

Emergency Update Dollo Ado, Ethiopia 16 August 2011



The picture shows some of the over 17,000 Somali refugees that have recently arrived through the Gode area being assisted. Photo: S. Panchoe/UNHCR

Highlights

- **Over 17,000 new Somali refugees arrived through the Gode area**
- **UNHCR and partners to extend immediate humanitarian assistance to the new group before their relocation to Dollo Ado**
- **High mortality rate still being recorded in Kobe camp in spite of ongoing clinical and nutritional interventions. Health & nutrition specialists focusing on this relentless challenge**
- **Mass vaccination against measles completed in Kobe camp**
- **Relocation to Hilaweyn camp eases pressure on Transit Centre**
- **Refugees in all sites have improved access to water, but more remains to be done**

Current situation

Arrivals through new entry point: About 17,500 refugees from Somalia have crossed into the Gode and Afder areas over the last six weeks, according to a joint field mission led by UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia. These are totally new entry points some 250 kilometres northeast of Dollo Ado, which has of late been the primary destination in Ethiopia for Somalis fleeing insecurity, drought and hunger in their homeland.

The week-long assessment mission began on 7th August and included other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. The UNHCR- and government-led team visited Morodile, God Dheere, El-Harr and Bare - border localities in the Gode and Afder areas of south-eastern Ethiopia. The mission was mounted initially to assess the situation of a reported 2,000 new arrivals in the region, but found that the numbers had swelled to an estimated 17,500 as more refugees arrive daily. Most new arrivals originate from the Bakool and Bay regions, with others coming from the Gedo and Hiran areas in Somalia. They are staying in make-shift shelters in five different locations. Discussions are under way with the government and partners for an immediate response.

Preliminary assessments showed that an estimated 95 percent of the new arrivals were women and children, with the majority in a very poor nutritional and health states. The mission described the overall situation as desperate and called for urgent humanitarian aid - particularly since local Ethiopians, themselves hit hard by the drought, have been sharing their meager supplies. Intervention is being done in the health area by NGOs present in the area.

UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia have decided to immediately provide a one-month food ration to the new arrivals. The mission voiced concern that a lack of shelter and health care, poor sanitation and overcrowding could lead to opportunistic diseases. The team recommended the urgency of rushing essential drugs to the area to make medical interventions before the situation gets out of hand. UNHCR, the Government of Ethiopia, represented through ARRA and other partners are looking into possibilities for relocating this group to the camps in Dollo Ado.

A rise in mortality rate: While there is progress made in the response to the emergency, an assessment of mortality in Kobe refugee camp has found that death rates among the new arrivals in particular have remained high. While malnutrition is the leading cause of the high mortality, suspected measles is also suspected to be compounding the problem. Across all Dollo Ado sites relatively lower cases of suspected measles have been recorded.

UNHCR is urgently working with partners to respond to the emergency and control the suspected measles outbreak. A mass vaccination campaign against measles was completed in Kobe camp on Monday 15 August, targeting all children up to 15 years of age. It will continue in the other camps in the coming days.

Meanwhile, it was discovered that 55% of the suspected measles cases were above the age of 15 and UNHCR is in discussions with its health partners on the vaccination of refugees above the age of 15. UNICEF continues to provide vaccines through the Ministry of Health and WHO is also providing technical support. UNFPA as well has joined the response effort and is assisting while UN Women has offered support in Community Services workers.

The majority of refugees arriving from Somalia are from rural areas, and the camps in Ethiopia may be the first time they have been in contact with formal health facilities. A key priority for all partners working in the camps is to promote awareness of the health and nutrition programmes available for refugees, many of whom have not been accessing those services back home in Somalia. There is a need to encourage parents to return with their

children to health centres for continued treatment for malnutrition, and to actively identify children who are sick to ensure they receive immediate medical attention. UNHCR is already working with refugee leaders and outreach workers to raise awareness of measles symptoms and hygiene promotion. Together with the Ethiopian government's refugee body ARRA and partners, UNHCR is addressing other, underlying causes of the high mortality rate by improving nutrition, water supply and sanitation, amongst others.

