

SOMALIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 June 2023

A world where refugees are always included

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Tuesday **JUNE 27th** 2023



Children showcasing their artwork during the World Refugee Day celebrations in Hargeisa. © UNHCR

OVERVIEW

In June, conflict and insecurity, coupled with the effects of climate change, made the operational environment in Somalia challenging. The security situation in the country remained tense, with reports of armed conflict between Somali security forces and Al-Shabab, referred to as the non-state armed group (NSAG), and attacks on civilians by the NSAG. Although the recent rainfall, efforts of local communities and authorities, and sustained humanitarian assistance have prevented famine for the time being, humanitarian needs remain high. According to the [Protection and Returns Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), which has been tracking internal displacement trends for the past 17 years, 92,000 internal displacements were recorded in June, primarily due to the combined effects of conflict/insecurity and drought, bringing the total number of internal displacements in 2023 to more than 1.3 million.

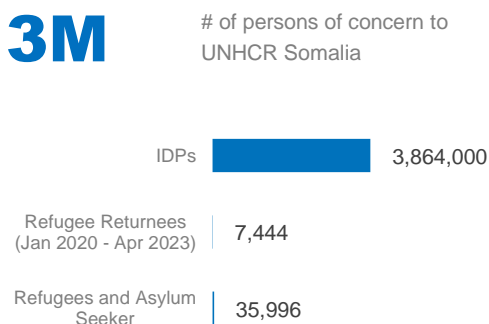
Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, refugee returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), and development and humanitarian partners remains one of UNHCR's top priorities in Somalia. Moreover, UNHCR, in collaboration with authorities and partners, continued to provide vital protection assistance to vulnerable IDPs and host communities affected by conflict, flooding, and drought. In Somalia, UNHCR leads/co-leads the Protection, Shelter, and CCCM clusters for the IDP response.

UNHCR's key achievements for the month of June are listed below:

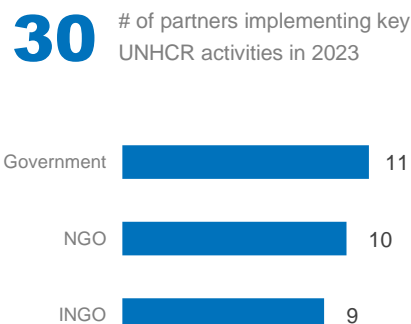
- On 20 June, UNHCR, together with authorities, partners, refugees and asylum-seekers, refugee-returnees, and host communities, marked 2023 World Refugee Day. This year's theme was "Hope away from Home: A world where refugees are always included," to champion inclusion and solutions for refugees.
- The Helpline/Complaint Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was finalized, strengthening the affected communities' ability to report on incidents of fraud and corruption, as well as attempted, actual, or potential aid diversion, among others.
- The Somaliland Refugee and Asylum-Seekers Law was launched in June. UNHCR had provided financial and technical support throughout the drafting and enactment of the law.
- In response to the internal displacements caused by the ongoing conflict between the Somali security forces and NSAG in Galmudug, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed cash assistance to 4,000 HHs (more than 35,000 individuals) to help meet their shelter and non-food item (NFI) needs.

