

The
POPULATION MOVEMENT TRACKING
SOMALIA

Date of Information Received: January 2009

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

- South/Central Somalia (including Mogadishu) – 218 reports
- Puntland – 46 reports
- Somaliland – 10 reports
- Kenya – 6 reports
- Yemen – 2 reports
- **TOTAL – 282 reports**

2. Types of Displacement

No. of People Affected:	No. of Reports Received
• Insecurity / Conflict – 58,000 -----	137 reports
• Fire – 30 -----	1 report
• Drought – 140 -----	1 report
• Clan Conflict – 190 -----	1 report
• Lack of Livelihood – 2,300 -----	19 reports
• IDP Returns – 32,000 -----	123 reports
• TOTAL ≈ 93,000 -----	282 reports

3. Areas receiving IDPs

By region with districts in parenthesis

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| • Bakool (Waaqid) | • Mudug (Gaalkacyo, Hobyo) |
| • Banadir (Mogadishu) | • Nugaal (Garoowe) |
| • Bari (Bossaso, Qardho) | • Sanaag (Ceerigaabo) |
| • Bay (Baydhaba, Buur Hakaba) | • Shabelle Dhexe/Middle Shabelle (Balcad, Cadale) |
| • Galgaduud (Cabudwaaq, Ceel Dheer, Dhuusamarreeb) | • Shabelle Hoose/Lower Shabelle (Afgooye, Aw Dheegle, Marka) |
| • Gedo (Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq) | • Sool (Laas Caanood) |
| • Hiraan (Belet Weyne, Matabaan) | • Woqooyi Galbeed (Gebiley, Hargeysa) |
| • Juba Dhexe/Middle Juba (Bu'aale, Jilib) | • Yemen |
| • Juba Hoose/Lower Juba (Afmadow, Kismaayo) | • Kenya |

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

5. Technical and Administrative support provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council.



NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

¹ The term “reports” refers to entries in the database and not necessarily to reports received from partners. A total of 377 PMT reports were received from partners in January. This is the most number of reports ever received in a single month.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

During 2008, the major causes of displacement in Somalia have been continued insecurity in civilian areas, targeting of civilians, and conflict resulting in actual or fear of violence against civilians. Mogadishu, which has born the brunt of the recent conflict, has witnessed steady levels of displacement for nearly all of 2008. Other locations which have witnessed large displacement because of armed conflict are Bulo Burto (early May), Belet Weyne (late July), Kismaayo (late August), and Guriceel and Dhuusamarreeb (June and December).

In 2008 approximately 800,000 people were displaced throughout Somalia for various reasons. The majority of these people have since returned. Of this total for 2008, an estimated 300,000 persons remain displaced at the end of 2008. In addition to those displaced prior to 2008, the total number of IDPs currently in Somalia is estimated at 1.3 Million

Many of those displaced in Somalia have made their way to other countries. Over 30,000 Somali refugees have been registered in Yemen this year and another 58,000 have been registered in the Dadaab camps of Kenya. In total, approximately 100,000 Somalis have arrived in neighboring countries in 2008.

In January 2009, insecurity was the primary cause of new displacement. Fighting once again erupted in Galgaduud between the Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jamma group and Al Shabaab. Fighting in Dhuusamarreeb town in late January displaced an estimated 17,000 people. These included civilians who had recently returned to the town after being displaced by fighting at the end December. While the vast majority of those displaced went to nearby villages, some went as far away as Afgooye, Hargeysa, Mogadishu, Gaalkacyo, Bossaso and Qardho.

Between 19 and 21 January, fighting between rival groups in Dharkenly and Wadajir districts of Mogadishu displaced nearly 8,100 people. These people went to other areas of Mogadishu, as well as to the Afgooye camps and other locations in Lower Shabelle.

In addition, with the capture of Baydhaba by Al Shabaab, nearly 1,000 people fled the town, reportedly because they were uncertain of how they would be treated by the new de facto authorities. More than 12,000 people fled fighting on 17 January between clan militias and Al Shabaab in Baardheere (Bardera) town in Gedo.

For the first time since April 2007, PMT partners have reported a significant return of IDPs to Mogadishu. During the month of January, nearly 32,000 people have returned to Mogadishu from various parts of Somalia, including Middle Shabelle, Mudug, and Hiraaan. These IDPs, who are among the estimated 1 million people displaced by continuous violence in Mogadishu since 2007, began returning after the Ethiopian withdrawal from the city on 15 January 2009.

