

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

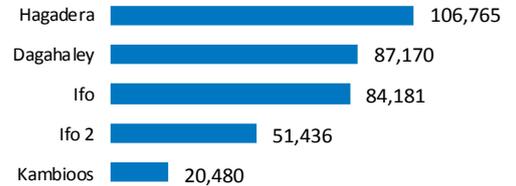
01 - 15 August 2015

UPDATES

Population as of 1 August 2015: **350,032**

Refugees: **346,601**

Asylum seekers: **3,431**



Protection

Registration

- UNHCR Dadaab kicked off a comprehensive Ration Card Exchange exercise on 15th August. 20,797 out of a total of 83,061 households received new ration cards on the first day of the six days food distribution cycle. UNHCR teams in all five Dadaab camps are located closely to the WFP food distribution points so that household representatives can exchange their cards right after collecting their food. Food ration card can be used for up to 34 food distributions and therefore needs to be exchanged after 17 months. The exercise is expected to end on 21st August.

Community Based Protection

- On 4th and 5th August 2015, UNHCR and its protection partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) trained 34 section leaders from Hagadera refugee camp on protection and health related issues. Community leaders play a major role in influencing community attitudes and practices regarding gender based violence, sexual exploitation, child abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and home births. They are also key stakeholders in offering protection services to the community.

Monthly security meeting with refugee leaders

- UNHCR held a monthly security meeting with refugee leaders from all five Dadaab camps on 11th August in Dadaab town. The meeting was also attended by Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) staff and the local police. Refugees leaders shared various threats that they have been facing as well as some concrete suggestions for improvement. They highlighted, for instance, the need for more support to members of the Community Peace and Protection Teams (CPPTs) so as to enable them to carry out their duties adequately and suggested creation of a hotline. Beyond mere security topics, refugee leaders also addressed other issues such as reduction in the number of teachers and delay in the facilitation of return of refugees eager to go back to Somalia. Responses were provided to their queries.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Ration card exchange in Dagahaley Camp

Education

- From 5th to 7th August, students were interviewed for scholarships of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI). Of 36 applicants, 16 candidate from Dagahaley, Ifo 2, Ifo and Hagadera camps were awarded the scholarship. Kambioos camp does not have a secondary school. Currently, 57 students from Dadaab camps study in universities across Kenya.
- Schools in Dadaab closed for holidays on 7th August after administering the end of Term 2 examination and are expected to reopen on 31st August.

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Teachers and students at Kenyatta University in Dadaab town

- In the frameworks of 'Borderless Higher Education for Refugees' 367 refugees and members of the host community are being trained as teachers in Primary and Secondary Education. A new cohort of students started their diploma and certificate courses on 1st August; others continued their courses from previous months. In August, ten lecturers from four Kenyan and Canadian universities are teaching the students at Kenyatta University campus in Dadaab. The teacher training program is facilitated by UNHCR's partner Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) and consists of modules in the classroom as well as online-learning courses. So far, 76 students successfully completed a certificate course in Primary Education. All seek to further enhance their skills through online degrees and diploma courses with York University in Canada and Kenyatta University in Kenya.

- Lutheran World Federation (LWF), one of UNHCR's Education partners, supports the capacity building of 84 teachers of Islamic Duksi schools. The training provides teaching skills in basic numeracy as well as English and Arabic literacy. Some children in Dadaab camps attend both, Duksis and formal schools, while others attend only one of the two education facilities.



Health

- Dadaab camps were part of the national Polio campaign which was conducted from 1st to 5th August. More than 95% children under five were vaccinated across all Dadaab camps. UNHCR's health partners International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) played an important role in the campaign.

- A Cholera outbreak was officially declared by Garissa County Ministry of Health after nine suspected cases were reported. One of these cases was confirmed positive through a culture test. The Outbreak Control Team has been activated and preventive measures were scaled up. UNHCR's WASH partners Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), CARE international and KRCS have enhanced sensitization and mass hygiene campaigns to promote awareness on safe water handling and proper handwashing across the five camps.

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Young cleft lip patient Hassan with his mother Halima



IRC staffer administering polio vaccine in Hagadera camp

Photo International Rescue Committee

- 16 patients with maxillofacial pathologies including cleft lips were operated by a team of surgeons supported by Al-Khair Foundation who visited Dadaab from 7th to 10th August. Patients belong to both, the Kenyan host community and the refugee community.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The 30% reduction of World Food Programme’s (WFP) food rations that started on 15th June, still continues.
- World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated in Hagadera, Kambioos, Ifo 2 and Ifo camps from 1st to 7th August. Main activities organized by IRC, KRCS and IRK included community dialogues, cooking demonstrations and road shows. Awareness raising focused on exclusive breastfeeding as well as maternal, infant and young child nutrition.



Mother-to-Mother support group getting ready for a road show to promote breastfeeding, supported by International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Water and Sanitation

- Currently, the latrine coverage in Dadaab camps is at 48,927 household latrines against a household population of 83,059. This figure may be challenged by the annual latrine survey which is currently being implemented. The survey has already been completed in Dagahaley, Ifo and Ifo 2 camps and shows a decrease of the above figure due to filled up latrines.
- UNHCR and partners completed the construction of a total of 178 latrines in Hagadera, Kambioos and Ifo 2 camps, 10 of which are disability friendly.
- 378 households were visited to create awareness and sensitization on safe water handling during fetching, transportation and storage. Various campaigns which focused on jerry can cleaning, hygiene and handwashing and camp mass clean-up were conducted during the first two weeks of August. 168 Hygiene promoters from the refugee community carried out their work in the camps.

