

Somalia

1-28 February 2018

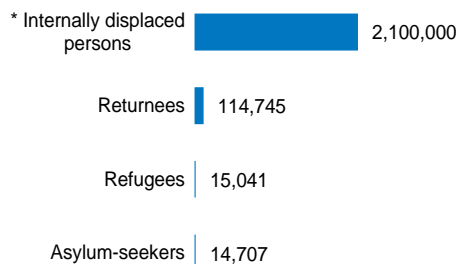
The operational context during February was marked mainly by **small-scale attacks**, **evictions**, **drought** and the **drying up the Shabelle river**.

Consequently February witnessed a slight increase in **displacements**, in cases of **Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/Cholera**, and **severe water shortages**.

Monitoring agencies reported that food security improved but in the **absence of assistance food security would deteriorate significantly**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

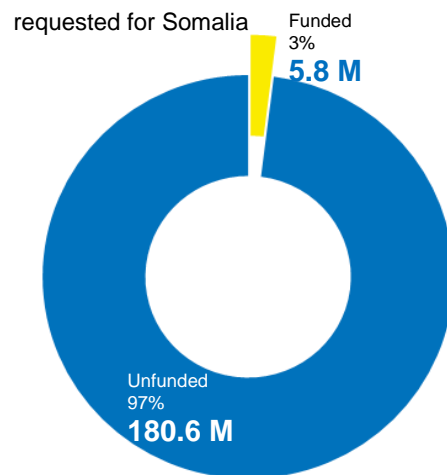
2.24 M



* Estimated internally displaced persons as of 31 October 2017 (Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan).

FUNDING (AS OF 20 FEBRUARY)

USD 186.4 M



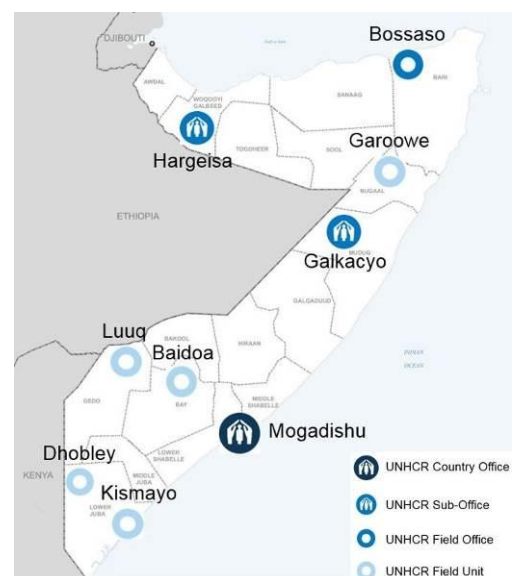
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

- 97 National Staff
- 36 International Staff
- 13 Affiliate Workforce
- 8 International UN Volunteers

Offices

- 1 Country Office in Mogadishu
- 3 Sub-Offices in Galkacyo, Hargeysa and Mogadishu
- 1 Field Office in Bossaso
- 5 Field Units in Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, Kismayo and Luuq
- 1 Support Office in Nairobi



Major developments

Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) for Cash-based Interventions

In February, UNHCR started to use the **Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS)**, which identifies persons of concern through their fingerprints and irises prior to **Cash-based Interventions (CBIs)**. The BIMS is a verification system that ensures that UNHCR and partners are able to identify returnees and ensures that assistance reaches to the right individuals. Through the introduction of BIMS, significant improvements were made to the payment process. One of the advantages is also that cash assistance is now made through individual bank accounts for returnees, which enhances the dignity and self-esteem of returnees and supports socio-economic recovery and stabilization of Somalia.



Staff members of UNHCR, partner Mercy Corps and Amal bank follow the setting up of the new payment process based on BIMS at the Home Way Station in Kismayo. © UNHCR/February 2018

UNHCR and Standard Chartered bank (in Kenya) have an agreement within which a local bank, Amal is the executor of payments inside Somalia. Receiving money through bank accounts at Amal bank branches allows persons of concern to receive text messages on their phones informing them that cash has been deposited in their individual bank accounts. Returnees are issued with a 'bank card' with their account number and once bank accounts are funded the returnees can approach any Amal branch and receive cash assistance upon presentation of the Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF), now approved by the Central Bank of Somalia as an identity document. Returnees can receive their cash assistance at the nearest pay point. Over 100 pay points are already available across Somalia for use.

At the end of 2017, UNHCR Somalia became the largest UNHCR operation using CBIs in Africa and the fifth largest in the world. Only in 2017, UNHCR provided assistance in the amount of over US\$ 27.7 million to around 83,000 persons of concern (16,500 families).

More about the CBIs in Somalia is available on the [Somalia: Information sharing portal](#) and the [Global Focus](#) website.

Emergency response

Prolonged conflicts, insecurity and drought are the main drivers causing around 5.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR continues to prioritize response for people in emergency and during February reached 23,935 persons with life-saving protection activities; 14,200 with water and 9,735 persons with protection activities.¹ Since the beginning of the drought in November 2016 to February 2018, UNHCR reached 964,709 persons with humanitarian assistance.

