

Somalia

1-31 August 2017



Returnees from Kenya undertaking vocational training for the last month prior to their successful completion of the training
© UNHCR / Banadir region, August 2017

Highlights

Number of returnees	2,173 Somali refugees returned to Somalia
Core Relief Items	781 CRIs distributed to 576 households (2,180 returnees)
Reinstallation grants	1,091 returnees provided with reinstallation grants
Shelters	285 shelters constructed
Community-based projects	2,570 beneficiaries

Return trends

Country of asylum	1-31 Aug 2017	1 Jan - 31 Aug 2017	2014 - 31 Aug 2017
Kenya	1,883	32,216	72,104
Yemen	259	3,147	32,622
Other	31	291	393
Total	2,173	35,508	105,119

Update on achievements

UNHCR continued with repatriation of Somali refugees. Somali refugees from Kenya and Djibouti were airlifted to Somalia while returnees from Yemen continue arriving by sea.

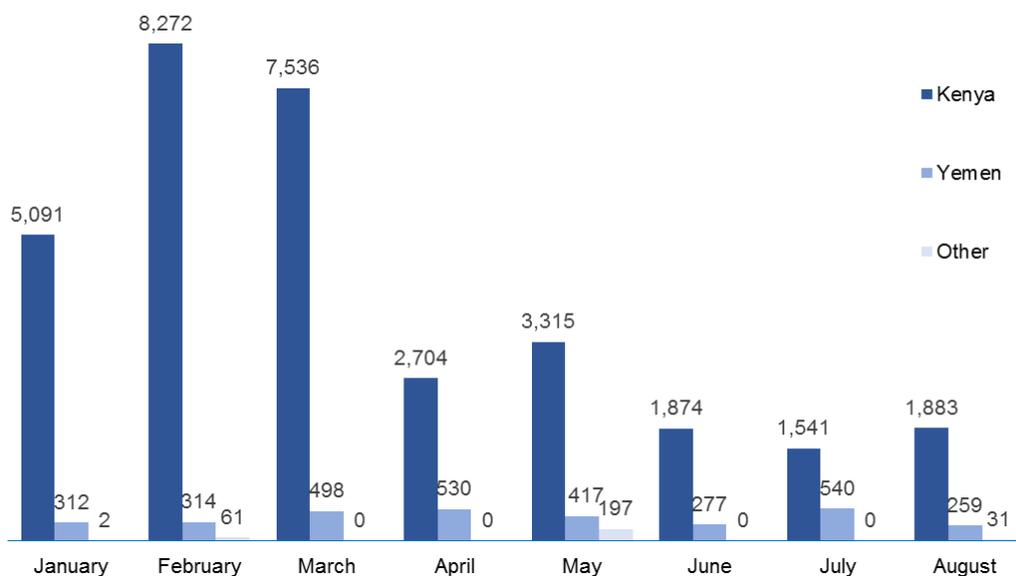
UNHCR in Somalia shared the Country of Origin Information (COI) for the month of July with the help desk in Kenya to enable Somali refugees to make an informed and voluntary decision about their return.

Return figures

Since 2014, a total of 105,119 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia; 72,104 from Kenya, 32,622 from Yemen and 393 from other countries of asylum.

- In August 2017, a total of 2,173 Somali refugees returned to Somalia, 1,883 from Kenya, 259 from Yemen and 31 from Djibouti.
- Since 2014, a total of 105,119 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia; 72,104 from Kenya, 32,622 from Yemen and 393 Somalis returned from other countries of asylum (357 from Djibouti, 33 from Eritrea, two from Tunisia and one from Pakistan).

Return trends by month in 2017



Transit assistance

At the final destinations, returnees are provided with information on assistance available in areas of return, transport options, information on the security situation, mine risk education, accommodation with sanitation facilities, hot meals, drinking water and medical assistance.

- In August, UNHCR provided transit assistance to 1,870 returnees (481 households) at the home way stations; 1,473 returnees (357 households) from Kenya in Lower Juba region, and 366 individuals (115 households) from Kenya and 31 returnees (nine households) from Djibouti in Banadir region.
- UNHCR also provided transit assistance to 230 Somali returnees from Yemen; 208 in Bari region (port in Bossaso) and 22 in Woqooyi Gableed region (port in Berbera).

Core relief items

In August, UNHCR provided 781 kits of core relief items¹ (CRIs) to 576 returnee households (2,180 individuals).

- UNHCR distributed 686 CRIs to 515 households (1,978 returnees) from Kenya, 73 CRIs to 39 households (172 individuals) from Djibouti and 30 CRIs to 22 households (22 returnees) from Yemen.
- UNHCR also distributed conditional cash grants for CRIs in the amount of US\$ 66 per household to 254 households (1,021 individuals) who arrived to Lower Juba region in the end of July.

Education

In August, UNHCR enrolled 1,523 returnee students in the new school year 2017/2018; 1,395 in primary and 128 in secondary education; 1,501 from Kenya and 22 from Yemen.

- Out of 1,501 returnees from Kenya, 765 were enrolled in Lower Juba region and 736 in Banadir region.
- 22 returnees from Yemen were enrolled in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

Cash assistance

- In August, UNHCR provided a one-time reinstallation grant in the amount of US\$ 200 per person to 1,091 returnees (304 households); 1,005 returnees (232 households) from Kenya² and 86 returnees (72 households) from Yemen.
- UNHCR has also distributed subsistence allowance in amount of US\$ 200 per household per month to 5,643 households (27,134 individuals)³; 5,474 returnee households (26,661 individuals) from Kenya and to 169 returnee households (473 individuals) from Yemen.

