

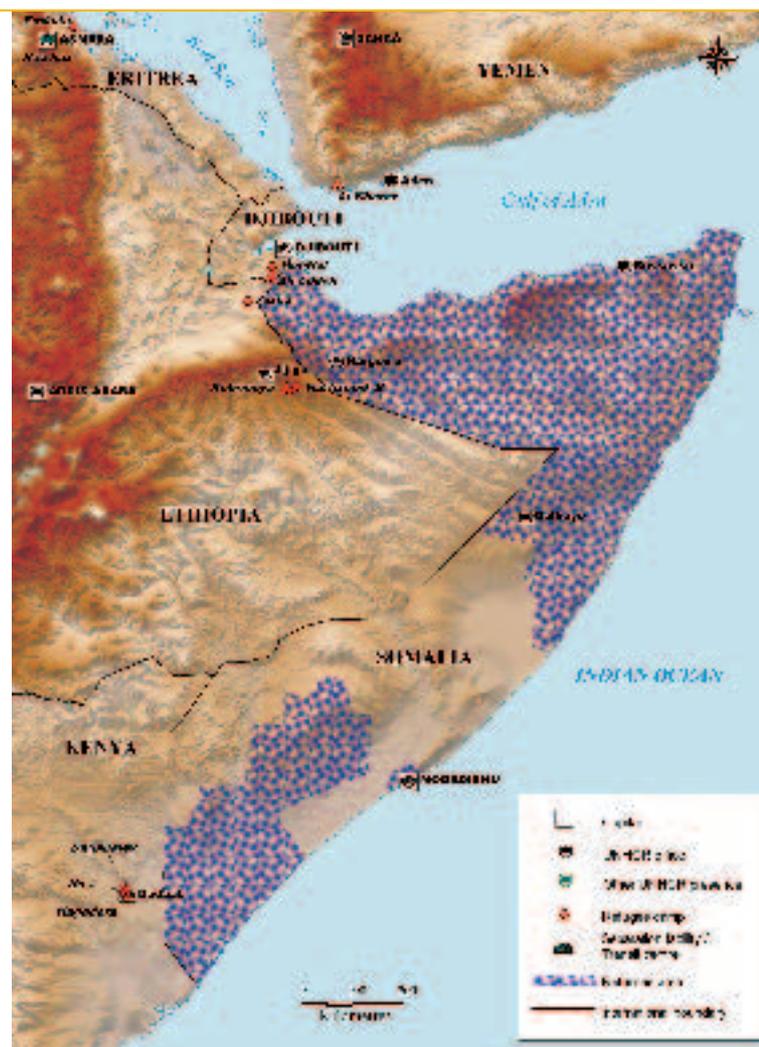
Somalia

Main objectives

Promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to Northern Somalia and assist in their reintegration; facilitate the voluntary repatriation of individuals wishing to return to Southern Somalia; provide international protection and life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers in accessible areas, while pursuing durable solutions for them.

Impact

- During the reporting period, some 32,020 Somalis returned, increasing the number of returnees since 1991, to more than 456,000. This included 2,095 Somalis repatriated from Djibouti after years of negotiations.
- The completion of 105 reintegration projects: 91 in 'Somaliland', nine in 'Puntland', and five in Mogadishu, resulted in better water, health and education facilities for returnees and their communities.
- In late 2002, UNHCR, in co-ordination with the authorities, closed five of the eight camps for Somali refugees in Ethiopia.
- From secure and accessible areas, UNHCR organised resettlement and voluntary repatriation: 88 people were resettled in various countries; 149 voluntarily repatriated to Ethiopia and 45 to Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.
- UNHCR further strengthened its partnership with UNDP and other UN agencies by drawing up joint development plans for returnee and IDP-affected areas, providing a basis for UN and NGO activities.
- The construction and rehabilitation of 40 schools gave an additional 93,000 children access to education. Over 300 primary school teachers were trained; 235 young returnees received vocational training (helping them to resist the temptation to join armed militias).
- 82,000 beneficiaries (returnees and their receiving communities) had improved access to clean water and 100,000 had access to maternal and child health care services.