Sector	Assistance	Before 2018	2018	1-28 Feb '18	Cumulatively
Protection	# of persons reached with protection assistance	34,752	14,361	9,735	58,848
Water	# of persons provided with water	511,608	40,600	14,200	566,408
Core relief items	# of persons benefited from CRI	277,730	2,764	-	280,494
Health and sanitation	# of persons benefited from health and sanitation	43,313	-	-	43,313
Cash assistance	# of persons benefited from CBI	15,646	-	-	15,646
	TOTAL	883,049	57,725	23,935	964,709

New displacements

During February 2018, 52,000 people were newly displaced according to reports from the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) project. Of these, half of the displacements were reported as being directly related to conflict or insecurity while the remainder were related to drought and seeking assistance in urban locations due to lack of access for humanitarian access outside towns in southern and central Somalia. These figures are similar to those of January.

Conflict driven displacements were widespread and for a range of reasons. The ongoing military offensive against al-Shabaab (AS) (and AS retaliation) was cited as the main cause of displacements from Lower Shabelle region (12,000 newly displaced) with most of those displaced arriving in Mogadishu IDP sites. An additional 2,000 were displaced in Lower Juba and Middle Shabelle regions for the same reason. Large scale displacements (9,000 individuals) were reported in Las Caanood district (Sool region) from Tukaraq village due to ongoing tensions between the armed forces of the State of Puntland and "Somaliland".

More detailed trends on internal displacements are available on online dashboard the [PRMN Displacement Portal](#)

Almost 33,000 persons were reported as newly evicted during February 2018, a number similar to December 2017 and January 2018. Around 21,000 of these were from IDP sites in Kaxda and Dayniile districts in Mogadishu while 7,000 IDPs were reported as evicted in Baidoa and 3,000 from two sites in South Galkacyo. IDP returns monitored during February have been negligible at a little over 1,000 primarily within Baidoa district (Bay region). Evictions and IDP returns are not included in the internal displacement figures above.

¹ From 1 to 28 February, UNHCR provided water to 14,200 persons in Lower Juba region; 9,735 persons were reached with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) interventions in Baidoa (7,591 persons), Kismayo (1,409 persons), Mogadishu (725 persons) and Dhobley (10 persons).

Cluster approach

Humanitarian intervention to provide immediate assistance to people in need is in Somalia implemented through the Cluster approach. Out of 10 clusters, activated for the operation in Somalia, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster (PC) and the Shelter and NFIs Cluster (SC) and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. This chapter shows cluster achievements and gaps during the month of February.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

The CCCM cluster will be processing the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) first allocation for 2018 in March. The CCCM cluster will focus on areas hosting large numbers of IDPs, such as Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garoowe, and Galkacyo, as well as areas in Sool and Sanaag regions. Specific camp management activities will include emergency site maintenance and improvement, service monitoring and mapping, coordination and information dissemination, and support to referral pathways.

- **Gaps:** The service provision for around 7,000 IDPs that have arrived to Baidoa during the month of January has not increased to cover the needs of the growing population. The CCCM cluster is working closely with the WASH cluster, in particular, to respond to the needs and lead a discussion at the inter-cluster level to find better ways to sustain the response.

Protection Cluster

In February, the PC reached 49,315 persons; 6,023 were reached with child protection activities, 16,387 through SGBV interventions, 5,085 with interventions focusing on housing, land and property, 19,666 with mine risk activities, and 2,154 with general protection activities. The PC has established three technical working groups (WG) to assist in fulfilling core cluster functions and driving initiatives responsive to protection needs: a principled referrals WG, an advocacy WG, and an assessment and analysis WG.

- **Gaps:** Access constraints continue to be an impediment to protection service delivery and hinder the ability of protection partners to interact consistently with affected populations.

Shelter and NFI Cluster

In February, the SC reached 62,111 persons; 42,647 persons benefited from emergency shelter kits and 19,464 persons from emergency non-food items. Somalia continues to face an internal displacement crisis fuelled by drought, conflict and forced evictions. The country currently hosts more than 2.1 million IDPs, the majority of whom are in and around Baidoa, Mogadishu and Afgooye corridor. Close to half of the IDPs remain in need of relevant shelter and non-food items (NFIs) support for overall improvements to their living conditions and to improve their chances of accessing livelihoods and durable solutions.

- **Gaps:** With more than 50 per cent of IDPs having been displaced in the past year, the limited resources available have not been adequate to provide even the most basic NFIs and shelter to those newly displaced in 2017, leaving the earlier, protracted displaced without any assistance, despite their increased vulnerability and a weak protective environment. Due to the continuing drought and conflict situations, chances of return in the coming months remain dim, impeding the start of returns. Most IDP settlements are confronted with a weak security of tenure due to the prevailing overall weak protective and governance environment.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