¹ One CRI kit consists of three blankets, two 10 litres jerry cans, seven boxes of BP-5, three soap bars, three sleeping mats, one plastic sheet, two cooking pots, one large spoon and kitchen knife, five table spoons, plates and metal cups.

² Some returnees arriving near the end of the month will receive their reinstallation grants in the following month.

³ In some cases some of the households were paid at least US\$ 400 for two months to reduce continuous travel to pay points.

Shelter

- In August in Lower Juba region, UNHCR constructed an additional 285 shelters; 195 in Kismayo district and 90 in Afmadow district.
- In 2017, UNHCR has constructed a total of 1,056 shelters and 330 latrines; 1,026 shelters and 230 latrines were built in Lower Juba region and 30 shelters and 100 latrines in Bay region.

Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

In August, UNHCR supported a total of 2,570 beneficiaries (1,672 returnees, 282 IDPs and 616 members of host community) with livelihood projects. Out of 2,570 individuals, 249 were part of cash for work programme, 999 were enrolled in vocational training, 750 in small-business programme, 197 were assisted with self-employment opportunities and 375 in peaceful-coexistence forums.

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure

- In Lower Juba region, UNHCR registered 100 beneficiaries (60 returnees, 20 IDPs and 20 members of the host community) in a cash for work programme. Beneficiaries will clean surroundings of a school, health centre, market, football playground, airstrip and garden around a district.
- In Bay region, UNHCR registered another 62 beneficiaries (43 returnees and 19 members of host community) in a cash for work programme to rehabilitate two primary schools.
- In Lower Juba region, UNHCR continued with rehabilitation of a sports stadium.



Building an athlete running track. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, August 2017

- In Gedo region, UNHCR completed with a cash for work programme for bush-clearance targeting 87 beneficiaries (61 returnees and 26 IDP).

Vocational training

- In Bay region, UNHCR registered 60 beneficiaries (42 returnees and 18 members of host community) in vocational training for carpentry.
- In Woqooyi Galbeed region, UNHCR continued with vocational training for 90 Somali returnees in plumbing, electricity and cooking, and enrolled additional 29 returnees.
- In Lower Juba region, 220 beneficiaries (132 returnees, 44 IDPs and 44 host community) continued with poultry farming.
- In Banadir region, 160 beneficiaries (127 returnees and 33 IDPs) completed with vocational training in computers, tailoring, beauty therapy, catering, mobile repair, handicrafts and mechanics. Out of 160 beneficiaries, 50 individuals enrolled in tailoring received start-up kits⁴ to enable them to establish their business.



Students of a beauty salon class showing their skills to draw a henna to UNHCR partner during a monitoring visit. © UNHCR / Banadir region, August 2017

- In Bay region, 450 beneficiaries (110 returnees, 100 IDPs and 240 members of the host community) harvested crops supported by UNHCR agricultural project earlier in

⁴ One kit consist of sewing needles, sewing machine, measuring tape, marking tools, fabric scissor, all-purpose threads, fabric rolls, safety pins and bobbins.

the year. Each beneficiary collected a minimum of 150 kg of threshed crops from one hectare of land. Collected crops will enable them to ensure food for a household for at least four months. Cereal is the major component of the diet in Somalia.

Small-business programme

- In Nugaal region, 385 returnees from Yemen established their small business after they received a start-up grant: 273 established small trade companies (selling charcoal, vegetables, clothing, meat and sweets), 47 offer various services (in transport and tailoring), 42 established beauty salons and 23 restaurants.
- In Bari region, another 170 Somali returnees from Yemen established their business after they received a start-up grant; 132 established small trade companies (selling charcoal, vegetables, clothing selling, butchery, electrical goods), 13 restaurants, 13 offer various services (in transport, car repair, aluminium work, carpentry and tailoring) and 12 opened beauty salons.
- In Woqooyi Gableed region, UNHCR continued with a small-business programme targeting 145 Somali returnees from Yemen. Out of 145 individuals, two have received a start-up grant to establish their business (two stores). The rest are undergoing a completion of their business plans that will be funded.
- In Lower Juba region, UNHCR selected 50 beneficiaries (30 returnees, 10 IDPs and 10 members of the host community) for a small-business programme. Beneficiaries will receive a training and a start-up kit to establish their business.

Access to self-employment, information and communications technologies

- In Lower Juba region, a total of 118 individuals (61 returnees, 37 IDPs and 20 members of host community) were assisted at the Return Centre with information on available opportunities in the region, education and also had access to psychosocial support. During August 11 beneficiaries (eight returnees and three IDPs) found employment.
- In Woqooyi Galbeed region, 79 individuals (50 returnees and 29 members of host community) visited the Peaceful-Coexistence Centre where they had access to various classes (language and literacy) and access to a library.

Peaceful co-existence

Peaceful coexistence meetings create an awareness amongst different population groups (PGs) (refugees, returnees, IDPs and members of host community) and promote sharing of common community resources and infrastructure. On meetings leaders of PGs, UNHCR staff and governmental counterparts discuss and address issues of conflict and promote durable solutions (reintegration and integration).

- In August two peaceful co-existence meetings were held, one in Woqooyi Galbeed region with 375 individuals (252 returnees and 101 members of host community) and one in Gedo region with 22 individuals (13 members of the host community, five IDPs and four returnees).

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