

Somalia

1-31 March 2021


In March, the operational environment remained challenging across the country. The context was largely shaped by the delayed elections and volatile security situation.

Somalia also continued to battle the new wave of COVID-19. The increased number of COVID-19 cases resulted in UNHCR ramping up its prevention of and response to the pandemic.

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

KEY INDICATORS

 **2.97** million IDPs

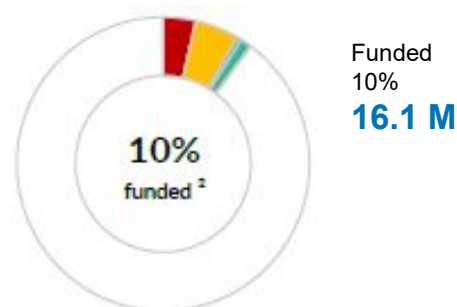
 **13,453** asylum-seekers
11,854 refugees

 **132,124** refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 30 MARCH)

USD 157.7 M

requested for the Somalia operation



UNHCR staff handing over disposable face masks to health authorities in Jubbaland. © UNHCR

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The electoral impasse continued throughout March, despite multiple discussions between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States on the organization of the elections. The UN and the wider international community continued to call for a rapid solution to the deadlock.

The political turmoil also led to increasing insecurity. Al-Shabaab carried out several attacks, mostly targeting politicians and government officials but also resulting in civilian casualties. Intensified insecurity also led to limited movement of UNHCR and partner staff.

The new wave of COVID-19 continued to affect the country in March. The government announced several new measures in an attempt to control the spread of the virus, including a ban on all public gatherings and closure of schools and universities. UNHCR responded to the authorities call for support by distributing various medical equipment and tents to strengthen the prevention and response to the virus.



As part of UNHCR's livelihoods initiative, a woman participates in a tie-dye practical session with partner COOPI in Mogadishu © COOPI

Achievements

Prevention and response to COVID-19



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

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

70 individuals through protection monitoring and 11 individuals were referred to specialized services

13,895 individuals through community-awareness campaigns, comprising of 3,232 girls, 2,406 boys, 5,351 women and 2,815 (including 150 older persons and 44 individuals with disabilities)

11,457 individuals with information about GBV prevention and mitigation services

31,715 individuals (20,178 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.

Registration

- As of 31 March, UNHCR recorded a total of 25,307 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 11,854 were refugees and 13,453 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived from Ethiopia (69%) and Yemen (27%). In March, UNHCR registered 106 new refugees and asylum-seekers.

Multipurpose cash assistance

- In March, close to 5,700 individuals, including refugees and asylum-seekers, were provided with multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs.

SGBV

- UNHCR partners continued regular activities on the identification of, prevention of and response to SGBV. In March, 132 SGBV survivors were provided with

psychosocial counselling, 64 survivors were provided with medical assistance, 34 with material assistance and 24 with legal assistance.

- Furthermore, 25 participants, including IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers reached by UNHCR's partner, DRC, in Mogadishu in a two-day training on identification and prevention of GBV, while in Somaliland 60 individuals received advocacy on prevention and response to SGBV through the partner-operated protection desk.



UNHCR partner Legal Clinic held a SGBV awareness-raising for PoCs and host communities in Berbera, Somaliland. © UNHCR

Support to PWSNs

- In March, 16 individuals with various specific needs in Somaliland were assisted with physiotherapy, psycho-social counseling and medical referrals

Legal assistance and counselling

- In March, 689 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance, including legal representation before the court of law, and advocacy for release from police custody or detention centres.

Capacity building

- A total of 243 individuals were reached through six community legal awareness-raising sessions in Somaliland. In addition to information on legal rights and obligations, advocacy included a component on the prevention of SGBV.
- In Somaliland, a total of 56 government officials were reached with advocacy through training sessions.

Somali refugee returnees

- As of 31 March 2021, UNHCR has received a total of 132,124 Somali returnees from 14 different countries of asylum. Out of the total 92,150 who have repatriated with UNHCR's support, 85,171 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, and smaller numbers from Djibouti, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea and various other countries.
- In March, 238 Somalis returned unassisted from Yemen.
- All Somali refugees who return with UNHCR's assistance are provided with a comprehensive return package, including cash grants, material package and education support, while un-assisted spontaneous returns are provided with temporary accommodation and information.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, schools and universities remained closed in March.
- UNHCR, through TASS, paid monthly school fees for 2,537 children enrolled in lower and upper primary schools and 308 children in secondary schools. Furthermore, the tuition fees of evening/after-school classes were covered for 100 children from Oromo and Arab ethnics to improve their Somali and English language skills.
- In Somaliland, the majority of the students have been transited to public schools. In March, UNHCR prepared and released tuition fees for all primary schools with PoCs.
- UNHCR, through NRC, conducted a CeCs training across 13 public schools hosting refugee children in Hargeisa.
- UNHCR, through TASS, conducted a community dialogue on child protection and importance of girl's education for 300 people including refugees, asylum-seekers and host community members.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- As part of UNHCR's regular healthcare activities, a total of 2,071 individuals, including refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members, were provided with primary healthcare, 97 individuals with secondary healthcare, and 109 were referred to tertiary healthcare.

