

SOMALIA



- Shelter emergency kits and non-food items were distributed to nearly 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in south and central Somalia.
- An inter-agency mixed migration task force was set up to reduce the impact of mixed migratory flows.
- UNHCR manage a population movement tracking system that provided information on IDP movements and needs in Somalia.

Working environment

The humanitarian situation in Somalia deteriorated considerably as a result of continuing conflict between the Transitional Federal Government and fundamentalist insurgents. The risks to the UN and aid operations increased and the humanitarian space shrank considerably. A series of threats, abductions, kidnappings and car bombing forced UN agencies and NGOs to move national and international staff out of Somalia, reducing assistance and services for people of concern in the country.

The number of IDPs grew from 1 million to 1.3 million, while 3.5 million Somalis remained in dire need of emergency humanitarian assistance. In addition, cycles of drought and floods hurt Somali farmers and herders and fuelled more displacement, internally and externally. Rising food and fuel costs aggravated the plight of people

already weakened by inadequate humanitarian assistance.

Mixed migratory flows constituted another challenge to UNHCR operations in Somalia. Endless conflicts in the East and Horn of Africa region, poverty, worsening conditions of reception in neighbouring countries and gross human rights abuses forced migrants from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea to search for greener pastures by crossing the Gulf of Aden with the aid of organized smugglers. This movement continued despite information campaigns pointing to the dangers of the voyage. Some 50,000 migrants managed to

Operational highlights

- A memorandum of understanding on protection of refugees was signed by the authorities of “Somaliland” and UNHCR. The “Somaliland” authorities resumed the registration of asylum-seekers and refugee status determination (RSD) which had ended in 2006.
- The refugee status determination capacity of the relevant authorities in “Somaliland” and “Puntland” was increased through training provided by UNHCR.

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Ethiopia	1,800	1,800	48	47
	Various	60	60	32	38
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	9,200	9,200	45	36
	Various	80	80	47	32
Returnees (refugees)	From Uganda	1,300	-	-	-
	Various	160	50	-	-
IDPs		1,277,200	597,400	51	59
Total		1,289,800	608,590		



A Somali man evacuates the Harar Yale resilience neighborhood of Mogadishu, Somalia with his belongings.

UNHCR / F. TASTE

cross the Gulf of Aden in 2008, but at least 1,000 of them were reported to have drowned or gone missing during the voyage.

Piracy in Somalia's coastal waters worsened the security situation by delaying and deviating badly needed humanitarian assistance. It also made it difficult for the UN to contract vessels to transport humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives were to attain durable solutions through the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Somali refugees, mainly from Djibouti to "Somaliland", but also from Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and elsewhere; and provide international protection and assistance to refugees wherever UNHCR had access.

• Protection and solutions

To protect and assist IDPs in a country marred by recurrent conflict and shrinking humanitarian space was the main challenge confronting UNHCR in Somalia. Due to dysfunctional institutions, the widespread availability of firearms and a multiplicity of militia gangs, there was total impunity for those carrying out arbitrary arrests, detentions, abductions, torture and killings.

The mixed migratory flows across the Gulf of Aden have not only taken a toll in drowned and missing people, but also highlighted limitations in human and financial resources and the difficulties in improving reception conditions.

A dearth of staff to screen asylum-seekers and complete refugee status determination contributed to an increase in the backlog of asylum applications. Finally, the absence of effective government institutions and the rule of law in Somalia saw the country's already poor human rights record deteriorate further.

• Activities and assistance

Community services: An integrated participatory approach for IDPs in south and central Somalia was designed through consultations with partners. Two workshops on psychosocial support targeting some 200 women were organized. Some 80 women benefited from skills training in business. One skills training centre was constructed and 25 sewing machines distributed to 25 vulnerable women to improve their livelihoods. Some 390 cases of sexual and gender-based violence cases were identified in "Somaliland" and the victims provided with medical, psychosocial and legal support. Seven disability committees were established and trained in six IDP settlements in Burao. Some 690 individuals with disabilities were assisted with medical and orthopaedic equipment.

