

Ethiopia- Refugee Emergency Update 09 September 2011



Hangars and emergency tents are being erected at the entry points to temporarily shelter the new arrivals from Sudan such as those seated under tree sheds along the border. Photo: UNHCR/T.Gudeta

Highlights

- **3,500 Sudanese refugees relocated to Sherkole**
- **Assistance being delivered in Sherkole and to those along the border**
- **UNHCR completes transferring refugees from Dollo Ado Transit Centre to Hilaweyn camp**
- **Kerosene-powered and fuel-efficient stoves in pipeline for Dollo Ado camps**

New refugee Influx from Sudan

Current context

A week after fighting broke out between the Sudan Armed Forces and members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (North), the volatile security situation in Sudan's Blue Nile State continues to drive civilians out of their homes into exile in Ethiopia. Tuesday night (September 6) saw one of the largest groups to cross the border with 4,000 refugees entering into Kurmuk, in western Ethiopia. This followed reports of renewed clashes in the Sudan side of Kurmuk.

There are an estimated 20,000 Sudanese refugees who crossed into Ethiopia over the past week. Some of the latest arrivals are now arriving with livestock and other personal property due to fear of escalation in the fighting.

Before the new refugee influx, Ethiopia has been accommodating more than 26,000 Sudanese refugees in two camps- Fugnido in the Gambella Region and Sherkole in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Emergency Response

UNHCR continues the delivery of assistance together with the government, NGOs, sister agencies such as IOM, WFP and UNICEF who are supporting the emergency in different sectors. At Sherkole camp, new arrivals receive hot meals provided by ARRA, UNHCR's government counterpart. ARRA and World Food Program have started initial distribution of dry ration for up to 9,000 refugees at the border reception centers in Kurmuk, Bamza, Gizen and Teibe. ARRA is also providing hot meals to vulnerable refugees at Kurmuk. Installation of UNICEF water bladders-8000 litres capacity- at Kurmuk has been completed while similar installations continue in other locations along the border.

In Sherkole, UNHCR is working with partners to expand the water services as the camp population grows and work on preparing the new camp at Tongo continues. This involves using two water tankers while drilling additional boreholes and rehabilitating shallow wells.

With the rains and the cool weather in Western Ethiopia, refugees urgently need cover. UNHCR has mobilized 5,000 family tents from Djibouti. Meanwhile, UNHCR has started the distribution of the 5,000 kitchen sets, about an equal amount of plastic sheeting, as well as some 10,000 blankets and 7,500 sleeping mats dispatched from Addis earlier.

Registration: ARRA continues with the preliminary registration at the reception centers. UNHCR registration teams are in the area doing registration. Indications are that the majority of the refugees are women and children, with some 200 of the children separated or unaccompanied.

Relocation: Many of the refugees along the border areas, who had initially been reluctant to go to the camp, now, tell UNHCR that they wish to relocate to Sherkole camp, 80 km south from the border. UNHCR has been transferring the new arrivals to the camp since they first arrived on Friday 03 September 2011, so far relocating 3,500 refugees. Some, however, are still reluctant to move to Sherkole camp because they still hope to be able to go back home to harvest their crops as soon as the situation allows. Many of them also have livestock back home and don't want to leave them behind. Others say they were hoping to be reunited with relatives they were separated from during their flight before making the decision to settle further away in a camp.

Camp development: Sherkole camp currently accommodates close to 8,000 refugees and can take in only 2,000 more refugees before it is full. UNHCR and partners are scaling up work on developing the new camp site at Tongo which can house 10,000 refugees. Tongo is one of three sites given by the Ethiopian government to take in new arrivals. Each of the three camps can accommodate 10,000 refugees.

Update on Dollo Ado refugee emergency

Relocation

Relocation of refugees from the Transit Centre in Dollo Ado to Hilaweyn has finally been completed. With the transfer of 425 refugees to Hilaweyn on 8 September 2011. This brings Hilaweyn's population to 17,992, almost reaching its revised capacity of 20,000. UNHCR, ARRA and other partners will scale up the effort to prepare the 5th camp site at Bora Amino to receive new arrivals. Meanwhile, there has been an upsurge in the number of new arrivals in Dollo Ado lately, with 500 refugees arriving in the last two days.

Household energy

UNHCR and partners are working to provide alternative household energy sources to refugees, which will at the same time, reduce the pressure off the environment. A total of 27,911 kerosene and fuel-efficient wood-burning stoves are now in the pipeline to cover the needs of approximately 24,000 families currently in the operation. UNHCR is also exploring the possibility of testing solar powered stoves.

Support from UN agencies

In addition to WFP who has been working with UNHCR on a regular basis, a number of other UN agencies, most notably WHO, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women have been and continue to extend support in different aspects of UNHCR's work in responding to the Somali refugee emergency.

