

Somalia

1-28 February 2021


In February, the operational environment in Somalia remained challenging in the majority of the country. The context was largely shaped by the delayed elections and volatile security situation.

Somalia is also facing a new wave of COVID-19. The increased number of COVID-19 cases resulted in the authorities putting new measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Despite the challenging operational environment, UNHCR continued to provide protection, assistance and solutions to persons of concern across the country.

KEY INDICATORS

 **2.6** million IDPs

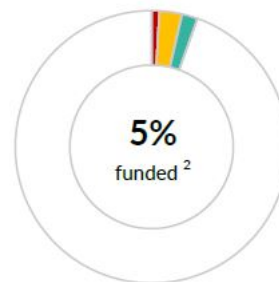
 **13,269** asylum-seekers
11,666 refugees

 **131,633** refugee returnees

FUNDING (AS OF 24 FEBRUARY)

USD 157.7 M

requested for the Somalia operation



Funded
5%
8.6 M



Students participating in a back-to-school campaign in Galkayo. © UNHCR

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The term of President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo ended on 8 February, with no clear indication on when the elections for a new leader would be organized. Electoral impasse continued, mainly due to disagreements between the Federal Government of Somalia and some of the Federal Member States on the organization of the elections. The UN representation in Somalia, together with the wider international community, continued to meet the various stakeholders, calling for a rapid resolution to the electoral deadlock.

The upcoming electoral period also led to increasing insecurity. Al-Shabaab carried out several attacks, mostly targeting politicians and government officials but also resulting in civilian casualties. Intensified insecurity led to the UN announcing a White City Alert to the entire country, with the expectation of Somaliland, which meant that UNHCR staff had to limit all movements in large parts of the country. This coupled with restricted access to internet challenged the work of UNHCR.

The operational environment was further complexified by COVID-19. Towards the end of February, the number of COVID-19 increased, culminating in the Ministry of Health reporting the highest number of confirmed cases in a day since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. Public and media attention around the issue increased as well, partly due to the death of several high-level figures due to the virus. The government announced several new measures in an attempt to control the spread of the virus, including a ban on all public gatherings and closure of schools and universities.



Field monitors and camp management committee conduct mapping of available services in Buulo-Ajuran camp in South Galkayo. © UNHCR

Achievements

Prevention and response to COVID-19

- Through a partner, UNHCR conducted awareness-raising and information campaign activities on hygiene practices and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, reaching close to 10,000 IDPs.
- In February, 35 PoCs were tested for COVID-19 in UNHCR-supported health centres, all results were negative.
- A total of 1,164 households who were particularly vulnerable as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (loss of livelihoods, underlying health conditions requiring treatment etc.) were provided with multipurpose cash grants.

- In addition, 55 individuals affected by COVID-19 received livelihood support, including cash transfer and technical training.
- In Somaliland, 15 individuals with disabilities received specific support in relation to COVID-19.
- A total of 12 complaint and feedback mechanisms (i.e. hotlines) continued to be operated across the country to offer PoCs support and information specific to the outbreak of COVID-19.

**PROTECTION****Protection Cluster**

In February, the Protection Cluster partners reached:

263 individuals through protection monitoring and referred 50 individuals to specialized services

10,162 individuals through community awareness-raising campaigns (breakdown of 2,108 girls, 1,772 boys, 4,152 women, 2,130 men, of which 229 are older persons)

11,457 individuals with information about GBV prevention and mitigation services

31,715 individuals (20,178 children) with various child protection services, including child protection messaging, psychosocial support, case management, family tracing and reunification, alternative care and reintegration of children associated with armed forces.

Registration

- As of 28 February, UNHCR recorded a total of 24,935 refugees and asylum-seekers, out of which 11,666 were refugees and 13,269 asylum-seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived from Ethiopia (69%) and Yemen (27%). In February, UNHCR registered 71 new refugee and asylum-seeker arrivals.

Multipurpose cash assistance

- In February, more than 13,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs.

