

Somalia

Main Objectives

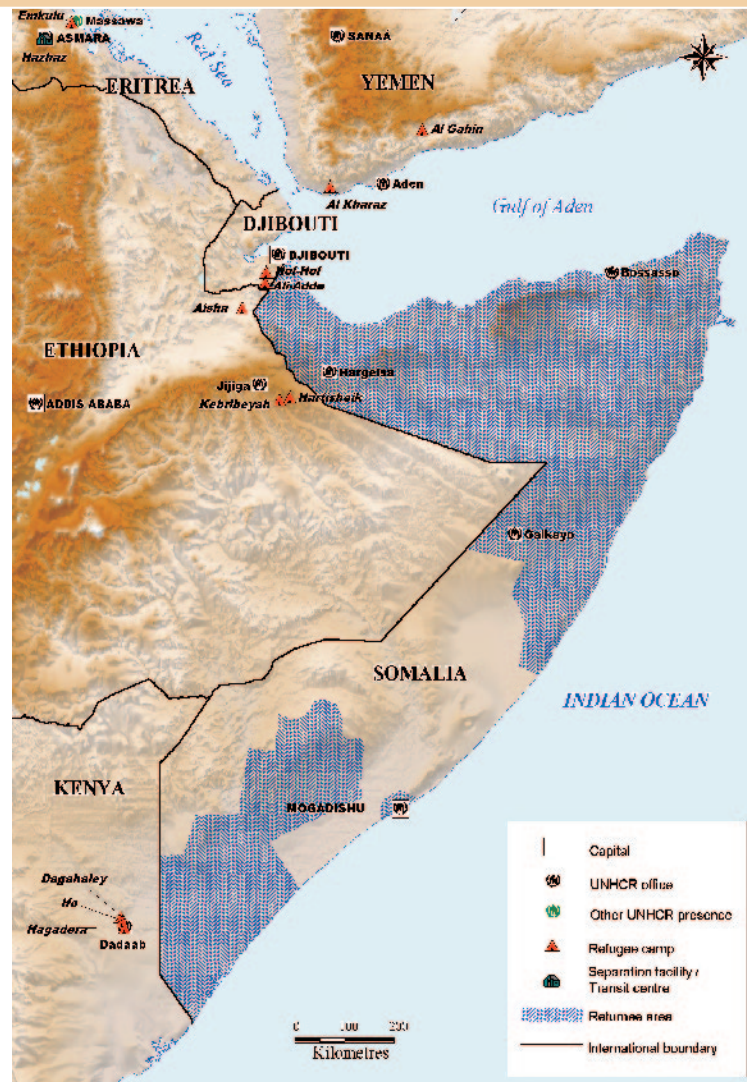
- Attain durable solutions through voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to the north of the country, while working with all concerned parties to foster reintegration and allow for the eventual phase-down of UNHCR operations in these areas.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of individuals wishing to return to southern Somalia.
- Provide international protection and life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers, while pursuing durable solutions for them.

Working Environment

Recent Developments

Despite renewed international interest in the peace process in Somalia and intensified national reconciliation efforts, recent months have seen an escalation of violence in large parts of the country as leaders and alliances attempt to consolidate or increase their influence prior to further talks. As a result, humanitarian operations in affected areas had to be temporarily suspended or scaled down, thus adding to the suffering of tens of thousands of Somalis, already severely affected by years of displacement, drought, lack of access to even the most basic social services and all the debilitating effects of poverty (aggravated by a ban on live-stock exports to some key markets).

In “Somaliland” (Northwest Somalia), peace and stability prevailed despite mounting economic pressures, diminished government revenues and a change of leadership in May 2002. In general, the environment continued to favour humanitarian and development activities, including repatriation from Ethiopia and Djibouti.



In “Puntland” (Northeast Somalia), renewed conflict, particularly south of Bosaso, caused substantial civilian casualties in July 2002. Although international UN and NGO staff had to be temporarily evacuated, the international community continues its dialogue with the “Puntland” authorities to discuss future cooperation. Meanwhile, programmes continue at a moderate level.