Working environment

The context

A number of factors conspired to perpetuate a difficult, and in some areas dangerous working environment for the United Nations humanitarian and peace keeping agencies working in the country. These included, in particular, the absence of a central government, lack of bilateral assistance, a fragile peace process, persistent insecurity, bans on the export of livestock to the Gulf States, and the closure of the only banking institution in the country which provided crucial services for remittances. However, 'Somaliland' (North west Somalia) remained stable, with free and fair local elections held in late 2002. The veteran politician and President of 'Somaliland', Mohammed Egal, died during the year and his

deputy came to power as stipulated by the constitution, reinforcing the credibility of the political process. The southern and central zones remained insecure, despite the hopes attached to the ongoing peace process (led by IGAD, the Inter-governmental Authority on Development) which started in Kenya in October 2002 and led to a declaration including a commitment to a cease-fire.

The political disputes in 'Puntland' led, at times, to sporadic fighting which interrupted the work of the aid agencies. The situation improved in late 2002, when the UN signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the 'Puntland' authorities. This memorandum facilitated better international engagement in line with humanitarian principles and operating procedures. Another challenge was the negative international perception of Somalia which has acted as a brake on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, despite all these hurdles, UNHCR continued with its repatriation, local integration, resettlement and legal protection activities. The authorities remained committed to receive their people but were concerned about the limited scale of reintegration assistance. There is a risk that competition for scarce resources between returnees and their receiving communities could threaten much of the peace achieved so far.

Constraints

Conditions in South Somalia impeded large-scale repatriation and rendered the presence of UN staff

difficult. In 'Puntland' political disagreements and sporadic fighting caused operational delays. In late 2002, the region stabilised but, for lack of funds, UNHCR was unable to capitalise on this new-found stability. The information gleaned through returnee monitoring showed that the plight of women and children in Somalia was still a cause for concern. Only one in six children attended school (and only one in three of those was a girl). The maternal mortality rate stood at 1,600 per 100,000 births (as a comparison in the Russian Federation the rate is approximately 50 per 100,000; in Denmark, approximately 10). Female genital mutilation (FGM) was practised among 98 per cent of the female population. These were formidable challenges for UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies.

Funding

The Somalia programme continued to be affected by the funding shortfall and an irregular disbursement of the funds it received. Although the project activities were fully funded, the final tranche of funding was only received in December. This was too late: it hampered a smooth planning process and the timely accomplishment of all the planned activities. Lack of funding also prevented the implementation of projects aimed at fostering reintegration in certain undeveloped areas. Funding problems also caused serious delays in the repatriation from Djibouti. Over 6,000 Somali refugees in Kenya spent another year in exile, due to insuffi-

Persons of Concern

Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Returnees (from Ethiopia)	29,600	29,600	50	-
Returnees (Djibouti)	2,100	2,100	-	-
Asylum-seekers	200	-	29	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget

Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
7,484,799	3,220,365	4,033,491	7,253,856	7,253,856

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

cient funds for the necessary airlift to 'Puntland' and 'Somaliland'. Substantial cuts in the administrative budgets had a similarly adverse effect on protection and monitoring activities because expenditure that involved payment for travel was curtailed. In short, the refugees in accessible areas could not be assisted in line with international standards and the tenets of the Agenda for Protection.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

UNHCR repatriated 32,020 refugees during the year: 29,631 from Ethiopia, 2,095 from Djibouti, 220 from Kenya, 52 from Yemen and 22 from other countries, mainly to 'Somaliland', increasing the total number repatriated since 1991 to 456,753.

