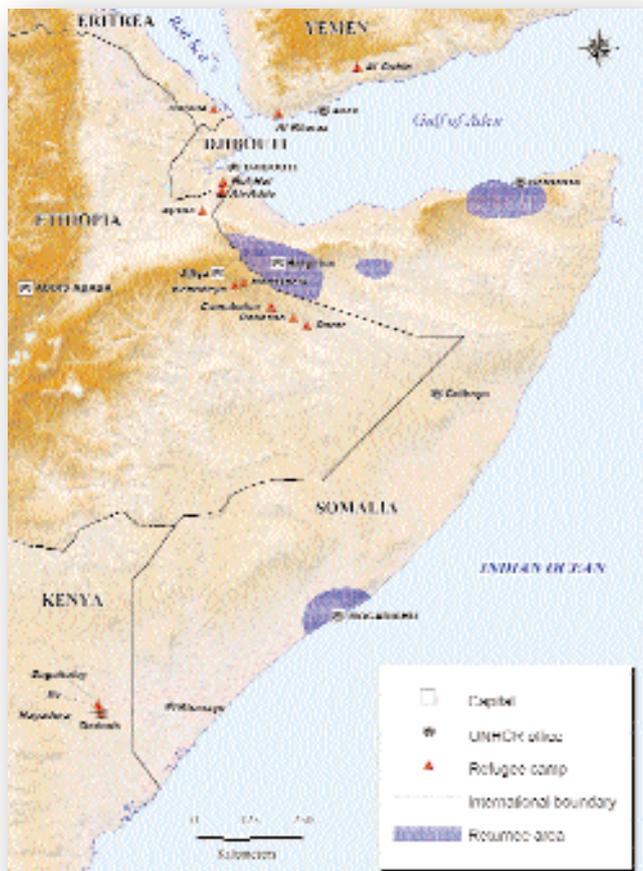


Somalia

in short



Main Objectives

- Encourage the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from various countries of asylum and help them reintegrate by providing basic infrastructure and services.
- Continue to implement community-based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) conducive to self-reliance, particularly in returnee areas, in close collaboration with governments, other UN agencies and local NGOs.
- Collect and disseminate detailed information about the situation in Somalia in order to assist UNHCR offices, humanitarian agencies, donors, governments hosting Somali refugees, and refugees themselves to make informed decisions on issues of repatriation and asylum.
- Ensure the protection and well being of Ethiopian and other refugees and seek durable solutions for them.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

In August, the transitional parliament, meeting in Djibouti, elected the first President of Somalia since the collapse of the central government in 1991. Since then, the country has been divided between rival clan-based factions and fragmented into regional administrations, each claiming legitimacy over the territory under its control. The establishment of civil administrations in north-west and north-east Somalia has led to some stability and improved the security situation, allowing the repatriation of refugees from camps in Ethiopia, Yemen and Kenya. Repatriation from Djibouti, however, has been adversely affected by tensions with Somalia, which resulted in the closure of the border several times and the deployment of military forces on both sides.

UNHCR has promoted the organised voluntary repatriation of refugees to regions considered relatively safe. This has been made possible by co-operation with the regional authorities in the relevant areas of operation. Return to other, less stable regions has been facilitated only on an ad hoc basis following individual requests for repatriation.

PLANNING FIGURES

Population ¹	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Returnees in north-east and north-west Somalia	70,000	76,600
Returnees in central and southern Somalia	85,000	90,000
Refugees	122	122
Total	155,122	166,722

¹ UNHCR estimates that by the end of 2000, 70,000 Somalis will have returned to north-east and north-west Somalia. In 2001, UNHCR will assist 76,600 returnees in north-east and north-west Somalia and 90,000 in central and southern Somalia depending on the evolution of the political situation.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 11,117,133

Constraints

Civil strife and the weak economic and political structures in Somalia render the implementation of UNHCR's activities exceptionally complex. The safety of humanitarian staff continues to be a source of concern, following attacks and kidnappings. Reintegration operations are still curtailed by limited access to many areas for UNHCR staff.

The local administrations have limited resources and local NGOs operating in Somalia lack the know-how, manpower, or funds to implement projects effectively. The general lack of basic services such as water, primary health care and education, as well as opportunities to generate income, continue to deter the return of some educated Somalis, whose role in the reconstruction process in the long term is seen as indispensable.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR's overall strategy focuses on facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees and their reintegration into their communities. It is expected that in 2001 more than 126,000 Somali refugees will repatriate from Djibouti (6,600), Ethiopia (30,000), Kenya (70,000) and Yemen (20,000). Because of the massive destruction caused by protracted civil conflict, the dearth of resources available to regional and local administrations, and the fragile state of governance (even in areas with functioning government structures), UNHCR needs to assume a catalytic role to create conditions conducive to the return of these refugees.

UNHCR will continue to collaborate with the local authorities to ensure the safety of returnees travelling in convoys, to monitor the living conditions of returnees once they are back in their homes, and to ensure their protection. UNHCR will also continue to raise awareness among returnees and their communities of the harmful effects of female genital mutilation.

UNHCR will ensure that refugees in Somalia, most of whom are from Ethiopia, will continue to benefit from international protection. Refugees who cannot return to their homeland will receive humanitarian assistance while alternative solutions are sought.