KEY FIGURES

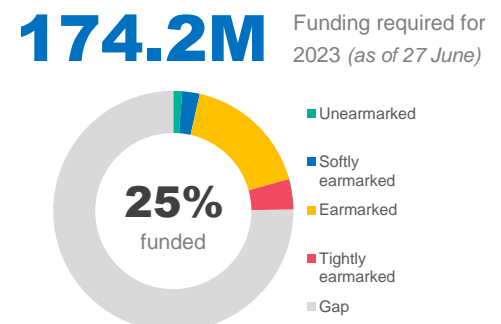
PERSONS OF CONCERN



PARTNERS



FUNDING



POPULATION DATA

35,996

Refugees and asylum seekers as of June 2023

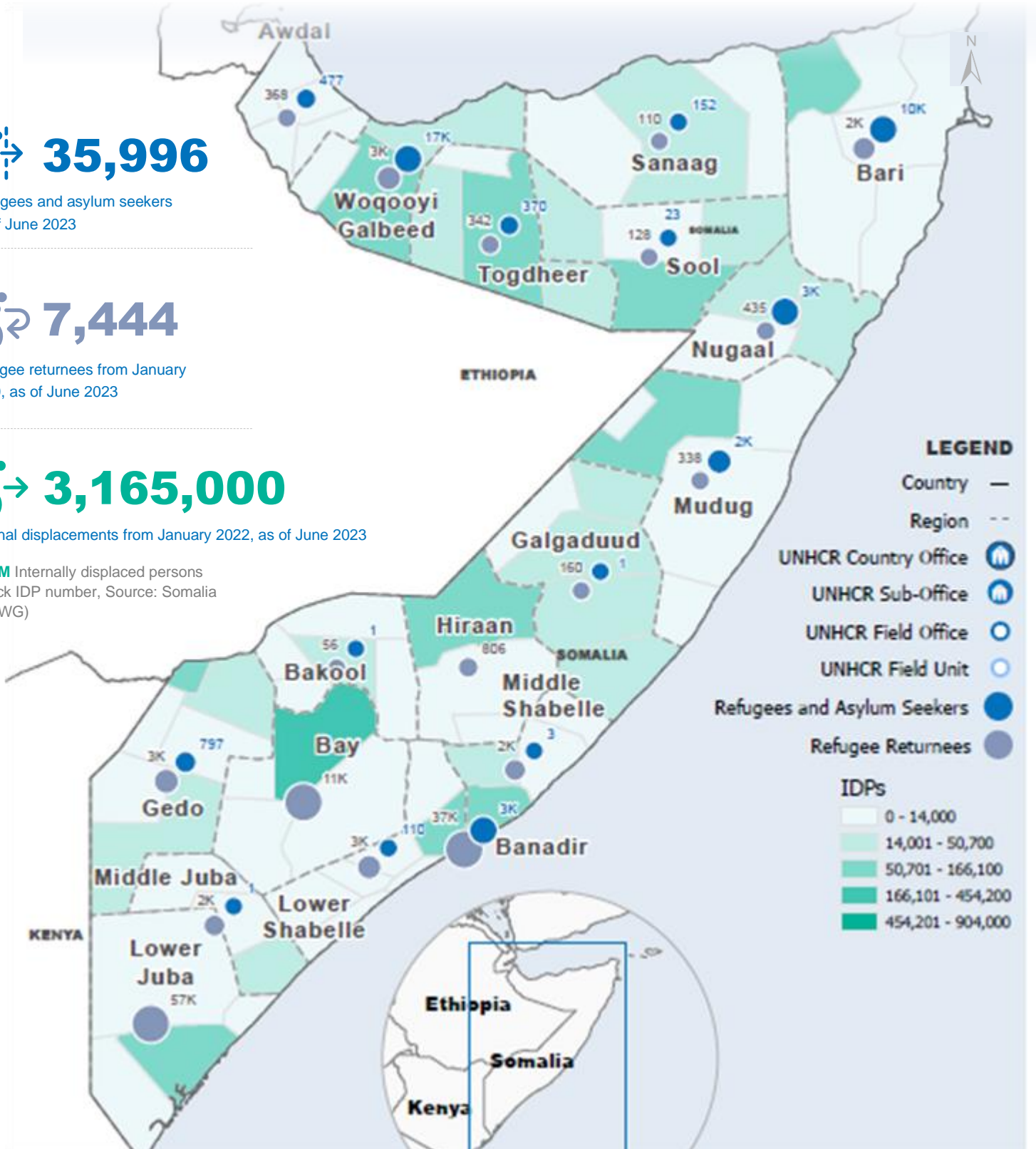
7,444

Refugee returnees from January 2020, as of June 2023

3,165,000

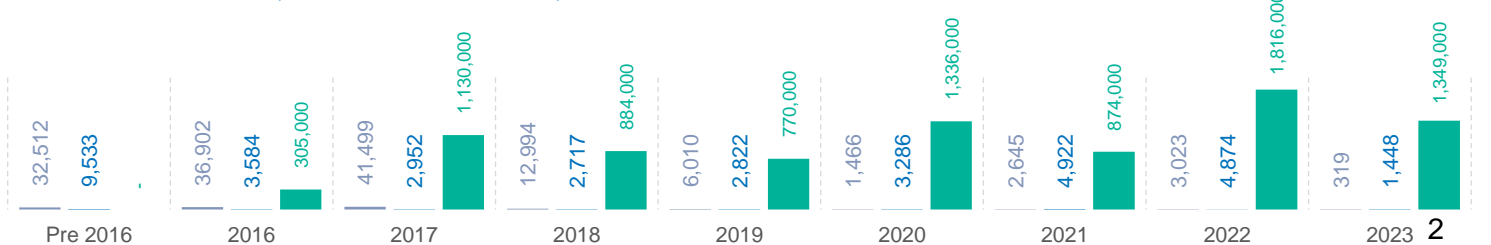
Internal displacements from January 2022, as of June 2023

3.86M Internally displaced persons
(Stock IDP number, Source: Somalia IDP WG)



POPULATION TREND (ARRIVALS PER YEAR)

Refugee Returnees | Refugees and Asylum-Seekers | IDPs (PRMN)



Operational Context

UNHCR continued to operate in an extremely challenging context in Somalia due to insecurity and climate change. Better than expected rainfall and responses from the local population, authorities, and the humanitarian community have averted the worst outcomes of the drought; yet the situation is still worrisome. Exacerbated by floods caused by the April to June Gu rains, long-term displacements, renewed conflict and security operations, and access constraints, humanitarian needs remained high in June. 8.25 million people require humanitarian assistance; 6.6 million are facing acute food insecurity; and 1.8 million children are anticipated to be acutely malnourished in 2023.¹ Large swaths of land continue to be under the control of non-state armed groups (NSAG) and inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to insecurity and armed conflict, despite the recent gains made by the Somali security forces. Armed conflict between the NSAG and Somali security forces and reprisal attacks by the former continued. Sporadic incidents of shelling and armed conflict also occurred in and around Laascaanood.

On the political front, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud presided over the opening of the third joint session of the Federal Parliament, where he talked about security, the latest National Consultative Council (NCC) meeting outcomes, which have drawn mixed reactions from past and present prominent Somali