

UNHCR Somalia Operational Highlights

22-28 April 2013

1) Political and Security

South-central:

The Representative met (separately) with the President and Mayor of Mogadishu to outline and discuss the development of a Durable Solutions Platform, which was welcomed by the government. During the discussions, UNHCR outlined the plans and achievements of the Returns Consortium to date. It was agreed to establish a dedicated group of partners to develop, in a consultative and participatory manner, a “National Return and Reintegration Framework for both IDP and Refugee Returns”.

UNHCR Mogadishu took part in a one-day roundtable organized by the Humanitarian Forum in Mogadishu on 25 April. The main objective of the workshop, organized in view of the upcoming London Conference, was to come up with recommendations to the donors on IDP and refugee returns and other durable solutions, aid effectiveness and accountability, transition from humanitarian relief to resilience and long term development and improved collaboration among aid stakeholders.

Floods in Jowhar continue to preoccupy agencies in Mogadishu with access to affected areas, as well as those in Middle Shabelle, being the main challenge due to poor road conditions.

Puntland:

Overall security situation in Galkayo remained calm.

Somaliland:

No significant security or political developments were reported.

2) Population Movement

IDPs - 5,823 people were displaced within Somalia mainly due to floods (4,840) in Jowhar and Marka, evictions in Mogadishu, lack of livelihood, insecurity and IDP return. The IDPs moved/returned to Shabelle Dhexe, Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Gedo, Juba Hoose, Sool, Waqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Bari and Awdal regions with priority needs reported to be shelter, food, livelihood support, agricultural/pastoralist support, and protection from conflict. 60% were female.

Refugee Returns:

From Kenya to Somalia: 417 people returned from Dadaab to Somalia through Dhoobley, Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq and Sheekh Xuseen. These people are heading to their place of habitual residence in Gedo, Juba Hoose, Banadir, Bay and Hiraaan regions.

Their main reasons for moving include the improving security situation in Somalia, insecurity, attempted rape, looting and inadequate humanitarian support in the camps.

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Food, livelihood support and agricultural/pastoralist support are the urgent needs. 57% were female.

From Ethiopia to Somalia: 58 people returned from Buramino in Ethiopia through Dollow Somalia. They are heading to their place of habitual residence in Qansax Dheere, Bay region and reported food as their urgent need.

Other movements include 195 and 80 people deported from Saudi Arabia and Yemen respectively to Somalia.

3) Protection and assistance activities:

South Central:

The Protection Cluster and UNHCR met with members of Parliament on 25 April to discuss matters related to the intentions and capacity of government institutions and the role of the UN. The Committee members also cited the need to clarify the status of IDPs and to put frameworks in place to guide the ratification of the Kampala Convention. In particular, UNHCR outlined its focus on planning for durable solutions of persons of concern. A follow up meeting will be held to address more pertinent technical matters and identify ways to link up with and support Government institutions. UNHCR moreover attended the committee's session on IDPs that took place on 28 April.

UNHCR also met with the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS), a diaspora-based organization, with an objective to inform public policy through research and analysis. UNHCR and HIPS's areas of common interest include land disputes in Mogadishu, the IDP relocation plan and IDP policy for Mogadishu IDPs.

The GBV working group adopted its 2013 operational plan while monthly coordination meetings were held in various districts. Members of the group reported feedback on training and awareness raising activities conducted in the course of April in Deynille, Hamar Jajab, Heliwaa and Hawal Wadaag and targetting health students, women adolescent girls, police, gatekeepers, men, elders and religious leaders.

The Return Consortium held a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop through the Reach/Impact Initiative with the purpose of outlining and evaluating M&E tools within the context of Somalia. The workshop participants shared a great deal of knowledge on the context and applicability of some tools and methods to assess the returnee process. It was especially noted that access and security in Al Shabab controlled areas remain the greatest impediments to conducting in-depth surveys and using data collection tools.

Somaliland:

On 24 April, the monthly protection cluster meeting was held and among the issues discussed there was the development of a protection functionality survey to be prepared by UNHCR and circulated to all the cluster members. The survey is set to assess operations, coordination and needed support of the protection cluster. This will better

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help in understanding the cluster's role and how it can better support other sub-working groups such as GBV, Child protection and MMTF.

On 27-28 April, 14 families comprising of 77 individuals from Burao and Lasanood were given support to return to South Central Somalia (Shabelle regions) and arrived safely at their destination.

Puntland:

A total of 314 households departed Galkayo, for their villages of origin in Bay and Lower Shabelle regions. Subsequent convoys are expected to be completed in the first week of May.

Implementing partner Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development (GECPD) conducted a two-day orientation on GBV Prevention and Response Standard for newly recruited social workers. The social workers are going to assign in Galgaduud and Hiran regions as a part to extend GBV prevention and response activities in Galgaduud and Hiran region.

4) RO Somalia

Returns Consortium

IDP return movements supported by the Return Consortium and partners for Gu Season 2013, have been completed with the only exception of returns from Somaliland to Bay region. To date, around 1,700 households have been supported to return to their villages of origin in Lower, Middle Shabelle and Bay Region. IDPs requesting support to return to Mogadishu, Galkayo, Lasanod, Burao and Hargeisa have also been supported according to their needs.

Part of the Standard Minimum Package agreed at Return Consortium level has been provided to the returning families upon arrival. No critical incidents en route have been reported. More than 60% of the beneficiaries have been targeted with Mine Risk Education and awareness on Return Consortium feedback and complaint mechanism prior departure. Fit-to-travel tests have been provided by IOM in Somaliland, and by Galkayo Medical Centre and UNHCR in Galkayo.

Remaining 51 households from Somaliland, assisted by NRC are still clearing their pre-departure arrangements and will return to Baidoa in the next few days.

A Return Consortium Technical Working group meeting took place on April 30th to initiate a review of the current standard operating procedures in order to incorporate lessons learned and new modalities tested in the field into a revised version to apply for returns during the next rainy season (Deyr).

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