

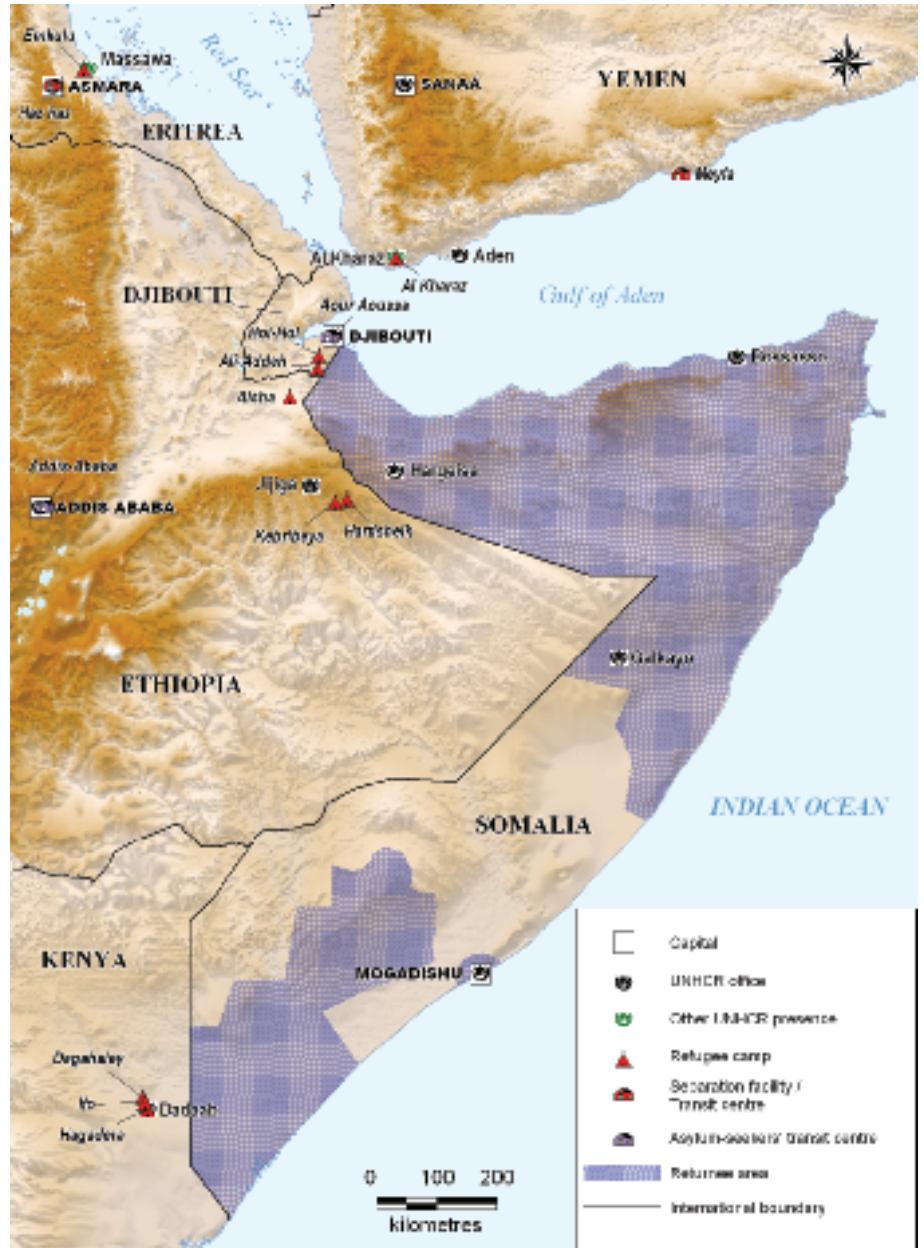
Somalia

Main objectives

Attain durable solutions through voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Somali refugees from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and elsewhere; and, where UNHCR has access, provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers while pursuing durable solutions for them.