politicians, and the country's economy. The long-awaited Refugee Asylum Seekers Bill that UNHCR supported to draft went into discussion on the floors of the lower house of parliament, also known as the House of the People (HoP). In Puntland, the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) announced the official results of the local council elections that TPEC held on 25 May. Out of the 774 contested election seats, Kaah, the party of Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni, secured the greatest number of seats, winning 286 contests.

The phased withdrawal of African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) troops started in June, and seven Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) will be handed over to the Somali National Army (SNA) as part of the first Phase of the drawdown plan. Moreover, on 27 June, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted UNSC Resolution 2687 (2023), extending the authorization of ATMIS until 31 December 2023. The resolution requested ATMIS to prioritize i) maintaining enabling support for peace and security in Somalia to ensure a sustainable transition; ii) supporting Somali-led operations against the NSAG; and iii) preparing a smooth drawdown and exit from Somalia by December 2024.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), 92,000 displacements within Somalia were recorded in June. Out of the total displacements during the reporting month, 57,000, or 62%, were attributed to conflict or insecurity, 28,000, or 30%, to drought, 3,000, or 3%, to floods, and the remaining to other reasons. Food, livelihood support, and shelter continued to be among the top needs of the newly displaced family. The top three regions that received the greatest number of new displacements in June were Nugal, followed by Bari and Middle Juba. More up-to-date information about displacement and the protection needs of the IDPs can be found at the new PRMN online interactive dashboard: <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>.

