

SOMALIA NEWSLETTER

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Supporting self-reliance and reintegration

UNHCR provides livelihood initiatives and infrastructure development to vulnerable families. In the first half of 2018, UNHCR provided livelihood opportunities to over 3,500 people and rehabilitated 36 public buildings with the help of returnees, IDPs and members of the host community.



Technical vocational and educational training on carpentry in Baidoa for Somali returnees, IDPs and members of the host community. © UNHCR/March 2018

Enhanced livelihood and community support

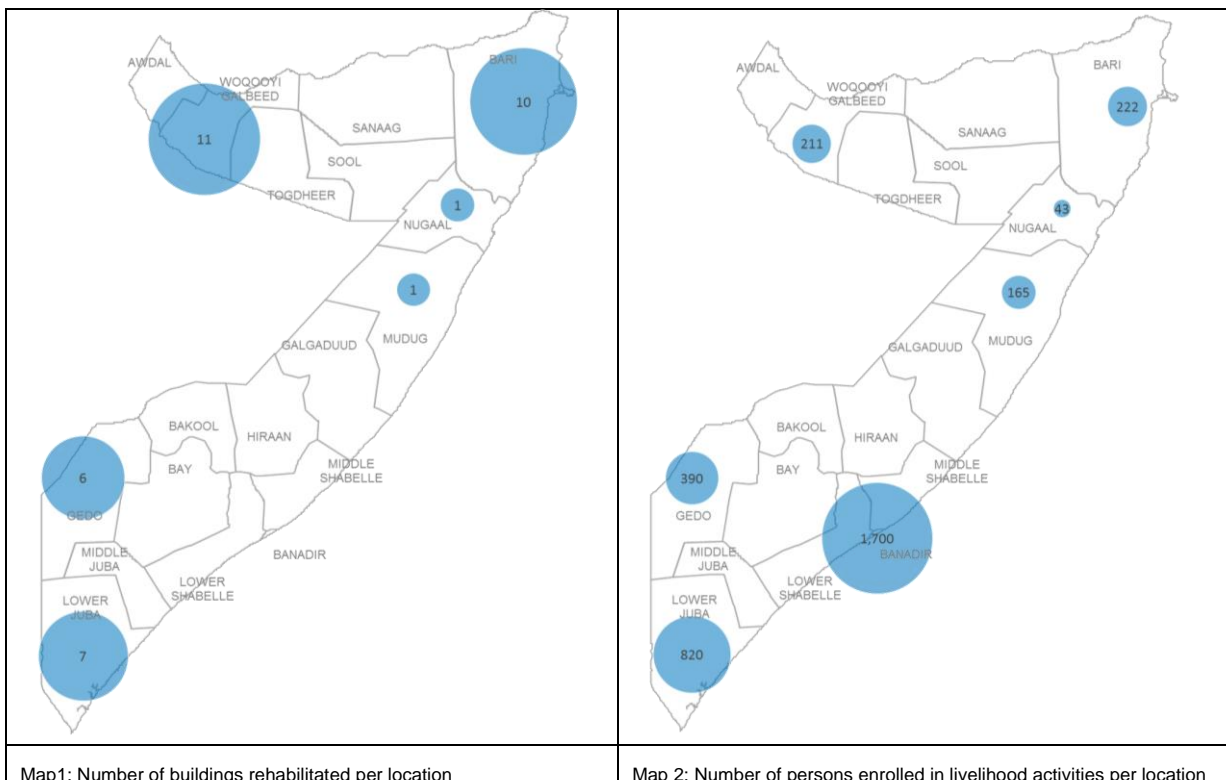
Somalia is characterised by instability, food insecurity, natural hazards and limited livelihood opportunities. As part of its interventions, UNHCR provides livelihood initiatives to vulnerable families. In the first half of 2018, UNHCR provided livelihood opportunities to over 3,500 people and with their help rehabilitated 36 public buildings.

Livelihood opportunities for 3,500 persons

Between January and June 2018, UNHCR enrolled 3,551 people in 27 livelihood activities in nine locations across Somalia. These persons included 1,568 returnees, 978 IDPs, 533 refugees and asylum-seekers and 472 members of the host community and the activities took place in: Afmadow (100), Baidoa (390), Bossaso (222), Dhobley (200), Galkayo (165), Garowe (43), Hargeysa (211), Kismayo (520) and Mogadishu (1,700). The activities include: Technical and Vocational Trainings, Income Generating Activities through rehabilitation of public infrastructure (Cash-for-Work) and training on entrepreneurship (Small-business Enterprise).

Rehabilitation of 36 public buildings

UNHCR is rehabilitating 36 public premises across seven locations in Afmadow, Baidoa, Bossaso, Galkayo, Garowe, Kismayo and Hargeysa. They include 27 schools, five police stations, two community centres, a firefighting station and a market centre.



Aligning Livelihood Activities with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

The activities of UNHCR Somalia are in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as they aim to enhance refugee self-reliance by supporting viable livelihood activities at the household and community level.

Livelihood activities supported at the household level include a) small scale businesses, entrepreneurial skills training and inputs provision, b) vocational skills training and start-up kits, c) agriculture inputs-training, seeds and tools provision, etc.). Activities at the community level include rehabilitation of public infrastructure projects such as community roads, markets, schools, hospitals, etc. – using the cash for work approach.

