

# Somalia

1-30 September 2020

In September, the operational environment in Somalia continued to be described by **insecurity**, **political fragility**, heavy **flooding** and the outbreak of **COVID-19**.

Since the beginning of the year, **1,092,000** persons have been internally displaced: 74% due to floods, 18% due to conflict, 7% due to drought and 1% due for other reasons.

In September, UNHCR and partners continued to provide critical **protection** and **assistance** to refugees, asylum-seekers, refugee returnees and IDPs.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

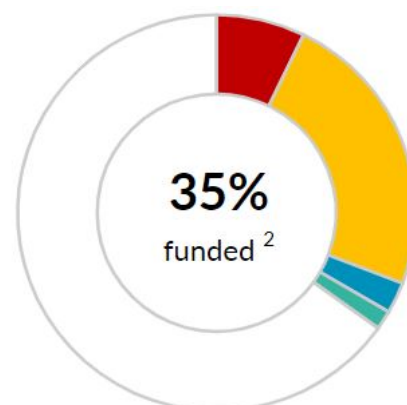


*\*Estimated number of IDPs as at 31 July 2018 (Source: Information Management Working Group)*

## FUNDING (AS OF 29 SEPTEMBER)

# USD 154.4 M

requested for the Somalia operation



Through partner Relief International refugee children in Galkayo are able to go to school. © UNHCR

# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

The operational environment in Somalia remained complex, with multiple drivers of internal displacement, including conflict and insecurity as well as natural disasters such as drought, floods and desert locusts. In addition, the continued outbreak of COVID-19 and associated measures further challenged the work of UNHCR and partners across the country. In this context, UNHCR and partners continued to deliver assistance, including material support to those affected by the floods, hygiene kits to strengthen COVID-19 prevention, as well as protection interventions such as registration and legal assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR continued to lead and co-lead the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters, providing protection and assistance to IDPs across the country. Assistance provided during the reporting period is detailed below.

In September 2020, 194,000 persons were reported newly displaced in Somalia. In the prior month of August, nearly 167,000 flood displacements were reported by PRMN due to floods caused by riverine or heavy rainfall, mostly in Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Belet Weyne (some 28,000) district in Hiraa region. The floods persisted into September, despite the *Hagaa* season, which is usually cool, cloudy and dry, drawing to an end. Conflict and insecurity led to 17,000 new displacements of which 10,000 were due to clan conflict in the Dhuusamarreeb district of Galgaduud region. Insecurity due to military offensives between the Somali National Army and Al Shabab caused new displacement of some 4,000 individuals, particularly in Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba region. Furthermore, an estimated 9,000 individuals were displaced due to drought and lack of livelihood, especially in Sool, Bay, and Bari regions. Close to 3,000 persons were displaced due to lack of livelihood relating to locust invasion, mainly in Sool and Awdal region. A further 2,000 persons were displaced mostly due to relocation and search for access to humanitarian assistance.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Protection Cluster

The achievements of the **Protection Cluster**, led by UNHCR, in September include:

Countrywide consultations with IDPs and host community members to identify concrete recommendations on how to better prevent, respond, and achieve solutions to internal displacement in Somalia were concluded. Specific questions about Covid-19, including information related to prevention, were included in the questionnaire. The consultations were conducted at the request of the Secretariat for the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The findings were shared with the Secretariat to contribute to a global analysis that will be conducted to inform the High-Level Panel members.

The first Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS) Joint Analysis Workshop (JAW) was conducted in Somaliland, to validate the SPMS findings on the root causes and triggers of key protection concerns of displacement affected communities in Hargeisa.

A one-day high-level workshop on Housing, Land and Properties (HLP) rights, including eviction mitigation and prevention, was held in Baidoa by the South West State Eviction Prevention Taskforce with the support of the national HLP AoR. The aim of the forum was to provide guidance to humanitarian actors, duty bearers and affected IDPs, who are implementing response and recovery projects in Baidoa, to ensure those who are affected by or responding to displacement, can identify and address HLP issues.

With support of UNHCR, the Protection Cluster brought onboard an IRC Surge Protection and Solutions Deployee to support the Cluster in enhancing ways to identify and address differential forms of exclusion, including those based on existing clan structures, societal discrimination and power structures, for more effective protection and solutions for affected populations. The Surge Deployee will map marginalized communities, current risks, and occurrence of exclusion to inform a compiled report as well as collect and share lesson learned on access and inclusion, in-line with priority activities outlined in the HCT centrality of protection strategy and action plan.

