



# PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

2022 IOM SOMALIA

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## FOREWORD



Frantz Celestin

IOM Somalia Chief of Mission

The year 2022 in Somalia was marked by an historic drought that raised the humanitarian needs to an unprecedented scale. Millions of people became dependent on humanitarian aid to survive as the land could no longer provide adequate food or water to meet their most basic needs. Many more were displaced and had no option but to seek refuge in crowded settlements where access to the most basic services remained a luxury.

The devastating effects of climate change and conflicts coupled with poor socio-economic conditions and diseases also pushed tens of thousands of people to embark on irregular journeys across migratory corridors in Somalia and throughout the region. Many vulnerable migrants departed from the port-city of Bosaso, often relaying on smugglers who promised them better lives in Europe or the Gulf countries. Others, remained stranded in Somalia, facing dire living situations and exploitative labour conditions. We witnessed a raise of women and children travelling alone and putting their lives at risk in their plight to support those back home.

In the midst of these crises, IOM teams worked hard to rapidly scale-up relief to save lives of communities at risk of famine while protecting and enhancing the resilience of populations on the move. Working with concerned partners, we provided water, sanitation, hygiene, shelter, protection, nutrition and health services to the most vulnerable. We advocated for better housing and land tenure solutions for displaced communities, while investing in developmental initiatives that could enable populations aspire to having a more prosperous future.

We continued to work with the Government and partners to address irregular migration, support migrant returnees and mitigate transnational organized crimes, such as trafficking and smuggling. Through one of our flagship projects, we brought back Somali expertise in the diaspora to contribute their skills to enhance the quality of the country's public services. Our teams were also present in areas affected by conflict, bringing years of best practices to restore trust amongst communities and promote peace. Our expertise on reintegration of people formerly associated with violent extremist groups also remained a key element of our response and helped dozens of women and men to restart their lives and become productive and constructive members of a peaceful and stable society.

It is my distinct honour to present IOM Somalia's Programmatic Overview over our activities in 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States for being strong partners throughout the years. I also applaud the incredible work done by IOM staff for putting their foot forward day in and day out to save lives and provide relief to those in need. Finally, without our donors and partners, we would not be able to carry out our work. I would like to express my deep appreciation for their commitment to help us in our mission to contribute to Somalia's recovery and development.

# IOM SOMALIA

# 2022 PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

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# 1/ IOM SOMALIA

Established in 2006, IOM Somalia has set a strong record on the delivery of frontline services to crisis-affected populations, while steadily developing models and partnerships for longer term recovery and migration governance to support the overall objective of the National Development Plan from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS).

For the past 17 years, IOM Somalia has committed itself to the principle of humane and dignified treatment of crisis-affected populations in an ever-changing environment, while strengthening partnerships for improved resilience, recovery, and migration governance.

To address the overall migration challenges in Somalia, IOM works closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, regional authorities, the United Nations (UN), donors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society

by implementing programmes through three pillars: (1) Emergency and Post-Crisis, (2) Transition and Recovery, (3) Migration Governance and Development.

With over 995 staff, IOM Somalia operates from its main office in Mogadishu, as well as offices in Hargeysa, Bossaso, Garoowe, Baidoa, Doolow, Kismayo and the Nairobi support office based in Kenya. IOM has also presence in Dhusamareeb, Dhobley, Luuq, Berbera, Baardheere, Afmadow, Afgooye, Cadaado, Ceel Afweyn, Xudur.

## SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

Emergency and post-crisis

Transition and Recovery

Migration Governance and Development

## IOM SOMALIA'S GOAL 2022 to 2025:

To contribute to a stronger, more resilient Somalia through an effective and principled approach to migration, displacement, peace building and strengthening of strategic partnerships.

## Emergency and Post-Crisis

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

IOM, as the global co-lead of the CCCM Cluster, orients and oversees displacement site coordination and management to improve humanitarian assistance and ensure equitable access to services and assistance of all persons in need in key displacement areas of Somalia.

### Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM Somalia Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) strives to provide localized, up-to-date information on the basic needs of the target population, cross border mobility, internal displacement figures and trends in drought affected areas.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

IOM's WASH projects take an integrated, community-led approach to the provision and maintenance of sustainable water supply systems in displacement sites and rural areas, such as emergency water trucking, boreholes and shallow wells, and the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation practices.

## Health and Nutrition

IOM delivers and promotes accessible and equitable health programmes to displaced, vulnerable and host communities. IOM health activities also include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programming to enhance the capacity building of social workers and community mobilizers on MHPSS. The activities are integrated through health facilities and mobile teams, stabilization programmes and projects assisting vulnerable migrants.

## Protection

During crises, the protection needs of displaced populations increase, especially for vulnerable groups like minorities, women, and children. IOM strongly engages in the mainstreaming of protection efforts in all its activities as well as in targeted actions such as the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in displacement sites.

## Emergency and Post-Crisis

### Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI)

Shelter and Non-Food Items support is provided to identified populations, directly or through partners, with shelter materials to facilitate rapid response, whilst cash-based interventions encourage ownership, integration, and participation of displaced populations.

### Durable Solutions

IOM designs its interventions to enhance progress towards durable solutions and shift the paradigm from aid-agency driven modalities to one where the government and community co-design and lead their nationally aligned and owned programming.

## Transition and Recovery

Stabilization and early recovery efforts seek to bolster confidence in communities emerging from conflict toward nascent local governance structures, strengthening the state as a viable alternative to extremism. IOM implements programmes in two thematic areas:

### Community Stabilization

The Community Stabilization projects address the multifaceted drivers of instability caused by conflict and climate change to support communities and the Somali Government to restore peace and lay the foundations for a longer term, sustainable recovery. IOM does so by designing and implementing activities that restore trust horizontally between communities - meaning rebuilding the social contract between conflicting groups - and vertically between communities and government authorities in newly recovered and displacement affected areas.

### Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation (DDRR)

This key component of IOM's peacebuilding and stabilization portfolio aims to contribute to peace and improved security in Somalia by building the capacity of government, civil society, conflict-affected communities, and youth to address the social, economic, and political drivers that fuel violent extremism.

### Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)

IOM conducts research on the links between climate change, conflict, and migration, and implements projects to enhance the community resilience to disasters, prevent displacement and mitigate the impacts of recurrent drought and floods.



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

## Migration, Governance and Development

### Immigration and Border Governance (IBG)

Through working with the Federal Government, local governments and other stakeholders, IOM seeks to contribute to efficient border and migration management policy and structure, and help to prevent irregular migration, criminal activity and protect the rights of the people on move.

### Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI)

IOM's Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion harnesses the development dimension of human mobility and promotes a comprehensive approach to labour migration governance, to ultimately provide protection and enhance the conditions of migrant workers. IOM also promotes labour mobility through the engagement of qualified members of the Somali diaspora to contribute to the development of the country.

### Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA)

IOM provides protection and assistance to migrants in need including returning migrants, trafficked persons, smuggled migrants and unaccompanied and separated children including policy level support and capacity building to stakeholders to contribute to effective migration management in Somalia. IOM also facilitates the safe, humane and dignified voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of stranded migrants in Somalia as well as Somalis stranded abroad through providing administrative, logistical and financial support.

