

1-31 August 2020

Widespread insecurity, political fragility and humanitarian emergencies defined the current reporting period. While testing for COVID-19 remains limited, Somalia's confirmed cases since the onset of the pandemic surpassed 3,300, among which more than 90 fatalities were reported as at the end of August. Dessert locusts continued to consume thousands of hectares of crops in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug, and since the onset of the seasonal *Gu* and *Hagaa* rains in April, more than 720,000 people have been displaced by flash and riverine floods.

Around 2.8 million persons of concern, particularly 2.6 million IDPs remain among the most vulnerable individuals in the country, many of whom have not recovered or restored their livelihood from the 2019 *Deyr* floods. UNHCR's persons of concern have appealed for enhanced cash-based support to meet the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, including the loss of their wages as casual workers.

Devastating consequences of floods, possible outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in IDP settlements, and infestation of desert locusts further deteriorates the living conditions of persons of concern and causes risk of new internal displacements. In August, the UNHCR-led Protection Return Monitoring Network recorded 60,000 new displacements in Somalia, primarily resulting from floods. This brings the PRMN recorded displacements to date in 2020 to 896,000 persons



Refugees and asylum seekers at Hawataka distribution centre in Mogadishu receive three-months supply of food, as per UNHCR-WFP agreement. This distribution of food is driven by increased hardship resulting from COVID-19. © Mogadishu/August 2020

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**2.8 million** persons of concern

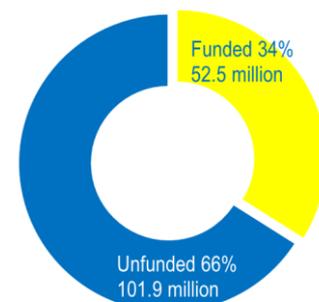


\* Estimated internally displaced persons as at 31 July 2018  
(Source: Information Management Working Group)

## FUNDING (AS AT 31 AUGUST)

**USD 154.4 million**

Requested for the Somalia situation



# Update on Achievements

Against a backdrop of ongoing insecurity, climate-related emergencies and COVID-19, UNHCR observed 60,000 new displacements in the month of August. As at the end of the month, UNHCR, including through its lead role in the Protection and Shelter Clusters and as co-lead of the CCCM Cluster, has continued to provide protection, assistance and durable solutions to refugees/asylum seekers, refugee returnees, internally displacement persons and persons moving in mixed flows which includes those at risk of statelessness, as indicated below. This assistance includes cash and in-kind support to persons with specific needs, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and more as outlined below.



## PROTECTION

### COVID-19

In August, UNHCR continued providing life-saving assistance to persons of concern and hosting communities by providing protection, strengthening the national health system to contain the spread of COVID-19 and supporting socio-economic recovery and resilience. Through [social media, television and radio, and other means of disseminating information](#), UNHCR and partners reached over 200,000 IDPs, returnees, refugees and asylum seekers and hosting community with life savings and hygiene/sanitation related information on COVID-19. [Cash assistance to 3,344](#) vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and refugee returnees was provided to assist in meeting basic needs. In Galkayo, [soap and other hygiene materials to combat the coronavirus was distributed to approximately 540](#) IDPs and vulnerable members of the hosting community.

### SGBV PREVENTION, RESPONSE & AWARENESS

In addition to awareness raising directly related to COVID-19 as noted above, UNHCR and partners reached nearly 3,140 persons of concern and hosting community members with [awareness raising messaging related to SGBV prevention and response](#). As part of UNHCR's commitment to provide protection services to IDPs, returnees, refugees and asylum seekers and vulnerable hosting community members, the following SGBV related interventions were undertaken: 346 SGBV survivors were provided with medical assistance, 125 refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs were provided with advocacy and/or mediation support, 392 survivors received legal assistance, and 440 survivors received psychological counselling. Additionally,



*SGBV response and awareness session in © Bossaso/August 2020*

material assistance (in the form of dignity/sanitary kits and/or solar torches) were availed to nearly 500 women survivors of SGBV or to mitigate the risk of same. The distribution of solar torches reduces women and girls' exposure

to sexual and gender-based violence while in the cover of night and serves as an alternative source of energy for cooking, charging mobile devices and other uses such as night-time studying.

