

UNHCR Dadaab Update 11/14

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 15 July 2014

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Ministerial Delegation from Juba Land visit to Dadaab

On 4th July, UNHCR Dadaab received a ministerial delegation from Somalia's Juba Land. The delegation visited camps and met with various leaders and refugees who have expressed interest to voluntarily return to Somalia. They expressed confidence that the three return pilot areas (Luuq, Baidowa and Kismayu) as outlined in the tripartite agreement have been pacified by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops and are safe for return. They however pointed out that while it was imperative that return to Somalia is an individual's decision, potential returnees should thoroughly be informed about the situation in Somalia particularly in the three pilot areas.

Donation of Non Food Items to Dadaab Refugee Host Community

On 15th July, UNHCR donated sets of Non Food Items (NFI's) including sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and cooking items to the Dadaab refugee host community. While handing over the items to members of Dadaab Sub-County at Dadaab constituency offices, UNHCR Head of Operations - Ahmed Warsame thanked all community members present and the entire community in general through radio for having hosted refugees for close to 24 years now.

He urged them to sustain their good will even as UNHCR continues to protect and seek lasting solutions for all refugees and asylum seekers.

Another bunch of similar NFI's had earlier been donated to host communities in Wajir South and Fafi Sub-Counties. These two counties are also part of the larger Dadaab refugee host community.



UNHCR Dadaab Head of Operations Ahmed Warsame donating UNHCR's non-food items to the Dadaab refugee host community. UNHCR/E. Relations

The items will benefit community members living with disability as well as elderly members. UNHCR often supports the host community in its development agenda especially through funding of education projects, security and infrastructure as a way of encouraging coexistence between refugees and their Kenyan host community.

SECURITY

The security situation in Dadaab was calm and stable during the reporting period. Humanitarian activities continued normally but threat and risk levels remained high. Generally, major crime rate in camps has significantly declined and this is attributed to enhanced

community policing as well as concerted efforts by the police, partner agencies and refugee leaders.

During the reporting period, suspected groups of armed men were sighted to have been hovering around camps. There was a robbery at one camp health post run by a partner agency. The inability of security forces to secure the porous Kenya-Somalia border, free movement of criminals and armed persons as well as the easy availability of small arms will continue to be a threat for the security situation in Dadaab.

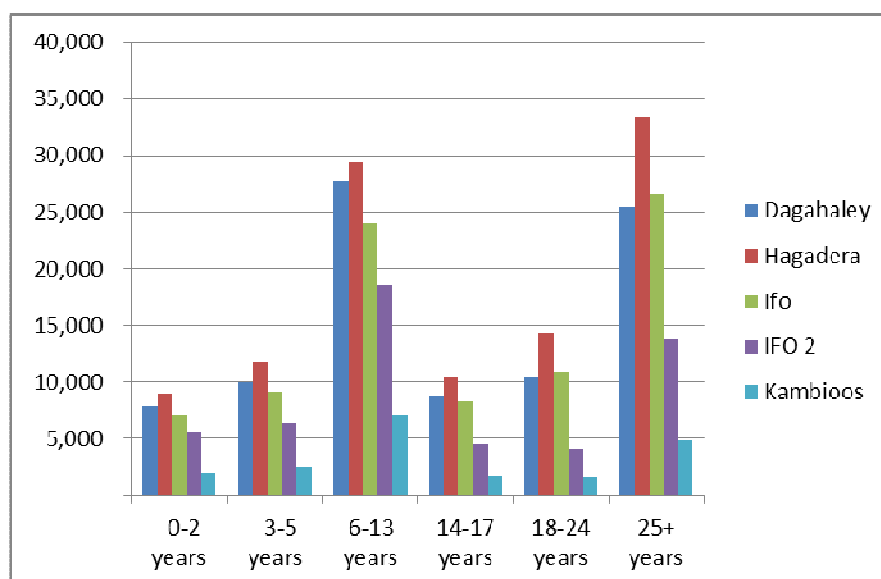
There is a worrying trend of incidents in the North Eastern region, notably Mandera, Garissa, Wajir and some locations along the Kenya-Somalia border. These incidents have an implication to the Dadaab refugee operation. Clan clashes and small arms attacks including guns, grenades and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) have repeatedly been reported in these locations targeting both the police and civilians. It is feared that this trend might spread to Dadaab as well.

