

Somalia

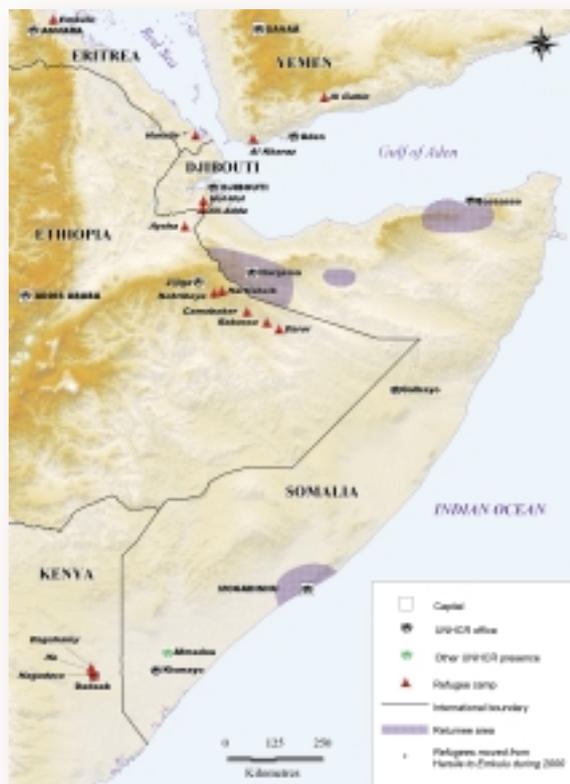
AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Facilitate the lasting return to relatively safe areas of 71,000 Somali refugees, mainly from Ethiopia, but also from Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen and elsewhere and help their reintegration by providing basic infrastructure and services; consolidate reintegration of returnees through community-based Quick-Impact Projects (QIPs) with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and self-reliance; monitor the safety and reintegration of returnees; share information with concerned parties on the situation in Somalia; ensure the protection and well-being of refugees (mainly Ethiopians) in Somalia; help build the capacity of partners to deal with refugees and reintegration.

Impact

- Over 45,400 refugees returned to Somalia and were reintegrated in their communities.
- Through its presence in the field, UNHCR was able to monitor returnees and ensure respect for their rights.
- Restored facilities and essential services in the areas of reintegration increased the capacity of the local communities to receive more returnees, thereby ensuring the sustainability of return.
- Sufficient potable water was made available within a reasonable distance of the targeted villages. As a result, women and children spent less time fetching water and were able to devote more time to other activities, which were important for their reintegration.
- The construction of 60 classrooms in different project areas, creating space for 2,400 children, helped reduce class sizes in existing facilities. Thanks to the provision of additional school furniture, students no longer had to sit on the floor.
- Additional health clinics/posts were built to improve access to and delivery of health services, including mother and child health care, and the treatment of malaria and other diseases.



Persons of Concern				
Main Refugee Origin/Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Somalia (Returnees)	45,415	45,415	-	-
Somalia (IDPs)	18,000	-	-	-
Ethiopia (Refugees)	560	180	44	51

Income and Expenditure (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
10,125,487	2,631,458	5,440,291	8,071,749	8,001,748

¹Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

²Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

- Returnee women benefited from micro-finance loans to establish small businesses which then enabled them to buy additional food for their families and clothes for their children.
- Interventions in the agriculture sector resulted in increased crop yields, which translated into uninterrupted availability of fruit and vegetables in the local

markets. Women – the traditional market vendors – benefited from the sale of agricultural products.

- Some 175 Ethiopian refugees were considered for resettlement to third countries. UNHCR ensured their international protection, and that of new arrivals. Particularly needy refugees received subsistence allowances.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

Following the Arta Peace Conference in Djibouti, which culminated in the establishment of a Transitional National Government (TNG), the new administration arrived in Mogadishu on 30 August. From the outset, the TNG's reconciliation efforts faced strong resistance. Somaliland in the north-west, and Puntland in the north-east, were strongly opposed to the Conference and maintained their claims to independence. Southern Somalia continued to experience tension and at times open hostilities between militias. These problems in re-establishing a central government in Somalia prevented both the inflow of resources, and the return of refugees to the southern and central parts of the country. Although Somaliland was not recognised by the international community as an independent state, it received aid from some countries. This assistance was provided largely in recognition of the prevailing peace and stability in Somaliland and to encourage the authorities to further consolidate their achievements. The sub-regional IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) initiative supported UNDP/UNHCR efforts to design a regional reintegration programme aimed at creating the conditions for sustainable development in refugee- and returnee-affected areas in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.