### WFP-UNHCR 3-MONTHS' FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Persons of concern continued into the month of August to express heightened difficulties in meeting their basic needs, often stemming from lost wages or rising commodity prices resulting from the pandemic. UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a three-month partnership agreement for the distribution of 1,500 metric tons of food consisting of cereals, pulses and oil targeting some 30,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Mogadishu, Bossaso, Galkayo, Hargeisa and other regions within Somaliland. WFP undertook the transportation of the food rations in July to the noted four locations, with the distribution of food commencing in August to 9,116 refugees and asylum seekers (RAS). UNHCR and partners completed three-months' food distribution in North Galkayo and Bossaso to 739 and 6,069 RAS, respectively, and the distribution was ongoing in Mogadishu to 1,905 RAS. In Somaliland, the food distribution was made to 403 RAS in three locations in Sool and Sanaag regions before moving to Hargeisa, planned for September, where the bulk of refugees and asylum seekers are located.



*An Ethiopian refugee receives three months' of food distribution as per WFP-UNHCR agreement in © Galkayo/August 2020*

### OTHER PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

UNHCR and partners' activities in support of peaceful co-existence continued in August in Hargeisa and Baidoa. In Hargeisa, psychosocial counselling, assistance to persons with specific needs, training activities and classes in English, Somali, and computers/ICT, as well as vulnerability assessments, took place at DAN's Peaceful Co-



*UNHCR in partnership with SWDC providing medical assistance to a survivor of Gender Based Violence in © Mogadishu/August 2020*

Existence Centre for the benefit of 715 IDPs, refugees/asylum seekers, returnees and vulnerable hosting community members. As well, two boreholes which were constructed in Baidoa (completed last month) continued to promote peaceful co-existence between IDPs, returnees and hosting communities, with more than 2,500 individuals were able to access the water from the boreholes in August. In addition to the noted COVID-19 interventions in support of good health, UNHCR's regular programming includes improving the health status of persons of concern. Further to this, in August, 1,319 refugees and 165 asylum seekers across the country were provided with primary and secondary health care, respectively (as well as 123 IDPs and vulnerable hosting community members who were supported with secondary health care). A further 93 refugees and asylum seekers

benefited from referrals to secondary and tertiary medical care. In Bossaso, approximately 30 IDPs who were heavily impacted by an outbreak of fire received emergency relief items in the form of blankets and other essential items.

## REGISTRATION

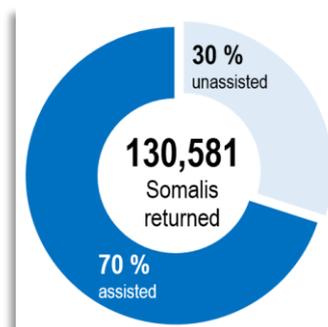
### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In 2019, the UNHCR Somalia Operation prioritized the undertaking of a *Biometrics Identity Management System* (BIMS) verification exercise, which consists of identity confirmation by way of capturing ten fingerprints, the face and irises to minimize fraud risk and understand actual numbers of active refugee and asylum seeker populations. A verification of the said population had not been undertaken for several years by the UNHCR Somalia Operation. The expected completion date of the exercise was delayed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and related halting of non-urgent activities. The verification exercise was completed in all Somalia locations, including in Somaliland where the bulk of the refugee and asylum seeker population is located, on 6 August 2020. Following this, as of 31 August 2020, UNHCR recorded a total of 22,376 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 10,375 were refugees and 12,001 asylum-seekers. UNHCR inactivated/closed 8,265 individual cases due to different events including spontaneous departures (25 persons), deaths and other closures (8 persons), and 8,232 for no-shows during the BIMS verification exercise in Somaliland. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived from Ethiopia (71 percent) and Yemen (26.4 percent). Meanwhile, in August, UNHCR registered new arrivals of 24 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 8 newborn babies.

Upon completion of the BIMS verification exercise, and in order to keep data updated, continuous registration activities will resume across the country and the Operation will implement the Population Registration Identity Management EcoSystem (PRIMES) platform, which contains a core registration module referred to as the Profile Global Registration System (proGres) version 4 (an upgrade of version 3 which is currently in use by the Operation). The upgrade process is underway, and thanks to upgrade systems, national authorities, NGOs and UNHCR can enhance coordination and collaboration using the same data across multiple locations to record and track provision of protection, assistance and solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR. The data captured by the new system is captured in ten modules, including Registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD), Statelessness Status Determination (SSD), Resettlement, Voluntary Repatriation, Legal and Physical Protection, Child Protection, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Assistance and Fraud Management

### Refugee Returnees

As of the end of August, UNHCR received a total of 130,581 Somali returnees from 13 countries of asylum. Out of total 91,828 who have repatriated with UNHCR support, 84,981 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, 773 from Djibouti, 469 from Libya, 143 from Sudan, 34 from Eritrea, three from Tunisia, three from Angola, two from the Gambia, one from Pakistan, one from Ukraine, one from Cambodia and one from China. Some 38,753 Somalis returned on their own from Yemen. In August, 74 Somalis returned spontaneously from Yemen.



