

Emergency Update Dollo Ado, Ethiopia 19 August 2011



Newly relocated from the Transit Centre at Dollo Ado, a woman uses the communal kitchen at Hilaweyn to cook food for her family. Photo: Kisut G. Egziabher

Highlights

- UNHCR & partners prepare to extend humanitarian assistance to new group of Somali refugees coming through Gode
- UNHCR dispatching a multi-discipline team to Gode on Monday 22 August
- Refugee parents encouraged to continue to take children for treatment at health centres while promotion of awareness on available health services continues
- Vaccination programme commenced in Melkadida
- As of 19 August 2011, there were a total of 119,266 Somali refugees in the Dollo Ado area.

Current situation

Response to refugees in Gode: UNHCR, together with Ethiopian authorities and other partners is working on a response to the immediate needs of Somali refugees who arrived recently through the Gode area, 250km north-east of Dollo Ado. UNHCR convened an inter-agency meeting on Friday 19th August to discuss coordination in delivery of relief items and health & nutrition services with sister UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and WHO as well as NGOs, including some who already have a field presence in the area.

Priority activities are life-saving interventions in food assistance and medical care. UNHCR is in discussions with WFP on a one-month initial distribution of food ration as it undertakes to register the refugees together with the government. Earlier, WFP has distributed a one-month food ration for 300 families and MERLIN and People In Need, local NGOs active in the area, have been extending medical services to some of the refugees.

UNHCR is also airlifting an assortment of Core Relief Items (CRI) enough for 20,000 people. The airlift is expected to arrive in Addis Ababa early next week for immediate dispatch to Gode. Tents for shelter are presently in supply both with UNHCR and NGOs.

The refugees number more than 17,500.

Meanwhile, UNHCR is sending on Monday, 22 August, a 13-person team composed of a Protection Officer, Health & Nutrition Coordinator, a Field/Programme Officer as well as registration staff to the area. As food and other relief items are provided, the team will profile the group through registration as well as coordinate and supervise the relief effort.

Addressing the high mortality: Effort is underway to address the high mortality rates among new arrivals from Somalia. Children under the age of five, already weakened and exhausted by hunger and the long journey to the camps, are especially vulnerable and remain the priority focus. Severely malnourished children are at very high risk of complications such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles, which can be a fatal combination.

UNHCR and partners are expanding existing nutritional programmes to older children and are rushing to open a dedicated stabilization centre for severely acute malnourished children in Kobe camp. So far this year, about 78,000 Somalis, fleeing drought, famine and conflict in Somalia, have found shelter in Ethiopia, joining the many others already there. This brings the total number in the Dollo Ado area to some 120,000. However, this figure does not include over 17,500 others who have crossed through the Gode and Afder Zones of the Somali region in recent weeks.

Following the measles vaccination of all children up to 15 years of age in Kobe camp, a second mass vaccination programme began on Thursday, 18 August in Melkadida, which is the biggest refugee camp in Ethiopia with a population of just under 40,000.

The children will be vaccinated against measles and polio, and screened for malnutrition. Efforts are being stepped up to encourage parents to continue to take children for treatment at health centres. Together with ARRA and aid agencies, satellite health posts and nutritional feeding centres, where malnourished children receive therapeutic feeding to encourage weight gain, are being opened.

Work on improving sanitation and hygiene and on increasing the quantity and quality of water delivered to the camps is gathering momentum. Refugee leaders and community outreach

workers have been engaged to deliver three key messages to refugees: hand washing, use of latrines and referral of sick children to the health centers.

Missions: As in previous weeks, there have been several high-level missions to the Dollo Ado refugee programme. Most notably, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping and the Norwegian Minister of Environment and Development Cooperation Mr. Erik Solheim , undertook separate visits to the Dollo Ado camps.

The visit of the Chairperson of the African Commission came at a time when the continental body was preparing for the pledging conference which it is organizing under the theme “One Africa-One Voice against Hunger” for victims of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. The conference is scheduled to take place on the 25th of August at the Headquarters of the African Union. It aims at raising resources and awareness amongst AU Member States and the wider international community.

Statistics

As at 19 August the total number of Somali refugees in the Dollo Ado area stood at 119,266. Of these, 111,847 were in the four Dollo Ado camps of Bokolmanyo, Melkadida, Kobe and Hilaweyn. Another 7,419 refugees were at the Transit Centre in Dollo Ado pending relocation to Hilaweyn.