# IOM'S PRESENCE IN SOMALIA IN 2022

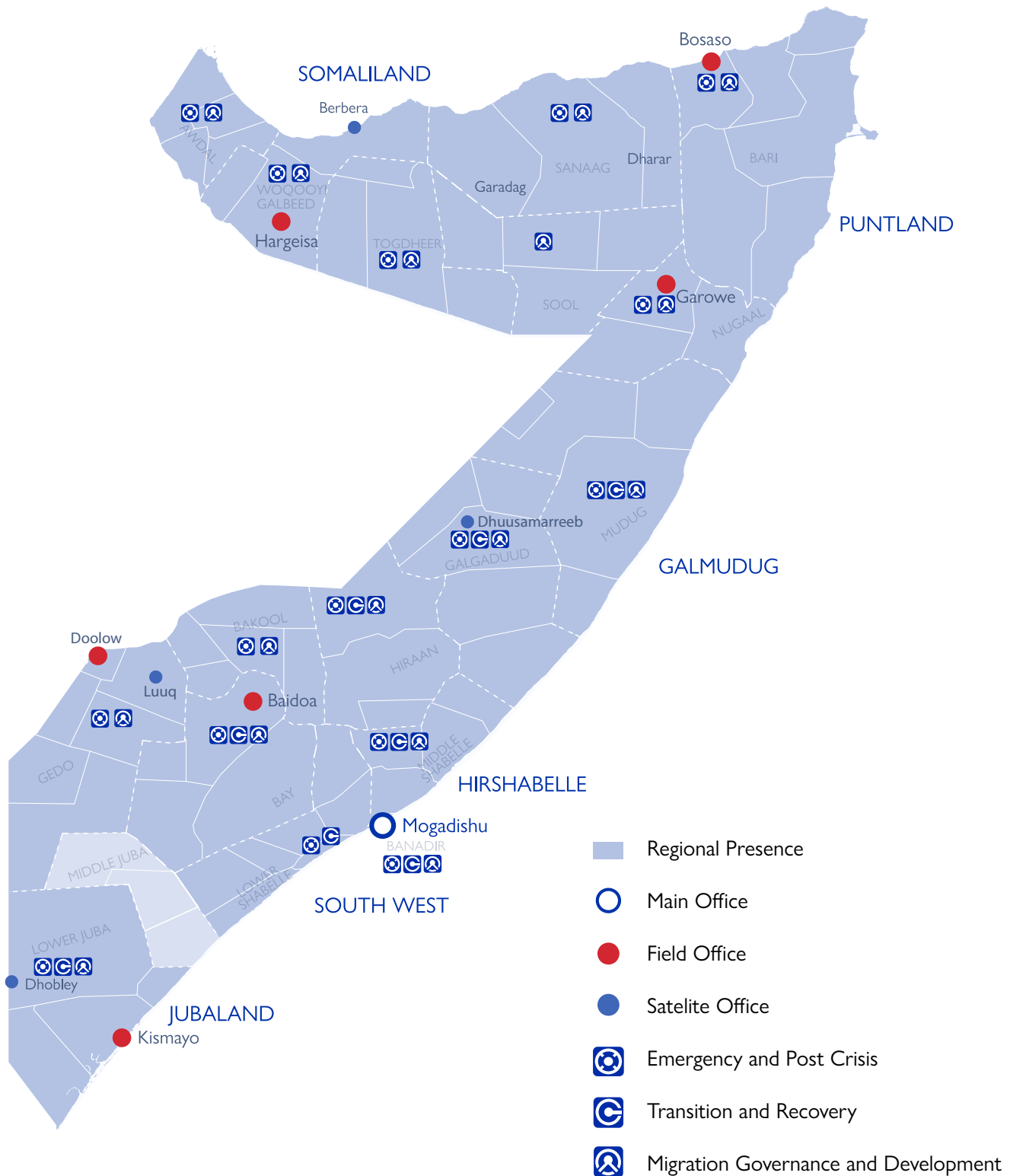




Photo: Yonas Tadesse/IOM

## MIGRATION IN SOMALIA

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and human-induced factors, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world. Decades of poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and poor access to basic services and livelihood opportunities have devastated the lives of millions of people. Recurrent climatic shocks, like drought and flooding drive thousands of people out of their homes each year, while ongoing conflicts impact protection and human rights, reduce resilience, and further limit access to basic services. These crises have internally displaced at least 3.8 million people across the country, one of the highest figures of internal displacement worldwide. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are considered to be the most vulnerable population as many of them have exhausted their coping mechanisms due to the nature and frequency of humanitarian crises.

Somalia is also a key source of, and, to some extent, destination country for migrants in the East and Horn of Africa. It is the main transit country for migrants leaving Ethiopia for countries in the Arabian Peninsula through the migratory corridor known as the 'Eastern Route'. Migrants originating or transiting through Somalia are exposed to severe protection risks, including trafficking, abuses, violence and detention.

Furthermore, thousands of Somali diasporas have returned from abroad in recent years and contribute to ongoing efforts in sustaining and rebuilding the country. Remittances play a key role in Somalia's economy and contribute to advancing developmental goals, with total foreign remittances currently estimated to surpass foreign aid. The diaspora is an essential partner for relief and development operations.

### MAIN FEATURES OF THE CRISIS IN SOMALIA

**7.7M** (2022) in need of humanitarian assistance\*

**8.25M** (2023) in need of humanitarian assistance\*



#### REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT →

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

**2.9M + 1.4M**

protracted displacement before 2021 since early 2021 mainly due to drought

#### CLIMATE HAZARDS

Somalia remains prone to natural hazards, including floods and droughts, and will experience further climatic shocks in the next years

#### ARMED CONFLICT

Diverse non-state armed actors of which Al-Shabaab is the most immediate threat

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Very high rates of poverty and severe constraints on basic services

**2,400+ IDP sites** across the country

**GBV** - Prevalent GBV disproportionately affecting women, girls and IDPs

\* Humanitarian Response Plan 2023





Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

## HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT IN THE ONGOING DROUGHT



**7.8 million people  
affected by drought**



**Over 1.4 million people  
displaced by drought**



**6.4 million lack  
access to water**



**Over 1 M people reached  
with life-saving aid**

*\*All figures as of December 2022*

At the end of the year 2022, Somalia still experienced a historic drought following five consecutive below average rainy seasons that led to mass displacement, widespread death of livestock and a devastating food crisis. The drought is projected to intensify as Somalia faces the risk of a sixth consecutive below average rainy season from March to June 2023. In addition, persistent conflict, unresolved political tensions and global supply and price shocks are further exacerbating the water and food crises.

More than 7.8 million people were facing acute food and water shortages by the end of 2022, with more than 6.4 million people lacking sufficient access to water. In the period from October to December 2022, about 5.6 million people across Somalia experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Among these, 1.5 million people were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and

214,000 were confirmed in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The rapid scale-up of humanitarian relief last year and the ongoing efforts of local communities to alleviate impacts caused by crises, contributed to avert famine levels. However, the humanitarian community projects famine could happen in two areas of the country by mid of 2023 if the funding is not sustained, rains continue to fail, and relief is not scaled-up.

The number of drought-related displacements reached over 1.4 million between January 2021 and December 2022, while over half a million people were displaced by violence and conflict throughout 2022. Most people moved to informal sites in major Somali cities and towns as they sought humanitarian assistance, while others crossed into neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. Displaced populations live in congested settlements, where they often face poor sanitation and hygiene conditions and are at risk of eviction by landowners.

