

Somalia

Main Objectives

Facilitate voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from countries of asylum and help their reintegration by providing basic infrastructure and services; implement reintegration projects conducive to self-reliance in communities of return, in collaboration with Somali administrations, UN agencies and NGOs; share detailed information on the situation in Somalia in order to assist UNHCR offices, humanitarian agencies, donors, governments hosting Somali refugees, and refugees themselves to make informed decisions on repatriation and asylum; ensure the protection and well-being of Ethiopian and other refugees and seek durable solutions for them; intensify negotiations with development-oriented international NGOs and UN agencies with a view to finding competent organisations to take over, consolidate and complement UNHCR's past and ongoing interventions in Somalia; strengthen the capacity of local NGOs to ensure sustainability of all established programmes.

Impact

- Over 420,000 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia since 1991 to be reintegrated into their communities; in 2001 alone, 50,974 refugees returned.
- International protection was enjoyed by 589 refugees, of whom 205 also received assistance. 102 Ethiopian refugees were accepted for resettlement to the United States of America in 2001. In 2001, UNHCR implemented 64 QIPs in "Somaliland" (Northwest Somalia).
- UNHCR's reintegration programmes have given returnees and their host communities improved access to water, health and education facilities.
- UNHCR constructed or rehabilitated 29 schools in 2001 (raising the total number of schools rehabilitated since 1991 to 84, a process providing 60,000 children with access to education).
- 300,000 women and children had access to maternal and child healthcare following the construction/rehabilitation of 52 health centres and related facilities, seven of which were constructed or rehabilitated in 2001.
- 405,000 persons enjoyed improved access to water (for themselves and livestock) through



the construction/rehabilitation of 84 water facilities (46 of them completed in 2001).

- In 2001, UNHCR implemented 64 community-based QIPs in “Somaliland”.

Working Environment

The Context

In particular, in Southern and Central Somalia, security concerns and political and economic instability persisted for most of the year. The Transitional National Government (TNG) was not able to establish itself as a viable inclusive government and within the self-declared autonomous regions of “Puntland” (Northeast Somalia) and “Somaliland” (Northwest Somalia), tensions arose over constitutional and electoral issues. Renewed disputes between the “Somaliland” authorities and the Government of Djibouti led to the closure of the international border between the two countries. Towards the end of the year, there were persistent reports that Somalia might be a target for attack in the US-led war on terrorism. The economy took another turn for the worse and the years of drought worsened food insecurity in southern Somalia and pockets in the north. Bans imposed in 2000 by the Gulf States on imports of Somali livestock continued in 2001, with severe implications for the northern areas. Devaluation of the Somali currency and high inflation produced further hardship, and after 11 September, the arrival of income from overseas Somalis was restricted. On protection issues, the “Somaliland” administration acts in accordance

with international refugee instruments, even though it is not a State party to any international or regional instruments. The “Somaliland” authorities also remained committed to ensuring the return of refugees in safety and dignity to areas it controls.

Constraints

In southern Somalia, conditions proved highly volatile and unsafe for large-scale refugee operations. In “Puntland”, repatriation-related activities were set back by lack of funding and the death of a UNHCR project manager in the area. Violence during “Puntland’s” constitutional crisis then resulted in the departure and temporary absence of UN international staff in late 2001. Similar travel and location restrictions also had to be applied elsewhere in UNHCR’s Somalia programme.

In “Somaliland”, internal conflicts and sporadic violence led to restrictions on travel to UNHCR project sites in the regions of Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag. As regards Mogadishu, only national staff and short-term missions of international staff with prior UNSECOORD clearance were allowed to work there. After the 11 September events, staff travel restrictions affected all UN operations, delaying programme implementation and monitoring. The target of repatriating 102,000 refugees proved unrealistic under the circumstances, and was thus revised to 60,000.

