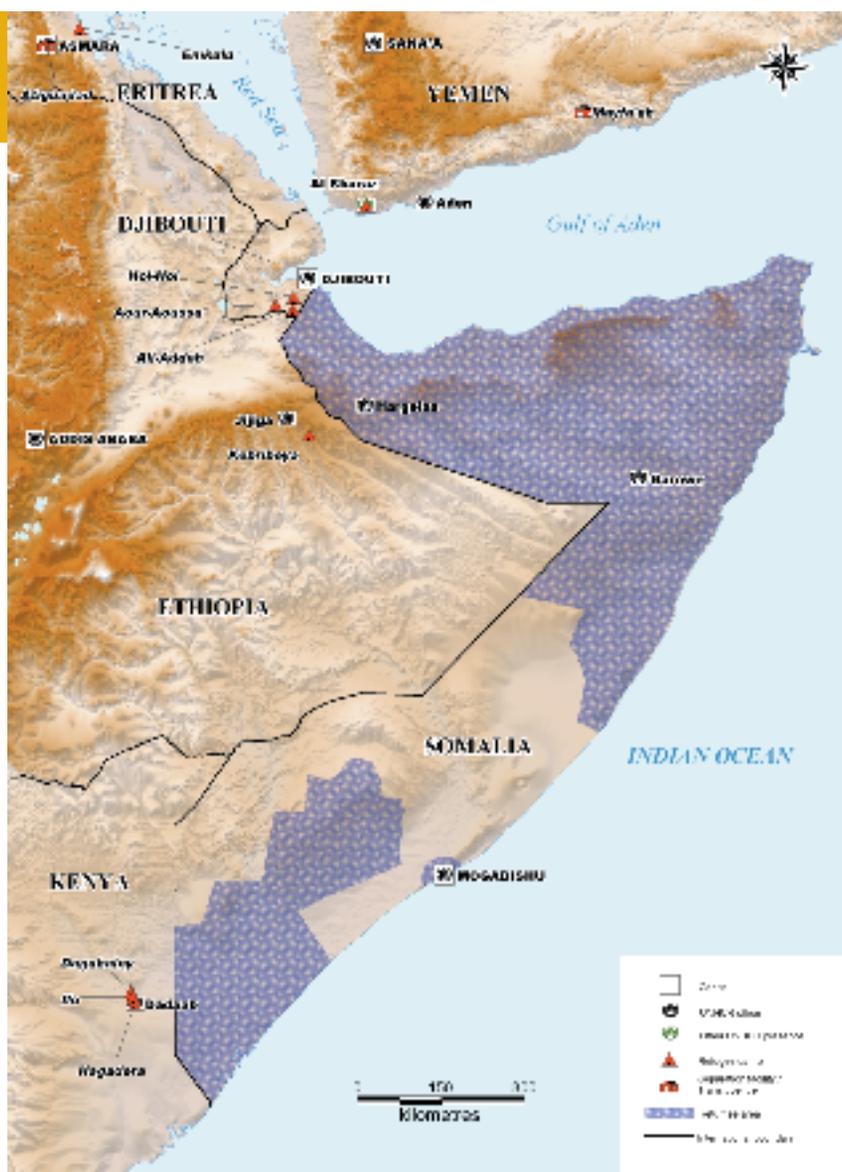


Somalia

Main objectives

- Attain durable solutions for Somali refugees through promoted voluntary repatriation to the safe areas of "Somaliland" and "Puntland", and through facilitated voluntary repatriation to south and central Somalia, where conditions are not yet conducive to large-scale refugee return.
- Support the reintegration of returnees, with a view to improving their income generation options and access to basic services.
- Where UNHCR has physical access to them, provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees and ensure adequate processing and treatment of asylum-seekers, whilst simultaneously pursuing durable solutions.
- Contribute to the collaborative UN efforts to improve the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
IDPs ¹	400,000	400,000
Others of concern (receiving communities)	300,000	300,000
Returnees ²	15,500	25,500
Refugees/asylum-seekers	1,145	2,145
Total	716,645	727,645

¹UNHCR's programme will benefit those IDPs to whom UNHCR has access.

²The total number of returnees since the height of the crisis is estimated at 1.25 million out of a population of 6.8 million.

Total requirements: USD 7,155,371

Working environment

Recent developments

The working environment remains complex and in many areas insecure, especially in south and central Somalia, despite the successful formation of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and its relocation from Kenya to Somalia in June 2005. Two issues have proven controversial within the TFG, namely where to relocate to within Somalia and the deployment of foreign forces in support of the relocation. In light of these disagreements, the President and the Prime Minister decided to relocate temporarily to Jowhar, whilst the Speaker and some Members of Parliament



The Harrirad village in "Somaliland" was almost totally destroyed during the war. In the past three years, Somalis from neighbouring countries have returned and reconstruction of homes and infrastructure has taken place at a very rapid pace. *UNHCR / B. Heger*

proceeded to Mogadishu. It is however important to remember that although their differences are yet to be resolved, the legitimacy of the TFG is not in dispute. With the support of the international community, the TFG continues to be occupied with establishing the transitional federal institutions, setting up governance structures and mapping a way forward for improving the security situation. However, it is not clear how long it will take to restore peace and stability. Therefore there is no precise time frame for the implementation of a strategy for large-scale repatriation and reintegration of Somali refugees to south and central Somalia. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia is working towards fostering a dialogue among the TFG leaders for the

development of a national reconciliation plan and an agreement on security and stabilization.