## 2/ MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



More than **1.8 MILLION PEOPLE** reached with life-saving assistance



More than **3.8 MILLION PEOPLE** reached with assistance indirectly and directly



**628 IDP SITES** supported by IOM



**+52%** increase from 2021



Supporting **690,675 PEOPLE**



Over **552,864 PEOPLE** reached with **FREE HEALTH CARE** in displacement sites and hard to reach areas



**+67%** increase from 2021

**730,000**

**CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS TRACKED** from January to December 2022



**198,497,000 litres** of **SAFE WATER** from new and rehabilitated boreholes, and shallow wells provided



Reaching **569,100 PEOPLE**



**+116%** increase from 2021



Over **59,382 INDIVIDUALS** assisted through cash-based interventions



**16 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** completed and directly benefiting over **470,975 INDIVIDUALS**



**32 SOMALI DIASPORA EXPERTS** assigned to institutions



**454 WOMEN** and **381 MEN** affected by conflict supported through rehabilitation centres



**196,326 PEOPLE** assisted with **IN-KIND**



**400 TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS** constructed



**50,844** assisted with **CASH SUPPORT**



**17,488 MIGRANTS** assisted through **3 MIGRANT RESPONSE CENTRES**



**22 BORDER POSTS** supported  
10 airports, 5 seaports, 7 land posts

## OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS 2022

IOM Somalia continued to support the Federal Government of Somalia, guided by the National Development Plan to respond to the needs of mobile populations and Somali communities. The activities and achievements of 2022 are to the credit of the hundreds of IOM Somalia staff members that have worked tirelessly together with government counterparts and humanitarian partners.

### Addressing Somalia's Climate Change Emergency

Somalia is on the front line of climate change with seasonal patterns becoming more unpredictable each year. Recurring drought, floods, and food insecurity have amplified pre-existing vulnerabilities, leaving populations with no time to recover in between shocks. These climatic events are acting as a threat multiplier by exacerbating competition between communities over grazing land and water resources, inducing displacement and the recruitment of youth by armed actors. Somalia is also impacted by environmental degradation, including deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion and desertification, which is further exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural and pastoral practices. All these factors are making the survival of rural and vulnerable communities more difficult each year.

To ensure that displaced people, migrants, communities residing in hard-to-reach locations, returnees and vulnerable populations are better prepared to the impacts of climate change and prevent further displacement, IOM integrates climate mitigation and adaptation approaches in most of its projects. These environmental approaches aim to address cross-cutting humanitarian and development needs aggravated by recurrent floods and drought. The interventions cut across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN), addressing both the immediate effects of natural hazards through life-saving support, while at the same time

implementing longer-term projects that can contribute to increasing the resilience of communities to climate change.

#### Emergency interventions

IOM implemented disaster risk reduction interventions to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Through an Anticipatory Action programme, IOM was able to contribute to the reduction of drought-related displacement through the provision of water trucking, rehabilitation of shallow wells and the drilling of new boreholes in the areas most affected by drought.

To increase preparedness and resilience to natural hazards, IOM constructed disaster resilient infrastructure such as sustainable drainage and flood-proof water systems and shelter in Belet Weyne and Jowhar. In addition, IOM trained health care workers and prepositioned health emergency kits to support populations facing an emergency situation.

Furthermore, at least 24 people from two communities in Doolow received training on Community Based Disaster Risk Mitigation (CBDRM). The objective of the training was to enhance the ability of Community Disaster Risk Management Committee members to identify potential hazards and increase the community's capacities on preparedness, prevention and response systems in case of flooding.



#### **STORY: Women are Breaking Barriers and Protecting the Environment in Somalia**

Women continue to play an important role in peacebuilding processes in Somalia. Their ability to cross inter-communal boundaries and unite people from different clans gives them an edge, if given a chance, to be effective agents of change in their communities.

“Before, the community had no trust in my abilities due to cultural traits, but this project involves the Galmudug State ministries, and IOM. I feel it will promote women's inclusion and consideration of women as leaders,”



Photo: Ismail Salad Osman/IOM

## Breaking the Climate-Conflict Nexus

In February 2022, IOM launched the project “Breaking the Climate-Conflict Cycle” to support communities in Galmudug and Hirshabelle to tackle climate change impacts whilst reducing conflict arising from the competition over diminishing resources.

The project, locally known as Deegan Bile, sought to address the ‘multiplier effect’ that climate change has on violent conflict in the most vulnerable regions of country. One way to achieve this goal was by providing sustainable water supply infrastructure in strategic locations to reduce competition

over water resources. In late 2022, IOM completed drilling 2 boreholes that were designed with solar-powered pumping systems, as well as 3 shallow wells, 2 animal troughs, water kiosks and piping distribution in Bilcil, Hobyo and Duqaqo in Galmudug.

Through Deegan Bile project, IOM also contributed to reducing environmentally induced displacement and conflict in Galmudug State. IOM also supported communities in sustaining climate-conscious conflict mitigation strategies.



[VIDEO: Deegaan Bile: Addressing Climate and Conflict](#)



[PRESS NOTE: Deegaan Bile project](#)



## [STORY: As Climate Change Strains Somalia’s Path to Peace, Communities Hold the Key](#)

“He was killed while searching for firewood,” said Abdi, a resident of the drought-stricken town of Bilcil, Somalia. “People are fighting over trees.” The scarcity of water, soil erosion and depleted grazing land negatively impact the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Somalis who, like Abdi, depend heavily on these natural resources to thrive.

## Drought Response

Somalia is experiencing an historic drought following five consecutive years of below average rainy seasons that have led to mass displacement, widespread death of livestock and a devastating food crisis.

IOM worked closely with the Federal Government and aid partners to address the immediate needs of displaced persons and vulnerable groups. IOM's response focuses on assisting IDPs arriving at urban centres in increasing numbers with an integrated package of life-saving assistance. Complementarily, IOM is scaled up its presence and support in more secondary towns in the drought-affected areas, aiming to reach people closer to their place of origin. In that manner, IOM activities contributed to mitigate the substantial movement and increased pressure on basic services in the main urban centres.

Through its Camp Coordination and Camp Management teams, IOM supported 628 displacement sites. IOM identified, verified, and recorded the most urgent and immediate needs of IDPs, and shared them with humanitarian partners to ensure mobilized resources were channelled to those most in need. IOM also supported partners in identifying newly arrived households, advocating for increased support and attention to ensure that they receive immediate registration and assistance from those operating in the area.

An estimated 6.4 million people lacked sufficient access to water in 2022. IOM increased its provision of safe and clean water to drought-affected communities to address urgent needs and mitigate further displacement. Teams constructed and rehabilitated 106 shallow wells and 39 boreholes to provide drought affected communities with clean and safe water. Emergency water trucking assistance reached 528,282 people across 17 regions, which each person receiving 7.5 litres of water per day, as agreed by the WASH Cluster. Simultaneously, IOM also conducted hygiene promotion activities through the recruitment of local community members who informed their communities on practices that can help reduce the spread of disease, particularly in displacement sites.

IOM, together with UNICEF and WFP, implemented the 'Minimum Response Package (MRP)' between May and September 2022 in Baidoa and Mogadishu. The MRP was a first-line response to the Integrated Response Framework endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team, that aimed to provide life-saving support to newly displaced persons in urban, rural and semi-urban centres, including children, women, pregnant and lactating women, elderly, people with disabilities,



Photo: Translieu/IOM



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

chronic illness and/or limited mobility. This assistance consisted of primarily water, food, cash, shelter items and sanitation, health and nutrition services. The MRP provided 28,058 displaced families, an estimated 168,348 individuals, with at least one type of assistance.

IOM also scaled-up its health and nutrition services through static health facilities and mobile teams to bring essential health services closer to hard-to-reach communities, vulnerable internally displaced persons, and host communities. The activities' overall objective was to strengthen Somalia's health

system and treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM), whilst reducing mortality and morbidity and improving health-seeking behaviours to prevent disease outbreaks.