Events across the Kenya-Somali border continue to be a source of security concerns in Dadaab. During the reporting period, a perilous security situation was reported in Juba Land and Gedo regions where regular clashes between AMISOM troops and suspected members of the Al-Shabaab continued to happen. There is genuine concern of a possible spill-over into North Eastern Kenya and more so into Dadaab.

STATISTICS

Population figures as of 30 June 2014:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
108,308	19,690	90,036	85,935	52,910	356,879



The next population statistics will be compiled on 30th July.

PROTECTION

General Protection Environment

Between 14th and 18th July, UNHCR Dadaab hosted a mission from UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi which was on a fact finding mission on community policing but also to visit UNHCR sponsored security projects commonly referred to as Security Partnership Projects (SPP). The

mission toured police stations in Dadaab camps where UNHCR is currently constructing some 48 units for use by police which include accommodation blocks, dining mess and crime reporting stations. During a meeting with the police, they undertook to intensify community policing in refugee camps as well as in the refugee host community.

A team comprising of the Community Partnership Project Teams (CPPT), camp chairpersons, Section leaders, and agency representatives from the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) and UNHCR held the monthly community-based “Tango Talks” on 15th July. The inconsistent attendance of the police was noted and discussions are to be held with police commanders to emphasize the importance of their participation in Tango Talks.

The Civil Registrar from Garissa visited Dadaab between 13th July and 2nd August to issue birth/death certificates across camps. He also held a meeting with UNHCR, DRA and health partners on 15th July to sensitize them on the need to report any home deliveries and often seek support from local chiefs in registration of such births.

A child welfare centre is being established in Ifo2 camp. The centre will support education development of children and ensure physical protection for vulnerable children in the community.

Urban Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Dadaab

On 11th July at Hagadera camp transit centre, the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) received 4 families of urban asylum seekers that comprised 18 individuals of whom 17 are Burundians and one Congolese. They were relocated for settlement in Ifo camp on 16th July. UNHCR is in liaison with DRA and the Burundian embassy in Nairobi to facilitate voluntary repatriation of the 17 Burundians whose application for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) has been unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, a total of 48 former urban refugees were relocated from Hagadera camp in Dadaab to Kakuma camp on 8th July. The group consisted persons who had erroneously been transferred by DRA to Dadaab camps and some who sought relocation for family reunification.

Voluntary Return to Somalia

On 3rd July 2014, an inter-agency meeting on return was held in Dadaab where details of the return support package were outlined. The meeting recommended that Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will distribute core relief items while Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will distribute the cash grant. The two partner organizations will have their presence at UNHCR Field Offices where they will develop a robust method of accounting for the assistance to be provided to refugees who will choose to return. The centralized process will give potential Somali returnees access to “one stop shop” facilitation. Meanwhile, the voluntary repatriation standard operating procedures (commonly referred to as voluntary repatriation pathway) were unveiled in the same return inter-agency forum. At the UNHCR Somalia Return Help Desks, repatriation assistants will initiate confidential discussions with individual refugees who wish to benefit from information related to voluntary return to Somalia.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Interventions

In Ifo 2 camp, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) is planning to construct 600 temporary shelters commonly referred to as T-shelters. Among these, 100 slots have been reserved for persons with protection needs, especially SGBV survivors and other vulnerable groups.

During the reporting period, a training workshop on SGBV was offered to refugee community representatives by CARE with support from UNHCR. The training modules included safety and security for SGBV survivors (facilitated by the police) and legal aid services offered by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK).

Within the reporting period, Save the Children (STC) held its 8th training session on life skills to children in camps. The training was entitled "Our community: How the Community Sees Me and My Role in the Community". 60 children attended the training which focused more on women leadership, volunteering and civic responsibility. 50 among them participated in child resilience sessions which were packaged with lessons on their rights and responsibilities. This time, attendance was unusually low because of Ramadan activities in camps.

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) held sessions with adolescent girls in camps at block level to disseminate information on issues related to SGBV, early marriages, forced marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The discussion sessions reached 131 girls. KRCS also continued with its psychological counseling as well as distribution of dignity kits and solar lamps to SGBV survivors. During this reporting period, a total of 409 survivors were issued with assorted dignity/hygiene kits and solar lamps.

