

# Somalia

## Main Objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to northern Somalia and assist with their reintegration.
- 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

The authorities in "Somaliland" (north-west Somalia) and "Puntland" (north-east Somalia) have continued to exercise control over their regions and largely succeed in maintaining law and order, and creating the other pre-conditions for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees and their reintegration. Since the National Transitional Government (TNG) was established in 2000, the reconciliation process has continued, albeit with limited results. Efforts are continuing to achieve reconciliation with groups opposed to the TNG. The authorities in "Somaliland" agreed after some negotiations to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Djibouti. This agreement was followed by the recent decision by the Government of Djibouti to reopen their common border for the movement of people. These developments have heightened the prospects of achieving a durable solution for the refugees in Djibouti.

In Kenya, over 3,400 refugees have already in 2001 indicated their readiness to voluntarily repatriate to northern Somalia. However, while all efforts are being made to repatriate those over 300 of them who wish to return to "Somaliland", repatriation to "Puntland" was not achieved in 2001, due to political uncertainties in "Puntland". It is hoped that once these issues resolved, UNHCR will be able to help these refugees to return if resources are available.

The situation in southern Somalia remained hostile to the promotion of voluntary repatriation. While fighting was witnessed during 2001 between clans, the failure of the main rains adversely threatened the lives of people and animals in Bay,



### PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Returnees	60,000 <sup>1</sup>	110,000
Refugees	200	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,200</b>	<b>110,200</b>

<sup>1</sup> This figure only refers to returnees in 2001. From 1992 to 2000 some 280,500 Somali refugees repatriated either spontaneously or with UNHCR<sup>1</sup> assistance.

### TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 8,377,519



A returnee from Ethiopia in Hargeisa. *UNHCR/P. Kessler.*

Bakool and Gedo regions. These two factors may continue to impede larger-scale voluntary repatriation.

### **Constraints**

The security situation is relatively stable in the "Somaliland" and "Puntland" regions, thus enabling UNHCR to carry on with its operations. However, in the south of Somalia, further attempts to move towards reconciliation have so far had little effect on continuing conflict and the unpredictable security situation.

The political developments that occurred during the second half of 2001 surrounding the presidency in "Puntland" have

not been resolved. A meeting of traditional leaders is on-going, however, it is not clear whether the results of this process will be accepted by the first interim president who retreated to his home town in Galckayo.

In "Somaliland", the political process following the May 2001 referendum continues to attract discussions and confrontations between the president and the sultans. The issue of the sultans remains an undercurrent. While the "Somaliland" and "Puntland" have not been recognised by the international community, the administrations in both regions are weak both in resources and expertise, and cannot provide adequate basic services to the community.

As part of the UN-system wide effort, UNHCR is carefully monitoring and assessing what effects, if any, the actions against perceived terrorists, which are being taken following the 11 September terrorists attacks in the United States, may have on operations in Somalia. A clear picture and related scenarios have not yet emerged. However, depending on developments, repercussions on UNHCR's programme in Somalia cannot be ruled out.

## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

UNHCR's policy on voluntary repatriation to Somalia, as established in October 1999, is that it will be promoted to those areas exhibiting signs of stability in relation to security conditions, termed as 'zones of recovery' by the UN Country Team (UNCT), and principally covering the area north of Galkayo. Voluntary repatriation to other parts of Somalia will only be facilitated at the specific request of a refugee. This policy will continue to be followed until there is a significant change in the security conditions in the areas south of Galkayo.

Somali refugees have been returning spontaneously to areas considered relatively safe and secure in northern Somalia, and to urban areas in the south, such as Mogadishu, since 1991. With the establishment of regional administrations in "Somaliland" and "Puntland", these returns have proved

sustainable with no recorded movements back into exile. These regional authorities have assumed the protection of the returnees and continue to ensure that returnees are integrated into the mainstream society.

UNHCR will continue to monitor closely the security situation in southern Somalia and collect pertinent information for dissemination to countries hosting Somali refugees.

### Assistance

The main beneficiary population in the Somalia programme will be the refugees who are expected to repatriate to Somalia in 2002. Most of these refugees are living in camps in neighbour-

ing countries. UNHCR's role in Somalia in 2002 will focus on continued intensification of voluntary repatriation from Ethiopia (35,000), Djibouti (5,000) if political developments so permit, Yemen (5,000), and Kenya (5,000). UNHCR's initial reintegration assistance will focus on the extension of essential services in water, health, education etc., to enhance the absorption capacity. The main goal is to ensure that the returnees are anchored and fully integrated into the communities, and to prevent any movements back into exile in search of services.

