

Somalia

Operational highlights

- UNHCR assisted a total of some 1,800 Somalis to return home from Djibouti and Yemen.
- The Office implemented all its planned community-based reintegration projects, benefiting some 208,000 people. These included returnees, members of their host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- UNHCR improved refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement services in “Somaliland” and conducted RSD for persons seeking protection in “Puntland”.
- As the lead in the IDP protection and shelter clusters in Somalia, the Office addressed the protection concerns of IDPs within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and provided basic services and infrastructure in their settlements.



Working environment

The situation in Somalia was fraught with insecurity and political instability throughout 2006. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG), which moved to Somalia from Kenya in June 2005, was unable to relocate to the capital, Mogadishu. Instead, in March, the first session of Parliament was convened in Baidoa, thereby effectively creating another seat of the transitional federal institutions.

However, the TFG could not build its authority on the ground. Key issues related to security, national reconciliation and the deployment of international

peacekeepers remained unresolved. As the year progressed, a strong Islamist group, the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), took control of Mogadishu and most of central and southern Somalia.

In spite of international efforts to facilitate peace talks, heavy fighting between the UIC and the TFG erupted in December. Backed by troops from Ethiopia, the TFG emerged victorious. For the first time since its establishment in 2004, the TFG was installed in Mogadishu.

The humanitarian situation in the country, particularly in central and southern Somalia, remained dire. The damage wreaked by a drought that began at the end of

2005 was compounded by the worst floods to hit the region in decades. These disasters led to more displacement and loss of livelihoods. Many Somalis tried to flee into Kenya when the UIC-TFG fighting broke out, but were stopped at the border by the Kenyan authorities, who feared infiltration by UIC forces. As a result, thousands of Somalis were trapped in the border regions under harsh conditions. Their plight was made worse by severe restrictions on humanitarian access to the area.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's objectives were to attain durable solutions for Somali refugees through promoted voluntary repatriation to the safe areas of "Somaliland" and "Puntland", and facilitated voluntary repatriation to south and central Somalia; support the reintegration of returnees, with a view to improving their income-generation options and access to basic services; provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, where UNHCR has access, and ensure adequate processing and treatment of asylum-seekers, while simultaneously pursuing durable solutions; and contribute to the collaborative United Nations efforts to improve the protection of and assistance to IDPs.

Protection and solutions

Despite the relative security in "Somaliland", there was evidence of growing xenophobia in arbitrary arrests of refugees and asylum-seekers. Indeed, amid increasing tension in central and southern Somalia, migrants, IDPs and foreigners were all perceived as a threat to security in "Somaliland". In March, following a surge in applications for asylum, mostly by Oromos from Ethiopia, the authorities suspended the registration of new asylum-seekers. UNHCR worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Danish Refugee Council and other agencies to help stranded migrants return home voluntarily.

Meanwhile, the "Puntland" authorities, who were very concerned about mixed migration flows through the port city of Bossasso, passed a decree in September prohibiting human smuggling. This led to the arrest and deportation of 1,370 Ethiopian migrants. UNHCR's intervention and the start of RSD services in November halted the deportations, but the authorities continued to arrest people who entered "Puntland" irregularly and threatened to deport them.

The Office supported the establishment of a Refugee Affairs Committee in "Puntland" that would focus on registration of asylum-seekers and their referral to UNHCR's status determination services, as well as on protection issues. UNHCR also increased its monitoring of protection in Bossasso by paying regular visits to detainees, checkpoints and IDP sites. Conditions in prison remained grim, with detainees lacking food and adequate sanitation.