UNHCR worked closely with the offices in Ethiopia and Djibouti and arranged co-ordination meetings and "go and see" visits for refugee elders living in camps to areas of return in 'Somaliland' to assess the situation there. As a result of the 2002 repatriation, only three camps remained open in Ethiopia. Following agreements reached between UNHCR, the authorities of 'Somaliland' and the Government of Djibouti in late 2001, all technical and practical arrangements for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees were finalised. UNHCR also organised peace and confidence-building visits to and from areas of return by the authorities from asylum countries. The repatriation was seen as a closing of the final chapter of the protracted Somali refugee situation in Djibouti. An initial airlift repatriation of refugees from Dadaab camps in Kenya to 'Somaliland' was completed in February 2002. However, additional airlifts were hampered by political developments in 'Puntland' combined with UNHCR's lack of resources. Similar obstacles limited the number of persons repatriated from Yemen.

During 2002, significant numbers of spontaneous returnees from various countries continued to arrive, not only in 'Somaliland' and 'Puntland', but also in the urban centres in Southern Somalia including Kismayo. The scope of these returns is still being assessed, along with the possible impact on UNHCR's operations.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR strengthened awareness of, and respect for, women's rights and gender equality, enhanced women's role in peace building and reconciliation, and contributed to the efforts aimed at the eradication of harmful traditional practices. Support was provided to the Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development in 'Puntland', and to family centres in 'Somaliland'. Training and workshops were held to address issues such as: strengthening community awareness and advocacy for "at-risk" children in 'Somaliland'; increasing access to child protection services; implementing programmes that address the specific needs of adolescents; and increasing community understanding of the effects of female genital mutilation (FGM) and promoting community mobilisation efforts to stop the practice.

Crop production: Support was given to rain-fed and irrigated farms in the Sahil, Togdheer and Awdal regions. This led to improved crop production and extension of services, resulting in model farming techniques. Some 75 families engaged in small-scale farming were given farming tools. Demonstration farms were established and workshops were conducted for farmers from each village so that the knowledge acquired would then be transmitted to other farmers. The Aburin agricultural centre for research and training was rehabilitated, and agricultural equipment was provided to the Bulale returnee community.

Domestic needs/household support: Due to harsh climatic conditions and long repatriation routes for returnees repatriating from Djibouti through Awdal region, food was distributed during rest periods. Assistance in the form of basic household items was also provided to vulnerable individuals.

Education: UNHCR supported the construction/rehabilitation of 41 schools in Awdal, Western Galbeed, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag regions, including the provision of furniture. Community mobilisation in support of project implementation and future sustainability was promoted through general meetings. Community Education Committees, District Education Boards and Parent and Teacher Associations were actively engaged and training workshops were carried out for them. The

skills-training centre in Hargeisa provided 187 youths with training in carpentry, masonry, metalwork, plumbing, electric installations, tailoring and office management.

An assessment of the status of refugee/returnee girls' education was carried out. This generated reliable information to underpin interventions to promote access to education for refugee girls and to reduce their drop-out rate. The main barriers to the full participation of returnee girls in informal education were found to be poverty, traditions such as early marriage, traditional division of labour by gender, discriminatory attitudes by the teachers and the absence of employment opportunities for girls upon completion of their schooling. Action to remove the barriers included: complementary education, training opportunities for girls, improving their self-image, and overcoming cultural impediments.

Fisheries: Somalia's 3,300 km of coastline offers great potential for income generation from the sea. In several areas, including Mogadishu, returnees were helped to earn a living through fishing and use of other marine resources.

Food: Food and other commodities were distributed to the returnees during the repatriation from Djibouti.

Forestry: A tree nursery and shelter-belts were established to reduce environmental degradation and improve soil conservation. Tree plantation activities were also established in a new returnee area in Burao.

Health/nutrition: The Hargeisa Institute of Health Sciences was rehabilitated through a joint project in which UNHCR and UNDP had the physical structure rehabilitated, WHO provided medical equipment and UNICEF the training material. Construction and rehabilitation of six medical facilities was completed in 'Somaliland' and 'Puntland'. Hospital furniture and ambulances were provided to Boroma and Erigavo hospitals. In addition, UNHCR carried out public awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS and FGM. These entailed refresher courses for health professionals, young people, community leaders, and women's groups on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and FGM. These activities also included 50,000 information pamphlets, 50 billboard displays, and radio programmes. In addition, UNHCR also supported the establishment of HIV/AIDS

