



Ad-Hoc Query on asylum proceeding and returns to Somalia

Requested by FI EMN NCP on 31st March 2015

Compilation produced on 9th of June

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, plus Norway (17 in Total)

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1. Background Information

This Ad-Hoc query is a follow-up of two previous Ad-Hoc queries and their updates:

- Ad-Hoc query on asylum proceeding and returns to Somalia, originally requested by SK EMN NCP on 20th October 2012, of which FI EMN NCP requested an update on 1st November 2013
- Ad-Hoc query on returns of rejected asylum seekers to North Darfur and Somalia, requested by SK EMN NCP on 15th May 2014

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FI EMN NCP requests an update on the two abovementioned queries. The Finnish Immigration Service (FIS) is currently considering the need to reassess its asylum policy regarding Somalia. The situation in Somalia has changed since the previous queries. Moreover, some of the questions and answers require more specificity.

We kindly request your responses by 28th April 2015.

Questions

1. What is the current policy with regard to asylum seekers from Somalia? If there are differences in the policy depending on the place of origin in Somalia, please state what the different policies are (e.g. Somaliland, Puntland, Southern and Central Somalia, Mogadishu).
2. Is internal flight applied to asylum seekers from Somalia? If yes, in which areas of Somalia?
3. a) Do asylum seekers from Somalia receive negative decisions? If yes, are there forced returns to any parts of Somalia (which parts)?
b) What happens if the asylum decision is negative, the asylum seeker does not leave voluntarily, and forced return is not possible in practice?
4. Are language analysis tests conducted in order to verify the place of origin of the applicant? If yes, are the tests conducted on all asylum applicants from Somalia?
5. Has the number of asylum seekers from Somalia changed recently (in the past 12 months)? If yes, how?

2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination? ²	
	Austria	Yes	1. Each application is decided on the basis of a case-by-case assessment. 2. Each application is decided on the basis of a case-by-case assessment, currently no such case is known. 3. a) There are currently no figures available.

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<p>3. b) If a removal of the alien is not possible for factual reasons, for which the alien is not responsible, the residence of the alien is tolerated. Tolerated stay does not constitute a right to residence, but only expresses that the alien cannot be removed.</p> <p>4. That depends on the individual case.</p> <p>5.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="741 379 1809 467"> <thead> <tr> <th>Jan. 2014</th> <th>Feb.</th> <th>March</th> <th>April</th> <th>May</th> <th>June</th> <th>July</th> <th>Aug.</th> <th>Sep.</th> <th>Oct.</th> <th>Nov.</th> <th>Dec. 2014</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>32</td> <td>26</td> <td>63</td> <td>77</td> <td>207</td> <td>155</td> <td>106</td> <td>124</td> <td>87</td> <td>87</td> <td>124</td> <td>74</td> <td>1162</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior</p>	Jan. 2014	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. 2014	Total	32	26	63	77	207	155	106	124	87	87	124	74	1162
Jan. 2014	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. 2014	Total																	
32	26	63	77	207	155	106	124	87	87	124	74	1162																	
	Belgium	No	This EMN NCP provided a response to the requesting NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.																										
	Bulgaria	Yes																											
	Cyprus	Yes																											
	Czech Republic	No	This EMN NCP provided a response to the requesting NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.																										
	Denmark	Yes																											
	Estonia	Yes	So far we have been received 4 asylum applicants from Somalia, all of them are granted protection (1 person received a subsidiary protection in 2001, 3 persons granted refugee status in 2012).																										
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. Asylum seekers from Mogadishu are granted a subsidiary protection status due to the security situation (indiscriminate violence) in Mogadishu, unless they are entitled to a higher protection status due to individual grounds (asylum). The duration of the first residence permit based on subsidiary protection is 4 years.</p> <p>In other parts of Southern and Central Somalia, the bad security situation is considered to create a need for humanitarian protection for asylum seekers from those areas. However, access to other parts of Southern and Central Somalia is possible only via Mogadishu. Therefore all asylum seekers from Southern or Central Somalia are granted a subsidiary protection status due to the security situation in Mogadishu.</p> <p>Forced returns to Northern Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) are currently not possible in practice. Therefore asylum applicants from Northern Somalia are granted a temporary residence permit for the duration of 1 year.</p> <p>2. Internal flight is not applied with regard to asylum seekers from Southern or Central Somalia. Internal flight is considered possible within Somaliland or Puntland on the condition that the asylum seeker is originally from those areas.</p> <p>3. a) No negative decisions are currently made for asylum seekers from Somalia. In case there are no individual grounds for granting international protection, asylum seekers from Southern and Central Somalia are granted international protection due to the security situation, and asylum seekers from Northern Somalia are granted temporary residence permit based on the fact that forced returns are not possible in practice.</p>																										

