

Somalia

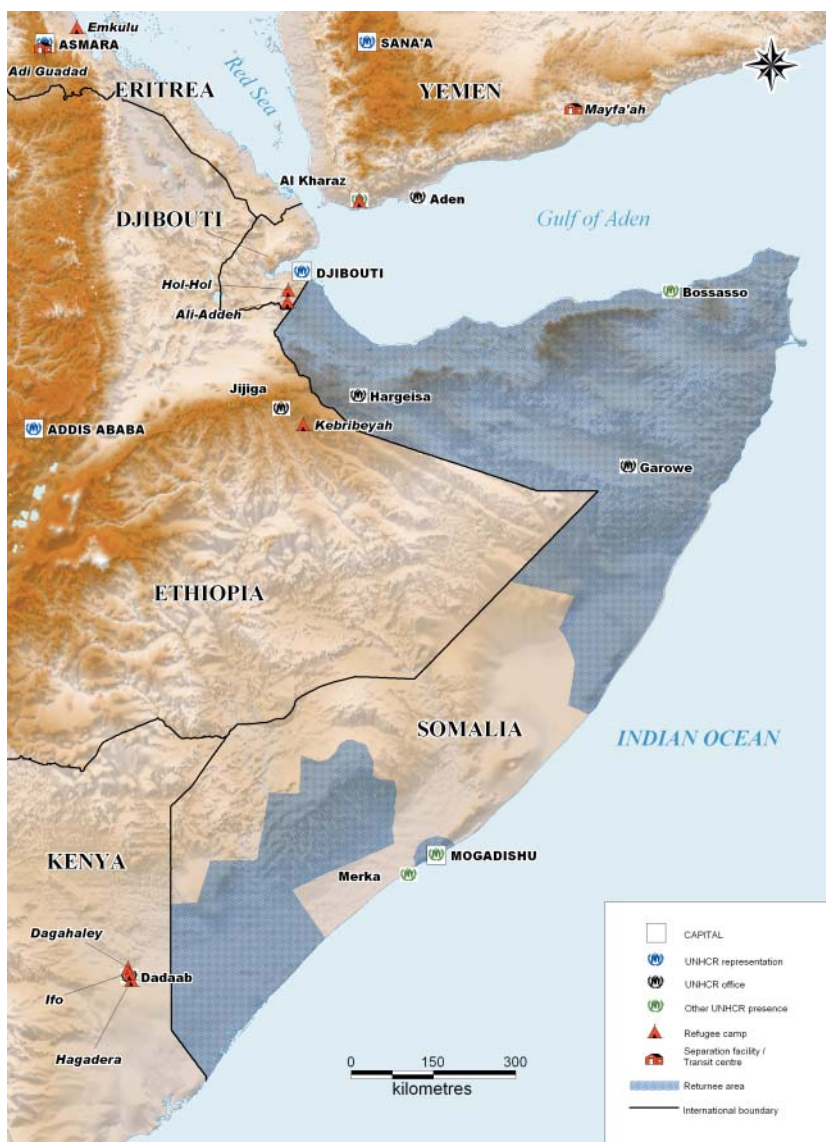
Working environment

The context

Many areas of Somalia remain insecure. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was undermined by differences over issues relating to the choice of the seat of government and the deployment of foreign forces. Despite international support, the TFG has not been able to extend its authority beyond the town of Baidoa or establish national institutions and governance structures.

The situation became more complex in early 2006 with the emergence of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) militias, which captured Mogadishu and most of central and southern Somalia all the way up to "Puntland". The fighting has resulted in a fresh refugee exodus, mainly to Kenya.

Negotiations between the TFG and UIC were held in Khartoum under the sponsorship of the League of Arab States. In September, the two parties agreed to reconstitute the Somali national army and police force, but this was made conditional on a power-sharing deal to be discussed in October 2006. In the meantime, the security situation has deteriorated to such a degree – with an assassination attempt against the President in Baidoa, the murder of an Italian nun and an open threat to the United



Nations – that all international staff in central and southern Somalia were relocated in September 2006. As a preventive measure, staff in "Puntland" were also evacuated but were allowed to return in October.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Ethiopia	1,120	1,120	1,170	1,170
	Various	120	120	130	130
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	330	—	1,010	—
Returnees ¹		10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
IDPs ²		400,000	150,000	400,000	150,000
Total		411,570	161,240	407,310	156,300

¹ The total number of returnees since the height of the crisis is estimated at 1.25 million out of a population of 6.8 million, of whom 496,000 returned with UNHCR assistance. In addition, UNHCR programmes will benefit some 300,000 people in receiving communities.

