

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1991 Collapse of Siad Barre's government.
- 1991–93 Violence against civilians peaks in Jubba Valley region and villagers from Banta flee.
- 1992 Launch of Operation Restore Hope, a multinational humanitarian military intervention, followed in 1993 by UNOSOM, a U.S.-led UN-backed intervention.
- 1993 Black Hawk Down incident in Mogadishu and conclusion of UNOSOM.
- 1995 Some refugees in Dadaab return to Jubba Valley but many flee again for Kenyan refugee camps because violence is still pervasive.
- 1994–97 Somali Bantu refugees in Dadaab attempt to negotiate resettlement in Tanzania and Mozambique.
- 1999 United States agrees to accept 12,000 Somali Bantus for resettlement as “persecuted minorities.”
- 2001 Reverification in Dadaab of Somali Bantu names on Mozambique list for U.S. P2 resettlement.
- Somali refugees already resettled in United States begin moving to Lewiston.
- Lewiston and Portland jointly receive an Unanticipated Arrivals grant (2001–5) from U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement.

- 2002 Reverified Somali Bantus in Dadaab trucked to Kakuma.
 Mayor Raymond writes the Letter to Lewiston's Somali community.
 World Church of the Creator rallies to support Lewiston's right to bar entry for immigrants.
 Many and One Rally at Bates College opposes the Letter and the World Church of the Creator rally.
- 2004 Catholic Charities VOLAG agrees to provide services to refugees in Lewiston through the Unanticipated Arrivals grant.
 Somali Bantus begin arriving in United States.
- 2005 Somali Bantu families in United States begin relocating to Lewiston.
 Trinity Jubilee creates after-school homework help program targeting children from refugee families.
- 2006 Catherine and Jorge reconnect with old friends in Lewiston.
 U.S. Department of Justice mandates creation of ELL program in Lewiston public schools.
 Somali Bantu community association EBCO created.
- 2007 Somali Bantu EBCO wages campaign for self-representation and translation with social services providers.
 Mayor Gilbert elected.
- 2008 Maine Department of Health and Human Services assigns a supervisor the responsibility for overseeing refugees' benefits.
 Somali Bantu Youth Association of Maine created.
- 2009 International Clinic closed.
 Beth is hired by a local NGO to work on child development with ten refugee families.
 Local agency in charge of million-dollar federal empowerment zone grant denies all grant applications from refugee-based community groups but then reverses the denials and offers grant-writing workshops along with funding.
 Community collaborative subcommittee on parental concerns is disbanded after confrontational meeting between parents and school administrators.

- Lewiston High School graduates the first four Somali Bantu students.
- Museum LA *Rivers of Immigration* exhibit opens.
- Local newspaper publishes article alleging Somali gang attacks in downtown Lewiston.
- 2010 Police department opens downtown substation with community resource officers.
- Grief counselor allowed to offer a ten-week after-school program with ten boys from refugee camps who lost a family member.
- Memo circulated to teachers and social services providers warning about Somali GANGS.
- SBYAM oral history project with Somali Bantu teenagers and elders.
- Advice for America conference.
- First arrests of Somali Bantu youths.
- SBYAM begins meetings between refugee parents, social services workers, and police about parental concerns.
- 2011 Robert Macdonald elected mayor.
- 2013 Robert Macdonald reelected mayor.