

Highlights

- UNHCR steps up assistance as UN declares famine in southern Somalia.
- UNHCR airlift begins with deliveries of thousands of tents to Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Kenyan Prime Minister declares Ifo II camp in Dadaab “can be opened.”
- Roughly 3,000 Somalis - mainly women and children - flee daily to Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.
- Malnutrition rates estimated at 45 percent among arrivals in Ethiopia; up to 25 percent in Kenya.
- More than 80 percent of pregnant women in Dadaab are anaemic.
- UNHCR registers some 36,000 Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti in first half of July.
- At least 100,000 Somali new arrivals anticipated in Ethiopia this year.

Somali refugees in the region as at 01 Jan 2011

(by country of asylum)

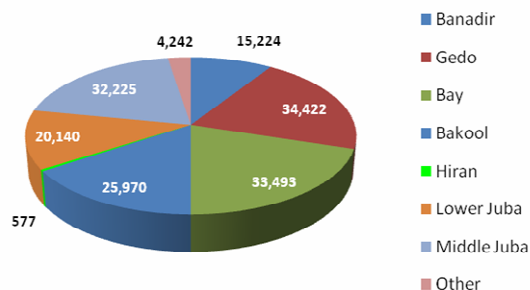
COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	TOTAL NUMBER
Kenya	351,773
Ethiopia	81,247
Djibouti	14,216
Yemen	180,341
Others	17,306
Total	644,883



Somalis arriving in Dadaab. UNHCR E/Nyabera. June 2011

Areas of origin in Somalia

New arrivals and their areas of origin as at 15 July 2011

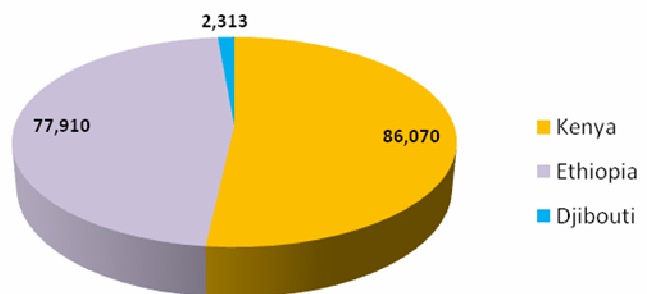


New Somali arrivals by country of asylum

January to 15 July 2011

Asylum country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Kenya	9,958	10,176	11,334	10,636	9,214	17,572	17,180	86,070
Ethiopia	5,020	4,488	5,210	7,569	12,022	25,101	18,500	77,910
Djibouti	384	293	359	246	398	425	208	2,313
Total	15,362	14,955	16,903	18,451	21,634	43,098	35,888	166,293

New arrivals as at 15 July 2011 by country of asylum



UNHCR emergency financial requirements (in million USD)

Asylum country	Revised total budget (2011)	Emergency requirements included in total budget
Kenya	230.3	68.8
Ethiopia	196.8	62.7
Djibouti	26.7	4.8
Total	453.8	136.3

Background

- Since 1991, Somalia has been divided largely along clan lines and commanded by various groupings of warlords. A quarter of Somalia's population of 7.5 million is estimated to have been uprooted. Since the beginning of the year, continuing insecurity and now drought have brought more displacement, with some 10 million people affected in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. In March, a nutritional assessment highlighted a sharp increase in malnutrition and mortality rates across the three Dadaab camps in Kenya. Similar alarming findings of widespread malnutrition were recorded among Somalis in Ethiopia. With no significant rains expected before October, the humanitarian crisis could continue to worsen into next year. Continuing insecurity and drought-related hunger have combined to make the Somalia situation what High Commissioner António Guterres now describes as "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today."

Current situation

- On July 20, the United Nations officially declared a famine in five regions of southern Somalia. Famine is declared when acute malnutrition rates among children exceed 30 percent; more than 2 children per 10,000 die per day and people are not able to access 2,100 calories a day.
- There are currently some 800,000 Somali refugees outside their country. The bordering countries of Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia and Djibouti host more than 90 percent of them (Kenya 438,000; Yemen 180,000; Ethiopia 159,000; Djibouti 16,500.) Nearly 1.5 million more Somalis are internally displaced, mostly in the south-central region of the country. More than 100,000 of them have been displaced inside Somalia so far this year.
- More than 80 percent of those fleeing are women and children. In refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia, deaths among Somali refugee children aged five or less have seen a 4.5-fold increase compared to last year.
- In Kenya, a lack of space forced a halt to the allocation of residential plots in the crowded Dadaab camps in 2008. Nevertheless, tens of thousands of Somalis continued to arrive and today, Dadaab is the world's largest camp with more than 383,000 refugees. Some 60,000 new arrivals this year have spontaneously settled on the outskirts of the camps. On July 14, the Kenyan government announced that a long-planned extension of the camp could open, helping to decongest Dadaab. Meanwhile, UNHCR is providing help to those on the outskirts of the camps, including water, latrines and health clinics, but overcrowding and related health and sanitation issues remain a concern.
- In Djibouti, a country with limited resources already struggling with more than 16,000 refugees, every new arrival adds to the strain. The Ali-Addeh camp initially designed for 7,000 refugees is overcrowded and experiencing drought. UNHCR has therefore re-opened Holl-Holl which will start receiving new arrivals.