All programmes for IDPs were planned and implemented within the cluster approach and the framework of the Somalia IASC. The programmes tracked population movements, profiled IDPs, developed a protection monitoring network and devised a framework for protection. UNHCR led the protection and shelter clusters. The major protection concerns of IDPs were sexual and gender-based violence (particularly rape, domestic violence and sexual assault), access to justice and personal security.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR carried out community empowerment training in 13 villages in "Somaliland". Refugees also benefited from tailoring and English-language courses provided by fellow refugees. The refugee centre in Hargeisa provided various training and counseling services, helping to raise awareness of issues such as sexual and gender-based violence. As a result, reporting was improved: 85 cases were reported to the relevant authorities in 2006, as opposed to six in 2005. UNHCR supported refugee elders and members of Parliament conduct conflict resolution missions in the Togdheer region, and constructed a family life education centre for women in Baligubadle.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Ethiopia	600	600	45	34
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	1,200	200	28	0
Returnees (refugees)	From Djibouti	1,200	1,200	-	-
	From Yemen	600	600	-	-
IDPs		400,000	400,000	-	-
Total		403,600	402,600		



UNHCR/K. McKinsey

The Havoyoco vocational training centre in Hargeisa, funded by UNHCR. Directors say that 90 per cent of the graduates find paid employment.

Crop production: In “Somaliland”, UNHCR established three demonstration farms and supplied water pumps and pipes to farmers. The Office also lined six shallow wells and constructed a sub-surface dam. Returnee farmers were trained in irrigation management and pesticide use and received registration cards, pending the issue of title deeds by the authorities. The Office carried out a cadastral survey and completed the mapping of 700 rain-fed farms in the Abaarsa area.

In “Puntland”, UNHCR established a farmers’ investment fund and launched a crop husbandry project that benefited more than 450 individuals. In southern Somalia, the Office established two poultry farms for returnees, benefiting some 2,500 individuals, and began a farming project that helped 700 people.

Domestic assistance: The Office paid all refugees in “Somaliland” a monthly subsistence allowance. Food rations were provided to newly arrived refugees in “Puntland” and central and southern Somalia. Returnees with special needs were provided with non-food items, and IDPs in “Somaliland and Puntland” received plastic sheets, mosquito nets and sleeping mats.

Education: All schools constructed by UNHCR were in use. A primary school was built in “Puntland”, and another in southern Somalia was rehabilitated, benefiting more than 600 children. The Office provided scholarships to 90 girls in Puntland to ensure they remained in school, and established a vocational training centre for 400 returnees and IDPs. Another such centre was built in a major urban area of

Somaliland, and 85 students completed eight months of training in vocational skills at the centre. A total of 130 teachers from 17 primary schools in “Somaliland” were trained in lesson planning and provided with teaching materials.

Forestry: More than 4,500 returnees in “Puntland” benefited from the establishment of nurseries and tree plantations which also improved the environment in the returnee area. A nursery with 10,000 seedlings was established in “Somaliland”. UNHCR trained returnee farmers in nursery management.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR rehabilitated a hospital in Mogadishu, benefiting more than 5,000 returnees and other persons of concern. In “Somaliland”, the construction of an emergency ward was completed, as was a dormitory to accommodate 40 nursing students. The Office provided drugs and medical equipment to mother and child health centres in returnee areas. In “Somaliland”, UNHCR began monitoring nutritional levels, and in “Puntland” and central and southern Somalia the Office participated in the health and nutrition cluster to assess and assist vulnerable refugees.

Income generation: In “Puntland”, UNHCR initiated two income-generation projects and built bakeries to provide livelihoods to some 160 individuals. In central and southern Somalia, it constructed a market shelter and a bakery, benefiting more than 1,200 returnees and IDPs. Furthermore, a UNHCR-supported bakery in Mogadishu and a reconstructed market shelter in Lower Shabelle provided income-generation opportunities for some

6,000 returnees and IDPs. In “Somaliland”, a cash grant of USD 10,000 and assorted hand tools were provided to a salt cooperative in one of the main returnee areas. UNHCR provided cash support through a revolving fund to 29 women’s groups.

Legal assistance: A system for referrals to the legal clinic was established in “Somaliland”, and refugees and asylum-seekers received free legal assistance. The Office trained legal clinic staff, NGO personnel and community leaders. In “Puntland” and north-eastern Somalia, UNHCR trained the Somali authorities in RSD and helped establish a refugee-eligibility committee.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR continued protection and project monitoring in all operational zones, ensuring that resources were used efficiently and beneficiaries received the necessary administrative and management support. The Office also provided supplies and equipment to partners as required.

