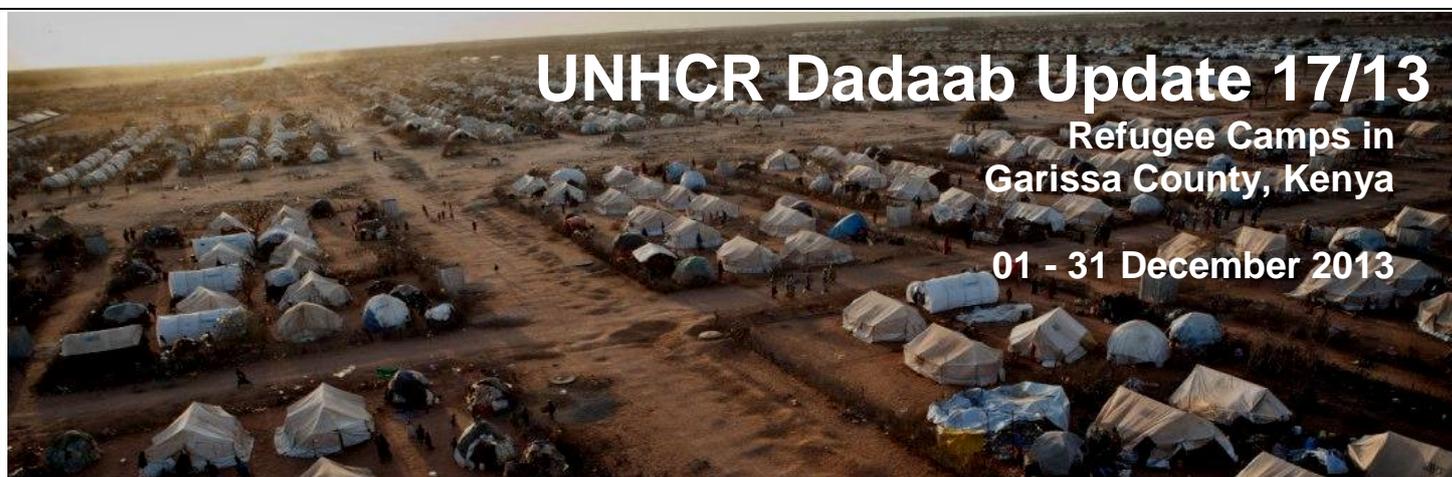


UNHCR Dadaab Update 17/13

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 31 December 2013



New developments

Improvised explosive device in Dagahaley

Two police officers were injured on 30 December 2013 when their vehicle ran over an improvised explosive device in Dagahaley camp. The police vehicle was escorting a CARE fuel tanker on mission to fuel boreholes.

The following day, UNHCR, Police commanders and heads of agencies working in Dagahaley met with the elected leaders of Dagahaley camp. The leaders regretted that the incident occurred and promised to share information with the police to forestall any recurrence of such attacks. The police commanders guaranteed their commitment to a good cooperation and assured that they would keep restraint during operations.

The last successful attack, in which an improvised explosive device was used, occurred on 31 January 2013, near the Police New Base in Ifo. Similarly, a police patrol vehicle was targeted and hit.

Fire in Ifo market

At around 2 a.m. on 31 December 2013 a fire started in the northern side of Ifo market and burned and completely destroyed over 50 shops including wholesale shops with goods worth millions of Kenyan shillings. UNHCR and partners dispatched water tankers to contain the spreading of the fire. No casualties have resulted of this incident.

Reportedly, a large shipment of sugar from Somalia had arrived the previous day which leads to the assumption that the cause of the fire may have been arson motivated by business rivalry between traders. It is the third time that Ifo market was destroyed by fire in recent years.

The lack of firefighting equipment to tackle large scale fires remains a major concern in the Dadaab refugee operation. Preventive measures were prioritized immediately. UNHCR and Kenya Red Cross Society will jointly establish a fire response and management cell in Dadaab.



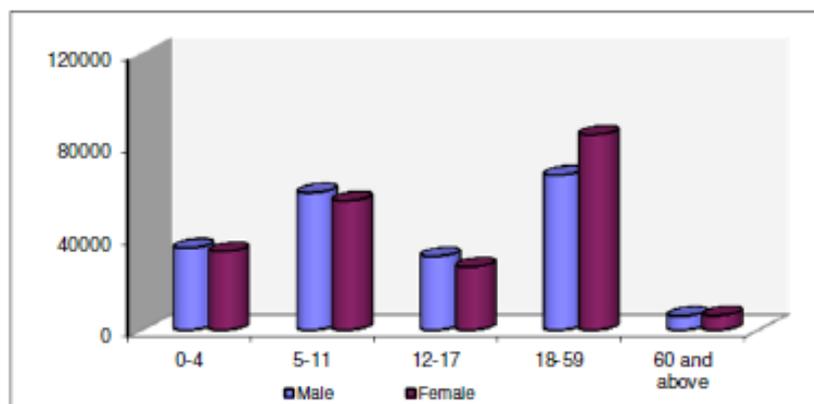
Photo: Assadullah Nasrullah/UNHCR

Statistics

Population as of 31 December 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
115,373	20,482	105,156	101,257	66,015	408,283

200,039 men and boys and 208,244 women and girls live in the Dadaab camps. The table below shows the distribution of the refugee population in Dadaab by age group and gender:



Protection



Photo: Assadullah Nasrullah/UNHCR

Opening of Return Help Desks

The Voluntary Return Help Desks (RHDs) were officially launched across all five camps on 9 December 2013. UNHCR staff at the help desks document and counsel refugees who intend to return to Somalia before organized repatriation begins. By the end of December, a total of 1,683 persons had approached the desks across the five camps for information. The majority of them expressed an intention to return to relatively secure areas of Somalia for livelihood opportunities and to reunify with family members.

