

Somalia

1-31 March 2018

Political stand-offs, severe drought conditions, small-scale attacks and river **flooding** where main elements impacting the operational context during March.

These drivers limited **access to persons of concern, delayed the delivery of humanitarian assistance** and interrupted monitoring activities.

The seasonal rainfall was predicted to be near average, nonetheless, **humanitarian assistance** is needed to **prevent more extreme outcomes**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

2.25 M

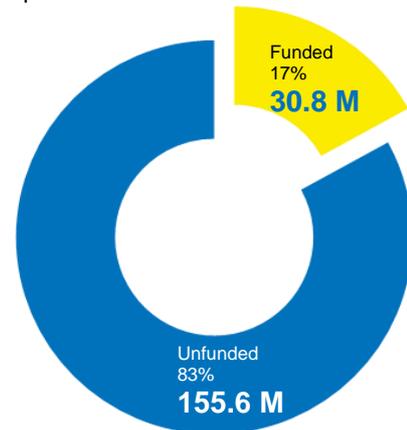


* Estimated internally displaced persons as of January 2018 (Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan).

FUNDING (AS OF 10 APRIL)

USD 186.4 M

requested for Somalia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

- 99 National Staff
- 36 International Staff
- 13 Affiliate Workforce
- 6 IUNV

Offices

- 1 Country Office in Mogadishu
- 3 Sub-Offices in Galkacyo, Hargeysa and Mogadishu
- 1 Field Office in Bossaso
- 5 Field Units in Baidoa, Dhobley, Garoowe, Kismayo and Luuq
- 1 Support Office in Nairobi



Major developments

Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

On 19 March in Nairobi, the UNHCR Representative in Somalia attended an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) meeting to review progress in implementing the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to taking practical steps towards comprehensive response guided by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), underscored the critical role of the Federal Government of Somalia to foster effective coordination between government line ministries and federal states, and to ensure coherence at policy and technical levels in finding solutions for IDPs, returnees and refugees, in line with Somalia's National Development Plan. IGAD Ministers presented their CRRF national roadmaps/national action plans and agreed to finalize them by the end of 2018.

See more: [March 2018 Global on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#)



The UNHCR Representative (left) and Special Envoy (middle) issued the certificate and the start-up kit to the graduate (right) in Hargeysa. © UNHCR/March 2018

During 25-27 March, in Hargeysa, the UNHCR Representative in Somalia and the Special Envoy for the Somali Refugee Situation met with new regional governmental counterparts, the Vice President and the National Agency of Refugees and IDPs to mainstream the CRRF for “Somaliland”, handed over two ambulances to the Ministry of Health, and presented certificates to the trainees who completed their education in 2017.

International Women's Day

On 8 March, UNHCR carried out various events on theme ‘*Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives*’ to celebrate the International Women's Day. Throughout the country UNHCR reached over 7,250 persons with different activities from awareness raising, forum discussion, TV/radio talk, social media campaigns, intra-school debates, to football matches, roundtables and billboards. Through these activities, UNHCR strived to spread messages about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), women participation in politics, leadership, and related topics.

Emergency response

Estimated 5.4 million people continued to be in need of humanitarian assistance due to severe drought conditions, persistent conflict and insecurity. In March, the humanitarian situation has further deteriorated with the early *Gu* rains causing flash and river flooding.

- In March, UNHCR provided life-saving assistance to 23,157 persons in need; 14,255 with water, 6,592 with protection assistance and 2,310 with core relief items (CRIs).¹ In 2018, UNHCR has provided protection assistance to 80,882 persons in need (963,931 since the beginning of the drought in November 2016).

Sector	Assistance	Before 2018	1-31 Mar 18	2018	Cumulatively
Protection	# of persons reached with protection assistance	34,752	6,592	20,953	55,705
Water	# of persons provided with water	511,608	14,255	54,855	566,463
Core relief items	# of persons benefited from CRI	277,730	2,310	5,074	282,804
Health and sanitation	# of persons benefited from health and sanitation	43,313	-	-	43,313
Cash assistance	# of persons benefited from CBI	15,646	-	-	15,646
	Total	883,049	23,157	80,882	963,931

New displacements

Around 88,000 persons were newly displaced during the March (195,000 in 2018) according to reports from the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Majority (73 per cent) of the displacements were reported as being directly related to drought while the remainder were related to conflict or insecurity (23 per cent) and seeking assistance in urban locations (one per cent) due to lack of livelihood outside towns in southern and central Somalia.

