

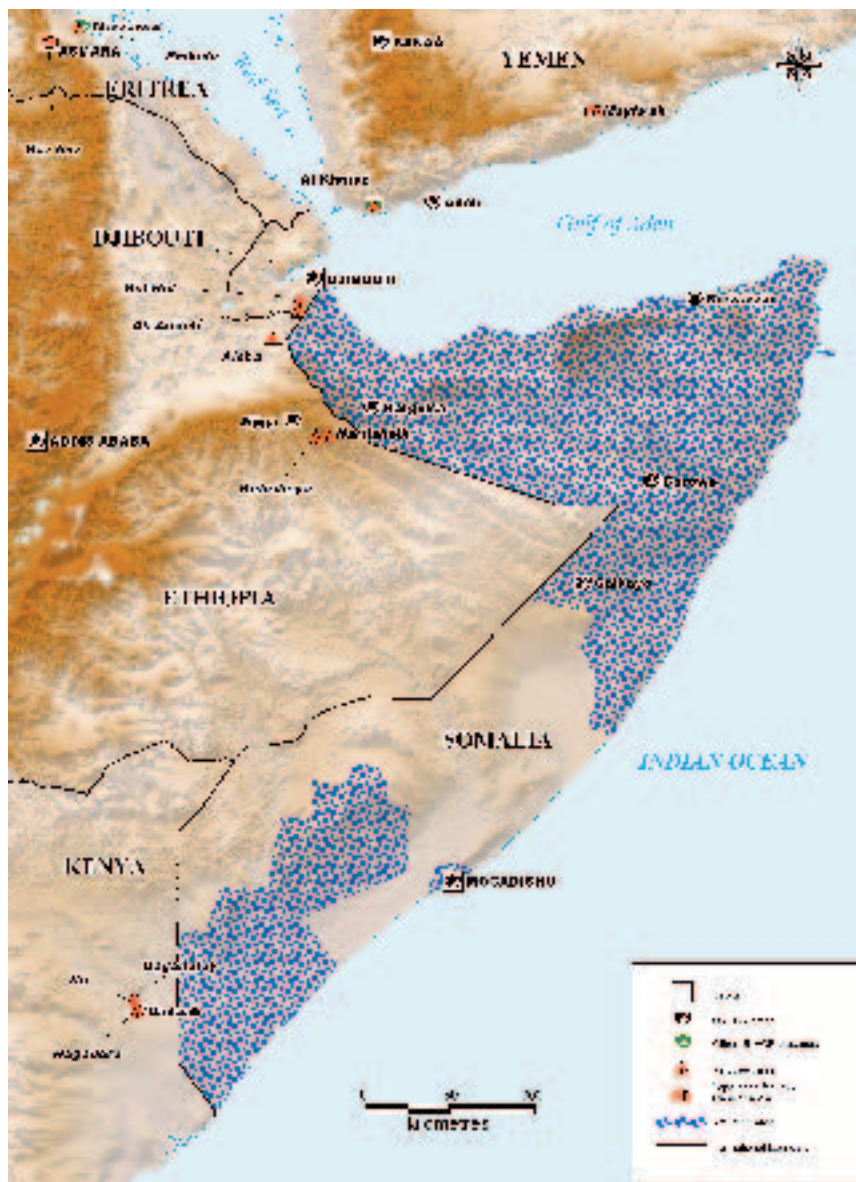
Somalia

Main objectives

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

Impact

- Almost 18,000 refugees returned to north-west Somalia ("Somaliland"), 78 persons returned to north-east Somalia ("Puntland"), and 14 individuals went back to Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle region. No major back-flows to asylum countries were reported.
- The completion of 92 quick impact projects (58 in "Somaliland", 27 in "Puntland" and seven in Mogadishu) resulted in better facilities available for returnees and their communities.
- UNHCR provided drought-stricken people with life-saving supplies of water and relocated 500 flood-affected families away from flood-prone areas in "Puntland". In "Somaliland", water interventions benefited some 18,500 people, primarily in Awdal and Galbeed regions.
- Improvements in the sanitation sector had a positive impact on the health of some 22,000 returnees and their host communities, as well as a further approximately 100,000 persons who gained improved access to health facilities.
- Almost 34,000 children, mostly girls, gained better access to education through the construction/rehabilitation of primary schools in "Puntland", "Somaliland", and in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle region.



- In "Somaliland", UNHCR continued to determine the refugee status of asylum-seekers and to ensure international protection for recognized refugees.

Working environment

The context

Even as the peace process slowly advanced, the working environment for the United Nations in Somalia remained complex and in many areas insecure. Launched in October 2002, the Somali National Reconciliation Conference eventually resulted in the establishment of a broad-based, inclusive parliament and the election of Abdullahi

Yusuf Ahmed as president in October 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. Subsequently, Ali Mohamed Gedi was appointed as Prime Minister. He then formed a cabinet, and started to plan relocation of the new administration to Somalia. The establishment of the Government, with a five-year mandate, was welcomed by the international community, which also pledged support to restore stability in the war-torn country.