Since 1993, many districts in Somalia have experienced population growth of up to 30 per cent. Rather than returning to their villages of origin, a large number of returnees decided to move into urban centres in the hope of finding employment and better public services. Given the local authorities' lack of capacity to provide basic services to their fast-growing populations, living conditions deteriorated considerably. Inadequate sanitation and health facilities posed a health hazard in some places, and in Boroma led to a cholera outbreak during the last quarter of 2000.

The relationship between UNHCR and the Somaliland authorities improved significantly in 2000 and

UNHCR did not experience technical or practical problems in dealing with the government on most refugee and returnee matters. Although Somalia is state party to all relevant international and regional refugee instruments, circumstances over the past ten years have constrained their effective application in large parts of the country. Somaliland, however, conducted its refugee affairs in the spirit of the international and regional refugee instruments.

Constraints

The planned voluntary repatriation of an increased number of Somali refugees from Kenya to southern Somalia in the second half of the year did not take place, because the establishment of the TNG failed to bring about a stabilisation of security conditions in potential areas of return. Furthermore, the voluntary repatriation of Somalis from Djibouti to Somaliland continued to be blocked by strained relations between the two governments and the refusal of the Somaliland authorities to sign an agreement with UNHCR aimed at facilitating the repatriation. In September, Saudi Arabia banned livestock imports from the Horn of Africa, following an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Saudi Arabia and in Yemen. Economies throughout the Horn of Africa suffered from the embargo, which involved both live animals and processed meat. In Somalia, the sharp decline in livestock prices seriously threatened food security. Family income fell drastically with reduced employment opportunities and the depreciation of the Somali Shilling.

UNHCR faced difficulties in the selection of implementing partners for the QIPs, as the mainly local NGOs lacked adequately trained staff and other resources. In the environment sector, for instance, only one project was implemented due to insufficient NGO capacity. In an effort to identify the most suitable partners, UNHCR established committees composed of UNHCR staff and government representatives to review proposals and select candidates.

In Mogadishu, insecurity was fuelled by violent crime (including armed robberies and systematic killings) and by confrontations between the TNG forces and armed factional militias. Consequently, UNHCR did not have a permanent presence of international staff in Mogadishu to monitor the return of refugees or to oversee the implementation of projects. No QIPs were therefore implemented in the Mogadishu area. The security situation in Sool (and northern parts of Sanaag) remained tense as Puntland and Somaliland both claim

control over these regions. Reintegration activities in the disputed areas proved difficult due to the divided loyalty of the communities. Furthermore, UNHCR staff risked to be the target of bandit attacks and kidnapping in these regions.



Funding

Inadequate funding exacerbated existing difficulties with regard to rehabilitation and reintegration activities in the sectors of water, agriculture and crop production. For a period of two months, UNHCR was unable to release instalments to implementing partners, which had to temporarily suspend their rehabilitation and construction work. Limited resources likewise reduced to two the projects directly targeting women in north-west Somalia (skills training and credit schemes). The majority of women heads of household and widows thus had

neither access to credit facilities nor other income generation assistance. Lack of funds for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia necessitated a 39 per cent reduction of the number of refugees to be repatriated. As a result, fewer than 44,000 of the envisaged 71,000 returned.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

A total of 45,415 refugees voluntarily repatriated to Somalia, mainly from Ethiopia (43,467), but also from Kenya (823), Djibouti (758), Yemen (353) and other countries (14). As the majority of returnees (44,319) went to northern Somalia, this is where UNHCR's activities were mainly concentrated. Apart from assisting repatriation and reintegration in these areas, UNHCR also rendered protection to refugees from other countries. In southern Somalia, this was not possible due to the prevailing insecurity. Nevertheless, in regions where security conditions allowed for a UNHCR presence, the repatriation and reintegration of returnees were monitored to ensure that their rights were not violated, especially those of women, children and minority groups.

To tackle the problem of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees, and to bring about a positive change in the approach of the judiciary to refugee issues, UNHCR sent two judges from the Somaliland judiciary to the OAU/UNHCR Judges Round Table Meeting in Addis Ababa.

