Country profile

The humanitarian crisis caused by a combination of insecurity, drought and hunger at famine levels in southern Somalia is causing massive displacement within the country and refugee flows across borders into Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. Nearly half of Somalia’s 7.5 million people have been affected by drought, and a quarter of the population has been uprooted since the beginning of 2011. The United Nations has declared famine in five regions of southern Somalia, amid growing concern that the famine could quickly spread across the country and may affect other areas of the Horn of Africa if not addressed through rapid action.

The Transitional Federal Government is unable to impose the stability needed to improve the situation and aid agencies face threats and intimidation from insurgents in south and central Somalia.

UNHCR’s refugee operation in Somalia is focused in the northern region of “Somaliland” and “Puntland”. UNHCR conducts refugee status determination, with support of the authorities, and registration of asylum-seekers, promotes refugee and asylum-seeker rights, provides legal assistance, shelter and access to medical facilities and education. However, UNHCR is concerned with an increase in violence as new rebel movements, allegedly with links to Islamist movements in south and central Somalia have emerged in "Puntland" and "Somaliland".

In addition, instability and poverty in neighbouring countries have also resulted in mixed migration movements to Somalia in a desperate attempt to cross the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen and beyond, with many falling victim to traffickers.

**Situation of refugee education in 2010**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Enrolment in primary and secondary school, by gender</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>Male</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Refugee youth enrolled in training</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>Male</td>
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In Bossaso, refugee and asylum seeker children are able to access primary school education. Hargeisa sub-office in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Save the Children-UK established a primary school for refugee children in 2003 and all refugee children have access to primary school.

### Challenges

- Lack of adequate sanitation facilities in schools
- Lack of female teachers and of teachers from the refugee/asylum seeker community
- Children do not always have access to uniforms and learning materials
- Lack of vocational training opportunities
- Limited employment opportunities after skills training
- Some refugee children are not attending school due to removal of the subsistence allowance
- Limited intermediate/secondary education and no tertiary/vocational training
- Refugee’s children who are integrated in local schools often are discriminated against, which causes drop out and limits the possibility of integration in the host community
- Language barrier

### Objectives

- Ensure that all refugee and vulnerable asylum seeker children and illiterate adults have access to quality education and numeracy
- Construct additional latrines in schools
- Build separate schools for boys and girls in two different locations
- Provide sanitary kits to girls in mixed schools
- Advocacy for the inclusion of refugees/asylum seekers in Child Education Committees to ensure proper representation of their needs
- Enrol children in intermediate/secondary education
- Advocacy with Ministry of Education to provide opportunities for tertiary training and livelihood
- Provide uniforms and learning materials
- Construct of resources centres in schools
- Provide play equipment (footballs/skipping ropes etc) to schools
- Raise awareness on refugees’ rights
- Strengthen parent-teacher committees
- Establish peace education programmes to promote tolerance, as persons affected by conflict often react with a mixture of despair and a desire for revenge

UNHCR staff speaks with internally displaced women