

The
POPULATION MOVEMENT TRACKING
SOMALIA

Date of Information Received: March 2009

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

- South/Central Somalia (including Mogadishu) – 164 reports
- Puntland – 53 reports
- Somaliland – 11 reports
- Kenya – 4 reports
- Ethiopia – 2 reports
- Yemen – 2 reports
- Djibouti – 1 report
- **TOTAL – 237 reports**

2. Types of Displacement

No. of People Affected:	No. of Reports Received
• IDP Returns – 18,000 -----	118 reports
• Insecurity / Conflict – 15,000 -----	63 reports
• Drought – 15,000 -----	19 reports
• Lack of Livelihood – 3,800 -----	35 reports
• Forced Return – 340 -----	2 reports
• TOTAL ≈ 52,000 -----	237 reports

3. Areas receiving IDPs

By region with districts in parenthesis

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Bakool (Ceel Barde, Rab Dhuure ,Xudur) | • Mudug (Gaalkacyo, Hobyo, Jariiban) |
| • Banadir (Mogadishu) | • Nugaal (Garoowe) |
| • Bari (Bossaso) | • Shabelle Hoose/Lower Shabelle (Afgooye) |
| • Bay (Baydhaba) | • Sool (Laas Caanood) |
| • Galgaduud (Cabudwaaq, Cadaado, Ceel Buur, Dhuusamarreeb) | • Togdheer (Burco) |
| • Gedo (Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq) | • Woqooyi Galbeed (Gebiley, Hargeysa) |
| • Hiraan (Belet Weyne, Matabaan) | • Yemen |
| • Juba Dhexe/Middle Juba (Bu'aale, Saakow) | • Kenya |
| • Juba Hoose/Lower Juba (Afmadow, Kismaayo) | • Ethiopia |
| | • Djibouti |

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 283 PMT reports were received from partners in March.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

During the first quarter of 2009, the leading cause of displacement has been insecurity and violence. However, the patterns of movement have been more complicated than they were in 2008. While large numbers of people were displaced from Mogadishu and the Dhuusamarreb area because of conflict, as well as from Baydhaba because of the threat of conflict, there are other significant patterns of movement reported. January saw the most significant return of IDPs to Mogadishu since mid 2007. This trend has continued in February and March, with nearly 60,000 IDP returnees reported during the first 3 months of 2009. Drought conditions were also reported in areas of South/Central. This is another trend that is continuing and threatens to displace large numbers of people, possible towards the Kenyan border, if conditions do not improve.

One pattern of movement which continues uninterrupted since 2008 is the movement of migrants out of Somalia. Large numbers of people (Mainly Somalis, but also Ethiopians) have left Somalia and moved to Yemen and Kenya, and to points beyond. In 2008 over 30,000 Somali refugees were registered in Yemen and over 58,000 in Kenya. This trend shows no sign of slowing, despite the fact that relatively small numbers of Somalis from both Yemen and Kenya have been returning to Mogadishu in 2009.

In March, IDP return was the single greatest cause of movement in Somalia. An estimated 18,000 people who were displaced because of violence in Mogadishu over the last 2 years have returned to their homes in the capital. These returnees came from various locations in Somalia, with the most significant movements from Lower Shabelle, the Central regions of Galgaduud and Hiraaan, as well as from Hargeysa. The returnees in March have gone mainly to the same places reported previously, namely Yaaqshiid, Wardhiigley, and Haliwaa districts.

In March, violence and insecurity forced an estimated 15,000 people to flee their homes. Significantly, only 1,200 people fled Mogadishu because of conflict there. This fighting took place between 27-29 March. This is the smallest figure of Mogadishu displacement reported since 2007. Over 2,100 were displaced from Wabxo, a village located in Galgaduud. Another 550 were displaced by continuing conflict in Bakool. The other IDPs who indicated “insecurity” as the primary reason for movement are those who either arrived in or are en route to other countries. These migrants move for multiple reasons including insecurity, lack of livelihoods, drought, and a lack of assistance.

Drought was the other cause for significant displacement during the month. An estimated 15,000 people were displaced from various locations. The largest movements originated in the Jubas, Gedo, and Galgaduud. Smaller reports were reported from Bay and from Ethiopians who arrived in Galgaduud. Generally speaking these people moved to nearby urban areas, and can be found in the Jubas and Galgaduud.