Sector	Assistance	1-28 Feb '18	2018
Protection	# of refugees and asylum-seekers registered	279	598
	# of asylum-seekers considered for RSD	56	142
	# of new arrivals from Yemen	617	1,332
	# of refugees and asylum-seekers supported with legal assistance	130	311
	# of refugees and asylum-seekers reached with SGBV interventions	209	1,010
Education	# of refugees and asylum-seekers newly enrolled	148	191
Core relief items	# of refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from CRI	338	440
Health	# of refugees and asylum-seekers accessed health care services	2,661	5,443
Cash assistance	# of refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from cash assistance	5,557	10,070
Livelihood	# of refugees and asylum-seekers supported with livelihood opportunities	135	135

Protection

- At the end of February, 29,748 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Somalia, out of which 279 were newly registered during February; 242 as refugees and 37 as asylum-seekers.
- In February, 617 persons arrived from Yemen; 490 Somalis (269 assisted and 221 spontaneously), 126 Yemenis and one third-country national. Since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen in March 2015, a total of 42,672 persons arrived to Somalia; 36,019 Somalis, 6,281 Yemenis and 372 others.
- During February, UNHCR considered 34 cases, composed of 56 Ethiopian asylum-seekers, for Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- In February, 130 refugees and asylum-seekers sought legal assistance; 100 in Hargeysa, 19 in Bossaso, nine in Garoowe and two in Galkacyo.
- In addition, 209 refugees and asylum-seekers were reached with SGBV interventions.

Education

- During February, 148 refugees and asylum-seekers started school for the first time; 90 started primary education, 16 secondary education and 42 tertiary education.

Core relief items

- In February, UNHCR distributed 109 blankets and sets of clothing to 109 refugee and asylum-seekers households (338 persons).

Health

- During February, UNHCR supported access to health care for 2,661 refugees and asylum-seekers, among them 2,635 accessed primary health care and 26 secondary and tertiary health care.

Cash assistance

- UNHCR also provided monthly subsistence allowance to 1,736 refugee and asylum-seeker households (5,557 persons) to cover their basic needs.

Livelihood

- During February, 135 refugees and asylum-seekers were supported with livelihood opportunities; 75 were registered in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), while 60 attended language (9), literacy (12), accounting (11), and computer (12) classes and 16 attended play group exercises.

Returnees

Sector	Assistance	1-28 February 2018	2018
Protection	# of Somali refugees that were assisted with repatriation	1,779	3,204
Education	# of returnees enrolled in education	692	1,423
Core relief items	# of returnees benefited from core relief items	1,434	2,679
Cash assistance	# of returnees received reinstallation grants	1,736	2,124
Livelihood	# of persons supported with livelihood opportunities	1,085	2,373

Protection and return support

The main protection and return support activities in February include:

- staff attending a cross-border coordination meeting in Djibouti on the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) programme for Somali refugees returning from Yemen;
- sharing updates to Country of Origin Information with the operations in Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti to supported informed decision-making for Somali refugees considering return to Somalia;
- assisting the first group of returnees from Libya and
- receiving the first convoy of returnees by road from Kenya after 10 months of temporary road convoy suspension due to rains and security constraints.

Return figures

- A total of 79,941 Somali refugees have repatriated since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation in December 2014; 78,088 from Kenya, 1,215 from Yemen and 638 from other countries of asylum. During the same period, 34,804 Somalis have returned from Yemen spontaneously. During February, 1,779 Somali refugees opted for voluntary repatriation to Somalia; 1,499 from Kenya, 269 from Yemen and 11 from Libya, while 221 Somalis returned from Yemen unsupported, outside the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme.

Education

- During February, 692 Somali returnee students resumed their education after their return home to Somalia; 683 continued with primary and nine with secondary education.

Core relief items

- UNHCR distributed 591 kits of core relief items to 526 households (1,434 returnees); 499 kits to 439 households (1,285 persons) from Kenya, 85 kits to 81 households (138 persons) from Yemen and seven kits to six households (11 person) from Libya.

Cash assistance

- During February, 1,736 returnees (515 families) received their reinstallation grant; 1,481 returnees (397 families) from Kenya and 254 returnees (117 families) from Yemen.

Livelihood

- Livelihood opportunities were supported for 1,085 persons (592 returnees, 254 IDPs and 239 members of the host community); 300 were part of a cash-for-work (CfW) programme, 410 were enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TEVT) and 375 were assisted with self-employment opportunities.

Internally displaced persons

Sector	Assistance	1-28 February 2018	2018
Protection	# of IDPs reached with SGBV interventions	4,043	4,437
Core relief items	# of IDPs benefited from core relief items	240	12,836
Livelihood	# of IDPs supported with livelihood opportunities	-	200

SGBV

- In February, 4,043 IDPs were reached with SGBV interventions, including community mobilisation for SGBV prevention and response, a talk-show on female genital mutilation (FGM) and its health and psychological effects, and the provision of medical, psychosocial, legal and material support to SGBV survivors.



UNHCR partner conducting an awareness raising on SGBV response and prevention at IDP settlement in Burco, Togdheer region.
 © UNHCR/February 2018

Core relief items

- In Bossaso, UNHCR distributed 40 kits of CRIs to 40 families (240 persons) who have been evicted from their homes.

External / Donor relations

Donor(s) who have contributed directly to the Somalia operation

European Union | UN-Habitat | Italy | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Sweden

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Australia | Denmark | Italy | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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