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			<p>3. b) Currently, an asylum seeker, who receives a negative decision but will not leave voluntarily, is granted a temporary residence permit if forced return is not possible. However, there is a legislative change on the way: it is possible that in the future no residence permit will be granted to those asylum seekers, who receive a negative asylum decision and who could leave voluntarily.</p> <p>4. Language analysis tests are conducted on all asylum seekers from Somalia in order to verify the place of origin.</p> <p>5. There has been a notable rise in the number of asylum seekers from Somalia in the last quarter of 2014 and the first part of 2015: the number has tripled compared to the same period in the previous years (despite this, the numbers are still relatively small in Finland: about 50 - 70 asylum applicants from Somalia per month).</p>																		
	<p>France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Somalian asylum seekers are subject to an individual examination to assess the risks for their security if they return to Somalia. The geographical origin is an element of the application and is taken into account as such. The major difference between the different regions of Somalia is that the south of the country (around the capital city of Mogadishu) is still until now considered as a territory prey to an armed conflict according to article 15c of directive "Qualification". However, this assessment should be reevaluated by this summer (2015).</p> <p>2. The French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) does not apply the notion of internal flight.</p> <p>3. A. With regard to the political and security situation in Somalia, asylum seekers coming from this country are destined to obtain international protection. Nevertheless, if the nationality/origin of the asylum seeker cannot be established, then the application can be rejected on this ground. There are forced returns to Somalia (about 2 to 3 migrants were subject to a forced return in 2014). Forced returns are exclusively made to the capital city of Mogadishu. B. An asylum seeker whose application has been rejected receives an obligation to leave French territory (OQTF) to return to his/her country of origin or transit and this generally within 30 days. The migrant can then ask for a voluntary return towards the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII). If the migrant does not choose the voluntary return after these 30 days, he/she is under the process of forced return.</p> <p>4. The OFPRA does not conduct any language analysis tests for Somalian asylum seekers.</p> <p>5. There have been a total of 819 asylum applications from Somalian nationals in 2014 (minors included). For January and February 2015, a total of 138 asylum applications have been recorded. Numbers of asylum applications are stable in the past 12 months except in September and October 2014: 102 asylum applications for each month.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="616 1217 1836 1417"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1st applications</th> <th>reviews</th> <th>Subtotal (minors excluded)</th> <th>Accompanying minors</th> <th>TOTAL minors included</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>jan-14</td> <td>50</td> <td>3</td> <td>53</td> <td>4</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb</td> <td>38</td> <td>4</td> <td>42</td> <td>13</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1st applications	reviews	Subtotal (minors excluded)	Accompanying minors	TOTAL minors included	jan-14	50	3	53	4	57	Feb	38	4	42	13	55
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			March	48	-	48	10	58
			April	50	2	52	21	73
			May	33	1	34	15	49
			June	43	-	43	31	74
			July	52	3	55	9	64
			August	30	2	32	7	39
			Sept	91	7	98	4	102
			Oct	93	-	93	9	102
			Nov	62	-	62	4	66
			Dec	71	3	74	6	80
			Total 2014	661	25	686	133	819
			janv-15	69	1	70	14	84
			février	43	3	46	8	54
			Total 2015(*)	112	4	116	22	138
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. The guidelines for Somalia are currently under review. At the moment in none of the regions the situation leads to a general grant of protection. For Mogadishu the guidelines do not state a recent deterioration in the situation. All applications are judged on individual merits.</p> <p>2. Internal protection in “Somaliland” or “Puntland” can be considered if the applicant is from Central or South Somalia (including Mogadishu), if the area can be reached by reasonable means, if the person brings along monetary assistance for reintegration, if family ties</p>					