The main humanitarian concern was to respond to the prolonged drought (and flooding, in some areas) which ravaged crops and livestock, causing destitution for large numbers of Somalis. In addition, an estimated 400,000 IDPs were scattered in 34 urban settlements throughout Somalia, and the urban populations were in chronic need of assistance. Conditions in the country were dire as 73.4 per cent of the population in general or extreme poverty. The late December tsunami resulted in additional hardship for already vulnerable communities along the coast and further inland.

Constraints

Protection concerns caused by the "Somaliland" Presidential Decree of 23 October 2003, calling for the expulsion within 45 days of 'illegal foreigners', including IDPs, led to a serious deterioration in the status of foreigners and IDPs in the north-west, many of whom subsequently sought security in "Puntland". While the decree was never officially

rescinded, it caused serious concerns about protection for the first few months of the year, although the authorities eventually did not adhere to the deadline.

The main obstacles to large-scale repatriation remained the absence of basic social services and the potential for self-reliance. This situation, coupled with extreme weather patterns and general insecurity caused by the weak rule of law, made it difficult to envisage sustainable return to south and central Somalia. The return operation to "Somaliland" in the first half of 2004 was interrupted several times by the authorities, who claimed that the receiving communities were unable to cope with the influx of returnees. In addition, the process of resettlement of refugees from the north-west was stalled as the receiving countries were unable to conduct the screening of candidates.

Violence and armed conflict in south and central Somalia continued to hamper humanitarian access to the vulnerable. Security incidents in "Somaliland" led to the introduction of UN security phase IV, bringing the entire country under security phases IV and V. The situation caused occasional interruptions to the work of aid agencies, in some cases the reduction of their presence, and dramatically increased security costs. The possibility of conflict between "Somaliland" and "Puntland" over the contested Sool and Sanaag regions also continued to hinder humanitarian access.

Persons of concern

Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Ethiopia (returnees)	9,500	9,500	-	-
Djibouti (returnees)	8,400	8,400	-	-
Ethiopia (asylum-seekers)	300	-	-	-

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget

Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
6,119,319	5,230,760	885,252	6,116,012	6,116,012

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.

Funding

Outside "Somaliland", UNHCR maintained a very low profile in conducting its activities in order to avoid raising expectations among beneficiaries, authorities and other actors. Although operations were 95 per cent funded, the overall budget was set at a very modest level. The consequent limitations on human resources became painfully apparent as the climatic disasters of 2004 compounded the socio-economic stresses already faced by some of the vulnerable populations in Somalia. An already over-stretched UNHCR operation faced even greater challenges, especially the difficulty of compliance with the UN Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS).

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Encouraged by the relative peace and security in "Somaliland" and "Puntland", at the beginning of the year spontaneous return movements continued throughout 2004. Since the height of the crisis in the early 1990s, roughly half a million Somali returnees have returned home with assistance from UNHCR.

In "Somaliland", UNHCR continued to determine the refugee status of asylum-seekers, ensuring international protection for them and for recognized refugees.

A survey was undertaken in "Puntland" in anticipation of an enhanced UNHCR presence. It identified the presence of some 20,000 foreigners (mainly from Ethiopia) living in squalid conditions in urban areas of "Puntland", many claiming to be in need of international protection.

Activities and assistance

Community services: In 2004, UNHCR's support to women's NGOs focused on strengthening women's educational institutions. Two projects enhanced women's empowerment, self-reliance skills and their role in peace building and reconciliation. In "Somaliland", UNHCR constructed a hospital kitchen at the local hospital's tuberculosis ward. Other activities included construction of rooms and

provision of furniture for two orphanages as well as for the Ministry of the Interior and the Chamber of Commerce. In Awdal region, two marketplaces were constructed. Other activities included community support and capacity building projects for youth, parents, student associations and national NGOs. In total, community service activities benefited over 9,200 persons nationwide.

Crop production: To the benefit of some 2,800 farmers, 27 km of irrigation canals were dug in "Somaliland" and Mogadishu. Other projects provided 16,500 farmers with tools, agricultural inputs, and training in new crop production techniques, including field demonstrations. In "Somaliland", the Aburin agricultural learning resource centre was also supported.

Domestic needs/Household support: While awaiting allocation of land for their permanent settlement in "Somaliland", returnees at the Ayaha temporary settlement in Hargeisa received food, water, firewood, and other relief items. In "Puntland", some 600 girls received school uniforms, textbooks, and paraffin lamps, in an effort to enable them to attend school. UNHCR assisted urban refugees in Hargeisa to cover school fees and provided health assistance and basic food.