Movements across international borders have continued. Over 6,400 Somalis have arrived at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya this month. This brings the total number of Somali new arrivals to Dadaab to nearly 22,000 this year. Approximately 1,700 Somalis and 1,100 Ethiopians arrived on the Yemeni shore this month from Somalia. A total of 20 people are listed as drowned or missing as a result of these migratory movements across the Gulf of Aden. These deaths as well as beatings took place in 5 different incidents throughout the month.

1. Patterns of Movement

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

- Fighting in Mogadishu centered on Yaqshiid districts and displaced over 1,200 people. They went to other areas of Mogadishu and to the Afgooye IDP camps.
- Fighting in Wabxo village in Ceel Buur district, Galgaduud caused over 2,100 to flee their homes. Most went to nearby rural areas, while some went to Gaalkacyo.
- Fighting in Bakool region left over 550 displaced. IDPs fled Rab Dhuure, Ceel Barde, and Xudur. They went to nearby areas.
- Over 300 Ethiopians arrived in Somalia fleeing violence in their home areas. They went to Ceel Waaq, Hargeysa, Bossaso and Garoowe.
- Over 18,000 IDPs returned to their homes in Mogadishu. They came from the following areas:
 - Lower Shabelle: 6,600 (of which 4,600 came from Afgooye)
 - Galgaduud: 1,900
 - Hiraaan: 1,600
 - Middle Shabelle: 1,500
 - W. Galbeed (Hargeysa): 1,500
- Approximately 15,000 people were displaced because of drought, including:
 - 8,600 people displaced from locations in the Jubas, mainly in Kismaayo and Badhaade districts. They went to various places including Beerxaani, Buulo Xaaji, and to Kismaayo town.
 - 4,000 people from Gedo who went to Lower Juba (Kismaayo and Afmadow), and to urban centers in Gedo.
 - 2,000 people from rural areas in Galgaduud who went to urban centers.
- Movements because of a lack of livelihood opportunities varied widely throughout Somalia. They include Ethiopians entering Somalia (moving towards Yemen, and/or Kenya) and Somalis who went to Ethiopia (moving towards Libya and Europe). Significant numbers also moved towards Gedo, a gateway to Kenya. As usual large numbers of Somalis moved through Gaalkacyo and Bossaso en route to Yemen and the Gulf countries.
- Over 20 Ethiopians left their homes in Hargeysa to tend to their cattle near Jijiga. This has been reported as a normal seasonal movement
- Reports have been received related to Somalis being forcibly returned to Mogadishu from Saudi Arabia. It is impossible to know how many are genuine returnees and how many are deportees, however the estimate derived from partner's reports is 340 people in the month of March.

Priority Needs

Out of the 237 PMT reports in the database for March:

- *Food* has been indicated as an urgent need in 181 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 129 of the reports. While 76% of all reports received indicated a need for food, it was indicated as the top need in 54%.
- *Health* has been indicated as an urgent need in 128 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 1 report, from IDP returns to Garcad, in Jariiban district from Gaalkacyo.
- *Water* has been indicated as an urgent need in 124 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 10 of these reports, mainly from IDPs in the drought affected areas of Lower Juba.
- *Shelter* has been indicated as an urgent need in 121 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 43 of the reports, most of which came from Gaalkacyo or from returnees to Mogadishu.
- *Livelihood support* has been indicated as an urgent need in 30 reports. It was identified most closely with groups of potential migrants.
- *Protection* has been indicated as an urgent need in 25 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 20 of these reports, mainly from groups in northern Somalia who were planning to migrate to other countries, or from Ethiopians who had arrived in Hargeysa.
- *Education* has been indicated as an urgent need in 9 reports, all from returnees to Mogadishu.

