

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE (1 > 15 MARCH 2015)

HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association (KEPHRA) Visit Dadaab

Members of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association (KEPHRA) visited Dadaab refugee camps from 13th to 16th March 2015. The mission comprised of five members of parliament who sought to collect views that will help in the development of a proposed amendment of the Refugee Act, 2006.

During their three days stay, they interacted with refugees, refugee host community members as well as other stakeholders in refugee affairs including government personnel, UN agencies and NGOs. The team held discussions on the Tripartite agreement signed in November 2013 by UNHCR, the Government of Kenya and the Government of Somalia on voluntary return of Somali refugees. Other issues discussed include the fate of Kenyans and refugees who are registered in both the refugee and the Kenyan citizens' data base. The team will continue working closely with the Department of Refugee Affairs' (DRA) led task force in review of the Refugee Act 2006. KEPHRA will later table the amendment Bill for debate in parliament.



Kenya's Members of Parliament Hon. Shukran Gure, Hon. Neto Agostinho and Hon. John Waiganjo during a tour of Ifo 2 refugee camp in Dadaab Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

A task force comprising of UNHCR, RCK, DRA, IRC, DRC, Heshima Kenya, Kituo cha Sheria and HIAS Kenya also visited Dadaab simultaneously with the MPs. They too met with refugees, host community members and other stakeholders to collect inputs that will help in drafting the national asylum policy on refugee management in Kenya.



A woman living with disability, passing her message on radio during the International Women's Day 2015 celebrations at Ifo camp. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

International Women's Day Marked in Dadaab

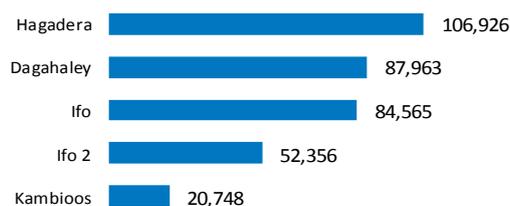
The 2015 International Women's Day was marked in Dadaab refugee camps on 8th March. Each camp held its own celebrations and women leaders led the celebrations with a theme "Make it Happen" encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women.

Through education, community communication and Community outreach activities, agencies in Dadaab work with community leaders and volunteers to advocate for community practices that do not discriminate against women.

SECTION UPDATES

Population as of 28 February 2015: **352,558**

Refugees: **349,013**
Asylum seekers: **3,545**



The General Security Situation

The general security situation in the Dadaab operational area was calm during the reporting period. No security incidents affecting the operations were reported. The major security threats however remain unchanged and security remain on high alert. The situation in the neighboring Mandera County continued to remain volatile. Mandera County Governor's convoy heading towards Wargadud via Elwak junction was attacked by armed men just before Fino centre along the eastern road.

Protection

General Protection Environment

- On 12th and 13th March, UNHCR hosted a Garissa High Court Judge, Hon. George Dulu. This was the first visit of the Judge following his appointment to Garissa Law Courts in 2014. He was accompanied by the Garissa Chief Magistrate, Garissa Principal Magistrate, the Kadhi and the Registrar. The team viewed the proposed courthouse site in Dadaab and held meetings with the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), the Sub-County Commissioner, the Police, UNHCR and partners on improving access to justice for refugees and the host community in Dadaab. Meetings were also held with refugee leaders in Hagadera Camp.

Access to Legal Assistance/Justice

- The Judicial Kadhi court which handles cases on personal law for litigants who profess the Muslim faith (Inheritance, Marriage and Divorce) was held in Dadaab from 2nd to 6th March. 21 divorce cases were concluded by the court. A letter of understanding between UNHCR and the mobile court was also finalized to allow biweekly attendance to cases in camps.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- 17 cases of SGBV were reported in Ifo 2 camp during the reporting period. Survivors underwent psychosocial counselling and those requiring medical treatment were referred to hospitals. It has been noted that in Ifo 2, domestic violence has increased due to unemployment, displacement and drug abuse. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) is addressing the conflicts by promoting livelihood activities, business training, and information sharing on gender based violence and refugee rights. Information dissemination sessions on prevention and response to SGBV were carried out during this reporting period and 1,628 persons (944 female) were reached. KRCS also conducted assessments to identify sheds/kiosks where the refugee community can establish businesses. Shop merchandise has already been delivered to 20 groups comprising of 200 women from Ifo 2.