In these circumstances, the principal driving forces of economic and social development are the private sector, the diaspora, civil society organizations, emerging women's groups and authorities such as those in "Somaliland" and "Puntland". Peaceful multi-party elections in "Somaliland" in September 2005, and the mature handling of a constitutional crisis in "Puntland" in 2003, demonstrate the determination of the people and their administrations to preserve hard-won peace and stability. Meanwhile, Somalia remains fifth from the bottom on the UNDP *Human Development*

Index, and 73.4 per cent of the population lives in general or extreme poverty.

Despite the difficult environment, UNHCR repatriated almost 7,000 Somali refugees between January and August 2005, bringing the total number of assisted returnees to over 486,000, with an even larger number having returned spontaneously, without UNHCR support. In addition, UNHCR assisted some 470 refugees in "Somaliland".

Constraints

Armed conflict and lawlessness in south and central Somalia continue to erode development gains and hamper humanitarian access, although at the same time access is improving in some areas like Lower Juba. "Somaliland" and "Puntland" are relatively stable and contain secure areas to which refugees can return and in which aid agencies can operate, even if a number of security incidents against international aid workers have led to the application of stricter security regulations. Furthermore, the possibility of conflict between "Somaliland" and "Puntland" over the contested Sool and Sanaag regions, claimed by both entities, continues to hinder access, despite these regions' well known humanitarian needs.

Until the TFG succeeds in the exercise of its authority and the restoration of peace and security, coupled with better service delivery to the Somali people, mass voluntary repatriation to south and central Somalia will be neither desirable nor sustainable. The lack of absorption capacity in the areas of return could render large returns a destabilizing force rather than a peace-building factor. Absorption capacity has already been severely overstretched in "Somaliland" and "Puntland", causing serious concern among the communities and authorities. The lack of absorption capacity in "Somaliland" is the main reason for slow returns from Djibouti.

Most areas are affected, to varying extents, by a combination of weak governance, a fragile political process, the lack of socio-economic and political infrastructure, environmental damage caused by charcoal burning and the use of firewood, and a ban on the export of livestock to Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, repeated drought, floods and semi-arid land make reintegration efforts more difficult.

In 2006, one of the main humanitarian concerns will be to alleviate the effects of several years of drought and severe flooding in 2005 which hit crops and livestock and thus further contributed to the impoverishment of an estimated 700,000 Somalis. Furthermore, assistance is required for 1.25 million returnees and an estimated 400,000 internally displaced people scattered in 34 locations throughout Somalia (of whom 250,000 are in Mogadishu). Among those displaced are the 2004 tsunami victims, many of whom left their communities along the Indian Ocean coast and moved to their relatives further inland. The international community has failed to respond adequately to the plight of displaced populations, and the authorities lack the capacity to address this issue. The severe shortfall in funding for recovery and development activities by UN agencies and NGOs, and a total absence of bilateral aid, make the shortage of skills among the Somali population even more damaging. If large-scale repatriation is to be sustainable, more funds are needed for community-based reintegration and developmental activities.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR will assist the TFG to build its capacity with regard to the protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and internally displaced people. UNHCR's programme forms a part of the priority interventions by the UN Country Team for Somalia and its partners for vulnerable populations. The Preparatory Project for a Somali Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) aims at identifying durable solutions to the problems of displaced Somalis. Where durable solutions are not immediately available, the CPA will identify and support measures to improve the quality of asylum in the hosting countries. Following completion of the gaps analyses and consultations with a wide range of national and regional stakeholders, the project was entering its final drafting phase during the second half of 2005.

The CPA has been designed in relation to actions required to progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The final document is to be presented at an international conference towards the end of 2005.

In 2006, as part of a multi-agency strategy, UNHCR will, wherever possible, and provided that development agencies have sufficiently strong presence and funding, focus further on implementing project activities that will bridge the gap between relief and development, through active collaboration with development actors. As a way to ensure this link, UNHCR is actively participating in the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), led by the United Nations and the World Bank, in the cluster on Livelihoods and Solutions for the Displaced. The results of the JNA will be translated into a Reconstruction and Development Framework for Somalia which will be presented at a donor conference in April 2006.

UNHCR has established an international presence in "Puntland" in order to enhance the protection of returnees and asylum-seekers. It will monitor the physical, legal and material safety of returnees through contacts with local authorities, communities and NGOs, as well as direct interviews with asylum-seekers, refugees and returnees.

