

# Ethiopia- Refugee Emergency Update 27 September 2011



Newly arriving refugees crossing through Kurmuk with their household furniture and livestock. K.G.Egziabher/UNHCR

## Highlights

- UNHCR and partners seek US\$18.3m to help refugees fleeing Sudan's Blue Nile State
- An estimated 25,000 Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia in three weeks; about 3,000 of them transferred to Sherkole refugee camp
- An estimated 1,500 refugees arrived on 23<sup>rd</sup> September fleeing fighting in Damazine and had walked for a week to reach safety.
- Kobe camp registered a notable decline in mortality rate

## Update on Sudanese refugees

### Current situation

**Funding appeal:** UNHCR and its partner agencies today launched a formal appeal for funds to help refugees fleeing into western Ethiopia from Sudan's Blue Nile State. The joint appeal by UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration amounts to some US\$18.3 million and is intended to help up to 35,000 refugees.

UNHCR's share of this requirement is \$10 million while UNICEF, WFP and IOM need \$4.8 million, \$2.3 million and \$1.1 million respectively for implementing activities in different sectors in the refugee assistance.

**Statistics:** Since 3 September, when the influx started, an estimated 25,000 refugees have found refuge in Ethiopia. With hostilities still ongoing in Sudan's Blue Nile State UNHCR expects the numbers to continue rising. New aerial bombings were reported on 26<sup>th</sup> September, following others on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September.

The refugees have mainly been entering Ethiopia via the Kurmuk border point, where on 23<sup>rd</sup> September an estimated 1,500 refugees crossed the border line. They told UNHCR staff on the ground that they had fled fighting around Damazine, the Blue Nile State capital, and had walked for up to a week to reach safety.

**Changing profile:** In recent weeks UNHCR has seen people moving back and forth across the border, but the profile of this population is changing: since the last few days, more of those coming across are families carrying household belongings and bringing livestock with them. They seem more willing to transfer to Sherkole Camp which reflects a change in attitude from earlier arrivals who wanted to remain close to the border in the hope of returning home once the fighting dies down. Most of the refugees are staying in local communities around Kurmuk. Many are sleeping in the open, presenting increased risk of illness and disease. An additional concern is the safety of refugees in villages near Kurmuk, because of the area's proximity to locations in Sudan where bombing is ongoing.

**Relocation to Sherkole:** Together with IOM, UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) continue relocating refugees to the existing Sherkole camp, some 50 kilometres to the southeast, where basic services and better protection can be provided. So far more than 3,000 people have been moved and the pace of relocations is expected to increase as more refugee community leaders come forward to request relocation. IOM, doing the relocation, has agreed to deploy 10 buses and three trucks at a time to transport refugees and their belongings from Kurmuk to Sherkole and Famatsore. This will also help to decongest the population at Kurmuk while at the same time mitigate the possible outbreak of disease. However, heavy rains in Kurmuk and Gizen since Sunday (25 September) have impeded the pace of the relocation.

**New sites:** With more refugees arriving, the Ethiopian Government has allocated land to build two transit centers near the main border entry points. Famatsore transit centre will accommodate approximately 3,000 new arrivals entering Ethiopia through the Kurmuk border; and Adimazin transit camp near the Gizen border crossing will accommodate another 5,000 people. In the meantime, Tongo, is also being developed as a camp.

**Assistance:** UNHCR and ARRA, together with other partners continue the delivery of assistance at Kurmuk, Sherkole and other sites. A recent health and nutrition assessment in Kurmuk showed that the situation is acceptable but might deteriorate as the numbers increase. Speeding up the relocation process is believed to help address the health and nutrition concerns as well.