TYPE OF RETURN	BEFORE 2020	August	2020	TOTAL
ASSISTED RETURN	91,497	0	331	91,828
UNASSISTED RETURN	38,420	74	333	38,753
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129,917</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>130,581</b>

## STEPS TOWARDS DOMESTICATING THE KAMPALA CONVENTION

Following the deposition of the Kampala Convention at the African Union in March 2020, the Federal Government of Somalia recognized the need for an expert to support the domestication of the treaty. Professor Chaloka Beyani, who is a member of the Expert Advisory Group of the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and has previously served as UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, was engaged by UNHCR in June to support the development of a draft national IDP law in Somalia. In June, July and August, Professor Beyani has undertaken dozens of consultations. These include with technical experts and senior government officials in June and July (including then Deputy now Acting Prime Minister Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid) and the Ministers of Finance, Minister of Interior, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister of Women. In August, Professor Beyani finalized all consultations with UN, humanitarian and development partners, including with UNSOM (SRSG and DSRS(s)), Protection Cluster Strategic Advisory Group, Durable Solutions Working Group, the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, ICRC, World Bank, ECHO, SDC (Swiss Development Cooperation), USAID, AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), GIZ (German Organisation for International Cooperation), DFID/FCDO and representatives from embassies (Denmark, Germany, Switzerland). A zero draft legislation is planned to be out by the second week of September, to be followed by validation by senior government officials and other key stakeholders.

### PROTECTION CLUSTER

#### **August Highlights:**

**In August 2020, general protection partners reached a total of 1,992 individuals through protection monitoring. A total of 4,325 persons with specific needs and heightened vulnerability were provided with protection-oriented support and 5,744 were reached through awareness raising on protection issues. A total of 398 individuals were reached through community-based protection activities.**

**During August, 1,413 new children at risk including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified, registered, assessed, and provided with direct support and referrals based on a case plan tailored to their specific needs. This brings to 12,420 the caseload of children at risk including 8,443 UASC. As of today, a total of 2,173 (45% girls) UASC were reunified with their families while 1,411 (50.6% girls) UASC were placed in alternative care.**

**As of August 2020, the GBV AoR partners reached a total of 21,402 people with GBV response and prevention services including post-rape treatment, temporary protection accommodation for GBV survivors, legal, psychosocial, material and livelihood assistance. At present, the GBV AoR in Somalia has 58 partners that report through the AoR 5Ws but the needs still outweigh the response provided.**

**In August 2,752 (1,803 Female, 949 Male) individuals accessed HLP specific assistance; mainly, protection from forced evictions through preventive engagements, facilitation of tenure documents, specialized legal assistance and legal counseling services, awareness session on HLP rights remedies and available options, capacity building and advocacy to enhance attention to HLP, and to enhance tenure security.**

**Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) + COVID Awareness Prevention messages was delivered by community-based teams to the affected communities in 40 accessible districts, to discourage risk-taking behavior and instill safe behavior towards explosive hazards and suspicious items.**



## SHELTER AND NFIS

As at the end of August, more than 720,000 individuals have been displaced by the Gu and Hagua seasonal rains and floods, and some 1.6 million affected by same. Inclusive of these figures is that since late June, over 216,000 have been displaced by the protracted Hagua which has mainly impacted Hirshabelle, South West and Galmadug states, among others. UNHCR has been providing shelter and core relief items (NFIs) such as blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, soap, solar lamp, jerry cans and plastic sheets, as well as shelter assistance through cash to thousands of affected families. Shelter and NFI interventions are expected to reach a total of some 70,000 people facing heightened vulnerabilities, including women, female/child headed households, disabled persons, the elderly and ill, and vulnerable members of the hosting community.



*NFI distribution to IDP flood affected communities in © Wanlawein/August 2020*

In August, UNHCR continued distributing/transporting humanitarian assistance to flood affected persons, including distributing of NFI kits to 1,500 vulnerable households (500 HHs in Welweyn and 1,000 HHs in Afmadow) and shelter kits to 1,971 vulnerable households (400 HHs in Baidoa, 821 HHs in Afmadow and 750 HHs in Bardheere). 750 NFI kits were transported to Merca and the distribution is expected to take place in early September. As at the end of August, 7,726 NFI kits (from the plan of total 11,476 kits) have been distributed, while 2,471 shelter kits (from the plan of total 7,000 kits) have been distributed. [This vital humanitarian assistance has reached more than 46,300 vulnerable IDPs and will continue to reach tens of thousands more in September.](#) In September, UNHCR plans to distribute NFI kits to 22,500 vulnerable individuals in Galkayo, Hobyo, Afgooye and Merca and shelter kits to over 26,500 individuals (some overlapping) in the stated areas as well as Qardho and Beletweyn.

