



UNHCR staff receive CRIs in Beletweyne © UNHCR

CONTEXT- Due to five consecutive poor rainy seasons, high food prices, and rise in conflict and displacement, Somalia has been on the edge of famine for months. Despite slightly better rainfall forecast for the 2023 Gu season, which runs from April to June, the climate emergency persists. According to the January 2023 [integrated food security phase classification \(IPC\) analysis](#), three population groups are at risk of famine between April and June 2023: agropastoral communities in Burhakaba district, Bay region, and internally displaced persons (IDP) in Mogadishu and Baidoa settlements. The drought has disproportionately affected women, children, persons with disabilities, and those from minority and marginalized groups.

ACHIEVEMENTS-

10,000 individuals received CRI	3,800 individuals served from protection desks	9,800 individuals received shelter support
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29,000 individuals received multi-purpose cash, subsistence allowance, or other forms of cash support to persons with specific needs

UNHCR, with authorities and partners, delivered life-saving protection assistance to vulnerable IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and vulnerable host communities. UNHCR helped to improve inter-agency drought response coordination through its leadership in the Protection, Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters. The UNHCR-led [PRMN data](#) continued to provide up-to-date information on internal displacement caused by the drought and informed the wider humanitarian response. Working closely with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR piloted a fast-track food referral system in Baidoa and completed the biometric enrollment of 2,500 IDP HHs in Beletweyne to improve accountability and ensure prioritization of humanitarian assistance to reach at-risk people. Protection desks continued to serve as entry points to specialized services across 13 districts, including Baidoa and Galkayo. Moreover, UNHCR continued to put protection at the center of its response using tools such as the vulnerability assessment to identify and respond to persons with specific needs in need of assistance. Cash assistance for multipurpose use, including dignity kit, shelter, and CRI, were implemented to fulfill protection and the basic needs of the drought-stricken population. Other drought response activities included strengthening of self-governance system and participation in IDP sites by forming camp management committees, site repair and maintenance work employing cash for work scheme, and installation of street solar lights to better protect women and children and improve security.

KEY FIGURES-

6.6 million Somalis face acute level of food insecurity between Apr-Jun 2023 (Source: [IPC, April 2023](#)).

1.7 million displacements due to drought from January 2021 to March 2023 [Source: [Protection & Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), UNHCR].

3.2 million people with specific protection needs or high protection risk, including but not limited to those affected by the drought, targeted by the Protection Cluster (Source: [2023 HRP](#)).

UNHCR's PRIORITIES in DROUGHT RESPONSE-

- 1 Ensure [Centrality of Protection](#) and protection mainstreaming in all humanitarian response.
- 2 Deliver timely emergency assistance by ensuring access to life-saving specialized services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, people living with disabilities, and child protect cases, as well as core relief items (CRI) and shelter, using cash as the preferred modality.
- 3 Advocate for area-based approach and inclusion of all displaced persons, including refugees and asylum seekers.

PRIORITY NEEDS of NEW ARRIVALS- Food, livelihood, shelter, domestic basic needs items, health, and water. (Source: PRMN)

CHALLENGES-

- 📉 Inadequate funding for scaling up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in protection, shelter, and CCCM to prevent worst outcomes.
- 👤 Prioritization of vulnerable IDPs, minority and marginalized groups in humanitarian assistance.
- 🚧 Humanitarian access and coverage in conflict affected areas must be improved.
- 🏠 As repeated shocks have reduced communities' coping capacities, root causes must be addressed by building resilience and finding durable solutions for IDPs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2023 amount to USD 16.8 million. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have already contributed to the Somalia Operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia Operation in 2023 | USD

United States of America 4.4 million | CERF 3.2 million | Japan 3.1 million | Germany 1.1 million | World Food Programme 0.5 million

Denmark | Other private donors

Thanks to the donors of softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2023 | USD

United States of America 7.2 million | Canada 3.9 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds to UNHCR in 2023 | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

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