Please find here below three statistical tables showing total refugee numbers in Ethiopia, that for the Dollo Ado area in particular as well as arrival trends:

Statistical table for refugee populations in Ethiopia as at 19 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)	9,812	39,627
Kobe (Somali)	5,661	25,284
Hilaweyn (Somali)	2112	9513
Dollo Ado Transit C (Somali)	2002	7419
Gode (Somali)	2926	17,561
Total	78,335	259,063

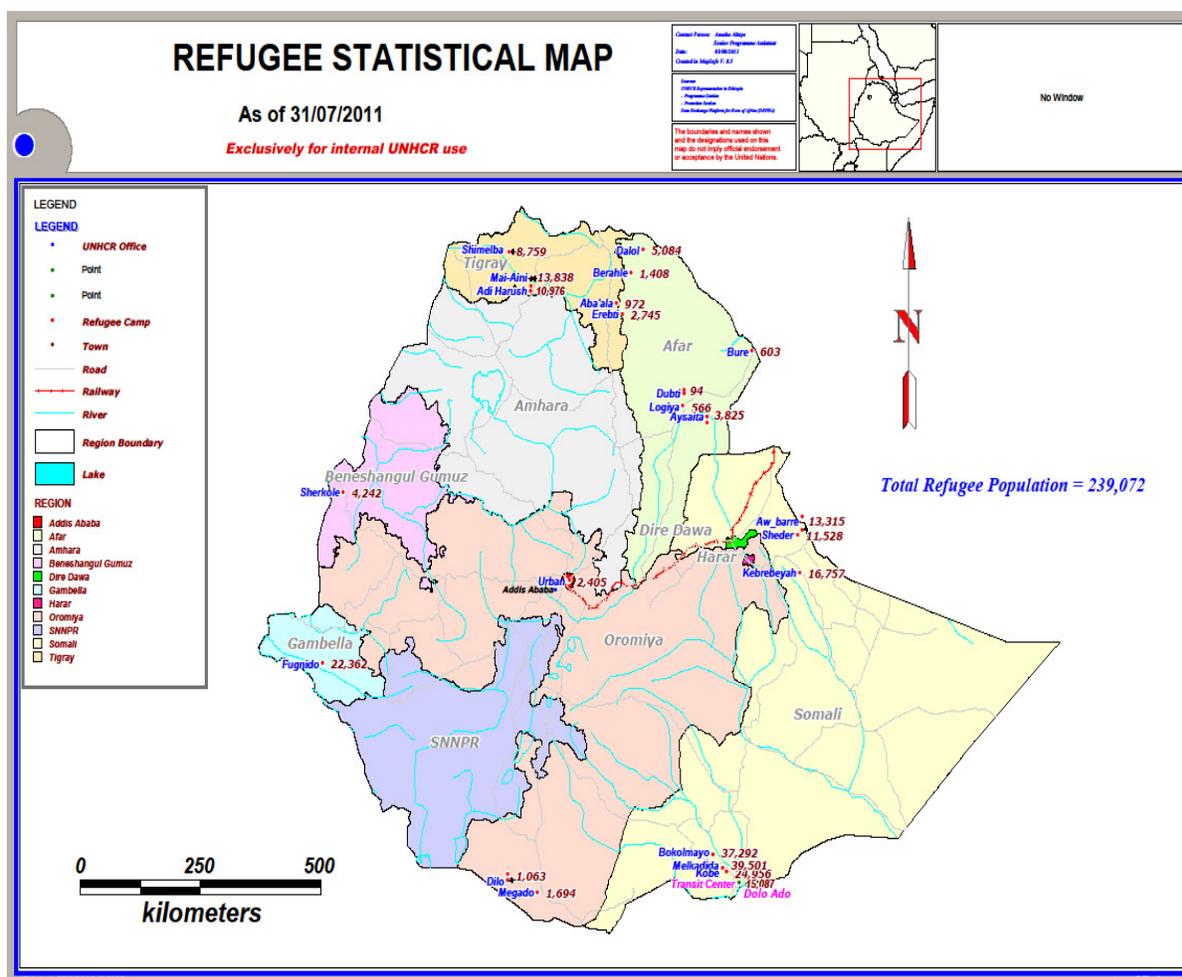
Statistical tables for refugee population in the Dollo Ado camps and arrival trends in 2011

Table 1.1- Total Refugee Population in Dollo Ado (as of 19 August 2011)		
		Current Total
Site/Camp	Households	Individuals
Bokolmanyo Camp	9,386	37,423
Malkadida Camp	9,792	39,627
Kobe Camp	5,661	25,284
Hilaweyn camp	2112	9513
Camp Sub-Total	26,971	111,847
Dollo Ado Transit Centre	2002	7419
Reception Centre	----	-----
Temporary Locations Sub-Total	2002	7419
Grand Total All Locations	28,973	119,266

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	649	2174
Total	19,427	77,500*

* 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