

SOMALIA NEWSLETTER

DROUGHT RESPONSE

Providing lifesaving assistance to persons displaced by drought

UNHCR supported almost 600,000 persons affected by drought with lifesaving assistance



UNHCR provided Ahado, a mother of six, with potable water and emergency shelter kit. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, July 2017

Since November 2016, Somalia faces severe drought, forcing **almost one million persons to flee from their homes**.

UNHCR immediately scaled-up the response and has **provided lifesaving assistance to almost 600,000 persons** affected by drought from 1 November 2016 to 31 August 2017.

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

[Page 1](#) Providing lifesaving assistance to persons displaced by drought

[Page 2](#) Protection and Return Monitoring Network

[Page 3](#) Almost one million persons forced to flee their homes

[Page 4](#) Awareness raising on prevention of gender-based violence

[Page 4](#) Emergency shelters protect families

(Continued from page 1)

Ahado's family (*not her real name*) lost their livelihood due to devastating drought. They had to leave home and seek humanitarian assistance in Lower Juba region. **UNHCR provided Ahado's family with potable water and core relief items.**

"I and my children don't worry anymore about the problem of accessing clean water or falling sick from contaminated water," said Ahado after she received support from UNHCR.



Persons affected by drought accessing potable water provided by UNHCR. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, August 2017

Since the onset of drought in November 2016 to 31 August 2017 **UNHCR provided around 332,000 persons with potable water** countrywide through water trucking or boreholes.

UNHCR supported Ahado's family also with core relief items (CRIs).

"We appreciate UNHCR for the timely intervention with clean water and emergency shelter," added Ahado.



Persons affected by drought received kit of core relief items. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, April 2017

Since the onset of drought, **UNHCR has distributed 41,248 core relief items** to households representing some 193,000 persons.

Core relief items were provided depending on the needs of persons of concern. UNHCR distributed 19,597 CRI kits, 2,700 emergency shelter kits, 1,600 conditional cash grants to purchase CRIs, 17,101 plastic sheets and 250 family tents as core relief items.

UNHCR continues to provide lifesaving assistance to persons affected by drought.

Protection and Return Monitoring Network

The Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) is a UNHCR-led project which **identifies and reports on displacements** of populations in Somalia as well as protection incidents underlying such movements.

Geographic coverage of the PRMN includes following regions: Awdal, Bakool, Banadir, Bari, Bay, Gedo, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Middle Juba, Mudug, Sool and Woqooyi Galbeed.

The PRMN **monitors population displacements and movements** such as returns by targeting strategic points including transit sites, established IDP settlements, border crossings and other ad hoc locations.

The data is captured based on **interviews with displaced persons** (generating 'household level' reports) primarily at points of arrival or by interviewing key informants (generating 'group reports') at IDP settlements, transit centres and other strategic locations.

Almost one million persons forced to flee their home

2016-2017 drought has already displaced almost one million persons

Since the beginning of drought in November 2016, to 31 August 2017, the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) recorded **around 893,000 persons**, including 804,000 in 2017, who **have been forced to flee their homes** due to drought and drought-related causes.

PRMN recorded that majority of displaced persons sought assistance in Bay (around 216,000 arrivals) and Banadir (around 173,000 arrivals) regions. Both locations received the highest number of arrivals.



Persons fleeing from their homes in search for humanitarian assistance. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, August 2017

Number of drought-related displacements by month



UNHCR launched an **online interactive dashboard for internal displacements** monitored by PRMN in Somalia.

Trends of origins and arrival points of displacements over 2016-2017 can be viewed by reason for displacement at this link: <https://unhcr.github.io/dataviz-somalia-prmn/index.html>.

Expected *Deyr* rain in October may cause floods and further deteriorate fragile situation and **increase displacements**.

More about the PRMN could be found in the **Notes on PRMN Methodology** or contact SOMMOPMN@unhcr.org.

Awareness raising on prevention of gender-based violence



An awareness raising session in an IDP settlement in Bay region. © UNHCR / August 2017

In 2017, UNHCR conducted over 50 sessions in IDP settlements countrywide and reached around 12,000 persons displaced by drought. Sessions aimed to educate persons living in IDP settlements on prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). UNHCR also **informed persons on services available to GBV survivors**, from legal and psychosocial counseling to medical and material support.

Hamada (*not her real name*) was physically assaulted and sought UNHCR for assistance, she said: “I was provided with psychosocial counseling, medical services, dignity kits and legal counseling.”

Emergency shelters protected families and belongings



A UNHCR staff ensuring that no displaced persons are left behind. © UNHCR / Lower Juba region, 2017

Idil (*not her real name*), 41-year-old mother of eight, moved to an IDP settlement in Lower Juba region during the drought. Her family had “no other chance,” said Idil.

“All our cattle and goats were washed out by the drought and we moved [...] to seeking for survival,” shared Idil their story. She and her family were among **193,000 persons which benefited from core relief items by UNHCR**.

After she received an emergency shelter kit, she said: “It was a raining season and we lived in a makeshift house of clothes and sticks only.”

She continued “[an emergency shelter kit] protect us against the rains, also I was borrowing utensils from the neighbors to cook for my family and now I got enough utensils as part of core relief items.”

CONTACT US

Caroline Van Buren

Representative, Somalia

Cell: +252 616 141 315

Cell: +254 731 688 141

Email: vanburen@unhcr.org

UNHCR

Representation in Somalia

UN Compound

Mogadishu International Airport

Somalia

www.unhcr.org