SGBV

- Various events took place across Somalia to commemorate the International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which took place on 6 February. In Galkayo, Puntland, advocacy on FGM in the form of a panel discussion and associated media campaigns reached 3,000 individuals among the displaced and host communities.
- UNHCR partners continued regular activities on the identification, prevention and response to SGBV. In February, 32 SGBV survivors were provided with psychosocial counselling, 18 were provided with medical assistance, and two with legal assistance.
- Furthermore, 22 PoCs were reached through advocacy interventions by UNHCR partner-ran protection service.

Legal assistance and counselling

- In February, 500 PoCs received legal assistance, including legal representation before the court of law, and advocacy for release from police custody or detention centres.

Capacity building

- In Somaliland, UNHCR conducted a six-day capacity-building training for 105 border guards, immigration officers and police officers, on various issues relating to refugee law and protection.

Somali refugee returnees

- As of 28 February 2021, UNHCR has received a total of 131,886 Somali returnees from 14 different countries of asylum. Out of the total 92,150 who have repatriated with UNHCR's support, 85,171 were from Kenya, 5,416 from Yemen, and smaller numbers from Djibouti, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea and various other countries.
- In addition, 39,736 Somalis have returned unassisted from Yemen, including 253 individuals who returned in February. The number of unassisted spontaneous returnees, especially those arriving from Yemen through the ports of Berbera and Bossaso, has increased significantly compared to the number of new arrivals in the previous months.
- All Somali refugees who return with UNHCR's assistance are provided with a comprehensive return package, including cash grants, material package and education support, while un-assisted spontaneous returns are provided with temporary accommodation and information. In February, 59 individuals received reinstallation grants as part of their return package.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, in February the Government announced the re-closure of schools and universities starting in early March.
- In South Central, UNHCR continued to cover school fees for 478 (248 boys, 230 girls) newly registered and existing primary and secondary school returnee students.
- In Puntland, UNHCR supported 44 children between 6 and 12 years who live more than 2 kilometres from school with safe school transportation.
- In Puntland, awareness-raising messaging in Arabic and Oromo languages was carried out to increase understanding of the significance of education and COVID-19 prevention measure awareness among the target refugee communities.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

As part of UNHCR's regular healthcare activities, a total of 1,458 individuals, including refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members, were provided with primary healthcare, 343 individuals with secondary healthcare, and 101 with tertiary healthcare.

**SHELTER AND NFI****Shelter Cluster**

The Somalia Shelter Cluster, led by UNHCR, is a coordination mechanism that supports people affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

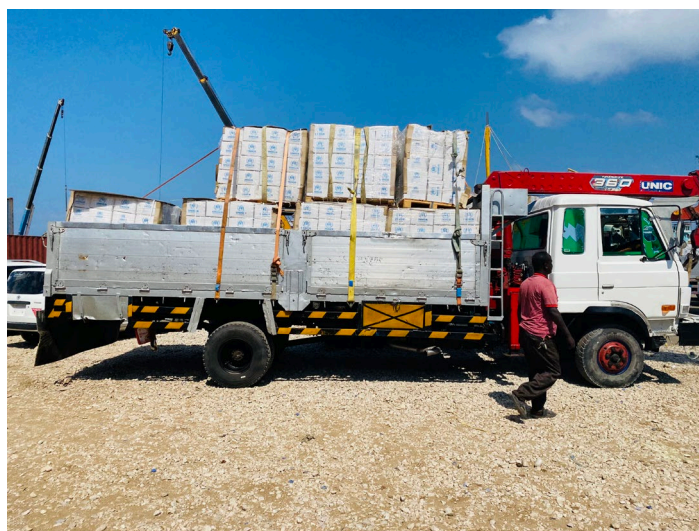
In February 2021, the Cluster Partners reached **32,850** people with NFI kits; and **44,368** people with shelter assistance. So far in 2021, the Shelter Cluster partners have reached 53,504 individuals (2%) of the targeted 2.3 million individuals with NFI assistance, and 63,297 individuals (3%) of the 2.4 million targeted with shelter assistance.