Reason of displacement	1-31 March 2018	2018
Drought-related	64,000	121,000
Conflict-related	23,000	72,000
Other reasons	700	3,000
Total	88,000	195,000

More detailed trends on internal displacements are available on online dashboard the [Somalia internal displacement](#)

Evictions

Almost 35,000 persons were reported as newly evicted during March (a number similar to numbers reported in December 2017, January and February 2018). Around 26,500 of these were from IDP sites in Mogadishu while 8,000 IDPs were reported as evicted in Baidoa. The other 1,000 were reported to have been evicted from Kismayo (400) and Hargeysa (100).

IDP returns

IDP returns monitored during March have been negligible at a little over 1,000 primarily within Baidoa district (Bay region). Evictions and IDP returns are not included in the internal displacement figures above.

¹ From 1 to 31 March, UNHCR provided water to 14,255 persons in Lower Juba region; 6,592 persons were reached with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) interventions in Baidoa (4,890 persons), Mogadishu (1,046 persons), Dhobley (510 persons) and Kismayo (146 persons), and 270 CRIs (mattresses, bed covers, pillows and mosquito nets) were distributed to 270 families (1,620 persons) in Baidoa and 115 kits of CRIs were provided to 115 families (690 persons) in Luuq.

Cluster approach

UNHCR Somalia leads the Protection Cluster (PC) and the Shelter and NFIs Cluster (SC) and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

The CCCM cluster, co-lead by UNHCR, continue to roll out the Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) to cover the majority of districts within Somalia. Through the DSA, CCCM cluster members have now assessed service delivery through the DSA at 1,890 sites across 48 districts and 17 regions, reaching around 1.75 million IDPs. This provides the CCCM cluster and its partners with baseline information aiming at enhancing multi-sectoral integrated humanitarian aid delivery together with IDP communities towards active participation, self-reliance and governance.

Protection Cluster

In March, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, reached 49,026 persons; 8,539 with child protection activities; 16,117 with SGBV response; 23,081 with interventions on explosive hazard and 1,298 persons with general protection activities.

- **Gaps:** The Protection Cluster continued providing limited support through existing programmes attributed to financial constraints. Without additional funding many vulnerable persons with specific needs (women, children, and elderly) will be exposed to potential protection risks and will be without access to specialized response services. The presence of mines and explosive remittance of war continued to threaten the lives and livelihoods of civilians, and to compromise the ability of humanitarian actors to safely carry out their duties. There also continue to be constraints related to access (unable to provide protection services, clear roads, etc.).

Shelter and NFI Cluster

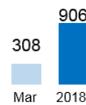
During March, the Shelter and NFIs cluster, led by UNHCR, provided assistance to 85,545 persons; 42,969 persons benefited from emergency non-food items (NFIs), 23,109 from emergency shelter kits, 18,000 persons from permanent shelter and 1,467 from non-food item (978 were provided blankets and 489 plastic sheets).

- **Gaps:** Most of the IDPs are living in crowded settlements, without sufficient access to basic services. With only about half of them having received emergency shelter support, the resulting living conditions are very poor, raising protection and health concerns. Close to half of all 2.1M IDPs remain in need of improved Shelter and NFIs support, for overall improvements to their living conditions and to improve their chances of accessing livelihoods and durable solutions. Finding durable shelter solutions for the displaced remains a challenge, in part due to the high cost of some permanent shelter designs, some of which are the only ones allowed by the State Authorities, and the limited resources available for the interventions identified by the Sector.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

Registration

of registered refugees and asylum-seekers



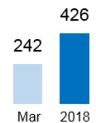
RSD

of persons considered for Refugee Status Determination



Livelihood

of registered refugees and asylum-seekers



Protection

- In March, UNHCR newly registered 308 refugees and asylum-seekers (906 in 2018) amounting to a total of 30,144 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia.
- During March, 580 persons arrived from Yemen; 478 Somalis (272 assisted and 206 spontaneously), and 102 Yemenis. Since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen in March 2015, a total of 43,252 persons arrived to Somalia; 36,497 Somalis, 6,383 Yemenis and 372 others.
- In March, UNHCR conducted interviews with 40 Ethiopian families (160 persons) for Refugee Status Determination (RSD). Further, six Ethiopian families (24 persons) were notified on rejected applications for RSD. In 2018, UNHCR has examined cases of 95 Ethiopian families (302 persons) for RSD.
- UNHCR also provided various protection interventions to 348 refugees and asylum-seekers; 155 were provided access to legal assistance; 139 were reached with SGBV prevention and response; and 54 refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs received special assistance.