Assistance

The main beneficiaries of UNHCR's assistance will be returnees and the communities receiving them. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) that have been forced out of their homes by the civil conflict will also benefit from this assistance. Most IDPs are women, children, the elderly and infirm. Assistance for them is crucial to stability and peaceful co-existence in the target communities.

The civil war in Somalia and the absence of a central government since 1991 resulted in the destruction of most public infrastructure and services. Even in areas where a regional government has been established, the administration is still weak, both in resources and expertise, and cannot provide basic services to the community. UNHCR recognises the limited capacity of host communities to absorb additional populations, and is therefore implementing QIPs in areas receiving large numbers of returnees. UNHCR's assistance will ensure that returnees and local communities have access to safe potable water, and adequate health and education facilities. The re-building of schools, and the provision of teaching materials and qualified teachers, in collaboration with UNESCO, will allow an increasing number of returnee and local children to attend primary school.

Experience has demonstrated that a family will reintegrate more successfully if women are given an active role in promoting the well being of their families and communities. UNHCR's income-generating projects will therefore help women assume a more active role in meeting the needs of their families. These projects focus on agriculture (providing seeds and tools) and animal husbandry (providing animals and veterinary support), which are the traditional economic mainstays in most returnee communities. Such assistance will provide opportunities for economic self-reliance and should ultimately lead to the sustainable reintegration of returnees. Other income-generating activities and skills training will be organised whenever feasible. Priorities and needs will be assessed in close consultation with receiving communities and the local and regional authorities, which will continue to receive support from UNHCR to enable them to carry out their functions.

Desired Impact

UNHCR's activities in Somalia are intended to enable Somali refugees to exercise their right to return home (on the basis of a free and informed decision), to successfully reintegrate returnees into their communities, and minimise new population movements to countries of asylum. In view of the key role of women in Somalia, specific projects will reinforce women's productive capacities and income generation. In the community services sector, and in collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs, UNHCR hopes to contribute to the elimination of discriminatory and harmful practices against women and girls, such as female genital mutilation. UNHCR will also continue to implement education and health projects that will give more children access to education and make health care available for both children and adults. Teacher training programmes will raise awareness of the importance of education for girls. Environmental considerations will remain a priority. Resources will be more efficiently managed, and projects will endeavour to minimise any negative impact on the environment.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

A total of 76 staff (12 international and 64 national) will work in Somalia in 2001. UNHCR has an office responsible for the country programme based temporarily in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as an office with international staff in Hargeisa, north-west Somalia. The latter mainly supports the return of Somali refugees from eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. Regular field visits are arranged to monitor the living conditions of returnees and current progress on reintegration projects. In addition,



field offices are run by national staff in Bossaso, Galkayo, Mogadishu, and Kismayo. It is anticipated that the office on Nairobi will relocate to Mogadishu in 2001, security conditions permitting.

OFFICES

Mogadishu
Bossaso
Galkayo
Hargeisa
Kismayo
Nairobi (Kenya)

Co-ordination

In north-west Somalia, UNHCR will continue to cooperate with local authorities, working closely with the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and other ministries, UNDP, and NGOs. In north-east Somalia UNHCR will work with the Directorate of International Co-operation at the President's Office, as well as with relevant ministries. In other parts of Somalia, UNHCR's main partners will continue to be the local administrations in the various regions.

Many of the humanitarian agencies operating in Somalia are based in Nairobi, Kenya. UNHCR is an active member of the various co-ordinating bodies. Of these, the main body is the UN Country Team for Somalia, which provides a forum for information sharing. It is the driving force behind the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and United Nations Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals. Monthly co-ordination meetings are also held under the aegis of the Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body, comprising UN agencies, international NGOs and donors. In 2001, UNHCR plans to work with 20 NGOs, including six international and 14 national NGOs. As part of its strategy for durable solutions and gradual withdrawal, UNHCR will continue to develop joint initiatives with UNDP aimed at minimising cross-border disparities in assistance between refugees, displaced persons and host communities in Somalia and Ethiopia as a means to

reduce cross-border movements and ensure a smooth transition from emergency relief to long-term development. These initiatives will facilitate the phasing out of UNHCR's assistance in Somalia when repatriation is concluded.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Directorate of International Co-operation (north-east Somalia)
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (north-west Somalia)

NGOs

Agriculture and Water Development Association
Agricultural Development Organisation
Awdal Rehabilitation and Development Association
Committee of Concerned Somalis
Co-ordination Committee of Organisation of Voluntary Service
Dal dhis Rehabilitation and Development Association
Handicap International
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
Health Education and Agro-Pastoralist Liaison
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief Committee
Kalmo Somaliland Voluntary Organisation
Médecins sans Frontières (B)
OXFAM
Save the Children Fund
Somaliland Cultural Technology Rehabilitation Organisation
Somaliland Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Somaliland Relief and Rehabilitation Association
Somaliland Social Voluntary Organisation
Swiss Group

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	4,494,533
Community Services	299,884
Crop Production	590,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	186,000
Education	870,578
Fisheries	50,000
Forestry	198,000
Health/Nutrition	536,000
Income Generation	545,000
Legal Assistance	13,000
Livestock	437,385
Operational Support (to Agencies)	591,996
Sanitation	198,074
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	65,390
Transport/Logistics	1,271,315
Water (non-agricultural)	769,978
Total	11,117,133