Child Protection

- A mission from the Garissa District Civil Registrar's office led by the Registrar visited Dadaab camps during the reporting period for a whole month mission which shall end on 28th March. During their stay, the team shall issue civil documentation to persons of concern. While pointing out that all children born within Kenya are entitled to birth certificates regardless of whether they delivered at home or at hospital, the Registrar emphasized the need for UNHCR and partners to intensify campaigns in camps that will encourage hospital delivery.

Registration Activities in Camps

- During the reporting period, UNHCR resumed fulltime continuous registration activities across all camps. 43 new born babies were registered and 182 individuals consisting of 37 households were inactivated from the UNHCR database after they were confirmed to have voluntarily returned to Somalia. 51 unregistered new arrivals were registered by DRA and subsequently registered in the UNHCR database.
- UNHCR continued with its Operational Data Management and generated statistical reports and manifests for different functional units including preparation of statistics for the voluntary return pilot project for Somali refugees. 420 households consisting of 1,953 Somalis had been recorded to have voluntarily returned to Somalia by the end of this reporting period.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- During the reporting period, the average number of days taken from the time of first instance RSD interview to decision notification was noted to be 90 days. Since July 2014, all RSD decisions are being endorsed by the Kenya's Commissioner of Refugee Affairs. In the reporting period, 32 first instance RSD interviews were conducted, 21 cases were rescheduled. 14 no show cases and 11 RSD assessments were submitted for review.

Education

- During the reporting period, 23 primary schools in Dadaab camps were registered by the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) as extermination centers for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Dadaab camps currently have 35 primary schools with integrated Early Childhood Development Centers with a total enrolment of 89,194 learners. The schools have 1,183 teachers, 31% of which are trained. 5% are termed as 'qualified teachers' and recognized by the Ministry of Education.



*Primary school children at Unity primary school in Dagahaley camp.
Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab*

- The 2014 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results were announced during the reporting period. 636 students from 6 examination centers in Dadaab camps had sat for KCSE in October 2014. The results indicate a significant improvement from 2013; 16% of candidates scored high grades and are eligible to join universities in Kenya, 35% are eligible for tertiary education in middle level colleges and 38% are eligible for vocational training. Only 10% of candidates performed poorly.
- During the reporting period, Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) in collaboration with the Garissa County Scouts Association organized a scouting program for students from Dadaab camps to promote peace building and environmental conservation.
- Save the Children launched its 2015 implementation plan for the Alternative Basic Education (ABE) programme. The programme has four components; Early Childhood Education, catch up classes, literacy and numeracy and vocational skills for young mothers. The activities which have been scaled down due to limited funding will be carried out in the three ABE centres in Hagadera camp. A total of 66 learners (39 girls) have been promoted to formal education after attending catch up classes in 2014.
- In Dagahaley camp, CARE International laid off 58 community teachers due to budgetary constraints.

Health & Special Needs

- The Kijabe Hospital medical team carried out medical screening for persons with disabilities in need of correctional surgery. A total of 191 individuals were screened and 44 identified as being in need of surgery. Only 18 children however, will benefit from surgery from the budget available. The children have club foot and cleft lips.
- On 12th March, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) transferred 45 refugee patients with eye illnesses from Ifo 2 camp to the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) hospital in Hagadera camp where a five day eye surgical camp was held. The eye surgical camp which is funded by Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) commenced on Monday 9th March 2015 will benefit refugees with eye conditions in all five Dadaab camps. This was organized by IRC in partnership with KRCS, Islamic Relief Kenya and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).
- During the reporting period, a joint assessment on Child Friendly spaces (CFS) was carried out in Ifo 2 camp by Handicap International (HI) and Save the Children (STC). Eight children with disabilities were identified and referred to Kijabe International Hospital for surgeries. HI facilitated the transfer of three more persons of concern in Ifo 2 camp to Kijabe for orthopedic and cleft lip repair surgeries.



