

SYNOPSIS :

DADAAB

The biggest refugee camp in the world

Photography by

Jean-Christophe HANCHÉ
Kenya - 2009

The civil war is raging in Somalia since the late eighties. Despite all the international community attempts to restore the political stability in the country (sometimes hazardous attempts), the fight continues and civilians are the ones who pay for this critical situation.

The Dabaab refugee camp is situated in the north of Kenya, in the North Eastern province, at about 60 Kilometres from the Somali border. Originally, in 1991, the camp was built to accomodate up to 60.000 refugees fleeing the civil war in Somalia. 18 years later they reached the number of 300 000 living in shelters that are totally unsuitable for a population of this size.

Over the years health and food problems have become dramatically difficult to solve. Furthermore, the proximity to the Somali border has the effect of exposing refugees of Dadaab to the attacks of armed Somali groups who regularly come there conducting reprisal operations in the camp as they consider as traitors those who choose to flee rather than fight in Somalia.

I realized this story in the second fortnight of April 2009, as a freelance photographer, after I found out reading by chance in an NGO report about the existence of the largest refugee camp in the world. Unable to find somebody disponsible to finance me, I have asked to individuals and entreprise to help and fund my project.