The Protection Cluster received 1.6 million USD in the second Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) allocation for the flood response. Seven projects were recommended, covering general protection, child protection, SGBV, HLP and explosive hazards.

The Protection Cluster provided a one-day training on protection mainstreaming to Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) partner organizations, both protection and non-protection partners, as a capacity development initiative to inform better programming.

## COVID-19

- No COVID-19 cases among PoCs were detected in September, while in Galkayo 63 refugees and 83 asylum-seekers accessed UNHCR partner-supported primary healthcare for COVID-19 consultations.
- UNHCR covered the cost of three laboratory staff in Hargeisa, in order to strengthen the testing capacity of the supported health centres.
- In September, 2,166 refugees, 281 asylum-seekers and 11 returnees were provided with cash grants. Due to the outbreak of the virus, many families have temporarily lost their income and are in dire need of additional support.
- In Bossaso, 20 community outreach workers continued to raise awareness among the communities on the prevention and response measures to COVID-19. Each staff member is supposed to convey messages to 10 persons per day, resulting in an average of 6,000 persons reached each month.
- In September, 7,449 refugees and 4,850 asylum-seekers received food packages to allow them to meet their basic needs in the time of increased food prices and decreased income. To ensure persons of concern can maintain a sufficient level of hygiene, 156 IDPs and 110 host community members were provided with powder and bar soaps. In addition, hygiene kits were distributed to 326 IDPs and 135 host community members.
- Confinement, often in crowded living spaces, and anxiety has led to increased risk of SGBV and, in particular, domestic violence. To prevent and respond to SGBV, 475 IDPs and 210 host community members were reached via advocacy campaigns and information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns in Galkayo. Furthermore, 732 IDPs and 393 host community members were reached through awareness-raising activities for the prevention and response to SGBV.
- A total of 4,000 disposable face masks were procured and are to be distributed to partners and staff in Baiddoa and Dollow. Additional personal protective equipment is being procured for country-wide use.

## Protection activities

Across Somalia, 323 cases of SGBV were reported, including individuals from the IDP, refugee, asylum-seeker and host communities. All reported SGBV survivors received assistance: 272 survivors were provided with legal assistance, including representation before the court, lawyers, and advocacy for release from custody; 114 individuals received material support, such as food parcels and hygiene/dignity kits; 325 individuals received psychosocial support in the form of counselling. Furthermore, in South Central, 2,344 were reached with combined awareness-raising activities for prevention of SGBV and COVID-19, while in Galkayo 67 IDP and host community members were reached with an awareness campaign on the prevention

of SGBV. In Baidoa, 32 persons were trained on SGBV prevention and response: two members from the GBV Working Group, three members from the Ministry of Women, one from the Ministry of Justice, six university students and 20 Baidoa-based Journalists.

In Bossaso, 12 refugees and 19 asylum-seekers were provided with **legal assistance**, including representation before the court and advocacy. A total of 875 IDPs, refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members were reached with **peaceful coexistence projects** implemented in north Galkayo through a whole of society approach. Discussions on the **resettlement quota and criteria** for 2021 were initiated and remain ongoing.



*IDP community focal points are trained on identification, prevention and response to SGBV in Adado district, Galmadug. © UNHCR*

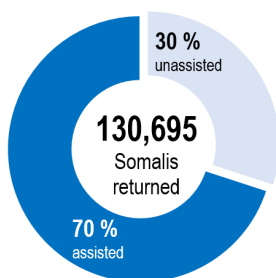
## Registration

- Following completion of the biometric identity management system (BIMS) verification exercise in August, continuous registration activities resumed across the country throughout the reporting period, ensuring refugee and asylum-seeker data is updated and maintained. The Operation continued to implement the Population Registration Identity Management EcoSystem (PRIMES) platform, and the upgrade from proGres version 3 to proGres version 4.
- As of 30 September, UNHCR recorded a total of 22,719 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 10,532 were refugees and 12,187 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers are from Ethiopia (71%) and Yemen (26%). In September, UNHCR registered new arrivals of 38 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 2 new-born babies. All new refugee and asylum-seeker cases were registered with the minimum set of data required.

