

# Somalia

## Main objectives

- Attain durable solutions through voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to the north of the country, while working with all concerned parties to foster reintegration and allow for the eventual phase-down of UNHCR operations in that zone.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of individuals wishing to return to southern Somalia.
- Provide life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers to whom UNHCR has access, while pursuing durable solutions for their plight.

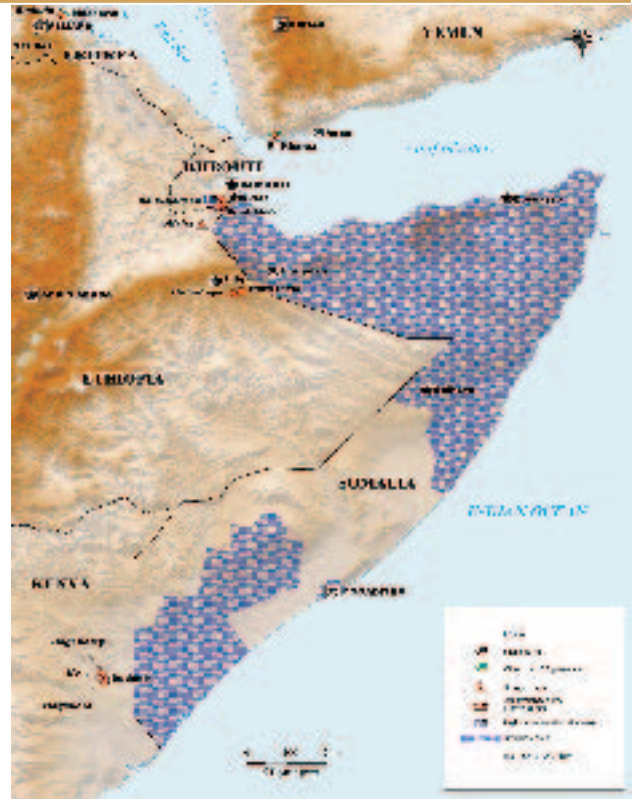
## Working environment

### Recent developments

Somalia remains divided into three distinct zones: “Somaliland” in the Northwest, “Puntland” in the Northeast, and finally the southern and central zone, with different degrees of security, stability and governance in each. In April 2003, the first multi-party elections in 35 years were held in “Somaliland”. The results were disputed and taken to the High Court for final judgement. The absence of violence during and after the elections is in itself an indication of the growth of political maturity and social stability achieved by “Somaliland” over the past 12 years.

In “Puntland”, the two rival political factions signed a peace agreement in May 2003. The consolidation of the power of the ruling administration and the subsequent reconciliation with the opposition brought stability to the region and ended a period of power struggles and insecurity. This considerably improved humanitarian access and created a favourable operating environment for UNHCR. As a result, over 600 refugees were repatriated by air from Kenya.

In the southern and central zones of Somalia, the re-establishment of a central government and a return to security will depend on the outcome of the Mbagathi Peace Process in Kenya. An agreement was signed in July 2003, announcing the intention to create a new transitional government controlled by a 351-member parliament with a four-year mandate.



Talks resumed in September 2003 and negotiations will continue.

By the third quarter of 2003, some 465,000 refugees had voluntarily repatriated with the assistance of UNHCR and a larger number had returned spontaneously. Reintegration of refugees remains difficult because of the challenging socio-economic environment arising from civil strife and years of neglect. Despite the progress made with the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees, some 400,000 Somali refugees (mainly from southern Somalia) remain scattered around the world. Some 257,000 refugees are living in difficult conditions in camps and other areas in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen. The socio-economic devastation of Somalia is such that reintegration will represent a formidable challenge for some time yet – this is despite the best efforts of the

Planning figures		
Population	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004
Returnees	44,000	23,000
Asylum-seekers	250	16,000
Ethiopia (refugees)	230	600
Other refugees	50	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,530</b>	<b>39,700</b>

**Total requirements: USD 5,749,223**

people themselves, the authorities, the diaspora and the international aid community.