Impact

- 9,543 Somali refugees were assisted to return to North-west Somalia ('Somaliland') from Ethiopia and Djibouti, while 680 returned to North-east Somalia ('Puntland') and four to Mogadishu, bringing the total number of assisted Somali returnees to 10,227. Since 1991, it is estimated that one million Somalis have returned home, 467,000 of whom were assisted by UNHCR.
- 133 community-based reintegration projects were implemented – 97 in 'Somaliland', 25 in 'Puntland' and 11 in Mogadishu.
- Some 10,000 children had access to education through the construction and rehabilitation of primary schools; 1,500 primary school teachers were trained and 167 returnee youths received vocational training.
- Some 15,000 persons had improved access to health care facilities.
- In 'Somaliland', Mogadishu, Qorioley, Afgoi, (Lower Shabelle region) and Armo (Bari region), new/rehabilitated water systems gave 116,000 persons access to clean water.
- Some 38,000 returnees benefited from better economic opportunities. Some 1,200 returnees (90 per cent women) improved their families' incomes through a micro-credit scheme in 'Somaliland'.
- Through the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, with the UN Country Team, NGOs and donors, reintegration became a joint effort in Awdal, Togdheer, Bari, Galbeed and other regions.
- In 'Somaliland', UNHCR had access to the asylum-seekers and refugees. As a result, international protection was provided to asylum-seekers and 368 refugees, including 74 persons recognized in 2003, 22 refugees resettled to third countries and one repatriated to Ethiopia.



Working environment

The context

The working environment for the United Nations in Somalia remained complex and insecure in many areas.

In 'Somaliland', the holding of peaceful multiparty presidential elections on 14 April 2003 marked a milestone in the democratization process. The level of peace and stability in the area, and the presence of viable government counterparts, allowed UN agencies and NGOs to work on humanitarian and development programmes in a coordinated manner. However, towards the end of the year, these positive developments were overshadowed by the killing of three humanitarian workers – two British teachers and an Italian, Dr Annalena Tonelli, the winner of the 2003 Nansen Award for her work for destitute Somalis. These assassinations led to the temporary introduction of stricter security measures, including a ban on any movements of international staff outside Hargeisa.

In 'Puntland', a two-year political crisis ended in May when a comprehensive power-sharing agreement was concluded with the opposition. As a result, assistance activities took place in a favourable

environment and the United Nations and its partners were able to expand the peace-building operations.

Constraints

Significant protection concerns arose following the 'Somaliland' Presidential Decree of 23 October 2003 which stated that all "illegal foreigners" would be expelled within 45 days. The issuance of this decree caused the protection environment to deteriorate for foreigners and IDPs, many of whom were compelled to seek safety and security in 'Puntland'. The deadline was eventually extended to 14 January 2004. This issue will remain of concern to UNHCR in 2004.

The main obstacles to large-scale repatriations from neighbouring countries were the absence of basic social services and the lack of economic prospects. This situation was compounded by severe drought in the north and general insecurity in the south. Human rights violations were endemic, particularly in the south. These included murder, looting and destruction of property, child soldiers, kidnapping, discrimination against minorities, torture, unlawful arrest and detention, and the denial of due process by local authorities. Moreover, gender-based violence was prevalent, including rape, female genital

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)	9,200	9,200	-	-
Returnees (from Kenya)	700	700	-	-
Ethiopia (asylum-seekers)	200	-	-	-

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget

Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
5,739,388	5,073,673	358,867	5,432,540	5,432,540

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked 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.

Note: The Supplementary programme budgets do not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

mutilation (FGM) of 95-98 per cent of the female population, early and forced marriage, denial of education for girls as well as limited employment prospects, and domestic violence.

Funding

UNHCR received most of the requested funding for the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Somali refugees as well as for the provision of protection and assistance to refugees as set out in the 2003 *Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for Somalia*. The original budget for the Somalia CAP was USD 77,824,105. UNHCR appealed for a revised budget of USD 5,739,388 and received USD 5,073,673 in earmarked contributions towards the CAP.

The 2003 UNHCR annual budget for Somalia was fully funded by the end of the year. However, this was a resource-based budget which widened the rift between needs and the delivery of assistance. UNHCR had to keep a low profile in conducting its activities to avoid raising expectations among beneficiaries and the authorities. This adversely affected relations with implementing partners and prevented the Office from undertaking a number of activities including: monitoring of spontaneous repatriation movements; monitoring the arrival of asylum-seekers; evaluating population movements; and assessing travel to areas of potential concern in Southern and Central Somalia. Throughout the year, limited human resources challenged the implementation of the operation. It also posed problems for the Office in its attempt to comply with the Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) and the security regulations governing the UN presence in Somalia.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

During 2003, 10,258 refugees were repatriated, of whom 9,297 returned from Ethiopia, 246 from Djibouti, 680 from Kenya, 4 from Yemen, and 31 refugees from other countries. Restrictions on the movement of returnees from Ethiopia to Hargeisa by the 'Somaliland' authorities were introduced in October 2003. This was due to the lack of capacity to receive and absorb returnees in Hargeisa. A

serious impediment to the repatriation was the presence of landmines along the repatriation route from the Aisha camp in Ethiopia. At year's end, an implementing partner had cleared the mines on the 'Somaliland' side, and access to the Ethiopian side was negotiated between UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia.

