

# Kismayo Movements

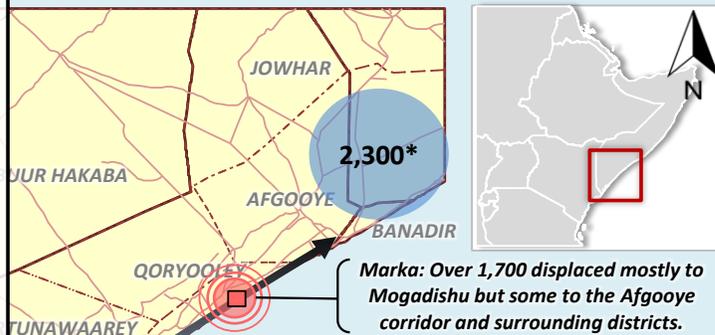
Effects of military activities in Southern regions

UNHCR Somalia

01 June 2012 - 07 September 2012

## Key Events

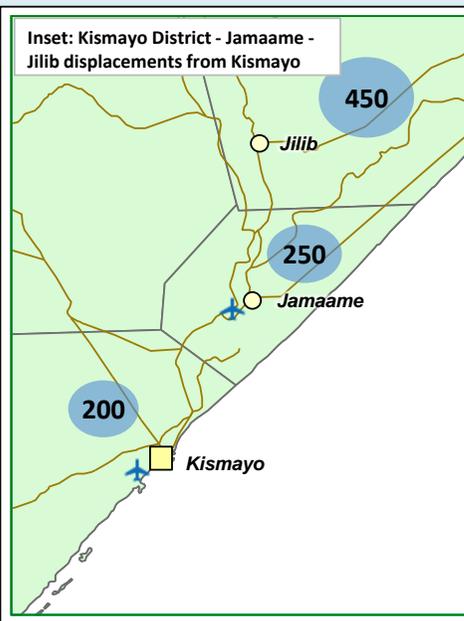
Since the AMISOM/TFG takeover of Afmadow from Al-Shabab on the 31st of May expectations of a large confrontation in and around Kismayo have been mounting steadily. The harbour is Al-Shabab's primary charcoal exporting port and the largest city still under its control. After the Afmadow victory, the TFG announced that Kismayo would be the next target. A buildup of AMISOM/TFG artillery and tanks was reported in the vicinity of Afmadow early August. During the last month Kenyan air and naval forces reportedly shelled Al-Shabab bases and positions in Kismayo city and district in advance of an AMISOM/SNF ground movement. On the 27th of August the port-town of Marka was captured by AMISOM/SNF, reportedly without heavy fighting. During the subsequent days, large armed confrontations were reported to have taken place in and around the towns of Janaa, Aglibah, Abdulle and Birta Dheer, situated on the road between Afmadow and Kismayo. Many casualties, mostly Al-Shabab, were reported. On the 3rd of September AMISOM proclaimed to have reached the town of Harbole, while a commander stated that AMISOM/SNF were ready to take Kismayo. The next day saw heavy shelling of Kismayo city by Kenyan ships, while some sources mention Al-Shabab reinforcing its positions in the city. On the 5th of September AMISOM/SNF reportedly reached Biibi, ca. 70 kilometers from Kismayo.



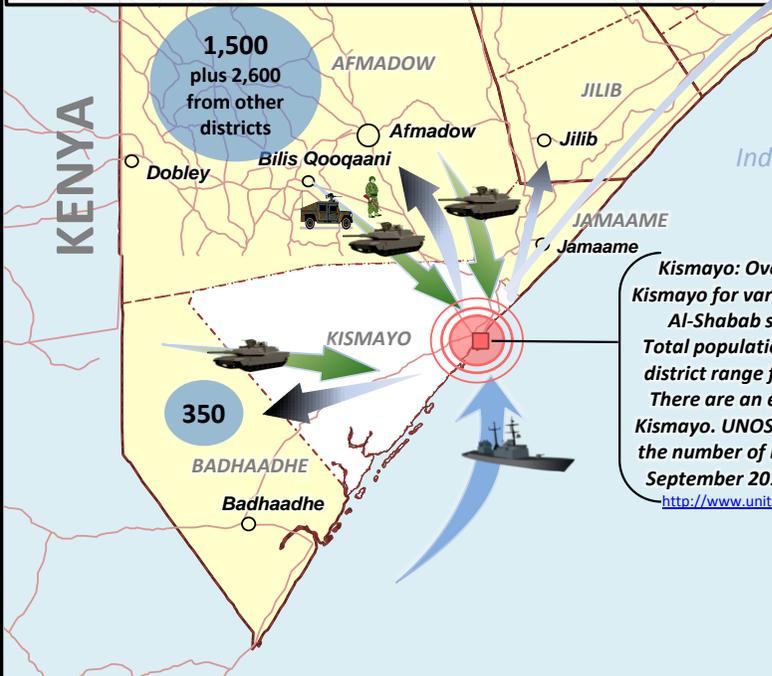
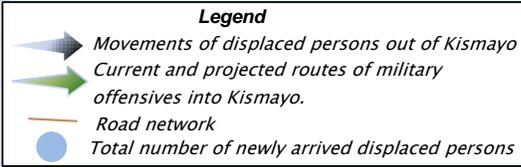
## PMT Trends in Kismayo

Population Movement Tracking (PMT) data indicates that more than 3,500 individuals left the port city of Kismayo. The majority of the displaced (1,500) went to the neighbouring district of Afmadow; mostly to the towns of Afmadow and Doble. About 800 individuals were displaced to Mogadishu. It has been reported that most of these displacements consisted of protracted IDPs from Kismayo city, who were recently joined by 1,500 individuals displaced during the TFG/AMISOM offensive in Marka\*.

The Jamaame - Jilib corridor in Middle Juba has seen over 700 displacements, while over 200 individual displacements into surrounding villages in Kismayo district were confirmed. However, those displaced to these areas intend to do so for a short period and return to Kismayo once the situation stabilizes. Over 1,000 temporary return movements were reported into Kismayo as displaced residents sought to maintain tenure of property and resume economic activities during stable periods. Overall movements out of Kismayo have not been as large when compared to previous military offensives in Somalia. This in part is due to the reported restrictions on movements of residents by Al-Shabab with the intention of using civilians as human shields. It has been reported that Al-Shabab also used this tactic in Marka. Other factors also point to the fact that the offensive has been occurring at intermittent stages thus allowing some returns to the city during peaceful periods. Military offensives in Afmadow and Badhaadhe districts also resulted in returns to Kismayo.



**Kismayo: Over 3,500 displaced from Kismayo for various periods as KDF target Al-Shabab strongholds in the city. Total population estimates for Kismayo district range from 166,667 to 193,000. There are an estimated 10,000 IDPs in Kismayo. UNOSAT reported a decrease in the number of IDP shelters from 5,025 in September 2011 to 3,945 in May 2012.**  
<http://www.unitar.org/unosat/horn-of-africa-data>



For further information:  
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