Planning Figures

	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Population		
Returnees	50,000	73,000
Refugees	250	250
Total	50,250	73,250

Total Requirements: USD 5,777,228

The Mogadishu-based Transitional National Government (TNG) has failed to expand its authority beyond parts of the capital, and in the southern and central parts of Somalia violence continues. This has led to fresh waves of internal displacement as well as an influx of 3,600 refugees into Kenya. Nevertheless, humanitarian programmes including UNHCR reintegration activities continue where possible.

Voluntary repatriation to Northwest Somalia is continuing and it is expected that the 2002 targets of 35,000 returns from Ethiopia and 5,000 from Djibouti will be met. The repatriation, by air, of Somali refugees wishing to return from Kenya has thus far been limited to 220 in 2002 but is set to continue subject to the availability of funds. Repatriation to the Northeast of the country was hampered by insecurity in "Puntland" as well as a shortage of funding for the airlift. However, reintegration projects for previously returned Somalis in the northeast continue.

Authorities in the northern parts of Somalia have accepted the refugees' right to return and are committed to the protection and assistance of returnees, despite the considerable burden this places on the local economy and communal infrastructure. Many returnees lack the necessary education and skills to compete for scarce jobs or engage in other income-generating activities. They tend to settle alongside IDPs and other vulnerable groups on the outskirts of already overcrowded urban centres, in the hope of gaining access to better public services and employment opportunities. Yet most of them find it difficult to make a living and are often forced to live in harsher conditions than in the refugee camps they left.

Constraints

As access to Northeast Somalia is still limited, only some modest reintegration projects can be carried out, implemented by an international NGO and monitored by UNHCR national staff in Bosasso and Galkayo.

In spite of the peace efforts undertaken by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to find a solution to the 'Somalia Problem', fighting resumed in several parts of southern Somalia, notably in (Baidoa, Gedo Region and Kismayo). In

addition, numerous kidnappings of UN personnel occurred in Mogadishu. Hence, as prospects for recovery and subsequent repatriation to southern Somalia remain bleak, UNHCR will only carry out limited activities in these areas in 2003.

Even where UNHCR is able to operate, the limited local capacity to undertake medium and long-term planning activities may affect the sustainability of UNHCR interventions. Weak local economies, suffering from the continued ban on livestock exports, recurring drought and the closure of the most important remittance bank, stand in the way of effective economic reintegration. An inter-agency approach to sustainable reintegration is essential to bring tangible results and allow UNHCR to phase down its activities.

Strategy

To tackle the difficulties described, the international community has come together under the leadership of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator to take action above and beyond humanitarian intervention to foster sustainable reintegration and consequently, peace building.

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR will continue to assist Somali refugees to exercise their right to return home by promoting and organising voluntary repatriation from neighbouring countries to safe and stable parts of Somalia. It will also, upon request, facilitate the return of individuals wishing to return to areas deemed less safe. It is estimated that 23,000 refugees will return to "Somaliland" in the course of the year, mainly from Ethiopia and Djibouti. Movement could also occur from Kenya and Yemen in the event of positive political developments in northeastern and southern Somalia.

Through its returnee monitoring system and advocacy with Somali officials, leaders and civil society, UNHCR will promote the restoration of national protection to returnees, including respect for their physical, legal and material safety. Staff will closely monitor security conditions throughout the country and collect pertinent information for dissemination to countries hosting Somali refugees.



School in Bossasso built with UNHCR's assistance.
UNHCR / P. Kessler

Some 250 urban refugees in "Somaliland" will continue to benefit from international protection and assistance, while durable solutions including third country resettlement or voluntary repatriation are being explored.

Assistance

The main beneficiaries of the 2003 Somalia programme will be returnees who repatriated in 2002 or refugees who are expected to repatriate in 2003. UNHCR will assist the reintegration of returnees through community-based projects aimed at boosting local absorption capacity and fostering refugees' self-reliance. The focus will be on the development of vital social services and economic opportunities in areas with large numbers of returnees. Particular attention will be paid to the specific needs of women, children, adolescents and the elderly. Efforts will also be made to address environmental concerns such as soil erosion resulting from deforestation caused by over-grazing and charcoal-making.

