

UNHCR Dadaab Update 01/14

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

15 – 31 January 2014

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Visit of a Special Delegation on Return

A special delegation headed by the Deputy Special Representative to the UN-Secretary General in Somalia, Philippe Lazzarini visited Kambioos camp on 22nd January. This was a one day fact finding mission on refugee return activities. The delegation met potential returnees as well as refugee leaders from Kambioos where among other things discussed was the feasibility of spontaneous return of Somali refugees.

Security Situation

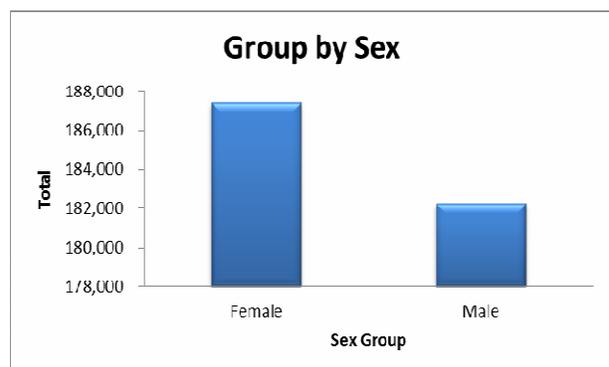
The Security situation in the operation was calm during this reporting period. Humanitarian operations and activities in camps had returned to normalcy after having been suspended temporarily due to the January 8- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) scare at Ifo camp. Local Police commanders who have been busy carrying out investigations have confidence that their recovery of raw IED assembling materials and the arrest of two suspects will disrupt such criminal activities in the camps at least for now.

REFUGEE STATISTICS

WFP and UNHCR had allowed all refugees living in camps a grace period of 90 days to comply with biometric food collection procedures, a period which expired in December 2013. Figures from the UNHCR ProGRES database showed a significant drop of population from 408,283 refugees in December 2013 to a total of 369, 656 refugees by end of January 2014. Consequently, those who did not collect food within the 90 days grace period (six consecutive cycles) were deactivated from the ProGRES database.

These were the figures by end of January 2014.

Camp	Total		Grand Total
	Female	Male	
Dagahaley	49,425	46,187	95,612
Hagadera	55,194	53,942	109,136
Ifo	45,806	44,219	90,025
Ifo 2	27,163	27,815	54,978
Kambioos	9,829	10,076	19,905
Total	187,417	182,239	369,656



PROTECTION

Voluntary Return to Somalia

Counselling at the return help desks continued in all camps. During the reporting period, representatives of 38 families/households consisting of 224 individuals approached the desks in Kambioos camp. Another 35 households consisting of 172 individuals approached the desk in Hagadera camp. In Ifo camp, only 3 households consisting of 14 individuals sought return information. Most of those approaching the desks inquired mainly about the return package. Meanwhile, preparations for the return intention survey to be conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were on course. Recruitment of research assistants to conduct the survey was already underway.



A Return Help Desk in Dadaab for refugees seeking information about return to Somalia. UNHCR/Dadaab

Spontaneous Returns

In Kambioos camp, a total of 150 plots of land appeared to have been vacated by refugees reportedly returning to Somalia spontaneously. UNHCR sought to approach this as a matter of verification which was planned to take place in coming weeks during field monitoring missions and food distribution. There have been unverified reports that some refugees who have spontaneously left Dadaab camps are seeking asylum in Dolo Ado camp in Ethiopia fearing that the Government of Kenya may forcefully repatriate them to Somalia.

Registration

A preliminary meeting was held by camp multifunctional teams to plan for upcoming food ration card replacement scheduled for March 2014. Field visits were conducted during and after this reporting period to assess food distribution points where the exercise will be taking place. Upgrading of network cables at Dagahaley food distribution point and Dagahaley field office was completed.

On 22nd January, registration activities were suspended in all camps except in Ifo 2 to allow registration workers to attend a multi-functional team workshop which took place in Dadaab. In Hagadera and Kambioos camps, the UNHCR registration team held discussions with doctors from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) hospital about referral mechanisms to be used for individuals with medical cases that may require them to second alternates to collect food for them.

New Arrivals

Profiling of new arrivals fleeing conflict in South Sudan was conducted in Ifo 2 camp. By the end of this reporting period, 45 households consisting of 65 individuals from the Nuer ethnic group were profiled. Another 5 households consisting of 15 individuals from the Dinka ethnic group were pending registration in Ifo 1 camp. Discussions were to be held with the Kenya Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) to expedite registration activities.

Resettlement

Between 15th and 31st January, 14 cases consisting of 45 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. A total of 148 individuals had been submitted to resettlement countries since 1st January this year. 19 individuals left for resettlement in Canada during this reporting period. A case work circuit ride team from Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Africa arrived in Dadaab on 29th January and scheduled interviews for individuals in the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) that would take place until 19th February.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Polio vaccination campaign

Another polio eradication campaign has been underway in the Horn of Africa & East Africa regions. In Dadaab camps, preparations were being made for an oral vaccination campaign that was to target children below five years from the refugee community and the host community.

Since May 2013, UNHCR has implemented seven rounds of vaccination campaigns. The last confirmed case of polio in Dadaab was on 14 July 2013.

EDUCATION

On 17th January, the launching of a new early childhood learning center was inaugurated by UNHCR in Dagahaley camp. The school was opened by Humankind International, a non-profit organization established by former refugees now citizens in Canada.

During that launch, it was announced that the school will enroll children from both the refugee community and the host community on continuous sponsorship for two years until children graduate for regular primary school education. In the first intake, the institution admitted 60 children, 30 from each of the two communities. More children are to be enrolled.



UNHCR Head of Operations in Dadaab -Ahmed Warsame- in a white shirt inaugurating the launching of Humankind Academy in Dagahaley camp in January 2014. UNHCR/ D. Mwanacha

LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES

In Ifo 2 camp, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) had completed the shortlisting of groups who had applied for microfinance projects planned for 2014. A total of 63 groups were shortlisted for income generating activities and interviews were planned for coming weeks. In Dagahaley camp, a tender box was open on 30th January inviting proposals from individuals with ideas on income generating activities. Shortlisting had been planned for later.

REFUGEE HOST COMMUNITY RELATIONS

On 21st January, Garissa County officials from the Ministry of Intergovernmental and Institutional Relations visited Dadaab for a meeting with humanitarian agencies working in the area. The officials sought to establish working relations with humanitarian agencies that will foster development in the host community. They undertook to attend bi-weekly host community coordination meetings to be coordinated by UNOCHA and UNHCR in Dadaab.

For more information, please contact:

UNHCR External Relations Unit
KENDAPI@unhcr.org

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

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