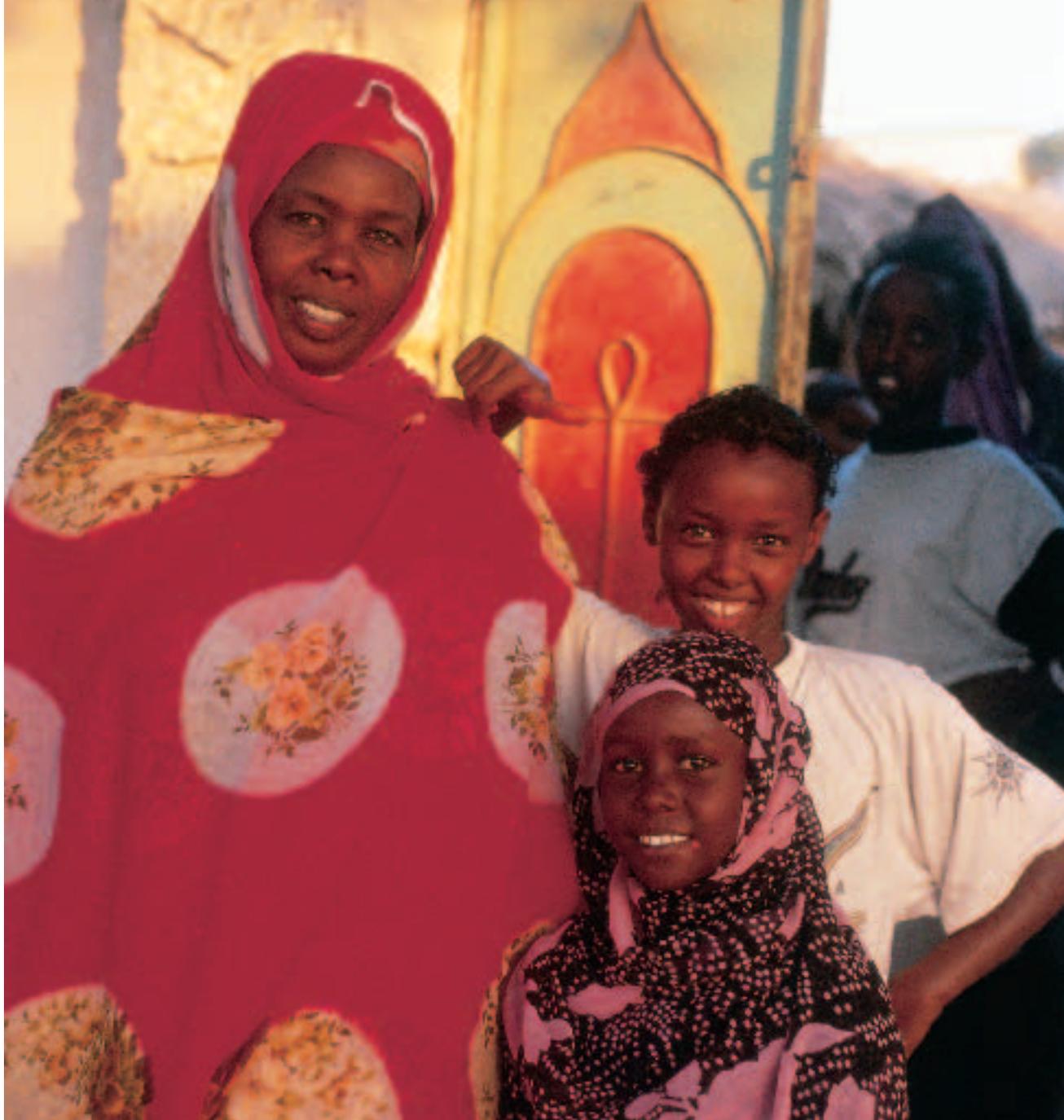
volunteer counselling and testing facilities for urban refugees.