UNHCR's interventions will increasingly be geared towards strengthening a concerted exit strategy. Joint action will be taken with development partners to consolidate, evaluate and revisit UNHCR Quick Impact Projects and assess their sustainability. Co-operation between UNHCR and UNDP is now well underway in the joint programme for reintegration of returnees and IDPs (RRIDP). The

programme is likely to play a pivotal role in the quest for a smooth transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development; it will thereby eventually help UNHCR to disengage from reintegration activities in north-west Somalia. UNHCR will work very closely with various development agencies and donors, ensuring that successful reintegration of refugees remains a primary goal.

Desired Impact

Refugees in Somalia enjoy international protection and receive assistance to sustain themselves, while durable solutions are sought (and implemented whenever possible).

Efforts to bring about durable solutions for Somali refugees are expected to result in 23,000 Somalis repatriating voluntarily from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and other countries.

Community-based reintegration activities will help expand the capacity of local communities to receive returning refugees, IDPs, demobilised militia and other vulnerable groups, and provide better opportunities for women.

Based on close co-operation between UNHCR, UN sister agencies and local and international NGOs, a system of enhanced returnee monitoring will help ensure improved protection and respect for the basic human rights of returnees, IDPs and demobilised militia. It will also promote better governance in the communities and generate more substantial information for use by all partners engaged in reintegration efforts.

Subject to the successful reintegration of returnees and IDPs, UNHCR hopes to be able to phase out its operations, especially in Northwest Somalia, by the end of 2004.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

UNHCR operations in Somalia and in countries hosting Somali refugees will be coordinated through close dialogue between relevant UNHCR

country offices. The country office for Somalia – based in Nairobi, Kenya – will co-ordinate and oversee all UNHCR operations in Somalia. Whereas the office in Hargeisa (“Somaliland”) is to support the repatriation and reintegration programme for Somali returnees from camps in Djibouti and eastern Ethiopia, UNHCR will also maintain field offices in Bosasso, Galkayo and Mogadishu. In total, the operation will be managed by 44 staff members (32 national and 12 international including five UNVs). The United Nations Volunteers will undertake critical needs assessments and programme evaluations in addition to providing technical support.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to actively participate in the Nairobi-based Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body

Offices
Nairobi (Kenya)
Hargeisa
Mogadishu
Bosasso
Galkayo

Partners
Government Agencies
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (Northwest Somalia)
Ministry for Diaspora and Refugees (Mogadishu)
Ministry of International Co-operation and Planning (Northeast Somalia)
Various Line Ministries and TNG Authorities in Southern Somalia
NGOs
Community Concerns
Bani 'Adam
Save Somalia Women and Children
Agricultural Development Organisation
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
Doses of Hope Foundation
International Rescue Committee
OXFAM (UK)
Save the Children Fund (USA)
Norwegian People's Aid
VetAid (UK)
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(SACB) involving UN agencies, donors and NGOs. Through the SACB, a wide range of innovative actions have been initiated, aimed at strengthening field co-ordination mechanisms and inter-agency planning.

The heads of UN agencies for Somalia will continue to set policy directions during regular meetings of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Security Management Team for Somalia, both of which are based in Nairobi. Greater synergies between agency programmes will also be achieved through the UN Consolidated Appeal Process and the UN Joint Action Recovery Plan, both of which focus on protection and reintegration issues. The common UN security system will continue to ensure compliance with Minimum Operating Security Standards. UNHCR will furthermore remain a member of the board of the United Nations Common Air Services, to ensure that the travel arrangements for staff (including security or medical evacuation) meet the requirements of the Office.

To meet its objectives in the field, UNHCR will continue to work closely with relevant government authorities, local and international NGOs, as well as with local contractors and the beneficiary population itself.

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,877,415
Community Services	106,750
Crop Production	130,000
Domestic Needs	55,150
Education	485,000
Fisheries	50,000
Health	366,000
Income Generation	200,000
Legal Assistance	33,000
Livestock	100,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	401,900
Sanitation	195,000
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	9,000
Transport / Logistics	400,000
Water	760,000
Total Operations	5,169,215
Programme Support	608,013
Total	5,777,228