Statistics

As at 31 August, Ethiopia hosted some 245,000 refugees. This figure does not include Somali new arrivals in the Gode area and Sudanese new arrivals in the Benishangul-Gumuz whose biodatas have not yet been entered into the UNHCR data management system. Out of the total; over 160,000 are Somalis, more than 80,000 of them arriving so far this year. The other refugee groups in the country include over 50,000 Eritreans and some 26,000 Sudanese refugees who are accommodated in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella Regions.

Sudan - Ethiopia Operation

Blue Nile Region

As of September 2011



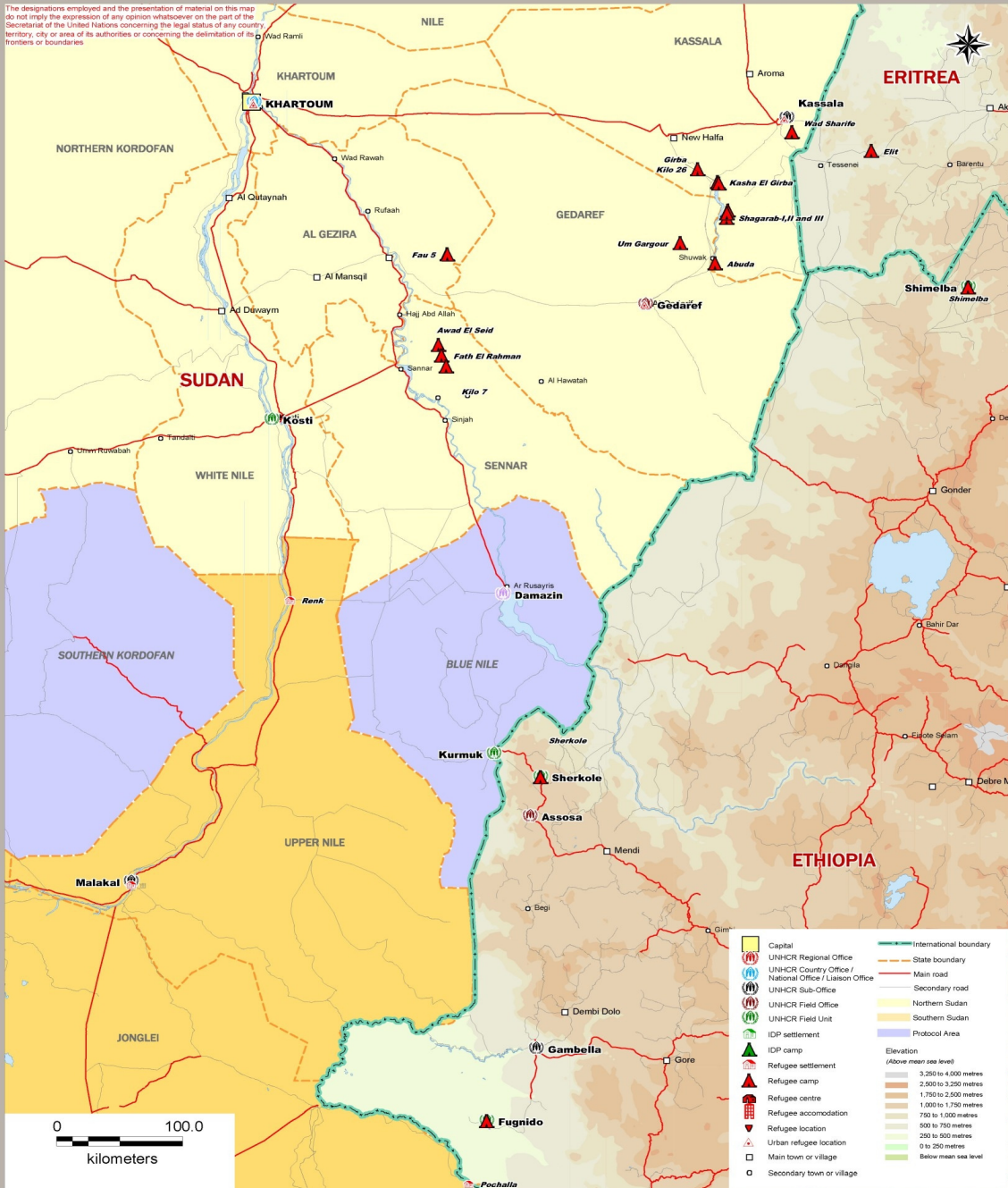
FIGSS
Field Information and
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Sources:
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Coordination arrangements in Dollo Ado:

In addition to the Government refugee agency-ARRA-, 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 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/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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