

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

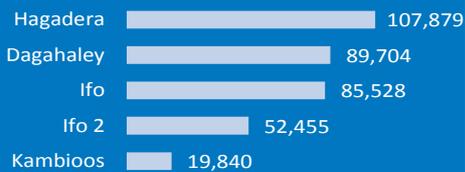
UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

16 - 31 July 2014

KEY FIGURES

Population as of 31 July 2014

355,406



214

individuals attended on protection desks in camps during reporting period.

3,826

birth certificates issued during the Civil Registrar's visit in July. 7,660 birth certificates have been issued since January 2014.

24

women and children currently live in the Safe Haven in Ifo camp.

74

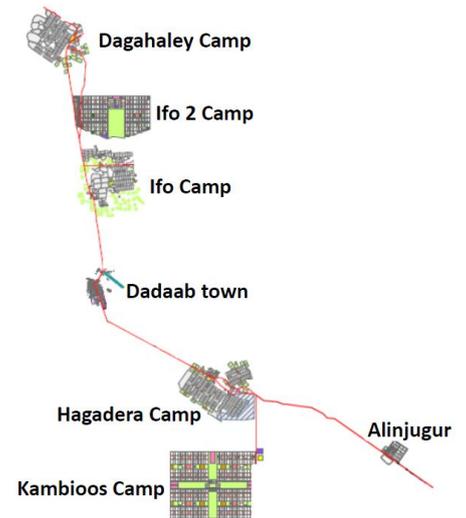
individuals departed for resettlement during the second half of July.

PRIORITIES

- First Go-and-See visit to Kismayo, Somalia
- Continued issuance and processing of birth/death certificates across the camps
- Establishment of market areas in Ifo 2 and Kambioos
- Finalization of construction of police buildings

HIGHLIGHTS

- Final preparations of a pilot project to support spontaneous voluntary return are ongoing. Once the Tripartite Commission (governments of Somalia and Kenya and UNHCR) meets, UNHCR and partners will start providing a support package for refugees who have made an informed decision to spontaneously return to three designated areas in Somalia (Luuq, Baidowa and Kismayo). Information exchange with the refugee community on return is taking place through radio, counseling at the five Return Help Desks and focus group discussions.



- The security situation in Dadaab operational area was calm and stable and humanitarian activities continued normally in a complex and unpredictable security environment. The threat and risk levels remain unchanged.

UPDATES

Protection

Relocation of Urban Refugees

- The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) has not reported any relocation of urban refugees to the Dadaab camps in the second half of July. Some urban refugees and asylum seekers who had previously been taken to camps in the frameworks of Operation Usalama Watch have returned to urban centers for various reasons.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and Registration

- Between 29th July and 1st August, UNHCR took part in strategic discussions in Nairobi on the transition of RSD responsibilities to DRA. In this meeting, a training plan for DRA staff and a backlog clearance strategy were formulated.
- The Civil Registrar continued to issue and process birth and death certificates across the camps. 3,826 birth certificates have so far been processed and the need remains thereby necessitating the extension of the Registrar's mission until 16th August.



Photo Yann Arthus Bertrand

Houses in Dagahaley

Detention and Access to Legal Assistance

- 139 refugees are in Garissa detention centers. On 17th and 24th July, UNHCR and Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) facilitated legal aid sessions in which 24 refugees in detention were advised on their legal rights and obligations. The main concerns raised during the visit were prolonged stays on remand, loss of contact with family members and inadequate medical assistance. UNHCR and RCK are following up on the issues with the relevant authorities.
- UNHCR in collaboration with RCK attended five court sessions to oversee the hearing of cases involving refugees during the reporting period; four out of the five arrested persons were discharged after provision of necessary documents by UNHCR.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- UNHCR met with various community groups to assess their perception of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). An in-depth analysis of the FGM situation in the five Dadaab camps is being conducted and a set of indicators is being developed to measure progress in addressing the problem of FGM in the communities.
- Radio talk shows have been launched on appropriate mechanisms of SGBV prevention and reporting among persons with disabilities. An on-going awareness campaign in Ifo 2 aims at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and at reducing the protection risks they face.
- UNHCR's partner Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) held eight focus group discussions with 148 adolescent girls on early marriages, FGM, HIV/AIDS, rape, denial of education, abuse of power, gender, sex and psychological abuse.



Health

- A community awareness campaign to mitigate maternal mortality is ongoing. The campaign includes bi-weekly radio live talks in which mothers who delivered in health facilities share their experience. Community and religious leaders, medical professionals and Community Health Committee members are also involved in the radio discussions.
- 34 refugees from Dadaab camps benefited from cleft lip/palate surgery in Kijabe hospital in Nairobi. 53 refugees received treatment in Garissa with support from UNHCR and KRCS.



Nutrition

- Weight for Height nutrition screening was completed in Kambioos camp and is in the planning process in the other four camps.
- KRCS and Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) are in the process of restructuring the Mother, Infant and Young Child Feeding Program (MIYCN) following the handover from Action Against Hunger (ACF). Mother-to-Mother support groups are being re-evaluated to assess active groups and those that require more support in order to be active.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Mother and young child in Ifo 2

Shelter and Site Planning

- UNHCR, DRA and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) handed over 42 Temporary Shelters (T-shelters) at the Transit Centre in Ifo. These shelters will serve persons living within the protection area and consist of timber frames, plastic sheeting and tin roofs.
- UNHCR commenced the construction of a Protection Area in Kambioos camp which will have 20 household units, cooking areas and a child friendly space.
- Eleven buildings are currently being constructed for use of the police in Dadaab and Fafi district.
- UNHCR assessed the condition of the seven primary schools in Ifo 2 West. Only one of the schools has permanent structures. The technical experts recommended replacing the temporary walling of the other six schools with mud bricks.
- UNHCR and DRA carried out an assessment on access roads in the camps to determine the need for repair works. It was found that market areas and sections of main roads in the camps have potholes and easily flood during rainy seasons. The repair works will include light grading of the market roads and access roads in Ifo, Dagahaley and Kambioos as well as construction of drifts at selected road areas.



Primary school in Ifo 2 in need of renovation

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's partner Peace Wind Japan (PWJ) has established two construction groups of 60 persons including the host community and members of diverse refugee groups in the camps. The groups will construct 600 T-Shelters and each house completed will generate an amount of approximately KSH 6,000 for the cooperatives.
- During the reporting period, focus group discussions on viable livelihood activities were carried out with three cluster group of women, men and youth in Ifo 2.
- UNHCR and DRA identified the location for markets in Kambioos and Ifo 2. The two camps currently have no market area, forcing refugees to walk for kilometers to sell their produce or to purchase commodities.

Durable Solutions

Spontaneous Voluntary Return to Somalia

- UNHCR informed the refugee community about the travel kit for spontaneous voluntary return to Somalia through the radio and refugee leaders. The kit will comprise of core relief items including jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, blankets and rechargeable solar lanterns. An unconditional cash grant of 100 USD will also be provided through a token system.
- During continuous counseling sessions at the return help desks in all five camps refugees receive information on conditions in Somalia, on where to receive assistance and on the impact which their decision to voluntarily return to Somalia will have on their refugee status in Kenya.

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, 74 individuals departed for onward resettlement to US, UK and Canada. Since 1 January 2014, 791 individuals have departed for onward resettlement.
- Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided for 185 individuals. 25 cases (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews and five cases were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. Two cases comprising of six individuals were submitted to the UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi for onward resettlement on emergency priority.

Contacts:

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit, kendapi@unhcr.org, Cell +254 704381822

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

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