

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

1 - 15 January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Voluntary Return to Somalia

A total of 341 individuals returned to Somalia on 6th, 10th and 15th January. Before departure, they underwent counselling by UNHCR and partners on conditions in Somalia, especially with regard to security. They also received a return support package comprising of an unconditional cash grant, essential travel and hygiene kits for use during the journey home, tools, food and other basic needs assistance to support the sustainability of return and reintegration in Somalia.



Non Food Items for distribution to returnees

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



Photo UNHCR Dadaab

One of the young returnees

The majority of these returnees arrived in Dadaab after 2010 from Baidoa and Kismayo. It has been confirmed that they all arrived in their destinations safely.

A total of 826 individuals have left Dadaab between the start of voluntary return movements on 8th December 2014 and 15th January 2015.

Resumption of full food rations

Refugees in the Dadaab camps received full food rations during the food distribution in the beginning of January. In mid-November, insufficient funding had forced the World Food Programme (WFP) to reduce the size of their food rations by half. Since WFP launched an urgent appeal alongside UNHCR, US\$45 million were raised for refugees in Kenya which enabled the agency to resume full rations on 1st January 2015. 76,106 households collected their rations across all five Dadaab camps.

Refugees receive cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and a nutrient-rich maize-soya flour blend, together providing 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. In addition, WFP provides specialized nutritional support for mothers and young children.

Security

On 13th January, a refugee man was shot dead by suspected robbers in Dagahaley Camp. This camp has seen several killings in the last months which led to increased tension and fear among residents.

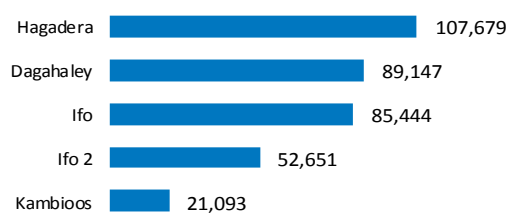
On 14th January, two men forced their way into the Protection Area in Ifo Camp and physically assaulted three female residents. One of the men was armed with a gun and fired in the air. The perpetrators left the facility shortly before the Police arrived at the scene.

The identity of the suspects in both cases remains unknown.

UPDATES

Population as of 1 January 2015: **356,014**

Refugees: 352,549
Asylum seekers: 3,465



Protection

Continuous Registration

- UNHCR embarked on a fast-track baby registration on 5th January. Parents brought their children along with their birth certificates to the UNHCR offices in the camps. Across all five camps, 2,506 babies were registered up to 15th January after which the exercise continued.

Having their children registered with UNHCR means that families receive food and other assistance for one more person.



Mothers and children awaiting registration in UNHCR's field office in Hagadera Camp

Photo UNHCR Dadaab

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- Over 830 individuals (ca. 520 female) benefitted from an awareness campaign on SGBV in Ifo 2 Camp. Community workers and staff of UNHCR's partner Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) met with refugees at the block level, at water tap stands, the hospital and health posts. Issues discussed included procedures on how to report SGBV cases at clinics within 72 hours, women and children rights, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early/forced marriages. The wider community was reached through radio shows, group meetings and focus group discussions.

Education

- A comprehensive workshop for Instant Network School 'teacher coaches' was held in Dadaab from 13th to 15th January. Teachers in the Instant Network Schools (INS) train fellow teachers in the use of the INS technology and help them learn how to use tablets and projectors for their lessons. The coaches are both national and refugee teachers based in the 13 schools that were turned into INS centers in September 2014.

The workshop provided them a forum to discuss the challenges they have encountered while using the technology. The group identified common difficulties and possible solutions. They were also trained in several areas including tablet care and maintenance; good practice in a blended environment (using both traditional and eLearning delivery effectively); child-centered learning; as well as monitoring and evaluation in the context of the project. Participants are expected to immediately be able to apply their new skills in the classroom and in preparing for their lessons.

