

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

1 - 15 September 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 3rd September, the incoming Somali Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Gamal Mohamed Hassan, visited Dadaab refugee camps and met with various refugee representatives including women, youth and refugee leaders. He was accompanied by senior Kenyan government officials and the UNHCR Representative in Kenya. During their conversations with refugee representatives, the visitors underlined that return to Somalia was based on free choice and guaranteed support to those who have decided to return to their home country. The Somali Ambassador reaffirmed the commitment of the Somali Government to end violence and bring peace to the war torn country.



Ambassador Hassan (center) addressing refugee representatives

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is preparing for the introduction of electronic cash transfers with support from UNHCR. The new initiative is dubbed *Bamba Chakul* ("get your food") and will convert 10% of distributed cereal rations into food vouchers. *Bamba Chakula* is a form of restricted cash transfer. The money is sent through a mobile phone and can only be redeemed for food. WFP and UNHCR plan to provide SIM cards to all heads of households in Dadaab camps during food distributions in October 2015.



Minister Isabella Lövin chatting with refugees in Ifo 2 camp

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

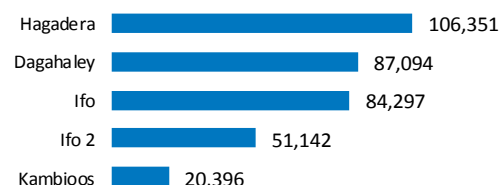
- The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms. Isabella Lövin, visited Dadaab camps on 8th September. The Minister was accompanied by a high level delegation from the Governments of Sweden and Kenya as well as UNHCR Country Representatives for Kenya and Somalia. Ms. Lövin and the delegation met the refugee leaders and visited Ifo and Ifo 2 camps. They discussed durable solutions and

humanitarian services in the camps as well as Sweden's continued support to refugees in Kenya and in other parts of the world. The Minister also spoke with families who have decided to voluntarily return to Somalia and asked them about their aspirations once they are back in their home country.

UPDATES

Population as of 1 September 2015: **349,280**

Refugees: 345,974
Asylum seekers: 3,306





Registration

- On 31st August, UNHCR embarked on a new birth registration exercise. As of 15th September, 1,964 babies were registered across all five camps.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- From 7th to 9th September, the Refugee Appeals Board (RAC) conducted a mission to Dadaab. The RAC is an autonomous body formed by the Government of Kenya under the Refugees Act 2006 and deals with all adjudication of first instance RSD cases. The RAC will also adjudicate on eligibility applications at appeals against first instance rejection decisions. The mission members familiarized themselves with the plight of refugees in camp conditions and held discussions with refugee leaders.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Mother and daughter waiting for baby registration in UNHCR field office in Hagadera camp

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- On 3rd September, UNHCR held a meeting with representatives of South Sudanese refugees living in Ifo 2 camp. One of the issues discussed was teenage pregnancy as one of the factors leading to girls dropping out of school. UNHCR has supported various organisations to provide immediate interventions including Save the Children International (SCI) to conduct home visits with the aim of assessing the specific needs of the girls; Kenya Red Cross (KRC) will provide counselling and assistance to all women and girls, men and boys who may report violence; while National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) will provide education and awareness raising on reproductive health in addition to counselling to women, girls, men and boys involved in survival sex.

Education

- Schools in the refugee camps resumed classes on 31st August and undertook reopening exams.
- Gender responsive training took place from 7th to 11th September targeting refugee teachers as well as head teachers from Fafi, Dadaab and Wajir South. The training aimed at removing the barriers to learning that girls and boys encounter. The goal is to provide a learning environment which is inviting to all students and enables them to learn and achieve the best of their individual potential.