Only 246 refugees returned from Djibouti, mainly because of difficult conditions in the areas of return in 'Somaliland'. The majority of the Djibouti refugees originated from the Awdal region – an isolated and economically depressed area of 'Somaliland' – where UNHCR put in place basic health, water, and education services and started income-generating projects.

Only 708 refugees returned from Dadaab and Kakuma camps in Kenya. Many refugees requested a conversion of the nine-month food package provided by WFP into cash due to their concerns about the economic difficulties awaiting them in their home country. As UNHCR was unable to provide cash instead of food, only refugees who accepted the food package returned.

The planned repatriation of some 5,000 refugees from Yemen was seriously hampered by the war in Iraq, more attractive and safer living conditions in Yemen and the possibility of migration from there to the Gulf States. Thus only five refugees were repatriated from Yemen in 2003.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Support was provided to the Education Centre for Peace and Development in Galkayo, 'Puntland'. This Centre aimed to enhance the role of women in peace building and reconciliation; strengthen respect for women's rights; and contribute to the eradication of harmful traditional practices. The Centre was also involved in the reception of returnees to Galkayo. Similarly, training and workshops held in Mogadishu and 'Somaliland' addressed issues of community awareness, advocacy for refugee children and women, child protection services, programmes for adolescents and youths and the dangers of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Crop production: Four demonstration farms were established in Awdal and Galbeed regions, home to



A young pharmacist in Galkayo, who returned to Puntland after eight years in a refugee camp in Kenya, examining a dehydrated baby boy brought in to the pharmacy by the baby's mother. *UNHCR/K. McKinsey*

most returnees from Djibouti and Ethiopia, and workshops were conducted for farmers on sound agricultural techniques. In addition, a total of 5,500 individuals benefited from the distribution of tools and seeds for vegetable gardens and cereal production.

Domestic needs/Household support: Due to harsh climatic conditions and long repatriation routes from Djibouti to the Awdal region, food was distributed to returnees during rest periods. Assistance in the form of basic household articles, such as blankets, jerry cans and kitchen sets was provided to extremely vulnerable individuals.

Education: UNHCR supported the construction/rehabilitation of 33 schools, including the provision of furniture, in Awdal, Galbeed, Togdheer and Sool regions. UNHCR also supported the rehabilitation of two classroom blocks at Boroma University for the training of female teachers. In 'Puntland', a primary school in Bossasso, Bari region, was extended, and furniture was provided for a women's and youth development organization. UNHCR

installed rainwater collecting systems in an orphanage in Garowe for 300 resident orphans and vulnerable children. A women's centre in Mudug region was constructed to provide education for refugee girls and women, and undertake community-development activities. In Qoryoley Camp II, a school was reconstructed in an area where children had not attended school for 13 years. The reconstruction of the school led to the enrolment of 830 children (18 per cent girls). Afternoon adult literacy classes were conducted, with the long-term aim of doubling the adult literacy rate (from 20 to 40 per cent). The installation of an elevated water tank in a boarding school in Mogadishu provided 1,312 students (479 girls) with 20 litres of potable water per person per day.

Forestry: UNHCR assisted the local community in Qoryoley, Lower Shabelle, to clear fast-growing wild trees (*Prosopis Juniflora*) not originating from the area, which impeded access to farm land, water points and transport infrastructure.

Health/Nutrition: A hospital and a health clinic were rehabilitated in 'Puntland' (chosen because they treat returnees and IDPs). Public awareness campaigns on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and FGM were carried out and refresher courses were conducted for health professionals, community leaders and youth and women's groups. In conjunction with a local implementing partner, UNHCR conducted an HIV/AIDS awareness programme in Galkayo, sensitizing 685 girls and 300 refugee women on women's rights, education and health issues relating to gender.