Drought Displacement Monitoring Snapshot: in January 2022, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), OCHA, and the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) began producing bi-weekly Drought Displacement Monitoring Snapshots to monitor displacement trends and hotspots. The data produced supports operational planning and allows IOM and partners to respond better to the needs



### [VIDEO: Improving Access to Water](#)



### [VIDEO: Responding to the Drought in Somalia](#)



### [VIDEO: 'You Can Find Dead Animals Everywhere'](#)

Abdi, a nomadic man living in Galmudug, is witnessing the death of their animals as the drought in Somalia intensifies.



### [STORY: Devastation of Drought Felt by Communities](#)

Stories of some communities affected by the drought in Galmudug, a state in central Somalia where the adverse impacts of climate change are contributing to increased displacement and the risk of violent conflict.



### [STORY: Rapid Assistance Critical Amid Drought - MRP](#)

IOM is racing to assist displaced and vulnerable people to save lives and avert famine. To achieve this, IOM launched a coordinated response with UNICEF, the World Food Programme and other local partners known as the minimum response package (MRP).

Photo: Ismail Salad Osman/IOM





## “We Came Here Carrying Our Children on Our Shoulders”: Unforgiving Drought Displaces Thousands in Somalia

Millions of people are at risk of famine and forced displacement as the drought situation deteriorates in Somalia. For many displaced persons, water provided by IOM through trucks are the only way to access water.

Dollow, 3 June 2022 – Seven days walking in sandals under the scorching sun with barely enough water and food. Seven nights sleeping in the open, exposed to insects, predators and even thieves. That is how long it took for Aliyow and his children to find some relief. No matter how harrowing the journey is if you are running for your life.

“We came here carrying our children on our shoulders. People who were travelling in their vehicles picked us while we were walking on the road,” says an exhausted Aliyow, still recovering from the long journey.

Aliyow used to earn enough to care for his family doing menial jobs in his neighbourhood. But work has been scarce since the beginning of the year.

“Our clients did not have any money left. They spent the little they had trying to feed their drought-stricken livestock,” he said.

Aliyow is one of the over 771,000 Somalis displaced by an extreme drought ravaging parts of Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Like many others, he had no other choice than to pack what he could and leave his home, hoping to save his life and those of his children.

### Worst drought in recent history

Severe dry conditions are deepening Somalia’s decades-long humanitarian crisis. Three consecutive failed rainy seasons over a two-year period have led to a devastating drought that is already affecting 6.1 million people.

The number of people affected is expected to rise in the next months. The Gu rains – which usually last from April and June – are once again below average. According to the United Nations, it is the longest drought ever witnessed in the Horn of Africa’s recent history.

When Aliyow left his village, he went to Dollow – a small town in Somalia’s Gedo region – where he hoped to find humanitarian support. Together with his family, they are among the more than 36,000 people who have arrived in Dollow since the water crisis worsened late last year. Dollow has been a stop of last resort for thousands of people fleeing climatic shocks and conflict throughout the years due to the presence of aid actors in the area.

Most displaced persons flee to major Somali cities and towns searching for food, water, and shelter. Other major Somali cities receiving large numbers of people when crises hit are Baidoa, Kismayo and the capital, Mogadishu.

Seinab runs a small food business in a local market in Dollow that was set up by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2019 to support displaced women. Once a thriving business, Seinab has experienced financial losses for months now. With eight children to feed, the situation is becoming unbearable for the single mother and many others who have to make difficult choices as the drought situation deteriorates.

“Many have closed their businesses. They can’t operate anymore. Prices of food have tripled in just a few months,” she said. “Only two of my children are going to school. I can’t afford to pay for all of them.”

Millions of people face extreme hunger and there is a risk of localized famine if food prices continue to rise, and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up in weeks ahead.

“We came here because of hunger. I was a farmer and was herding animals, but I lost 27 goats and three cows due to this drought. I don’t have anything to feed my children,” said Darur, a father of four who made a 400 km journey to Dollow.

IOM is working in Dollow and other areas across the country, providing much-needed life-saving support to thousands of people. IOM has reached over 350,000 affected people with humanitarian assistance and protection services, including water, hygiene kits, shelter, cash, health and information.

[Read full story](#)

## Durable Solutions to Displacement

IOM implemented activities to enhance progress towards durable solutions, (re)integration and self-reliance to enhance the living conditions of displaced communities.

### Saameynta and Somalia Resilience Programmes

In 2022, IOM launched two important programmes that aimed to address the challenges faced by displaced communities in Somalia while improving their access to critical services.

Through these interventions, IOM and its partners are working together with the Federal Government of Somalia to implement the National Durable Solutions Strategy. The project seeks to decrease dependency on humanitarian aid, reduce poverty for thousands of impoverished individuals and promote IDPs integration in cities.

In 2022, Saameynta carried out activities that enhanced the capacities of local authorities and Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) to increase the opportunity for self-reliance and access to social services for communities impacted by displacement. Through the project, Baidoa district key stakeholders, including DACs and local authorities were trained on social cohesion and social accountability systems purposely for creating direct engagements with DACs and municipal authorities. During the workshops in Baidoa, participants jointly developed a selection criterion targeting the framework for Cash for Work in the thematic areas of irrigation scheme, plot allocation and durable housing allocations.

The Saameynta programme also made efforts to invest and technically support the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing (MOPWRH) in South West State for the submission of the final reviewed version of an Urban Land Management Law. As a result, the Urban Land Management Law was fully endorsed by Parliamentarians and the state President and will be operationalized and implemented in 2023. Further, a City Strategy and Extension Plan was developed for Baidoa and shared with stakeholders. The strategy provided an analysis and defined a set of strategic priorities and actionable policy proposals aimed at addressing issues surrounding inclusive urban growth and integration of informal settlements in Baidoa.

### Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium

IOM continued to lead the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium, a group of local NGO and INGO partners that works with the Government to advanced sustainable solutions in the country.

Improving access to basic services increases the absorptive capacity of host communities to co-exist peacefully with IDPs and returnees. Therefore, the Danwadaag partners provided services such as water, sanitation, health, and cash assistance in areas of displacement. IOM focused on constructing water infrastructure, including pipeline extensions, water kiosks and boreholes. For instance, the installation of the geomembrane lining for one water retention pond was finalized in Baidoa. This intervention provided people with enough water storage capacity to attenuate surface runoff that usually causes floods during rainfall events. It also contributed to enhance food production and livestock fodder, additionally reducing soil erosion and land degradation.

The Danwadaag Consortium partnered with various partners, International and National NGOs, to strengthen social cohesion and credible local institutions by promoting inclusive DACs forums. The forums enhanced the ability of DACs to identify, develop, and reinforce inclusive structures that strengthen social cohesion and livelihoods.

Communities affect by disasters were also supported to establish eight female new self-help groups in Afgoye to encourage self-employment, poverty reduction and build social capital among the poor. The members become economically empowered through trainings and pooling their financial resources into collective savings from which they take loans in times of emergency or financial scarcity or important life event or to purchase assets.

Furthermore, IOM supported durable solutions in form of long-term land rights, legal assistance and specialized counselling services related to housing, land and property rights and the prevention of forced evictions. IOM advocated for these rights in high level meetings, resulting in the eviction task force to successfully secure multi-year lease agreements for multiple displacement sites, and arranging unconditional cash assistance to facilitate lawful and dignified relocations.

[Improving infrastructure in displacement sites](#)



**[PRESS RELEASE: The Federal Government of Somalia and UN Partners launch Saameynta Project](#)**



As the largest CCCM partner in Somalia, IOM actively improves the infrastructure in displacement sites to match the needs of long-term displaced persons. IOM does so by discussing with communities on their needs through regular meetings where leaders are able to express the critical challenges the community is facing. Throughout 2022, IOM conducted bush and pathway clearance, debris removal, drainage excavations and emergency sand bagging to protect sites from flooding, constructed community Information Centres, as well as site level cleaning campaigns and the installation of solar lights.