Health

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Family visit for little Moussa in Ifo 2 hospital

- The Ministry of Health declared the end of the Cholera outbreak in Dadaab refugee camps. The last positive case was recorded on 16th July. However, close monitoring and surveillance continue.
- A Polio campaign targeting children under five years old was successfully completed on 2nd September with Dadaab camps achieving administrative coverage of above 95%.
- 25 health care workers from across the camps enhanced their knowledge on management of tuberculosis, including multi drug resistant tuberculosis, and HIV. They participated in a training facilitated by Ministry of Health staff from 7th to 11th September in Dadaab.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR conducted its annual Nutrition Survey from 17th August to 12th September. The exercise covered all five Dadaab camps. One of the objectives of the survey was to establish the nutrition status of under-five-year old children. During the survey, body measurements and blood samples were taken and families were interviewed about their utilization of the available food. UNHCR used mobile technology to compile the data.

Water and Sanitation

- By end of September, all camp cleaners will be laid off. This has been necessitated by budget constraints and by the need to ensure that the refugee community takes up and owns hygiene campaigns and mass cleanup activities in the camps. UNHCR's WASH partners will continue to engage the camp leaders to ensure the process is taken over by the leadership and the community at large.
- Data collection for the annual latrine survey was completed in the five camps and first results show a decrease in latrine coverage due to filled up latrines. Validation by UNHCR is being conducted before the final report will be shared.

Shelter

- 16 refugee families arrived to Kambioos camp from urban areas in early September. Each family has been provided with a plot, a new tent and a latrine in efforts to facilitate their settling-in in the camp. UNHCR assisted the families by quickly erecting tents for each household.
- 13,000 families in Hagadera camp were found to live in inadequate housing. As the necessary resources are not in place



Tent pitching in Kambioos camp

to cover this gap, the most 363 vulnerable households will receive transitional shelters. Another 363 have already received tents. UNHCR and Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) have also identified 50 beneficiaries to benefit from shelter repair kits. A shelter repair kit is composed of roofing materials including trusses and plane sheets.



Makeshift shelter in Hagadera camp

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Between 3rd and 8th September, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) conducted two two-day training sessions for 60 camp leaders in Ifo 2 camp. The training aimed at empowering them with knowledge and skills for their daily tasks. Topics covered included: Features of a good leadership, overview of the camp leadership structure, roles and responsibilities of a leader in the camp, knowledge on basic Human Rights, challenges leaders face in the camp and the benefits of good leadership.
- UNHCR conducted a focus group discussion with 15 youth leaders in Ifo 2 camp. The issues discussed included security, unemployment, youth empowerment training and drug abuse. The youth also discussed role models in the camps and distribution mechanisms for non-food items. Most of the participants were members from the youth executive committee including the camp chairman and chairlady.

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, a total of 26 cases comprising of 116 individuals underwent resettlement case composition interviews. Ten cases comprising of 39 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries. 27 new-born babies were added on to cases already submitted for resettlement. A total of 76 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to United States of America, Canada and Sweden.
- On 1st September, UNHCR conducted training on Resettlement Fraud Awareness for partner agencies involved in identification of referrals. The objective of the training was sensitization on fraud in the resettlement context and mitigation measures.
- The Resettlement Protection Panel met on 11th September and discussed 23 cases referred from Protection, Community Services and Health units. 21 were approved to proceed in the resettlement process while two were deferred for further follow up.

Voluntary Repatriation

- During the first half of September, 250 individuals returned to Somalia by road convoy while 224 returnees were assisted to return to Mogadishu by flight. The total number of returnees assisted under the voluntary return process stood at 4,108 as of 15th September (3,510 by road and 598 by flight).
- Since the establishment of the integrated Return Help Desks managed by UNHCR, DRA and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 10,192 refugees have made return related enquiries at the desks. As of 15th September, 4,878 refugees have confirmed their intention to return to Somalia.
- UNHCR has strengthened the identification and assessment of people with special needs under the voluntary return process. Their details and needs will be shared with UNHCR Somalia for further follow up upon arrival in Somalia.
- With the anticipated rains in October and November, the number of flights carrying returnees to Mogadishu will be increased to six flight rotations per week. This will allow more returnees going to Mogadishu and its environs to reach their destinations safely before the rainy seasons starts.



Group of siblings getting ready for return flight to Mogadishu at Dadaab airstrip

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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