

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 31 October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, visited the Dadaab Refugee Camps on 29th October. They were accompanied by Amb. Amina Mohammed, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Joseph Ole Lenku, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government, and other high ranking government and United Nations officials.

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab



Ban Ki-moon addressing refugees in a meeting in Dadaab's Ifo 2 camp

Ban Ki-moon expressed his sympathy for the Dadaab refugees. "This is a tragedy – a man-made tragedy. If leaders had listened more to the aspirations of their people, we would not be here," he told refugees in Dadaab's Ifo 2 camp. He added that although refugees in the camps were facing great challenges, it was encouraging to see how they had organized themselves, established democratic structures and provided community based

security. Ban Ki-moon was himself internally displaced during the 1950-53 Korean War, while the parents of World Bank President Jim Yong Kim were refugees. "There is nothing like being out of your country, not being able to move," he said, before pledging World Bank support to get Somalia back on the development track.

Representatives of the refugee community expressed their concerns for the future, restriction of movement and security in the camps. A member of the local Kenyan community told the delegation about the burdens faced by hosting a large number of refugees for more than 20 years.

Ban Ki-moon and Jim Yong Kim also toured the camp to get a better understanding of the harsh living conditions in the arid area. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), UNHCR's partner for the Health Sector in Ifo 2 camp, guided the delegation through Ifo 2 hospital, including the maternity ward and the nutrition stabilization centre.



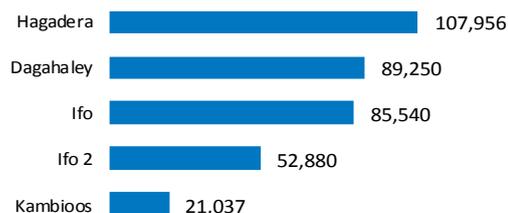
Welcome by South-Sudanese and Somali refugees and tour of Ifo 2 Hospital

Photos UNHCR/Dadaab & P. Ogola

UPDATES

Population as of 31 October 2014: **356,663**

Refugees: **353,262**
Asylum seekers: **3,401**



Protection

Child Protection

- The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government gave directions to register and issue birth certificates to all children under the age of 18 years. After this 'Rapid Results Initiative', the government intends to stop late birth registration from 2015. This issue was discussed in the Garissa Child Protection Working Group meeting held on 21st October. UNHCR joined a sub-committee to engage and meet the County Commissioner and the Registrar of Births and Deaths to further assess the impact on refugee children.

Registration unregistered refugees

- After the successful completion of mass registration of individuals who had lived in the camps without having been registered, the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) embarked on case by case registration of persons who had missed out on the exercise. 29 persons were registered by DRA and subsequently included in UNHCR's database after presenting DRA referral slips.

Refugee Status Determination

- The handover process of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) from UNHCR to the government is still in transition. At the end of October, UNHCR was fully engaged in the supervision of the RSD handover process. Seven DRA were receiving on the job training with respect to RSD functions and activities. These activities include file management, file tracking, RSD interview schedule, RSD interviews and RSD assessments.

Education

- At the end of October, primary schools in the Dadaab camps were preparing for this year's Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). The national examinations are administered by Kenya National Examination Council. Examination centers were identified and UNHCR education partners visited schools for motivational talks. This involved discussion with pupils and parents on the dangers of cheating during the national examinations.
- Best performers in curriculum and co-curriculum activities were awarded during an Education Day organized by UNHCR's partners Lutheran World Federation (LWF) on 24th October. The objective of the function was to motivate and reinforce performance for both teachers and learners.
- The scholarship committee comprising of education partners, community leaders and youth representatives held a meeting to select candidates who will benefit from university scholarships. Scholarship opportunities for students from the Dadaab camps remain limited due to funding constraints.



Primary school student in Hagadera camp

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

Health

- The quarterly ‘eye camp’ was conducted between 22nd and 26th October. Patients were mobilized, screened and received surgery in Hagadera hospital. This hospital is managed by UNHCR’s partner International Rescue Committee (IRC). A total of 214 cataract operations were successfully conducted. The preliminary review of patients was very encouraging with more than 75 percent of patients regaining a visual acuity of more than 6/18 in the operated eye. The camp was sponsored by the charity CBM.