Funding

Limited funds prevented the planned repatriation of 3,500 Somali refugees from Kenya to northern Somalia in 2001, and delayed other movements planned from eastern Ethiopia until April 2001. When the border between Djibouti and “Somaliland” was finally re-opened, made possible by improved relations with “Somaliland”, repatriations from Djibouti could not proceed due to reduced funding for reintegration activities in returnee areas. Reductions in education and QIPs prevented some returnee children from continuing the

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Returnees (from Ethiopia)	50,200	50,200	-	-
Ethiopia (Refugees)	570	180	50	39
Returnees (from Yemen)	530	530	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
9,159,863	3,951,561	4,187,794	8,139,355	8,139,355

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

education they had embarked upon in refugee camps. Returnee women's skills training and credit schemes in "Somaliland" could not be extended to other needy beneficiaries due to funding constraints. Low levels of reintegration activities in 2001 also strained relations between UNHCR and the "Somaliland" authorities, who feared that repatriation in such circumstances risked creating destitute urbanised returnees in search of non-existent economic opportunities. Such concerns tie in with a survey of returnees in Hargeisa two years after return which revealed the lack of a source of steady income for returnees, 16 per cent acute malnutrition amongst children and high rates of pregnancy-related deaths and illness amongst returnee women.

Lack of funding also led to the abolition of some posts. This resulted in such a great pressure being put on UNHCR Somalia's resources that it faced serious challenges to deal adequately with inter-agency co-ordination as well as the growing complexities of the wider operation.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

In 2001, the repatriation programme met its objective of closing three eastern camps after repatriating 50,974 refugees from Ethiopia to northern Somalia, and 682 to Mogadishu. 102 were also accepted for resettlement in the United States of America. UNHCR continued to promote repatriation to safe areas in northern Somalia whilst facilitating repatriation to the relatively insecure south only at the specific request of the refugee concerned. Information campaigns ensured that refugees had access to fully updated information on Somalia in order to make informed decisions on repatriation and asylum. Returnees enjoyed their basic rights upon their return and their reintegration was thus successful from a legal and human rights perspective.

In 2001, the administration in "Somaliland" provided international protection to 589 urban refugees, of whom 205 received monthly subsistence allowances from UNHCR. Due to security constraints in southern Somalia and "Puntland",

UNHCR was unable to perform its refugee-protection function, despite its presence in both regions.

Activities and Assistance

Repatriation packages for all "Somaliland" returnees consisted of a nine-month food ration, basic household items and a USD 50 travel allowance. Mogadishu-bound returnees were airlifted.

Community Services: HIV/AIDS information provided to returnees included 4,000 pamphlets, 10 billboards in Hargeisa, and six weeks of radio and television broadcasts. 40 teachers devised an action plan after attending a workshop. An orphanage was opened in Boroma whilst four Family Life Education Centres received furniture and income-generation tools to support non-formal education of women. 136 people attended four workshops on gender issues and children's rights.

Crop Production: 250 oxen and 201 ox-ploughs were distributed to 1,200 farmers in three regions. 2,500 meters of irrigation canals in Boroma District were rehabilitated. 90 water pumps and 250 sets of tools were distributed to 450 households in the Hargeisa and Boroma Districts to improve the productive capacity of farmers, generate income and enhance food security.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Bread and tinned fish were provided to Somali returnees in transit to their home areas. 205 Ethiopian refugees also received subsistence allowances.

Education: 29 schools were rehabilitated/constructed and 10 in "Somaliland" received furniture. To promote girls' school enrolment, eight supervisors and 244 teachers participated in refresher courses. 533 returnee youths graduated from an UNHCR-funded vocational training centre.

Forestry: A tree nursery was rehabilitated to produce 300,000 seedlings yearly for protection against soil erosion and to increase the availability of trees with economic potential.

Health: The main hospital in Boroma was extended by the addition of a new tuberculosis ward. A

hospital in Hargeisa was upgraded and three maternity hospitals and outpatient units were constructed in Mandera, Turta, Faraweyne and Burao. UNHCR covered medical expenses for 205 refugees.

Income Generation: 750 female returnees in Hargeisa and Burao received loans of USD 150 for market trading, together with small business management and literacy training. Its benefits were subsequently reflected in the nutritional status of the beneficiary families.



Small-scale trading is very much a part of the life of returnees in their communities. Here, they are seen at the livestock market in Hargeisa. *UNHCR / W. Stone*

Legal Assistance/Protection: Legal assistance was provided to asylum-seekers to help them with the refugee status determination procedures. Several public awareness campaigns targeted all levels of society to deepen understanding of refugee and asylum issues.