Movements across international borders have continued. Approximately 700 Somalis and 350 Ethiopians arrived on the Yemeni shore this month from Somalia. (No reports were received from Yemen since 17 Jan). 13 people reportedly drowned crossing the Gulf of Aden. In addition, 117 people died when their boat departed from Djibouti.

Nearly 7,600 Somalis have arrived to the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya this month. This marks a sharp increase in the number of new arrivals per month, compared to the trend over the last few months.

1. Patterns of Movement

Weekly updates on population movements and protection concerns are contained in the Protection Cluster Update.

- Renewed fighting in Dhuusamareeb town and continued tension in Guriceel displaced about 19,000 people, most of who went to nearby villages.
- Fighting in Mogadishu centered on Dharkenley and Wadaji/Madina districts and displaced nearly 8,100 people.
- Over 12,000 people fled fighting in Baardheere town between the Al-Shabaab and clan militias.
- Nearly 1,000 fled Bay region after the withdrawal of the Ethiopian army and the subsequent consolidation of control by the Al-Shabaab.
- Nearly 700 people fled fighting between the ICU and Al-Shabaab in Balcad town.
- Nearly 32,000 IDPs returned to their homes in Mogadishu. They came from the following areas:
 - Lower Shabelle: 8,400
 - Middle Shabelle: 5,600
 - Mudug: 4,800
 - Hiraan: 4,800
 - Banadir: 3,600
 - Galgaduud: 2,200
 - Lower Juba: 1,400
- Clan fighting occurred between the Harti and Abgaal clans over grazing land in Cadale district Middle Shabelle. Nearly 190 people were displaced.
- 140 people originally from Diinsor, moved through Salalgle and ended up in Bu'aale because of drought conditions. They reportedly plan to travel to Kenya.
- A large fire in Belet Xaawo town reportedly left nearly 30 homeless.
- UN and NGO assessment teams in Southern Ethiopia report that approximately 10,000 Somalis have crossed the border and are staying in the Dolo Bay area. (This movement was not reported by the PMT network and is therefore not represented in the statistics contained in this report.)

Priority Needs

Out of the 282 PMT reports in the database for January:

- *Food* has been indicated as an urgent need in 236 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 191 of the reports. While 84% of all reports received indicated a need for food, it was indicated as the top need in 68%.
- *Water* has been indicated as an urgent need in 180 reports, making it the second most identified need (for the first time). It was listed as the top priority in only 7 of these reports. Most of the reports indicating water as the most needed intervention were from IDPs and returnees in Mogadishu.
- *Health* has been indicated as an urgent need in 166 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 7 reports, from Mogadishu and Laas Caanood district.

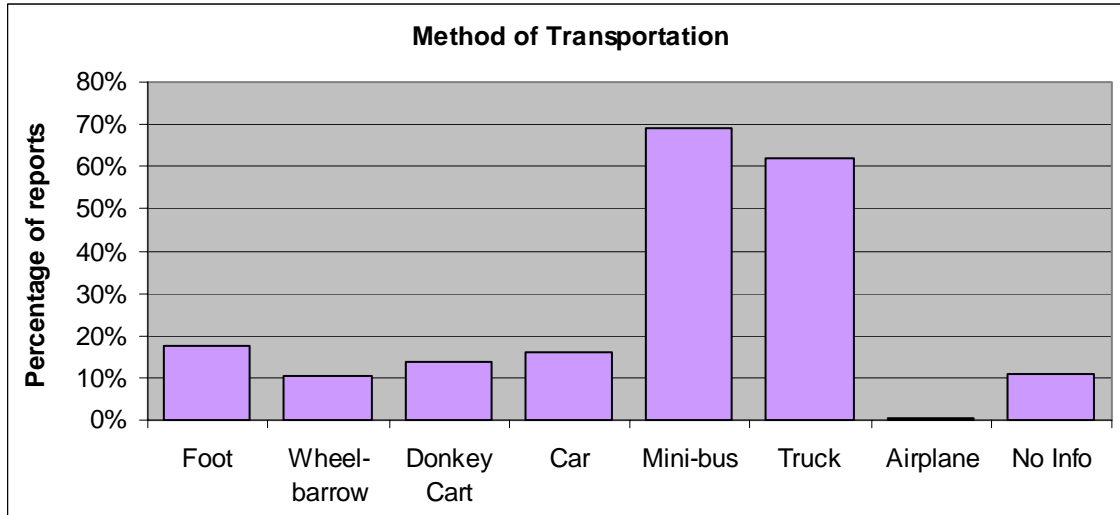
- *Shelter* has been indicated as an urgent need in 99 reports, dropping to the fourth most identified need. It was listed as the top priority in 28 of the reports, most of which came from Gaalkacyo.
- *Protection from conflict* has been indicated as an urgent need in 23 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 11 of these reports, mainly from groups in northern Somalia who were planning to migrate to other countries.
- *Sanitation* has been indicated as an urgent need in 19 reports, all from returnees to Mogadishu.
- *Livelihood support* has been indicated as an urgent need in 8 reports. It was identified most closely with groups of potential migrants.
- *Education* was identified in 4 reports from IDPs in Hargeysa.