Photos IRC/ Dadaab

Patients and medical staff after and during eye surgery

- From 20th to 24th October, a team from the Garissa County Ministry of Health trained 13 health professionals across the camps on ‘Expanded Programme on Immunization’ (EPI). The training aimed at contributing to the reduction in childhood mortality and morbidity by preventing diseases with vaccines.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Six health facilities in Kambioos, Ifo and Ifo 2 camps were assessed using the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) monitoring tool from 22nd to 24th October. The monitoring team comprised staff of partner agencies and UNHCR (Dadaab, national and regional level). The BSC framework was developed in collaboration with John Hopkins University specifically to support UNHCR’s refugee health facilities. It includes several steps: Collection, Data Entry, Reporting, Analyses, Review and Action.

Balanced Scorecard

A set of 5 instruments designed to assess the quality of care provided in primary health care facilities

framework was developed in collaboration with John Hopkins University specifically to support UNHCR’s refugee health facilities. It

- Action against Hunger (ACF) with support from UNICEF and UNHCR conducted a three day workshop to finalize the Maternal and Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) communication strategy. Staff of health and nutrition agencies and representatives of local radio stations participated. ACF has been spearheading the integration of communication for development (C4D) in mainstream health and nutrition activities in the Dadaab camps.



Analysis of communication matrix in MIYCN workshop

Photo UNICEF/ F. Kidake

Water and Sanitation

- Camp clean-up campaigns took place in Hagadera and Kambioos on 29th and 30th October respectively. The monthly activity aims at empowering the community on good hygiene practices. It is envisaged that community leaders and youth will spearhead these activities in the future.

Shelter and Site Planning

- During the month of October, UNHCR monitored the distribution of shelter materials to beneficiaries in Ifo, Ifo 2 and Dagahaley. A total of 2,202 shelters are in the process of being built across the Dadaab camps. 1,552 of them are funded through UNHCR, 520 through Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) and 130 through Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- An assessment of the physical structure of all primary schools in the camps has been initiated. The assessment includes the number of classrooms, water installation and the physical condition of school structures.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's partner LWF established an Information Communication Technology Center in Kambioos camp. This is the first of its kind in the relatively new camp. The center has so far enrolled 20 youth and is equipped with 20 desktops with internet connectivity. LWF has applied for the center to be accredited by Computer Society of Kenya (CSK) as an examination center from where youth in Kambioos will be able to participate in CSK examinations. The trainees are currently acquiring introductory computing skills and will progress to various computer applications such as accounting software, audio-visual editing applications and graphics software.

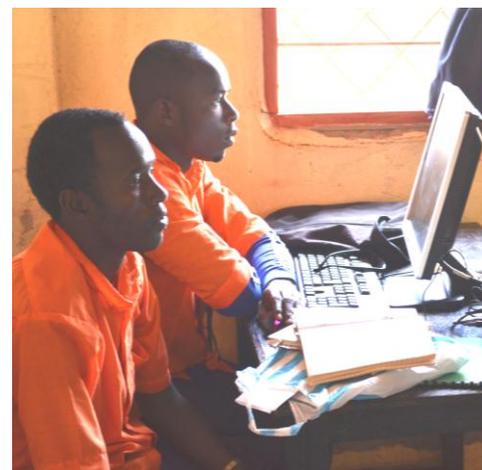


Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

Youth in computer class in Dagahaley camp

Durable Solutions

Spontaneous Voluntary Return to Somalia

- In the last two weeks of October, assistance and support systems for spontaneous voluntary return from Kenya to Somalia were tested through 'dry runs' in all five Dadaab camps.
- On 29th October UNHCR hosted a high level Delegation from the Kenyan Government led by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ag. Commissioner for the Department of Refugee Affairs, the Governor of Garissa County and the Deputy County Commissioners from Fafi and Dadaab Sub Counties. UNHCR Kenya outlined the various steps undertaken in partnership with DRA to ensure that mechanisms were in place to support spontaneous voluntary returns of Somali refugees.
- As of 31st October, 3,231 refugees had presented themselves at the Return Help Desks and made return related inquiries.

Resettlement

- The Refugee Support Center (RSC) conducted an interview through video conferencing with Dadaab for the first time on 27th October. The case was submitted on an urgent medical basis and comprised four individuals.
- 21 cases (276 individuals), including women and girls at risk, underwent interviews to verify family composition. 35 cases (166 individuals) were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Forms (RRF) processing and possible submission to resettlement countries. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided for 120 individuals in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps.
- During the last two weeks of October, 67 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Norway and Canada.

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

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