

Date of Information Received: April 2008

1. Breakdown of Reports¹ in the PMT database by Location:

- South/Central Somalia (including Mogadishu) – 94 reports
- Puntland – 16 reports
- Somaliland – 12 reports
- Kenya – 3 reports
- Yemen – 3 reports
- Djibouti – 1 report
- **TOTAL – 129 reports**

2. Types of Displacement

No. of People Affected:

No. of Reports Received

• Insecurity / Conflict – 42,000	-----	94 reports
• Drought – 1,600	-----	7 reports
• Lack of Livelihood – 1,400	-----	5 reports
• IDP Returns – 3,300	-----	21 reports
• Forced Return – 60	-----	1 report
• TOTAL ≈ 48,000	-----	129 reports

3. Areas receiving IDPs

By region with districts in parenthesis

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|--|---|
| • Bakool (Waajid) | • Mudug (Gaalkacyo) |
| • Banadir (Mogadishu) | • Shabelle Dhexe/Middle Shabelle (Balcad) |
| • Bari (Bossaso) | • Shabelle Hoose/Lower Shabelle (Afgooye, Marka, WanlaWeyn) |
| • Bay (Bardaale, Baydhaba, Buur Hakaba) | • Togdheer (Burco) |
| • Galgaduud (Dhuusamarreeb) | • Woqooyi Galbeed (Hargeysa) |
| • Gedo (Doolow) | • Yemen |
| • Hiraan (Bulo Burto) | • Djibouti |
| • Juba Hoose/Lower Juba (Afmadow, Badhaadhe, Kismaayo) | • Kenya |

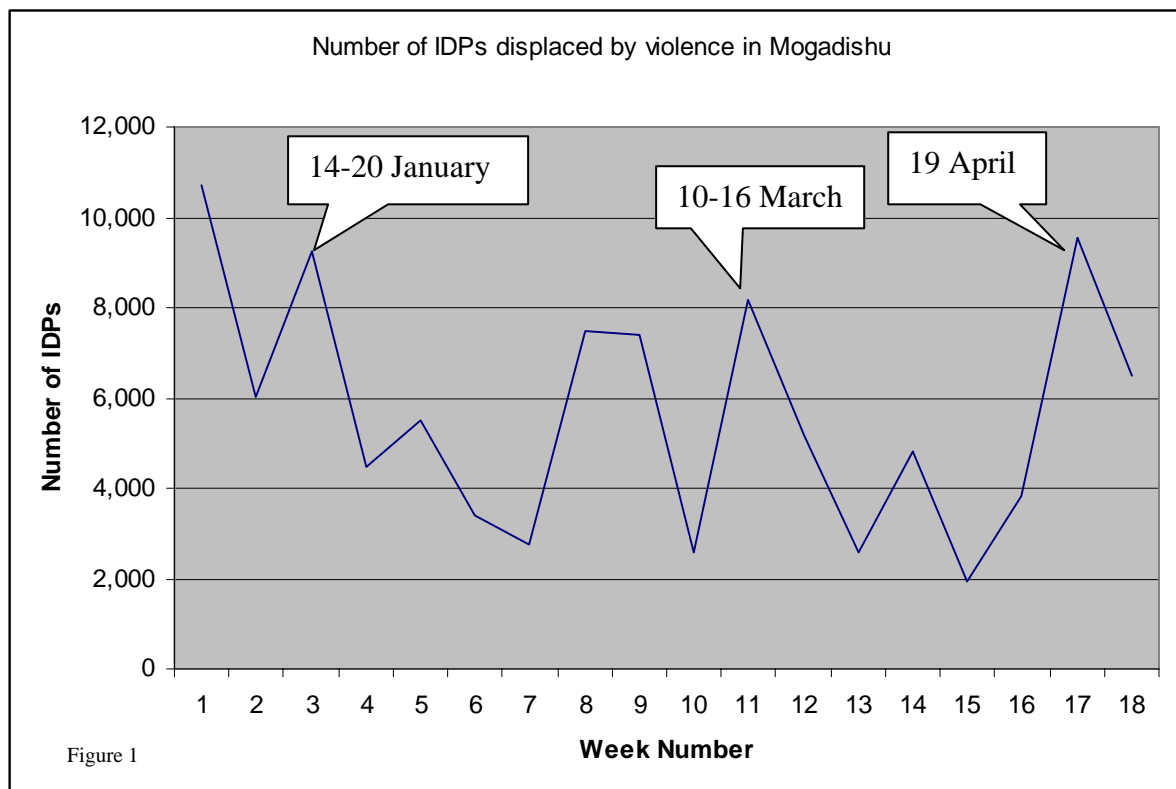
4. Sources of Information: Local Partner Agencies, UNHCR Kenya, and UNHCR Yemen