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			<p>exist and if the subsistence level is maintained. Other conditions for internal protection according to Article 8 of the Qualification Directive have to be considered accordingly.</p> <p>3. a) In 2014 3482 asylum decisions were taken for asylum claims from Somali nationals of which 303 are negative decisions. In the year 2014 no forced returns were performed from Germany to Somalia. b) Generally, decisions regarding the stay of the foreigner are in the responsibility of the federal states, namely the local foreigners authority. German Residence Act Article 25 para 5: "By way of derogation from Section 11 (1), a foreigner who is subject to a final deportation order may be granted a residence permit if his or her departure is impossible in fact or in law and the obstacle to deportation is not likely to be removed in the foreseeable future. The residence permit should be issued if deportation has been suspended for 18 months. A residence permit may only be granted if the foreigner is prevented from leaving the Federal territory through no fault of his or her own. Fault on the part of the foreigner applies in particular if he or she furnishes false information, deceives the authorities with regard to his or her identity or nationality or fails to meet reasonable demands to eliminate the obstacles to departure." Additionally, the foreigner can receive a temporary suspension of deportation.</p> <p>4. Language analysis can be carried out if there are reasons to doubt the claimed country of origin or the claimed ethnicity.</p> <p>5. Applications for Asylum Somalia</p> <table data-bbox="651 874 1211 1241"> <tr> <td>Jan 2014 - 592</td> <td>Jan 2015 - 351</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb 2014 - 396</td> <td>Feb 2015 - 442</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar 2014 - 432</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 2014 - 475</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2014 - 395</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun 2014 - 421</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul 2014 - 473</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug 2014 - 485</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep 2014 - 519</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 2014 - 397</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 2014 - 379</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec 2014 - 312</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Jan 2014 - 592	Jan 2015 - 351	Feb 2014 - 396	Feb 2015 - 442	Mar 2014 - 432		Apr 2014 - 475		May 2014 - 395		Jun 2014 - 421		Jul 2014 - 473		Aug 2014 - 485		Sep 2014 - 519		Oct 2014 - 397		Nov 2014 - 379		Dec 2014 - 312	
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	Greece	Yes																									
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Asylum seekers from Somalia are granted a subsidiary protection status due to the security situation (indiscriminate violence) in 2. No, there are no internal flights applied for asylum seekers from Somalia.</p>																								

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. No negative decisions are currently made for asylum seekers from Somalia except in the case exclusion is applied. 4. No, there is no language analysis test conducted on asylum seekers from Somalia. 5. There has not been a notable change recently. In the past 12 months the average number of the asylum seekers from Somalia was 15 per month.
	Ireland	No	This EMN NCP provided a response to the requesting NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Italy	Yes	
	Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There were only 2 applications submitted by Somali asylum seekers during the last 2 years (1 – application was revoked and in 1 case the concept of 3rd safe country was applied), therefore we do not have particular policy on this issue. 2. No comments on this question due to the limited number of applications and lack of extended knowledge on IFA possibilities in Somalia. 3. a) N/A b) N/A 4. No. 5. No changes in the past 12 months.
	Lithuania	Yes	There have been no asylum seekers from Somalia in Lithuania (neither in 2015, nor in 2014), thus we cannot provide answers to this query.
	Luxembourg	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Luxembourg, the applications of international protection seekers from Somalia are treated on a case by case basis. The origin and credibility of Somali asylum seekers are thoroughly checked. There is no change in policy noted concerning Somali asylum seekers. LU has until now received applications from Somali citizens claiming to be from South Central Somalia, including Mogadishu (no other northern region has been claimed). Therefore, there is no difference in policy concerning the region of origin. 2. Due to the improvement of the security situation in Mogadishu, and South Central Somalia in general, LU is closely monitoring the current evolutions. Hence, the internal flight alternative may be applied on a case by case basis depending on the city/village of origin of the asylum seeker. In such an event, Mogadishu may be applied as a location for the application of internal flight. 3. a) Yes. There are Somali asylum seekers who receive negative decisions (5 applicants in 2013 and 9 applicants in 2014). Luxembourg has not carried out voluntary returns and does not carry out forced returns to Somalia. b) If the international protection application is refused, the Somali national cannot be placed in the Detention Centre because there is no realistic possibility of returning the individual to his/her country of origin. In those cases the Luxemburgish authorities issue a postponement of the removal decision in accordance with article 125bis (1) of the amended law of 29 August 2008 (Immigration Law) allowing the third-country national to remain temporarily in the territory. During this temporary period