Doctors performing eye surgery at the IRC hospital in Hagadera refugee camp. Photo: KRCS/K. Farah

Shelter and Site Planning

- Construction of a new market in Kambioos refugee camp has been completed. Kambioos is a new camp which was established in 2012. Its residents have had to walk for about six kilometers to access basic commodities at a market in neighboring Hagadera camp which was established in 1992. The new market will provide trading opportunities for Kambioos residents who include refugees and their host community.
-
- New market stalls in Kambioos camp. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab*
- Meanwhile, the demarcation of 640 plots with two spaces for open air markets and an animal market has been completed in the camp. One large market stall is currently under construction. The roofed market has 40 stalls and is planned to be allocated to the very vulnerable refugees who are not able to put up stalls for themselves. UNHCR also plans to install a water supply system with taps and fire hydrants at strategic points in the market. Access roads to the new market are being made wider to avoid fires that are common in congested markets in the older camps.
 - Construction of a market in Ifo 2 refugee camp, another new camp which was established in 2011 has commenced. Ifo 2 residents have been travelling long distances to Ifo and Dagahaley camps (which were established in the early 90's) to access basic household commodities.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is in the process of identifying beneficiaries of a business incubation project which aims at mentoring groups in business and providing them with start-up kits. The response of the community has been overwhelming with over 100 groups in Kambioos and Hagadera camps applying for consideration. Only 4 groups will however benefit from the project. In 2015, DRC has also planned to offer technical skills and training to some 20 individuals in Dadaab camps. The training shall include tailoring, ICT and hair dressing.



One of the greenhouse projects established in Ifo 2 camp by KRCS.
Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

- 60 women are currently harvesting tomatoes from greenhouses set up in Ifo 2 camp three months ago by the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). 26 groups comprising of 10 women each, who have been involved in the upkeep of the greenhouses shall be selling the tomatoes at their joint shops. The women have also completed a course in business management.

- UNHCR and Fafi Integrated Development Association are in the process of identifying 132

beneficiaries of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), an alternative source of cooking energy. This is the second innovation project piloted in Dadaab under the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) light years ahead project. Click the link below to watch a short documentary about the project; ***CIDA Light Years Ahead Project in Dadaab Refugee Camps*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC3FiwbDoH8>

Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, seven cases comprising of 24 individuals were submitted to UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom. Additional 29 individuals (including 6 spouses and 23 new born babies) were added to cases already in the US resettlement processing pipeline. A total of 14 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom (7) and Norway (7).
- The Swedish Immigration Board which arrived in Dadaab on 23 February, left on 04 March after successfully completing the adjudication of approximately 200 individuals. The acceptance rate was approximately 90.6% of the 64 cases that showed up for interviews.

Voluntary Return to Somalia

- Two convoys with 182 individuals left for Somalia on 5th and 12th March respectively. Since December 2014 when the pilot exercise began, 1,953 individuals have returned voluntarily to Baidoa, Kismayu and Luuq regions of Somalia. For this pilot project, Integrated Return Help Desks, comprising UNHCR, Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), have been established in all Dadaab camps. The desks provide information related to return.

Contacts

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit, kendapi@unhcr.org, Cell +254 704 381 822

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

[facebook.com/unhcrkenya](https://www.facebook.com/unhcrkenya)
twitter.com/UNHCR_Kenya

twitter.com/AhmedBaba_Fall
twitter.com/SiljaOstermann