

The Danish Refugee Council

Ethiopia Program



August Update 2011

Continued Emergency Assistance for Somali refugees in Dollo-Ado

In response to the pressing emergency needs of Somali refugees in Dollo-Ado, DRC is working in the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs). DRC secured funds from Sida, Danida, HRF and own sources that aim to avail more than 12 thousand NFIs that goes to about 49 thousand refugees in Hilaweyn and Kobe refugee camps of Dollo-Ado. DRC has also received 4,500 plastic sheets and 20 family tents that will be distributed to households in Hilaweyn camp. A team of 60 daily workers is deployed in support of UNHCR/ARRA's operation of relocation that demands camp cleaning and setting up around 1,500 emergency tents.

On the other hand, DRC is to provide 9 thousand kerosene stoves along with 170 thousand liters of kerosene fuel in the beginning of the coming month. Apart from supplementing the household energy needs of refugees, this effort is expected to alleviate gender-based protection risks of refugee women during their daily chores of firewood collection.

Six different projects that would better off the lives of refugees and hosting communities in Dollo-Ado are also in pipeline to be launched soon. At this end, DRC has started off community-based planning. Realizing the harsh climate in Dollo-Ado that caused emergency tents to easily torn apart before three months at most, DRC is to start implementing its transitional shelter project. The project plans to construct refugee houses (made of Bamboos) that withstand the climate better for long use.

ABE School under construction

Following the endorsement of the Community Action Plan (CAP) by concerned line office of Kebribeyah district, DRC has started the construction work of ABE School for Labashag community. DRC has also given a training of financial management to members of the community development leaders.

Progress in the WASH Program

DRC produced slabs and beams that will be used for the construction of

household latrines. This is a continued effort DRC has been involved since last year. DRC has a plan to construct 120 household latrines for the local communities circling Somali refugees in Eastern Ethiopia.

DRC- assisted groups to open small restaurants

Seven refugee women groups, who have got training and materials for preparing locally made pasta, are to open small restaurants. DRC constructed seven small restaurants for these groups.

Updates

DRC to Launch Development Program in Gambella

DRC is under preparation to launch development program in Gambella regional state, located in the South Western part of Ethiopia neighboring South Sudan. The program, which is supported by ECHO, aims to improve the food security, and access to potable water and hygiene facilities in the region.

Welcome Gregoire

DRC welcomes Mr. Gregoire Duhem as area manager for its newly launched operations in Dollo-Ado. Mr. Gregoire is a well experienced man who has demonstrated his expertise in different emergency operations in Chad, Sudan and Somalia.

“No displaced person must be without help when it comes to finding protection and durable solutions”

DRC Launched Poultry Project

As part of the livelihoods program, DRC introduced poultry project to the local communities in Eastern Ethiopia. DRC is able to distribute poultry cage and chickens to 20 households. In a bid to help the community sustainably own the poultry farms in their backyard, DRC is organizing women groups that work in poultry husbandry.

Yusur Daheye is a 50 year old widow living in the agro-pastoralist community of Baldare, located in the outskirts of Awbare town. She makes her living by growing maize and sorghum in her farm land. She also owns a herd of cattle and equines that helped her restore from the recurrent drought her community faces almost every other year.

Yusur is one of the 786 farmers who received improved maize seeds from DRC this farming season. The seeds are outputs from the country's leading agricultural research institute that are adaptable to the weather and soil type of low-land areas like Baldare. 'I am happy to visit my farm, once remained bare land due to lack of appropriate seed,' She explains expecting to recover from the loss of last year's drought.



Press Digest

Alert Net, one of the widely read humanitarian news sites, reported DRC's work for the newly arrived Somali refugees in Dollo-Ado camps in Ethiopia. This news is extracted from the Alert Net's web-site posted on the 26th August, 2011. For details please visit: <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/drc-project-bamboo-to-be-used-for-refugee-shelter-in-ethiopia/>

Danish Refugee Council project: Bamboo to be used for refugee shelter in Ethiopia

“With a massive influx of people fleeing drought and famine in the Horn of Africa large amounts of emergency aid and shelter is needed for the refugees. A newly developed type of shelter made by bamboo from Ethiopia and built according to local traditions, is now being introduced by the Danish Refugee Council in Dolo Ado in the southern part of the country – a kind of shelter, which may prove to become far more common in the Horn of Africa.

