

Emergency Update Dollo Ado, Ethiopia 26 August 2011



A young Somali refugee washing his clothes at the Dollo Ado Transit Centre. Photo: Kisut G. Egziabher/UNHCR

Highlights

- Number of Somali refugees in Dollo Ado camps crosses the 20,000 mark; nearly 80,000 arrived this year
- Significant drop in number of new arrivals in Dollo in August
- Nearly 12,000 refugees relocated to new camp at Hilaweyn
- Measles & polio vaccination completed in Melkadida; underway in Bokolmanyo

Current situation

The number of refugees in Dollo Ado's four camps has now crossed the 120,000 mark. Almost 80,000 Somalis have arrived this year alone, the majority crossing the border in June and July. The large influx prompted UNHCR and the Government to open two new camps in June and August while land for the fifth camp has been identified. It could be used to house some 18,000 Somali refugees who have crossed into Ethiopia further north along the border [Gode].

Lately, there has been a significant drop in the number of new arrivals-from a peak of over 2,000 refugees a day in June/July to 300 a day in August- but the challenges remain. The drop may be on account of the food aid and other key core supplies being delivered directly into Somalia by UNHCR and other agencies. However, the state of health of those arriving in Dollo Ado continues to be extremely poor.

Relocation

Together with the Government refugee agency-ARRA- IOM and UNHCR have to date relocated 11,545 refugees from the Transit Centre in Dollo Ado to Hialweyn camp, some 40 km north-west of Dollo Ado. This has significantly reduced the pressure on the Transit centre which hosted over 15,000 refugees at the beginning of the month. The remaining nearly 6,000 refugees are expected to be relocated in the next week.

Health & nutrition

UNHCR, together with ARRA and other health partners, continues to battle the high mortality rate particularly affecting children. Interventions in health and nutrition continue on high gear with hygiene promotion activities going on side by side. Over the last couple of weeks, mass measles vaccination campaigns had been conducted in Kobe and Melkadida camps targeting children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years. The campaign included vaccination for polio and screening of children for malnutrition. The same campaign was underway in Bokolmanyo-the oldest of the Dollo Ado camps, and expected to be completed on Friday 26 August 2011. Health services across the four camps are also being stepped up. Four satellite clinics have already been established already, with plans to further decentralize services so that refugees can more easily access medical care. Facilities are now open on a 24 hour basis at MSF's clinics in Hilaweyn, and construction started today on Dollo Ado's second stabilization center for acutely malnourished children in Kobe camp. Clean delivery kits have also been distributed in camps to reduce the risk of maternal mortality. A post-campaign rapid assessment will soon be conducted in the three camps.

Support from UN agencies

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

Statistics

Ethiopia is host to over 260,000 refugees out of which some 180,000 are Somalis. This figure includes over 41,600 Somali refugees in the three Jijiga camps as well as an estimated 18,500 others who have recently crossed into Ethiopia through the Gode area. The other refugee groups in the country include over 50,000 Eritreans and some 26,000 Sudanese, who include recent arrivals of about 500 from Abiye and South Kordofan in Sudan.

Coordination arrangements:

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
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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