## SHELTER CLUSTER

### August Highlights:

The Somalia Shelter Cluster, led by UNHCR, is a coordination mechanism that supports people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. In August 2020, the Cluster Partners reached 65,059 people with non-food items (NFI) kits; 6,966 people with Emergency Shelter Kits; and 108 persons with transitional Shelter. This brings the cumulative number of people assisted with NFI by the Shelter Cluster partners to 25% of 1.3 Million targeted in 2020, and those assisted with shelter to 16% of the 1.4 million targeted in 2020.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:** According to the HNO 2020, 2.2 million people are in need of Shelter and NFI assistance in Somalia. In the month of August, according to PRMN report, around 42,790 people have been displaced due to floods caused by an unusual Haggaa rains. The most affected districts are Afgooye (27,000 people displaced) in Lower Shabelle region and Jowhar (11,000 people displaced) in Middle Shabelle region. Shelter and NFI assistance is urgently required in the flood affected areas. Shelter and NFI stocks have been exhausted across Somalia and this has hampered response to people in need.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

### August Highlights

CCCM partners continue to provide inclusive risk communication activities (awareness raising on COVID-19) at the IDP site-level targeting site leaders, committee groups and IDP populations and reached a total of 921 IDP sites out of 2344 IDP sites nationally, covering 1,091,009 persons (42% out of total 2.6 million). Partners trained more than 680 community members of whom 80% were female on COVID-19 prevention and response.

Through CCCM partners mobilization efforts, one hundred and thirty-four community members took part in IDP Site maintenance (clean-up) activities; As well, 450 community members from IDP sites were engaged to carry out site improvement activities through Cash-for-Work initiatives.

The CCCM cluster established a standardized complaints feedback mechanism (CFM) in July 2020 with the objective of uniformly capturing key complaint data which can be analyzed by humanitarian partners. The [monthly snapshot was released in August](#), and highlights important IDP complaint-related trends and tendencies for locations where CCCM partners are active.


**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**
**LIVELIHOOD**

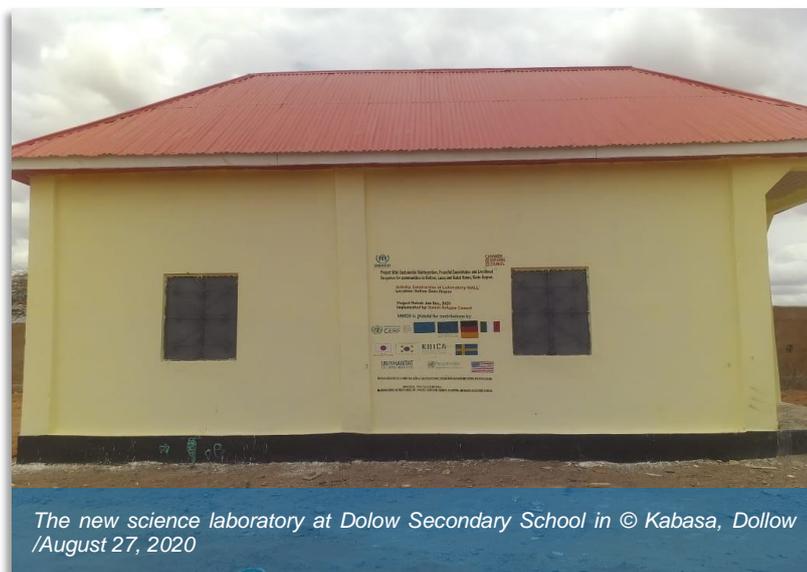
In August, 590 beneficiaries received livelihood support in various locations across Somalia. In Mogadishu, 164 beneficiaries continued with business skills and vocational training, including related to salons and computer training. In Baidoa/Dinsor, 80 persons of concern continued with various vocational training (electricity, masonry, tailoring and computers). In Kismayo, 20 students continued with advanced ICT training in web designing programme. In Bossaso/Garowe/Qardho, 150 persons of concern benefited from support to their small and medium sized enterprises (SMSE) and via technical vocational training (TVT), and 176 persons of concern received support to their SMSE and TVT in Galkayo. Face mask production also continued in Hargeisa, where 35 beneficiaries produced 3,650 masks and sold 1,084, while production of face masks in Baidoa was suspended due to limitations in product demand. In Dollow, 32 IDP women produced non-clinical masks at the Qansahley Women Center, an initiative which is part of UNHCR livelihoods interventions in partnership with Mercy Corps vocational skills trainings to IDP women.



