

UNHCR Dadaab and Alinjugar, Kenya

BRIEFING NOTE

Population of concern: **355,709**

Refugees: 352,051

Asylum Seekers: 3,658



Origin of refugees and asylum seekers:

Somalia	339,292
Ethiopia	15,033
South Sudan	1,025
DR Congo	163
Uganda	62
Sudan	48
Burundi	29
Eritrea	25
Rwanda	17
Other	15

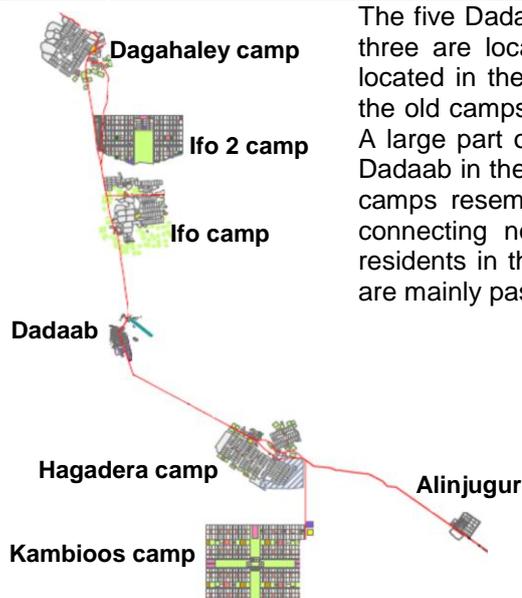


Background

The East and Horn of Africa continue to suffer from conflict and displacement. Kenya remains the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. While most people fleeing from conflict in South Sudan arrive in Kakuma in northern Kenya, most Somali refugees flee to Dadaab, located in Garissa County in the former North Eastern Province of Kenya.

The Dadaab refugee complex has a population of 355,709 refugees and asylum seekers (31/05/2014) and consists of five camps. 96% of the refugees are from Somalia. The first camp was established in 1991, when refugees fleeing the civil war in Somalia started to cross the border into Kenya. A second large influx occurred in 2011, when some 130,000 refugees arrived, fleeing drought and famine in southern Somalia.

Five camps



The five Dadaab camps are Dagahaley, Ifo, Ifo 2, Hagadera and Kambioos. The first three are located in Lagdera (Dadaab) district while Hagadera and Kambioos are located in the neighbouring Fafi district. There is a considerable difference between the old camps, established 1991 and 1992, and the new camps, established in 2011. A large part of the residents in the old camps (Ifo, Dagahaley, Hagadera) arrived in Dadaab in the 1990s and have children and grandchildren born in the camps. The old camps resemble naturally-grown towns and have developed into commercial hubs connecting north-eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. In contrast, most of the residents in the new camps (Ifo 2 and Kambioos) came during the 2011 famine and are mainly pastoralists.

UNHCR and other agencies in Dadaab and Alinjugar

The Dadaab refugee operation is coordinated by UNHCR Sub-Office Dadaab, which also serves the three camps in Lagdera district. UNHCR Field Office Alinjugar is part of the larger Dadaab operation and serves the two camps in Fafi district. Both UNHCR offices cooperate closely with NGOs and other international organisations, among them WFP, UNICEF and IOM. The main government counterpart is the Department for Refugee Affairs (DRA).

Services delivered

In its 23 years of existence, the Dadaab refugee operation has not moved very far from the provision of all essential services to the refugees. Restrictions imposed on refugees by the Government of Kenya make it difficult for them to establish a financially independent existence in which they can fend for themselves.

UNHCR and its partners provide essential services to refugees regarding Protection, Education, Food, Health and Nutrition, Site Planning and Shelter, Water and Sanitation, Environment and Energy. The Kenyan host community also benefits from some of the activities.

Durable Solutions

The most feasible durable solution for the majority of refugees remains voluntary return, as integration in the host community is not possible and there are comparatively few options for resettlement. In November 2013, the governments of Kenya and Somalia together with UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation. However, as the conditions for repatriation yet to be known, the refugees' decisions on return to Somalia remain strictly voluntary.