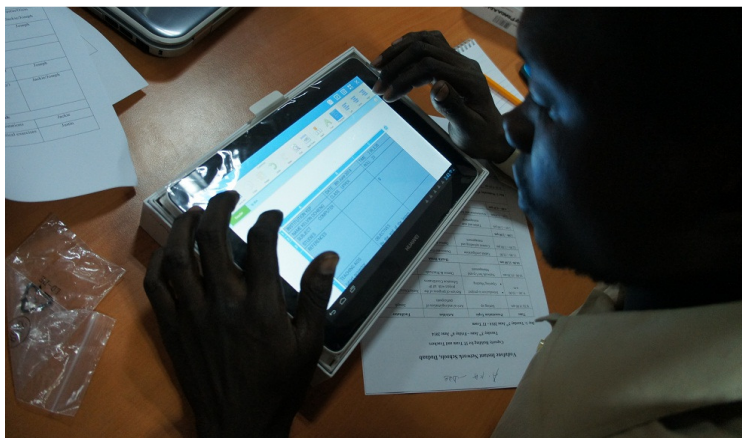
Resettlement

During the reporting period, a total of 23 new cases, including women and girls at risk underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 101 individuals departed for onward resettlement to US, UK and Canada. Since 1st January 2014, a total of 667 individuals have been submitted to UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi for onward resettlement.

EDUCATION

An assessment conducted by the UNHCR community services team, camp leaders and education partners identified a total of 27 community private schools in all camps. These community schools offer both secular and religious studies which are usually taught as remedial lessons after the routine school sessions. There are 33 public primary schools and 7 public secondary schools in all five camps.

J. Ogutu / Vodafone Foundations



A coach using tablet during Vodafone-UNHCR training

On 2nd July, UNHCR presided over a pre-launch session for a joint Vodafone and UNHCR computer learning project. The project is expected to ease access to learning for children by use of computer tablet technology donated by Vodafone Foundation. The tablets have been uploaded with relevant education curriculum including Kenyan primary and secondary

schools curriculum. The 13 centres, among them primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary colleges will benefit. Within this reporting period, UNHCR facilitated Vodafone which conducted a training for 30 teachers from these 13 centres.

An Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) Centre has been established in Dagahaley camp by Refugee Education Trust. This program which targets adults out of school currently has 130 Learners (95 men and 35 women). In line with this program, an ICT center has also been

established in Juba primary school in Dagahaley camp. The center has tablets installed with Internet access and the tablets are utilized both by school children and community members registered at the center. An E-learning laboratory has also been established in Ifo 2 at Mwangaza primary school with 25 tablets, 9 trained teachers and free internet access.

On 8th and 9th July, the Garissa UNHCR liaison office together with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNHCR education office in Dadaab visited the three higher learning institutions in the region with students holding scholarships from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM). This was a mission to review the career development of the 294 students in these institutions, monitor and evaluate their performance and get to hear from them their challenges. Among the students, 254 are distance learners at Frontier International College, 7 are resident students at North Eastern Province College of Health sciences and 40 are students at North Eastern Province Technical College. The North Eastern Province Technical College raised a challenges it faces especially with students who constantly seek issuance of movement passes during school term to attend resettlement interviews back in Dadaab camps.

LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS

On 9th July, a livelihood strategy was launched in Dadaab camps. The two year strategy (2014-2015) is a guide to livelihood project implementation for Dadaab refugees. The strategy development was guided by a livelihood assessment conducted by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) both in Dadaab and in Somalia. One of the emphases in the strategy is the need to link livelihood activities supported by partners in camps with the expected voluntary return of Somali refugees.

A FafDA tomato greenhouse in Hagadera camp. UNHCR/C.Services.



During the reporting period, a livelihood support mission from Geneva and Nairobi visited Dadaab. Part of the mission's agenda was to gather best livelihood practices in the field both in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee operations.

Fafi Integrated Development Association (FaIDA), a UNHCR implementing partner for refugee host community projects has during the reporting period trained 7 women and 4 men on greenhouse tomato farming.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

A maternal mortality mitigation team bringing together health partners, field officers, community services partners and communication partners (including local radio stations) held a forum on 3rd July and discussed possible interventions to address the issue of maternal mortality in Dadaab camps. Maternal mortality remains a challenge in camps but a partners' meeting with the area civil registrar who had visited Dadaab on 15th July resolved that all partners in their campaigns should prioritize and be more aggressive in advocating for and encouraging hospital deliveries. This is aimed at curbing home deliveries, a practice which continues to be a lead cause to maternal mortality in Dadaab camps.

For more information, please contact:

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit

kendapi@unhcr.org

Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

facebook.com/unhcrkenya

twitter.com/UNHCR_Kenya

twitter.com/SiljaOstermann