*Livelihood tailoring activities in Hargeisa /August 2020* 2020/8/12 10:22


**EDUCATION**

Schools across the country began re-opening during the reporting period. In August, the Ministry of Education conducted consultation meetings where safe-back school guidelines stemming from the pandemic were presented and discussed. UNHCR and partners were provided the opportunity to provide guidance and comments, following



*The new science laboratory at Dollow Secondary School in © Kabasa, Dollow /August 27, 2020*

which the “safe back-to-school” guidelines were endorsed and released by the Ministry for Schools. With support from education partners, the Ministry of Education also developed back to school messages. UNHCR through INTERSOS mobilized school directors to ensure the safety of children and teachers by following Ministry of Education’s guidelines on coronavirus, key messages and using other “safe back to school” documents. Through coordination with the Ministry of Education in South West State and other education partners, a meeting was held with school directors and Community Education Committees to

discuss how to prevent the coronavirus during the learning periods.

Additionally, through the Regional Education Cluster, certain schools/teachers were provided with handwashing facilities, hand sanitizers and face masks. Posters with Covid-19 key messages were also set up in schools. UNHCR continued to support 138 refugee university students previously enrolled in Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI), who undertook distance learning programs in August. In the month of August, UNHCR and partners enrolled 566 refugees and asylum seekers, 765 refugee returnee and 73 vulnerable children from the hosting community in primary education, with enrollments ongoing. As well, 50 refugees and asylum seekers and 136 refugee returnee children were enrolled in lower secondary education, with enrollments ongoing.

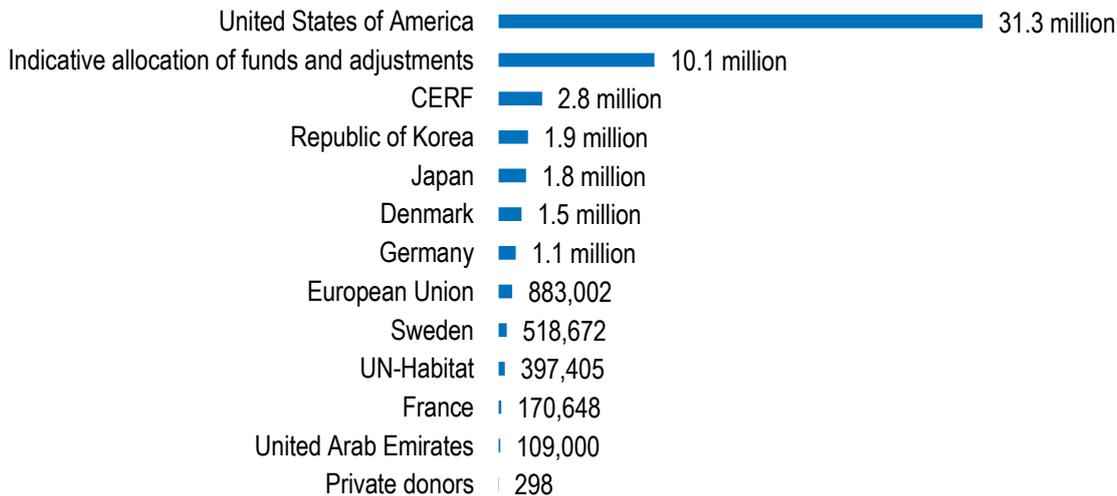
Through NGO and government education partners, UNHCR conducted community outreach mobilization and awareness for refugee and asylum seekers families in Galkayo. This was to empower and provide them with information related to education and steps to be followed when enrolling children in school. The Ministry of Education conducted awareness to minimize the social gathering of teachers and students, and distributed hygiene kits including a face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers for some schools. In coordination with DRC, UNHCR completed the construction of a science laboratory room at Dolow Secondary School. Official handover to the Board of Education in Dolow was completed on August 31, 2020. The laboratory will allow 120 IDP students to access quality education through direct interaction to science experiments, procedures, and testing of theoretical knowledge in the current year.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION ( AS AT 1 SEP,2020)

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

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SOMALIA OPERATION | USD

Earmarked contributions for the Somalia Operation amount to some **US\$ 52.5 million**.



## BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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

Germany 68.4 million | United States of America 46.7 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 7.7 million | Private donors Australia 7.4 million | Private donors Japan 4.4 million | Private donors Germany 3.5 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | France 2.8 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.2 million

Iceland | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Morocco | Norway | Private donors

## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 45.9 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 23.9 million | Private donors Japan 17.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

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## LINKS

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