

UNHCR Dadaab Update 13/13

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

01 – 15 October 2013

New developments

New food collection system goes live

On 1 October, the New Food Collection Procedures became mandatory. As of then, nobody outside the new biometrical system is allowed to collect food. Overall, the new system was seen to be working well. 85% of the eligible households presented themselves at the food collection points. Of these 85%, 15% had a problem with the fingerprint identification and were referred to litigation. Most were cleared through litigation and allowed to collect their food rations, and at the end only 3% were rejected for various reasons. These were referred to the UNHCR Field Office in their respective camp for clarification of their situation.

The majority of the rejected consisted of unaccompanied minors and separated children, with the average age of 10. Their parents or guardians were reported to have left Dadaab, while the children had stayed behind under the care of relatives. After clarification of their situation, these children have now been assigned Alternate Food Collectors (AFC). Others who came to the Field Offices because they had not yet been assigned AFCs included sick, elderly, and disabled persons. The number of persons seeking card mergers was relatively high due to the introduction of the new system.

The food distribution cycle proceeded peacefully, with no major incidents or protests. The newly elected refugee leadership has been very supportive of the implementation of the new system, something which regrettably was not always the case with the old leadership.

Security

In the night of 11 October, a police patrol detected a group of men digging a hole in the middle of a road in Hagadera camp. The men ran away as the police approached. Although nothing was found at the site, the only reasonable explanation for anyone to dig a hole in the middle of the road at night would be that they were about to plant an improvised explosive device (IED). This is the third such incident of suspected attempt to place an IED in the camps this year and the second such incident in Hagadera.

There were no major security incidents in the refugee camps apart from robberies in Ifo and Ifo 2, in which three persons were shot and wounded. One concern was renewed reports of movements of armed elements across the border from Somalia. It was also reported that Kenyan police in collaboration with the Somali National Armed Forces were carrying out an operation to recover weapons from Somali army deserters who had sought refuge in the camps. These armed deserters were believed to be involved in a number of criminal incidents.

In another development, two night guards at a borehole in Ifo 2 were attacked by gunmen who jumped over the fence and robbed them of their uniforms. This was seen as potentially worrying since the stolen uniforms would be of value for bandits and terrorists, for obvious reasons.

The notorious bandit leader Kassim was killed in a shootout with police on 4 October in which another member of his gang was also killed. Kassim's gang had been terrorizing the region for the last ten years. Two other bandits were shot dead by police on 11 October.

Statistics

Population as of 14 October 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
114,475	19,911	104,560	100,821	65,533	405,300

Protection

SGBV

The Chief Magistrate's Court (mobile court) held a session in Dadaab in the first week of October. It was observed that the prosecution of sexual offences had become a consistent feature at the sittings of the court. This may be attributed to more awareness and assertiveness on the part of SGBV survivors. There has also been a marked improvement in the quality of complaints and witness statements. One remaining concern was that medical practitioners were usually failing to attend court, leading to adjournments and subsequent withdrawals of cases. It is to be hoped that the recent training of medical staff on presentation of medical evidence carried out by Refugee Consortium Kenya and UNHCR will instil confidence not only to attend court when summoned, but also to present medical evidence in a clear and concise manner. A total of six sexual offences were heard, with one judgment delivered.

Child protection

A community-awareness forum on child defilement was held at Kambioos, where this crime is rampant. Some 1,000 persons attended the forum and were educated on children's rights, avenues of redress, and the negative impact of addressing the matter through the religious courts, which has greatly undermined the fight against this crime. The meeting was addressed by community leaders, women's leaders, religious leaders, and the child protection agencies.

Resettlement

32 individuals comprising of 14 cases were submitted to the US for resettlement consideration. So far in 2013, 1,500 resettlement submissions have been made to various countries, and it is anticipated that the Dadaab operation will conduct 600 submissions above the allocated quota of 1,300. Those above the quota of 2013 will be submitted in 2014. In practical terms this means that the resettlement process has become faster, which is benefiting refugees. This good result can be attributed to the dedication of resettlement staff who have undertaken training, including in identification and referral criteria.

Departures: 81 individuals departed for onward resettlement during the reporting period.

Resettlement departures 1 – 15 October 2013		
Country	Cases	Individuals
US	10	22
Sweden	9	28
Australia	4	19
Canada	4	12
TOTAL	27	81

Total departures since 1 Jan 2013: 1,121 individuals.

Education

UNHCR conducted a mission to Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) headquarters to recover 78 Kenya Certificates of Primary Education (KCPE). The students had sat for their exams in 2010 at Midnimo Primary School in Ifo camp but never received any certificates. KNEC assured the mission that the certificates had been sent to the KNEC office in Garissa. As the search continues, KNEC allowed affected students wishing to register for the 2014 KCSE (secondary) exams to do so using the printouts of the results slip.

Health and nutrition

World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 10 October with various activities. The theme this year was mental health and elderly people. A mission from UNHCR headquarters was conducted to assess and support mental-health and psychosocial activities in the camps.

A new centre for multiple-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) cases with a capacity of 40 beds was opened. There has been a steadily increasing number of MDR-TB cases arriving from Somalia to seek treatment in Dadaab.

The preliminary results of the 2013 annual nutrition survey were released on 11 October. The results show a general reduction of global and severe acute malnutrition rates and anemia across the camps.

Livelihood

UNHCR and partner agencies supported refugees from Dadaab who participated in the Nairobi International Trade Fair 1 – 6 October. Participation in the fair provided a platform for refugee entrepreneurs to access local, regional and international markets as they interacted with other traders and producers and established linkages with potential consumers.



Refugees from Dadaab exhibiting their products

Photo: George Omondi / UNHCR

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[facebook.com/DadaabAlinjgur](https://www.facebook.com/DadaabAlinjgur)

Webportal on Somali Displacement:

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