Education: Under the *Together for Girls Initiative*, targeting over 20,000 Somali girls in Somalia, UNHCR constructed/renovated schools and sports grounds, improved sanitation and water facilities, provided furniture and individual assistance (scholarships, school uniforms, textbooks, stationary and paraffin) to vulnerable girls as well as assistance to community education committees and female teachers' associations. The construction of Harfo Women's Hostel and Galkayo Women's Centre in Mudug region improved girls' access to education and created a space for organizing community-development activities. In "Somaliland", educational and sanitary facilities improved with the construction of additional facilities and furnishings for classrooms. UNHCR also arranged teacher training in 32 schools and upgraded existing sports facilities and provided individual assistance to girls. In Mogadishu, the improved availability of educational facilities benefited 1,200 students and teachers. In Somaliland, UNHCR continued to support a vocational training centre for youth in Hargeisa, providing training in masonry, carpentry, auto-mechanics, tailoring, computers and management.

Health/Nutrition: UNHCR constructed three mother-and-child medical facilities to respond to the growing pressure on urban areas in northern Somalia. UNHCR also undertook awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS and the harmful effects of female genital mutilation for some 50,000 Somalis through radio broadcasting, workshops, video-clips and theatre outreach. A palliative care project provided counselling, supplementary nutrition and hygiene kits to 20 refugees living with HIV/AIDS. To build the national capacity, UNHCR trained 12 public health workers on HIV/AIDS issues.

Income generation: Welding and brick-making projects supported in "Puntland" supplied local markets with domestically produced goods and services. In "Somaliland", 200 households received assistance for small-scale start-up projects (fishing and salt production), including training and expert guidance.

Legal assistance: In Hargeisa, child protection training sessions were coupled with awareness raising on gender and girls' education. Girls' recreational activities were promoted and radio programmes on gender issues were broadcast. Human rights campaigns served to strengthen collaboration among human rights groups, local authorities, and the public. Media representatives in Mogadishu were trained on journalistic standards when reporting on refugee and IDP issues. In "Somaliland" and "Puntland", the United Nations familiarized the authorities and NGOs with its Guiding Principles on IDPs.

Operational support (to agencies): Protection and project monitoring missions were undertaken as required, but these incurred increased costs due to the introduction of new security requirements. National staff in "Puntland" received training in basic programming principles and procedures.

Sanitation: Activities in this sector targeted the construction and renovation of facilities for public use, and the construction of separate lavatories for girls as part of the school renovation projects. Three hundred and ten pit latrines, 20 showers and one garbage disposal system were built. Separate lavatories, furnished with running water and door locks, were constructed for girls.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: The UN Country Team funded jointly with UNHCR the rehabilitation of airstrips in Jowhar and Kismayo in south Somalia

to ensure their MOSS compatibility, improve general serviceability and the security of UNCAS flights, thus ensuring humanitarian access to these areas.

Transport/Logistics: In "Somaliland", 3.6 km of road to Harirad used by repatriation convoys transporting Somalis back from Ethiopia was reconditioned. UNHCR assisted the authorities and NGOs to participate in the needs assessment and monitoring of reintegration projects.

Water: Work on longer-term improvement of water structures in "Puntland", south and central Somalia and in "Somaliland" focused on the extension/improvement of existing urban water systems, construction of new water catchments, and construction/rehabilitation of dams, boreholes and shallow wells. In "Puntland" and south/central Somalia, UNHCR responded to the prolonged drought by delivering clean water to over 52,000 residents in Mudug, Nugaal and Bari as well as transporting affected families and their livestock to water sources and providing operating fuel for existing boreholes. UNHCR also relocated 500 flood-affected families to dryer areas (specifically designated by the local administration in Garowe) and provided them with plastic sheeting and separate sanitation facilities for men and women.

Organization and implementation

Management

In line with the 1995 decision by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, the UNHCR Representation for Somalia maintained its base in Nairobi. The Representation was responsible for overseeing and coordinating the operation in the entire country, with suboffice Hargeisa covering the operations in "Somaliland", and the field offices in Galkayo, Bossasso and Mogadishu covering "Puntland" and the South, respectively. Four UNVs offered technical support to the operation, along with eight international and 38 national staff members.



Somalia: Returnees from Ethiopia - due to the harsh climatic conditions, UNHCR is providing assistance to these returnees.
 UNHCR/P. Kessler

Working with others

UNHCR remains an active member of the UN Country Team, the Security Management Team for Somalia, and other bodies dealing with the humanitarian and recovery situation in Somalia.

In addition to the UN agencies working in Somalia, including UNDP, ILO and UN-Habitat under the umbrella of the Return and Reintegration of Returnees and IDPs Programme, UNHCR worked with four international NGOs, 58 national NGOs, and the local authorities. The Office continued to participate in the Consolidated Appeals Process.