UNHCR will co-ordinate its repatriation and reintegration activities with the Government authorities, NGOs and other UN agencies to ensure that linkages with long-term activities are established early in the reintegration process. In the communities, UNHCR will advocate for the inclusion of returnees in the leadership structures as well as in committees that may be set up at the community level as part of the implementation of reintegration activities. Inter-agency meetings on collaborative programming will take place in the "Puntland" and "Somaliland" regions between country and field level representatives of UN agencies and NGOs. This should help to avoid possible overlapping of programmes and improve collaboration by identifying areas where agencies can supplement and support each other's programmes.

The effects of protracted civil war have meant that a large number of refugees, who were traditionally pastoralists, lost their livestock. Many of these refugees, who have stayed in refugee camps for over ten years, have learnt new trades in the camps. They have also become accustomed to a more urbanised lifestyle and are likely to return to urban centres, as has already been noticed in Hargeisa, in the "Somaliland" region. The needs of special groups such as women, children, adolescents and the elderly will be addressed in the returnee areas. With the increasing deforestation due to soil erosion and cutting down of trees for firewood and charcoal-making, UNHCR will make particular efforts to address environmental issues.

### Desired Impact

The attainment of durable solutions through voluntary repatriation is expected to result in 50,000 Somali refugees repatriating from Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen and other countries.

The initial reintegration activities will consist of a repatriation package prior to departure from the country of asylum, and community-based Quick Impact Projects in areas of return, where security conditions permit the implementation of such activities. Provided other actors also engage in reintegration activities, the capacity of social services in areas of return should reach sufficient levels to cater for the new returnees in addition to the residual population, IDPs, demobilised soldiers, etc. The pace of implementation of UNHCR's exit-strategy, in particular in the north of Somalia, will depend largely on the availability, preparedness and capacity of other

agencies to take over, build upon and complement UNHCR's efforts.

Refugees in Somalia, most of whom live in urban areas in "Somaliland", enjoy international protection and receive assistance to sustain themselves, while durable solutions are being sought and implemented as opportunities arise.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

Under the overall co-ordination of the Regional Director's Office, UNHCR Somalia will co-ordinate its activities with UNHCR offices in countries hosting Somali refugees through inter-office/cross-border meetings. The objective of these meetings will be to share information and to plan the voluntary repatriation of those Somali refugees who wish to return home. The efforts should also help ensure the uniform application of UNHCR's policies concerning Somali refugees in the countries concerned.

Before staff reduction under Action 2 in 2001, 81 staff (65 national and 16 international) ran the UNHCR operation in Somalia. In 2002 a total of 47 staff (34 national and 13 international inclusive of 4 UNVs) will run the Somalia operation. The country office for Somalia will be based in Nairobi, Kenya and will co-ordinate and oversee all UNHCR operations in Somalia. In addition a sub-office with international staff will be based in Hargeisa in north-west Somalia to support the repatriation and reintegration programme for Somali returnees from camps in eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. UNHCR also has field offices in Garowe and Mogadishu in north-east and southern Somalia respectively. National staff run both offices.

### Co-ordination

UNHCR actively participates in the Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body (SACB) with UN agencies, donors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The SACB developed a policy framework for continuing co-operation in Somalia, which was endorsed as an instrument for dialogue by the SACB Executive Committee in December 2000.

UNHCR and UNDP, in close co-operation with IGAD, have developed a programme framework and a project document to guide planning and implementation of the reintegration of returnees (and internally displaced persons). Other UN agencies, donors and NGOs are expected to be fully involved in the implementation of this reintegration project. The successful implementation of this programme will also help UNHCR to eventually disengage itself from reintegration activities in "Somaliland" and is thus part of UNHCR's exit-strategy in Somalia.

Since 1993, when UNHCR first re-established its presence in "Somaliland", the number of both local and international NGOs has continued to grow, not only in the north-west but also in the north-east. In the rest of Somalia the local administrations are the main partners. UNHCR will continue to foster collaboration with its implementing partners. These will include the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) in "Somaliland" and the Directorate of International Co-operation (DIC) in "Puntland", as well as line ministries. In the case of "Somaliland", the NGOs have elected a PARinAC focal point who is responsible for co-ordinating and facilitating meetings between UNHCR and the local NGOs.

### OFFICES

Nairobi (Kenya)
Hargeisa
Garowe
Mogadishu

### PARTNERS

#### Government Agencies

Directorate of International Co-operation (north-east Somalia)
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (north-west Somalia)

#### NGOs

Agricultural Development Organisation
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
OXFAM (UK)
Save the Children Fund (USA)

In addition, various national and international NGOs are to be identified jointly by UNHCR and the authorities and will be contracted to carry out specific QIPs.

### BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	4,096,919
Community Services	278,592
Crop Production	307,236
Domestic Needs	57,050
Education	794,130
Forestry	50,400
Health	272,000
Income Generation	167,562
Legal Assistance	31,000
Livestock	229,990
Operational Support (to Agencies)	489,140
Sanitation	215,640
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	36,000
Transport/Logistics	808,800
Water	543,060
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>8,377,519</b>
Programme Support	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,377,519</b>