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			<p>the third-country national receives humanitarian aid in accordance with article 27 of the law of 18 December 2009 on social aid (article 125bis (2) of the Immigration Law).</p> <p>4. Language analysis tests are not systematically conducted in order to determine the place of origin. However, such tests are made when serious doubts concerning the Somali origin arise. They are decided on a case by case study.</p> <p>5. Somalia does not figure in the Top 10 list of international protection applicants. In 2013 and 2014, there have been 7, respectively 5 international protection applications that have been lodged. However, since the beginning of 2015 and until the 31st March 2015, 6 applications have been lodged.</p>
	Malta	Yes	
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. There is a decision and departure moratorium for those asylum seekers who are originating from areas currently under control of Al Shabaab. A moratorium on decision offers the possibility to extend the period in which a decision is made by one year at most. During this moratorium asylum seekers who originate from Al Shabaab controlled areas will not be returned by force. There are certain groups of asylum seekers who are at risk. They will be granted refugee status if there are only slight indications that they fear persecution.</p> <p>The following groups at risk are named explicitly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil servants; • Members of the judiciary; • Members of AMISOM; • Persons who work for international organisations or delegations; • Persons who are suspected by Al-Shabaab to spy for the Somali government; • Journalists. <p>2. In general there is no internal flight applied. Only under certain conditions an internal flight is applied to those asylum seekers who lived for at least 6 months prior to their departure, and measured by local standards under reasonable conditions, in the following areas:</p> <p>Puntland (with the exception of North-Galkayo); Somaliland; Sool; or Sanaag</p> <p>The internal flight is not applied to:</p> <p>Women who fear (sexual) violence. Women who fear circumcision.</p>

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			<p>3a. Yes. Yes a few forced returns took place in 2014.</p> <p>3b. In that case, under certain conditions, asylum seekers who are unable to leave the Netherlands through no fault of their own can be granted a residence permit. This policy is not restricted to Somalia but is applicable to all nationalities. In many cases asylum seekers who received negative decision lodge a repeated application.</p> <p>4. Yes. They are not conducted to all asylum applicants but only if there are serious presumptions that the asylum seeker does not come from Somalia.</p> <p>5. No, not in the last 12 months. However compared to 2013 (3.078) there has been a strong decrease in the number of asylum seekers in 2014 (1.527).</p>
	Poland	Yes	
	Portugal	Yes	
	Romania	Yes	
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Currently, there have been differences in practice regarding assessment of applications by asylum seekers from Somalia depending on the place of origin/stay of the asylum seeker. It is individually assessed in case of each applicant whether there have been any attacks in the place of stay of the applicant by Al Shabaab or other Islamist groups and whether the region is fully controlled by the Somali government. Moreover, it is examined whether the security situation has been of a permanent or a temporary character. If the security situation is marked as positive in the long run, the person is not entitled to international protection only due to the reason of negative security situation. Somaliland and Puntland have been considered by the Slovak Republic as relatively secure while the security situation in other parts has been examined individually.</p> <p>2. The internal flight alternative is not applied by the Slovak Republic with regard to asylum seekers from Somalia due to the fact that there still has been strong tribe system in Somalia and a person without permanent links is not able to safely resettle to another part of Somalia.</p> <p>3. a) There have been a small number of cases of rejected asylum seekers from Somalia. However, no forced returns were carried out. Asylum seekers from Somalia usually come without any identity documents and in practice it is not possible to obtain a substitute of a travel document which is necessary for their return to Somalia. In 2015, Slovak Republic has carried out one assisted voluntary return to Somalia.</p> <p>b) If an asylum application by a Somali national is rejected and the asylum seeker does not leave voluntarily, forced return is not carried out. The asylum seeker may be granted a Tolerated Stay due to the reasons that it is not possible to carry out the administrative expulsion.</p> <p>4. Language analysis tests are not conducted in the Slovak Republic as there has neither been an authority, nor a person able to conduct them. In 2012, Slovak Republic carried out several language test analyses of Somali asylum seekers through its Swedish counterpart. Currently, there has been a decrease in the number of applications by asylum seekers from Somalia and as these tests were previously carried out only in disputable cases, these tests have not been conducted lately.</p> <p>5. In 2013, 57 applications were submitted by asylum seekers from Somalia. In 2014, only 19 applications and in 2015 there have been 2 applications so far. These are often repeated applications by persons residing in the EU territory over a longer period of time.</p>