Dadaab Water in Numbers:

Water is pumped through **29** boreholes, stored in **46** tanks and distributed through a **314 km** pipeline network across all **5** Dadaab refugee camps in order to make sure that refugees and asylum seekers on **4,230** taps at **900** tap stands receive a per capita average of **23.5 litres** per day. This and institutions, markets, livestock etc. lead to a total daily water usage of more than **10,254,000 litres**

Shelter

- In the first half of August, UNHCR distributed material for 231 shelters in Ifo 2 camp through its partner Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). Verification was done of 356 shelters constructed in Ifo camp in July. In 2015, UNHCR and partners are constructing 1,787 Temporary Shelter – commonly known as T-Shelters. This kind of shelter is in line with the Kenyan government’s instructions to avoid permanent structures. The T-Shelter program in camps focuses on vulnerable camp residents. In addition, 750 beneficiaries in need of shelter support received plastic sheets in Kambioos camp on 13th and 14th August. They had been identified by refugee leaders, UNHCR and protection partners.



Distribution of shelter material in Ifo 2 camp

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Host Community Support

- UNHCR supports the Kenyan community affected by neighboring refugee camps. Currently, construction projects are carried out for the three villages Welmerer, Borehole Five and Alinjukur. An accommodation block is being built for the staff working at Welmerer Dispensary. Insecurity was a concern for the staff of the dispensary and they wanted to avoid having to travel at night. For the maternity ward of Borehole Five, UNHCR is constructing an office block to ensure that the already existing rooms can be used for service provision to patients. Herders in Alinjukur stated that their water troughs were insufficient for their animals. Hence, UNHCR embarked on building additional water troughs in the area. All three projects are implemented through the local NGO Fafi Integrated Development Organization (FaIDA).

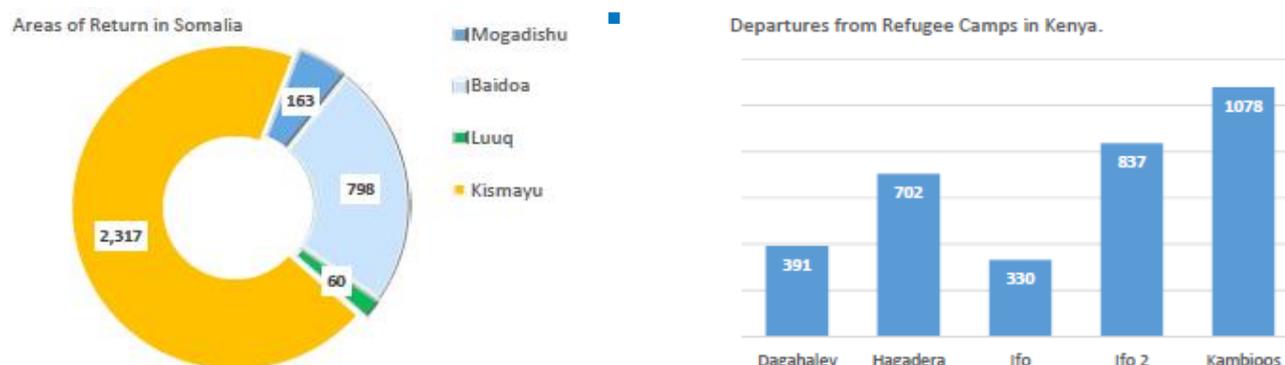
Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Vocational training students supported by UNHCR’s livelihood partners LWF, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and NRC sat for their practical and theoretical exams with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA). Students were also registered for their December examinations with NITA and with NEP Technical Training College.
- DRC monitored the 44 groups of the Village Savings and Loan (VSL) project across all camps. The groups have accumulative savings of KSH 416,860 and disbursed loans amounting to KSH 190,300 to the group members. Additional VSL groups were formed and trained in Kambioos camp in the first two weeks of August.

Durable Solutions

Voluntary Return to Somalia

- Between 8th December 2014 and 15th August 2015, 3,338 Somali refugees returned home with support from UNHCR. On 5th and 12th August, return flights were organized and 163 refugees travelled to Mogadishu. Return by air is exceptional and will be discontinued as soon as conditions enable road movements to Mogadishu. It was noted that an increasing number of refugees were seeking to register for voluntary return at the Return Help Desks. This may be attributed to opening the entire Somalia for return and to the introduction of the flights to Mogadishu.



Numbers of returnees in each of the five Dadaab camps and areas of return in Somalia

Resettlement

During the reporting period, a total of 51 cases comprising of 257 individuals underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 15 cases comprising of 30 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries. 41 new born babies were added on to cases already submitted for resettlement. 51 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada. 10 of 11 cases referred to the Protection Referral Panel were approved. The panel is an established inter-disciplinary protection referral mechanism which deliberates on individual protection and medical cases with vulnerabilities.

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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