COVID-19 Prevention and Response

- UNHCR donated to the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs three large isolation/treatment medical tents, 53,900 surgical face masks and 11,700 pairs of gloves.
- To combat the rapid increase in number of COVID-19 cases in Somaliland, two large tents, 37,000 PPEs and/or essential medical supplies PPEs and/or essential medical supplies were delivered to Somaliland's Ministry of Health and health centres in Hargeisa, Berbera, Burao and Borama. The medical assistance was comprised of aprons, face shields, goggles, cover gowns, respiratory and surgical masks, cleaning agents and/or hand sanitizers.
- An isolation unit and a quarantine center continued to be supported in Berbera regional hospital.
- A total of 1,410 households affected by the pandemic received multipurpose cash grants.
- A total of 15 PoCs with specific needs received various forms of support related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A total of 735 women were reached with COVID-19 related information and prevention measures.

**SHELTER 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 March, the Cluster Partners reached **44,619** people with NFI kits, and **30,519** people with shelter assistance. So far in 2021, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 90,923 individuals (4%) of the targeted 2.3 million individuals with NFI assistance, and 93,816 individuals (4%) of the targeted 2.4 million individuals with shelter assistance.

The Shelter Cluster partners have no shelter stocks available, and only very limited NFI stocks, whereas the needs remain vast.



The construction of 50 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) ongoing in Qansaxley IDP camp in Dollow. © UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by improving the living conditions, 30 out of 50 RHUs were constructed in Dollow IDP camps and will be handed over to the families in due course.
- To complement the Cyclone Gati response from previous months, some 21,600 IDPs in the cyclone-affected areas in Bossaso received NFIs kits.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

CCCM Cluster

The CCCM cluster, co-led by UNHCR, in collaboration with Somalia NGO Consortium conducted a half-day training with objective of bringing together CCCM partners, strategic donors and other important stakeholders to understand the core components of localization in Somalia, and to collectively identify methods that can be used to enhance localization efforts within the cluster.

Community-led site maintenance activities were conducted in Afgooye and Deynille districts to ensure the upkeep of sites through cash for work activities led by the site maintenance committees. 224 persons were targeted for the conditional cash for

work, beneficiaries have been supporting in site maintenance through establishing, rehabilitating and enhancing of existing drainage systems in the flood affected IDP sites through incentivized workdays.

CCCM partners conducted settlement planning training in Adado, Abudwak, Guriel Galmudug state, Kahda and Deynille Districts. A total of 184 (117 women, 67 men) community leaders have been capacitated to equip them with skills that will facilitate participatory management and maintenance of public spaces.

Achievements and Impact

- In Puntland, CCCM monitors and paralegals carried out rights-based awareness campaigns in the 15 targeted IDP sites in Adado, Abudwak, Guriel, and South Galkacyo, reaching a total of 962 individuals (619 women, 342 men). Key messages covered during the outreach sessions included Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights and advocacy on evictions and how best to prevent them.
- In the same IDP sites, a total of 645 households were reached with COVID-related information dissemination campaigns with the purpose of promoting good practices on hand washing and social distancing. In addition, discussions around the social stigma associated with COVID-19 were held with 250 women and 21 persons with disabilities.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Peaceful coexistence

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

Community self management

- A total of 581 refugees and asylum-seekers in Somaliland received counseling on community self-management.
- Three settlement planning trainings for a total of 90 (60 women, 30 men) community leaders were carried out to equip them with skills that will facilitate participatory management and maintenance of public spaces. The overall objective of these trainings was to equip CMC members with the skills and tools necessary to further support all members of their site.

Livelihoods

- In March, the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated containment measures have worsened the already poor living condition of PoCs in Somalia. Restrictions in movement result in lack of job opportunities especially for casual labourers who rely on such for their daily survival.
- In Mogadishu, 100 beneficiaries started the first phase vocational trainings, the courses include tie dye, mobile repairing, catering, homemade shampoo and soap, and beauty salon. The health of staff and trainees was ensured through several COVID-19 prevention measures.
- In Hargeisa, 111 youth (15-24 years old) from refugee returnee, IDP and host communities were registered to be trained on employable innovative and certified skills, in partnership with privately owned skills centres for a period of six to eight months as per the standard of the Ministry of Education and Science.
- In Puntland and Galmudug, a partner has rolled out community mobilization and beneficiary selection of 100 individuals for vocational skills training programme to be conducted in Galkayo, Dhusamareb and Cabudwaq. The selection is now complete, and classes will start in April while observing the safety and protection measures of COVID-19.



As part of UNHCR's livelihoods initiative, participants in a mobile phone repair workshop at COOPI in Mogadishu © COOPI

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 16.1 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 (22.1 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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