Comprehensive Plan of Action

Since August 2004, UNHCR has been participating in the preparation of the regional Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Somali refugees. The CPA aims to address, comprehensively, the issue of Somali refugees and asylum-seekers by improving protection and assistance in asylum countries and creating conditions for sustainable return to Somalia. While developing the Somalia part of the plan, UNHCR also provided administrative support to the participating UNHCR offices in the region.

Overall assessment

The set objectives of repatriation, reintegration and protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees were achieved, and were in line with the priorities of beneficiaries and the authorities. Though very few of the returnees were able to become economically self-sufficient, UNHCR was able to make a considerable difference to their and their communities' access to water, education, healthcare and sanitation.

The repatriation movements to "Somaliland" from Ethiopia should be completed in 2005, thus leaving some refugees, currently in Djibouti, to return to the area in 2006. Meanwhile, as the peace process advances in south and central Somalia, UNHCR will look into expanding its presence and activities in this part of the country in order to prepare for a potential large scale return of Somali refugees from abroad.

Offices
Nairobi (Kenya)
Bossasso
Galkayo
Hargeisa
Mogadishu

Partners

Government agencies

Line ministries related to programme activities
 Ministry for Diaspora and Refugee Affairs (Mogadishu)
 Ministry of Disarmament and Reconciliation "Puntland"
 Ministry of International Co-operation "Puntland"
 Ministry of National Planning and Coordination "Somaliland"
 Ministry of Planning and Statistics "Puntland"
 Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction "Somaliland"
 Ministry of the Interior "Somaliland"
 National Refugee Commission (Mogadishu)

NGOs

"Somaliland" Relief Organization
 "Somaliland" Social Development Organization
 "Somaliland" Trade and Construction Company
 "Somaliland" Welfare Society
 "Somaliland" Women's Welfare Organisation
 Agricultural Livestock Voluntary Organization
 Agriculture Development Organization
 Al-Falah
 AMAL
 ASAL
 Awdal Rehabilitation and Development Association
 Awdal Women Development Organization
 Bani'Adam Relief and Development Organization
 Community Based Organization
 Community Concern Somalia
 Daldhis Rehabilitation and Development Association
 Dalsan Cooperative
 Danish Refugee Council
 Daryeel Humanitarian and Integration Social
 Deriye Construction Company
 Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development
 GCCI
 Girls Development Association
 Hargeisa Municipality
 Hargeisa Orphanage Centre
 HAVOYOCO
 Health Unlimited
 Help
 HIGSAD
 Hodan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Organization
 Horseed Women's and Children Rescue Association

HURCOS
 KAALMO
 KAALO Relief and Development
 Lughaya Reconstruction and Development Organization
 National Appropriate Technology Organization
 National Engineering Technology
 Oog Construction and Rehabilitation Organization
 Participatory Home Development
 PSAWEN
 RAHMO
 Samo Development Organization
 Save Somali Women and Children
 Save the Children (GBR, USA)
 Shafi'l Social Development Union
 Shiilaale Rehabilitation and Ecological Concern
 Somali Development and Rehabilitation Organization
 Somali Development Organization
 Somali Red Cross Society
 Somali Reunification Women Union
 Somali Women Association
 Somali Women Concern
 Tawfiq Cooperative
 TOGSOL
 United Somali Professional Organization
 Voluntary Community Service Organization
 Vulnerable Children Care Organization
 Welfare Project Society
 Women's Action Development Organization

Others

EC
 ECHO
 FAO
 Food Security Analysis Unit
 ILO
 IOM
 OCHA
 Somalia Aid Coordination Body
 UN Habitat
 UNDP
 UNESCO-PEER
 UNICEF
 UNIFEM
 United Nations Political Office for Somalia
 WFP
 WHO
 UNV

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,771,451	0
Community services	208,721	121,796
Crop production	249,891	4,826
Domestic needs / Household support	98,362	0
Education	961,361	324,098
Health and nutrition	253,409	0
Income generation	108,150	20,705
Legal assistance	141,303	0
Operational support (to agencies)	640,562	273,311
Sanitation	133,920	0
Shelter and infrastructure	44,600	0
Transport and logistics	206,648	0
Water	415,923	59,015
Instalments with implementing partners	411,843	(803,752)
Sub-total operational activities	5,646,145	0
Programme support	469,868	0
Total disbursements	6,116,013	0
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	1,683,588	
Reporting received	(1,271,745)	
Balance	411,843	
Prior years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1 January		615,559
Payments made		198,003
Reporting received		(803,752)
Refunded to UNHCR		(4,717)
Currency adjustment		(5,093)
Balance		0
Unliquidated obligations		
Outstanding 1 January		665,521
Disbursements		(615,312)
Cancellations		(50,209)
Outstanding 31 December		0