Relocation to Hilaweyn: Continuing relocation of refugees from the Transit Centre in Dollo Ado to the new refugee camp at Hilaweyn at a rate of 1,000 a day has eased the pressure on the Transit Centre. This has encouraged many families that were living on the outskirts to move to the premises of the Transit Centre. As at 15 August, a total of 8,378 refugees had been transferred to Hilaweyn. UNHCR, ARRA, IOM and MSF-H have joined hands to undertake this exercise. The remaining over 8,000 refugees currently at the Transit Centre are expected to move to the new camp in the coming week.

Improved access to water in all sites: The quantity and quality of water supplied to the camps has improved this week. In Melkadida and Hiloweyn, 14 litres of water per person per day is supplied, just under the standard of 15 litres. In Kobe camp, 13 litres are supplied, in the transit centre the figures is 11 litres, and in Bokolmanyo, 10 litres of water is available per person per day. UNHCR's partners in the water sector: IRC, LWF and Oxfam-UK are working on further improvement of water supply with the construction of additional water processing facilities.

Statistics

The opening of Hilaweyn camp on 05 August 2011 brings to four the number of camps in the Dollo Ado area. This is in addition to three camps: Aw-barre, Kebribeyah and Sheder- in the Jijiga area which have a combined population of 41,600 refugees. As at 15 August 2011, there were a total of 258,942 refugees in Ethiopia of which Somalis are a large majority. The figure includes the 17,561 new Somali refugees that have just come through the Gode area.

Please find here below statistical tables for refugee populations in Ethiopia as well as a full breakdown of the number of refugees in the Dollo Ado area:

Statistical table for refugee populations in Ethiopia as at 15 August 2011

Camps/Sites	Households	Individuals
Addis Ababa (various)	1,231	2,405
Adi Harush (Eritrean)	9,134	10,976
Mai-Aini (Eritrean)	11,232	13,838
Shimelba (Eritrean)	5,037	8,759
Eritrean Afars	4,984	15,297
Fugnido (Sudanese)	4,721	22,362
Sherkole (Sudanese)	1,808	4242
Borena (Kenyan)	631	2,757
Aw-barre (Somali)	2,564	13,315
Kebribeyah (Somali)	2,158	16,757
Sheder (Somali)	2,936	11,528
Bokolmanyo (Somali)	9,386	37,423

Malkadida (Somali)	9,792	39,601
Kobe (Somali)	5,661	25,284
Hilaweyn (Somali)	1845	8379
Dollo Ado Transit C (Somali)	2253	8458
Gode (Somali)	2926	17,561
Total	78,299	258,942

Statistical tables for refugee population in the Dollo Ado camps and arrival trends in 2011

Table 1.1- Total Refugee Population in Dollo Ado (as of 15 August 2011)