Sanitation: Some 12,800 individuals benefited from the construction of pit latrines and a water reservoir in Galkayo, and an awareness campaign on diarrhoea and cholera prevention. In southern Somalia, UNHCR launched an urban sanitation project benefiting more than 720 individuals. The Office built house latrines, provided hand tools for garbage collection and carried out sanitation training in 13 villages in “Somaliland”.

Shelter and infrastructure: The construction of a bridge and two kilometre-long canals was completed in “Somaliland”. UNHCR, as part of the shelter cluster, supported basic services infrastructure and mid-term shelter solutions, including the development of a mobile shelter prototype.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR transported relief items to Somalia from Kenya, and helped transport returnees to their final destinations upon their arrival in *Puntland*. In *Somaliland*, the Office restored some 10 km of road.

Water: UNHCR increased access to potable water in returnee areas by drilling boreholes, benefiting some 3,200 households. In collaboration with the water cluster, the Office responded to the needs arising from the drought at the end of 2005 by trucking water in *Somaliland*. Five water reservoirs were constructed, and the *Somaliland* Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources was assisted to undertake water quality surveillances.

Constraints

Limited absorption capacity in the areas of return remained a major concern for UNHCR. Authorities in both *Somaliland* and *Puntland* said inadequate basic services were serious impediments to ongoing and future returns. Overall, the reintegration programmes of

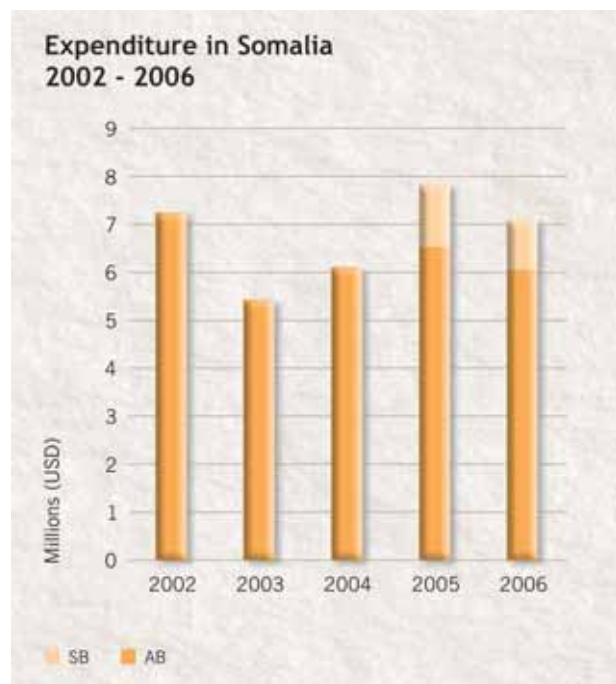
UNHCR and other agencies in urban areas were insufficient to sustain the returns.

With most parts of Somalia under UN security phases IV and V (see *Glossary*) throughout the year, UNHCR’s implementation of its programme was subject to the degree of humanitarian access and stability in each of the operational areas. Security restrictions on UNHCR staff movements to central and southern Somalia caused considerable delays in protection monitoring.

Financial Information

The reintegration programme for returnees in *Somaliland* was particularly affected by the budget cut in 2006. The Office participated in the inter-agency consolidated appeal process for assistance to IDPs in Somalia. It was relatively successful in its efforts to raise funds, with around 80 per cent of requirements met.

The fluctuation in expenditure in Somalia reflects the rise and fall in the number of persons of concern to the Office in need of assistance – mostly returnees.



Expenditure in 2005 was almost 30 per cent greater than in 2004 due to UNHCR’s involvement in the protection and shelter clusters for IDPs.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR’s representation for Somalia continued to operate from Nairobi. The Office focused primarily on improving protection and reintegration programmes in

“Somaliland” and “Puntland” as well as IDP support activities in central and southern Somalia. UNHCR’s operations in Somalia were implemented through a sub-office in Hargeisa, field offices in Garowe and Mogadishu, and field units in Bossaso and Galkayo. In 2006, UNHCR opened a field unit in Merka to improve its operations in southern Somalia.

