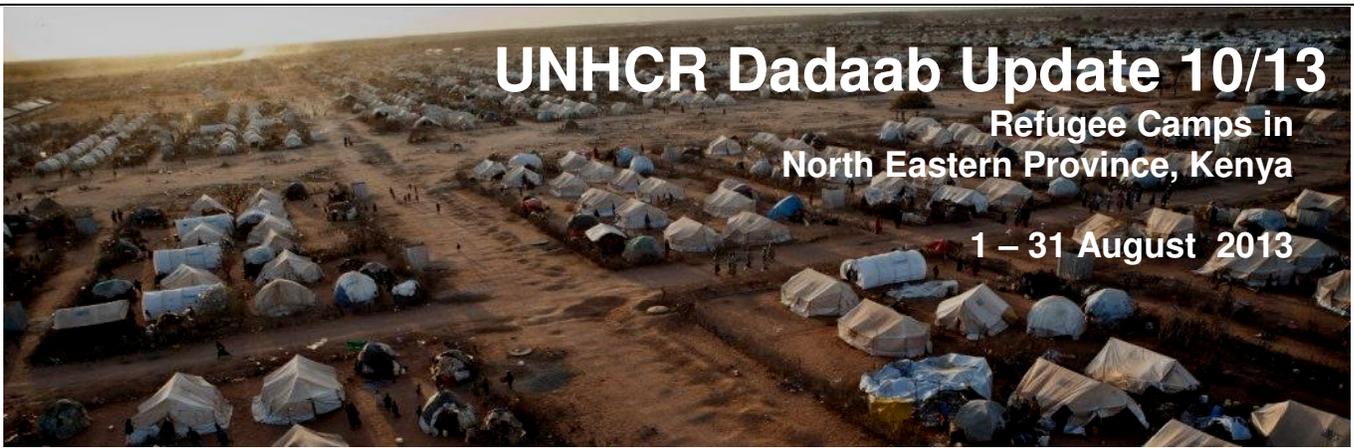


UNHCR Dadaab Update 10/13

Refugee Camps in
North Eastern Province, Kenya

1 – 31 August 2013



New developments

Refugee leadership elections

Elections for refugee leadership positions were held on 26 – 29 August in all five Dadaab camps. 1,600 candidates competed for 1,000 positions – camp chairpersons, section leaders, and block leaders, male and female. 164,000 refugees were eligible to vote. The election campaign preceding the elections was lively, and the voters turned out in great numbers on the election days. Turnout was higher than expected, at around 60%, considerably higher than during the last refugee leadership elections in 2006, when voters' participation was 25%. Across the board, the elections resulted in a replacement of the old leadership by mostly young candidates.



Refugees waiting to vote

Photo: Assadullah Nasrullah

The elections were a logistical challenge for the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), which with the support of UNHCR and partner agencies managed to conclude the exercise without major hiccups or delays. Local media cooperated in the timely announcement of results to the refugee community. Security was ensured through an enhanced presence of police at polling stations and in the camps.

In a few blocks and sections, candidates of one sex only had been nominated, leading to the election of just one (male or female) leader. DRA will discuss the appointment of additional leaders of the opposite sex with the communities concerned.

Security

While the security situation in the refugee camps remained stable, some incidents allegedly connected to Al-Shabaab armed elements were reported in the region. On 16 August, a police base in Fafi district, 80km from UNHCR Alinjukur Field Office, was attacked by suspected Al-Shabaab gunmen, who killed four police officers. On 19 August, a Ministry of Health vehicle was shot at near Kambioos camp. The same day and the day after, groups of armed men were seen moving around in the area between Kambioos and Alinjukur.

Statistics

Population as of 31 August 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
113,975	18,507	104,237	100,473	65,289	402,481

To note is a considerable decrease in population in Kambioos since the last statistical report of 31/07/2013 (-2,496), and a corresponding increase of population in Hagadera (+2,026). These are directly and indirectly attributable to the verification exercise: directly in the case of Kambioos, and indirectly in the case of Hagadera. Kambioos was the last of the five camps to be verified, and the results of the exercise shows only in the August statistical report. In the case of Hagadera, the increase in population results from no-shows turning up to be verified after the verification had ended.

Protection

Registration and documentation

Registration activities remain suspended, with some 6,000 new arrivals still awaiting registration.

All refugees aged 18 years and above are entitled to a Refugee Identity Card. Thus far in 2013, 8,058 refugees have received their IDs, bringing the overall figure of refugees with ID cards to 130,583 since 2009.

Access to legal assistance/justice

So far this year, 427 persons of concern have received legal assistance through the legal aid clinics across the camps. A total of 265 cases have come before the monthly mobile court sessions. UNHCR is in discussion with the judiciary on how to support applications for litigants hindered from accessing justice owing to their inability to meet prescribed fees.

Child protection

A total of 1,004 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified. 722 of them are living in alternative care arrangements (e.g. foster care, group living etc.) and are being regularly monitored. 325 children received core relief items as support to guardians hosting orphans and vulnerable children. Since January 2013, a total of 537 caregivers, community and religious leaders have been trained on the needs of orphans and vulnerable children.

Resettlement

So far in 2013, a total of 1,293 persons have been submitted for resettlement. The submission target for 2013, agreed upon between the resettlement countries, is 1,300. 786 refugees have departed for resettlement in third countries, primarily to the UK, United States, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Video conferencing is being used for cases submitted to Australia. The UK and Canada have in the recent past utilized the services of this facility. Major gaps identified are fewer slots by resettlement countries, slow case processing and backlogs by some resettlement countries, as well as security concerns which has led to the suspension of resettlement activities by some countries.

Health and nutrition

The fourth round of polio vaccination was carried out in all camps 15 – 19 August. 100% of the target group was reached. A fifth round is to be held in September.

A nutrition survey covering all camps started on 12 August. The survey is using SMART Methodology and cluster sampling in line with the UNHCR Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) guidelines. So far, data collection using android phones has been completed in Ifo, Hagadera and Kambioos and continues in Dagahaley and Ifo 2. The exercise is scheduled to end mid-September, and the results will be shared with all stakeholders.

Water and sanitation

A latrine assessment in Ifo 2 concluded that no less than 852 latrines had been destroyed this year through acts of vandalism. As a result of the assessment, the number of functional latrines was reduced from 4,413 to 3,561. Apparently, refugees who are relocating from their designated plot tend to destroy their latrine when moving. The reasoning behind this practice remains unclear. UNHCR is engaging with camp leadership, security and field staff to take strong measures to put a stop to this antisocial behaviour which is only hurting the refugees themselves.



Destroyed latrine, Ifo 2

Photo: Abdiwahad Ismail

WASH committees in collaboration with the community and the hygiene promoters carried out cleaning campaigns in all the camps as a way of mobilising the community to take ownership of cleaning their own environment. Solid waste management is done through on-site collection and either burning at designated waste-disposal sites or taken to landfill.

For further information please contact:

UNHCR External Relations Unit
KENDAPI@unhcr.org

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

Webportal on Somali Displacement:
<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>