Some 175 Ethiopian refugees interviewed for resettlement in June were at year's end awaiting a response. Of 40 asylum claims filed by persons of different nationalities in Hargeisa, the majority were found not to be of concern to UNHCR.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: In an effort to build the capacity of local authorities and communities, UNHCR built/renovated and furnished two police stations in the border towns of Salahley and Duruqsi. This helped to improve security and facilitated the reception of returnees at the border. Two office rooms were built, furnished and equipped with a computer and printer at the Ministry of Justice in Somaliland, to create workspace in support of the Action for the Rights of the Children (ARC) initiative. UNHCR also constructed one temporary feeding centre for orphaned children at Baligubadle to support an initiative by local women. As

a result, 150 children could be fed indoors rather than outside in the heat and dust. A sports ground in Galkayo was rehabilitated to enable children to play in a safe environment, while the rehabilitated Interior Ministry building in Garowe ensured better working conditions for government staff.

Crop Production: Ten projects involving the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and the provision of animal traction and agricultural tools were implemented in the Awdal, Sahil, Sanaag, Nugal and Galbeed regions. Forty trained oxen (20 pairs) and 20 sets of agricultural implements were made available to be used by 200 households, including 80 households headed by women. In addition, 11 water pumps and agricultural tools benefited 178 households, including 25 headed by women. Following the rehabilitation of irrigation systems, crop production increased noticeably, as evidenced by the continuous availability of fruit and vegetables in the local markets. Women, who trade in the markets, thus benefited from these projects as well. However, the animal traction (ploughing) projects for purely rain-fed farms were adversely affected by drought in the region.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Vulnerable returnees received household items such as blankets, kitchen utensils and plastic sheeting, whereas Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa were granted a subsistence allowance to cover their basic needs.

Education: Due to the civil war, many children in rural areas still live in orphanages. Some are attached to militia groups and large numbers are physically or mentally disabled. Although many children benefit from the traditional clan-based mutual assistance mechanisms, thousands have no access to education, given Somalia's lack of basic infrastructure, teaching materials and trained teachers. As most schools are located in urban areas, enrolment and attendance rates are low among nomadic children. In northern Somalia, which enjoyed comparative peace, UNHCR implemented 22 projects including the construction or extension of 15 primary schools, seven secondary schools and the provision of school furniture. Secondary school students in Sheikh, Baligubadle and Burao, who used to have to travel to Hargeisa, can now go to school in their respective areas. The projects boosted school enrolment and alleviated the problem of crowded classrooms. Some 92 returnees, including 22 women, graduated from a UNHCR-sponsored vocational training centre teaching carpentry, metalwork, electrical mechanics, plumbing, masonry and office management. Other activities included the construction and rehabilitation of ten classrooms, teacher training, and awareness-raising on

the rights of children through a number of seminars. Furthermore, recreational facilities were established for schoolchildren. These interventions improved the communities' awareness of the rights of children and created an environment conducive to education.

Fisheries: Groups of returning fishermen were provided with fishing equipment to enable them to generate income and re-establish their livelihoods.

Forestry: As part of the environment programme, the Hargeisa tree nursery was rehabilitated. The nursery, which has a productive capacity of 200,000 seedlings per year, has so far enabled the distribution of 24,000 seedlings to returnee residents and Hargeisa municipality. Although the project had a positive impact on the environment, the implementation rate was lower than expected on account of widespread ignorance of environmental issues and limited NGO capacity for the management of environmental activities.

Health/Nutrition: The lack of vaccines and proper medical facilities, including mother and child health care centres, was particularly pronounced in remote areas. UNHCR therefore constructed six mother and child care centres (in Sanaag, Galbeed, Hargeisa, and Hadaftimo). The Ministry of Health ran the facilities with UNICEF providing essential drugs, which were sold to patients at a reasonable price. The facilities offered much needed health services, including mother and child care, and the treatment of malaria and other diseases, for returnees, IDPs and the receiving communities. In Puntland, three health clinics were built in Galdogob, Jalam and Salah. In addition, the Galkayo tuberculosis clinic and the malaria ward in Galkayo hospital were rehabilitated; and Bosaso general hospital was expanded. A community sensitisation campaign and integrated female genital mutilation education projects informed about the dangers posed by that harmful practice. However, it was clear that the required change of attitudes would be a long-term process. UNHCR also provided furniture, including shelves, tables and chairs, to the new Hargeisa Maternity Hospital. This first hospital of its kind in Somaliland will also be used to train nurses and midwives.