### Reconfiguration of Ladan Displacement Site

Initially self-settled in late 2021, Ladan IDP site experienced a rapid population growth due to the ongoing drought crisis, with over 15,000 people reported to have arrived in the site as of August 2022. In coordination with partners and local authorities, IOM began reconfiguration operations to rationalize space and provide a safe and secure living

environment to displaced families. This involved detailed site planning, the clearance and preparation of 22 hectares of land, alignment of roads, pathways, and sanitary corridors, installation of latrines and WASH infrastructure, and the demarcation of Works will continue throughout early 2023, focusing on excavating 19 kilometers of drainage, shelter construction, and household relocation.

### Bringing Displaced and Host Communities Together

Finally, IOM supported the establishment of dialogue platforms between displaced populations and host communities and among displaced populations to increase integration and self-sufficiency. For example, the Shabelle Community Development Organization (SHACDO) facilitated the formation of four inclusive forums, comprised of displaced (60%) and host community (40%) representatives, to encourage cooperation and needs identification.

Photo: Foresight/IOM



## Women at the forefront of their recovery

IOM aims to address critical gaps related to challenges faced by women and youth in Somalia. IOM designed and implemented activities to promote the well-being of women and youth, while empowering them as agents of change in their communities. Their activities contributed to peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

### Women Lead on Reconciliation and Peace Processes

IOM continued to foster women networks at local level to promote peace and enhance security in areas who have historically been affected by conflict. IOM supported a group of women in Marka to set up referral pathways for victims of gender-based violence and cultivate linkages with the Marka District Peace and Safety Committee (DPSC), a local institution that documents disputes amongst community members and brings the cases to the relevant institutions.

### Fighting Gender-Based Violence

IOM actively work to reduce the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in displacement sites. IOM supported the establishment of a working group focussing on gender and protection issues related to shelter interventions. IOM also contributed to capacity building of partners in good programming. In coordination with GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), IOM equipped and supported partners to refer survivors safely to specialized services. To meet the needs of GBV survivors and vulnerable internally displaced persons, members of mobile clinics received training on psychological first aid and basic counselling as the first responders. Awareness raising sessions on GBV were also conducted in the camps to inform about gender based violence services available. Additionally, dignity kits were distributed to those in need.

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Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM



Photo: Foresight/IOM



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

### 16 Days of Activism Against GBV

For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign, IOM together with implementing partners organized awareness raising and dialogue sessions to open transparent discussions on GBV-related topics such as intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, and women's participation in Baidoa, Xudur, Doolow, Luuq, Baardheere, Kismayo and Banadir. GBV awareness raising can challenge gender norms and spreads the clear message of zero tolerance of all forms of violence against women and girls. It also contributes to informing survivors of their rights and the support services available to them. Finally, to mark the International Women's Day and raise awareness under the theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", IOM worked with people at the rehabilitation centers in Kismayo and Baidoa to explore ideas about equality, gender, and societal norms. A play "Gabar guri ha kaaga jirto ama god ha kaaga jirto" which translates to "A girl has only two options, either she gets married and lives with her husband or should be in her grave" invoked emotions leading the participants to explore and discuss their role in bringing change on gender norms.

### Safer Pathways for Migrant Women

IOM continued to advocate for safe labour migration for women. In 2022, IOM organized awareness raising sessions and trainings on the rights of female migrant workers and advocated for gender-responsive migration governance in the East and Horn of Africa region. The sessions built on a mapping exercise aimed at identifying local community organizations, research centres, private institutions and other relevant stakeholders working on gender, human rights, labour migration, social protection and related issues. These activities targeted government representatives, migrants, host communities and NGOs and aimed at enhancing the capacity of the participants to protect women migrant workers' social, economic, labour and human rights. These activities also served as platforms for diversified stakeholders to discuss the adequate measures to jointly pursue, in order to advocate for a comprehensive approach to labour migration and its governance, with a specific focus on the protection of female migrant workers and their rights.



## WOMEN BRING JUSTICE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVOR

Marka, Somalia - Nurtra Haji attends weekly sessions to discuss matters that affect women in Marka and surroundings. There she meets with other women coming from all parts of the district. The group, locally known as the Women's Networking Group, sits together, sometimes for hours, to discuss ways to uplift women's safety, enhance their well-being and guide them to seek justice for crimes committed against them.

The women's group was formed in September 2021 in Marka - a coastal Somali town in Lower Shabelle region, 95 km south of the capital, Mogadishu.

"It is our responsibility as women to deal with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents and take GBV matters to the administration and the police for actions," said Nurtra. "We are always tasked to identify cases, record and report to the police for action. Besides that, we provide psychosocial support for victims."

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working with the women's group through the EU-funded Daryeel programme. IOM supports the group to build and cultivate linkages with the Marka District Peace and Safety Committee (DPSC), a local institution that documents disputes amongst community members and brings the cases to relevant institutions.

"The DPSC serves as a conduit between victims and formal justice mechanisms. It also raises funds to cover legal fees so that the women have greater access to justice," said Amina Mohamed, IOM's Gender and Youth Senior Program Assistant.

Both the women's group and the DPSC play a pivotal role in settling disputes in the district through the Somali Xeer system - the traditional law that Somali clans use to attain justice and settle disputes. They address GBV claims and support the local administration in matters affecting the peace and security of the region.

In the absence of a functional court system in Marka, the work of these community groups is restoring the sense that justice

is not out of reach. For many women in Marka, this is the first time they dare to come forward and speak up.

"Initially I was ignorant about sharing my story and I was gripped by fear and discrimination. The formation of the women networking group and the mobilization they provided in Marka, and nearby villages enabled us, women, to come out of their homes and share their stories," said a woman from the community.

"As women and the victims, we never knew before where to and who to channel our problems," said a survivor from GBV. "We were given psychosocial support, advice and material support from the women group and that allowed us to value ourselves and get relief from the pain that we have gone through."

Marka is reemerging after decades of instability and conflict. For over six years, the population lived under the control of the violent extremist group, Al-Shabaab, until the Government recovered the town in 2018. The extremist group is still present in many parts of the country and over 500,000 people are estimated to be living under their control, including communities living close to Marka. Women living in Al-Shabaab territory aren't allowed to participate in public life and are often subject to different forms of violence.

Climatic shocks and diminishing resources in the area have led to an escalation of violence in recent years, especially over water. The DPSC's works across villages and towns in the district to resolve disputes and promote peace and stability.

"We act and solve cases may it be a family dispute, interclan conflicts, conflicts over resources water points, and land disputes, or GBV cases to ensure peace and stability prevail in the region," said Ibrahim Hassan a member from the DPSC.

Since the formation of the Women's Group, IOM, thanks to EU funding, has implemented series of initiatives in Marka to foster integration among women from different clans.

[Read full story](#)



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

## Addressing Conflict through Community Dialogues

IOM has been addressing the drivers of instability caused by conflict and climate change to support the communities and the Somali Government to restore peace and lay foundations for a longer-term sustainable recovery. IOM does so by designing and implementing activities that restore trust between communities leading to social cohesion.

To increase the profile of the Marka District Peace and Safety Committee, IOM designed a community engagement campaign featuring interactive radio talk shows, public service announcements, radio dramas, billboards, pamphlets, and town hall meetings. The campaign aimed at introducing the Committee to the communities in Marka District and help build its credibility throughout the region. The activity was conducted in Marka, Buufow, Ceel Jaale, Shalanbood, and Janaale under the Daryeel programme.