Tens of thousands of refugees from Somalia have crossed the border to Ethiopia fleeing drought and famine – and more are coming. Dolo Ado in southern Ethiopia is among the areas trying to cope with the massive influx of refugees in need of aid and shelter. The Danish Refugee Council is one of the international organizations establishing and expanding the refugee camps in cooperation with the UNHCR. Right now, thousands of tents are pitched for the newly arrived refugees there. In several locations future tents are to be replaced by a new type of shelter....”

Telling the World

DRC is posting its regular monthly updates on its web-site for a quick reference of our activities. Please freely download from our website: <http://www.drc.dk/relief-work/where-we-work/horn-of-africa-and-yemen/ethiopia/>

"No displaced person must be without help when it comes to finding protection and durable solutions"

Voice of the People

'I would have a popular Photoshop in Lefeisa'

DRC is working to better off the livelihood opportunities of hosting communities in Lefeisa, a town close to Sheder refugee camp on the way to the Somali regional state capital- Jijiga. In March 2011, DRC staff **Anja Simonson** met a young innovative boy who has started the first Photoshop business in Lefeisa town with the help he got from DRC's microloan scheme.

Mohammed Hassen Nour is a 22 year old boy born and raised in Lefeisa. Mohammed starts by sharing pictures he took with me from a car accident that took place on the road between Jijiga and Lefeisa.

I ask him when he got the micro loan from DRC. He explains, 'In July 2010 I became a DRC beneficiary. I was a member of the Youth Association. DRC selected two groups from this town: The Youth Organization and the Woman Association. I made a future plan, a business plan. My first priority was to involve myself in furniture business but due to the small amount of money that the loan consists of I took my second priority which was a business plan as a photographer! I would not have the opportunity to even buy single furniture from the micro loan.'

I ask him where he got the idea from choosing to make a business plan based on taking pictures. 'Since I had the profession of taking pictures I chose the camera for my business plan. I used to work with a photographer before I got the micro-loan which was how I got the skill.'

I ask Mohammed what he did before the micro-loan. He explains, 'For a period of 6 years I worked at the furniture center in Lefeisa. Now, I work there part time.' I did not have the business of taking pictures before I got the micro loan from DRC. I earn around 50 Birr per month from this business.'

I ask him if it has had any effects for him to get the micro-loan from DRC and if, then how? 'No I did not get any inputs from the micro-loan. This local community is not familiar with the business of pictures and using pictures so my income is very small.' I ask Mohammed what he thinks it would take to increase his business. 'If the population increase and they get familiar with taking and buying pictures, then I could rent a

place and sell my pictures. This camera is not suitable for taking pictures that will be used for identity cards (ID). If my camera could have done that it would have been better. All of the students are going to Jijiga and other places to get their pictures for ID taken.'

I ask Mohammed why he bought this model of camera if it cannot take ID photos. He explains that he chose this camera because this was what he could get for the amount of money that the micro loan from DRC was on -1000 Birr.

I asked him if he got any training from DRC. 'I got one training in Sheder which was about how to manage a business plan.'

I ask Mohammed to explain to me what his job as a photographer is about? What does he do on a normal day as a photographer? 'When an event like a wedding is taking place or the farmers go to the field I go there with them and picture it. I print the pictures and sell them. I go to Jijiga to print the pictures since there is no printing machine here.' Mohammed explains to me that there is no fixed plan when working as a photographer. 'When an occasion happens, I follow it. On average, I work 2 days per week.'

I ask him if he is still a member of the Youth organization. 'I am still a member. I am taking pictures for the Youth Organization. That is my role. They pay a fee for me. By selling one picture, I get 6 Birr. It costs 3 Birr to print a picture in Jijiga.'

I ask him what his future hopes are? 'My future hope is to get all the instruments that I need for my shop here. I need a printer and a good camera. Then I would have a popular Photoshop in Lefeisa.'

DRC is an umbrella organization consisting of more than 30 members broadly representing civil society organizations in Denmark committed to the refugee cause.

DRC-Ethiopia, among the 30 country programs across the world, works for the wellbeing of Somali refugee caseloads in eastern Ethiopia.

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