Income generation: Income-generating projects, including tailoring, bakery and fishing projects were implemented in 'Puntland' and Mogadishu in 2003. Women's groups in Awdal (240 women in all) were assisted with soap production. The vocational training centre in Hargeisa provided 167 youths with training in carpentry, masonry, metalwork, plumbing, electricity installation, tailoring and office management. Several women's literacy programmes were undertaken in 2003. The programmes trained 300 returnee women in computer skills, home economics and handicraft and basic literacy. Following the training, many found employment.

Legal assistance: Asylum-seekers and refugees in 'Somaliland' received cash grants to help meet their basic needs. Asylum claims were determined by UNHCR and resettlement was sought for those eligible. Returnee monitoring continued with the assessment of the physical, legal and material safety of 750 families. Surveys were conducted in Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle and 'Puntland' to determine the number of spontaneous returnees from exile (100,000 from 'Puntland' and 35,000 from Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle) so as to provide better humanitarian assistance responses.

Livestock: In 'Somaliland', UNHCR continued to distribute livestock under credit schemes, specifically targeting households headed by women. In addition, equipment and drugs were provided to veterinary clinics.

Operational support (to agencies): The operational capacity of the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR), implementing partners and other relevant ministries was strengthened in order to ensure efficiently managed and well coordinated repatriation and reintegration

operations. The programme benefited extensively from the technical expertise of four UNVs.

Water: UNHCR projects provided over 116,000 persons with access to potable water. UNHCR focused on the extension and improvement of existing urban water systems, the construction of new water catchments, rehabilitation of irrigation canals and the construction/rehabilitation of dams and shallow wells. The projects encouraged female membership of the Water Environment Sanitation Committees and Village Development Committees, thereby enhancing the role of women in the management of water sources and facilities and the promotion of personal hygiene and sanitation. In Galbeed and Toghdeer regions of 'Somaliland', 46,000 returnees benefited from water projects. A micro-water system jointly built by the community, UNHCR and UNICEF in Armo, Bari region, supplied sufficient potable water for 6,000 persons. The rehabilitated water system in Qorioley Camp I provided clean water for 9,000 persons (59 per cent women), while the renovation and extension of the water system in Afgoi benefited 40,000 persons (20 per cent spontaneous returnees, four per cent assisted returnees, 16 per cent IDPs and 60 per cent low-income resident families). Rehabilitated shallow wells in the Hamar-Weyne district of Mogadishu provided water for 7,200 beneficiaries (57 per cent women). The risk of future cholera outbreaks was greatly reduced by these interventions.

Organization and implementation

Management

In line with the practice of other UN agencies and in accordance with the 1995 decisions by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, the branch office for Somalia remained in Nairobi during 2003. The branch office was responsible for overseeing and coordinating the operation in the entire country, with the sub-office in Hargeisa covering operations in 'Somaliland', and the field offices in Galkayo, Bossasso and Mogadishu covering 'Puntland' and the south respectively. The operation was supported by six international and 35 national staff, and four UNVs.

Working with others

In addition to collaborating with UN agencies working in Somalia, UNHCR worked with five international and 54 national NGOs as implementing partners. UNHCR continued to be an active member of the UN Country Team, the Security Management Team for Somalia, the Somalia Aid Coordination Body and its committees, as well as the board of the United Nations Common Air Services for Somalia (UNCAS), the Humanitarian Response Group for Somalia and other ad hoc bodies dealing with humanitarian and recovery activities in Somalia.

Overall assessment

The objectives of repatriation, reintegration, protection, assistance and finding durable solutions for refugees were achieved. However, due to financial and other constraints, the number of returnees from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen was lower than initially foreseen. Reintegration activities in major areas of return were effective because of improved access to basic services and income-generating opportunities for returnees and IDPs living in the same areas.

UNHCR's efforts to work closely with the United Nations Country Team, NGOs and donors ensured that protection and integration issues became an integral part of the agenda of the international community in Somalia. However, programmes for returnees could not be implemented on the scale originally foreseen on account of funding constraints faced by development agencies.

UNHCR was able to make a considerable difference to the lives of returnees by providing access to water, education, health care and sanitation. However, not all returnees were able to become economically self-sufficient. In 2004, UNHCR, UNDP and ILO will continue to work together with implementing partners to increase employment opportunities for returnees based on the 4Rs concept (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction) and through local economic development.