Coping Mechanisms/Trends

- Displacement trends reflect the tendency for IDPs to travel in groups and moving to areas where they could find social/clan support.
- Moving across borders in search of assistance was identified in 112 reports.
- Families splitting to seek employment and./or aid was identified in 51 reports.
- Forced prostitution was identified as a coping mechanism by Ethiopian migrants who were in Garoowe.
- Child labour was reported in 11 reports mainly from Puntland.
- 55 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on remittances as a coping mechanism.
- 51 reports indicated that IDPs were reducing their number of meals per day. Reducing food quality (i.e. animal hides, grass, etc.) was reported in 31 reports.
- 143 reports indicated that IDPs were relying on humanitarian assistance. 75 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on family support.

Threats while moving:

- Of the 282 reports received during the month, only 3 (1%) reported that the IDPs experienced violations while travelling. These reports came from IDPs in Ceel Waaq, Gaalkacyo and Bossaso.
- The number of checkpoints, both legal and illegal, reported by the PMT partners show that 35% of all displacements did not encounter a checkpoint. 52% of IDP movements reported did cross checkpoints. More specifically:
 - 29% of all displacements encountered less than 5 checkpoints
 - 13% of all displacements encountered between 5 and 10 checkpoints
 - 9% of all displacements encountered more than 10 checkpoints
 - *13% of the forms did not supply an answer for this question.*
- The mode of transportation for IDPs varies from place to place. The following methods were reported. (*Note: IDPs on a single form can have various methods of transportation*)



- Not surprisingly, given the methods of transportation employed by IDPs, all but 2 of the reports indicated that the IDPs travelled by road.

Mixed Migration

- 71 of the 282 reports (25%) received in January indicated that the IDP population in the report had the intention to cross an international boundary. These 54 reports correspond to nearly 16,000 people.
- In these 71 reports, the following destinations were identified.
 - Kenya – 12,000 people
 - Yemen – 2,300 people
 - Saudi Arabia – 1,100 people
 - Ethiopia – 450 people
 - Djibouti – 110 people
 - Libya – 20 people
 - UAE – 20 people

Please note that our database only accepts 1 final destination per form. The destination furthest away is the one entered in the database. For example a form that lists the final destination as “Saudi Arabia and Yemen” will have Saudi Arabia entered in the db. As a result the numbers above should be considered estimates and indicative of general trends only.

- The coping/survival mechanisms identified most commonly were:
 - Relying on Humanitarian Assistance/Refugee Camp – 52 reports (73%)
 - Seeking Employment – 47 reports (66%)
 - Remittances – 22 reports (31%)
 - Hoping for resettlement to a western country – 18 reports (25%)
 - Engaging in Begging – 9 reports (13%)
 - Reducing number of meals per day – 7 reports (10%)
 - Reuniting with family – 6 reports (8%)
- The areas of origin for many of these potential migrants are:
 - Somalia (various) – 7,900 people
 - Mogadishu – 2,800 people
 - Lower Juba – 2,200 people

- Bay – 1,000
- Ethiopia – 470 people
- The locations these reports were received from (where the IDPs were at the time of reporting)
 - Outside Somalia (mainly reports received from UNHCR operations elsewhere) – 8,600 people
 - Lower Juba (mainly Doble) – 3,300 people
 - Gaalkacyo – 2,000 people
 - Gedo – 430 people
 - Bossaso – 200 people