² UNHCR's programme will directly benefit some 150,000 IDPs to whom UNHCR has access; nonetheless, the overall cluster coordination of Protection and Shelter will benefit 400,000 IDPs.

However, the situation in “Somaliland” and “Puntland” has remained stable, with peaceful general elections in the former and a workable power-sharing agreement in the latter.

UNHCR helped repatriate almost 1,500 Somali refugees between January and August 2006, bringing the total number of assisted returnees to some 496,000. Another 8,500 refugees returned without UNHCR support. In addition, UNHCR was providing assistance to some 850 refugees in “Somaliland”.

The needs

The needs of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia are enormous. Returnees from exile join already impoverished communities in one of the least developed countries in the world. With limited resources, UNHCR can address only the most pressing needs and is calling for the involvement of development actors.

UNHCR has established effective coordination mechanisms within the UN Country Team and with NGOs but, due to the absence of a central government, joint planning with all stakeholders is difficult and sometimes impossible in central and southern Somalia. Accordingly, most UNHCR programmes have been based on consultations with individual authorities, agencies and beneficiaries. On the other hand, in “Somaliland”, joint assessments were carried out in some 20 districts. An external evaluation of the Reintegration of Returnees and IDPs Programme, an umbrella for joint UNHCR/UNDP action, showed that in order for returns to be sustainable it was necessary to redirect the focus from basic services in education, water, health and sanitation towards self-reliance for returnees, IDPs and others of concern. This was especially the case in rural areas. Rural interventions need to take account of an environment degraded by deforestation, overgrazing and the effects of drought and other natural disasters.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban centres need subsistence assistance, health and education services. Many may also have to be resettled, as few opportunities for local integration exist. In addition, thousands of foreigners, among them many potential asylum-seekers, arrive in “Somaliland” and “Puntland” every year. The refugee status determination system that has existed in “Somaliland” for a few years needs reinforcing; in “Puntland”, protection capacity is being established. Finally, arrests and detention of refugees and asylum-seekers remain too frequent in Somalia.

Participatory assessments have also revealed the need to focus more on women and children, including adolescents, in education and skills-development activities. Intervention is also required to eradicate female genital mutilation and other harmful cultural practices and to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Total requirements: USD 6,103,812

(Annual programme only. The financial requirements for the supplementary programme for IDPs are being finalized.)

Main objectives

- Help create conditions conducive to the durable return of Somali refugees to safe areas of “Somaliland” and “Puntland”; work towards the same goals in central and southern Somalia, where conditions are not yet conducive to large-scale refugee return.
- Support the reintegration of returnees, especially by providing options for income generation and improving basic services for returnees and receiving communities.
- Where UNHCR has physical access to them, provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees; ensure adequate processing and treatment of asylum-seekers; and pursue durable solutions.
- Contribute to collaborative UN efforts to improve the delivery of protection and assistance to IDPs.

Key targets for 2007

- 100 per cent of asylum-seekers and refugees are registered and promptly referred to UNHCR for refugee status determination; in “Somaliland”, 100 per cent receive individual documentation issued jointly with the authorities.
- Some 1,300 refugees receive subsistence and other assistance in “Somaliland”.
- Training provided to law-enforcement officials dealing with refugees and asylum-seekers; reduction in arrests and detention of asylum-seekers.
- Legal assistance and representation in court are available to all returnees, particularly with regard to property issues.
- Accessibility of water in returnee areas is increased from 30 to 40 per cent in “Somaliland” and up from 44 per cent in “Puntland”.
- Reduction in infant and under-five mortality from current levels of 133/1,000 and 225/1,000, respectively.
- Awareness programmes on female genital mutilation result in a reduction in the current rate of 95 per cent.
- Establishment of tree nurseries for reforestation. Seedlings used for reforestation in returnee areas and charcoal production reduced.
- Partnerships established with UNDP, FAO, UN-HABITAT on livelihoods projects; sustainable income generation projects designed and implemented. Women’s literacy and skills training available in all returnee areas.

