

UNHCR Dadaab Update 16/13

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

15 – 30 November 2013

New developments

Kenyan and Somali delegations visit Dadaab

Delegations from the Kenyan and Somali governments visited Dadaab to discuss the implications of the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation that was signed between the two governments and UNHCR on 10 November. The first delegation on 22 November comprised of Somali government representatives led by the Somali Refugee Commissioner and also included the Kenyan Refugee Commissioner, the UNHCR Representative to Kenya and the UNHCR Deputy Representative to Somalia. In a meeting with refugee leaders, the Somali government representatives expressed their view that conditions in Somalia were improving and that refugees should start thinking of return. They however emphasized that return was voluntary and that all refugees had the right to make their own informed decision. This message was repeated by the Kenyan Refugee Commissioner. The refugee leaders expressed skepticism about the situation in Somalia, saying that in principle they wanted to go home, but they still did not believe that favourable conditions for return in safety were in place.

The following day, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for the Interior Joseph Ole Lenku visited Dadaab heading a delegation that also included the Senator for Garissa County. The Cabinet Secretary encouraged refugees in Dadaab to start returning, saying that the time had come for them to go home and rebuild their country. The refugee leaders gave the same answer as the day before, saying they were hesitant about the possibility of immediate return, since they were well aware of the situation in Somalia and were worried about insecurity and lack of infrastructure such as schools and health services.

Statistics

POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2009 - 2013

Country of Origin	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	Alinjugur	Dadaab	Total	Alinjugur	Dadaab	Total	Alinjugur	Dadaab	Total	Alinjugur	Dadaab	Total	Alinjugur	Dadaab	Total
Somalia	-	252,214	252,214	-	285,799	285,799	-	443,956	443,956	154,047	275,186	429,233	131,991	257,035	389,026
Ethiopia	-	13,728	13,728	-	16,155	16,155	-	18,123	18,123	3,556	12,559	16,115	3,226	12,771	15,997
Sudan	-	590	590	-	796	796	-	1,001	1,001	-	14	14	-	20	20
DR Congo	-	63	63	-	74	74	-	92	92	-	101	101	2	125	127
Rwanda	-	19	19	-	20	20	-	19	19	-	11	11	-	18	18
Eritrea	-	79	79	-	59	59	-	56	56	-	44	44	-	31	31
Burundi	-	17	17	-	88	88	-	91	91	-	45	45	-	19	19
South Sudan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	667	669	1	801	802
Uganda	-	60	60	-	57	57	-	69	69	4	61	65	3	65	68
Other	-	9	9	-	9	9	-	20	20	-	2	2	2	9	11
Total	-	266,779	266,779	-	303,057	303,057	-	463,427	463,427	157,609	288,690	446,299	135,225	270,894	406,119

Population as of 30 November 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
114,957	20,268	104,539	100,927	65,428	406,119

Protection

Preparations for support to spontaneous returns

The launch of the Return Help Desks (RHD) in December was being prepared. The RHD will give information on various aspects of return to Somalia to those refugees who express an interest to spontaneously return before organised repatriation begins. A return support package was under discussion that would contain necessary items for the return trip as well as possibly some transport grant.

Following the signing of the Tripartite Agreement, 319 refugees in Ifo 2 approached the office expressing their intention to return to Somalia. There was however a widespread misconception that refugees would be forced to return, especially after the statements by government officials quoted above, and many refugees approached UNHCR requesting to be allowed to stay in Kenya. The main objective of the Return Help Desks is to give accurate information and counter misleading rumours circulating in the camps.

16 Days of Activism

The annual campaign 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender Based Violence was launched across all the camps on 25 November with the participation of the refugee community, Government of Kenya, NGOs and UNHCR. This year's theme was safety in schools, and activities to raise awareness on GBV prevention were planned all through the period, which also included the celebration of World Aids Day, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and World Human Rights Day.

A football league for the youth kicked off with the start of 16 days of activism. The league is part of the activities that aim to reach out to the male youth with messages of prevention of and response to SGBV. A total of 30 teams will participate in the tournament which will see the winners crowned on 10 December during the International Human Rights Day celebrations.

Resettlement

A total of 78 cases / 195 individuals were submitted to UNHCR Branch Office for onward submission to resettlement countries. A total of **1,848** individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries since 1 Jan 2013.

37 individuals departed for onward resettlement during the reporting period. A total of **1,321** individuals have departed for resettlement since 1 Jan 2013 as follows:

Country	Individuals
United States	299
Canada	167
Australia	137
Sweden	227
United Kingdom	316
Norway	144
Denmark	17
Finland	7
Others	7
TOTAL	1,321

Livelihood



Photo: Catherine Githaiga/UNHCR

A graduation ceremony took place in Alinjgur for women and girls who had participated in various life-skills activities including weaving, baking, dyeing, and sewing. The graduates were presented with gifts and most of them proudly reported that they had started small businesses in the camps (Hagadera and Kambioos).

