

DOLOW

URBAN PROFILE

Working Paper and Spatial Analysis for
Urban Planning Consultations and
Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises



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Cover:
Children playing outside the school in Kabasa IDP settlements © Abdirahman Farah Barkadle.

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Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises - November 2018

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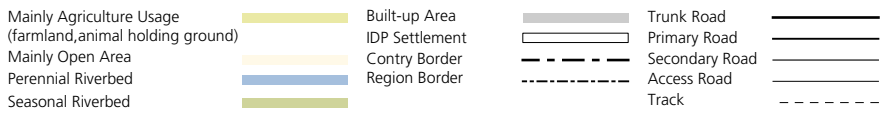
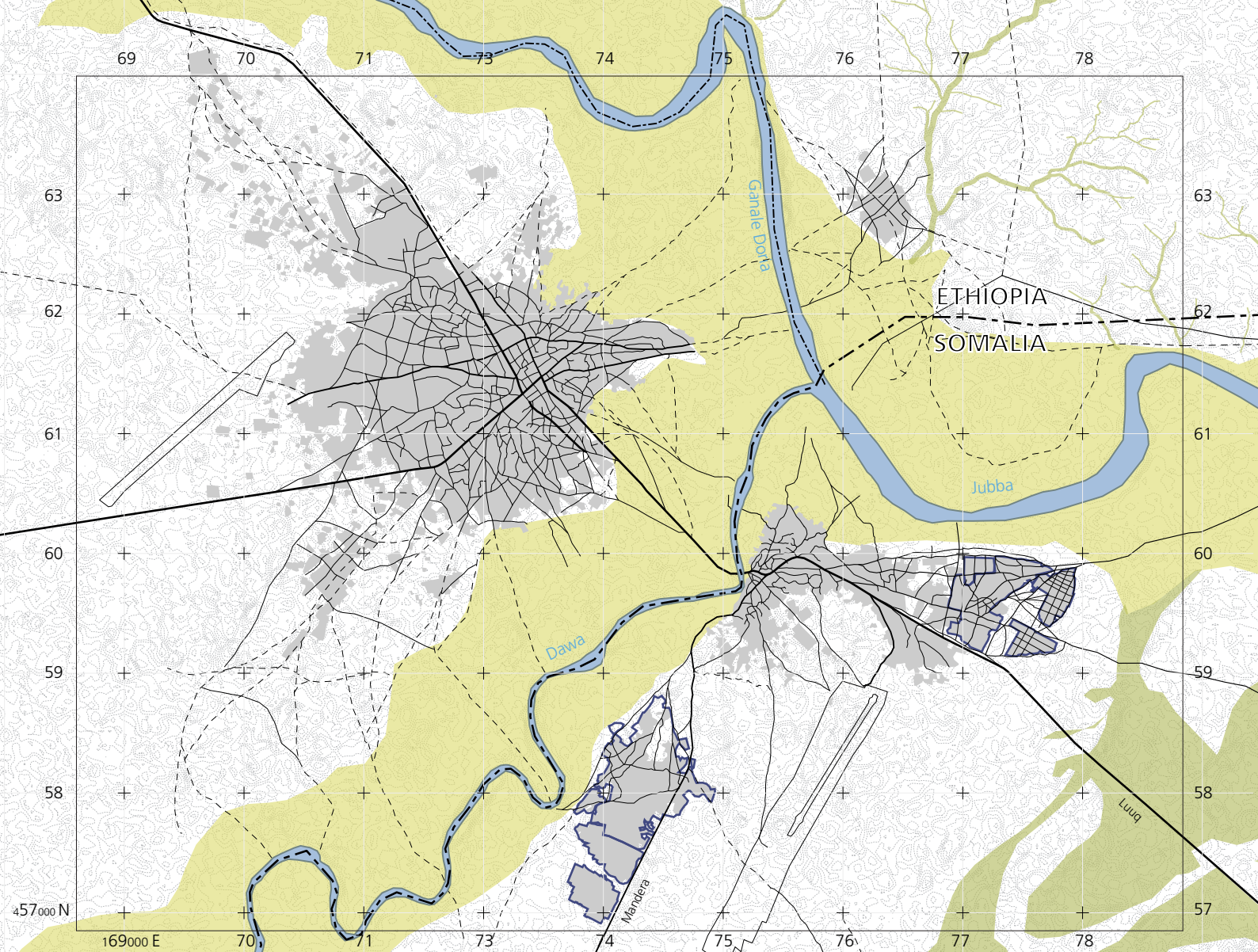


