

# SOMALIA

1-31 May 2020

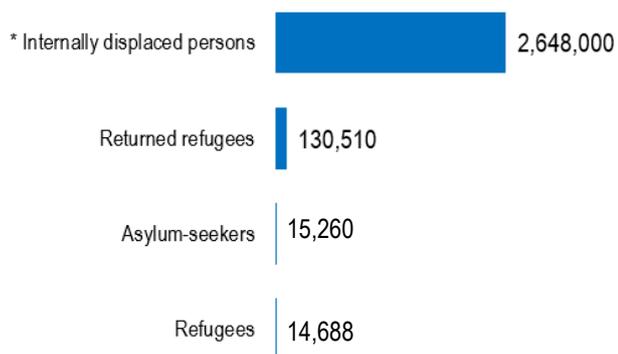
Persons in Somalia faced a triple crisis through May of **COVID-19**, riverine and flash **flooding** caused by *Gu* rains, and infestation of **desert locusts** all of which were compounded by ongoing armed conflict.

Around **2.8 million persons** of concern, particularly 2.6 million IDPs **remain the most vulnerable**, many of whom have not recovered or restored their livelihood from the 2019 *Deyr* floods.

Devastating consequences of floods, possible outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in IDP settlements, and infestation of desert locusts may further **deteriorate the living conditions** of persons of concern and **cause new internal displacements**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

A total of **2.8 million** persons of concern

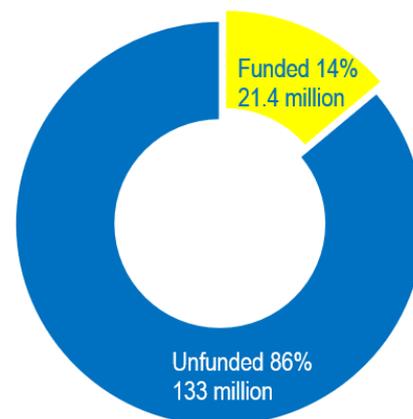


\* Estimated internally displaced persons as of 31 July 2018  
(Source: Information Management Working Group)

## FUNDING (AS AT 10 JUNE)

**USD 154.4 million**

requested for the Somalia situation



A family in Baidoa received core relief items to mitigate COVID-19 impact.



## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Throughout May, UNHCR continued providing protection, assistance and support to refugees and asylum-seekers with registration and documentation, education, health care, livelihood and self-reliance, cash-based interventions, provision of core relief items, legal support, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response, peaceful coexistence and community-based protection.

- **Registration:** As of 31 May, UNHCR recorded a total of 29,948 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 15,260 were asylum-seekers and 14,688 refugees. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived from Ethiopia (64 per cent) and Yemen (34 per cent). In May, there were no newly registered refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Access to territory:** Somalia remained under lockdown throughout May with closures at land borders, seaports and airspace. UNHCR remains vigilant in supporting the Government in upholding international human rights and refugee protection standards with regards to persons seeking asylum and refuge.
- **Education:** Most students have completed their 2019/20 study year and will resume education in August 2020 by entering the new study year. In the meantime, UNHCR started exploring ways to support distance learning such as TV educational materials, broadcasting educational materials and using on-line classrooms.
- **Health:** UNHCR continued supporting the public national health system to mitigate the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing personal protective equipment to hospitals and their medical staff, donation of containers to the government for isolation centres, raising awareness among refugees and asylum-seekers about COVID-19 prevention and distribution of hygiene kits.
- **Basic needs:** During May, UNHCR recorded an increase in complaints by refugees and asylum-seekers expressing concern over difficulty meeting their basic needs mainly food and paying rent. Most of them have lost their daily employment, which represent for the vast majority the only income for a household. In May, over 8,000 refugees and asylum-seekers (27 per cent of the caseload) have received either their monthly allowance or one-time emergency cash assistance.
- **Access to water:** In Kismayo, UNHCR handed over to the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water three boreholes, with installed solar panels to generate electricity for water pumps, generator with control rooms, water kiosks with elevation of water tanks, fence and pipes. Constructed boreholes will enable Jubland to provide water to the integrated settlement comprised of IDPs, Somali refugee returnees and the host community in Madina and Midnimo villages.