Returnees

An estimated 350,000 Somali refugees continue to reside in nearby countries. A protective environment conducive to self-reliance must be created in order to improve the prospects for their voluntary repatriation. In 2006, UNHCR will continue to promote repatriation to "Somaliland" and "Puntland", and facilitate voluntary return to other areas of Somalia. Some 10,000 refugees will be repatriated during the year. The repatriation from Djibouti to "Somaliland" will be completed. To enable Somali refugees in camps to make informed decisions on their return, information campaigns and confidence building activities, including "go and see" visits, will be jointly conducted with the authorities of each hosting country and the authorities and communities of potential areas of return. UNHCR will focus its reintegration interventions on "Somaliland" and "Puntland", as well as on Mogadishu and its

environs. UNHCR will continue to provide legal assistance to returnees, as well as to refugees, through the legal aid network. The repatriation of larger groups to the central and southern parts of the country may be possible if the political developments result in positive change. This would require considerable resources that cannot be provided under the 2006 annual programme, but UNHCR is preparing an operational framework for this scenario as well as large-scale repatriation, whenever conditions permit.

Internally displaced people

UNHCR will strengthen its involvement with internally displaced people, in accordance with the collaborative approach on internal displacement agreed by the relevant agencies in September 2005. In 2005, UNHCR seconded a senior IDP advisor to assist the UNCT in the development of a joint UN strategy to better address the needs of 400,000 internally displaced people. This strategy has three objectives: improve the protection of IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable populations; improve their current living conditions; and promote durable solutions for them. The UNCT, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and assisted by OCHA, is currently in the process of developing an action plan for the implementation of the joint strategy. UNHCR's role in the strategy is focused on protection – including community mobilization – emergency shelter and the provision of basic services. Finding durable solutions for internally displaced people is intrinsically linked to finding solutions for returning refugees, because they mostly live in the same communities.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR will also provide international protection and life-sustaining assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers (mainly from Ethiopia) in "Somaliland" and "Puntland". These activities will focus on resettlement, because the opportunities for local integration and voluntary repatriation are very limited.

Assistance

UNHCR will provide reintegration assistance to those who repatriated in 2004 and 2005 (or earlier), as well as to the refugees who will return in 2006. UNHCR will adopt a community-based approach to the provision of assistance in the sectors of water, health, HIV/AIDS, education, sanitation and community services, aiming at the improvement of livelihoods and income generation. Activities that support access to basic services will be tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the returnee population. In "Puntland", and where possible in central and southern Somalia, UNHCR will enhance its reintegration programme to improve access to basic services to all returnees, as well as to groups with special needs among internally displaced and marginalized minority populations, and promote their economic self-reliance. Working jointly with other UN agencies, UNHCR will address the consequences of environmental degradation and drought in the form of emergency relief and rehabilitation projects.

Desired impact

UNHCR will attend to the main concerns of returnees: the establishment of sustainable livelihoods and access to basic services. Close collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs will further support returnees' efforts to achieve self-reliance. Income generation projects will improve the circumstances of many returnee women, female-headed households and female youth. If local conditions permit it, and funding is provided, UNHCR will in 2006 explore the possibility of voluntary repatriation to areas still insecure in 2005, and the number of refugees able to repatriate will increase as a result. Likewise, where opportunities for voluntary return or resettlement of internally displaced people arise, they will be supported in the context of a collaborative inter-agency approach.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia will benefit from international protection and access to basic services. Special emphasis will be given to those who are particularly vulnerable, for example victims of sexual and gender-based violence and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

The country representation for Somalia, based in Nairobi, Kenya, will oversee all operations in Somalia, in close coordination with countries hosting Somali refugees. The country representation will relocate to Somalia, when conditions allow it. The offices in Hargeisa ("Somaliland"), Garowe ("Puntland") and Mogadishu will run operations in their respective areas. In 2006, the Somalia operation will be staffed by ten international and 40 national staff and six UNVs.

Coordination

Overall coordination is ensured by the UNCT and the Coordination and Management Committee (CMC), which includes the TFG, AU, IGAD, donors, and NGOs. The Joint Planning Sub-Committee of the CMC, established in early 2005, will eventually take over the functions of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body. On security issues, coordination is carried out by the UN Security Management Team. NGO coordination is ensured through the NGO Consortium.

Offices
Nairobi (Kenya)
Garowe
Hargeisa
Mogadishu

Partners
Government agencies
Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management Agency (HAMDA) (“Puntland”)
Ministry of Interior (“Somaliland”)
Ministry of Interior, Security and Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (“Puntland”)
Ministry of International Cooperation and Planning (“Puntland”, “Somaliland”, TFG)
Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (“Somaliland”)
National Refugee Commission (TFG)
NGOs
Agricultural Development Organization
Bani’Adam
Community Concerned Somalis
Danish Refugee Council
Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development
Health Unlimited
Hargeisa Voluntary Youth Committee
HIGSAD
Norwegian Refugee Council
Save Somali Women and Children
Shafi’I Social Development Organization
Somali Development and Rehabilitation Organization
Somali Reunification Women’s Union
Somali Women Concern
United Somali People Organization

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,352,826
Community services	242,700
Crop production	440,000
Domestic needs	227,000
Education	460,700
Forestry	195,000
Health	348,300
Income generation	855,000
Legal assistance	180,600
Operational support (to agencies)	240,700
Sanitation	175,000
Transport/logistics	355,000
Water	560,000
Total operations	6,632,826
Programme support	522,545
Total	7,155,371