Crop production: Some 6,000 kg of cereal seeds were distributed to farmers in 28 villages in "Somaliland". Approximately 3,300 hectares of land were tilled, two training sessions on farming techniques were conducted, three demonstration farms were established, one sub-surface dam was built, soil bunds were constructed and 1,000 sets of hand tools and 20 water pumps were distributed.

Domestic needs and household support: Some 600,000 individuals were assisted through the distribution of some 100,000 plastic sheets, 86,000 jerry cans, 180,000 blankets, 72,000 sleeping mats and 65,000 kitchen sets. Some 1,440 packs of sanitary materials were distributed to refugee women and girls in “Somaliland”.

Education: All refugees had access to primary education. UNHCR provided furniture, equipment and materials to primary schools. More than 70 community education committee members, 22 of them women, were trained to fulfil their responsibilities. Some 270 IDP students graduated from vocational skills training centres in Hargeisa and Borama.

Forestry: Some 20,000 tree seedlings were distributed in “Somaliland”. Training in bee-keeping techniques was provided and equipment distributed.

Health and nutrition: All refugees had access to basic health services. Some 100 refugees received supplementary food package due to sickness or malnutrition. All refugees living with HIV and AIDS had access to treatment.

Income generation: Revolving funds ranging from USD 2,000 to 3,000 were distributed to 75 groups consisting of a total of more than 3,500 IDP women in the four regions of Awdal, Hargeisa, Shail and Togdher. The Office also provided training in income-generating activities and small-business management.

Legal assistance: A memorandum of understanding on protection of refugees was signed by the Ministry of Interior of “Somaliland” and UNHCR. The authorities resumed the registration of asylum-seekers, which was stopped in 2006. A best interests determination (BID) exercise was conducted for 20 children. Over 150 persons were accepted for resettlement and 87 departed for third countries.

A protection monitoring system was established to collect data and trends on human rights violations. The population movement tracking system was functional for the whole of Somalia. Two land and property studies were conducted in south and central Somalia. Three training sessions for 27 protection monitoring partners were organized.

Livestock: Some 3,000 heads of livestock, including sheep and goats, were distributed to 300 returnee families.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided financial and technical assistance to all its implementing partners.

Sanitation: Some 1,000 family latrines were built in Afmadow. Fifty-five latrines were built in Wajid and 30 family latrines were constructed in five IDP camps in Galkayo.

Shelter and other infrastructure: Through an implementing partner, some 850 temporary shelters were built in Mogadishu and its surroundings. In addition, some 3,000 IDPs were provided with temporary shelters in Galkayo. Some 65 traditional houses were constructed and 21

houses were roofed in Wajid. Some 500 shelters were constructed in Bullo IDP camp.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR worked closely with the UN logistics cluster, UNICEF and WFP for the clearance and transportation of relief items to Somalia.

Water: Water trucks delivered more 11 million litres of water to areas with a high concentration of IDPs in the Danile and Afgooye corridor. Some 3,000 households had access to potable water in Afgoye and some 3,000 households were provided with safe water for three months in Galkayo.

○ Constraints

The deteriorating security situation and shrinking humanitarian space compelled humanitarian agencies, including UN organizations and international NGOs, to relocate staff to Nairobi. The national staff who remained in Somalia had very limited mobility as they became targets for threats, abductions and killings by armed gangs. The weak institutional capacity of governmental counterparts in both “Puntland” and “Somaliland” hampered programme delivery.

| Financial information |

Even though the number of IDPs increased from one million to 1.3 million and the number of asylum-seekers reached some 20,000 people in “Somaliland” and “Puntland”, the funding situation remained at the same level leaving many needs unmet. As a consequence, additional staff could not be hired to undertake a comprehensive refugee status determination or assume protection of IDPs under the cluster system. Shelter emergency kits and non-food items were insufficient and could not cater for additional needs of IDPs. The existing budget had to be reshuffled in order to accommodate mixed migratory flows requirements. Limited funding impacted negatively on the quality of assistance to be delivered to people of concern.



