

# UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE - DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

## SPECIAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



*Students at Nasib Secondary School (left) and Mwangaza Primary School (right) in Dadaab refugee camps studying using tablets. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab*

### UNHCR and Partners Bring Tablet-based Learning to 18,000 Young People in Dadaab Refugee Camps

UNHCR and the Vodafone Foundation, Vodafone's philanthropic arm, have this October announced a partnership to bring transformative mobile-based education programmes to students at 13 schools in Dadaab refugee camps.

The *Instant Network Schools* will offer learning programmes to 18,000 young refugees between 7 and 20 years old. This is supported by UNHCR Innovation, a multi-departmental initiative launched within the agency to find new ways of working together with refugee communities to design innovative solutions to the challenges they face.

The 13 solar-powered schools include six primary schools, three secondary schools and four vocational skills centres. Safaricom, Vodafone's affiliate in Kenya, is providing connectivity across all the schools, while the telecommunications equipment company Huawei has donated 235 tablets to the programme.

Teachers at Dadaab have been trained in a range of tablet-based education programmes, providing pupils with information they would have otherwise been unable to access because of a scarcity of education resources.

The tablets also provide pupils with a link to life outside of the refugee camps. As part of their studies, pupils will use the technology to make contact with school children and professionals in other countries. UNHCR and Vodafone Foundation have partnered with a number of partner organizations in Dadaab, including CARE, Islamic Relief Kenya, Lutheran World Federation, Windle Trust Kenya and the Norwegian Refugee Council.



*Safaricom Chief Executive Officer, Bob Collymore in class with students at one of the instant network schools in Dadaab. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab*

Safaricom's Chief Executive Officer, Bob Collymore has since visited Dadaab camps to follow up and witness how the innovative learning technology works. During his visit on 8<sup>th</sup> October, he met students and teachers in their instant network schools. He observed the immediate value of the project and expressed Safaricom's keenness to have it expanded.

## OPERATIONAL BIWEEKLY UPDATES- 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September

### Missions

#### A Kenyan Hip Hop Artist & Local goodwill ambassador Visits Dadaab

■ A Kenyan musician/hip hop artist Mr. Henry Ohanga commonly known as Octopizzo visited Dadaab camps between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September. Octopizzo has lately been working closely with UNHCR and partners to seek ways on how he can inspire the refugee community in Kenya with his talent. This was his first mission in Dadaab as he sought to familiarize himself with the situation in camps. During his trip, he visited Ifo, Hagadera, Kambioos and Dagahaley camps where he met talented groups, artists and individuals of interest. Octopizzo's personal story is inspiring for many Kenyan youth and he hopes to extend this inspiration to refugees.



*A Kenyan musical artist and UNHCR's local goodwill ambassador Mr. Henry Ohanga (Octopizzo) with a group of performing artists in Dagahaley refugee camp. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab*

### Security

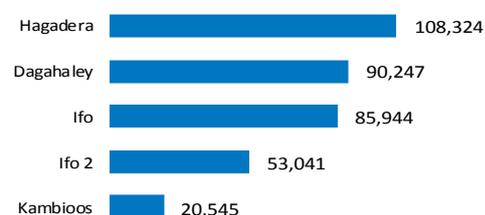
#### General protection Environment

- The security situation in Dadaab refugee camps and environs was generally calm during the reporting period. Though it remained unpredictable, there was no any significant security incident that affected normal operations. There was however a murder incident in Dagahaley camp where two refugees were shot dead by unknown gunmen. One of them was a former camp leader.
- A fire response team was established on 17<sup>th</sup> September by UNHCR's partner, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). Dadaab camps have in the recent past experienced fires that have resulted into destruction of property especially in markets and residential areas. KRCS was recently funded by UNHCR to take lead in fire emergencies in Dadaab.

**Population as of 31 August 2014:** 358,101

Refugees: 354,663

Asylum seekers: 3,438



### Protection

#### General protection Environment

During the reporting period, UNHCR held a sensitization forum on community policing inside and around refugee camps. The forum had participation of the Community Peace Protection Teams (CPPT), Dadaab Sub-county commissioner, the police and 120 members from the host community. CPPT coordinators among them KRCS, LWF and DRA also

participated. From the forum, a resolution was agreed upon by all participants that the CPPTs should embrace the Government's *Nyumba Kumi* (know-your-neighbor) initiative within and around camps.