Exit strategy: Repatriation movements to 'Somaliland' should be largely completed in 2004, but this will depend on the rates of return from Ethiopia and Djibouti, and will probably leave some residual

cases in 2005. On completion of voluntary repatriation, support for reintegration in 'Somaliland' will be consolidated and phased out within 18 months. Accordingly, an exit strategy from 'Somaliland' could be envisaged for 2006.

Although financial constraints continue to hamper larger scale repatriation movements to 'Puntland', UNHCR intends to employ the same strategy there as outlined above for 'Somaliland'. The timing of the exit strategy from 'Puntland' will depend on available resources to effect return movements and to step up the reintegration programme.

With no certainty of peace in Southern and Central Somalia in the near future, it is impossible to determine a timeframe for an exit strategy from these parts of the country. Security and governance must meet certain criteria before UNHCR can promote any large-scale return of refugees or engage in the international protection of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Offices
<p>Nairobi (Kenya)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bossasso Galkayo Hargeisa Mogadishu
Partners
<p>Government agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry for Diaspora and Refugee Affairs (South Somalia) Ministry of Disarmament and Reconciliation ('Puntland') Ministry of Interior ('Somaliland') Ministry of International Cooperation ('Puntland') Ministry of Planning and Statistics ('Puntland') Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction ('Somaliland') National Refugee Commission (South Somalia)

NGOs

Agriculture Development Organization
Al-Falah
 Alkowneyn Women Voluntary Organization
Al-Nasar
Al-Rahman Charity Organization
 AMAL
 Association Integrated Development
Awdal Women's Development Association
Awdal Women Development Organization
Bani' Adam
Bargal Community Organization
Borama Appropriate Technology
Buurdhaab Voluntary Organization
 Candlelight for Health and Education
 Community Concern Somalia
Cooperazione Internazionale
Daryeel Humanitarian Integration Society
 Down Development Organization
 Ecological Preservation Association
Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development
Hamar Boarding School and Kindergarten
Hambororo
 HIGSAD
Hijra
Hodan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Organization
Idimale
Kalmo
Kalmo Somaliland Voluntary Organization
 Liban Relief and Rehabilitation Organization
Liibaan Development Organization
 Livestock Development Association
Lughaya Reconstruction and Development Organization
 Marine Resources Development Organization
Muranyo
Nasib Salt Association
 National Building Construction
 Natural Resources Development Organization
 Norwegian People's Aid

Oog Construction and Rehabilitation Organization
 OXFAM
Sanaag Women Association
 Save Somali Women and Children
 Save the Children (USA)
 Save the Children (GBR)
 Self Invention Voluntary Organization
Shafi'l Social Development Union
 Social Services Development Organization
 Social Services Voluntary Organization
 Somali Development Organization
 Somali Welfare Society
 Somali Women Concern
 Somali Women Reunification Union
 Somaliland Community Development Organization
 Somaliland Community Duty Development Association
 Somaliland *Najah* Women Organization
 Sool Aid for Rural and Environment Development Organization
Togsol Construction and Trading Company
 United Somali Professional Organization
 United Youth of East African Association

Others

Danish Refugee Council
 EC
 ECHO
 FAO
 Food Security Analysis Unit
 IOM
 OCHA
 Somalia Aid Coordination Body
 UNDP
 UNESCO-PEER
 UNICEF
 UNIFEM
 United Nations Political Office for Somalia
 WFP
 WHO

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects		Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	1,828,657		2,490	
Community Services	144,645		122,325	
Crop Production	179,754		62,407	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	54,039		1,067	
Education	631,075		666,506	
Fisheries	0		12,164	
Forestry	11,012		21,955	
Health/Nutrition	99,576		199,010	
Income Generation	143,490		43,992	
Legal Assistance	20,813		0	
Livestock	34,032		152,849	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	269,312		445,150	
Sanitation	0		16,879	
Transport/Logistics	94,681		2,232	
Water (non-agricultural)	233,431		293,401	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	615,559		(1,104,828)	
Sub - total Operational	4,360,076		937,601	
Programme Support	406,943		0	
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	4,767,019	(3)	937,601	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	665,521	(3)	0	(5)
Total	5,432,540	(1) (3)	937,601	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	992,914		603,640	
Reporting Received	377,355		1,708,468	
Balance	615,559		(1,104,828)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,115,013	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		10,185	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	615,559		0	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,147,764	(5)
New Obligations	5,432,540	(1)	0	
Disbursements	4,767,019	(3)	937,600	(5)
Cancellations	0		210,164	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	665,521	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which can be cross-referenced to the Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5