

# UNHCR Dadaab Update 06/14

Refugee Camps in  
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 15 April 2014

## LATEST NEWS – Urban Refugees Arrive in Dadaab

23 April 2014

79 refugees and asylum seekers who had been residing in urban areas arrived to the Dadaab camps on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April. They were transported by the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) from the Safaricom Stadium in Kasarani, Nairobi, to Hagadera camp.

*UNHCR staff member  
interviewing urban refugees in  
the transit centre  
of Hagadera camp*



The first group of 23 urban refugees and asylum seekers left Nairobi at around 22:00 hrs on 18<sup>th</sup> April and arrived to Hagadera at 11:30 hrs the next day. The second group of 56 persons left Nairobi at around 22:00 hrs on 18<sup>th</sup> April and arrived in Hagadera in four smaller groups in hardtop land cruisers on 19<sup>th</sup> April between 11:00 and 17:00 hrs.

The new arrivals, who were exhausted from the journey and their stay in Kasarani stadium, were given drinks and a hot meal. Sick persons received medical treatment and were transferred to Hagadera hospital. UNHCR staff interviewed the new arrivals and collected information on their status and families they had left behind in Nairobi. Among the 79 are 41 Somalis, 36 Ethiopians, one Kenyan and one Cameroonian. 59 are registered refugees (some of them registered only with DRA in Nairobi) and 20 are unregistered. Of the 41 registered Somali refugees, 20 had registered in the Dadaab camps and 21 in Nairobi.

48 mostly Somali refugees joined relatives and friends in Hagadera, Ifo and Dagahaley. The remaining 31 persons originate from Ethiopia and Cameroon and are currently staying at the transit centre in Hagadera camp. UNHCR distributed blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and mosquito nets to them.

Issues of concern to UNHCR include:

- Many families have been split, including children separated from parents. The refugees and asylum seekers were transported directly from Kasarani stadium to Dadaab without notice to family members or the opportunity to reunite with them;
- Refugees registered in Nairobi were relocated to Dadaab without being given the opportunity to collect their property;
- Persons who do not wish to seek refuge and therefore do not require protection of UNHCR were brought to Dadaab;
- A 15 year old Kenyan national and people married to Kenyan nationals were brought to Dadaab.

Arrests and detentions of refugees in Nairobi and other urban areas in Kenya started on 1<sup>st</sup> April as part of a large scale security operation of the Kenyan government. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Kenyan government had issued a directive stating that all urban refugees would be transferred to camps in Dadaab and Kakuma.

The next UNHCR Dadaab Update 07/14 covering the period 16-30 April 2014 will contain further details about this

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### Resumption of Registration

The moratorium on the registration of unregistered persons of concern has been lifted. UNHCR set up registration centres in all five Dadaab camps for joint use by DRA and UNHCR. Registration started on 14<sup>th</sup> April in Kambioos. As of 15<sup>th</sup> April, 341 refugees had been registered by both DRA and UNHCR. Newly registered refugees will be assigned plots and issued with core relief items such as tents, sleeping mats, kitchen sets and jerry cans. They also receive food ration cards.



*A family being registered in Kambioos on 15<sup>th</sup> April*

In preparation of the registration, UNHCR trained 45 new DRA Registration Officers and Registration Assistants. The five day-training included sessions on protection principles, eligibility procedures, registration procedures and refugee documentation.

### Explosions at Dadaab Airstrip

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April multiple explosions at Dadaab airstrip interrupted the generally stable security situation of the last months. Three explosions took place between 20:45 and 21:30 hrs inside the airstrip, outside of the perimeter fence and at the main gate damaging a pillar. No person was injured. It is believed that the explosions were caused by improvised explosive devices and a grenade. The motive and identity of the perpetrators are not yet established.

The following morning, at about 07:00 hrs the police gave the go-ahead for humanitarian operations to proceed. Two flights from Nairobi to Dadaab were delayed for few hours.

## PROTECTION

### General Protection Environment

On 9<sup>th</sup> April, UNHCR and DRA, met with the Dadaab Assistant Commissioner of Police in response to reports that police were rounding-up refugees in the Dadaab camps. It was agreed that Cordon and Search Operations should only take place in extraordinary situations and be limited in scope and time.

### Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

In Ifo camp, UNHCR launched anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) talks with religious leaders, refugee leaders, mothers and community elders. Religious leaders have condemned FGM as a harmful cultural practice.

In Ifo 2 camp, Kenya Red Cross Society held two sessions with adolescent girls at block level to disseminate information on early marriages and its impact on girls.

### Child Protection

Between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Garissa District Civil Registrar processed 3,834 birth certificates and registered 2,011 home births in Dadaab camps. This was the first mission of the Registrar in 2014. The main challenge remains the high number of home births in comparison with hospital deliveries. An improvement was noticed in the significant decline of late birth registrations (after six months), particularly in the new camps Kambioos and Ifo 2.



*Birth certificate of a child born in Ifo*

During the reporting period, Save the Children International (SCI), supported by the Child Protection Working Group, took the lead in conducting a situational assessment in Dadaab and the host community on the traditional justice system locally referred to as 'Maslaha'. The aim was to assess its strengths and weaknesses, the roles and responsibilities of its actors, as well as their knowledge and attitude towards child protection. It also aimed to build the capacity and strengthen the relationship between the formal justice system including the Khadi Court, and the 'Maslaha' system. Focus group discussions and consultative meetings took place in all five Dadaab camps. The Child Protection Working Group is co-chaired by UNICEF, SCI and UNHCR.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Children in Ifo 2

**Resettlement**

During the reporting period, 39 cases comprising 126 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. 25 individuals departed the camps for onward resettlement to Norway and Sweden.

A team of Swedish Migration Board (SMB) arrived in Dadaab on 14<sup>th</sup> April to conduct interviews of 39 cases comprising of approximately 126 individuals. Their mission includes Cultural Orientation training for the individuals who will be resettled to Sweden.

**Education**

In Hagadera, UNHCR’s partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) held a career open day for secondary school graduates who had qualified for scholarships for middle level colleges and universities. Ten institutions presented their technical and professional courses and informed the participants about available options, entry level requirements and career counselling. In the past, some students from Dadaab camps had dropped out of college and university because their expectations of what a course entailed were not met. This event targeted at preventing drop-outs by providing sufficient information to students.

**HEALTH**

A polio campaign targeting children under five years old was conducted between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April in all Dadaab camps. The Kenyan Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) actively participated in this interagency response together with UNHCR and the health actors in the camps. The coverage of the target group was more than 95%.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Banner in MSF hospital in Dagahaley

In the framework of the Reverse Referral Program various medical specialists from Nairobi and Garissa County come to Dadaab to offer specialized care. Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April, a psychiatrist worked in the camps and consulted more than 150 patients. He also provided Continuous Medical Education training for the mental health and psycho social support professionals in the camps.

## SHELTER & SITEPLANNING

### Reconstruction of Ifo market

UNHCR distributed 15 iron sheets, 90m of timber piles and 2kg of nails to the shop owners in Ifo camp whose shops were destroyed in the fire on 31 December 2013. In this incident, over 50 shops including wholesale shops with goods worth millions of Kenyan shillings were burnt. The reconstruction of Ifo market is subject to a detailed new layout which will help prevent similar incidents in the future. Once rebuilt, Ifo market will have 70 stalls, improved access roads and fire break points.



Timber material being distributed to fire victims in Ifo

UNHCR/Dadaab

## WATER & SANITATION

### Use of Solar Power

In order to save fuel, a first solar module was installed in Hagadera. On a sunny day, the system pumps between 160 and 192m<sup>3</sup> of water from the borehole to an elevated steel tank using photovoltaic power. A diesel generator operates on cloudy days to supplement the solar panels. This reduces diesel fuel consumption by up to 60%.

27 boreholes deliver about 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of water per day in the Dadaab refugee camps and surrounding areas.

The experiences made with this first solar module will be used in the planning for the other 26 boreholes in the Dadaab camps.



Photovoltaic modules and solar power inverter at a borehole in Hagadera

UNHCR/Dadaab

### Waste Management

A massive general camp cleaning exercise was carried out in Hagadera on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Women, men and children from the refugee community together with employees of humanitarian agencies in Hagadera participated in this cleaning exercise.

The other four camps are preparing to do the same before rainfalls intensify.



Camp cleaning in Hagadera

UNHCR/Dadaab

For more information, please contact:

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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

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