



**Hilaweyn Refugee Camp, Dollo Ado, Ethiopia**

**EDUCATION: 15 year old Halima is a student benefiting from the ‘Youth Education Pack’ Programme.**

**It takes 15 year old Halima 25 minutes to walk from her family’s shelter in Hilaweyn Refugee Camp in Dollo Ado, to the newly built school where she takes part in the Youth Education Pack (YEP) Programme currently being run by UNHCR and partners, and funded by The IKEA Foundation.**

“We have been in Hilaweyn for one year, and I have been going to school for four months. My parents are very proud of me.”

Halima, like the majority of her classmates at the YEP is Somali, and many of them share a similar story.

“We used to live in Somalia, but we had to leave because of the fighting and drought. My father was a farmer, but our cows, goats and donkeys all died because of the drought. We lost everything.

One night my father decided it was better that we leave. It was sudden. We and three other families from our village travelled together. We just took what we could carry and walked.

It was hard. I saw people dying on the way.”

After a 50km walk to the boarder, Halima, her parents and her seven siblings where transferred to Hilaweyn Refugee Camp in Dollo Ado, one of five refugee camps in Southern Ethiopia jointly managed by UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency - and government counterpart The Ethiopian Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

“When we arrived in Hilaweyn we were happy and relieved our journey was over.



The camp was safe, and life was more normal. I was also happy as I had the chance to go to school again. I missed my school from Somalia”

Open since November 2012, the YEP programme provides vulnerable 15-24 year olds with literacy, numeracy, life skills and vocational training in topics including tailoring, plumbing and construction. Currently the programme has 200 students, drawn from both the refugee community and the local ‘host’ community. The programme also provides psychosocial support to young people who have suffered the trauma of leaving home and losing loved ones. The students attend school for 8 hours a day, five days a week.

“Our days are very full, and we learn many things including numeracy and literacy, but my favourite lesson of all is English. Since I started school again, my English has really improved. I really enjoy learning it.”

*“In the future I hope to be a teacher of children. I want to earn a good wage so that I can help my family. I also want to help others who have not had the chance to learn.”*



Photos: © UNHCR/ R.Nuri  
Case studies written in February 2013. Data and figures correct as of March 2013. All names have been changed.

### About UNHCR

For six decades, UNHCR has helped save lives, restore hope and rebuild futures. As we strive to bring protection and solutions to millions of refugees around the world, some of the world’s leading corporations are helping us have maximum impact, providing an opportunity for collaborating together on initiatives that serve both their social and business interests.

### Contact

Partnership Manager: Claire Lamont  
Partnership Officer: Valerio Iovine  
Communications: Jeremy Sprigge

E: lamont@unhcr.org T: +44 (0)207 759 9511  
[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)