Health

- UNHCR is strengthening its activities in the area of Child Mental Health. In the beginning of January, a UNHCR consultant visited partner agencies across the five camps and assessed current activities and needs. Community health workers and psychosocial counsellors are few in the region and most have very basic knowledge and skills in handling mental health challenges. The information gathered is used for a training of humanitarian workers in the second half of January. The training is expected to enable them to identify children with mental health issues and to provide adequate treatment.

Shelter and Site Planning

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



A drift under construction on the road between Hagadera and Kambioos

- The road between Hagadera and Kambioos is being improved through the construction of a 30m long drift. This will ease the movement between the two camps.
- Renovation of the Khadi's Court in Ifo camp started in December and continued smoothly throughout the first two weeks of January. The completion is expected in mid-February.
- Rehabilitation works in seven primary schools and one secondary school in Hagadera and Ifo were finalized in December in time for the start of the new term on 5th January.
- The construction of a 20m x 15m market stall in the newly demarcated Kambioos market was progressing well in the first two weeks of January.

Access to Energy and Environmental Protection

- Under the CIDA Light Years Ahead Project, UNHCR has finalized the installation of 750 solar streetlights in selected spots in both the refugee camps and host community settlements. 640 units were installed in the five refugee camps Dagahaley (130), Ifo 2 (150), Ifo (130), Hagadera (160) and Kambioos (70). 110 solar streetlights were installed in hotspots selected by the host communities from the following sub-counties: Fafi (40); Dadaab (55); and Wajir South (15). This was done in efforts to promote harmonious co-existence between refugees and the host community
- Extensive deforestation is a prevailing problem in the outskirts of Ifo 2 camp. UNHCR provided funds to its partner Relief, Reconstruction and Development (RRDO) to embark on a rehabilitation process through the establishment of a green-belt. RRDO fenced off nine hectares of badly eroded land and planted 7,000 tree seedlings of assorted species. RRDO also installed the requisite infrastructure for provision of water to the seedlings.



Newly installed Solar Street light in Kambioos

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- A soap production group supported by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has received certification by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS). The group now seeks to sell its products to shops and consumers within the camps.
- The Vocational Training Centers in Dadaab Town, Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo have started a new school year and enrolled students during the first weeks of January. Among the one-year courses offered are Computerized Secretarial, Electrical Engineering, Journalism, Tailoring and Dressmaking, as well as Carpentry.
- Green houses in Ifo 2, Kambioos and Hagadera camps have been set up in late 2014. Whereas KRCS targets vulnerable women, LWF focusses on elderly and Fafi Integrated Development Organization (FAiDA) considers

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



One of the tomato growers in Kambioos camp (LWF greenhouse)

vulnerability aspects as well as environmental protection. FAiDA has therefore embarked on including former charcoal burners into the projects in order to give them a new and environmentally friendly source of livelihood. All three agencies provide training to the beneficiaries in agricultural methods. The refugee teams working in the greenhouses consume some of their produce and sell the rest. This enables them to live healthier and to generate some income.

- Section and religious leaders highlighted drug abuse and illicit brews as the major social issues affecting the community in Ifo camp. This was done during a brainstorming session with agencies. The leaders also stated that these activities take place in specific blocks and that they not only jeopardize the health of the consumers but have also led to an increase in crime. DRA has undertaken works against these activities.



Durable Solutions

While voluntary return movement to Somalia have started, UNHCR continues to also seek other durable solutions for refugees living in Dadaab camps.

Resettlement

- UNHCR met with community leaders of all five Dadaab camps and sensitized them on new procedure regarding resettlement to the United States. Refugees from Dadaab will continue travelling to Kakuma for their interviews with US authorities but will then return to Dadaab before departure to the United States.
- 41 cases (213 individuals), including women and girls at risk, underwent interviews to verify family composition. 28 cases (90 individuals) were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Forms (RRF) processing and possible submission to resettlement countries. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided to 65 individuals in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps.
- During the first half of January, 43 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States of America. Movement passes were prepared for 73 individuals attending resettlement interviews at the Canadian Embassy in Nairobi.

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:
<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

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