The “Promoting Inclusive Action in Peacebuilding” (PIAP) initiative was launched in 2022 with a goal to reduce the

intercommunal conflict over natural resources in the canal zone of Marka District, Lower Shabelle, Southwest state by supporting young people and women to lead the development of inclusive and participatory resource management mechanisms and governance system.

Furthermore, IOM teams facilitated conflict-sensitive community-based planning, resource management, and intercommunal joint investments through training and dialogues. The aim of the activities was to manage or mitigate resource, clan and political based conflicts. Communities affected by conflict and disasters were provided with adequate training towards conflict resolution and management skills. The training included elements of resource development and proper management techniques at community level such as reduction of poverty and promoting livelihood options in agro-pastoral families, rainwater harvesting, soil and water conservation through construction of soil bunds.

## Enhancing Access to Education for Youth

IOM, especially through the “Stabilization through Education Program” (STEP), has aimed at further consolidating the recent stabilization gains by addressing education gaps, concentrating on recently recovered areas. With these efforts, IOM supported the Federal Government of Somalia to strengthen its presence through creating opportunities for engagement between government and communities and supporting the delivery of essential services, as an alternative to former Al-Shabaab rule.

Education in this regard is not only a basic right but can also prevent the renewal of conflict by offering children and their families a source of stability and reduce their vulnerability to violent extremism. Education can inspire cultural and moral changes that transform sources of conflict and encourage peaceful coexistence, ultimately fostering sustainable development and peace.

IOM continued to facilitate the rehabilitation and construction of schools in Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, South West and Galmudug States, in close coordination with local and regional government authorities. IOM thereby contributed to the provision of quality education to over 5,000 students.

For instance, IOM supported the community of Farjano village in Galmudug State to fundraise for the construction of a primary school via its Matching Grant Mechanism. Via this mechanism, IOM has helped the community to identify joint priorities, supported them in the tendering and procurement process and matched the funds raised by the community to make such projects possible.

Furthermore, IOM provided training to the members of Community Education Committees (CECs) to improve the quality of education provided at the schools, but also to promote the understanding of children’s rights and protection needs, sustainability and community participation.

IOM also contributed to strengthen the quality of education in Somalia through the temporary return of highly skilled members of the Somali diaspora for institutional capacity development and transfer of knowledge purposes, in line with specific priorities of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESS).



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM



Photo: Spotlight/IOM



Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

Photo: Foresight/IOM

Photo: Spotlight/IOM





## A Brighter Future for Somali Youth: New Training Programme Prepares Those Displaced for Tough Job Market

Baidoa, 27 December 2022 – After graduating from high school, Abdullah wanted to find a job and help his parents who had cared for him all throughout his childhood. However, even with a high school diploma in his pocket, securing a job remained a distant dream for the 20-year-old.

“I knew how difficult it has been for my parents to pay for my education and I wanted to repay them for all their efforts,” says Abdullah.

A few months prior, Abdullah was just like any other youth in his city. He spent his days wandering the streets, unemployed, and with little or nothing to do. Baidoa, the city where he lives, is the largest in south-central Somalia and one of the most impacted by the current drought that is ravaging the country.

“I needed skills that would help me find a job, but I did not have the money to acquire them,” Abdullah explains. “There was no point in asking my parents to pay for courses because I knew they couldn’t afford it.”

It wasn’t until he found out about the training programme offered at a local education centre that Abdullah’s life took a turn for the better. “I was told that there was an institution that was training young people like me who needed technical skills to find jobs, so I went to the centre to sign up.”

Abdullah was able to register for one of the free classes offered by Modern Management Company International as part of a project run by the International Organization of Migration (IOM), funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

During the six-month trainee programme, young people like Abdullah have the opportunity to develop new skills in tailoring, plumbing, and electrical technology that can boost their chances of employment.

“At the beginning of the project, we consulted with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources as well as youth groups to see what kind of support they needed,” explains Abdi Salah, IOM’s team leader for water and sanitation-related activities in Baidoa.

“After several discussions, the groups agreed that we needed to focus on the critical need to reduce the economic and social exclusion of vulnerable low-income groups, especially those impacted by displacement.”

Youth unemployment remains a widespread issue in Somalia, particularly in cities like Baidoa and Kismayo where resources are overstretched, partly due to a rapid population growth linked to forced displacement. Both cities host tens of thousands of displaced persons who had to abandon their villages in rural areas and move to urban centres as they were no longer able to rely on land or animals for their livelihoods.

“Baidoa and Kismayo have welcomed thousands of people forced to flee after losing their livestock and crops,” explains Abdi. The current drought has displaced over 1 million people who are now faced with famine and extreme food shortages.

Even before the drought, the two cities were big displacement hubs due to conflict and climate shocks. Displaced persons in Somalia have limited education and job opportunities and often live in crowded settlements.

Since most of those displaced were farmers, finding alternative livelihoods in the city proved to be a struggle as they often lacked the skills needed to be selected for qualified jobs.

The current training programme falls under a five-year, multi-million project funded by the AfDB that aims to improve access to water for displaced and vulnerable communities in Somalia’s urban centres.

Aside from providing immediate and long-term access to water and sanitation, IOM is also piloting activities like this new skills training programme that aims to reduce poverty and prevent the marginalization of vulnerable and low-income groups in high areas of displacement.

[Read full story](#)



Photo: Ismail Salad Osman/IOM

## Arts, Sports, and Cultural Activities for Peace and Cohesion

IOM has been progressively introducing arts, sports, and cultural activities across its programmes to foster social cohesion, facilitate reintegration and advance towards peace, especially among conflict-affected communities, returnees and IDP populations. Art and storytelling can help people to express themselves in a conflict and start the reconciliation process.

To underline the role of the common Somali cultural heritage in the peacebuilding process and to enhance the social bonds between communities, IOM supported the implementation of the Arts and Culture Festival in Marka, attracting more than 500 participants. The festival invited around 60 youth artists from different districts to participate in the events including traditional dance shows, live music, poetry recitations, and traditional art and fashion exhibits.

IOM also mobilized youth in “Sports for Peace” trainings, redirecting their energies to constructive engagements, and by that drawing their attention away from the effects of the protracted conflict. IOM trained coaches, who then facilitated the establishment of an inclusive Sports League and conducted a “Sports for Peace” Tournament. More than 600 people attended the sports event.

Additionally, IOM used cultural and arts-based activities as part of its social reintegration and collective psychological support processes at the rehabilitation centres in Kismayo and Baidoa Districts for persons formerly associated with Al-Shabaab. The type of activities have been changing on a bimonthly basis, providing a range of sport, poetry and history activities. In late 2022, IOM held workshops combining storytelling exercises, Somali music, song composition and dances, and other traditional practices with group discussions and reflections.



### [VIDEO: Promoting Mental Health in Displacement Sites through Storytelling](#)

Displaced communities in Somalia often face barriers to accessing mental health support services. IOM organized a storytelling workshop with displaced women and girls to promote their mental health.

## Cash-Based Interventions

IOM continued to provide cash-based assistance to internally displaced persons and members of host communities in different districts across Somalia depending on the affected vulnerabilities, assets, capacities and preferences.

Most of the assistance was delivered at the 628 sites that IOM supports through Camp Coordination and Camp Management mechanisms, as it is often provided together with shelter. Covering the whole year, a total of 9,897 families (estimated 59,382 individuals) were supported through cash-based interventions. In Somalia, this economic assistance is delivered

in the shape of Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), cash for Non-food items or cash for shelter, depending on the activities it is complementing. Infrastructural works implements under CCCM support 884 families through cash for work, including the direct inclusion of 257 female labourers, and 94 labourers with disabilities.