Income Generation: In order to improve the livelihoods of returnees, micro-credit projects were established in Hargeisa and Burao. In addition, ten different income generation projects were implemented in Puntland, including training in tie-dyeing and the provision of basic materials to trainees to start their businesses. It was mandatory for beneficiaries to participate in a training before they could take out loans.

Members of self-help groups with a detailed business plan of intended income-generating activities were given short-term loans of approximately USD 150. A ten per cent service charge was paid by the clients to meet operating costs. Some 800 returnees, 90 per cent of them women, benefited from the loans. They engaged in small-scale trade, tailoring, baking, the sale of second-hand clothes, or opened restaurants or pharmacies. The repayment rate of 98 per cent was very encouraging. According to reports from beneficiaries, verified through household visits, these projects greatly helped returnees in becoming self-sufficient. Women were able to buy additional food for their families and clothes for their children. The construction of a meat and vegetable market in Hargeisa provided rooms and stalls for women, who used to trade in an unhygienic open-air market, exposed to heat and dust. However, the implementing partner defaulted after completing only 75 per cent of the work. At year's end, the remaining work was due to be completed by an alternative contractor.

Legal Assistance: UNHCR organised refugee law and management training for some 40 officials from different bodies including police, immigration, prisons, the judiciary, local and district authorities and the ministries dealing with refugee affairs. Subsequently, a remarkable reduction was noted in the number of arbitrary detentions, reflecting a better understanding of refugee and returnee protection on the part of the authorities.

Livestock: Seven projects to enhance livestock-related income generation activities included the extension of a slaughterhouse in Burao, the rehabilitation of the Berbera marshalling yards, the construction of animal health posts, the provision of veterinary drugs in Awdal/Galbeed and the construction of a livestock market in Garowe. In order to improve the delivery of veterinary services, UNHCR trained 12 community animal health workers.

Operational Support (to Agencies): To facilitate the repatriation operation and initial reintegration activities, UNHCR covered the payment of incentives, operational costs and the provision of furniture and equipment for the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reconstruction in Hargeisa. In Garowe, furniture was provided to the Directorate for Demining, Reintegration and Resettlement to improve working conditions and maximise the Directorate's support to initial reintegration activities in Puntland.

Sanitation: UNHCR provided 105 metal garbage collection containers to improve sanitation in three major

towns hosting large numbers of returnees and IDPs (Hargeisa, Boroma and Burao). This has resulted in better overall environmental and sanitary conditions in these towns. In Galkayo, sanitation awareness campaigns were organised.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: UNHCR carried out a rehabilitation project to improve access to farmland and enable returnees and other beneficiaries to sell their crops. Thus, 15 km of road from Iskushuban farming zone to the Ja'ay farms were repaired, ensuring much needed access to production sites. In Mudug (Galckayo district) a building belonging to the Education Centre for Peace and Development was rehabilitated, providing space for health education, income generation courses and administrative functions. This included the replacement of a roof, and the plastering and painting of walls. Both projects were implemented using the community-based approach, which created job opportunities for beneficiaries and ensured ownership.

Transport/Logistics: One light aircraft operated between January and June to facilitate the movement of staff to major returnee areas in northern Somalia. Thanks to improved collaboration with other agencies, and in an effort to rationalise the use of available resources, UNHCR terminated the contract in July and joined the more cost-effective United Nations Common Air Services. In some parts of north-east and southern Somalia, the operational environment required the use of privately owned vehicles for transport to project sites. In north-west Somalia, UNHCR used both its own and additional hired vehicles. The Office rented a warehouse in Hargeisa to ensure proper storage of non-food items, stationery and spare parts required for the operation.

Water: As the availability of water in returnee areas is one of the main requirements for sustainable return, 19 water projects were implemented. Three shallow wells, nine earth dams, four boreholes, four cemented underground reservoirs were constructed, and one emergency operation to deliver water by tanker to drought affected areas was successfully conducted. UNHCR purchased seven generators and five submersible pumps for installation in Hargeisa well fields, where the two main booster stations were rehabilitated. This intervention increased the water production capacity in Hargeisa from 4.5 to six million litres per day, a much-needed boost for the town, which has to cope with rapid population growth. In Puntland, eight QIPs were implemented including the rehabilitation of four water catchments in Dharor valley and another four in Gardo. Women and children were the primary beneficiaries, as they had to spend less time fetching water for the household.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR operated a country office for Somalia, located in Nairobi, which co-ordinated and oversaw all operations in Somalia. It also supervised the offices in Hargeisa, Bossaso, Galkayo, Mogadishu, Kismayo and Afmadou. The operation was run by 14 international and 46 national staff as well as three UNVs.

