

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

1 - 15 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Resumption and Enhancement of Voluntary Return Movements to Somalia

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab



Returnees packing belongings for their trip to Somalia

Voluntary return movements resumed on 9th June, following a temporary suspension of return convoys due to rains that made roads impassable in Somalia. During the first half of June, three convoys with a total of 265 returnees departed Dadaab and arrived safely in Somalia. The total number of returnees provided with return support packages since December 2014 stands at 2,313 individuals.

The voluntarily return process is being strengthened and new returns areas were announced on 4th June to allow more refugees who have expressed their desire to return to do so. This includes Mogadishu, Jowhar, Afgoye, Baledweyne, Wanlaweyn, and Balcad districts in Somalia. This is in addition to the existing areas of return Kismayo, Baidoa and Luuq. While reintegration assistance will only be available in the nine indicated areas thus far, the return package will be given to all refugees seeking assistance to voluntarily return to any area of Somalia.

The unconditional cash grant provided to returning refugees has also been increased from 80 to 120 USD: while persons with special needs will receive 150 USD (previously 100).

Since the announcement of newly added return areas, increased trends of refugees visiting the return help desk and declaring their intention to return have been observed.



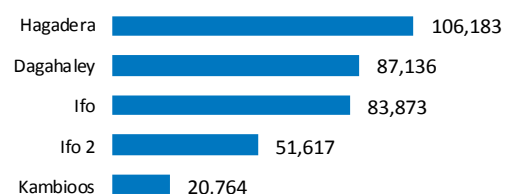
Children before boarding the bus to Somalia

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

UPDATES

Population as of 1 June 2015: **349,573**

Refugees: 346,216
Asylum seekers: 3,357



Protection

- In the first half of June, 335 Individuals across the five Dadaab camps benefited from protection counselling at the UNHCR field offices. Their inquiries focussed on Resettlement and Refugee Status Determination (RSD), family reunification, child protection, physical safety and legal support following Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as well as requests for relocation to Kakuma refugee camp and camp transfers within Dadaab camps. The cases were assessed and interventions or referrals made for appropriate assistance.

Education

- UNHCR prepared a survey on its Accelerated Education Program (ALP). The program provides compressed courses for children and young adults who have passed the regular age for primary and secondary education. During the first half of June, 13 refugee data clerks were trained to conduct the survey over the following six months.
- 288 refugee students from Dadaab currently receive tertiary education and technical skills development in various universities and colleges in Nairobi, Mombasa, Garissa and other towns in Kenya with funding from UNHCR. Another 169 refugee students are undergoing similar training though funding from bi-lateral donors. The students are currently in the middle of the semester. Monitoring conducted at the beginning of June confirmed that the students' performance is above average. UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) works exclusively with institutions and courses approved and accredited by the Kenyan Ministry of Education.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance



Recycling Group in Hagadera camp

- The Participatory Assessment 2015 was conducted on 3rd and 4th June across the five camps. All partner agencies participated in the exercise which involved focus group discussions with the refugee community.
- A self-help group that deals with recycling of plastic, in Hagadera camp, received Guidance and Leadership training through UNHCR's partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The group buys hard plastics from collectors in the camp and thereby contributes to effective camp clean-ups. They later shred the plastic in their factory and sell their produce. There are plans to link the group to markets in Nairobi to establish business relationship and cooperation outside the refugee camps.
- 257 young men and women have completed their six months training courses in DSTV & Solar Panel Installation, Housekeeping and Hospitality, Journalism, Barbering and Kitchen Gardening and Henna Decoration.

A total of 885 youth (542 male, 343 female) are currently enrolled in the vocational training centers managed by NRC. 628 more youth will continue with their one-year course scheduled to be completed in December 2015.

- 155 group constituting of 2,019 women and 430 men are so far participating in community-based group saving and loan schemes. UNHCR's main Livelihood partner DRC reports that the groups have accumulated savings of 878,075 Kenyan Shillings. Loans of a total of 99,650 Kenyan Shillings haven been disbursed to group members.



Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

Youth playing soccer near 9lfo camp

Health

- A one-month campaign focusing on the reduction of stigma against people living with mental health disabilities started in the beginning of June. As a part of the campaign, primary schools across the five Dadaab camps launched a writing competition with the topic “How I can help person with Mental Health Disability”. During the home assignment, children composed their essays together with their parents. The authors of the best essay from each camp will participate in a talk show on the community based radio.
- From 2nd to 12th June, a gynecologist consultant visited Dadaab within the framework of the reverse referral program implemented by UNHCR and one of its health partners Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). During the visit, 200 patients were consulted and 17 patients operated across the camps.

Food Security and Nutrition

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNHCR conducted the first cycle of the biannual Malezi Bora campaign in Kambioos and Hagadera camps. The campaign focuses on accelerated maternal and child health activities. Activities included deworming children 2-15 years, Vitamin A supplementation and Mass MUAC screening of all children 6-59 months.
- Action against Hunger (ACF) suspended its Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Programme (MIYCN) in Dadaab camps and the host community for security reasons. Since 2012, ACF had provided technical support to health and nutrition staff through training and mentorship, conducted several assessments of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives (BFHI) and spearheaded the development of the MIYCN communication strategy.
- WFP Kenya officially announced the temporary reduction of the food basket by 30% from 15th June. WFP expects that the ration cut will need to continue at least through September unless new funds become available very quickly. The last food reduction for refugees in Kenya took place in mid-November 2014, when WFP was forced to cut the ration by half due to a shortage of funds. The following month, new funding allowed WFP to increase rations. Full rations resumed from the start of this year. WFP’s official statement:

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/lack-funds-forces-wfp-reduce-food-rations-again-refugees-kenya>



Photo International Rescue Committee/ Hagadera Camp

Child during MUAC screening in Hagadera camp

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, a total of 16 cases comprising of 64 individuals (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 14 cases comprising of 42 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries. 23 new born babies were added on to cases for resettlement to the United States of America and Australia. 37 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to Sweden and Australia.

Host Community Relations

- In the morning of 8th June, a group of inhabitants of Dadaab constituency gathered at the entrance of the multiagency compound in Dadaab town. Their main focus was on employment issues with one of the humanitarian agencies in Dadaab. The demonstration was authorized by the police and declared to be peaceful. When UNHCR vehicles attempted to leave the compounds for the camps, the demonstration turned violent and stones were thrown at the vehicles. This caused the suspension of field activities in three of the five Dadaab camps for one day and the cancellation of the regular UNHAS flight.
- In reference to provision of enhanced development support to the host community, the respective host communities from Dadaab, Fafi and Wajir sub-counties were provided the opportunity to map out project proposals that were presented to UNHCR and other agencies to mobilize funding for implementation. The project proposals were validated by the Garissa County Government at a one-day workshop organized by UNHCR on 8th June in Garissa Town.

Environment

- World Environment Day was commemorated on 5th June. Prior to the day, Relief, Reconstruction and Development (RRDO) and Fafi Integrated Development Organization (FaIDA), UNHCR's local partners for Environment, Energy and Host Community support projects, organized tree planting by refugees and agency staff in the refugee residential compounds, as well as in degraded areas designated for rehabilitation around Ifo 2 camp. The agencies also conducted enhanced environmental sensitization.

Activities on 5th June included clean-up and tree planting exercises which were undertaken jointly by members of the refugee and host community, staff of humanitarian agencies and government officials. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) led the refugee community in planting trees in Ifo 2.



Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

UNHCR staffer and host community youth planting trees before the camp clean-up exercise

Contacts:

Silja Ostermann, osterman@unhcr.org Cell +254 704381822

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit, kendapi@unhcr.org

Web portal on Somali Displacement:

<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

facebook.com/unhcrkenya

twitter.com/UNHCR_Kenya

twitter.com/AhmedBaba_Fall

twitter.com/SiljaOstermann