

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

1 – 15 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR urges the Government of Kenya to reconsider the Dadaab camps closure announcement

- UNHCR has urged the Government of Kenya to reconsider its recent announcement that Dadaab refugee camps should be closed within three months and 335,000 Somali refugees returned home. The announcement was made on 11th April by Kenya's Deputy President following a terror attack at Garissa University located 95 kilometres from Dadaab camps. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and his staff continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Kenya. UNHCR is however concerned that abruptly closing Dadaab camps as suggested by the government would have extreme humanitarian and practical consequences, and would be a breach of Kenya's international obligations." *Read the full statement here* <http://www.unhcr.org/552d0a8a9.html>



A UNHCR staff at a return help desk in Dadaab providing information to a Somali refugee seeking to voluntarily return home. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

- Speaking exclusively to Kenya's Citizen TV on 14th April, UNHCR Country Representative in Kenya, Raouf Mazou said his office is working closely with the Government of Kenya in supporting the current voluntary return pilot project supporting Somali refugees spontaneously returning to three regions in Somalia (Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayu). Since the commencement of the pilot exercise in December 2014, 2,048 have been supported to voluntarily return. *Click this link to watch the interview* <http://www.citizennews.co.ke/index.php/news/2012/local/item/28270-un-opposed-to-forcefully-repatriating-refugees.html> In 2013



UNHCR trucks leaving Dadaab for Garissa on 2nd April to give support to emergency response. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

- Earlier, on 2nd and 3rd April, UNHCR and health partners contributed to the emergency response to the attack on Garissa University by providing trucks, ambulances and medical supplies from the Dadaab Refugee Operation. UNHCR Head of Operations in Dadaab met the Garissa County Governor on 2nd April and discussed issues of UNHCR support in Garissa County as a refugee host. UNHCR maintains strategic partnership with the Garissa County Government and other stakeholders to build networks and ensure social support and legal protection of its persons of concern.

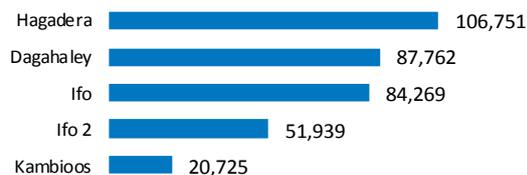
SECTION UPDATES

Population as of 31 March 2015:

351,446

Refugees: 347,922

Asylum seekers: 3,524



Security

- The security situation in Garissa County continues to be tense following the terror attack at Garissa University on 2nd April where 148 people were killed and scores injured. So far, the Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack. Top officials from the Government of Kenya including the Inspector General of police have since visited Garissa and imposed a security curfew in Northern Kenya and some parts of the Coastal region of Kenya where there have been terror attacks in the recent past.

Protection

General Protection Environment

- UNHCR continues to provide and coordinate provision of protection and assistance to refugees in the Dadaab refugee camps. Following the announcement of the camp closure intention by Kenya's Deputy President, refugees have been very anxious about their future. UNHCR has assured them that it will continue advocating with the government to reconsider the intention of closing camps as announced. In the meantime, UNHCR has requested them to exercise patience.

Registration of New Arrivals

- Documentation and registration activities continued in all camps. 20 unregistered new arrivals were registered by DRA and subsequently registered on the UNHCR database. Registration of new births was fast-tracked in Ifo and Kambioos camps. 206 new-born babies out of 461 were registered in Ifo camp while 146 new-born babies were registered in Kambioos camp. Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo 2 camps will prioritize new-birth registration to be conducted between 21st and 24th April 2015.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- The RSD handover process from UNHCR to Kenya's Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) is underway. In the reporting period, 18 First Instance interviews were conducted, 11 cases were rescheduled, and 15 No-show cases were reviewed and recommended for appeal interviews. On 10th April 2015, Kenya's Interior Cabinet Secretary published six names of members of the new Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) in accordance with the Refugee Act 2006. The board will serve for a period of three years and shall determine cases rejected at the First Instance after 1st July 2014. **Download the notice here** http://kenyalaw.org/kenya_gazette/gazette/volume/MTE1Mw--/Vol.CXVII-No.37

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- During the reporting period, UNHCR in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) conducted a facilitators training for Engagement of Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) towards prevention of violence against women and girls in Dadaab. The training attracted 28 participants who shall be training other EMAP groups in camps in the next one month. The initiative seeks to address intimate partner violence and help transform men with ways that will shun this violation of rights.

Education

- Schools in Dadaab camps were closed for April holidays on 10th April. The schools will re-open on 4th May.
- Following an armed attack by unknown gunmen at an agency's residential compound in Hagadera camp, a Physics teacher at Hagadera Secondary school was killed. Three G4S security guards were seriously injured in the attack. UNHCR is further engaging security forces to ensure more security and safety coverage at schools and agency compounds in camps. A security risk assessment is underway at agency compounds in all camps.
- The Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) holiday program has been postponed due to the prevailing security situation in Dadaab. Lectures from Moi University, which is one of the partners for BHER will not travel to Dadaab this holiday following a major terror incident that took place at Garissa University which is a constituent college for Moi University. The incident also led to a temporary suspension of issuance of movement passes for refugees by the Government of Kenya which would have affected more than 100 BHER students scheduled to do their holiday courses at different colleges and Universities across Kenya. The movement passes have since been issued.



A school girl in Dadaab. Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

Health

- Dadaab is currently experiencing heavy rains and as a result, diarrhea cases have increased across all camps. On 14th April, a suspected Cholera case was detected in Ifo camp but the patient was isolated and offered treatment in good time. Though the case turned out not to be Cholera, outbreak response measures have been put in place. WASH partners continue to engage in outreach and hygiene promotion activities sensitizing the community on hygiene. Health providers are also on high alert for any water borne diseases.