UNHCR and its United Nations and NGO partners continue to work with the authorities in the northern parts of the country. The authorities maintain their respect for the right of refugees to return to their country of origin, and continue to afford them protection and assistance. It is commendable that returnees are not stigmatised or discriminated against. In most cases they are assisted in the reintegration process by relatives drawing upon their own meagre resources. The multi-partner co-operative work will continue in an effort to create conditions conducive to the continued return of refugees.

## Constraints

Insecurity in southern and central Somalia constrains all UNHCR activities. Conflict within and between clans, and freelance militia activities, often hamper humanitarian access and put the safety and security of humanitarian workers at risk. Unless the security situation improves, no large-scale voluntary repatriation can be envisaged in any part of this zone. Nevertheless, UNHCR will continue in 2004 to receive individual returnees in Mogadishu and undertake reintegration activities where access is possible. The presence of some 350,000 IDPs in Somalia, the fledgling economy, the shortage of basic services, the limited capacity of the authorities and abject poverty, are all factors which prevent the full scale return of the refugees – many of whom lack marketable skills. A significant concern is the possibility that any large-scale return of refugees to the stable zones in Somalia in the near future could pose a threat to the hard-won peace in those zones, as competition over scarce resources could increase to dangerous levels. Recovery and development issues must therefore be addressed rapidly, and in a concerted manner – by the international aid community. Even in relative terms, funding for the Somalia programme has been too modest, with world attention focused on humanitarian crises elsewhere.

## Strategy

UNHCR will continue to promote repatriation and facilitate voluntary return to the safe zones. To enable individuals to make an informed decision on their prospective return, information campaigns will be carried out in the refugee camps in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen with the aid of the relevant Somali authorities and the governments of refugee hosting countries.

UNHCR will contribute to achieving the priorities of the UN Country Team for Somalia and the Somalia Aid

Co-ordination Body. For UNHCR, this involves giving attention to the needs of returnees in its activities in “Somaliland”, “Puntland”, and Mogadishu and its environs. UNHCR will provide basic services in the sectors of health (including HIV/AIDS prevention and the promotion of mental health); water and sanitation; and education, with special emphasis on the promotion of education for refugee girls and fostering respect for human rights. UNHCR will also help to establish a legal aid network capable of providing counselling services to returnee (and refugee) women and children, as part of its strategic objectives for 2004.

UNHCR will prepare for the eventual phasing down of its reintegration activities in “Somaliland” and will hand over these activities to organisations specialising in longer-term recovery and development. The mechanisms for a gradual hand-over are in place but the success of this strategy will largely depend on sufficient donor support.

Following the completion of the voluntary repatriation of the majority of refugees to “Somaliland”, refugee camps in Djibouti and Ethiopia will be consolidated, to host the remaining refugees from southern Somalia.

## Protection and solutions

Based on the two-pronged approach of promotion and facilitation of voluntary repatriation, and the level of security, it is envisaged that 23,000 Somali refugees (8,000 from Djibouti, 10,000 from Kenya and 5,000 from Yemen) will be assisted to repatriate in 2004. Any residual groups in Ethiopia originating from “Somaliland” will also be assisted to return. UNHCR will monitor the ongoing peace talks at Mbagathi, as the movement of refugees from Kenya and Yemen to the southern parts of Somalia is expected if the peace talks are successful. The resulting repatriation would require additional resources, as it is not covered by the 2004 programme. Community-based quick impact projects will be implemented to improve absorption capacity in the returnee areas. UNHCR will provide international protection and life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers whilst pursuing durable solutions like voluntary repatriation, where possible, local integration or resettlement. A continual returnee monitoring mechanism involving contact with local authorities, host communities and NGOs, and direct interviews with returnees, will aim to ensure the physical, legal and material safety of returnees. UNHCR will continue to advocate respect for returnees’ rights among Somali leaders and other important members of the community.