Livestock: 10 technicians and 31 community animal health workers were trained in three regions and two animal health posts were opened in Erigavo and Eilbuh. Veterinary supplies were also distributed in returnee communities. Marshalling yards at Berbera were rehabilitated to improve livestock marketing facilities. Three livestock sheds were repaired at the main quarantine facility.

Operational Support (to Agencies): In “Somaliland”, government agencies and implementing

partners were assisted with the running costs of their repatriation and reintegration operations.

Sanitation: Sanitation facilities for returnees were improved through the construction of 23 pit latrines and one bathroom in Hargeisa, Dilla and Erigavo. 20 garbage collection containers, two donkey carts and 15 wheelbarrows helped to improve environmental sanitation in Sool and Awdal Regions. Hygiene awareness campaigns targeted school-children and women’s committees in returnee areas and resulted in improved hygiene for 500 families.

Transport/Logistics: Six km of the Hargeisa-Salahley road and 28 km of the Duruqsi-Burao road were rehabilitated to ensure smooth running of the repatriation programme. This facilitated the passage of 34 repatriation convoys during 2001.

Water: 46 water points were constructed and rehabilitated to meet the increased demands on water resources placed by growing populations and livestock in returnee areas. Three generators and pumps were installed to improve water distribution systems. 12 village committees received training to

enable them to establish sustainable water management systems with the full involvement of women. The time (and energy) spent by women and children on the collection of water was considerably reduced.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

With no single authority in charge, Mogadishu did not meet UN criteria for the establishment of an international presence. The Somalia country office, therefore, remained at Nairobi (alongside its counterparts at other UN agencies) from where it supervised offices in Hargeisa, Afmadou, Kismayo and

Mogadishu. Offices in Bosasso and Galkayo in “Puntland” were supervised from Hargeisa. The Somalia operation was run by 81 staff members, 18 international and 65 national staff. After closure of the Afmadou and Kismayo offices and the abolition of posts, the Somalia Operation had 51 staff members (14 international and 37 national staff).

Working with Others

UNHCR’s activities were implemented through a government counterpart and 59 implementing partners (one UN agency, four international and 54 local NGOs). UNHCR also actively participated in the two well-established structures for inter-agency co-ordination in Somalia: the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB) and the UN system. For better co-ordination of humanitarian and development activities, UNHCR actively participated in the SACB with UN agencies, donors and NGOs.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) set policies and standards and ensured efficient resource management through the co-ordination of programmes, Consolidated Appeals and implementation of common UN services. A Joint Action Recovery Plan (JARP) aiming at harmonising UN activities and strengthening joint programming was initiated and will result in a Common Country Assessment for Somalia by the end of 2002. Monthly meetings chaired by UN Focal Points ensured co-ordination among agencies in the field. UNHCR and UNDP signed the first phase of a joint programme on reintegration of returnees and IDPs in pilot areas of “Somaliland” and “Puntland”. Such schemes could form part of UNHCR’s exit strategy from north Somalia.

Overall Assessment

Support for repatriation and reintegration in northern Somalia remain important elements in peace-building processes. This support gives returnees roles to play in the reconstruction of basic institutions, within political processes, rather than through violent conflict. With over 50,000 refugees repatriated and subsequently supported in 2001, UNHCR has made further progress

towards realising durable solutions for the refugees whilst contributing to averting conflicts over scarce resources in overburdened communities.

While UNHCR’s reintegration interventions were effective and appreciated, they still fell far short of meeting the key needs of returnees and their communities. For returnees to develop their full potential to contribute to the economy and peace building in their areas of return, the most pressing recovery issues need to be addressed as part of a combined, holistic effort. The phasing down of UNHCR activities, especially in “Somaliland”, will depend on the adherence to planned repatriation from countries of asylum. It will be conditional to availability of resources of other actors and their readiness to take over and complement UNHCR’s reintegration interventions.

In 2001, a successful drive was made to find durable solutions for refugees in “Somaliland” through resettlement to third countries. As there was no potential for integration for many refugees in “Somaliland”, resettlement remained the only available durable solution. Wherever circumstances permitted, UNHCR pursued its mandate in line with objectives set for 2001. Setbacks arose due to the complexity of the working environment.