Working with Others

Co-operation among agencies was organised in two ways. The heads of UN agencies constituted the UN Country Team, which met on a monthly basis to set policies and ensure collaboration in the implementation of projects. These meetings, chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative and Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Somalia, were held in Nairobi, Kenya, where the relevant UN offices were located. In Somaliland, with its sizeable UN presence, the above structure was replicated by monthly meetings chaired by the UN Focal Point in Hargeisa. A similar structure was developed for Puntland, where the international presence continued to increase. These local meetings promoted information sharing and co-ordination among participating UN agencies.

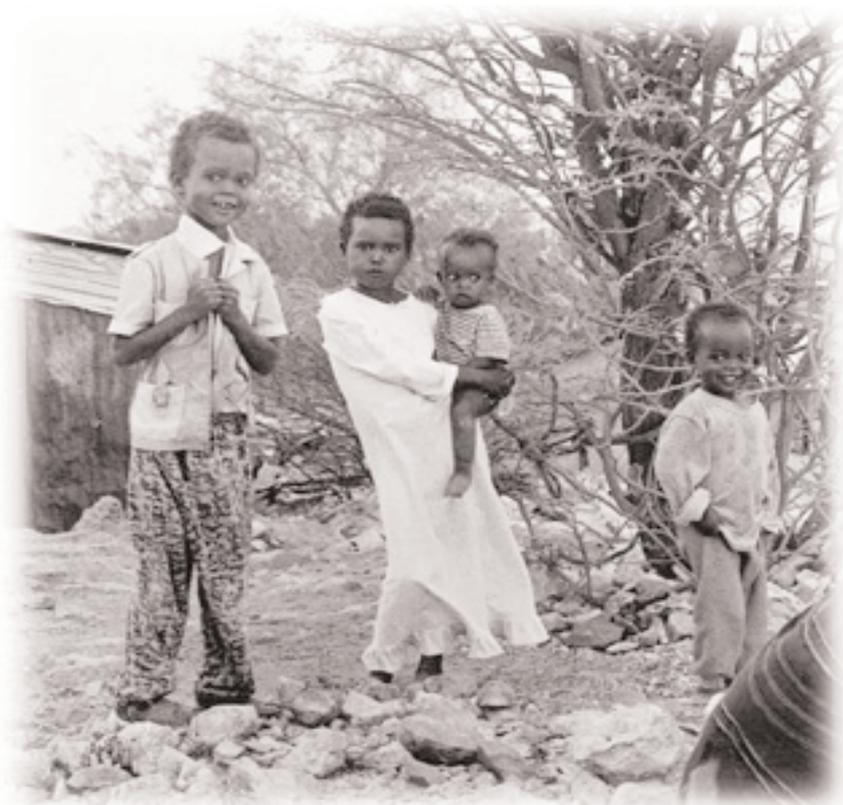
The second inter-agency co-ordination mechanism was the Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body (SACB), comprised of UN agencies, donors and NGOs. The SACB had sectoral committees, which met inside Somalia and explored the rationalisation of interventions by various actors in each sector. These committees reported to the Steering Committee, which met once a month in Nairobi to review the sectoral programmes, identify implementation problems and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for policy formulation. In order to disseminate information on aid flows and use of funds, the SACB set up a Consultative Committee as an open forum in which all those interested in aid and other Somalia-related questions could meet and share information. The meetings of

the Consultative Committee were convened in Nairobi following Executive Committee meetings.

In the implementation of its programme, UNHCR worked with two government agencies, 74 local NGOs, four international NGOs and other UN agencies.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

UNHCR's policy was to promote voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to areas of relative peace and stability, while actively facilitating voluntary repatriation to crisis areas only upon the specific request of refugees who had made an informed decision. This approach proved to be appropriate and workable. The voluntary repatriation of 43,467 Somali refugees from Ethiopia to north-west Somalia was a success and an important step forward in UNHCR's efforts to scale down and eventually terminate the protracted programme for Somali refugees in Ethiopia. However, more could have been achieved if adequate funding had been available to accelerate this operation. The initial reintegration activities in returnee communities helped to anchor returnees in Somalia and to prevent backflows. The programme benefited from an improved system for the selection of local partners to implement reintegration activities. However, voluntary repatriation from Kenya to southern Somalia and from Djibouti to north-west Somalia continued to be constrained by insecurity in potential areas of return and strained relations between the respective authorities.



