Dollo Ado Refugee Statistics: Weekly Report - New Arrivals

Introduction and Background

This document provides an explanation of the weekly statistics pertaining to refugee new arrivals to Dollo Ado, Ethiopia.

The border town of Dollo Ado receives asylum seekers from Somalia. The first point of call is a location, very close to the Somali border, known as the Reception Centre. At the Reception Centre the asylum seekers are interviewed by ARRA[1], the main implementing partner of UNHCR in Ethiopia. The purpose of the interview (also known as screening) is to determine if the asylum seeker is from Somalia and if the person is a former combatant. Having established that the person is from Somalia and not a former combatant then the asylum seeker is typically recognized as a *prima facie* refugee. The refugees are then interviewed by UNHCR to collect information above and beyond the basic bio-data such as name, gender and age. A better understanding and knowledge of the refugee population leads to an improved and more effective provision of assistance. Examples of the recorded information include occupation, education, languages, specific needs (disability, unaccompanied minors etc.). Every individual is photographed and for those over 5 years old, fingerprints are electronically scanned. The information is recorded in the UNHCR refugee database, proGres.

Registered refugees are relocated to a camp on the same day, typically Buramino, Hilaweyn or Kobe , Monday to Friday. Refugees with family members already accommodated in camps are transferred to the appropriate camp, along with unaccompanied minors on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

The reporting frequency, as you might have guessed, is weekly covering the period Saturday to Friday. The statistics are prepared and the report distributed each Saturday. The file format of Excel was chosen because of it's availability to be viewed by many applications and the ease with which the data can be copied and analysed. The file contains four sheets:

- ➢ Arrivals – Numbers
- ➢ Arrivals – Characteristics (1)
- ➢ Arrivals – Characteristics (2)
- ➢ Data – New Arrivals

New Arrivals – Numbers

The 'New Arrivals – Numbers' sheet presents information regarding the number of individuals and households that arrived during the 7 day reporting period. The information is put into context by including similar arrival statistics for the previous 60 days and for past months dating back to 2009.

In more detail:

The reporting period covering 7 days is given at the top of the page. A table presents the numbers of households and individuals registered in the Reception Centre by UNHCR. The associated weekly total and averages are shown below the table.

The Household Size Distribution chart shows the numbers of families with one person, two people, three people etc. The average household size is given below the chart.

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[1] ARRA: Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs - an institution established by the Ethiopian government and part of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The chart 'New Arrivals (Pre-Screened) – Last 60 Days' presents the number of households and individuals arriving at the Reception Centre. Note that these numbers are recorded at the stage before the ARRA screening interview and that the period covers the 60 days leading up to the date the statistics were prepared.

The chart 'New Arrivals Registered by UNHCR Per Month' presents the number of households and individuals registered by UNHCR since February 2009. The peak in July 2011 represents the height of the emergency operation during which time up to 1,600 individuals were arriving at the Reception Centre per day.

On occasion, a person who has previously been registered as a refugee in Dollo Ado will attempt to pass through the Reception Centre registration process for a second time. These people are identified at the stage when fingerprints are scanned; every fingerprint scanned is immediately compared to all previously recorded fingerprints. In the event that a match is found the system alerts the registration staff and displays the person's household information. The individual and household members are re-interviewed to determine the reason(s) for their return to the registration process and to capture the details of the current family composition. The number of individuals and affected households for these duplicate registration cases are reported at the bottom of the sheet. (On the subject of fingerprints, there is an animal that also has fingerprints which are almost indistinguishable from those of humans. Guess the name of the animal, then find the answer in this footnote[2].)

New Arrivals – Characteristics (1)

The 'New Arrivals – Numbers' sheet presents information regarding the age, gender, region of origin, reason for flight and specific needs.

The standard breakdown by age and gender is presented in the table at the top of the sheet. The number of women and children (17 years and younger) is given as a percentage of the total new arrivals.

Two bar charts present the regions and districts of origin. The top six most common regions are given and, for the most common region, the top six districts within that region are shown.

A table presents the most common reasons for flight. The information is gathered during the UNHCR registration interview and there are the following categories:

Reason for Flight	Explanation
Conflict	Fighting was the direct cause for the family to leave Somalia.
Famine	The lack of food or water (drought) forced the family to leave.
Conflict and Famine	A combination of conflict and famine/drought was the reason for leaving Somalia. This could include a family being cut off from food/water sources due to conflict.
Other	Any other reason if the explanation did not match those given above.

Finally, a bar chart presents the different clans from which the new arrivals come.

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[2] The koala.

New Arrivals – Characteristics (2)

The occupations of the new arrivals is presented at the top of the sheet. This information is used to identify people with particular skills such as teachers who could be employed in the camp schools. At a camp level, the information can be used to guide the choice of livelihood projects.

The Education Level table presents the number of years of education each person (over 5 years) has received.

The number of people with specific needs is presented in the last table of the sheet. This information is gathered during the UNHCR registration interview and immediately referred, when appropriate, to the team providing services to support people with a specific need. E.g. Unaccompanied minors / separated children are referred to the Save the Children team.

Data – New Arrivals

The 'Data – New Arrivals' sheet contains the underlying data presented on the New Arrivals: Numbers, Characteristics (1) & (2) sheets.