Income generation: Income generation projects in 'Puntland' and Mogadishu included training in tailoring, bakery and fishing. Some 400 returnee families (3,094 persons) benefited directly from the projects through skills training, including basic management skills, and the construction of income-generating facilities. Micro-finance projects for 700 female-headed households continued. Women's co-operatives were assisted with the construction of a small-scale soap production factory in Boroma and hand tools for salt excavation in Tokoshi.

Legal assistance: A systematic returnee monitoring system established in 2002 is assisting UNHCR and other agencies to stay informed about the challenges confronting the returnees. Refugee law and human rights were promoted and more effective protection sought for asylum-seekers and returnees. In implementing the High Commissioner's five commitments to refugee women, substantial progress was made in terms of listening to women's views on protection and programme activities. Their access to water, education and other vital services (e.g. markets) was improved.

Livestock: A livestock restocking and redistribution programme was carried out in the regions of Awdal, Galbeed and Togdheer, in accordance with the traditional redistribution system. Women and female-headed families were given priority as they often play a traditional role in family management. Each family was given fifteen goats/sheep as a start-up. Village restocking committees were established in targeted villages to integrate the project into the traditional livestock redistribution system. Over 700 beneficiaries from 14 villages and district veterinary officials were trained in animal care, diet and hygiene, herd management, breeding systems, production, marketing, animal health and disease prevention. Veterinary clinics were rehabilitated and animal drugs and equipment were provided in Awdal region. Rehabilitation of meat and vegetable markets in Hargeisa, Zeila and Erigavo improved sanitary conditions and general food handling at the markets.

Operational support (to agencies): The operational capacity of government authorities, implementing



Returnees to “Somaliland” are beginning to rebuild their lives. *UNHCR / P. Kessler*

partners and other line ministries was strengthened in order to ensure an efficiently managed and well co-ordinated repatriation and reintegration operation. The programme benefited extensively from the technical expertise of four UNVs.

Sanitation: With UNHCR’s support, the returnee community in Lower Shabelle region mobilised equipment and skilled labour to prepare the construction of 150 pit latrines in Qoryoley Camp II. The inhabitants of the camp benefited from better sanitation and this significantly reduced diarrhoeal and parasitic diseases. Hargeisa Municipality was assisted in removing garbage to another landfill site with deeper trenches to minimise the health hazard for the nearby population. Thirty latrines

were also constructed in a new returnee area/settlement in Burao.

Transport/logistics: Warehouse facilities were hired on a contractual basis for adequate and safe storage of non-food items. Logistical support was provided to the WHO team carrying out the immunisation of returnees against meningitis at border entry points. Under this inter-agency co-operation initiative, WHO provided medicines and staff while UNHCR provided transportation.

Water: Water projects were targeted to the main areas of return and benefited the entire community, thus minimising tension with the local population over the lack of water. The rehabilitation efforts

focused on the extension and improvement of the existing urban water systems, construction of new water catchments, rehabilitation of irrigation canals and construction/rehabilitation of dams and shallow wells. Some 58 water systems/sources were rehabilitated or constructed.

These projects got women more directly involved in the management of water sources and facilities and improved sanitation and personal hygiene. Women were also included in the membership of the Water, Environment and Sanitation Committees and Village Development Committees. Moreover, women played a key role in identifying community needs and determining water points that needed to be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of water sources on a “food-for-work” basis, especially when targeting female-headed households, contributed to an increase in food security in the rural areas. A good example of bridging the gap between emergency assistance and development was the assistance given to the Hargeisa Water Agency through UNHCR, to increase the production capacity of the Hargeisa water supply system to cover the demands of the returnees. A longer-term development programme to replace the existing structure is now underway. The water system for Qoryoley Camp II (Lower Shabelle region) was rehabilitated to benefit 1,500 families, thus improving public health, by facilitating access to sufficient potable water for the community and providing support to the farming activities of returnees and refugees.