Vulnerability Based Targeting Criteria:

UNHCR Somalia has a two-tier targeting approach that **first** assesses the **vulnerability** of households based on five major socio-economic strands at the household level. They include: a) head of household characteristics b) household poverty situation c) disaster (and or displacement) impact on household d) household member description e) protection cases in the household. Selected households are **then** vetted on their **willingness and ability/ capability** (skills, knowledge, interest, age, etc.) to get enrolled on various livelihood activities as reflected by the Labour Market Surveys (LMS) of the particular area.

UNHCR has a “50-40-10” targeting approach broken down as follows: Returnees (50 percent), Internally Displaced People or IDPs (40 percent) and members of the Host Community (10 percent). The targeting approach serves to reduce the potential for conflict between different groups and contributes to enhancing local acceptance thereby promoting local reintegration.

Group Businesses model:

Livelihoods Programming in Somalia promotes a “group business approach” for PoCs in which targeted beneficiary households operate in groups of 5–20 families. This concept provides beneficiaries with an opportunity to: participate in other activities outside of their business while they are off-duty and, pool together resources (skills, knowledge, experiences, equipment, bargaining power, etc.) for improved business performance (growth and incomes). Improved business performance consequently trickles down, in form of improved income and well-being, at the household level.

Partnerships:

In Bossaso, Puntland, UNHCR is collaborating with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the fisheries sector in order to improve the ability of families to make an income in the fishing industry. FAO has trained two trainer of trainers (ToTs) in fisheries who will in turn train future fisheries beneficiaries. In Mogadishu, UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Fisheries to support 50 youths and women to gain fishing skills and inputs. UNHCR continues to explore strategic partnerships and is keen to support local business (individuals and groups) that are working in partnership with refugees. Such partnerships serve to promote local integration, while reducing stigma, victimization and harassment of refugees by the local population.

In Mogadishu, UNHCR is working together with a social business enterprise (private sector), the HANO Academy, to train youths and women on marketable, short-term vocational skills. This breakthrough will provide learning opportunity for many Public Private Partnerships, (PPP) in the medium to long term. Similar partnerships with the private sector are also explored in Hargeisa, Somaliland in order to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for beneficiaries.

Peaceful Coexistence Initiatives:

To promote peaceful coexistence, livelihood projects take into account the need for broad participation by all target groups as reflected in the targeting criteria. Community based projects (CBP) are preferred over household level individual support because the former not only offer short-term employment for beneficiaries, but also contribute to the whole community through the creation of productive assets such as roads, health facilities, school facilities, community clean up campaigns, etc. The close interaction between beneficiary groups (IDPs, Returnees, HC) promotes peaceful coexistence and (re-)integration.

Our beneficiaries



Habiba Ahmed Ali can now meet the basic needs of her large family-thanks to the proceeds from her small restaurant and tailoring business. A year ago, the 46-year-old married mother of eight had just but given up.

Her luck changed in June August 2017 when UNHCR through implementing partner COOPI enrolled her and scores of other individuals from vulnerable families in a three-month Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Mogadishu. The three-month course equipped her with a business and handcraft skills. Habiba and other trainees were also supported with a \$500 cash grants as start-up capital.

With the cash grant, she was able to buy a sewing machine and open a small restaurant and a stall where she could display and sell traditional attires.

“Before UNHCR came to my aid I did not have any support from friends and family. I was even contemplating going back to Kenya”, says the mother of eight who returned home to Somalia in 2016 from neighbouring Kenya where she had sought refuge for eight years.

“I chose to learn handcraft because I wanted to learn more about my culture. I liked sewing mats the most”, she adds.

Although relatively new, her small business, which opened its doors in January 2018 is already picking up. Located in Dharkenlay district, Mogadishu, it attracts a wide range of clientele including members of the host community, returnees and internally displaced people (IDPs).

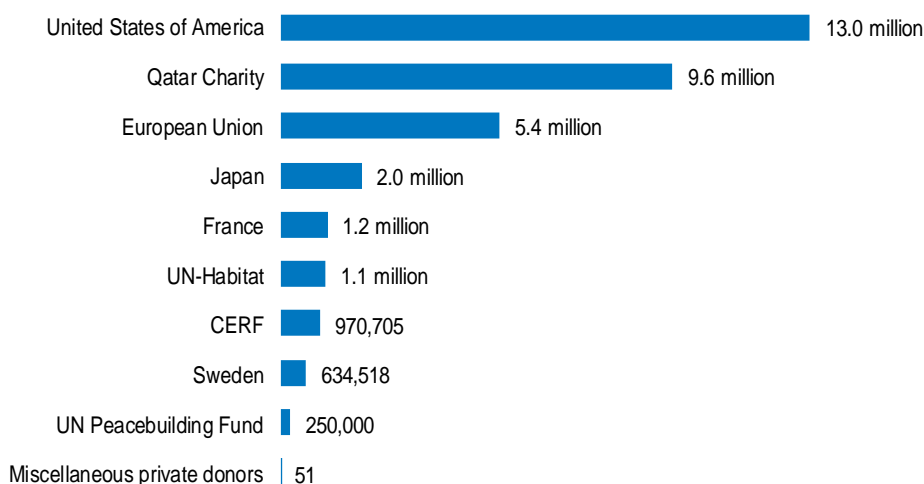
“I am grateful to UNHCR for enabling me to be self-sufficient. Before the support, I had no confidence but I now know I can do something for myself. The living standard for my family has also improved. I am able to provide for their basic needs and for education and healthcare. I would urge other refugees to return back to Somalia so that they can improve their lives” she says.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 34.1 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 broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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