

Goal & Save the Children's Work with Somalia Refugees in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia

GOAL

1. Ethiopian Drought Affected Population:

In response to the on-going crisis in its area of operations, GOAL has been undergoing a major expansion of its on-going programs and we are now in over 20 locations across four regions of the country (namely Amhara, Oromia, SNNP Regions and Somali Region).

As part of these activities, more than 33,500 children suffering from malnutrition have been treated by GOAL, while 47 million liters of water has been distributed to 500,000 beneficiaries.

Refugee Crisis:

GOAL has been given official government permission to implement directly in the Somali region. In recent days, GOAL has set up its base of operations, including warehousing and office space, in Dolo Ado to facilitate the immediate roll out of its refugee crisis response.

Already GOAL has provided 91MT of food aid and essential items (hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, bedding, cooking items etc.) for 10,000 newly arrived refugees.

In the coming weeks and months, GOAL will be working in the additional refugee camps that are just now opening in Dolo Ado, just over the border with Somalia. These are:

- *Halo Weyn* – Camp 4 (up to 80,000)
- *Boramino* – Camp 5 (up to 60,000)

In these camps, GOAL will be providing:

- Shelter materials
- Essential household items (jerry cans, hygiene kits, kitchen items, bedding etc.) for recent camp arrivals.
- Therapeutic feeding programs for 6,500 malnourished children, including outpatient therapeutic care and stabilization center care.
- Training for community management of malnourished children.
- Screening of children upon arrival into the camps.

The descriptions above reflect the current situation, but GOAL anticipates that things will get worse before it gets better. As this unfolds, GOAL will be in place to react appropriately and effectively.

[GOAL article on emergency response in Dolo Ado](#)

Save the Children

Save the Children's goal in Dollo Ado is to establish a protective and nurturing environment for Somali children living in refugee camps based on appropriate community-based care and support systems and educational opportunities. They are carrying out this child protection and education work by:

- Strengthening the capacity of community based networks and mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and creating effective referral systems for cases of gender based violence. We are increasing the capacity of community-based networks and case management mechanisms to provide psychosocial support to especially vulnerable children.
- Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian institutions and structures to respond to child protection issues and providing appropriate care and support for separated and unaccompanied minors. We are providing unaccompanied, separated and orphaned children access to Family Tracing and Reunification support.
- Improving access to psychosocial support activities and care for children affected by crisis. We are providing increased access to structured and age appropriate activities for refugee children through Child Friendly Spaces.
- Improving access to educational opportunities for refugee children. We are conducting formal and informal emergency education for children starting from preschool education to completion of elementary school.

Save the Children's goal at the transit centers outside Dolo Ado is to provide a supplemental feeding program for malnourished children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women. There are estimates that as many as 45 percent of newly-arriving refugee children under age 5 at Dolo Ado are acutely malnourished, and death rates are at emergency levels.

- Supplementary foods are energy dense and rich in micronutrients, culturally appropriate, easily digestible and palatable. Fortified blended foods like corn-soya blend-plus will be used. We teach mothers and women how to prepare the pre-mixed supplementary food in a hygienic manner and also encourage women to continue to breastfeed children under age 2. 2,660 children under age 5 had been provided with supplemental meals so far.
- Save the Children also provides two hot meals daily for all refugees at the reception and transit sites. Adults receive rice, beans, pasta and meat; children ages 6 months to 2 years receive a corn-soya and oil blend.

[Save the Children Press Release on Refugee Camps](#)

Protecting Children in the Horn of Africa

As the ongoing humanitarian crisis and violence in Somalia is compounded by the worst drought in 60 years - children are experiencing high levels of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect during their journey to seek refuge in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Child Protection in Emergencies

Save the Children aims to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in emergency settings. Child protection programs aim to strengthen the capacity of institutions and people to implement structures and measures that protect children from gender based violence and exploitation, recruitment into armed forces, family separation, psychosocial distress and physical harm. Child protection measures and structures should be a key component of all emergency programming to ensure children are protected from harm.