Somalia hosts some 35,996 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 69% are women and children; 31% are school-age children (6-17 years); and 26% are women and girls of reproductive age (13-49 years). The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers (67%) are from Ethiopia, followed by Yemen (29%), Syria (4%), and other countries (1%). Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers (75%) reside in urban or peri-urban settings across the Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, both of which are in the northern part of the country. Furthermore, since January 2020, 7,444 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Yemen, followed by Kenya. From the total number of refugee returnees, 2,206 individuals have been directly assisted by UNHCR, mainly through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

¹ Somalia: The Cost of Inaction, July 2023 - Somalia | ReliefWeb

Update on Achievements



Protection



A UNHCR staff describes a refugee girl's artwork at a World Refugee Day event in Galkayo. © UNHCR

On 20 June, UNHCR, together with authorities, partners, refugees and asylum-seekers, refugee-returnees, and host communities, organized various events and programmes across the country to mark 2023 World Refugee Day, celebrating the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. This year, World Refugee Day focused on solutions and the power of inclusion for refugees, with the theme “Hope away from Home: A world where refugees are always included.”

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNHCR, through its partner, identified and/or supported more than 150 new and existing GBV cases in June, including IDPs affected by the conflict in Laascaanood. Services to the survivors included safe house and meal support, psychosocial counseling, medical and legal referrals, and the provision of one-time protection cash support and dignity kits, among others.

- In Kalabaydh and Buhoodle in Somaliland, 180 IDPs affected

by the conflict in Laascaanood received psychosocial support, counseling, and referral services from the two GBV help desks.

Legal assistance

- On 5 June, UNHCR, led by the Country Representative, and Somaliland authorities, including the Vice President and the Chairperson of the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA), launched the Somaliland Refugee and Asylum Seeker Law. UNHCR had provided financial and technical support throughout the drafting and enactment of the law.
- In Somaliland and Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, provided legal assistance to 313 individuals, mainly refugees, asylum-seekers, a handful of IDPs, and the host community. Services included legal counseling, mediation, police reporting, legal advocacy for release from custody, legal representation and other court-related services, marriage certificate issuance, emergency shelter support, and referral to other service providers.

Registration, reception, and reintegration support

- In Berbera, Somaliland, UNHCR and partners received six commercial boats from Yemen carrying 34 Somali refugee-returnees and 17 refugees. They were transferred to the UNHCR-managed Reception Center for registration, food, accommodation, health screening, and counseling support.
- UNHCR distributed monthly subsistence allowances to help cover the basic needs of 380 Somali refugee-returnees living in Puntland and Galmudug states, as well as Baidoa and Mogadishu. Likewise, reinstallation grants to help the new refugee-returnees integrate back into their communities were distributed to 13 individuals.

Cash assistance in response to conflict

- In response to the internal displacements caused by the ongoing conflict between the Somali security forces and the NSAG in Hishabelle, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed multipurpose cash assistance to 304 IDP HHs (1,824 individuals) in Balcad and Jowhar. Each family received a one-time payment of USD 100 to cover their basic needs.

Community engagement and awareness raising

- UNHCR launched the 2023 Participatory Assessment (PA) to collect information from affected communities in Somalia. The PA targeted refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and IDPs located in Hargeisa, Berbera, Bossaso, Baidoa, Dhobley, Dollow, Kismayo, Banadir, Beletweyne, Galkayo, and Garowe. The purpose of the assessment was to obtain feedback from the affected communities on challenges, solutions, and capacities to inform UNHCR programming and advocacy efforts. The assessment gathered information on enhancing livelihoods, self-reliance,

and durable solutions for most of the most marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, minority groups, women, and children.



UNHCR conducting a focus group discussion session with children in Hargeisa as a part of its annual Participatory Assessment exercise. © UNHCR

- In Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, conducted 256 interviews (77% men and 23% women) on the reasons for mixed movements with those who were transiting through Somalia. Among those interviewed, 9% reported experiencing physical violence, 3% reported sexual violence and exploitation, and an additional 2% reported a need for protection services. Furthermore, 5% were documented as unaccompanied and separated children and were referred to temporary care centers for assistance.

- In Bossaso, Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner, organized awareness-raising and information sessions on the risks associated with undertaking dangerous and illegal journeys, including the risks of exploitation, trafficking, and abuse involved in mixed movements. The events reached more than 495 individuals at four IDP sites and schools

attended by refugees and asylum seekers.