Offices

Nairobi (Kenya)

Afmadou
Bossaso
Galkayo
Hargeisa
Kismayo
Mogadishu

Partners

Government Agencies

Directorate for Demining, Reintegration and Resettlement
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

NGOs

Action Nord Sud
African Refugee Foundation
Agricultural Development Organisation
Al-Barako
ALLA-AMIN
Al-Nasir
ARDF
Association of Northeast Technicians
Bulsho Rural Development Association
BURTINLE
Cadceed Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Candle Light for Health and Education
CARE International
Cattle Hides in Development Association
Community Based Progress Association
Daldhis Rehabilitation and Development Association
DAMAQ
Delta Construction and Development
Direct Aid to the Natureis Development Organisation
Displaced Returnees and Refugees Voluntary Organisation
Doses of Hope Foundation
Ecological Preservation Association
Edna Adan Maternity Hospital
Elade Community Development Organisation
Environment and Community Development Organisation
FFORD
Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development
Galkayo Grinding Mill Co-operative
General Clearance and Co-operative Agency
GOLIS EST
GUUS
HANAD
HARDO
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
Hawlkar Development Organisation
Health Education Welfare Society
Health Organisation Relief and Development
Health, Education and Agro-pastoralist
HELP
Horn of Africa International Group

HWCHRA

Iskushuban Farmers Association
Kaalmo Voluntary Organisation
Kaalo Relief and Development
Liban Fishing Association
Liibaan Women and Orphanage Association
Lughaya Salt Production Co-operative
Maroodi-Jeh Integrated Farm Co-operative
Mudug Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Association
NAGAAD
National Appropriate Technology Organisation
Oog Construction and Rehabilitation Organisation
Oranisation for Environment and Development
Rahmo Rehabilitation Organisation
RED SEA Development
Rural and Urban Community Concern
Sahan Development Organisation
Sanaag Cooperative for Resources Development
Sanaag Private Veterinary Association
Save the Children Fund (USA)
Self Help Invention Voluntary Organisation
Shafie Education and Culture Development Organisation
Shillale Rehabilitation and Ecological Concern
Somali Women Concern
Somaliland Engineering Construction and Commerical Co.
Somaliland Nomadic Rehabilitation
Somaliland Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Somaliland Rural Development Organisation
SORERDO
SWS
United Somali Professional Organisation
United Youth of East African Association
VET AID
Volunteers In Action
WAYO ARANG
Yagleel

Other

ARMO
CAS
Fatah Construction and Contracting Co.
HABITAT
HODMAN
HORN RELIEF
IICO
NASTEXO
OTP
RFDG
SORSO
SPDS
SSWCA
SWAS
TADAMUN
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Common Air Services

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
		notes		notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,806,100		0	
Community Services	121,750		18,383	
Crop Production	202,316		68,599	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	15,035		15,413	
Education	660,474		147,727	
Fisheries	7,490		14,981	
Forestry	35,762		0	
Health / Nutrition	248,433		8,567	
Income Generation	204,817		165,174	
Livestock	157,805		2,394	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	422,835		93,638	
Sanitation	70,439		30,873	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	16,215		18,524	
Transport / Logistics	402,680		181,157	
Water	447,985		56,770	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	300,751		(208,086)	
Sub-total Operational	6,120,887		614,114	
Programme Support	1,298,341		29,501	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	7,419,228	(3)	643,615	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	582,520	(2) (3)	0	(6)
Total	8,001,748	(1) (3)	643,615	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	832,634		202,552	
Reporting Received	531,883		410,638	
Balance	300,751		(208,086)	
Outstanding 1 January	0		738,291	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		30,996	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	300,751		499,209	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1 January	0		980,541	(6)
New Obligations	8,001,748	(1)	0	
Disbursements	7,419,228	(3)	643,615	(6)
Cancellations	0		211,519	(6)
Outstanding 31 December	582,520	(2) (3)	125,407	(6)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(6) Schedule 6