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INTRODUCTION



The Jubba River during the Deyr season in 2017

This working paper summarizes main aspects of an urban profile of Dolow from the spatial perspective. This analysis considers the development potentials and constraints of Dolow within a time frame of five to ten years.

Reference is made to other studies and data updates undertaken by UN agencies and other local and international stakeholders. However, given the current security situation in Dolow, there is no comprehensive study that captures in detail the situation of the town and its inhabitants.

Dolow's context displaces a great dynamism, where its stability and economic potential given its strategic location are matched by vulnerability to environmental threats and its attraction to IDPs. The development of Dolow therefore can change quite quickly as it also depends on the overall economic, social and environmental trends in the country, and the bordering countries: Kenya and Ethiopia. The paper attempts to capture the main settlement topics and link them to the demands of the various communities living in town (including returnees, IDPs and the host community).

Based on the current Community Action Planning Process in Dolow's urban villages and reflecting on local, state and national strategy papers and plans, the paper outlines proposals for town planning and transformations with the integration and upgrading of the many IPD settlements in a way that all residents benefit from the improved living conditions, better access to urban services and job opportunities.

It is hoped that this working paper contributes to the necessary public discussion on Dolow's future development and facilitates decision making by state and local authorities, in the interest of all.

This process is supported and funded under the Midnimo Project jointly implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).



An aerial view of Kabasa IDP settlement, South-East of the town

The Midnimo (Unity) Project has been developed to support the Attainment of Durable Solutions in Areas Impacted by Displacement and Returns in Jubaland and South West States. It stems from a newly established UN Peacebuilding Programme and aligns itself with broader peacebuilding and stabilization objectives championed by the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs and Regional Authorities in Jubaland and South West States.

The project is anchored on the following government frameworks:

- Wadajir Framework
- National Development Plan Somalia 2017-2019
- Peace Building Priority Plan
- Durable Solutions Initiative

The programme is intended to enhance local leadership capacities to facilitate the sustainable return, recovery, social integration and peaceful co-existence of displacement affected, returnees, other migrant groups and host communities.

It looks at solutions to enable some of the displaced people to return back to their villages, but also takes into account the creation of new homes in a safer environment with new opportunities to return to a normal life with jobs, education for children and health facilities for all.

In doing so, the project contributes in a new way to support the high number of IDPs in the rapidly growing cities of Somalia with a view to also serve the hosting communities.