Strategy and activities

In reintegration programmes, UNHCR will continue with a community-based approach to improve access to basic services while focusing on refugee self-reliance, including income generation. These activities will be tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the returnee population and will be based on analyses of the gaps remaining after previous interventions. The main focus will be on consolidating the programme in “Somaliland” before handing it over to development agencies. At the same time, UNHCR will shift the focus of its Somalia intervention towards reintegration in “Puntland” and protection of IDPs.

Many former refugees who have returned to “Puntland” used to live in other parts of Somalia before they fled, and now often share slum settlements with IDPs. A shortage of land in urban areas, as well as private use of public land, make it very difficult for the authorities to develop areas for refugee and IDP settlement. Thus, the sustainability of the return of Somali refugees needs to be seen in conjunction with durable solutions for IDPs.

UNHCR will assist the various authorities in Somalia to build their capacity to protect asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and IDPs. The Office will provide legal protection and life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Hargeisa and Garowe. It will seek resettlement opportunities for refugees who cannot integrate locally or repatriate.

Internally displaced people in Somalia

Against a backdrop of grave insecurity and political instability, and the high probability of further displacement in the coming months, the United Nations and NGOs strive to assist the estimated 400,000 IDPs in Somalia. The majority live in cities in densely populated temporary settlements on privately-owned land, frequently subject to abuse from landowners and with no access to basic services. Usually unskilled and disempowered, many resort to casual labour and begging.

In early 2006, the UN Country Team developed a protection response plan for IDPs. This linked protection to community services, emergency shelter and provision of non-food items as well as basic services. The entire concept has been developed within the cluster approach to situations of internal displacement, with UNHCR leading the Protection and Shelter Clusters.

The clusters have begun work, focusing on four areas:

- **Community Mobilization:** In late 2006, a framework for community mobilization in the IDP settlements throughout Somalia was being developed. The framework consolidates the community-service work already being done to inject protection and human rights approaches where necessary, fostering the concept of “community-based protection”. In 2007, it will also devise criteria and methodologies for the selection of beneficiaries of the various initiatives.
- **IDP Profiling Exercise:** In June 2006, the IASC Protection Cluster sought to develop an inter-agency framework for the collection and analysis of IDP-related information. Somalia has been chosen as one of the first countries to test the draft guidelines on IDP profiling, recently produced by the IASC. Under UNHCR’s protection cluster leadership, the first step was a review of existing data to take stock of information already available, identify gaps and plan a separate profiling exercise. The gaps were analyzed and IDP locations to be profiled were agreed on. The profiling was to be conducted from October 2006.
- **Population Tracking:** This would capture information on IDP population and any new population displacement to allow the humanitarian community to plan assistance.
- **Protection Monitoring:** A network of national partners has been established to gather information on human rights violations. The network’s reports will inform interventions to prevent or redress abuses inasmuch as possible in view of the severely limited humanitarian access.
- **Shelter Cluster:** UNHCR and UN-HABITAT jointly lead the newly established Shelter Cluster. UNHCR will be the lead agency for emergency and temporary shelter, while UN-HABITAT will take responsibility for permanent shelters.

In 2007, UNHCR will continue with these activities and strive for durable solutions for IDPs in line with the joint UN IDP strategy for Somalia. This links an overall improvement in the situation of IDPs with future possible durable solutions for them and returning Somali refugees.

The main strategic objectives for this project are thus to:

- Ensure better protection of IDPs and other vulnerable populations.
- Improve the current living conditions of IDPs and other vulnerable populations.
- Promote and foster durable solutions for IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable populations.

Constraints

The lack of central and local authorities and poor governance over the past 15 years, compounded by the renewed fighting, continue to pose obstacles for relief and return operations in central and southern Somalia. Public infrastructure and services have crumbled, and the majority of skilled Somalis have left or plan to leave the country for better opportunities.