- At the Peaceful Coexistence Center (PCC), supported through UNHCR in Hargeisa, 294 individuals received counseling and case referral support. The majority of the advice sought was for concerns about financial insecurity, followed by queries about refugee status determination (RSD) and subsistence allowance assistance. Where appropriate, cases were referred to relevant partners for further assistance.

Health

- UNHCR's partners delivered primary and secondary health care services to 3,382 individuals. Services included consultations and medical screening, laboratory investigations, medical treatments, and referrals to specialized hospitals. The health services primarily benefited refugees and asylum-seekers across the country, although some refugee returnees, IDPs, and host community members also received health support in Mogadishu and Puntland.

Education

- In Mogadishu, UNHCR, through its partner, provided cash for school meals and paid the end-of-term examination fees of 835 refugee and asylum-seeker children. School meals acted as an incentive to improve school attendance.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partner, paid the national examination fees of 148 students (87 female and 61 male) studying in grades 8 and 12. With this kind of support, it is observed that the number of refugee students taking the Somaliland national examination has been increasing in recent years. Similarly, the school completion rate of refugee pupils in primary and secondary schools is also growing. The school enrolment currently stands at 2,067 students (1,043 female and 1,024 male) in primary school and 228 students (99 female and 129 male) in secondary school.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, through its partner, furnished classrooms in three schools. The support was aimed at improving the learning environment and encouraging school enrollment for refugee and asylum-seeker children.

Drought and Flood Response

- UNHCR finalized the UNHCR Somalia Helpline/Complaint Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to improve and streamline UNHCR's mechanisms of receiving, managing, and responding to feedback provided by the affected communities. The CFM SOP will support UNHCR's response to the emergency drought and flood response by better enabling affected communities to report urgent issues related to assistance and services, follow up on case related queries, report incidents of fraud and corruption, as well as attempted, actual, or potential aid diversion, or obtain general information and advice.



UNHCR's partner conducting a door to door at the Hiran 1 IDP site in South Galkayo to share hotline number and raise awareness about complaint and feedback mechanism. © Northern Frontier Youth League (NoFYL)

- In Beletweyne, UNHCR, through its partners, distributed dignity kits to 350 women and girls of reproductive age. Each dignity kit contained essential items such as sanitary pads, towels, bar and powder soaps, a shawl, a headscarf, undergarments, and a Somali dress. Furthermore, solar lamps were distributed to 100 vulnerable women, the elderly, persons with specific needs, and GBV survivors.

- In Beletweyne, UNHCR, through its partner, trained 50 humanitarian partners and government counterparts (30 female and 20 male), covering topics on protection mainstreaming, protection needs assessment, and the development of area-based action plans to improve coordination of protection response.

- As a part of its drought response, UNHCR in Beletweyne, through its partner, distributed multipurpose cash assistance to 345 IDP HHs (2,070 individuals). Each family received a one-time payment of USD 100 to meet their basic needs.

- In Guriel district, Galmudug State, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed individualized protection cash assistance to 955 individuals (845 female and 101 male), including GBV survivors,

the elderly, people with chronic diseases, people living with disabilities, and child mothers, among others. Each beneficiary received a one-time payment of USD 150. The recipients were referred by protection desks, after which assessment and verification were conducted by UNHCR's partner with close supervision from UNHCR.

- In Kismayo, Lower Juba region in Jubaland, UNHCR completed distributing 50 hand-held fire extinguishers to five IDP sites and trained 50 IDPs to use and manage the fire extinguishers.
- The UNHCR-supported protection desks at 32 IDP sites in Bossaso, Garowe, Gardo, and North Galkayo in Puntland, as well as Abudwak, Adado, Dhusamareeb Guriel, and South Galkayo in Galmudug, continued to serve as communication hubs, information centers, and referral points for the affected communities. More than 1,190 individuals visited the help desks to seek assistance or information, as well as raise protection concerns or complaints. Likewise, roving psychosocial counseling teams visited nine IDP sites in the aforementioned four areas and conducted individual and group psychosocial first aid sessions, reaching 56 individuals (46 female and 10 male), including GBV survivors and people with mental disabilities.
- In Erigabo and Burao, Somaliland, through the UNHCR supported GBV and protection help desks, more than 230 IDPs received protection and information services, as well as referrals.
- In Sool and Togdheer regions in Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partners, reached 1,759 drought-affected IDPs, of whom 20 persons with specific needs (PSN) were provided mobility devices, 43 received psychosocial counseling, and 1,045 benefited from information and awareness sessions on the inclusion of PSN in different humanitarian services.
- In Somaliland, through different outreach activities, more than 338 individuals received information on available services and training on community-led messaging to tackle child protection and harmful social practices. A further 115 individuals received counseling and referral support via the hotline.