PoC	Type	Increase in Sep 2020	Cumulative # of individuals
<b>Returnees</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>130,695</b>
<b>RAS</b>	Refugees	35	10,532
	Asylum-seekers	3	12,187
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22,719</b>

### Returnees

- As of 30 September 2020, UNHCR has received a total of **130,695** Somali returnees from 13 countries of asylum. Out of the total 91,828 persons who have repatriated with UNHCR's support, 84,981 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, 773 from Djibouti, 469 from Libya, 143 from Sudan, 34 from Eritrea and 12 from various countries of asylum. Some 38,867 Somalis have returned spontaneously from Yemen, of which **114** returned in September.



### Statelessness

- Somalia is neither a Party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons nor to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. However, subsequent to the High-Level Segment on Statelessness at the ExCom meeting held in October 2019 in Geneva, the Federal Government of Somalia pledged to strengthen the prevention of statelessness and the protection rendered to stateless persons in Somalia through accession to the Statelessness Conventions. Following consultation with the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOI), a Government focal point was brought on board. Between July and September, the focal point has been trained on statelessness through an eLearning programme and is currently continuing with different activities including engaging and raising awareness among the Government officials. The appointment was preceded by the development of Terms of Reference and work plan, and UNHCR has supported the ministry with equipment as well as the focal point with an allowance to enable a smooth coordination and implementation of activities. The work of the focal point includes collection of information, awareness raising within the ministry, analysis of the relevant legislation and mapping of relevant stakeholders to advocate and advance the implementation of the two pledges in Somalia. The collection of information on statelessness in Somalia is also ongoing, and at a later stage will be used for the forthcoming Regional Study on Statelessness and Citizenship in the Horn of Africa.





### Achievements and Impact

- In September, schools across Somalia re-opened after being closed for close to five months. Public campaigning and advocacy, through dramas, role plays, TV presentations and face-to-face awareness-raising in rural areas, took place to encourage families to send their children back to school. Upon return to schools, UNHCR, through INTERSOS, held orientation sessions for students, teachers and other staff to prevent the virus from spreading through mitigation measures such as social distancing, the wearing of masks, and following the guidelines from the Ministry of Health.
- Partners' community workers, community education committees (CECs) and mobilizers have been monitoring and ensuring students have returned to schools.
- Additionally, UNHCR, through SCI, conducted the necessary verification and registration for refugee and asylum-seeker households to receive conditional cash grants through mobile money. Electronic accounts were created for selected beneficiaries in their verified mobile phone numbers, through which the refugees will receive cash grants to cover for scholastic materials.



### HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR supported laboratory staff supported in three healthcare centres in Hargeisa.
- In Bossaso, 506 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with access to primary healthcare, 213 refugees and asylum-seekers with access to secondary healthcare, while 49 individuals were referred to tertiary healthcare.
- In Galkayo, 181 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with access to primary healthcare, 25 with access to secondary healthcare and one asylum-seeker was referred to tertiary healthcare.
- In Mogadishu, 638 PoCs were provided with access to primary health care, while 488 accessed secondary healthcare.



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### Achievements and Impact

- In Hargeisa, food distribution reached 12,702 individuals in September. UNHCR partner, Alight, with the support of both NDRA/UNHCR, distributed food parcels in the six regions of Somaliland targeting the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, aiming to distribute food commodities to the Ethiopian, Syrian

and Yemeni communities who have suffered from the impact that COVID-19 has had on their livelihoods and daily income. Food parcels include the essential cereals, pulses and oil for families to meet their minimum nutritional needs.

*Yemeni refugee women waiting for food distribution at the food distribution site in Somaliland © Hodan Abdi*



## SHELTER AND NFI

### Shelter Cluster

The Somalia Shelter Cluster, led by UNHCR, continued to support people affected by conflict and natural disasters. In September, the Cluster partners reached 14,330 individuals with non-food item (NFI) kits and 28,695 individuals with emergency shelter kits (ESKs). This brings the cumulative total number of people assisted with NFIs by the Shelter Cluster partners to 26% of those targeted in 2020, and those assisted with shelter to 18% of the 1.4 million targeted for shelter support in 2020.

