

Highlights

- Number of deaths due to malnutrition and other diseases remains high among refugees.
- Emergency assistance stepped up for increasingly weakened new arrivals, including two hot meals daily for more than 12,800 in Ethiopia's Dollo Ado.
- UNHCR distributing emergency assistance for 126,000 internally displaced people in Somalia.
- More than 11,000 Somalis from famine-struck Lower Shabelle displaced in Mogadishu in July.
- UNHCR airlift continues, delivering 18,000 tents to Kenya and Ethiopia.
- More than 46,000 Somalis registered in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Yemen so far this month.

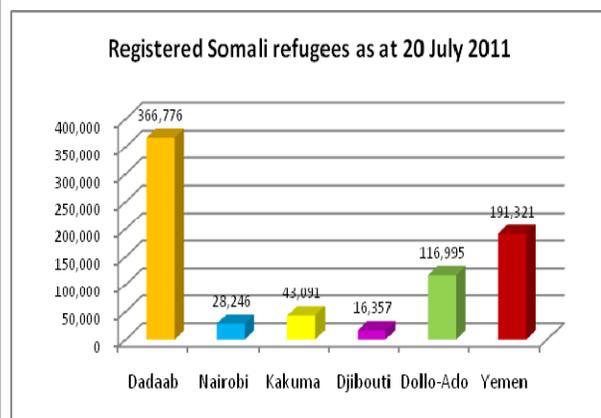
Somali refugees in the region as at 01 Jan 2011 (by country of asylum)

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

New Somali arrivals by country of asylum January to 20 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	27,234	96,124
Ethiopia	6,792	2,016	4,072	6,749	12,045	24,042	18,432	74,148
Djibouti	384	293	359	246	398	425	385	2,490
Yemen	1,735	2,136	2,130	1,571	1,655	1,189	564	10,980
Total	18,869	14,621	17,895	19,202	23,312	43,228	46,615	183,742

Registered Somali refugees in the region



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

- There are more than 800,000 Somali refugees outside their country. The bordering countries of Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia and Djibouti host more than 90 percent of them (Kenya 445,000; Yemen 191,000; Ethiopia 156,000; Djibouti 16,700.) 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.
- On July 20, the United Nations officially declared a famine in two regions of southern Somalia. Famine is declared when acute malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent; more than two children per 10,000 die per day and caloric intake is less than 2,100 calories a day. 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 the

worst in decades. "We still do not have all the resources for food, clean water, shelter and health services to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Somalis in desperate need," said the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden.

Current situation

- 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 Dollo Ado, up to half of the young arrivals are acutely malnourished. While those aged five or younger are the most vulnerable, UNHCR is also concerned about malnutrition among refugees aged five to 18 years. If treated early and correctly, most malnourished children can recover physically. But the new arrivals seem to take longer than normal to recover -- sometimes up to 6 to 8 weeks – possibly because they arrive in such terrible shape.
- Some 70,000 new arrivals this year have spontaneously settled on the outskirts of Kenya's Dadaab camps, from where UNHCR is assisting them including with water, latrines and health clinics, but overcrowding and related health and sanitation issues remain a concern.

Response

- The rate of malnourishment remains high among arriving refugees in the region. UNHCR and its partners are implementing an emergency response strategy aimed at ensuring rapid help for them. Aid centres have been established in camps to offer immediate assistance to extremely vulnerable people. Upon arrival at reception centres, refugees receive health screening and the malnourished and those with medical complications are referred to clinics, including for supplementary and therapeutic feeding. Provision of water, sanitation, emergency feeding, primary health care and food distribution are quickly scaling up. UNHCR, for example, is providing more than 12,800 refugees at the transit centre in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia, with two hot meals a day. In Djibouti, some 12,000 people are receiving uncooked rations.
- Unfortunately, some of these interventions are too late, particularly for those who have walked long distances and arrive in critical condition. On July 18, for example, 15 deaths from malnutrition and other diseases were reported in Kobe, one of Dollo Ado's camps. UNHCR staff in Dadaab are also reporting a rise in the number of deaths due to acute malnutrition, particularly among children.
- Kobe camp, which opened last month, is already full with 25,000 refugees. A new camp, Hilaweyn, is nearing completion and will hold up to 60,000 people. UNHCR expects to begin moving people from the Dollo Ado transit centre within the next two weeks.
- Inside Somalia, UNHCR's immediate priority is to address the critical needs of an increasingly weakened Somali population. Although access remains an impediment, UNHCR is working with partners on the ground to distribute urgent aid. Some 2,500 emergency assistance packages for 15,000 people were distributed in Dharkenley, southwest Mogadishu on 20 July, part of an ongoing project to provide aid to an estimated 126,000 Somalis in south-central Somalia. 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 has deployed 60 emergency staff to the region to provide life-saving assistance to the new arrivals, with another 11 on the way.