Child Refugees in the Horn of Africa

Currently, Save the Children is concerned for children's well being and protection in the Horn of Africa – where children and their families are suffering from drought and are now on the move throughout the region seeking refuge from escalating violence in Somalia compounded by increasing hunger. We are particularly concerned for children's well-being and protection of those children who are fleeing from Somalia across the borders into Ethiopia and Kenya. UNHCR reports that in the first half of 2011 more than 83,000 Somalis fled into Kenya and over 54,000 into Ethiopia. The number of daily arrivals ranges from 1,300 to 1,700-. Children under 18 make up more than 85% of the refugees in the camps in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia and more than 70% in Dadaab, which include thousands of unaccompanied children separated from their families.

Save the Children recognizes when resources are low, children are at higher risk for exploitation and

violence. When children are also displaced and on the move, they are at a higher risk of suffering violence, abuse and family separation. Without protection mechanisms in place to ensure their right to protection children are the most vulnerable. Save the Children is particularly concerned for girl children as we have seen an increase in gender based violence abuses reported within the refugee camps – particularly forced early marriage, rape and sexual abuse and violence. The effect of sexual violence is devastating. Survivors are vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, psychological distress and to the spread of HIV and other diseases.



Children Vulnerable to Violence, Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect

Save the Children has seen a significant increase in reported cases of violence, exploitation and abuse. There is limited capacity within the refugee community to identify protection risks and appropriately respond to these concerns. Immediate child protection concerns include:

- **Gender-based violence:** Severe forms of gender-based violence experienced by children and adults on their way to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya with men, women and children experiencing forced rape and harassment along their journeys – requiring immediate care and support upon arrival. In Dadaab, the number of reported cases of gender based violence has increased over a two month period. UNHCR reported 358 incidents of gender based violence cases between January and June 2011 – four times the number of reported cases in the 2010 reporting period
- **Unaccompanied and separated children:** High numbers of unaccompanied and separated children urgently need appropriate care and support. Separated children are at increased risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, abduction, and trafficking. In Dollo Ado alone there currently 1,488 registered separated children. Community capacity to provide foster care for these children is overwhelmed and the need for continued increase in capacity for family tracing and reunification is urgent.
- **Psychosocial distress:** These refugee children have experienced or witnessed some form of violence compounded by distress associated with family breakup, forced migration, upheaval and malnutrition and hunger. Parents and children in the camps have reported an increase of children suffering nightmares, insomnia and sleep walking. There is a need for increase in provision of psychosocial support as well as opportunities for safe play and structured learning that will allow children to develop positive coping skills and build upon their natural resilience.

Save the Children Response

Save the Children is implementing family tracing and reunification, gender based violence prevention and response, and psychosocial support programs for vulnerable children. Save the Children is working to scale up protection responses across the region and recommends that all humanitarian actors consider child protection risks in their responses. Our programs focus on the need for community members to be aware of services available to them and

empowered to access them for children – including building and strengthening of identification, reporting and referral systems. Save the Children specifically recommends significant scale-up of prevention and response services for child protection and gender-based violence cases – with a focus on screening and appropriate care and support for new arrivals at registration centers.

Save the Children is supporting 1.4 million people in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, with food, water, medicine, and child protection.

Child Protection Concerns at a Glance

- *70%-85% of refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya are children under 18*
- *Save the Children case management workers are seeing an increase in reports of gender-based violence*
- *UNCHR projects 40,000 new arrivals in Ethiopia over the next few months*
- *Over 1,488 children are registered as separated from their family in Ethiopia*
- *Approximately 5% of the new arrival population of children in Kenya are separated from their family*
- *Children arriving in refugee camps unaccompanied are increasingly at risk. Camp management needs strengthening and delays in registration must be reduced.*



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