Organisation and implementation

Management

Due to security incidents and the absence of a central government, the UNHCR decided that the Somalia office would continue to operate from Nairobi. The office structure consisted of a Branch Office in Kenya and offices in Hargeisa, Mogadishu, Galkayo and Bosaso. There were 35 national and seven international staff as well as four UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR continued to involve itself in active partnership with others with the aim of cultivating effective management. The main partners included:

The UN Country Team, the Security Management Team for Somalia, the Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body, the board of the United Nations Common Air Services for Somalia (UNCAS), the Humanitarian Response Group for Somalia, the United Nations Co-ordination Unit (UNCU/OCHA) and five international and 79 national NGOs.

Issues of protection and governance received particular attention and specific refugee/returnee related inputs were received from UNHCR. The UN Somalia 2002-2003 Joint Action Recovery Plan and the 2003 UN Consolidated Appeal for Somalia reflect this orientation to prioritise areas of concern to UNHCR within the larger humanitarian and recovery context.

Overall assessment

In 2002, the main objectives behind the provision of international protection were to a large extent being achieved: repatriation, reintegration, assistance and durable solutions for refugees. Due to financial and other constraints beyond UNHCR's control, the number of returnees from Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen was substantially lower than initially foreseen. However, the number of returnees from Ethiopia (over 32,000) did not fall too far short of the planned target (35,000). Reintegration activities in major areas of return were effective insofar as they demonstrably improved access to basic services and income-generation opportunities for returnees, their communities and IDPs, where the latter live in close proximity to the returnees. However, all in all, UNHCR and its partners were able only to meet a few of the most pressing needs in the interventions.

UNHCR's efforts to work closely with the Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator and the UN Country Team, NGOs and donors ensured that protection and integration issues became an integral part of the international aid community's agenda in Somalia. The successful re-establishment of reintegration projects in Mogadishu, Qorioley (Ooryoley) and 'Puntland', after many years when UNHCR was not very active, was most welcome and yielded results well beyond UNHCR's initial expectations. The improved and systematic returnee monitoring system established in 2002 – premised on a rights-based approach – greatly assisted programme

planning and implementation. Information obtained through returnee monitoring is being shared with partner agencies.

For much of the year, urban refugees in 'Somaliland' were not adequately assisted for lack of funds. To meet international standards, the programme needs to be enhanced with a view to fully implementing the Agenda for Protection.

UNHCR's close involvement with the Somalia peace process, as a member of the UN Country Team, provided an excellent opportunity to promote humanitarian principles, including the right of refugees to return home and enjoy an acceptable standard of living.

Exit strategy: UNHCR's cautiously optimistic forecast of rates of return (from Ethiopia and Djibouti in particular) show expected repatriation movements of some 44,000 returnees to 'Somaliland' in 2003. UNHCR will continue with the repatriation of the remaining refugees in 2004 and the residual caseload the following year. It is therefore anticipated that 2005 will be the final year for reintegration assistance in 'Somaliland'. Much depends on the increased engagement of other actors in the transition integration process. UNHCR's phase-out strategy is thus contingent on the commitment of others to meet Somalia's needs as comprehensively as possible.

Although financial constraints continue to hamper larger scale repatriation movements to 'Puntland', UNHCR intends eventually to deploy the same strategy as that outlined above for 'Somaliland'. However, UNHCR will have to maintain a presence to deal with the international protection of persons of concern.

Unfortunately, UNHCR is not sufficiently confident about peace and security in Southern and Central Somalia in the near future to justify fixing a time-frame for an exit-strategy involving repatriation and reintegration. Elementary security and administrative conditions must be met before refugees can return on a large-scale and for UNHCR to engage in the international protection of asylum-seekers and refugees in these areas. With the vital and prolonged capacity-building process of local administrations, and the full involvement of all parties concerned, exit opportunities will gradually arise.

