

Jijiga, Ethiopia 41,705 6,947

Population statistics as of 31 August 2013

UNHCR Sub Office in Jijiga was opened following the arrival of Somali refugees to Ethiopia in the early 1990s. The influx increased significantly with the fall of the Siad Barre Regime in 1991 which led to the establishment of nine refugee camps at the eastern border of Ethiopia. The total population of Somali refugees at that time was over half a million, namely 628,000 persons. A few years later, most of these refugees were able to return to their places of origin. Following the voluntary repatriation that took place from 1997 until 2005, only Kebribeyah refugee camp remained open, hosting over 16,000 refugees. However, in December 2006, following the new outbreak of violence in Somalia, the operation restarted after receiving 833 new refugee families in Hartsheik seeking asylum. A new camp site was found in Aw-barre to house the new refugees. After Aw-barre camp was full to capacity in early 2008, the government started directing asylum-seekers to Lafaisa transit centre in March 2008. To relocate the newly arrived refugees, UNHCR jointly with the Government - ARRA - opened a new camp site at Sheder in May 2008.