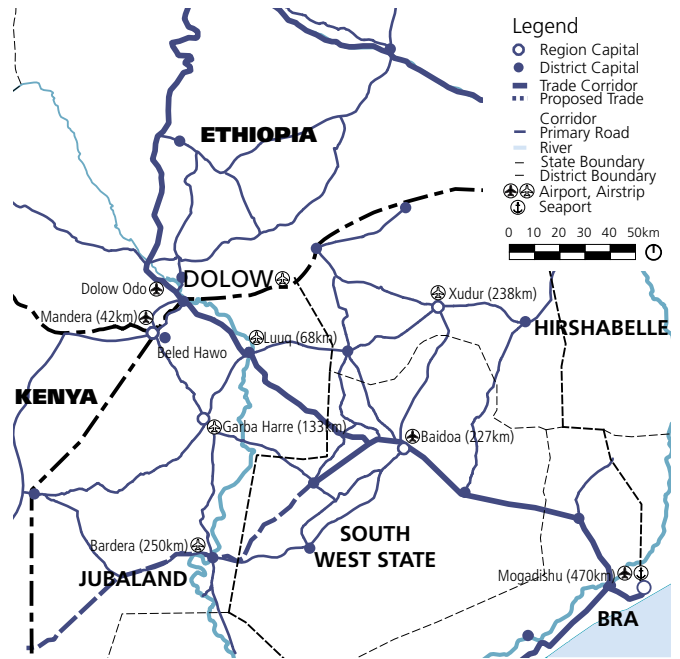
DOLOW TOWN INFORMATION

LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Dolow is the capital of homonymous district within Gedo region in the newly formed Jubaland administration. Gedo region comprises of 6 districts; Garba Harre (administrative capital), Bardera, Luuq, Dolow, Ceel Waaq and Beled Hawo. The region shares its borders with four Somali regions; Bay, Bakool and Middle Jubba and Lower Jubba. It is also bordered by Ethiopia and Kenya to the north and west respectively.

Dolow town is located approximately 470km northwest of Mogadishu. It lies about 70 km northwest of Luuq and 42 km North of the twosome Mandera - Belet Hawo, located at the Kenya-Somalia border. It sits on the banks of river Dawa and is where the Juba river starts flowing into Somalia taking its course South-East to Burdubo. The town shares international borders with Dolo Odo, a town in the west of the Ethiopian Somali Region.

To the north, on the Ethiopian side, the main settlements are constituted by the refugee camps of Buramino, Helawein, Kobe and Melkadida, which host more than 200,000 Somali refugees.¹



Dolow's Regional Context

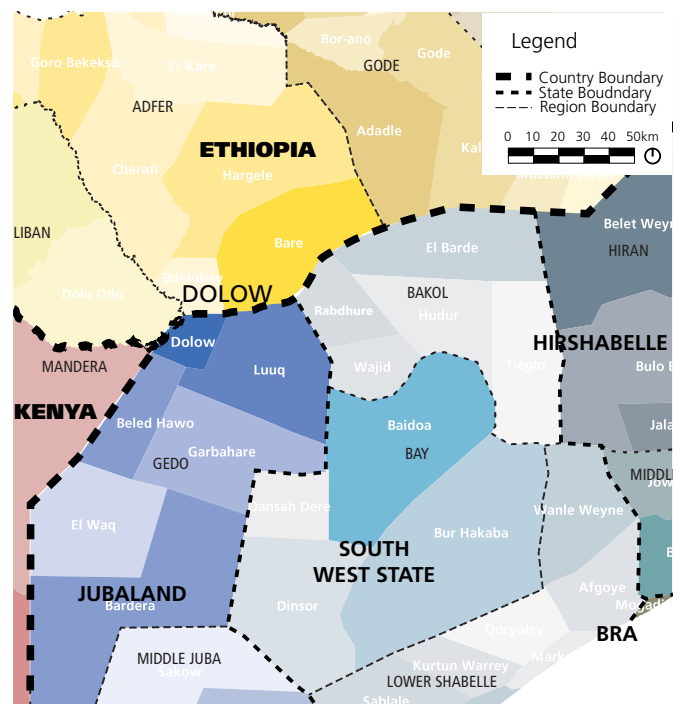
GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dolow is an administrative unit under the newly created state of the Federal Government, Jubaland State of Somalia which consists of the pre-war regions of Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. The state is headed by the President, elected by the Delegates Conference, and is composed of the Jubaland Central Government and Regional and District Administrations.

The government's role is outlined in the state's Interim Charter which after the Shari'a, is the supreme law of the land. The Charter provides a framework of governance and institutionalization of key services with consideration for traditional systems by making a provision (article 32) for the Council of Traditional Elders who act as government advisors and arbitrators of communal disputes.²

Administratively, Dolow town comprises of four urban villages:

- Halgan;
- Horseed;
- Elasha;
- Wadajir.