Working with others

UNHCR substantially expanded its partnerships with all stakeholders in Somalia to improve joint programming and led the protection and shelter clusters. UNHCR also focused on building the capacity of Somali NGOs and local authorities, as they formed the backbone of both UNHCR’s regular and IDP programmes. In 2006, in order to respond to the needs of Somali and non-Somali migrants who transit Somalia on their way to Yemen, IOM was brought into the operational picture for the first time.

Overall assessment

UNHCR was unable to achieve all its objectives in Somalia, mainly due to the surge in insecurity in southern Somalia that reached all the way to “Puntland”. However, the Office made progress in its overall protection and reintegration objectives.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
<p>Government agencies: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management Agency (“Puntland”), Line Ministries related to programme activities, Ministry for Diaspora and Refugee Affairs (southern Somalia), Ministry of Interior (“Somaliland”), Ministry of Interior, Security and Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (“Puntland”), Ministry of International Cooperation and Planning (“Puntland”), Ministry of Planning and Statistics (“Puntland”), Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (“Somaliland”), National Refugee Commission (southern Somalia)</p>	
<p>NGOs: Agricultural Development Organization, AGROCARE, AL KHEIR, Al-Baraka Women Self Reliance, Bani’Adam Relief and Development Organization, Cadastral Survey Limited, CARE International, Community Based Progress Association, Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland, Consortium of Somaliland Non-Governmental Organization, Dami Youth Development Organization, Danish Refugee Council, Eastern Voluntary Organization, Ecological Reservation Association, Forum for Peace and Governance, Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development, Gollis College, Health Unlimited, Hillac Local NGO, Homboboro, Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee, Horseed Women and Children Rescue Association, MUBARAK for Relief Development Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, Puntland Environmental Protection Association, Sahan Research and Development Organization, SAMO, Sibraar Development Organization, Somali Action for Humanitarian and Development Organization, Somali Minority Vision in Action Relief and Development Organization, Somali Resettlement Integration and Development Organization, Somali Reunification Women Union, Somali Welfare Society, Somaliland Community Development Organization, Somaliland Natural Resources Development Organization, Somaliland Women’s Development Association, Somaliland Youth Voluntary Organization, SOOYAAL, SORERDO, United Somali Professional Organization, Women in Action Development Organization</p>	
Operational partners	
<p>Others: EC, FAO, Food Security Analysis Unit, IOM, Somalia Support Secretariat, UN Political Office for Somalia, UN/Habitat, UNDP, UNESCO-Peer, UNICEF, UNIFEM, University of Burao, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO</p>	

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	6,225,061	4,810,448	1,715,895	6,526,343	6,055,328
SB ³	4,431,118	3,820,828	(267,069)	3,553,759	1,038,587
Total	10,656,179	8,631,276	1,448,826	10,080,102	7,093,915

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.

³ The SB figures apply to the IDP operation. The budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	AB	SB	Total	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,135,411	216,102	2,351,512	0
Community services	184,571	59,690	244,261	28,393
Crop production	360,115	0	360,115	82,069
Domestic needs and household support	229,084	73,084	302,168	0
Education	536,384	0	536,384	97,319
Forestry	38,047	0	38,047	6,740
Health and nutrition	313,953	0	313,953	(1,418)
Income generation	302,480	0	302,480	102,501
Legal assistance	361,503	146,608	508,111	74,977
Operational support (to agencies)	124,313	33,152	157,465	123,176
Sanitation	112,739	0	112,739	5,477
Shelter and infrastructure	0	381,387	381,387	0
Transport and logistics	184,630	29,104	213,734	0
Water	174,875	0	174,875	51,605
Instalments with implementing partners	386,968	0	386,968	(570,839)
Sub-total operational activities	5,445,074	939,126	6,384,199	0
Programme support	610,254	99,461	709,715	0
Total expenditure	6,055,328	1,038,587	7,093,915	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(8,396)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	1,885,513	0	1,885,513	
Reporting received	(1,498,545)	0	(1,498,545)	
Balance	386,968	0	386,968	
Previous years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1st January				627,508
Reporting received				(570,839)
Refunded to UNHCR				(82,539)
Currency Adjustment				25,870
Balance				0