (benefitting a total of 864 individuals). This is the remaining distribution (Phase-II) from the total of 300 RHUs.
- In response to the insecurity-related displacement of over 7,000 households from 19 villages in Bardalle district, UNHCR, through partner, carried out needs assessment and distributed standard NFI kits to 750 affected households.



Distribution of standard NFI kits to 750 households among affected Berdale community. © AVORD

- In Baidoa, UNHCR, through partner, continued the construction of RHUs. A total of 91 units have successfully been installed out of 111 targets.
- To improve safety and security, especially of women and children, 20 solar-powered streetlights were installed across nine IDP sites in Baidoa.
- A total of 1,435 female refugees and asylum-seekers of reproductive age received dignity kits to in Bossaso. The target communities were mobilized for tee distribution through community leaders.



Refugee and asylum-seeker women at the dignity kit distribution in Bossaso. © UNHCR



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- UNHCR partner conducted a baseline assessment in 15 IDP settlements in Adado, Abudwak, Guriel, and South Galkacyo, with 15 participants in each focus group discussion. The baseline assessment is to identify areas in need of improvement and maintenance before the implementation of site improvement and maintenance activities. Lack a source of income and high dependency on humanitarian support were among the challenges raised during the discussions.
- UNHCR partner organized a site-level coordination meeting with 30 participants (18 women and 12 men) in the seven camps in south Galkacyo. Shelter for new arrivals was identified as the most pressing need.
- UNHCR partner conducted a safety audit in two IDPs sites in Adaado district, with a sample size of 120 households from each site. The outreach workers coordinated with community committees to implement safety audits that examine aspects of protection to ensure the safety of IDPs. These findings will complement the data from discussions and household surveys with the affected community, particularly women and girls.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Peaceful coexistence

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

Community Empowerment

- In order to strengthen community self-management, 20 caregivers from the refugee, asylum-seeker and IDP communities benefited from awareness-raising sessions on the rights and protection of children with specific needs. The overall aim of the activity was to equip caregivers with the skills and knowledge that are necessary to deal with child protection issue and children with specific needs.
- In Baidoa, a two-day training on child protection was organized for the community-based mechanism committees, attended by 20 members (15 women and five men).

Livelihoods

- In Mogadishu, 100 beneficiaries (50 returnees, 25 refugees, 15 IDPs and 10 vulnerable host community members) completed their two-month vocational training in various areas including tie dye, mobile repairing, catering and hospitality.
- In Baidoa and Kismayo, UNHCR's partner completed a comprehensive assessment and beneficiary selection. In Baidoa, the partner registered 65 returnee households, 26 vulnerable hosting community households and 39 IDP households for livelihoods activities. In Kismayo, the following PoCs were selected: 57 returnees, 35 IDPs and 23 individuals from the vulnerable host communities.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, through a partner, continued the training of 101 students on different vocational skills including, electricity, tailoring, professional cooking and carpentry.
- In Puntland and Galmudug, vocational training continued for 145 beneficiaries, including refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs



A participant in the two-month vocational training course in Mogadishu receives his certificate.
 © UNHCR

and vulnerable host community members. The beneficiaries pursue different vocational skills including tailoring and garment making, beauty salon therapy, electrical installation and wiring and catering hospitality management

- Attendance in some livelihood activities continued to be challenged by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as Ramadan.
- A toll-free hotline was set up to serve 13 IDP camps in Bossaso. This complaint and feedback mechanism will help to build a culture of transparency and accountability before UNHCR, partners and the affected communities. A sensitization campaign was held for IDPs in the targeted sites to instruct them how to use the hotline and the issues they should report, including sexual exploitation and abuse.
- In Garowe, UNHCR held a meeting with more than 10 stakeholders, including authorities and NGOs, with the objective of developing ways to address issues and that arise from IDPs through the complaint and feedback mechanisms.



Women participate in a tailoring class organized by UNHCR's partner in Hargeisa. © UNHCR

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 16.45 million**.

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

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia operation in 2021

United States of America (7.7 M) | **Japan** (4.5 M) | **Republic of Korea** (1.5 M) | **Sweden** (0.6 M)

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Norway (80 M) | Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (26 M) | Private Donors Spain (21.5 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (10.8 M)

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