After 13 years in exile in Dadaab, Kenya, a young returnee started a new life in his home country in "Puntland". He quickly found work as a trainee carpenter. UNHCR / K. McKinsey



## Assistance

UNHCR will extend its assistance to refugees who returned in 2002 and 2003, and those expected to repatriate in 2004. Basic services will be provided for returnees and vulnerable groups such as IDPs and marginalised minority populations living in the returnee areas. Local communities and the authorities will help UNHCR to identify the needs. Areas receiving large numbers of returnees will be developed so that social services and economic opportunities are available, in particular for refugee women, children, adolescents and older refugees. Special attention will be paid to the education of girls. The Office will also address environmental degradation and soil erosion resulting from deforestation caused by over-grazing and charcoal-making activities.

The phasing down of UNHCR and partner programme activities in “Somaliland” and the handover to longer-term development actors will be accelerated in 2004.

## Desired impact

Refugees in Somalia will have access to basic services, and be able to sustain themselves. Durable solutions, tailored to individual needs, will be promoted for different groups of refugees.

Somali refugees returning voluntarily to “Somaliland” and “Puntland” will be assisted to do so. UNHCR will facilitate the movement of individual Somali refugees wishing to return to areas of southern Somalia that are presently deemed less safe or stable.

UNHCR and other agencies’ community-based reintegration projects aim to promote the enjoyment of human rights and the sustainability of return and will make a positive difference to the lives of

returnees, especially female returnees. They will not be discriminated against and will benefit from national protection, i.e. national legislation conforming to international standards.

Authorities will increasingly engage with more development-oriented actors in a sustainable reintegration process, including economic recovery and income-generating activities.

## Organisation and implementation

### Management structure

UNHCR operations in Somalia and in countries hosting Somali refugees will be co-ordinated through close dialogue between the relevant UNHCR country offices. The country office for Somalia – based in Nairobi, Kenya – will co-ordinate and oversee all UNHCR operations in Somalia. The office in Hargeisa (“Somaliland”) will support the repatriation and reintegration programme for Somali returnees. UNHCR will also maintain field offices in Bossaso, Galkayo and Mogodishu. In total, the operation will be managed by 51 staff (39 national, eight international, and four UNVs).

### Co-ordination

UNHCR is a member of the Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body which comprises UN agencies, donors and NGOs. This body was set up in 1993 to enhance and strengthen co-ordination mechanisms and inter-agency planning. The UN Country Team and the Security Management Team will establish and monitor policy direction for UN agencies. Greater co-ordination between UN programmes will be achieved through the UN Consolidated Appeal Process. The common UN security system will ensure compliance with Minimum Operating Security Standards. Furthermore, UNHCR will remain a member of the board of the United Nations Common Air Services so that travel arrangements for staff (including security or medical evacuation) meet the requirements of the Office.

In striving to meet its objectives for 2004, UNHCR will work closely with relevant authorities, national and international NGOs, local contractors and the beneficiary population.

## Offices

**Nairobi (Kenya)**

Bosasso  
Galkayo  
Hargeisa  
Mogadishu

## Partners

**Government agencies**

Ministry for Diaspora and Refugees (Mogadishu)  
Ministry of International Co-operation and Planning ("Puntland")  
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction ("Somaliland")

**NGOs**

Agricultural Development Organisation  
Association for Integration and Development  
Bani'Adam  
Buruc Women's Group  
Community Concerned Somalis  
Doses of Hope Foundation  
Ecological Preservation Association  
Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development  
Hambororo Relief and Rehabilitation  
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee  
HIGSAD  
Idimale NGO  
Muranyo Fishing Association  
Nasib Salt Association  
Norwegian People's Aid  
OXFAM (UK)  
Save Somalia Women and Children  
Save the Children Fund (USA, UK)  
Shafi'Social Development Organisation  
Somali Reunification Women's Union

**Others**

ILO

## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	1,496,589
Community services	174,000
Crop production	165,000
Domestic needs	30,000
Education	620,000
Health	400,000
Income generation	251,000
Legal assistance	252,000
Operational support (to agencies)	451,000
Sanitation	175,000
Shelter / other infrastructure	210,000
Transport / logistics	310,400
Water	621,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>5,155,989</b>
Programme support	593,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,749,223</b>