The opening of the RHDs had caused some anxiety in the camps and refugees feared an immediate and comprehensive repatriation exercise. They were assured of the voluntary nature of the process. Also, UNHCR dispelled refugee concerns about food assistance being cut for any refugee approaching RHDs. The main objective of the Return Help Desks is to give accurate information and to counter misleading rumours circulating in the camps. The Return Assistance Package is being finalized and will be communicated to the refugees before the end of January 2014.

Forum on International Refugee Protection

UNHCR conducted a forum on international refugee protection which addressed senior government officials working in the North Eastern region. The workshop was held in Garissa from 4 to 5 December and was attended by 23 officials drawn from the Kenya Police Service, Immigration and Prisons Departments, Judiciary, DRA, NRB, Anti-Terror Police Unit and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Discussions covered the mandate of UNHCR, the protection roles and responsibilities of the Government and UNHCR, key international instruments and national legislation covering refugee affairs in Kenya and durable solutions. The durable solutions session focused on the spontaneous voluntary return of Somali refugees. Participants were sensitised on the role of the government and UNHCR in the process.

16 Days of Activism

The 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) were officially concluded on 10 December with the celebration of the International Human Rights Day.

The theme "Freedom from SGBV" was commemorated throughout the five camps and in Dadaab through various activities including processions, dance, songs, poetry, sports, forums with community members and radio shows.

In Hagadera, hundreds of participants took part in a marathon to express their solidarity in ending violence against women and girls. 30 police officers and 37 G4S guards participated in the event.



Photo: Jamal Ayela / UNHCR

The proud winners of the marathon

Focus on Minorities' Needs

UNHCR met with Oromo Community leaders in Hagadera on 9 December 2013 and discussed their problems and needs as a minority group in the camp. A similar meeting was held on 11 December with the Somali Bantu leaders whose community members live across all five Dadaab camps. Both groups shared with UNHCR why they fled Somalia and what the current concerns of their communities are. Minorities are being represented in the refugee community leadership of the Dadaab camps.

Resettlement

A total of 51 cases (157 individuals) were submitted to resettlement countries during the month of December 2013, some of which were children born into families whose cases had already been submitted. 37 of these cases were submitted to the United Kingdom for resettlement consideration through UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi. A total of 1,922 individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries since 1 January 2013.

During the month of December, UNHCR Dadaab identified cases which will be submitted to Sweden in January and February 2014.

16 individuals departed for onward resettlement to Australia and the USA during the reporting period. A total of 1,356 individuals have departed for resettlement since 1 January 2013.

RESETTLEMENT DEPARTURES BY COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT December 2013							
Country of Resettlement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
USA	1,041	2,576	1,884	1,045	734	312	7,592
Canada	92	76	182	236	88	167	841
Australia	20	224	31	38	33	159	505
Sweden	-	14	315	295	52	227	903
United Kingdom	-	-	176	67	149	316	708
Netherlands	5	6	-	-	-	-	11
Norway	-	-	-	57	18	144	219
New Zealand	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Denmark	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other	-	-	-	-	6	31	37
Total	1,158	2,900	2,589	1,738	1,080	1,356	10,821

Photo: Assadullah Nasrullah/UNHCR

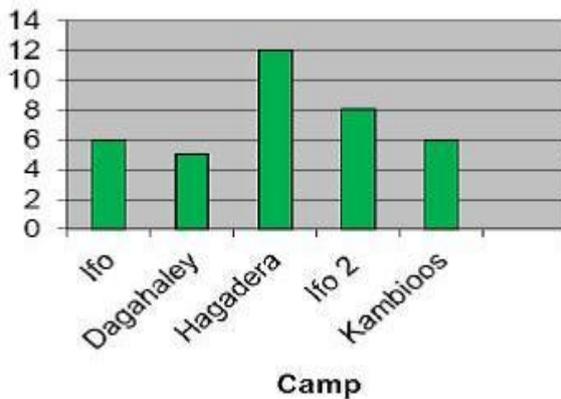


Health and Nutrition

The seventh polio campaign was conducted from 14 to 18 December 2013. Both oral and injectable vaccines were used. Due to the active involvement of community leaders and religious leaders in the mobilisation of the community, a total of 97% of the targeted 98,369 children were vaccinated during the campaign.

Two cases of cholera had been reported in the camps in November 2013. As one of the measures taken, an already planned hygiene and sanitation promotion campaign was further enhanced. The current hygiene campaign gives refugees an opportunity to receive health education on good personal and domestic hygiene practices. It promotes preventive measures for all hygiene related infections.

Number of person per toilet



Sanitation

The Dadaab camps have a total of 60,276 functional household and communal latrines. The latrine coverage varies from camp to camp with Hagadera being the lowest. On average, 12 persons share one latrine in Hagadera.

Education

As schools remained closed for holidays during the month of December 2013, community school management committee members and education specialists of humanitarian agencies participated in a schools management workshop held in Garissa. The workshop aimed at empowering the two entities in proper management of schools and clearly defined areas and methods of improvement.



Photo: Silja Ostermann/UNHCR

For further information please contact:

UNHCR External Relations Unit

KENDAPI@unhcr.org

Webportal on Somali Displacement:

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

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