

UNHCR Dadaab Update 05/14

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 31 March 2014

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Ration Card Exchange

Between 15th and 22nd March, UNHCR replaced old food ration cards with new ones in all five Dadaab camps. Refugees who collected their food rations stopped by the UNHCR desks in food distribution centres to receive their new cards. 80,424 new ration cards were validated which means that 97% of all households in Dadaab now have a new card. The remaining 3% of households can approach the UNHCR field offices for their cards.

The list of households to receive food rations in the first week of April was generated on the basis of the new and the remaining old card numbers. When refugees do not show up for food distribution for three consecutive cycles, their ration cards are invalidated. After six cycles, their ration cards are inactivated.



Ration card exchange in Ifo camp

UNHCR/Dadaab

STATISTICS

Population as of 31 March 2014:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
106,729	19,479	90,730	86,714	53,740	357,392

During the reporting period, routine registration updates were undertaken in all five Dadaab camps. South Sudanese new arrivals were profiled on 12th March in Ifo 2 camp and issued with temporary cards. UNHCR also generated a Supplementary Food Manifest for 344 profiled unregistered South Sudanese asylum seekers which allows them to collect food at the WFP distribution centres. The registration of so far unregistered persons of concern present in the camps is planned to commence on 14th April.

PROTECTION

International Women's Day Celebrations

The International Women's Day on 8th March was observed across all five Dadaab camps. This year's theme was "Equality for Women is Progress for All". During the colourful celebrations, the efforts of women in addressing and responding to gender based violence issues in the camps were recognized.

Persons with Specific Needs

In Ifo Camp, a joint vulnerability identification and assessment was concluded in which 2,597 persons with specific needs were identified. Among them were elderly with chronic illness and large families with no proper shelters. The persons identified will be supported with non-food items and shelter.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Access to Legal Assistance

The mobile court held sessions in Dadaab from 3rd to 7th March and then again starting on 31st March. Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) and UNHCR monitored the court.

During the reporting period, the Kadhi services were relocated back to Garissa due to lack of material support. The Kenyan Judiciary had established a permanent Kadhi Court in Dadaab and deployed one Kadhi / judge and three support staff on 9th February. UNHCR and the Judiciary are exploring support mechanisms for the resumption of Kadhi services in Dadaab.

Education

The 2013 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results were released on 1st March. Out of 496 students who sat for the examination, 328 received their results. The results of 168 candidates were cancelled as these students had allegedly indulged in examination malpractice. Generally, the results were good with schools in Dagahaley being among the top 5 in Garissa County.



Three of the top five secondary school students in the Dadaab camps

UNHCR/Dadaab

On 13th March, UNHCR met the Somali Education Cluster and discussed the implications of potential voluntary returns to Somalia on education. It was confirmed that many teachers in Somalia were trained in Dadaab and have better skills than teachers trained in Somalia. The participants agreed that information sharing across borders would be supportive for education. It was proposed to add Somali language literacy course in the Dadaab curriculum in order to properly prepare children for a life in Somalia.

Resettlement

During the reporting period, 56 cases comprising 171 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. 51 individuals departed the camps for onward resettlement to Canada and Sweden.

A British team was in Dadaab from 21st February to 10th March and completed adjudication interviews of 55 cases comprising of 175 individuals. The refugees who will move to the UK also received Cultural Orientation training.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) was in Dadaab from 12th to 21st March and interviewed 132 cases / 388 individuals for the United States Refugee Admission Programme (USRAP).

SHELTER AND SITEPLANNING

Relocation from Hagadera to Kambioos

On 26th March, community leaders together with representatives of Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and UNHCR carried out an information campaign at Hagadera outskirts. The refugees residing in the outskirts were informed that they will move to Kambioos camp in May.



UNHCR/Airinjgur

Announcements about upcoming relocation exercise in Hagadera

Hagadera is the largest of the five Dadaab camps and many refugees have settled in its outskirts. This does not comply with government decisions on camp borders and implies security risks and problems in service delivery. On 14th March, the leaders of all outskirts blocks had agreed to the relocation in a meeting with representatives of the Government of Kenya, LWF and UNHCR.

Meanwhile, Kambioos was prepared for its new inhabitants. Work on a water connection from the water tank to the newly demarcated section was started.

WATER AND SANITATION

WASH partners embarked on a latrine assessment in the five Dadaab camps. The objective is to establish whether the reduction in households has an effect on the existing latrines.

Statistically, latrine coverage at household level stood at 74.7% in March 2014 and an upward trend of latrine coverage could be observed since January 2014 in line with the reduction of population. However, beneficiaries who leave the camps tend to demolish their latrines and do not leave them for use of fellow refugees. Reports on the findings of the assessment will be shared in early April 2014.

Families, who do not have their own latrines, either depend on shared latrines with their neighbours based on good will or use the nearby bush. This is especially the case for the refugees living in the outskirts of camps.

UNHCR/Airinjgur



Construction of a pilot twin pit latrine in Kambioos

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

During the month of March, 45 energy efficient stoves were installed by UNHCR and InStove in primary schools in all five camps, hospitals, the MDR-TB Ward and the Safe Haven in Ifo camp.

The stoves use advanced design principles to maximize fire power and fuel efficiency while minimizing harmful emissions. A 60 litre stove can feed up to 400 people daily, and a 100 litre stove can feed up to 700. The stove is designed to operate on small pieces of wood, the ideal size being in the range of 3-5cm diameter.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Installation of a stove for school feeding and demonstration of fuel efficiency

The settlement of more than 350,000 refugees in Dadaab has put the environment under severe stress. Trees have been cut down all around camps. As a result, refugees no longer have enough firewood within their camp sites and the competition of persons of concern and their hosts over the use of natural resources spawns animosity. The use of fuel efficient items helps protecting the environment and mitigating conflicts over natural resources.

HOST COMMUNITY

On 31st March, UNHCR handed over a mobile ambulance to Fafi Sub County Hospital in efforts to improve and support delivery of health services to the local community in Fafi.

In the vast land of the sub-county with poor infrastructure, especially women and children are at risk of not receiving sufficient and timely medical support.



UNHCR/Dadaab

Deputy Governor of Garissa County Abdullahi Hussein Ali testing the new vehicle

For more information, please contact:

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

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