

The
POPULATION MOVEMENT TRACKING
SOMALIA

Date of Information Received: February 2009

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

- South/Central Somalia (including Mogadishu) – 129 reports
- Puntland – 43 reports
- Somaliland – 6 reports
- Kenya – 5 reports
- Ethiopia – 3 reports
- Yemen – 2 reports
- **TOTAL – 188 reports**

2. Types of Displacement

No. of People Affected:	No. of Reports Received
• Insecurity / Conflict – 25,000 -----	81 reports
• IDP Returns – 13,000 -----	73 reports
• Lack of Livelihood – 2,000 -----	26 reports
• Drought – 550 -----	6 reports
• Eviction – 70 -----	1 report
• Clan Conflict – 30 -----	1 report
• TOTAL ≈ 41,000 -----	188 reports

3. Areas receiving IDPs

By region with districts in parenthesis

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Bakool (Ceel Barde, Rab Dhuure, Tayeeglow, Waajid, Xudur) | • Mudug (Gaalkacyo, Hobyo) |
| • Banadir (Mogadishu) | • Nugaal (Garoowe) |
| • Bari (Bossaso, Qardho) | • Sanaag (Ceerigaabo) |
| • Bay (Baydhaba) | • Shabelle Hoose/Lower Shabelle (Afgooye) |
| • Galgaduud (Dhuusamarreeb) | • Sool (Laas Caanood) |
| • Gedo (Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, Doolow) | • Woqooyi Galbeed (Gebiley, Hargeysa) |
| • Juba Dhexe/Middle Juba (Bu'aale, Saakow) | • Yemen |
| • Juba Hoose/Lower Juba (Afmadow, Kismaayo) | • Kenya |
| | • Ethiopia |

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 217 PMT reports were received from partners in February.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Thus far, the leading cause of displacement in 2009 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 were 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. Drought conditions were also reported in areas of South/Central. This is another trend that is continuing.

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 February, violence and insecurity remained the biggest cause of displacement in Somalia, forcing an estimated 25,000 people to flee their homes. Over 6,000 people moved to Kenya (fleeing violence/threats in various parts of South Central) and between 4,000 and 10,000 to the Doolow Ado area of Ethiopia. This latter group left Baydhaba for Ethiopia after the Ethiopian withdrawal.

Fighting in Mogadishu raged at the end of February, and displaced over 8,600 people. Most of these people went to other areas of Mogadishu or to Afgooye. However, significant numbers moved towards Gaalkacyo and points north with the intention of leaving Somalia. Conflict also erupted in several locations in Bakool, displacing nearly 2,800. These people fled Xudur and Ceel Barde and moved within the region.

IDP returns to Mogadishu continued in February. These movements were quite significant in the beginning of the month but virtually came to a complete halt when the conflict again erupted in Mogadishu around the 21st of February. Returnee movements tentatively restarted in early March. These 9,000 returnees came from various locations in Somalia, with the most significant movements from Lower Shabelle and the Central regions. Reports have also been received for well over 4,000 IDPs returning to Guriceel and Dhuusamarreb towns. The actual figure of returns is probably far higher with reports from the ground indicating that nearly all of those displaced in the last few months of fighting have returned home.

Movements across international borders have continued. Nearly 6,000 Somalis have arrived at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya this month. This is a slight decrease when compared to January. Approximately 1,100 Somalis and 280 Ethiopians arrived on the Yemeni shore this month from Somalia. 17 people drowned or are missing from an incident which happened on 20 Feb, in which the smugglers forced the migrants to jump of the boat far from the shoreline. Another 3 were killed on the 25th when pirates, posing as smugglers, threw 3 men overboard when they complained that the passengers were not given food or water for 3 days. The migrants were used to lure a passing ship close enough to launch an attack. In another tragic incident involving Somali migrants, 25 people were killed and 80 injured when a truck overturned in the remote desert between Sudan and Libya. Most of the passengers were Somalis. The others were Ethiopian.

1. Patterns of Movement

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

- Fighting in Mogadishu centered on Hodan and Hawl Wadaag districts and displaced over 8,600 people.
- Fighting in Bakool region left 2,800 displaced, in various locations in the region.
- Tensions after the Ethiopian withdrawal from Baydhaba town have resulted in significant displacement. Over 4,000 were reported to have moved to the Doolow Ado area of Ethiopia. Another 500 moved to other locations in Somalia including Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Mogadishu.
- Over 500 IDPs from Galgaduud left the areas close to Guriceel and Dhuusamarreeb towns where they had been staying for weeks after weeks of conflict. These IDPs moved to the Afgooye camps, to Gedo (moving towards Kenya), and to Puntland (moving towards Yemen).
- Over 350 Ethiopians arrived in Somalia fleeing violence in their home areas. They went to Ceel Waaq, Hargeysa, and Garoowe.
- Nearly 9,000 IDPs returned to their homes in Mogadishu. They came from the following areas:
 - Lower Shabelle: 1,900
 - Galgaduud: 1,800
 - Mudug: 1,500
 - Middle Shabelle: 1,100
 - Banadir: 1,100
- Movements because of a lack of livelihood opportunities varied widely throughout Somalia. They include Ethiopians entering Somalia (moving towards Yemen) and Somalis who went to Ethiopia (moving towards Libya and Europe). Significant numbers also moved towards Gedo, a gateway to Kenya.
- Approximately 550 people were displaced because of drought, including:
 - 200 people from Bakool who went to Waajid town.
 - 250 people from Gedo who went to the Jubas
 - 60 people from Bardaale to Baydhaba town.
- 70 IDPs were reportedly evicted from their homes in Hargeysa (Livestock Market) before they were demolished.
- 25 people were displaced by clan fighting which occurred near Belet Weyne. They moved to Belet Xaawo and then to Ceel Waaq, planning to cross into Kenya.