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			Based on the data it can be concluded that there has been a decrease in the number of applications by asylum seekers from Somalia.
	Slovenia	Yes	Q.1-3; At the moment return of Somalians is technically not possible due to the lack of ID identification and/or non activity of the IOM in implementation of return programme for Somalians. Q.3.; Language analysis tests are conducted on all asylum seekers in order to verify the place of origin. Q.4.; In the last period number of asylum applicants from Somalia which granted international protection in Slovenia increase from 2012; 8, 2013; 2 and 2014; 18.
	Spain	Yes	
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. The Swedish Migration Agency updated its judicial position (Operational guidelines) regarding Somalia 20 March 2015. The Migration Agency carried out a fact finding mission to Somalia in October 2014. The judicial position was updated in the wake of the EU Court of Justice's clarified policy on the interpretation of armed conflict as it is defined in the Qualification Directive. Applicants are tried on a case by case basis with consideration to individual claims. For refugee status determination it should be particularly taken into account whether the applicant belongs to a particularly vulnerable group in Somalia (e.g. women, children, internally displaced persons, and persons belonging to minority groups). Furthermore, it should be taken into consideration the risks involved regarding mobility/travel through Somalia and the general absence of possibility of protection from the authorities. Southern and central Somalia are considered to be subject of an armed conflict according to 15 c of the EU Qualification Directive (Chapter 4, 2 § first section 1 p of the Swedish Aliens Act). The conflicts in these parts of the country are deemed to contain indiscriminate violence. However, the situation per se does not qualify for subsidiary protection. An individual assessment of the claims made is carried out in all cases.</p> <p>The situation in Puntland and Somaliland is not considered to have the character of armed conflict or other severe conflicts.</p> <p>Generally there is no possibility to enjoy protection from the authorities in Somalia.</p> <p>2. Yes, on account of the varying security situation and the fact that a threat scenario can be limited to a defined local area, the internal flight alternative for those found in need of protection, is deemed possible in some cases. It should be noted, however, that an individual assessment needs to be done as to whether the internal flight is possible, relevant and reasonable for a particular individual. The area of refuge needs to be practically accessible for the person and he/she has to be able to reach this area without risking to be subjected to violence en route or to be referred to a refugee camp and to be able to put up residence there. An overall individual assessment of the person's situation in the area of refuge is done (including clan and sub-clan structure and the person's affiliation in that regard). The judicial position stresses the need for current and relevant country of origin information in the assessment of the possibility of internal flight. Internal flight to Somaliland and Puntland is in principle only deemed possible for persons who originate from these areas or have a connection to them. Internal flight to or within southern or central Somalia is assessed from the situation of the ongoing armed conflict in the whole of the area. The possibility of internal flight needs to be carefully considered in the light of current country of origin information. Internal flight is not generally applicable to persons from minority groups, unaccompanied minors, and persons at risk of becoming internally displaced in the area of refuge. Women without male support are considered to be extremely vulnerable and would only exceptionally be referred to internal flight.</p>

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			<p>3. a) Yes. However, only voluntary return to Somalia takes place in practice. Returnees would be issued an aliens passport for the occasion. Approximately 15 persons returned voluntarily in 2014, administered by the Migration Agency. The Swedish Police carried out approximately 5 returns to Mogadishu last year. However, such return procedures can only take place on the condition that the person returns voluntarily and has declared in writing in a document his or her intention to return. The Police sends this document and contact information of the person's next of kin to airport authorities in Mogadishu and receives a written confirmation. Thus in practice forced returns are not carried out.</p> <p>b) The person subject to a refusal of entry or expulsion order is obliged to leave the country. It is possible for the person to report practical impediments to enforcement of the expulsion order. However, a practical impediment to the enforcement of a refusal-of-entry or expulsion order would only be applicable in case the difficulties to return are not in any way connected to the person's refusal to cooperate with the authorities to return (prop 2004/05:170 s 226 and 299), MIG 2007:46, MIG 2008:23, MIG 2009:13 (Migration Court of Appeal rulings). Generally, this would not be applicable to Somalia since the possibility to return would not be considered exhausted as long as the returnee does not cooperate to return voluntarily. The statutory limitation period of the expulsion order is four years. The possibility to then be granted a residence permit due to the statutory limitation period would generally be limited since the person did not fulfil his or her obligation to cooperate to return.</p> <p>4. Language analysis tests are conducted in cases where circumstances in the applicant's claim raise doubts as to whether he or she originates from Somalia.</p> <p>5. There has been an increase in the number of applicants recently, in particular for unaccompanied minors. Over the period January to March 2014, 899 asylum seekers from Somalia were registered. During the same period this year 1 139 asylum seekers from Somalia were received, i.e. an increase of 27 per cent compared to the previous year. The number of unaccompanied minors from Somalia has risen more sharply. From January to March 2014 126 such applications were received. During the same period this year 319 such applications were received, i.e. an increase of 153 per cent.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	
	Croatia	Yes	
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. Those granted protection were in most cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o applicants who have substantiated a well-founded fear of being persecuted by al-Shabaab o women who have substantiated a well-founded fear of gender related persecution o girls who are at real risk of FGM <p>Protection due to the general situation: The security situation is no longer considered to be so serious, in Mogadishu or any other areas in Somalia, we do not consider applicants to be at real risk of inhuman treatment upon return due solely to the general situation.</p> <p>Internal flight alternative: UDI was instructed by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security in June 2012 after the case of "Sufi and Elmi v. the United Kingdom" of 28 June 2011. According to the instruction, applicants who have substantiated a real risk of having to seek refuge in IDP areas in South and Central Somalia are entitled to protection. The presence of close family connection or other connection in the IFA area is decisive for the outcome. Applicants that have sufficiently close family connections or other connections may have a safe IFA, including applicants from minority clans and women. Applicants with no previous experience from living in al-</p>