- A mission from UNHCR Branch Office Somalia visited Return Help Desks in Dadaab on 25th September 2014. From repatriation assistants, they sought to understand information gaps in the return process and how best they will need to package the information for Somali refugees who would want to return to Somalia. The mission also obtained feedback from refugee leaders and representatives from the 'go and see visit' team that visited Kismayu in August.

### Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- The handover process of RSD functions from UNHCR to the Kenya's Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) is underway. Seven DRA new RSD assistants are already being oriented on RSD procedures.

### Access to Legal Assistance

- During the period, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) attended to **195 persons of concern at the legal assistance desks across all the five refugee camps. Since September this year, a total of 1,990 persons of concern have been attended to. This numbers comprises 79.6% of the total number of persons of concern ought to be assisted.**
- UNHCR and RCK conducted a one day open forum targeting refugee inmates at Garissa Maximum Prison during the reporting period. Ten individual were interviewed and counseled. They raised a few issues among them, facilitation of their appeals, medical concerns and contact with family members.

### Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Interventions

- The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) disseminated information on sexual and gender based violence issues to in Ifo 2 camp residents during the period. About 889 people comprising of 572 female and 317 male were reached. As a result of the exercise, community workers identified SGBV survivors and escorted them to health facilities for medical and psychosocial support. KRCS also conducted group therapy sessions to 12 survivors, sessions that are considered crucial for counseling.

### Registration

- A total of 777 new births were registered during this reporting period. Out of the 14,300 (annual performance target), 9,591 children (67%) had been registered by end of September.
- 436 new arrivals were registered across all camps, majority of whom (387 individuals) from the mass new arrival registration conducted in Dagahaley camp.

777

Number of new births recorded during the reporting period (16>30 September)



### Food Security and Nutrition

- The 2nd cycle of food distribution in September commenced on 15th September 2014. Kambioos camp completed food distribution activities on 17th September while Ifo 2 camp completed food distribution activities on 20th September 2014. Hagadera, Ifo and Dagahaley camps completed food distribution activities on 22nd September 2014. A fairly stable network connection for the biometric kits was observed compared to previous cycles.



### Water & Sanitation

- In both Hagadera and Kambioos camps, water shortage was reported in some sections due to fuel reduction and low pressure. WASH teams continued to monitor water reduction challenges in all camps. Extension and connection of new water pipelines at schools is in progress.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a 2 day sensitization campaign in Hagadera camp around areas reported to have cases of acute watery diarrhoea. The campaign focused on issues of water management, safe water chains, safe water handling and proper hand washing procedures. During the campaign, NRC distributed bio clean and ballast for Jerry can cleaning. World Vision International donated a 100KVA

generator and an elevated steel tank of 150m<sup>3</sup> capacity to be used for pumping and storage of water at a borehole in Kambioos camp.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Community Outreach and Coordination with local Government

■ As a matter of strengthening partnership and building networks with local government authorities, UNHCR is working with the County Government of Garissa to convene a stakeholder's forum to discuss the plight and impact of refugees in Dadaab refugee camps. Some of the stakeholders targeted for the forum include UNHCR donors and Non-Governmental Organizations working with UNHCR as partners. Preparations for the forum continued during the reporting period.

### Services to Persons with Specific Needs

■ The International Day of Older Persons was marked in Dadaab refugee camps during the last week of September. The day presented an opportunity for older persons to participate in cultural activities. UNHCR and partners used the occasion to advance their information campaigns to the community on services provided to people with specific needs, among them-the elderly. In discussions, older persons requested for special nutrition and inclusion in planning. They also highlighted their challenges in trying to access services.

## Durable Solutions

■ On 24<sup>th</sup> September, Kambioos camp multifunctional teams monitoring projected in the camp among them a greenhouse project by UNHCR partner Fafi Integrated Development Association (FaIDA). The greenhouse project has so far benefitted eight individuals who have reaped profits of up to 1300 USD from tomatoes and kales' harvest. Groups in camps have found great value in getting involved in greenhouse farming and some are now asking UNHCR to set up more greenhouses to uplift livelihoods.

■ The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) finally obtained a registration certificate for a soap manufacturing group in Kambioos camp. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) which issued the certificate had earlier visited the soap production site to test the suitability of the soap for use. Though the soap was found to be slightly below the required standard, LWF has undertaken to engage KEBS to train the group and equip them with skills that will enable them to manufacture the soap in required standards. As soon as all standards are met, the group will be issued with a government permit to start merchandising the soap.

*Farm Produce from a greenhouse farm in Kambioos camp. Photo: UNHCR/Ainiugur*



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