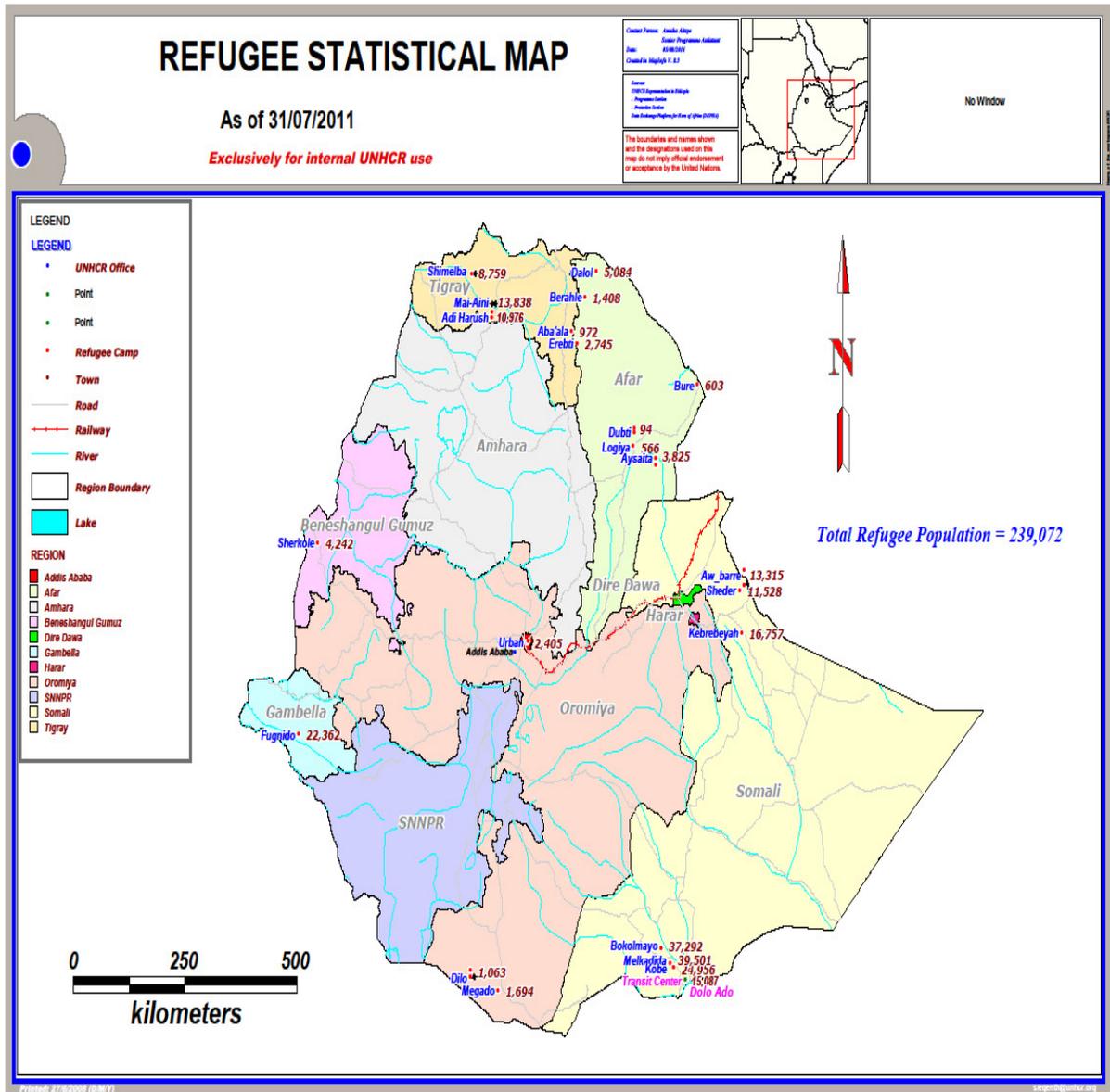
Site/Camp	Current Total	
	Households	Individuals
Bokolmanyo Camp	9,386	37,423
Malkadida Camp	9,792	39,601
Kobe Camp	5,661	25,284
Hilaweyn camp	1845	8379
Camp Sub-Total	26,684	110,687
Dollo Ado Transit Centre	2253	8458
Reception Centre	----	-----
Temporary Locations Sub-Total	2253	8458
Grand Total All Locations	28,937	119,145

Table 1.2 - Arrival Trends in 2011 (Border Reception Centre)

Month	Households	Individuals
January 2011	1,502	6,792
February 2011	527	2,016
March 2011	1,019	4,072
April 2011	1,650	6,749
May 2011	2,587	12,045
June 2011	7,030	24,042
July 2011	4463	19,610
August 2011	612	2045
Total	19,390	77,371*

* These statistics are provided by the government. Please note that the new arrivals through Gode have not been reflected here.

Location Map of Refugee camps in Ethiopia



Coordination arrangements:

Some 17 partners, including ARRA, 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 Reception and Transit centres. 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
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