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 25 households (150 individuals) affected by a fire in Cyanabo area of Somaliland received standard NFI kits to support in replacing the material loss.
- In February, 2,097 women and girls of reproductive age (12-48 years) in Somaliland received sanitary kits. This completes the distribution started in December 2020, bringing the total number of women and girls to 4,015 individuals.
- In Baidoa, a comprehensive needs assessment for Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) was completed, in coordination with other partners and government officials. The 200 targeted households included IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community households. The final list is under review based on the set criteria by UNHCR, partners and government counterparts.

Cyclone Gati response

In response to Cyclone Gati, UNHCR successfully completed the distribution of cash for emergency shelter to 3,600 households (some 21,600 individuals) in the affected areas. The response will be complemented with the distribution of NFI kits; the shipment arrived in Bossaso in February and distribution will start in March.



NFI kits arrive in Bossaso as part of the Cyclone Gati response. © UNHCR



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

CCCM Cluster

In response to the new wave of COVID-19, partners organized RCCE sessions with more than **230** community leaders on ways to increase awareness raising in their respective sites. Partners continue to circulate MoH and WHO endorsed RCCE content with the broader IDP population, making special considerations for vulnerable IDP communities ensuring that such communities have access to reliable and updated COVID-19 information.

CCCM cluster worked closely with REACH on DSAIV data cleaning and data triangulation exercise before final validation of dataset.

CCCM partners trained **256** community members including HLP community focal points on advocating for eviction protections and best methods for coordinating with local authorities on HLP issues.

A pilot CCCM Satisfaction Survey was conducted across 77 IDP sites in four key districts, reaching **700** households and 41 partners submissions. The objective of this satisfaction survey was to highlight the effectiveness of CCCM operations at both the site and at district-level through stakeholder coordination.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR received reports of evictions at an IDP site in Bossaso that affected approximately 150 children, mostly women, children and the elderly. UNHCR notified partners to initiate the assessment of needs as well as provision of emergency support.
- UNHCR's partners continued to conduct regular protection and field monitoring as well as service mapping in 56 IDP



IDP community receives a material kit to help improve and maintain hygiene in the site. © UNHCR

sites across the country. Key issues identified during the monitoring visits were requests for increased access to NFIs, WASH services, hygiene kits, and PPEs for COVID-19 prevention and response, as well as improved shelter, food security and access to livelihood opportunities.

- In Kismayo, UNHCR distributed sets comprising of a wheelbarrow, a rake, a spade and a hoe to 28 IDP sites. This will help the sites to maintain an adequate level of sanitation and hygiene in the sites, therefore preventing the spread of COVID-19.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Peaceful coexistence

- Activities in the partner-operated Peaceful Coexistence Center in Somaliland continued in February. Activities included psychosocial counseling, assistance to persons with specific needs, vulnerability assessment, general counselling, as well as vocational training and language classes.

Livelihoods

- A total of 50 PoCs, including IDPs, returnees and host community members, enrolled in Vocational Training Programme in Skilled Production Centre in Hargeisa)
- In South Central, a UNHCR-partner ran livelihood project launched on 11 February. The project will support 1,105 households in the course of 2021, including returnees, refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable host community. Government line ministries, international and local NGO partners, and various community leaders participated in the launch event.
- A two-day training was conducted for 15 refugee, asylum-seeker and returnee community leaders. The topics included, leadership, communication and networking, teamwork and advocacy.
- In Mogadishu, 100 beneficiaries were registered for first phase vocational trainings, the courses include tie dye, mobile repairing, catering, homemade shampoo and soap, and beauty salon.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Somalia operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 8.6 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the donors of earmarked contributions to Somalia operation in 2021

Japan (4.5 M) | **Republic of Korea** (1.5 M)

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Norway (80 M) | Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (22.1 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

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