

UNHCR Dadaab Update 9/13

Refugee Camps in
North Eastern Province, Kenya

1 – 31 July 2013

New developments

Preparations for refugee elections

The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) has declared all positions of the refugee leadership in the camps vacant to pave way for elections of community leaders scheduled for 27 - 29 August. The interim leaders have been requested to continue performing their duties until the elections have been held and results announced.

Preparations for the elections have started, with UNHCR and partners supporting DRA in planning and executing the exercise. Elections will take place for a total of 1,000 positions: camp leaders, section leaders, and block leaders, both female and male. All registered refugees 18 years of age or above have the right to vote. Schools across the camps will be used as polling stations, as students are on August holidays.

Security

During the first week of July, increased banditry was reported on the main operational supply route between Dadaab and Garissa. A prompt reaction by the security forces put a stop to this activity. In Hagadera camp, armed men were sighted and a gang of bandits was reportedly terrorising residents in the night. After increased police night patrols, the situation calmed down. Overall, criminality decreased considerably in the camps during the current month of Ramadan.

There was however a serious incident in Ifo camp on 23 July when a refugee married couple were shot in their home and severely injured. The perpetrators fled from the scene. The two were transferred to Nairobi for emergency medical treatment and assistance. It is thought likely that the attack was the culmination of a religious dispute, as the two victims were Christian converts.

The release on 19 July of the two MSF workers who were kidnapped in Ifo 2 in October 2011 was hailed with relief by the humanitarian community in Dadaab.

Statistics

Population as of 31 July 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
111,949	21,003	104,049	100,367	65,087	402,455

Population verification exercise

The end of the verification exercise in Kambioos on 30 July marked the closure of the Dadaab refugee population verification that started in September 2012. The final report will be released in the coming weeks. In Hagadera, verification closed on 18 July. A total of 21,991 individuals who did not show up

for verification were inactivated and will not appear in the General Food Manifest of the first cycle of the August distribution. In Kambioos, the number of individuals who did not show up was 338.

Protection

In Ifo 2, 17 South-Sudanese nationals who self-relocated from Kakuma camp on security grounds were received. The individual cases were documented and ration cards issued pending data and physical file transfers.

Unverified reports of forced recruitment of children in Kambioos continued to be received. UNHCR was working closely with the refugee community and police to monitor the situation and prevent further recruitment of child soldiers by Somali militia movements.

The CARE “We Can” campaign, which reinforces the message of zero tolerance towards violence against women was launched, with community members taking the lead. More than 1,000 refugees participated in the events in Ifo and Dagahaley camps.

An assessment of the Dagahaley Transit Centre identified some major gaps, such as poor sanitation and waste-management facilities, run-down shelters, and inadequate lighting. Funding for the rehabilitation of the centre has not been found. CARE will conduct a hygiene-promotion campaign at the centre engaging residents, some of whom are vulnerable women who have lived there for a long period of time.

A similar needs assessment was conducted at the Safe Haven and Protection Area in Ifo camp, and a task force has been constituted to implement and monitor rehabilitation works (water, lighting, security and playground).

A general distribution of sanitary pads was conducted in Ifo 2 for 12,961 women. Distribution in the other camps will take place in August, reaching a total of 120,000 women. Although this is one of the High Commissioner’s commitments to refugee women, funding has only been secured to cover the needs during four out of 12 months in 2013, which is way below the global standard.

Resettlement

- *RRF interviews and submissions:* 13 cases comprising 69 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. 62 cases / 201 individuals were submitted to BO Nairobi for onward submission to resettlement countries during the reporting period. This includes 46 cases / 171 individuals to Norway.
- *Departures:* 4 cases / 29 individuals departed for resettlement to the United Kingdom. A total of 616 individuals have departed to resettlement countries since 1 January 2013.
- *Referrals:* 6 medical referrals were received from health partner MSF for resettlement consideration.

Education

To improve teaching skills and enhance quality of education, Islamic Relief will conduct teachers’ trainings during the August holiday at the Garissa Teachers’ Training College. Between May and July, two-day school-based trainings were conducted in 10 schools in Ifo 2 to improve teaching quality. The exercise also identified an immediate need to recruit more teaching staff. Islamic Relief is in the process of recruiting 100 additional teachers to address the gap.

A mission from York University, Toronto, visited Dadaab on a fact-finding trip to prepare a teachers’ training course in Dadaab. The course will give diplomas in primary school education and will be organised in cooperation with Kenyatta University. This course will be the first one offered by Kenyatta’s Dadaab campus and will start in September. The course is part of the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees project which brings together several universities, including York and Kenyatta.

Health

The polio emergency continued, with a total of 34 acute flaccid paralysis cases line-listed, out of which 9 were confirmed positive for wild-polio virus type 1, including 1 confirmed polio death of a 23 years-old male. The fourth round of vaccination was scheduled for mid-August.

Ifo 2 hospital became operational on 4 July. Services offered include inpatient services, theatre and outpatient services. The hospital is run by Kenya Red Cross Society.

As a part of a new referral system strategy, consultative visits by specialists were performed in July - cardiologist, urologist, ophthalmologist. Two ambulances were fully equipped to transport patients.

Shelter

Peace Winds Japan has completed the construction of 70% of the 1,800 transitional shelters (T-shelters) in Ifo 2 budgeted for in 2013. After the completion of the remaining 600, there still remains a considerable gap in shelter needs in Ifo 2 with some 12,500 families without adequate shelter.



Shelter in need of replacement, Ifo 2

Photo: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Livelihood

DRC has commenced a micro-finance project targeting youth, women, the elderly and persons living with disabilities in Dagahaley, Ifo and Ifo 2. 1,346 beneficiaries have been identified across the three camps through the community structures. With a revolving fund of KES 18 million, beneficiaries will be assisted through the First Community Bank, an Islamic law compliance bank with experience in funding micro-finance projects. Material or cash grants will separately target the most vulnerable groups.

For further information please contact:

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