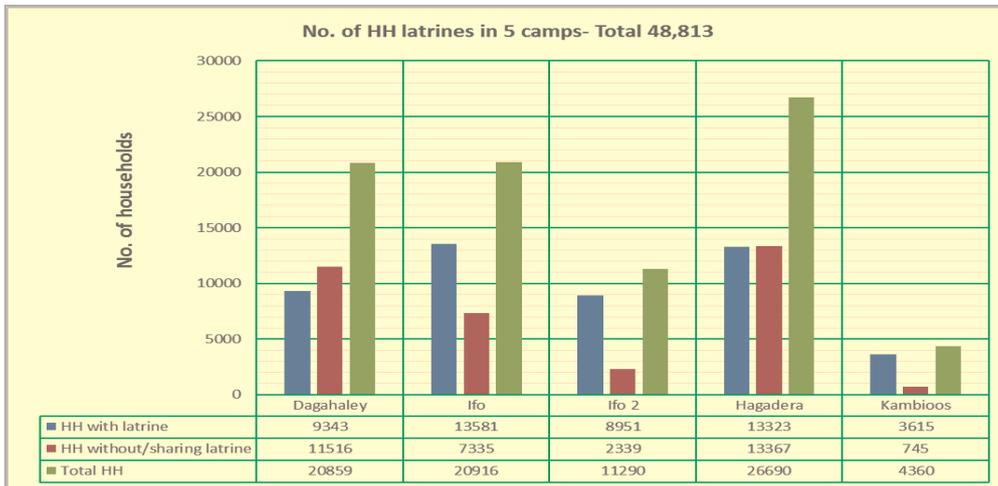
Water and Sanitation

- Water infrastructure in all five camps was stable during the reporting period with a water storage capacity of 6,050 m³ in 46 tanks, distributed through a pipeline network of 314 km, 900 tap stands and 4,320 taps. 29 boreholes are operational and supplying water to a population of 351,446 in Dadaab camps.



A solar powered borehole in Ifo camp Photo: UNHCR/Dadaab

- Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) levels in water being supplied at tap stand level was raised from 0.5mg/l to between 1.0 and 1.5mg/l due to a suspected cholera incident in Ifo camp and the rising of water diarrhea incidences across all camps. FRC helps prevent recontamination of treated water.
- Drilling of a replacement borehole (borehole 8) continued in Ifo camp. The drilling was at 126m below ground level by the end of this reporting period. Solar installation of boreholes 6 and 9 in Dagahaley and two more boreholes in Ifo 2 camp was also underway during the reporting period.



- There was barely any latrine construction during the reporting period because planning for 2015 is yet to be finalized. The table on the left shows latrine coverage in all camps during the reporting period.
- Hygiene promoters have this April been actively engaged in hygiene promotion activities in all camps, carrying out intensive hygiene campaigns at household level.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has this April provided 100 mosquito nets to vulnerable elderly persons in Dagahaley camp. It also conducted a 3 day training to home-based care-givers to elderly persons in Hagadera, Dagahaley and Kambioos camps. A total of 120 home based care-givers have been offered with skills on how to care and improve nutrition and personal hygiene for the elderly. LWF has recently been selected by UNHCR to provide services to people with specific needs in all camps. LWF also continues to support people living with disabilities to undergo corrective surgery at AIC-cure International hospital at Kijabe. During the reporting period, eight persons with congenital deformities, clubfoot, contractures, cleft lip and palate were supported.



LWF providing an elderly man with a mosquito net in Dagahaley camp Photo: LWF/Dadaab



Mzee Yusuf, one of Kambioos camp elderly committee member busy watering spinach at a livelihood center Photo: LWF/Dadaab

- A soap making group in Kambioos camp continued to do commercial production of soap. During the reporting period, the group managed to produce ½ metric ton of soap. The group has so far made sales worth KSH 90,000 (approximately 1000 USD). This money will be used to sustain the soap business.
- A tailoring training for 50 persons including 39 women is underway in Kambioos camp livelihood center. 30 trainees are expected to be registered for Grade II and Grade III trade tests to be provided by the Kenya National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) this year.
- An LWF livelihood support program for three elderly committee groups with kitchen gardens is ongoing in three camps. The groups are offered with seeds, fertilizer and garden equipment. The Kambioos camp group has already harvested spinach twice.

Durable Solutions

Voluntary Return

- 39 refugees, including 21 women and 18 men were counseled on return options by the interagency Integrated Return Help Desk team and involved in two focus group discussions whose outcome shall guide deliberations in the next cross border meeting. The trend of cross border movements was also discussed. The number of Somalis provided with return support package has reached 2,048 individuals. Return convoys have however been temporarily halted due to the bad condition of roads caused by the ongoing heavy rains.

Resettlement

- Nine cases comprising 37 individuals (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 22 cases comprising of 96 individuals were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries; 10 cases comprising 100 individuals were submitted to Branch Office Nairobi for onward resettlement to the USA. 34 individuals (20 newly born babies and 14 add on spouses) were added to cases already in the USA resettlement pipeline during this reporting period.
- A total of 39 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to Sweden (19) and Australia (20). 120 individuals received individual resettlement counselling. 17 movement passes were prepared and issued for 51 individuals departing Dadaab for onward resettlement to Australia and Sweden and to Nairobi for medical referrals by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Six finalized Medical Assessment Forms (MAFs) and Medical Information Forms (MIFs) were received from IOM and are undergoing resettlement case processing for onward submission. 14 cases were referred for deliberation, of which nine were approved for a further resettlement process. Four cases were deferred and one case was not approved.

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

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