

Somalia Refugee Conference – Keith Mackiggan’s Statement

- Thank you very much. It is a pleasure to be here to discuss this important issue. It is great to see so many countries, organisations and NGOs represented.
- The UK understands and appreciates the important role played by countries supporting Somali refugees. We join the international community in thanking Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, and others for their continuing generosity in hosting a sizeable number. The UK is committed to supporting them – and indeed Somalia – in building a conducive environment for refugees to return to Somalia.
- The UK supports the Addis Ababa commitment towards Somali refugees, and encourages progress on all six parts of that commitment. We welcome the focus in the Tripartite Agreement on dignified and voluntary returns, and durable solutions in the region.
- We’re committed to continuing to follow progress as refugees return, and working with partners to help ensure that their

needs are met. DFID will spend nearly £150 million (\$232 million; €205 million) in humanitarian aid in Somalia over five years from 2013, and in addition to that, nearly £70 million (\$108 million; €96 million) from 2012 to 2016 in humanitarian aid in Kenya.

- Overall UK Aid in Somalia stands at over £105 million per annum, and is geared towards creating peace and stability, promoting prosperity and economic opportunities, and helping to create the necessary conditions for refugee return. Security and basic services are two of the main reasons refugees highlight for not being ready to return, and indeed these are two of the priority objectives of UK support.
- The UK encourages all donors to step up and support UNHCR, EU, and regional players in tackling this important issue, and ensuring that practical, sustainable solutions can be found, whilst respecting the principle of voluntary and dignified returns. Thank you.