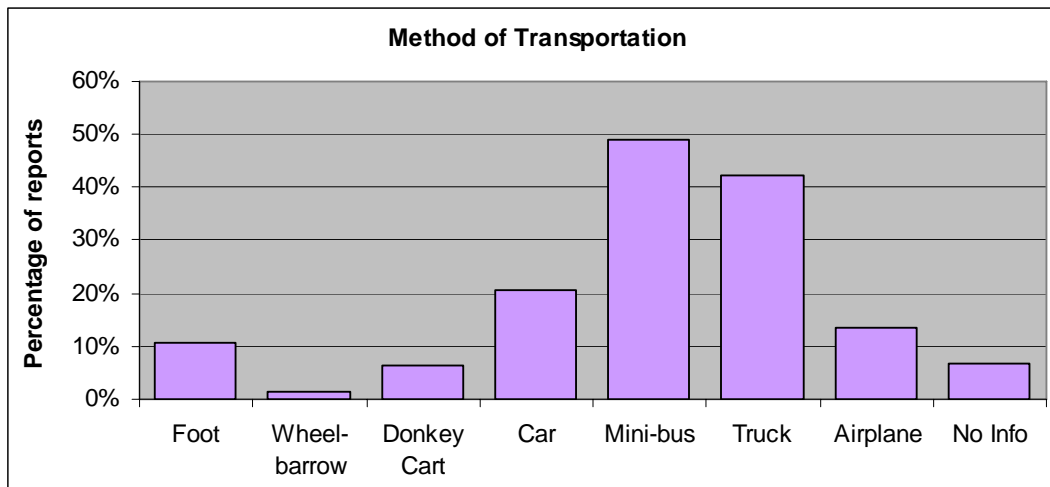
Coping Mechanisms/Trends

- 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 59 reports.
- Selling material possessions to meet urgent needs was identified in 47 reports.
- Forced prostitution was identified as a coping mechanism by Ethiopian migrants who went to Bossaso, via Laas Caanood intending to go to Saudi Arabia.
- Child labour was reported in 18 reports mainly from Puntland, from drought affected IDPs in Galgaduud, and from returnees to Mogadishu.
- 74 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on remittances as a coping mechanism, while another 29 reports indicated that the IDPs had borrowed money.
- 56 reports indicated that IDPs were reducing their number of meals per day. Reducing food quality (i.e. animal hides, grass, etc.) was reported in 27 reports.
- 114 reports indicated that IDPs were relying on humanitarian assistance. 91 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on family support.

Threats while moving:

- Of the 237 reports received during the month, only 2 (<1%) reported that the IDPs experienced violations while travelling. These reports came from IDPs in Lower Juba.
- The number of checkpoints, both legal and illegal, reported by the PMT partners show that 43% of all displacements did not encounter a checkpoint. 42% of IDP movements reported did cross checkpoints. More specifically:
 - 20% of all displacements encountered less than 5 checkpoints

- 12% of all displacements encountered between 5 and 10 checkpoints
- 10% of all displacements encountered more than 10 checkpoints
 - 15% of the forms did not supply an answer for this question.
- **The overall trend during the last few months is for a steady decrease in the amount checkpoints that IDPs are facing.**
- 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 9 of the reports indicated that the IDPs travelled by road (not including those who travelled by airplane). Those 9 reports come mainly from IDPs displaced by drought in rural areas.

Mixed Migration

- 82 of the 237 reports (35%) received in March indicated that the IDP population in the report had the intention to cross an international boundary. These 82 reports correspond to nearly 16,000 people.
- In these 82 reports, the following destinations were identified.
 - Kenya – 8,900 people
 - Yemen – 4,600 people
 - Saudi Arabia – 1,600 people
 - Djibouti – 230 people
 - UAE – 220 people
 - Libya – 90 people
 - Italy – 60 people
 - Ethiopia – 50 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:
 - Seeking Employment – 51 reports (62%)
 - Relying on Humanitarian Assistance/Refugee Camp – 50 reports (61%)
 - Hoping for resettlement to a western country – 30 reports (37%)
 - Remittances – 20 reports (24%)
 - Reducing number of meals per day – 13 reports (16%)
 - Engaging in Begging – 6 reports (7%)

- The areas of origin for many of these potential migrants are:
 - Somalia (various) – 7,800 people
 - Mogadishu – 4,000 people
 - Ethiopia – 1,500 people
 - Lower Juba – 1,300 people
 - Gedo – 340 people
 - Hiraan – 240 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) – 9,200 people
 - Lower Juba (mainly Doble) – 1,700 people
 - Bossaso – 1,600 people
 - Gaalkacyo – 1,400 people
 - Lower Shabelle – 560 people
 - Sool – 510 people
 - Gedo – 390 people