

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 31 August 2014

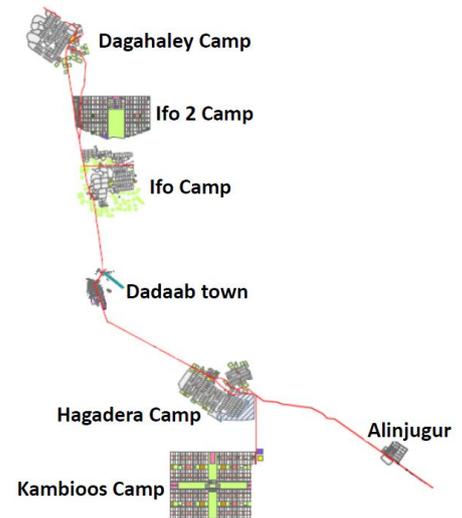
HIGHLIGHTS



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

The Somali Prime Minister in Ifo 2 camp

- H.E. Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia visited the Dadaab camps on 22nd August. He toured a hospital and a school in Ifo 2 camp and met with Somali refugee representatives. One of the issues he discussed with them was spontaneous voluntary return to Somalia. The Prime Minister assured refugees of support from the Somali government in case they opt to return to Somalia. A high level delegation from the Government of Kenya and UNHCR Representatives for Somalia and Kenya accompanied the Prime Minister on this historic visit.
- Several fire incidents occurred in the Dadaab camps during the reporting period. On 16th August, numerous vegetable and retail shops in Ifo caught fire which resulted in the destruction of a quarter of the entire market. Members of the refugee community, CARE, Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), UNHCR and Police responded to the fire. A water truck and backhoe bulldozer of CARE assisted in fighting the fire but response efforts were hampered by lacking and encroached access roads. The incident led to a considerable economic loss for many refugee traders. A second fire incident in Ifo followed on 18th August, when two houses burnt completely while a third house was partially destroyed.

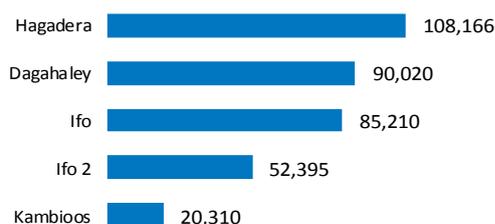


A Fire Response Management Meeting was held on 18th August. The meeting tasked KRCS with the lead in fire response in Dadaab and formulated camp based solutions including water bowsers. Water hydrants were installed near fire risk areas such as markets. Since 27th August, the Dadaab fire response is operational with the arrival of a KRCS fire engine. The same day, eleven houses burnt in Hagadera and the new equipment proved effective in preventing the fire from further spreading. Establishing the causes of fires remains a challenge as well as fire fighting in heavily congested blocks and encroached public spaces.

UPDATES

Population as of 31 August 2014: **356,101**

Refugees: 352,693
Asylum seekers: 3,408



Protection

Refugee Status Determination

- From 27th to 29th August, UNHCR conducted a verification exercise with 271 South Sudanese nationals in order to give them refugee status. This is in line with the Kenya Gazette No 5274 of 1 August 2014 which grants Prima Facie refugee status to South Sudanese asylum seekers in Kenya.

185

individuals were attended
at the protection desk
(16 - 31 Aug)

Access to Legal Assistance

- The mobile magistrate court visited Dadaab between 18th and 22nd September. In addition, the Kenyan Judiciary announced the resumption of monthly mobile Kadhi courts in Dadaab. The Kadhi court will attend to personal law matters such as marriage and divorce for persons from the refugee and host community practicing the Islamic faith. The construction of a permanent court building is currently being planned.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- Radio talk shows have been launched on safe and appropriate mechanisms on SGBV prevention and reporting among persons with disabilities. An on-going awareness campaign in Ifo 2 aims at reducing protection risks faced by persons with disabilities and promotes their rights.
- A recovery center for SGBV survivors has been established at Ifo 2 hospital. The center is designed to make survivors feel secure and ensures confidentiality.

Education

- In the frameworks of 'Borderless Higher Education for Refugees', 150 refugees and members of the host community are being trained as teachers in Primary and Secondary Education at the Kenyatta University campus in Dadaab. The one-year-diploma program is facilitated by UNHCR's partner Windle Trust Kenya and consists of modules in the classroom as well as online-learning courses. During the first phase of this year's cycle, a group of teachers from different Canadian universities taught the students in Dadaab. Their classes finished on 30th August and will be followed by online modules until the next visit of Canadian education experts in December.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Teachers and students at Kenyatta University in Dadaab town

- UNHCR's partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) started a five months training for twenty Special Needs Education Teachers. Among other subjects, the teachers are introduced to Braille in order to allow them to effectively communicate with visually impaired learners. The training will enable the teachers to identify students with special needs and to facilitate their learning.

