

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 31 July 2015

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

116 Somali refugees voluntarily return from Dadaab to Mogadishu by air

In the morning of 5th August, two planes took 116 Somali refugees from Dadaab to Mogadishu International Airport. This was after the Tripartite Commission, formed by UNHCR and the Governments of Kenya and Somalia, met on 29th July and agreed to scale up assistance to Somali refugees in Kenya wishing to return home. The Commission's Joint Strategy envisages the voluntary repatriation of most Somali refugees over a five year period. The majority of the returns from Kenya to Somalia will continue to take place by road if the security situation allows and only for people with specific protection needs will UNHCR facilitate airlifts.

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab



Returning father and son before boarding the plane to Somalia

Despite the fragile security environment situation in Somalia, refugees in Dadaab have responded to signs of increasing stability and started to return. Since December 2014, 3,078 Somali refugees have returned with UNHCR support. More still have returned spontaneously without receiving assistance from UNHCR.

UNHCR support includes standardized financial and in-kind assistance to ensure safe and dignified return, as well as longer-term

support to help returnees reintegrate in areas they once fled from.

UNHCR together with the two governments involved will strengthen efforts to rally international support for comprehensive and community-based interventions to support the refugees and their communities. A portfolio of development projects has been designed that aims to create conditions in Somalia that are conducive to meaningful and sustainable reintegration. Another portfolio of projects will focus on Kenya and strengthen skills of returning refugees, restore and rehabilitate refugee affected areas and support host communities. The projects will be presented at a Pledging Conference on Solutions for Somali refugees in Kenya that will take place later this year.



Returnees on board of the airplane travelling to Somalia

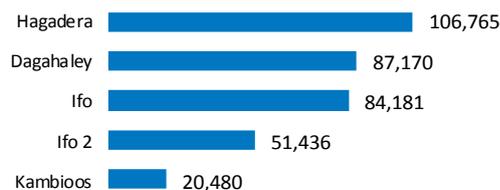
Click here to read the UNHCR press release:

<http://www.unhcr.org/55c1fadd9.html>

UPDATES

Population as of 31 July 2015: **350,032**

Refugees: 346,601
Asylum seekers: 3,431



Registration of unregistered individuals and new arrivals

- Between 29th June and 31st July, UNHCR registered 3,487 refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR registration followed registration by the Government of Kenya through its Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) in all five Dadaab camps. The concerned refugees and asylum seekers had newly arrived or had lived in the camps for some months without having been registered. In 2015, UNHCR has so far registered a total of 4,095 refugees and asylum seekers.
- 31 urban refugees (19 households) were relocated from Nairobi to Kambioos on 30th July. UNHCR supported the 13 Congolese, 11 Burundians, six Rwandans and one Ethiopian with shelter and food and non-food items. They were all settled in a section of the camp which is predominantly occupied by their fellow countrymen.

| Country of Origin | Asylum Seekers | Refugees | Total |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------|
| Burundi | 3 | - | 3 |
| Ethiopia | 84 | 20 | 104 |
| Somalia | 15 | 3,340 | 3,355 |
| South Sudan | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Rwanda | 1 | - | 1 |
| Uganda | 4 | - | 4 |
| DR Congo | 3 | - | 3 |
| Total | 112 | 3,375 | 3,487 |

Breakdown of newly registered refugees and asylum seekers by country of origin

Arrest, Detention and Freedom of Movement

- During the second half of July, eleven refugees in prison benefited from a Legal Aid Clinic conducted by UNHCR's Protection partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK). Eight refugees were relocated from detention centers in Garissa, received by UNHCR and DRA in Dadaab and assisted to join their relatives in the camps. UNHCR is actively following up on the plight of the persons of concern in prison. A total of 168 refugees and asylum seekers were in detention centers in Garissa end of July. The figures change on daily basis depending on discharges and arrests.



Two students of a special needs class in Kambioos camp

Education

- 38 students finished their diploma courses at Kenyatta University's Dadaab campus and participated in a graduation ceremony on 28th August. The 34 refugees and four host community students had been sponsored through UNHCR's partners Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and studied Public Relations, Disaster Management, Business Administration.
- Kenya Equity in Education Project (KEEP) provided sanitary kits to girls in host community schools and teaching and learning materials to refugee schools. The project is implemented by UNHCR's education partner Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) and aims at improving girls' access to education. Less girls than boys attend school in Dadaab camps and they are at a higher risk of dropping out especially once they are past elementary school.
- National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCCK) organized an inter-camp sporting tournament for primary and secondary schools in all five camps. The activity aimed at peace building and peaceful coexistence amongst Kenyan youth and camp residents.

- 22 students from Dadaab camps were selected for Word University Service of Canada (WUSC) scholarships. They will undergo a one year English language course before leaving Dadaab for Canada next year. The students will eventually enroll in different universities in Canada. The program is implemented by Windle Trust Kenya.
- In July, 71 students from Dadaab camps were supported to study in different universities across Kenya. Their fees are paid through UNHCR's partner DRC. 58 more refugee students were examined for certificates in Community Health, Diploma in Business Administration, Disaster Management and Community Development at the Kenya Institute of Social Work and Community Development.

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Community Health worker in UNHCR/ IRC clinic in Hagadera camp



Health

- A training of trainers on non-communicable diseases was kicked off at the end of July. Common non-communicable diseases in Dadaab camps are diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular diseases. In efforts to reduce complications and mortality, UNHCR seeks to improve the skills and knowledge of health staff. A special focus is given to health workers from the refugee community who will help to increase community awareness. Additional equipment, such as an HbA1c machine for diabetes testing, was distributed to UNHCR's health partners.

- Following one confirmed and some suspected cholera cases in Kambioos camp, the Camp Outbreak Control and Response Team was reactivated. Preventive and control measures have been put in place and no more cases have been confirmed so far.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR livelihood partner DRC conducted Entrepreneurship, Market Linkages and Small Business Management Skills Training to vocational training groups. The 120 students normally study ICT, Tie and Dye, Soap Making and Tailoring. The training is expected to help them in business planning, record keeping as well as in costing and pricing of products.



Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, a total of 20 cases comprising of 72 individuals (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews. Ten cases comprising of 44 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries. 27 new born babies were added on to cases already submitted for resettlement. 19 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom and Australia. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided to 80 individuals across Hagadera, Dagahaley and Ifo camps.
- The Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Africa pre-screening circuit ride arrived in Dadaab on 23rd July. The experts are planning to stay in Dadaab until 18th September and interview 652 cases comprising 1,760 individuals for the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP).

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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