Offices

Nairobi
Bosasso
Galkayo
Hargeisa
Mogadishu

Partners

Government Agencies

Line Ministries related to programme activities
Ministry for Diaspora and Refugee Affairs (South Somalia)
Ministry of Interior ('Somaliland')
Ministry of International Co-operation and Planning ('Puntland')
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction ('Somaliland')
National Refugee Commission (South Somalia)

NGOs

Africa 70
Agriculture Development Organisation
Al-Falah
Alkowneyn Women Voluntary Organisation
Al-Nasar
Al-Rahman Charity Organisation
AMAL
Amal Women Group
Amoud University Technical Support Committee
Association of Northwest Technicians
Awdal Construction and Technical Services
Awdal Rehabilitation and Development Association
Awdal Rehabilitation Association
Awdal Women's Development Association
Bani'Adam
Bargal Community Organisation
Barwaqo
Buurdhaab Voluntary Organisation
Candlelight for Health and Education
Cattle Hides in Development Association
Community Concern Somalia
Consortium 'Somaliland' Non-Governmental Organisation
Cooperazione Internazionale
Daldhis Rehabilitation and Development Association
Daryeel Humanitarian Integration Society
Deen Rehabilitation and Construction Association
Delta Construction and Development

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Development and Relief Organisation
Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development
Global Construction Company
Goles Establishment
Hanad Social Rehabilitation and Development Association
Hargeisa Municipality
Hargeisa Water Agency
Health, Education and Agro-Pastoral Liaison
Help
Hodan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Organisation
Horn of Africa International Group
Iftin Relief and Development Organisation
International Rescue Committee
Kalmo 'Somaliland' Voluntary Organisation
Khayr Development Organisation
Kheyre Community Welfare Association
Liban Fish Association
Liban Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation
Liibaan Development Organisation
Livestock Development Association
Lughaya Reconstruction and Development Organisation
Marine Resources Development Organisation
National Building Construction
Natural Resources Development organisation
Norwegian Peoples' Aid
Norwegian Refugee Council
Oog Construction and Rehabilitation Organisation
OXFAM
Red Sea Action
Rural Agriculture Development Organisation
Rural and Urban Community Concern
<i>Saabuul</i>
<i>Sanaag</i> Women Association
Save Somali Women and Children
Save the Children (US)
Self-Invention Voluntary Organisation
Shilale Rehabilitation and Ecological Concern
Shire Construction Company
Social Awareness and Development Operations
Social Services Development Organisation
Social Services Voluntary Organisation
Somali Development Organisations
Somali Welfare Society
Somali Women Concern
'Somaliland' Community Development Organisation
'Somaliland' Community Duty Development Association
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'Somaliland' Najah Women Organisation
'Somaliland' Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
'Somaliland' Relief Organisation
Sool for Rural and Environment Development
TAYASIR
United Somali Professional Organisation
Voluntary Community Concern Service Organisation
Waab Technical Development Foundation
Waberi Construction and Development Organisation
Welfare Project Society
Others
Danish Refugee Council
EC
ECHO
FAO
Food Security Analysis Unit
Gothenburg Initiative
Halo Trust
IOM
OCHA
Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body
UNDP
UNESCO-Peer
UNICEF
UNIFEM
United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)
WFP
WHO

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget			
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,625,017		25,724	
Community Services	189,147		31,526	
Crop Production	190,347		44,036	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	53,210		0	
Education	587,571		83,597	
Fisheries	20,499		0	
Food	1,084		0	
Forestry	19,451		7,418	
Health/Nutrition	184,719		221,814	
Income Generation	56,867		120,590	
Legal Assistance	305		0	
Livestock	53,190		50,601	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	301,811		342,020	
Sanitation	73,812		2,932	
Transport/Logistics	190,461		37,966	
Water	326,704		174,584	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,053,597		(816,411)	
Sub-total Operational	5,927,792		326,396	
Programme Support	178,299		0	
Sub-total Disbursements/Deliveries	6,106,091	(3)	326,396	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,147,765	(3)	0	(5)
Total	7,253,856	(1) (3)	326,396	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	2,125,621		557,814	
Reporting Received	1,072,024		1,374,225	
Balance	1,053,597		(816,411)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		926,957	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		49,130	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	1,053,597		61,416	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		457,624	(5)
New Obligations	7,253,856	(1)	0	
Disbursements	6,106,091	(3)	326,396	(5)
Cancellations	0		131,228	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	1,147,765	(3)	0	(5)
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts: (1) Annex to Statement 1 (3) Schedule 3 (5) Schedule 5				