Health

- An inspection of the slaughter house in Dagahaley camp was conducted with the objective of improving its sanitary situation and the adherence to the respective Public Health Act. The inspection was conducted jointly by the Sub-County Public Health Office and UNHCR.
- An Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon from Garissa visited Hagadera camp and conducted 28 surgeries.
- An AmeriCares tented field hospital was dismantled and removed from Kambioos camp. The emergency facilities had been built during the 2011 influx but resulted not suitable as a long term solution. Medical equipment worth 96,000 USD remained in the camps to cover existing gaps.
- 28 midwives, clinicians and nurses specialized on Maternal and Child Health (MCH) from all five Dadaab camps improved their knowledge and skills in assisting births and taking care of newborns. They participated in a training session on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EMONC) conducted by the Ministry of Health of Garissa County from 25th to 29th August.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Inspection team at the Dagahaley slaughter house

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR started its annual Nutrition Survey in Hagadera and Kambioos camps and will cover all five camps by 10th September. In the preparation of the survey, 68 enumerators (mostly staff from the refugee community) were trained. One of the objectives of the survey is to establish the nutrition status of under-five-year old children. During the survey, body measurements and blood samples are taken and families are interviewed about their utilization of the available food. UNHCR uses mobile technology to compile the data.

Water and Sanitation



UNHCR/Dadaab

Water stand in Ifo 2

- After a reduction of water supplies, UNHCR closely monitored the rationalization of fuel to ensure refugees in the five Dadaab camps have access to 22 litres of water per person on a daily basis. UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council also sensitized the community through the camp based radio station Star FM. The two question and answer sessions helped the refugee community understand the reasons behind the water reduction. As of 1st August, UNHCR had reduced the water supplied per person per day from an average of 29.2 liters to 22 liters. UNHCR's standard is 20 liters per person per day. The reduction was done in order to save expenditures on fuel for boreholes and as a water conservation measure.
- On 18th August, the host community in Maleyley (25 km east of Dadaab town) celebrated the inauguration of two newly equipped boreholes and a health center. More than 3,000 people will benefit from these projects. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the beneficiary host community, UNHCR's Head of Operations in Dadaab, Members of Parliament, County representatives and the media.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR made preparations to distribute core relief items such as mats, blankets, kitchen sets, tents, jerry cans and plastic sheets to refugees who were registered between April and June 2014. The distribution will take place in late September.

Access to Energy

- The distribution of 9,000 solar lanterns in the relatively new camps Ifo 2 and Kambioos was finalized in August. The lanterns as well as energy efficient stoves and street lights are provided through the 'CIDA Light Years Ahead Project'. The two newer camps Kambioos and Ifo 2 were selected to receive the solar lanterns due to the higher vulnerability of their population in comparison to the older camps. It is expected that the provision of lighting gadgets will reduce cases of gender based violence.

9,000

solar lanterns distributed

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Handicap International (HI), UNHCR and partners exchanged ideas and experiences regarding support to Persons with Disabilities (PWD) on 21st August. The positive impact of existing measures, access to facilities and services for PWD were some of the main topics of discussion. Handicap International will incorporate this analysis of challenges and best practices in a strategy for PWD in Dadaab.
- Community Peace and Protection Teams (CPPT) currently monitor, respond to and report security incidents at community level in all five camps. In an effort to strengthen the CPPTs, LWF with the support of UNHCR conducted a five day training session for 100 CPPT members, 57 of whom are women. The participants learned about firefighting, first aid skills and disaster preparedness and management. It is expected that this will help them to improve their efficiency, knowledge and confidence when responding to incidents in the camps. Training of 200 more CPPT members will take place in September.

Durable Solutions

Spontaneous Voluntary Return to Somalia

- On 25th August, UNHCR Dadaab representatives visited Mandera County and met with the County Governor and County Commissioner. Mandera County which is over 700km from Dadaab is not considered part of the refugee host communities but is expected to provide an exit route for voluntary return of Somali refugees through Bula-hawa at the Kenya Somali boarder. The possibility of establishing a transit center was discussed. During the visit, UNHCR donated two land cruiser vehicles to the County which will support health and environment projects.

Resettlement

- UNHCR discussed resettlement issues with representatives of the refugee community in Dagahaley and Ifo on 19th and 26th August. The focus was on getting to know the resettlement concerns of refugees in the two camps and on explaining the current resettlement program to the community.

50

Individuals departed for resettlement to USA, Australia, Norway and Sweden (16 - 31 Aug)

- 18 cases (90 individuals), including women and girls at risk, underwent interviews to verify family composition. 41 cases (145 individuals) were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Forms (RRF) processing and possible submission to resettlement countries. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided for 204 individuals in all five Dadaab camps.

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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