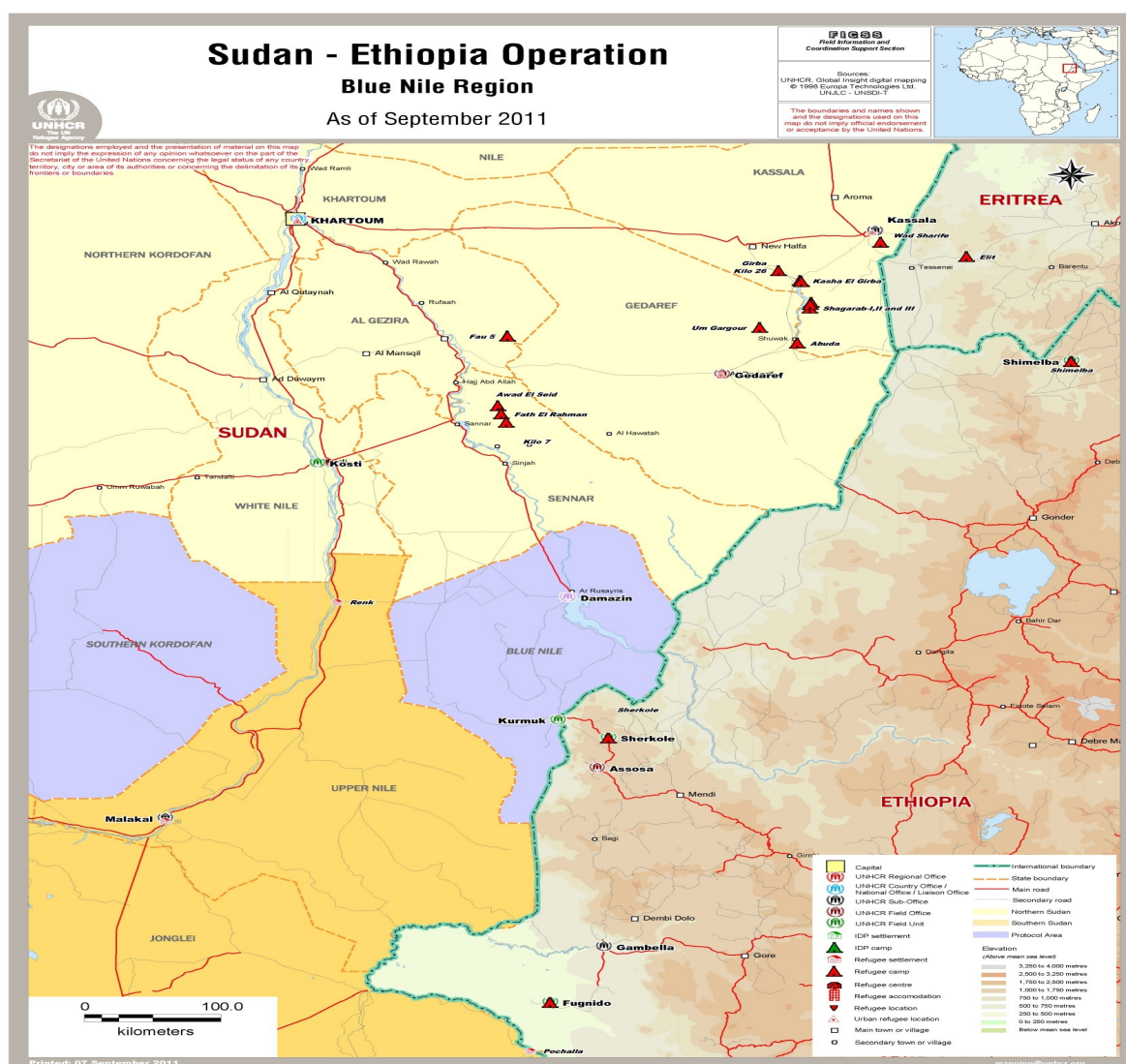
## Update on Dollo Ado refugee emergency

### Statistics

As at 23 September, the total refugee population in the four Dollo Ado camps stood at 124,279, with 83,800 of them having arrived in Ethiopia since the beginning of the year. This is in addition to about 41,600 Somali refugees in the Jijiga area and a few thousands more in the Gode area. With the fourth camp-Hilaweyn- quickly reaching its capacity, UNHCR and ARRA are working on the development of a fifth camp at Boramino.

### Sharp decline in mortality rate

Enhanced health and nutrition interventions by UNHCR and partners have resulted in a notable decline in the crude mortality rate in the Dollo Ado camps. This is particularly true for Kobe camp which has experienced its worst mortality rates in July with up to 10 children dying every day. The crude mortality rate in that camp has now drastically gone down from 4-5 deaths per 10,000, to 1.1 deaths per 10,000 daily.



## **Missions**

Ms. Janet Lim, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner, and H.E. Ambassador Hisham Badr, the current chairman of UNHCR's governing body-UNHCR's Executive Committee- paid separate visits to the Ethiopian refugee programme. Ms. Lim visited both the Somali and Sudanese emergencies and Ambassador Badr visited the Dollo Ado camps.

Both officials were briefed by UNHCR and partners' staff on the ground before touring the camps. They took time talking to refugees including children.

## **Coordination arrangements in Dollo Ado:**

In addition to the Government refugee agency-ARRA-, sister UN agencies, a number of NGOs and other partners, are part of the implementation arrangement in providing protection and assistance to the refugees in the three Dollo Ado camps as well as in the temporary sites. Most have signed sub-agreements with UNHCR as implementing partners while some are operational partners. An agreement has been reached on the coordination arrangements, in particular, who is doing what and where to ensure effective delivery of services as well as accountability and monitoring. The agreement has been discussed and agreed with the government and all NGO partners.

## **The table below shows who does what**

Sector	Implementing agency(ies)
Registration	ARRA/UNHCR
Camp management	ARRA
Water	IRC/LWF/Oxfam GB
Sanitation & hygiene promotion	ARRA/Oxfam GB/LWF/IMC
Nutrition (TFP & SFP)	MSF-S/IMC/ACF
Blanket feeding	ARRA/IMC/SC-US/ACF/IMC
School feeding	ARRA/SC-US
Hot meals	ARRA
Primary health care & health promotion	ARRA/MSF-S/MSF-H
Mental health	IMC
Child friendly spaces	SC-US
Emergency education	SC-US
Primary education (1-8)	ARRA
SGBV	PAPDA/IMC/IRC
Environment	PAPDA/PWO
Food supply	WFP
Food distribution	ARRA
NFI distribution	ARRA/UNHCR
Shelter	AHA/NRC/DRC/UNHCR
Shelter production	AHADA
Transporting refugees	IOM
Coordination on Refugees	UNHCR/ARRA

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