Shelter and NFI

- In response to the internal displacements caused by the ongoing conflict between the Somali security forces and NSAG in Galmudug, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed cash in lieu of emergency shelter kits (USD 213 per HH) to 2,000 HHs (17,245 individuals) in Dhusamareeb. In addition, 2,000 HHs (17,791 individuals) in Adado, Galgaduug region, received cash in lieu of NFIs (USD 120 per HH).
- In response to the Laascaanood conflict, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed cash in lieu of emergency shelter kits to 200 HHs (1,409 individuals) in the Sool region; cash in lieu of dignity kits to 1,046 individuals in Boame and Taleh in Sool and Buhoodle in Togdheer; and multipurpose cash assistance to 820 HHs (10,309 individuals) in Sool and Togdheer regions.



Completed permanent shelters and latrines in Girible-2 Durable Solutions Site in Bossaso.
 © NRC \ Suleiman

- At the Girible-2 durable solutions site in Bossaso, 80 shelters with latrines have either been completed or are in the final stages of construction. The construction approach is based on the owner-driver model, in which beneficiaries actively participate in the construction process and UNHCR's partner's technical team provides ongoing advice to ensure quality requirements are met.
- At the Dur Dan Bari IDP settlement in Burao, Togdheer region, Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partner, has completed 30 hybrid shelters and the same number of latrines. A community-driven approach whereby beneficiaries are engaged in the construction has been adopted for the project to promote community ownership and empowerment.



Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, through its implementing partner, held sessions with refugee and Nasahablood B IDP committees to share information about enrolment targets and selection criteria for an additional 60 participants that will join the livelihood programme. Government counterparts, particularly the Ministry of Education and Science's TVET department, were engaged during the identification and registration of participants. Currently, a total of 85 individuals (55 refugees and asylum-seekers and 30 IDPs/host community members) are already enrolled in different courses: 35 in electrical installation, 25 in tailoring, and 25 in aluminum works.
- At the Qansaxley and Kabasa IDP sites in Dollow, UNHCR conducted livelihood assessments using focus group discussions, key informant information, and household-level questionnaires, reaching 380 individuals in the process.



Capacity building


- UNHCR facilitated protection mainstreaming for humanitarian actors in Galmudug, bringing together 151 (88 female and 63 male) individuals from community based organizations, local government entities that are responsible for IDP affairs, as well as local and international NGOs, in Adado, Abuwaq, Dhusamareeb, Guriel, and South Galkayo. The training was based on the module developed by the Global Protection Cluster and provided practical tips on mainstreaming of protection aspects in the WASH, food security, CCCM, education and shelter programming.
- UNHCR, through its partner in Borama, Awdal region of Somaliland, conducted capacity development sessions for 53 individuals from the police and the immigration department. The objectives of the training were to enhance participants' knowledge of refugee law, international protection, and national asylum frameworks; discuss challenges in improving access to territory and asylum procedures; and mitigate the risk of arbitrary arrests and refoulement.
- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, through its partner, conducted training sessions about community leadership, targeting 50 refugee youth participants (24 female and 26 male). The objective of the training was to build the target population's knowledge of the concept of community leadership; encourage youth involvement in community leadership and activities; and provide a forum for networking to share experiences, challenges, ideas, and recommendations.



