

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **World's largest refugee camp expands; tens of thousands expected to begin arriving today in Dadaab**

***World Vision providing tents, emergency relief supplies to 5,000 families***

DADAAB, Kenya -- The first of 30,000 Somali refugees are expected to move into a new area of the world's largest refugee camp today thanks in part to a donation of 5,000 tents by international aid agency World Vision. The tents will help protect the vulnerable from malaria, a potential killer, and especially children and those weakened by malnourishment.

Baaf Guled, 50, his wife, Mimino, and their six children says they were grateful to be moving into a tent after an arduous journey out of Somalia. He arrived in the Dadaab area two days ago after a 12-day walk from Mogadishu.

"We had nowhere to sleep so we slept out at night under the stars," says Baaf Guled. "I was worried for my family because of the mosquitoes and malaria. We left Somalia because of the violence and hunger."

The Dadaab complex sits on a windswept plateau close to the Somali border and houses 440,000 refugees. Most have fled drought at the rate of 1,800 per day – either into Kenya or Ethiopia. World Vision has already dispatched more than 2,500 tents to Dadaab and erected hundreds, ready for the arrival of the refugees who are being moved in from transition areas around the vast complex. The remaining 2,500 tents are enroute by airlift, due into Nairobi on Friday and then expected to arrive in the camp shortly, following a 460 km journey by road. The aid agency is working closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations' Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to establish this part of the camp.

World Vision's emergency communications officer, Mindy Mizell, who is in Dadaab waiting to see the refugees housed says: "Dadaab is a dry, dusty desert camp but is overflowing with a sea of people. There aren't enough tents for everyone moving in so families are building their own makeshift homes out of sticks, blankets and clothes. Having a tent is going to bring a huge improvement to people who are already in desperate straits."

The Dadaab complex is made up of three separate camp areas and the tents are going up in IFO extension, a new area that is designed to accommodate the ever swelling numbers of arrivals. The need remains urgent, and this intervention will meet approximately 12 percent of the 40,000 tents required. The tents have been provided through a partnership between World Vision and ShelterBox, a UK charity, and have been designed not only to protect refugees from the weather but also snakes and insects. World Vision has also distributed 5,000 emergency kits that include blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, cooking utensils, and personal hygiene items.

To support World Vision's relief efforts in the Horn of Africa, please visit [worldvision.ca](http://worldvision.ca) or call 1-800-268-5528.

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