Administrative boundaries of Dolow's region

HISTORY

Dolow was one of the markets on the trade route that stretched from Bardera through Luuq to Ginir in Ethiopia.

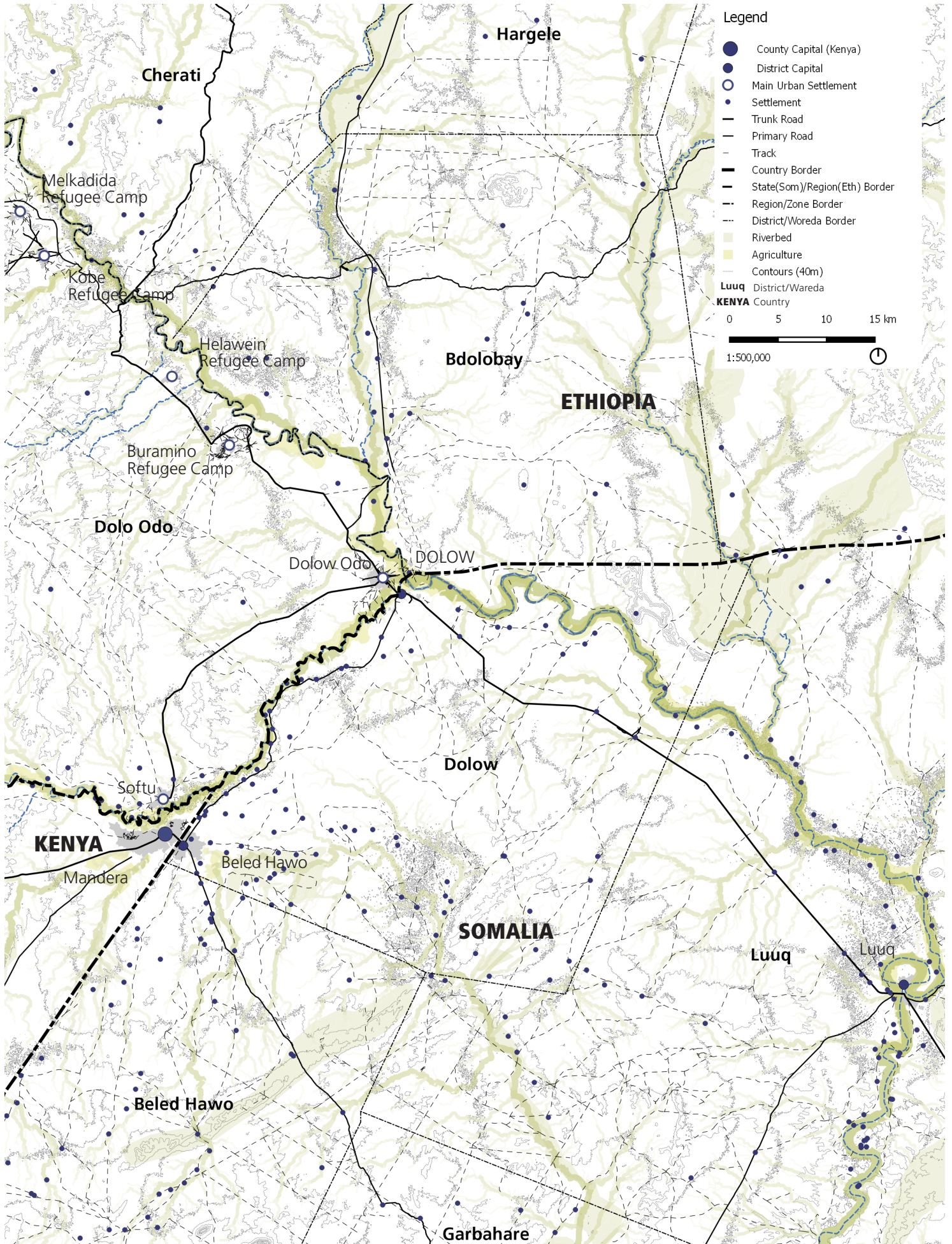
During the colonial period (1890-1960), towards the west of river Juba, the southern area of Gedo region was under British control.