Priority Needs

Out of the 188 PMT reports in the database for February:

- *Food* has been indicated as an urgent need in 155 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 114 of the reports. While 82% of all reports received indicated a need for food, it was indicated as the top need in 61%.
- *Water* has been indicated as an urgent need in 124 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 15 of these reports, mainly from IDPs in the drought affected areas of Bakool and Gedo.

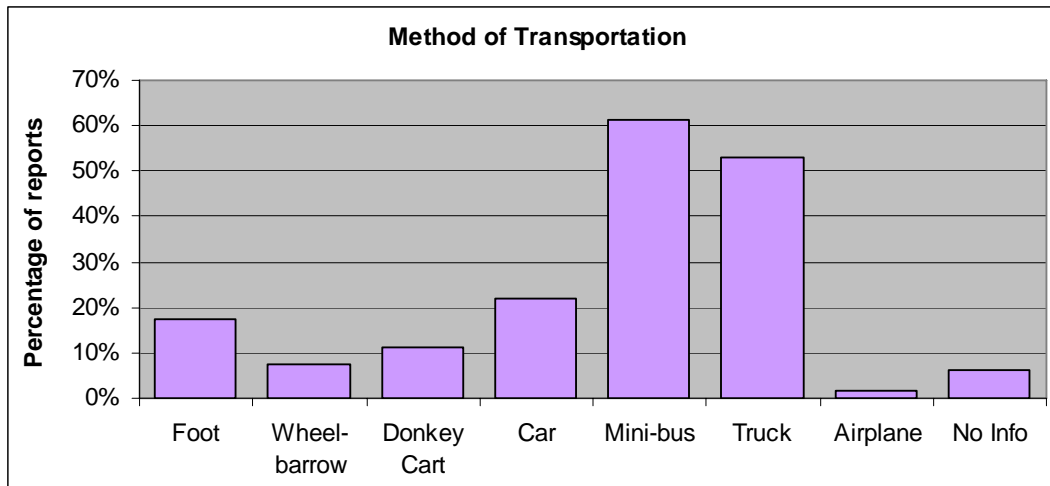
- *Health* has been indicated as an urgent need in 99 reports. It was listed as the top priority in only 2 reports, from Bossaso and Ceelasha (Afgooye).
- *Shelter* has been indicated as an urgent need in 74 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 20 of the reports, most of which came from Gaalkacyo.
- *Protection* has been indicated as an urgent need in 26 reports. It was listed as the top priority in 19 of these reports, mainly from groups in northern Somalia who were planning to migrate to other countries.
- *Livelihood support* has been indicated as an urgent need in 21 reports. It was identified most closely with groups of potential migrants.
- *Sanitation* has been indicated as an urgent need in 19 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 56 reports.
- Forced prostitution was identified as a coping mechanism by Somali IDPs who went to Bossaso, intending to go to Saudi Arabia.
- Child labour was reported in 8 reports mainly from Puntland.
- 54 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on remittances as a coping mechanism, while another 33 reports indicated that the IDPs had borrowed money.
- 67 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.
- 81 reports indicated that IDPs were relying on humanitarian assistance. 40 reports indicated that IDPs were depending on family support.

Threats while moving:

- Of the 188 reports received during the month, only 6 (3%) reported that the IDPs experienced violations while travelling. These reports came from IDPs in Ceel Waaq, Gaalkacyo and Garoowe.
- The number of checkpoints, both legal and illegal, reported by the PMT partners show that 37% of all displacements did not encounter a checkpoint. 52% of IDP movements reported did cross checkpoints. More specifically:
 - 32% of all displacements encountered less than 5 checkpoints
 - 10% of all displacements encountered between 5 and 10 checkpoints
 - 10% of all displacements encountered more than 10 checkpoints
 - *11% of the forms did not supply an answer for this question.*
- The mode of transportation for IDPs 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 12 of the reports indicated that the IDPs travelled by road.

Mixed Migration

- 71 of the 188 reports (38%) received in February indicated that the IDP population in the report had the intention to cross an international boundary. These 71 reports correspond to nearly 17,000 people.
- In these 71 reports, the following destinations were identified.
 - Kenya – 6,900 people
 - Ethiopia – 5,800 people
 - Yemen – 2,100 people
 - Saudi Arabia – 1,300 people
 - UAE – 320 people
 - Italy – 180 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 – 48 reports (68%)
 - Seeking Employment – 41 reports (58%)
 - Hoping for resettlement to a western country – 25 reports (35%)
 - Remittances – 20 reports (28%)
 - Engaging in Begging – 9 reports (13%)
 - Reducing number of meals per day – 8 reports (11%)
 - Reuniting with family – 4 reports (6%)
- The areas of origin for many of these potential migrants are:
 - Somalia (various) – 7,400 people
 - Bay – 4,500 people
 - Mogadishu – 1,600 people
 - Bakool – 1,400 people

- Ethiopia – 630 people
- Galgaduud – 390 people
- Hiraan – 370 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) – 12,000 people
 - Gaalkacyo – 1,300 people
 - Gedo – 1,200 people
 - Bossaso – 830 people
 - Lower Juba (mainly Doble) – 220 people
 - Qardho – 210 people