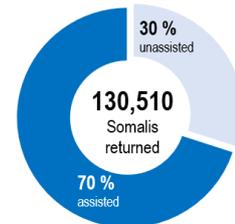


## REFUGEE RETURNEES

In December 2014 UNHCR started assisting repatriate Somali refugees who sought refuge outside Somalia. After the beginning of the crisis in Yemen in March 2015, thousands of Somali refugees in Yemen returned to Somalia on their own, outside UNHCR's programme. Approximately 760,000 Somalis are still displaced outside Somalia, most of them sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen.

- Returns:** As of 31 May, 130,510 Somali returnees from 13 countries of asylum: 91,821 have been repatriated with UNHCR support, while 38,689 Somalis returned on their own. There has been no repatriation, assisted or unassisted, of Somali refugees in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic movement restrictions.

TYPE OF RETURN	BEFORE 2020	MAY 2020	2020	TOTAL
ASSISTED RETURN	91,539	0	331	91,821
UNASSISTED RETURN	38,430	0	259	38,689
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,920</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>130,510</b>



- Cross-border meeting:** On 12 May, UNHCR Somalia and Kenya held a cross-border meeting on repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya and reviewed the “Updated Strategy for Voluntary Repatriation of Somali Refugees from Kenya to Somalia and their Reintegration” for the period from 2020-22. Since the beginning of repatriation from Kenya, 84,974 Somali refugees returned home. As at 30 April, 265,844 Somalis refugees live in Kenya, of whom the majority (209,306) are living in Dadaab in a protracted refugee situation for nearly three decades. Before the launch of the repatriation programme, the population of Somali refugees in Kenya had reached nearly 460,000.
- Livelihood:** In May, 180 persons have received livelihood support. In Mogadishu, 100 persons continued with vocational training in entrepreneurship using distance learning in financial literacy, bookkeeping, leadership and good governance and resource mobilization. In Hargeisa, 50 persons continued with a vocation training on tailoring, plumbing and electricity while 10 were enrolled in an entrepreneurship class. In Baidoa, 10 women enrolled in entrepreneurship training received a small-business grant to establish their own retail shop. In Kismayo, 10 persons part of entrepreneurship training received two mini-trucks to supply with water two IDP settlements in Kismayo and generate income.
- Women Centre:** The team in Dolow handed over to the District Social Affairs the newly constructed Women Centre. The Women Centre serves as a safe house for women and a place where women receive support to combat SGBV including counselling, legal support, livelihood support. This year, over 18,000 SGBV survivors have been supported by the Protection Cluster. Restrictive measures imposed by the Governments to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 intensified the risk of domestic violence.



## INTERNALLY DISPLACED SOMALIS

**Recurring climate shocks (droughts and floods) and decades of armed and inter-clan conflicts has resulted in 2.6 million** Somalis displaced internally and living in 2,000 overcrowded settlements. Assistance to internally displaced persons in Somalia is provided through clusters. UNHCR leads the Protection cluster and Shelter/NFIs cluster and co-leads the Camp coordination and camp management cluster.