Organization and implementation

UNHCR protection and assistance services were provided through a sub-office in Hargeisa (“Somaliland”) and field offices in Bassaso, Garowe, Galkacyo (“Puntland”) and Mogadishu and Baidoa (south and central Somalia). Total of 103 staff including 27 international staff, 64 national staff, 2 JPOs and 10 UNVs worked in Somalia operation.

Working with others

UNHCR enhanced its partnership and collaboration with all stakeholders in the country and carried out joint programmes with the UN Country Team. In addition, the office continued to co-lead of the protection and shelter clusters under the Somalia Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Both clusters are among the most active ones and they are responsible for crucial tasks under the overall UN strategy to stabilize the situation in the country.

Overall assessment

Despite security constrains, UNHCR managed to provide emergency assistance to IDPs where access was possible. In “Somaliland” and “Puntland”, where the situation was

relatively calm, the Office protected and assisted refugees and asylum-seekers while looking for durable solutions. At the same time, UNHCR coordinated humanitarian activities focusing on mixed migration flows as the co-chair of the Mixed Migration Task Force. As cluster co-chair, UNHCR Somalia coordinated the provision of protection as well as shelter and non-food items for IDPs.

Partners
Implementing partners
Government: Ministries of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of State Security and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration; National Refugee Commission
NGOs: Agriculture Development Organization, Agrocare and School Aid Organization, Center for Education and Development, Community Based Rehabilitation Services, Danish Refugee Council, Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development, Ijra Organization for Welfare and Development, Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee, Islamic Relief, Norwegian Refugee Council, Puntland Development Research Center, Relief and Development Organization, SAACID, Sahan Research and Development Organization, Save Somali Women and Children, Somali Red Crescent Society, Somali Women Concern, Somali Minority Vision in Action and Relief Development Organization, Somali Reunification Women Union
Operational partners
Others: ICRC, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Budget, income and expenditure in Somalia (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	6,476,221	4,672,946	1,495,867	6,168,813	6,181,639
Somalia Situation SB	18,691,698	9,339,348	5,709,541	15,048,889	14,063,272
Total	25,167,919	14,012,294	7,205,408	15,048,889	20,244,911

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Somalia (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,088,028	4,121,838	6,209,866	0
Community services	229,118	145,425	374,543	121,735
Crop production	236,253	0	236,253	11,917
Domestic needs and household support	336,646	1,494,360	1,831,006	0
Education	148,198	0	148,198	40,780
Forestry	17,989	0	17,989	0
Health and nutrition	130,959	0	130,959	19,366
Income generation	317,901	6,036	323,937	57,614
Legal assistance	369,683	682,325	1,052,008	138,546
Livestock	94,348	0	94,348	11,031
Operational support (to agencies)	359,405	354,613	714,018	83,288
Sanitation	5,898	(39,903)	(34,005)	0
Shelter and infrastructure	109,306	119,796	229,102	400,856
Transport and logistics	45,794	685,485	731,279	56,537
Water	158,184	76,057	234,241	13,757
Instalments to implementing partners	987,926	4,973,455	5,961,381	(955,427)
Subtotal operational activities	5,635,636	12,619,487	18,255,123	0
Programme support	546,003	1,443,785	1,989,788	0
Total expenditure	6,181,639	14,063,272	20,244,911	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(64,632)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	2,409,966	5,927,263	8,337,229	
Reporting received	(1,422,040)	(953,808)	(2,375,848)	
Balance	987,926	4,973,455	5,961,381	
Outstanding 1st January				999,351
Reporting received				(955,427)
Refunded to UNHCR				(66,225)
Currency adjustment				22,300
Outstanding 31st December				(1)