MPCA contributed to enable communities to meet their basic needs including but not limited to shelter and non-food items. This type of assistance is highly versatile and efficient, as it is unrestricted and unconditional.



## Assisting Vulnerable Migrants and Returnees

The Eastern Migration Corridor from the Horn of Africa via Yemen to the Gulf States remains one of the most dangerous routes for migrants in East Africa. According to the Regional Migrant Response Plan, the harsh nature and smuggling activities along this corridor result in exposure of migrants to humanitarian and protection risks, discrimination, and violations of their human rights. These conditions are exacerbated by the protracted conflicts, climate change, recurrent droughts and factors associated with environmental degradation.

IOM provided basic medical services, information and livelihoods support to vulnerable migrants and returnees through Migrant Response Centres (MRC) and mobile health teams. IOM conducted joint medical outreach in Puntland together with representatives of the Migrant Response Centers and the Ministry of Health Unit. This outreach monitored the medical conditions of vulnerable migrants travelling through major entry points to Bossaso and living with host communities in different displacement settlements. Thus, IOM teams provided targeted medical services to stranded and vulnerable migrants, for instance treatment of minor injuries, nutritional support, check-ups for pregnant and lactating women and distribution of malaria medication cases.

### Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Through the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme, IOM provided reception and reintegration assistance to 220 Somali returnees from North Africa -

192 men and 27 women - as well as post-arrival reception assistance to 3,548 Somali returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen - 2,228 men and 1,260 women.

As part of the reintegration, IOM provided vulnerable migrants and returnees with vocational education and training, in the henna, beauty industry, electricity and engineering. IOM partnered with the popular Somali make-up artist Muna Jama to provide women in Hargeisa with a six-week beauty course on make-up techniques as well as business skills that will allow the participants to open their own salons.

IOM also supported Somali returnees to find employment through a job fair in Burao organized in collaboration with the Somaliland Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF). The job fair provided a platform for employers and job seekers to exchange job market information and help returnees to find open job offers. Providing vulnerable migrants and returnees with the necessary professional skills supports their self-sufficiency and reintegration and prevents forced migration.

Additionally, IOM facilitated humane, safe, and dignified voluntary return of 178 stranded migrants to Ethiopia - 131 men and 47 women. The support included meeting returnees upon arrival, departure assistance, help them to obtain travel documents, temporary accommodation, free transportation to reach their communities, basic medical support, referral for psychosocial services, pocket money to cover the most immediate needs and in-kind support to restart their lives.

Photo: Yonas Tadesse/IOM





## Perilous Journeys for Migrants Seeking Better Lives Out of Horn of Africa

Bosaso, 21 November 2022 – “Knowing that my father and siblings could die of hunger is far worse than the fear in my heart,” says Musab, sitting in a dark, secluded cave around Mareero, a coastal area some 20 kilometers from the port-city of Bosaso in northern Somalia.

The 19-year-old is waiting for his new friend Ahmed, another young Ethiopian man. Together with others, they are about to attempt the dangerous voyage across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, and then further on to Saudi Arabia.

Both Musab and Ahmed are from Ethiopia and have been staying in the city for two months, saving up to pay smugglers for their onward journey to Yemen.

Once the sun goes down, they will board the Rajo, a small wooden boat used by smugglers, named after the Somali word for “hope”. For Musab and Ahmed, this will be their first journey at sea.

Despite their fears, their hope for a better life in the Gulf drives them to push on.

“I hope that we will not face any problems and reach Saudi Arabia safely, InshAllah,” says Ahmed.

Before allowing them to board, the smugglers count the migrants – a standard practice to ensure that only those who have paid for the journey get onboard. To be able to squeeze everyone in, passengers are forced to leave their belongings on the beach. Some even throw away their identity documents, convinced that anonymity will dissuade the authorities from sending them back should they get intercepted.

The country’s instability, coupled with a historically brutal drought and other effects of climate change, is deepening the drivers of irregular migration through and from the Horn of Africa, forcing thousands of vulnerable people to attempt risky journeys.

Youth like Musab and Ahmed are often lured by smugglers and traffickers to make irregular and dangerous journeys in the hopes of getting better job opportunities in the Gulf.

This September alone, roughly 4,000 Ethiopians arrived in Puntland with the intention of crossing into Yemen. So far, in 2022, more than 50,000 migrants have arrived in Yemen through the Eastern Route – arguably the world’s busiest migration corridor taken by those leaving the Horn of Africa for the Gulf States. An estimated 60 per cent of them are travelling through or from Somalia.

After the death of his mother, Musab dropped out of school to care for his three younger siblings and help his father run the family farm.

“Our life was fully dependent on that farm but sadly, it did not rain for three seasons in a row. We lost two cows, so my father decided to sell the third before it also died,” he says, explaining his reason to leave home and embark on a journey he knew little about.

“Many people from my city have left for Saudi Arabia and they send a lot of money back home each month. I thought I could be one of them.”

His perilous journey later found him detained in Las Anod, a city in northern Somalia where hundreds of migrants are believed to currently be held hostage. Smugglers forced Musab to call his father and demand USD 340 for his freedom.

“After a week, they put us in a car and dropped us off in the middle of the desert. We walked for days on end until we reached Bosaso,” says Musab, who finally made it to the city after more than 400 kilometres on foot.

“Migrants taking the Eastern Route are not always aware of the true total cost and impact the journey can have on their lives – financially, physically, and mentally,” explains Memory Mwale, Coordinator for the Regional Migrant Response Plan with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Some migrants spend months in Bosaso, doing menial jobs to make enough money to pay the smugglers for the onward trip. Others get stranded and hope to either return home or continue the journey but have no means to do so.

[Read full story](#)



Photos: Yonas Tadesse/IOM

## Photography Exhibition

IOM organized a photography exhibition in Hargeisa, 'Where Life Takes Us', to mark International Migrants Day. The exhibition aimed to inform the public about the challenges that push people to move in the Horn of Africa whilst highlighting the unique role that migrants play in social and economic development. The stories, collected across three years with the support of IOM, offered a window into the migration dynamics in the region and were an opportunity to highlight the challenges and aspiration of migrants and returnees. The exhibition was attended by returnees, host communities, potential migrants and huma. As part of the exhibition, IOM also hosted a one-day storytelling workshop with returnees and students from Hargeisa University to foster cohesion through participatory exercises that will allow them to express their thoughts and feelings in a safe manner.

## Countering Trafficking and Smuggling

IOM carried out a number of capacity-building activities to promote the safe, orderly and regular migration across Somalia. Teams supported the creation of five border committees to monitor and refer victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants in hotspot areas in Somaliland and Puntland. Simultaneously, IOM provided protection and counter-trafficking trainings for representatives from local government, service providers and community organizations.

IOM also supported the Mixed Migration Task Forces (MMTFs) in Puntland and Somaliland to organize annual reflection meetings on better engagement and joint operations aimed at providing immediate and protection support to most vulnerable migrants stranded in these locations.

## Awareness Raising on Irregular Migration

IOM organized a series of awareness-raising events targeting host communities, migrant populations and members from the Ethiopian community center (ECC). The main purpose of these awareness-raising events was to spread the risks and dangerous associated with irregular migration and human rights violations of smuggling of migrants and victims of trafficking.

## Enhancing Migration Coordination Mechanisms

IOM supported early consultations on the establishment of National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) under the leadership of the Office of the Special Envoy for Migrants and Children's Rights (OSE) of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The FGS aims to transition from the Mixed Migration Task Forces (MMTF) to NCM and ensure migration issues are coordinated in a whole-of-government approach. IOM also supported the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) through engagement of a technical migration data consultant to carry out migration data assessment and establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) on Migration and Displacement Data at federal level.