Cluster Coordination and Leadership



1.7M

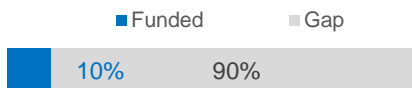
 # of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster




5 M  People in need

3.2 M  People targeted

211 M  Funding required



581K

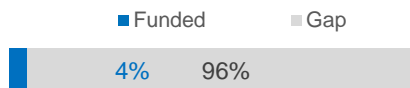
 # of beneficiaries reached by the Shelter Cluster




4.9 M  People in need

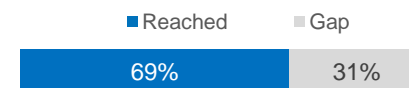
1.4 M  People targeted

85 M  Funding required



1.7M

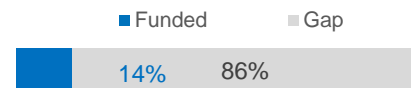
 # of beneficiaries reached by the CCCM Cluster



2.8 M  People in need

2.45 M  People targeted

66 M  Funding required



Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster's Working Group (WG) on the Protection of Civilians is developing an action plan related to the handover and closure of the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to SSF as part of ATMIS draw-down. The objective of this action plan is to analyze how the handover/closure process might impact and increase the protection risks of the civilian population living in their proximities and to support this transition process by taking measures to reduce those risks.
- To ensure a risk-based Protection analysis approach in Somalia, the Protection Cluster is working with PRMN and other initiatives such as the Hard-to-Reach Areas (H2R) led by REACH on integrating the 15 priority protection risks in their data collection and analysis processes. The [protection risks explanatory note](#) has more details about the 15 Protection Cluster and Areas of Responsibility risks.
- The Protection Cluster's Disability Inclusion WG has submitted a questionnaire and indicators on disability to the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) WG. This is to ensure that the agreed-upon centrality of protection principle is followed by making sure that data on disabilities are included in all quantitative and qualitative assessments done by the ICCG and each cluster. Furthermore, the process will also improve the quality of the available disability-related data.
- Protection response is now included in the Somalia Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. This plan is linked to the 2023 HRP and provides an overview of the humanitarian needs that may arise because of a possible conflict, floods, or cholera in Somalia. The plan outlines humanitarian scenarios, activities, and response capacities to meet humanitarian needs over a six-month period from July to December 2023.

Shelter Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster partners reached 79,298 individuals with NFIs and 65,006 individuals with shelter assistance in June. Cumulatively, in 2023, 580,567 individuals, or 41% of the targeted population have received Shelter or NFI assistance from the cluster partners.
- Shelter remains one of the top priority needs of the displaced population. Around 4.9 million people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance in Somalia.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- The CCCM Cluster partners conducted site verification assessments in Kismayo, Dollow, Garowe, Laascaanood, and North Galkayo districts to authenticate existing IDP sites and rule out spurious ones. More than 256 IDP sites with 86,855 HHs (525,884 individuals) were assessed.
- The CCCM Cluster worked closely with local authorities and partners in Banadir and Baidoa to operationalize Area-Based catchments to improve service delivery and the easy allocation of partners to each or multiple catchment areas following the area-based approach strategy.
- The CCCM Cluster conducted a comprehensive two-day CCCM training for the Federal line ministries, Banadir authorities, Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA), Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), and CCCM partners. A total of 27 individuals, including five females, attended the training. The training covered topics on humanitarian principles, GBV, community participation, coordination, and site planning.
- The CCCM Cluster partners scaled up eviction threat prevention activities. The cluster coordinated with authorities, housing, land, and property (HLP) focal points, and partners in Banadir, Baidoa, Kismayo, and Garowe to advocate for over 200 households issued with eviction notices.
- Service monitoring activities were conducted across 1,419 IDP sites covering 32 districts under the administration of 17 partners.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia Operation in 2023 amount to **USD 43 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.

External / Donors Relations

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

United States of America 22.6 million | **CERF** 6.2 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

Private donors Australia 5.3 million | **United States of America** 4.8 million | **Finland** 3.1 million | **Canada** 2.4 million

France | Isle of Man | Luxembourg | Private donors

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

Sweden 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Spain** 30.4 million | **United Kingdom** 28.9 million | **France** 26.7 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Private donors Japan** 21.2 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Republic to Korea** 15.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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the People of Japan