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		<p>Shabaab controlled areas will not have a safe IFA in such areas.</p> <p>http://www.udiregelverk.no/en/documents/udi-memos-on-practices-and-procedures/pn-2013-002/ (link to practice note in Norwegian)</p> <p>2. Yes, it has been used on some cases. Predominantly to Mogadishu, but it has also been used to other cities of some size, not controlled by al-Shabaab. Cites like, e.g: Johwar, Beled Wyene, Kismayo and Afgooye (not an exhaustive list).</p> <p>3. a) Yes. At this point we reject approximately half the applications of adult asylum seekers from Somalia. There have been a very small number of forced returns in the last years. So far this year there has not been one single forced return, but Norwegian authorities are constantly working to arrange for this to restart. (Note statistics overview at the end of our contribution.)</p> <p>b) Then the foreigner remains in Norway. There are various programs that seek to encourage voluntary return. There is currently much effort put into this, but it has proven very hard to get substantial results in the form of voluntary returns. A significant number of Somali asylum seekers disappear after a rejected decision.</p> <p>4. Yes, we do conduct these tests for close to all applicants from Somalia. We consider these tests to be very important in establishing the applicants' true place of origin, as we have seen a substantial number of cases where we do not find the stated place of origin probable.</p> <p>5. Yes. First we experienced a 50 % drop in the early autumn 2014. At the start of 2015 we had a further drop of 50 % and the numbers are now leveled at approximately 10 applicants a week.</p> <p>Somalia decisions Jan.-March 2015:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Refugee status (convention)</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other refugee status</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Humanitarian grounds</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative decision</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dublin II</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Safe country</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>141</td> </tr> </table> <p>Percent positive decision Somalia in handled cases Jan.- March 2015: 48%</p> <p>Somalia decisions April-Des. 2014:</p>	Refugee status (convention)	33	Other refugee status	7	Humanitarian grounds	9	Negative decision	54	Dublin II	17	3 rd Safe country	21	Total	141
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Refugee status (convention)	256
Other refugee status	44
Humanitarian grounds	27
Negative decision	176
Dublin II	61
Application withdrawn	3
Application dismissed	7
3 rd Safe country	65
Total	639

Percent positive decision Somalia in handled cases Jan.- March 2014: 65%

Somalia decisions last 12 months, April 2014 - March 2015:

Refugee status (convention)	289
Other refugee status	51
Humanitarian grounds	36
Negative decision	230
Dublin II	78
Withdrawn	3
Dismissed	7
3 rd Safe Country	86
Total	780

Percent positive decision Somalia in handled cases past twelve months: April 2014 – March 2015: 62%

25 forced returns to Somalia in 2014.

Jan & Feb. 2015: no forced returns to Somalia

Asylum seekers from Somalia per months since Jan. 2014:

Jan.14	77
Feb	63
Mar	66
Apr	61
May	87
Jun	87
Jul	60

EMN Ad-Hoc Query: Asylum proceeding and returns to Somalia

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			Aug	70
			Sep	73
			Okt	72
			Nov	59
			Des	62
			Jan.15	34
			Feb	28
			Mar	53
<p>44% fewer asylum seekers have come from Somalia during Jan. – March 2015 as compared to the same time period in 2014. (226 down to 115)</p> <p>51 % fewer asylum seekers came from Somalia during 2014 (from 1694 in 2013 down to 837 in 2014) compared with the year before.</p>				