A prolonged drought in 2005 and floods in 2006 have further weakened food security. An estimated 1.4 million people in northern, central and southern Somalia continue to face a humanitarian emergency. Environmental damage caused by charcoal burning and the overuse of firewood, as well as a ban on the export of livestock to Saudi Arabia, have adversely affected the economy. As a result, Somalia continues to face high malnutrition rates, worsened by poor health and hygiene conditions.

The authorities, particularly in central and southern Somalia, have very limited capacity to deal with the existing problems. The lack of basic services in most parts of the country makes it difficult to integrate returnees and IDPs. Finally, the shortfall in funding for recovery and development activities by UN agencies and NGOs, and a total absence of bilateral aid, is a continuing constraint.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

Number of offices	6
Total staff	51
International	9
National	33
UNVs	6
JPOs	1
Deployees	2

Coordination

Overall coordination is ensured by the UN Country Team, the Somalia Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Coordination and Management Committee, which includes the TFG, the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, donors and NGOs. Security is the responsibility of the UN Security Management Team. The NGO Consortium coordinates NGO activities.



UNHCR rehabilitated the "Somaliland" Women's Development Association Centre and supplied it with equipment for skills training. UNHCR / K. McKinsey

UNHCR participates in the Joint Needs Assessment led by the United Nations and the World Bank within the Livelihoods and Solutions for the Displaced Cluster, the results of which will be translated into a reconstruction and development framework for Somalia. Furthermore, a preparatory project for a Comprehensive Plan of Action for Somalia aims at identifying durable solutions to the problems of Somali refugees and returnees.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management Agency ("Puntland"), Ministry of Interior, Security and Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration ("Puntland"), Ministry of International Cooperation and Planning ("Puntland", "Somaliland", TFG), Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction ("Somaliland"), Ministry of the Interior ("Somaliland"), National Refugee Commission (TFG).

NGOs: Agricultural Development Organization, *Bani'Adam*, Community of Concerned Somalis, Danish Refugee Council, Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development, Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee, Health Unlimited, HIGSAD, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save Somali Women and Children, *Shafi'i* Social Development Organization, Somali Development and Rehabilitation Organization, Somali Reunification Women's Union, Somali Women Concern, United Somali People Organization.

Operational partners

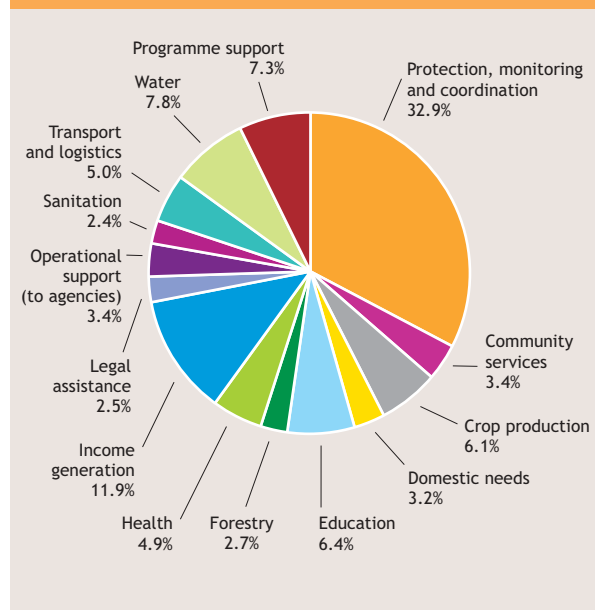
Others: European Commission, FAO-Food Security Analysis Unit, Somalia Aid Coordination Body, IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNESCO-Peer, UN Political Office for Somalia, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,352,826	1,978,201
Community services	242,700	206,000
Crop production	440,000	500,000
Domestic needs	227,000	267,200
Education	460,700	354,300
Forestry	195,000	95,000
Health	348,300	197,300
Income generation	855,000	620,000
Legal assistance	180,600	333,300
Livestock	0	110,000
Operational support (to agencies)	240,700	175,900
Sanitation	175,000	90,000
Shelter	0	55,000
Transport and logistics	355,000	220,000
Water	560,000	200,000
Total operations	6,632,826	5,402,201
Programme support	522,545	701,611
Total	7,155,371	6,103,812

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2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