¹ The term “reports” refers to entries in the database and not necessarily to reports received from partners. A total of 169 PMT reports were received from partners in April.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

As in previous months the single greatest cause of displacement in Somalia has been violence and insecurity. Nearly 42,000 people have been displaced by insecurity in April. Of these over 22,000 have been displaced by insecurity in Mogadishu.

Displacement because of insecurity in Mogadishu was quite low for most of April. However on 19 April a major offensive was launched by the Ethiopian and TFG armies against anti-government entities in Mogadishu. The fighting was very fierce in several areas of Mogadishu including, Hodan, Wardhiigleey, Heliwaa, and Dayniile. There have been many reports of civilian casualties as a result of these attacks. Displacement sharply increased during this time as well. In the last 11 days of April 13,000 were displaced, representing 77% of the total displacement from Mogadishu this month. Although there was a definite spike in displacement (see figure 1), the numbers of displacement were lower than expected. For example, similar violence at the end of October 2007 displaced approximately 100,000. Possible reasons for the lower than expected displacement, can be that the fighting took place largely in areas that have already been deserted. It is also possible that after 15 months of instability violence in Mogadishu and an estimated 800,000 IDPs displaced as a result, those who remain in the city are mainly people who are unable or unwilling to leave.



To characterize the violence that has caused displacement this month, we can share some of the reasons for displacement as given by our PMT partners in their own words. These include, “Warnings issued by insurgents”, “Deliberate attacks, slaughtering And shooting”, “Continuous indiscriminate shelling”, and “Military operations in IDP settlements.” In addition to the violence that rocked the city, PMT partners identified secondary reasons for displacement. Almost a third of the reports received from Mogadishu indicate that a “lack of livelihood” contributed to IDPs leaving Somalia. Inflation and high food prices which have been affecting most parts of Somalia were also indicated.

An estimated 2,900 IDPs returned to Mogadishu during the reporting period. It should be noted that the vast majority of these returned early in the month before the fighting which began on the 19th. Many of those

who “returned” did so because they were nervous about the newly established Ethiopian bases in the Afgooye area, and feared that violence would spread to that area.

In addition to violence in Mogadishu, there has been population movements related to conflict or the threat of conflict between the TFG/Ethiopians and Anti-government entities outside of Mogadishu. By far, the largest of these movements has been from Bulo Burto town in Hiraan. Estimates for the total number of displaced range from **15,000 to 29,000**. These people fled the town when Ethiopian troops were stationed there. They feared attacks against the Ethiopians by ICU-affiliated militias which are active in the area. These people moved to towns along the Shabelle River in Bulo Burto district. Similar, though smaller movements were reported in Balcad town where an estimated 900 people fled the town (most of whom returned after the Ethiopians left). Conflict erupted between ICU-elements and clan militias in Kudha town in Badhaadhe, Lower Juba. This conflict displaced an estimated 270 people.