## Training of Somali Journalists

IOM partnered with the National Union for Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) to enhance Somali journalists reporting skills on migration matters, with a particular focus on protection, return and reintegration of stranded migrants and vulnerable returnees. NUSOJ organized a Training of Trainers in Mogadishu where journalists learnt about ethical reporting, migratory context, terminology, and data protection principles amongst others. The trained journalists are expected to reach at least 225 journalists across four main federal member states in early 2023 through migration reporting workshops.



### **VIDEO: Make-up Workshop for Female Returnees**

30 women participated in a six weeks beauty course where they learnt make-up techniques, and business skills that will allow them to open their own salons in the future.



### **VIDEO: Fighting Trafficking in Persons**

Under the Migrant Response Plan (MRP) project, IOM, in collaboration with relevant government officials organizes community sessions to train and raise awareness about smuggling and human trafficking.



Photo: Spotlight/IOM

## Capacity Building through Diaspora Engagement



**34 SOMALI DIASPORA EXPERTS** assigned to institutions



**50 LOCAL PROFESSIONALS** assigned to institutions



**56 INTERNS** ASSIGNED to institutions

Since 2009, IOM has implemented the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme in Somalia by engaging Somali diaspora on short-term assignments to transfer their skills and strengthen the capacity of Federal Member State Institutions. To enhance the sustainability of knowledge transfer, IOM has been implementing a capacity building model that pairs the diaspora experts with local professionals and interns. Through mentorship, young and recent graduated Somalis have gained valuable work experience, explored career paths, and have received a competitive edge in the job market.

In order to identify qualified diaspora experts who would be willing to temporarily return to Somalia, IOM organized an outreach event in Helsinki for 40 participants. The participants represented the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Somaliland's Ministry of Health Development, the Finnish-Somali diaspora associations as well as diaspora experts mainly from the health sector.

Diaspora experts supported the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) to conduct a training on Data Quality Assessment for Federal Government institutions. The training aimed at transferring knowledge on global data quality standards and to jointly identify strategies to improve quality of current data collection, including recommendations on a draft of a Data Quality Assessment Guide. Furthermore, IOM supported the Federal Government of Somalia to develop national strategies and policies related to capacity building across different Ministries,

such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the Ministry of Communication and Technology (MoCT), the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing (MoPWRH), the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHS) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE).

IOM assisted the Department of Diaspora Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) to develop and finalize the first ever Somali National Diaspora Policy. This policy shall institutionalize, regulate, and enhance diaspora engagement, in order to ultimately contribute to the sustainable development of Somalia by strengthening social and economic linkages between Somalia and its diaspora, including migrant workers abroad. The development of the recently validated Policy was accompanied by a needs assessment, outlining the immediate next steps for capacity development that will guide the Department of Diaspora Affairs in the execution of its mandate, and a policy strategy workplan to guide the operationalization of the Policy itself. The final version of this policy was presented at a validation workshop with around 150 relevant stakeholders and is planned to be endorsed in 2023.

As part of the same capacity development effort, IOM also supported the Department of Diaspora Affairs to develop a communication package to provide embassies with a more effective and consistent way of engaging the diaspora. A structured approach to communicating on diaspora engagement stems from the necessity to improve the relationship and trust between the government and the diaspora.



### [VIDEO: The Support of the Somali Diaspora](#)

Tens of thousands of Somalis live in the diaspora. They continue to be connected to their homeland and play a key role in the development of the country.

## Migration Governance for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

IOM supported the Federal Government of Somalia to improve the migration governance with the construction of several regional immigration headquarters, capacity building, and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms. The activities aimed at contributing to make migration safe, more orderly and regular.

Frontline immigration officials were trained on Standard Operating Procedures for handling health threats, including the running of gender-sensitive, cost-effective isolation facilities and screening areas at entry points. IOM teams also introduced its Migration Information and Data Analysis system (MIDAS) to immigration officers new to the system or in need of advanced sessions to effectively monitor migrant movements across the Somali border. The MIDAS system enables data collection and analysis of migration data and provides a sound statistical basis for migration policy planning.

IOM also facilitated the establishment of Integrated Border Management Committees (IBMCs) in several locations in Somalia. The IBMCs aimed at strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination between governmental and non-governmental institutions engaged in border management. A needs assessment conducted through IOM assistance,

showcased that the lack of quality data on labour migration is a significant impediment to labour migration governance to progress in Somalia. Therefore, IOM supported the development of a National Capacity Building Strategy and a Metadata Handbook in close coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and other relevant counterparts. The development of these tools will enhance the Federal Government of Somalia's capacity to collect, analyse and share quality, reliable, accurate and regular labour migration data for enhanced labour migration governance and to facilitate evidence-based labour migration policy development and implementation.

Finally, IOM contributed to the cooperation among law enforcement agencies to identify perpetrators of migration-related crimes and protect victims. For instance, IOM conducted trainings and policy assessment workshops for law enforcement agencies on the strengthening of justice mechanisms for migration-related crimes. IOM brought together stakeholders for counter-trafficking trainings in Bossaso and Mogadishu, supporting the institutions to identify, refer and assist smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking.

Photo: Yonas Tadesse/IOM





Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

## Data Collection and Analysis to Inform Programming

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team continued to collect, analyze, and disseminate up-to-date reports to inform and improve humanitarian responses across the country.

### Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT)

ETT is a crisis-based tool that tracks sudden displacement, triggered by specific events or emerging crises. The data collected is of a rapid nature to help prioritize humanitarian response and to enable partners to deliver rapid assistance. During the 2017 drought, DTM Somalia conducted a country wide ETT exercise and the data from that period indicated the highest numbers of displaced individuals were observed in Bay, Banadir and Gedo regions. Based on this and due to IOM's operational presence in Gedo region, DTM decided to pilot the ETT in Gedo region to monitor drought-induced displacements on a weekly basis through key informant interviews (KIIs).

IOM is expanding ETT's geographical coverage towards Banadir and Hiraan regions, which have also experienced a high influx of arrivals due to the drought. In the Banadir region, final revisions to the tool were made. It is expected that IOM will begin implementing the ETT tool in both Hiraan and Banadir regions by January 2023.

### Flow Monitoring

IOM resumed its flow monitoring activities aimed to gather information on migratory flows Somalia in October 2022. Flow monitoring activities provided regular and updated information on the size and profile of population movements. This contributes to improved understanding of shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the migratory routes.

Access to all the publications: <https://dtm.iom.int/somalia>

### Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT)

IOM together with its research partner GIST also started developing the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT). The system shall assist in the monitoring of key convergences of pastoralist groups in their search for pasture across Galmadug state, as these convergences are a major source of conflict and violence across Somalia, with different groups regularly fighting over depleting resources and inter-clan tensions. The collected data will feed into an early warning system, enabling IOM to identify risks of convergences of different clans according to their intended pastoral routes, and inform conflict prevention/mitigation activities. In early 2023, IOM will pilot data collection, and work with GIST to develop the early warning system.

Finally, IOM in cooperation with its research partner GIST published a study to explore the key drivers of displacement patterns in Somalia during the 2021/22 drought. The results have provided broad and comprehensive insights into displacement dynamics in Somalia at large.

Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM





Photo: Claudia Rosel/IOM

For more detailed information on IOM Somalia 2022 activities, please download our updates:

[Drought Update January - March](#)

[Drought Update April - June](#)

[Drought Update July - August](#)

[Drought Update September](#)

[Drought Update October](#)

[Drought Update November](#)

[Drought Update December](#)

Front and back cover photos: Ismail Salad Osman

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