The prewar period saw Dolow, characteristic of towns lying on disputed borders, suffer from strained relations between Ethiopia and Somalia, making its residents displaced multiple times and incurring property and loved ones' losses.

In the early 1990s', the town further suffered the predicament of rival militia and invasions by the Ethiopian army against extremism in Somalia.

After the fall of the Barre regime, the population of Gedo grew reaching almost one million, as many people moved to the border towns in an attempt to flee into the neighboring countries in search of refuge.

1. UNHCR Operational Portal - Refugee Situation in Ethiopia (last update 30 April 2018) (<https://data2.unhcr.org>)
 2. Draft Interim Charter of the State Government of Jubaland, March 2013



Dolow and its hinterland

URBAN GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

PEOPLE AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Gedo region is the second largest region of the country. As of 2014 it however only comprised 4% of the national population. Its population estimated at 508,000, consisting of 35% rural, 29% nomadic, 21% urban and 15% IDPs.

The region population continues to grow drastically due to natural factors as well as in-migration from rural areas. There is also an incessant influx of returnees and IDPs owing to Dolow's stable secure environment. Gedo hosts over 70,000 IDPs, making it the region with fourth largest number of IDPs nationally after Banadir, Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle.

Dolow district, as Gedo region, has an extremely high rural and nomadic population and one of the lowest urban populations. However, when the population figures from the 2014 UNFPA³ and 2005 UNDP⁴ estimates are compared, the town's population increased substantially over this period.

As per the districts administration records, the town currently has a population of 153,000. This is inclusive of IDPs and returnees.⁵

However, there are no updated population figures available. More recent data captured by the Demographic and Health Survey of UNFPA are supposed to be released by the second half of 2018, which should shed more light on the latest trends.

POPULATION ESTIMATION OF GEDO REGION - 2014

Urban Population	109,142	21.5%
Male pop.	56,261	51.5%
Female pop.	52,881	48.5%

URBAN GROWTH

The system of rivers (Genale, Dawa, and Juba) divide town of Dolow, on the South, from its Ethiopian counterpart Dolow Odo, on the North. A smaller settlement, Dolobaye, has grown recently on the east of the Genale.

The growth of both towns is determined by the waterbodies, as a buffer area of agricultural fields has been kept between the built-up area and the rivers. The Ethiopian town, consistently bigger, has expanded mainly towards North-East, along the main connection towards inner Ethiopia. The Somali Dolow grows instead around the bridge on the Dawa. Its expansion has followed mainly the road towards Luuq, around which a network of smaller roads without a clear hierarchy has developed. To the south, the airport has constituted a barrier for development. Only recently, construction has moved towards the West, in the direction of Mandera.

While Dolow Odo has constantly expanded in the last fifteen years, Dolow's growth has increased exponentially with the IDP influx, two large IDP camps/settlements. One, called Kabasa, located along the road to Luuq, between the road and the Jubba river and the other, Qansaxlay, along the road to Mandera, with most shelters lying between the river Dawa and the road. The sites started as spontaneous, but with more humanitarian interventions, some sectors in the sites have been planned and services provided. Following this, there has been the coming up of unplanned settlements in the area between the town and the sites.

While resettlement plans are being implemented by the CCCM cluster for the two sites (see pg.14) no actions are in place to regulate and manage the way new construction are taking place, posing threats of increased urban fragmentation, illegal occupation, land disputes and difficulties to provide basic services and infrastructure.

POPULATION ESTIMATION OF DOLOW DISTRICT - 2014 - 2005

Urban Population	7,559	18.3%
	5,674	

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