Cross border movements have continued. Approximately 1,700 Somalis and 790 Ethiopians arrived on the Yemeni coast this month. 25 people reportedly died during this crossing. As always those arriving in Yemen claim that they are fleeing violence and drought, both in Somalia and Ethiopia, and are looking for international protection an/or better livelihood opportunities. IDPs moving across the border as also continued. PMT partners report asylum seekers moving to Mandera and Mombassa, as well as to the Liboi transit centre and Dadaab camps. In total an estimated 4,600 entered Kenya at UNHCR facilities. Rains have slowed down arrivals to Doblely but several hundred are reported to have arrived in April, most of whom are likely to enter Kenya. An estimated 130 people also moved to Djibouti this month. There are also reports of nearly 130 people who went to Wajaale from Hargeysa, likely heading to the Teferi Bar and Kebribeyah Refugee Camps in Ethiopia.

Movements because of drought have decreased significantly since last month. Only 1,600 people reported moving because of drought in April. They fled drought conditions in Lower Shabelle (Afgooye and Wanla Weyne), in Kismaayo district, and in South Mudug.

1. Patterns of Movement

Weekly updates on population movements and protection concerns are being produced by UNHCR-Somalia. Please contact us if you would like to be on our mailing list.

- Over 22,000 people were displaced because of insecurity and violence in Mogadishu. They went to:
 - 4,600 to Kenya
 - 4,400 were displaced within Mogadishu
 - 4,200 were displaced to the IDP settlements in Afgooye
 - 2,400 to Gedo (mainly Belet Xaawo and Doolow)
 - 2,500 to Galgaduud
 - 1,500 to Gaalkacyo (many of these continuing to Hargeysa, Bossaso, Yemen and Djibouti)
 - 1,300 to Lower Juba, mainly Doblely in Afmadow district (many of these IDPs have likely gone to Kenya).
- Approximately 15,000 (but as many as 29,000) people have fled their homes in Bulo Burto and moved to villages along the river because they fear conflict between ICO-affiliated groups and the TFG/Ethiopian forces.
- Approx. 900 people fled Balcad town and moved to Gololey and Mogadishu
- 270 fled Kudha island and moved to near by villages in Kismaay district.
- 760 people fled drought conditions in Kismaayo district, 160 fled the same in South Mudug, and 680 fled Lower Shabelle.

- 600 people moved from Kismaayo to Doble (and then to Kenya) because of high food prices, high inflation, and lack of humanitarian assistance.
- A group of 37 youths moved from Dire Dawa in Ethiopia to State House settlement in Hargeysa town. They intend to go to Yemen.
- Around 2,900 IDPs returned to Mogadishu from Afgooye and Dhuusamareeb districts however many returned to escape drought conditions or the threat of violence.
- A group of 60 individuals were returned to Somali territory after trying to cross into Ethiopia at Doolow. These people finally settled in Baydhaba town.

Priority Needs

Out of the 129 PMT reports in the database for April:

- *Food* has been indicated as an urgent need in 97 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 51 of the reports.
- *Shelter* has been indicated as an urgent need in 86 reports. However, it was listed as the top priority in only 18 of the reports, coming mainly from Doble, Bossaso, and Gaalkacyo.
- *Health* has been indicated as an urgent need in 80 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 13 reports.
- *Water* has been indicated as an urgent need in 62 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 19 of these reports. The majority of the reports which indicated a need for water were from IDPs in Mogadishu.
- *Protection from conflict* has been indicated as an urgent need in 12 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 10 of these reports. The majority of the reports which indicated a need for protection were from IDPs in Baydhaba and Hargeysa.
- *Livelihood support* has been indicated as an urgent need in 8 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 1 report from Hargeysa.

2. Coping Mechanisms/Trends

- The most commonly used coping mechanisms continued to be moving in groups, moving to bigger urban areas, and moving to areas where they could find social/clan support.
- Forced prostitution was identified 6 times as a coping mechanism in the Afgooye settlements and once in Gaalkacyo.
- Child labour was identified as a coping mechanism in 13 reports, many of which were from IDPs in Mogadishu.