New arrivals briefed at the Reception Centre in Berbera on assistance and situation in Somalia (left) and refugees and asylum-seekers in a class on entrepreneurship in Hargeysa (right). © UNHCR/March 2018

Health

- During March, UNHCR provided access to health care services to 3,718 refugees and asylum-seekers; 3,614 to primary and 104 to referrals to secondary and tertiary health treatment.
- In March, UNHCR completed rehabilitation of the Male Surgical Ward at the Berbera Regional Hospital.

Cash assistance

- In March, 1,817 families (5,836 refugees and asylum-seekers) were provided with subsistence allowance or short-term cash assistance to meet their basic needs.

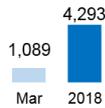
Livelihood

- During March, 242 refugees and asylum-seekers were newly enrolled in livelihood programmes. In 2018, a total of 426 refugees and asylum-seekers were enrolled; 214 in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in literacy, language, accounting, computer, tailoring, cooking, plumbing and electrics and 212 in entrepreneurship.

Somali refugee returnees

Returns

of Somali refugees that have repatriated



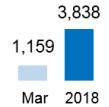
Education

of returnees newly enrolled in education



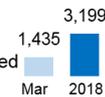
Core relief items

of returnees that benefited from CRIs



CBI

of returnees that received reinstallation grants



Livelihood

of persons enrolled in livelihood projects



Returns

- In March, UNHCR assisted return of 1,089 Somali refugee returnees; 759 from Kenya, 272 from Yemen, 56 from Libya and two from Gambia. Since the beginning of the Voluntary Repatriation in December 2014, 81,030 returnees (4,293 in 2018) have repatriated.

Education

- In March, UNHCR newly enrolled 505 returnee students, 475 in primary and 30 in secondary education. In 2018, 2,767 returnees have already resumed with their education after their return.

Core relief items

- During March, UNHCR distributed 507 kits of CRIs to 424 households (1,159 returnees). So far, 1,785 kits of CRIs were distributed to 1,296 households (3,838 returnees).

Cash assistance

- UNHCR distributed reinstallation grants to 1,435 returnees (544 families) in March 2018, and to a total of 3,199 returnees (1,070 families) that returned this year.



A group of returnees, IDPs and host community members in class on electrics (left) and arrival of Somali refugees at the Border Way Station in Dholebey. © UNHCR/March 2018

Livelihood

- During March, 1,506 persons (877 returnees, 357 IDPs and 272 members of host community) were enrolled in livelihood projects; 300 persons were part of cash-for-work to improve public infrastructure; 744 persons were enrolled in TVET; 170 in entrepreneurship and 292 were provided with assistance on employment opportunities at the support centres. This year, a total of 2,586 persons have already been enrolled in livelihood projects.

Internally displaced persons



IDP women in Dhobley trained on group dynamics, roles and responsibilities to successfully run their future business. ©UNHCR/March 2018

House, land and property

- In March, UNHCR held a workshop with 45 participants from host community and regional authorities on the draft Land Dispute Tribunal Act of the State of Puntland.

SGBV

- During March, 472 IDPs were provided with SGBV interventions (4,909 in 2018), including the provision of medical, psychosocial, legal and material support to SGBV survivors and raising awareness on SGBV.



UNHCR handing over an ambulance vehicle to the Dhobley General Hospital (left) and IDP women sharing challenges and needs in IDP camps in Hargeysa (right). © UNHCR/March 2018

Health

- On 29 March, UNHCR handed over an ambulance vehicle to the Dhobley General Hospital. The General Hospital will use the vehicle to assist around 14,000 households in Afmadow district.

Livelihood

- During March, 240 IDPs were engaged in livelihood projects; 200 IDPs started with trainings on entrepreneurship and 40 IDPs started with TVET in tailoring and electrical installation.

External / Donor relations

Donor(s) who have contributed directly to the Somalia operation

United States of America | Qatar Charity | European Union | Japan | UN-Habitat | Italy | Sweden | UN Peacebuilding Fund

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds

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