Response

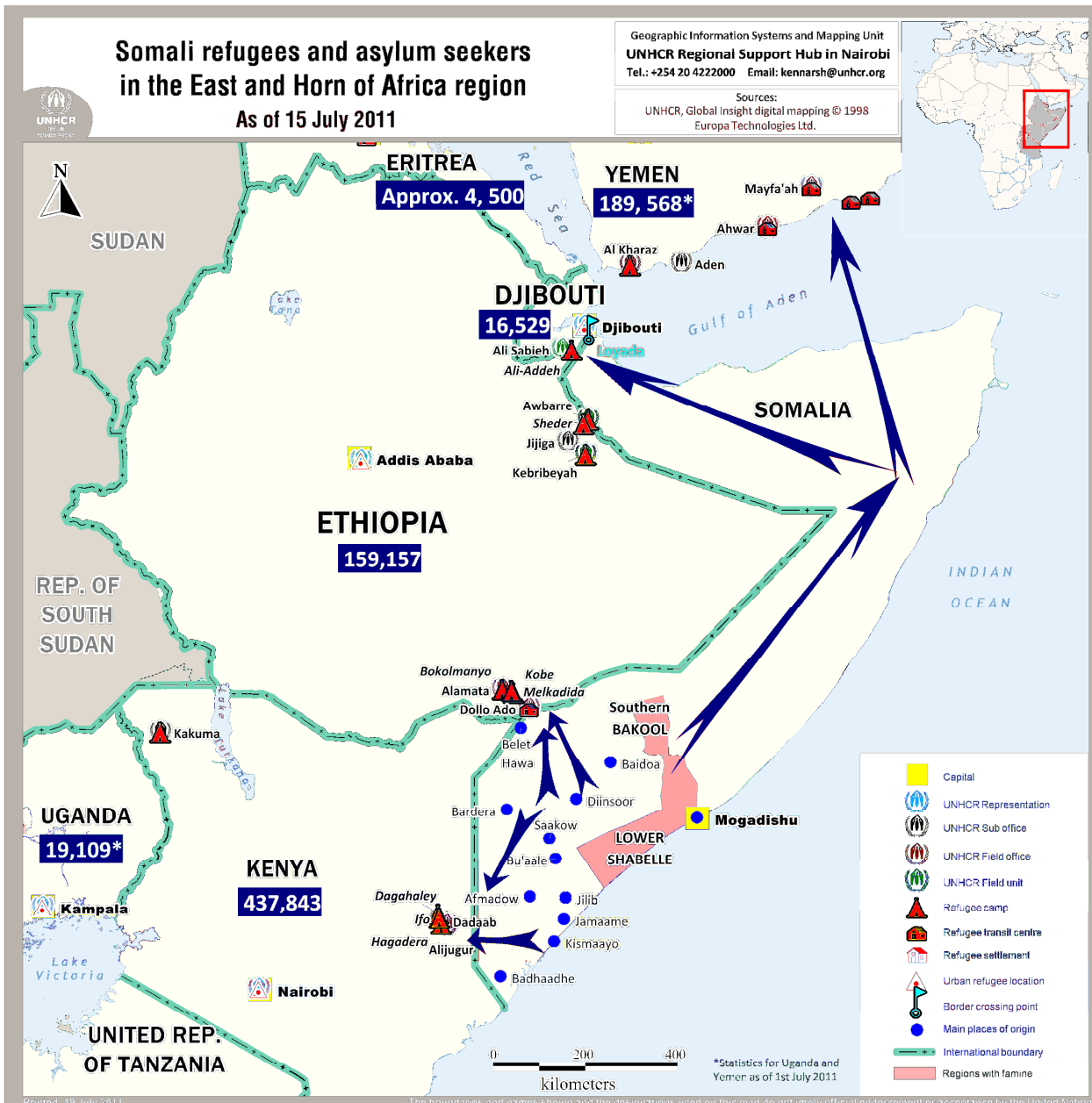
- UNHCR and the respective governments, along with its UN and NGO partners, are implementing an emergency response strategy aimed at ensuring rapid help for newly arriving refugees. Aid centres are being established in camps to offer immediate assistance to extremely vulnerable people. The slow registration of new arrivals remains one of the main challenges. In addition, provision of water, sanitation, emergency feeding, primary health care and food distribution are quickly scaling up. An emergency airlift of tents and other aid supplies is underway for both Kenya and Ethiopia. UNHCR emergency staff have also been deployed to both countries along with additional emergency equipment.
- Inside Somalia, where access remains a serious impediment, UNHCR is working with partners on the ground to distribute urgent aid. It is distributing assistance packages to some 90,000 people in Mogadishu and Belet Hawa and Doble in south-west Somalia. Further aid for an estimated 126,000 people is being handed out in other parts of the Gedo and Lower Juba regions, with assistance also on its way to Mogadishu and the Afgooye corridor, as well as further south west in Lower Shabelle. UNHCR is also strengthening its ability to track population movements in the corridors leading to the Dollo Ado and Dadaab refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya respectively.
- UNHCR's immediate priority is to address the critical needs of an increasingly weakened Somali population. As the situation inside Somalia continues to worsen, so too will the condition of arriving refugees. The main focus is to rapidly stabilize those arriving in extremely poor condition, particularly children suffering from malnutrition and dehydration. Upon arrival at the reception centres, the refugees receive health screening and the malnourished and those with medical complications are referred to clinics, including for supplementary and therapeutic feeding. In Ethiopia, similar alarming findings of widespread malnutrition were recorded among newly-arriving Somali refugees.
- Given this dire situation, UNHCR believes it is of life-saving importance that people in Somalia are able to get help where they are. This may, in certain circumstances, alleviate the need for Somalis to move into already stretched neighbouring countries.
- A \$136 million appeal for the Somalia displacement crisis was issued by UNHCR on July 8.

Somali refugees and asylum seekers in the East and Horn of Africa region

As of 15 July 2011

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Sources:
 UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping © 1998
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Working with partners

UNHCR is coordinating humanitarian assistance in the affected countries and works with sister UN Agencies and other governmental and non-governmental partners.

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