Education

Schools closed on 25 November, after completion of KCSE examinations, and will reopen on 6 January 2014.

In Kambioos an education enrolment campaign was conducted to encourage parents to enrol their children in school in 2014. The campaign targeted mostly the Somali Bantu community where most children do not go to school and are engaged in child labour. Community representatives requested to be incorporated in the school management committees and also be recruited as teachers. They cited discrimination and harassment of children while walking to school as well as lack of livelihood as their major challenges.



Child labour in the camps: Shoeshine boy

Photo: Idriss Noor Garat/UNHCR

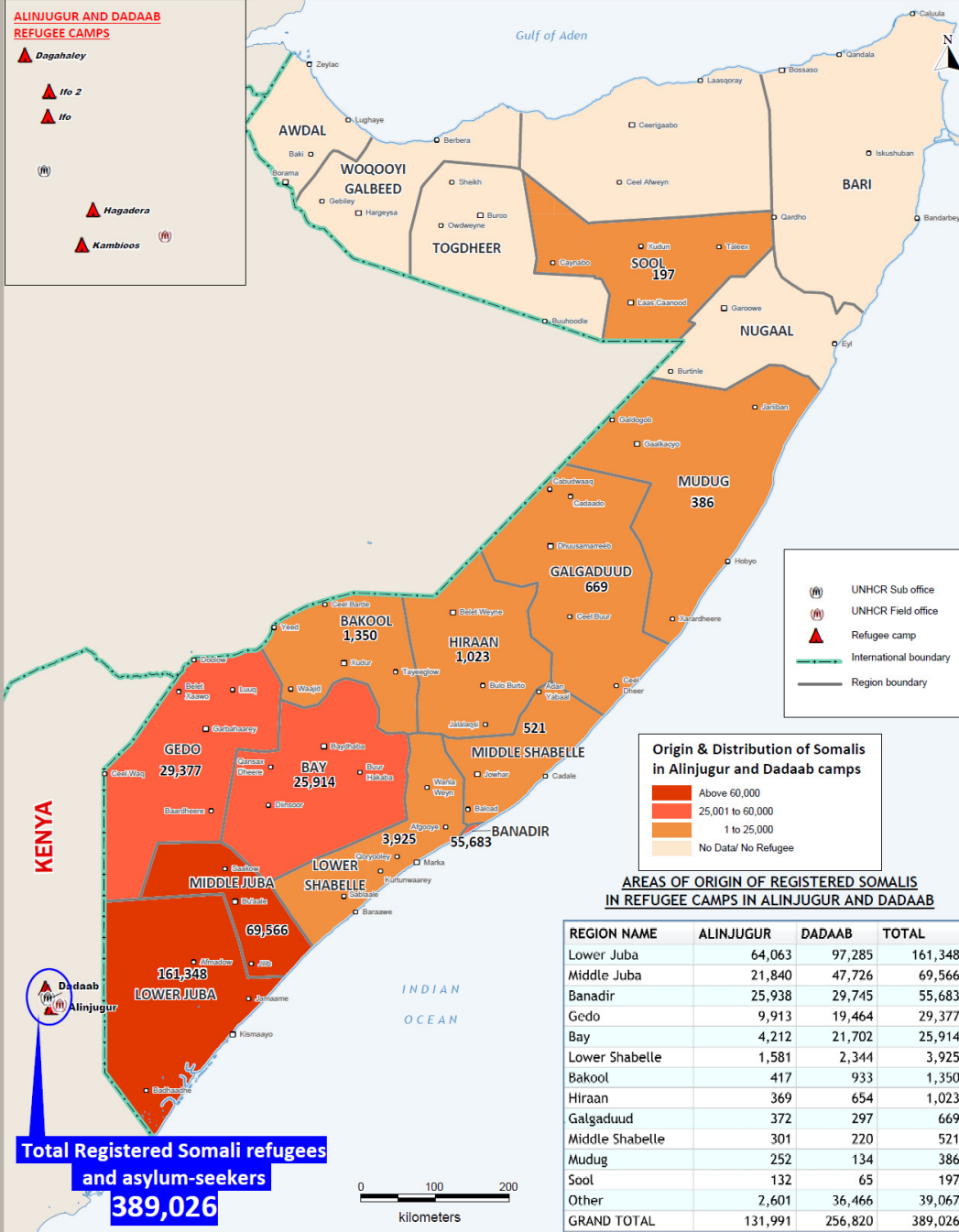
Areas of Origin of Registered Somali refugees and asylum-seekers in Alinjugur and Dadaab, Kenya

Population statistics as of 30 November 2013

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Sources:
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping © 1998
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facebook.com/DadaabAlinjugur

Webportal on Somali Displacement:

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