In September, according to a Protection and Return Monitoring Network report, some 167,000 people were displaced due to floods caused by unusually heavy Hagaa rains. In addition, over 10,300 IDPs were evicted in the Dharkenley district following the expiry date of an eviction notice. With low level of stocks nationwide, the Cluster partners are unable to respond to the urgent shelter and NFI assistance needs of evicted and displaced families.

### Achievements and Impact

- In Somaliland, 70 refugee and asylum-seeker women received sanitary kits.
- In South Galkayo, 100 individuals from the IDP and host community were provided with sanitary kits.
- As part of the CBI/ESK flood response in Baidoa, 498 households out of a planned 500 received cash grants and plastic sheets. The remaining households were to be assisted at the beginning of October.

### Flood Response

- As at the end of September, more than 886,000 individuals have been displaced by the *Gu* and *Hagaa* seasonal rains and floods, among whom some 166,647



individuals were displaced in September. The total number of people affected by these floods stands at some 1.6 million. These figures include the close to 342,000 individuals who have been displaced by the protracted Hagaa between July and September, mainly impacting Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states as well as Banadir region, among others. UNHCR has been providing shelter and core relief items (NFIs) such as blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, soap, solar lamp, jerry



*Families affected by the flooding in Gardo received plastic tarpaulin, in addition to NFIs they have received earlier. © UNHCR*

cans and plastic sheets, as well as shelter assistance through cash to thousands of affected families. Shelter and NFI interventions are expected to reach a total of some 70,000 people facing heightened vulnerabilities, including women, female/child headed households, disabled persons, the elderly and ill, and vulnerable members of the hosting community.

- In September, UNHCR continued distributing/transporting humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families, including distributing NFI kits to 1,000 vulnerable households in Afgooye and shelter kits to 2,107 vulnerable households in various location, the vast majority in Beletweyn. In addition, 901 vulnerable households in Qardho received plastic sheets as part of shelter kits. The cash component of the shelter kit to the remaining 420 households will be provided in October. As at the end of September, 8,726 NFI kits (from the plan of total 11,476 kits) have been distributed, while 4,578 shelter kits (from the plan of total 7,000 kits) have been distributed. This vital humanitarian assistance has reached more than a cumulative 52,300 vulnerable IDPs and the distribution of remaining kits will be completed in October.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Community Empowerment

- In Somaliland, community groups were maintained for both refugees and asylum-seekers from the region and other countries in Africa as well as from the Middle East.
- In Mogadishu in September alone, 69 Community Structures were put in place to respond to Non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 activities at IDP Sites monitored by UNHCR and in coordination with other partners.

### Self-reliance and Livelihoods

- In September 2020, 715 beneficiaries received livelihood support in various locations of the country. In Mogadishu, 100 beneficiaries were registered for business development skills training, 70 individuals continued with vocational trainings, such as beauty salon and computer/secretarial skills, and 150 students graduated from a two-month entrepreneurship training. In Baidoa/Dinsor, 80 beneficiaries continued with vocational training skills (in electricity, masonry, tailoring and computing). In Kismayo, 30 students were enrolled for skills training on tailoring and 14 individuals received career counselling at the return support centre (RSC). In Bossaso/Garowe/Qardho, 100 persons with small and medium enterprises continued to be supported, and 50 individuals were enrolled in vocational training skills. In Galkayo, 56 individuals continued with small business enterprises after receiving the first instalment of cash support, 25 individuals were enrolled in vocational training for electrical installation/wiring, and 40 were trained in skills for hair and beauty salons.
- In addition to regular livelihoods activities, in Hargeisa, 35 beneficiaries continued the production of cloth face masks, producing a total of 4,248 masks, of which 2,325 were already sold. Furthermore, 20 former graduates from UNHCR vocational skills training are producing cloth masks in Baidoa and 32 IDPs women in Dollow. The benefit of this project is two-fold: production of face masks allows the participating tailors to gain some much-needed income while the use of masks can prevent the spread of COVID-19 among communities.

## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 53.9 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

#### Earmarked contributions to the Somalia operation in 2020

United States of America 31.3M | CERF 2.8M | Republic of Korea 1.9M | Japan 1.8M | Denmark 1.5M | Germany 1.1M | European Union 0.9M | Sweden 0.5M | UN-Habitat 0.4M | France 0.2M | United Arab Emirates 0.1M

#### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 52.9 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 27.2 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Japan 21 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 12.4 million | Italy 10.6 million | Private donors Sweden 10.5 million

#### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay

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