- **Revised 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan:** The Humanitarian Country Team in Somalia revised the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan based on three major changes occurred in the humanitarian context in Somalia that have had significant impact on humanitarian needs: impact of COVID-19 outbreak, desert locust upsurge and the *Gu* season which resulted in flash and riverine flooding. The revised number of persons in need in Somalia has slightly decreased from 5.2 million to 5.1 million, out of whom 1.4 million are IDPs. UNHCR Somalia's revised plan require US\$ 104 million to provide humanitarian assistance to 2.8 persons of concern to UNHCR.
- **New displacements:** The provisional reports by PRMN indicate that 232,000 persons were newly displaced in May: 214,000 persons due to floods; 8,000 persons due to conflict; 8,000 persons were displaced due to drought or lack of livelihoods and 2,000 persons due to lack of access to humanitarian assistance. In 2020, 684,000 persons were internally displaced: 497,000 persons (73 per cent) due to flood; 134,000 persons (20 per cent) due to conflict; 45,000 persons (six per cent) due to drought; 8,000 persons (one per cent) due to other reasons.
- **Camp coordination and camp management cluster ([link](#)):** In May, the CCCM cluster, co-lead by UNHCR, reached 871 IDP settlements (out of 2,390), covering over one million persons, with information about COVID-19. A total of 277 flood risk IDP sites were mapped and a total of 117,862 persons informed on how to mitigate flooding within their respective communities.
- **Shelter and NFI's cluster ([link](#)):** In May, the Shelter and NFI's cluster, led by UNHCR, reached 38,835 persons with NFI kits; 46,830 persons with emergency shelter kits; and 3,582 persons with transitional shelter. This brings the cumulative number of persons assisted with NFI to 16 per cent out of 1.3 million targeted, and those assisted with shelter to 14 per cent of the 1.4 million targeted. **Identified needs and remaining gaps:** It is estimated that 2.2 million IDPs are in need of shelter and NFI assistance; over 98,000 IDPs live in 237 high risk IDP sites for transmission of COVID-19; over 900,000 persons have been affected of whom 412,000 displaced by floods. The cluster targets 400,000 persons with shelter and NFI assistance.
- **Durable solutions:** Almost 1,000 displaced persons have moved in their newly constructed transitional shelters in Berbera. UNHCR and the Municipality of Berbera will start with the construction of another 144 shelters bringing the total to 300. The Municipality allocated land for construction of the houses and provided land title deeds. Around 1,800 persons (80 per cent IDPs and 20 per cent of the host community) will benefit from transitional shelters. This is the first step of their local integration.

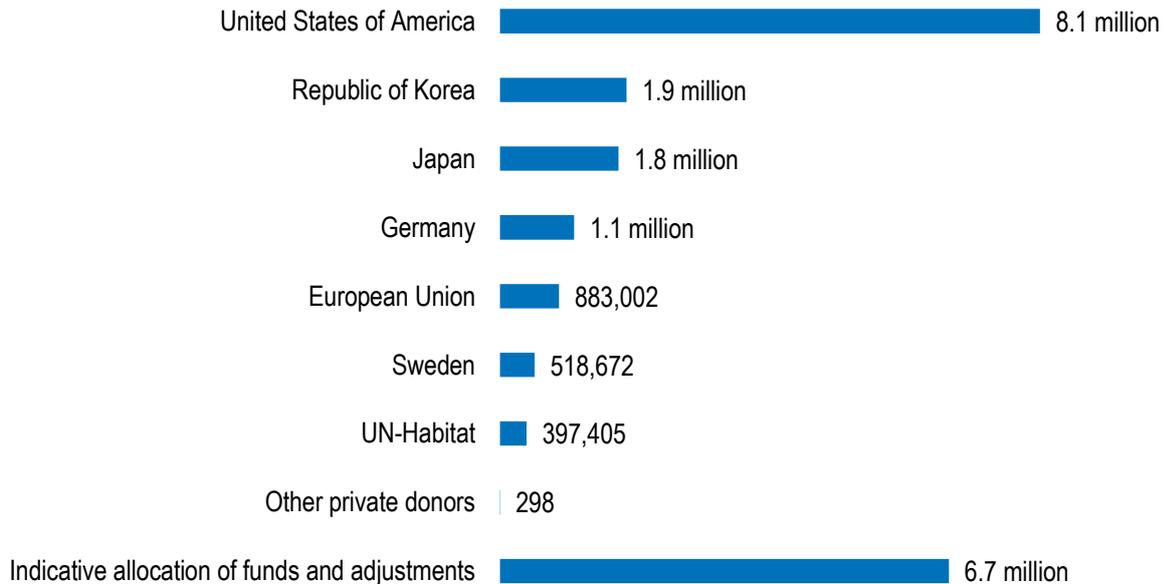


## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is extremely grateful for the crucial support provided by donors contributing to the Somalia Operation or, more broadly, global UNHCR programmes.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SOMALIA OPERATION | USD

Earmarked contributions for the Somalia Operation amount to some **US\$ 21.4 million**.



### BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special gratitude is extended to the following major donors for contributions that may potentially be used in the Somalia Operation given their earmarking to a related situation, theme, region, or sub-region:

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### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special gratitude is also extended to the following major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR:

Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Spain 33.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.3 million | Switzerland 16.4 million

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## LINKS

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