Offices

Nairobi (Kenya)

Afmadou (closed 2001)
 Bozazo
 Galkayo
 Hargeisa
 Kismayo (closed 2001)
 Mogadishu

Partners

Government Agencies

Ministry of Interior (Northwest Somalia)
 Ministry of International Co-operation (Northeast Somalia)
 Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (Northwest Somalia)
 Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources (Northwest Somalia)
 National Refugee Commission (Mogadishu – Southern Somalia)

NGOs

Agricultural Development Organisation
 Al-Kowneyn Voluntary Organisation
 Amal
 Amoud University
 ARM Foundation
 Arradid Relief and Development Organisation
 Awdal Construction and Technical Services
 Awdal Rehabilitation and Development Association
 Awdal Rehabilitation Association
 Awo Contracting and Construction Company
 Aw-Ralli Construction and Contracting Co.
 Boram Appropriate Technology
 Burlaab Voluntary Organisation
 Care International
 Cattle Hides in Development Association
 City Bus Association
 Committee of Concerned Somalis
 Daryeel Humanitarian and Integration Society
 Delta Construction and Development
 Development and Rehabilitation Association
 Development and Relief Organisation
 Doses of Hope Foundation
 Down Development Organisation
 Erigavo Water System
 Golis Association for Rehabilitation and Development
 Golis Establishment
 Golis Voluntary Organisation
 Hargeisa Reconstruction and Development Organisation
 Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
 Health Education and Agro-pastoralist

Hoban Rehabilitation and Resettlement Organisation
 Kaalmo Voluntary Organisation
 Liibaan Development Organisation
 Local Orientation and Development Commission
Mahurdo
 Mandera Development Unit
 Mustaqbal Women's Organisation
 National Appropriate Technology Organisation
 Oog Construction and Rehabilitation Organisation
 OXFAM
 Participatory Home Development
 Rural and Urban Community Concern
Saabuul
 Sanaag Private Veterinary Association
 Sanaag Women Rehabilitation Association
 Save the Children (USA)
 Shire Construction Company
 Social Services Voluntary Organisation
 Somaliland Association for Development and Social Operations
 Somaliland Community Development Organisation
 Somaliland Electricity Agency
 Somaliland Emergency Relief Association
 Somaliland Engineering Construction and Commercial Co.
 Somaliland Nomadic Rehabilitation
 Somaliland Youth Organisation
Tayasir
 United Youth of East African Association
 University of Hargeisa
 VETAID (UK)
 Volunteers In Action
 Waaberi Construction and Development Organisation
 Welfare Project Society
 Wetcare

Others

Danish Refugee Council
 FAO
 Food Security Analysis Unit
 Halo Trust
 IOM
 International Rescue Committee
 Norwegian Peoples' Aid – UNDP
 OHCHR
 UNESCO-PEER
 UNIFEM
 UNICEF
 United Nations Common Air Services
 United Nations Political Office for Somalia
 WFP
 WHO

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget		Annual Programme Budget	
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	4,878,446		240,625	
Community Services	134,991		45,226	
Crop Production	231,246		4,583	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	44,397		120	
Education	518,085		42,852	
Forestry	13,777		0	
Health / Nutrition	185,644		125,277	
Income Generation	66,379		73,431	
Legal Assistance	676		0	
Livestock	79,951		9,304	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	580,617		(8,418)	
Sanitation	74,505		33,492	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	0		1,491	
Transport / Logistics	222,719		14,068	
Water	305,074		66,724	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	345,224		(218,227)	
Sub-total Operational	7,681,731		430,548	
Programme Support	0		12,991	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	7,681,731	(3)	443,539	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	457,624	(2) (3)	0	(5)
TOTAL	8,139,355	(1) (3)	443,539	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	1,180,524		30,592	
Reporting Received	835,300		248,818	
Balance	345,224		(218,226)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		799,960	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		0	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	345,224		581,734	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		707,927	(5)
New Obligations	8,139,355	(1)	0	
Disbursements	7,681,731	(3)	443,539	(5)
Cancellations	0		264,388	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	457,624	(2) (3)	0	(5)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

- (1) Annex to Statement 1
- (3) Schedule 3
- (5) Schedule 5