

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

01 - 15 October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Preparations for spontaneous voluntary return to Somalia are ongoing. On 10th October, a Cross Border Voluntary Return Coordination Meeting took place in Dhobley, Somalia. UNHCR Dadaab met with representatives of the Kenya and Somali governments, colleagues of the UNHCR Somalia office, AMISOM liaison officers as well as UN agencies and NGOs based in Somalia and the border region.



Photo UNHCR/H. Ocholla

Cross Border Voluntary Return Coordination Meeting in Dhobley, Somalia

During the meeting, UNHCR Kenya and Somalia confirmed that preparations were on track for the voluntary return to start. An issue which required further attention was the prepositioning of food at the home way stations in Somalia. It was also underlined that the opening of the border would be a necessary action to be taken by the two governments.

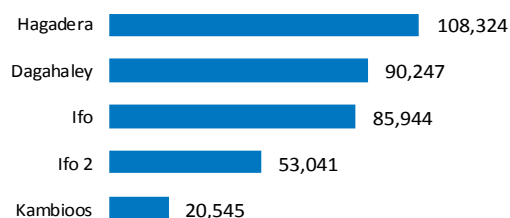
Once conditions are met, UNHCR Dadaab will start supporting refugees to voluntarily return to Somalia. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) are UNHCR Dadaab's key partners in this process. The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) is UNHCR's counterpart in the return process in Kenya.

- The security situation in Dadaab operational area remained stable during the first two weeks of October. The average of reported crimes has dropped. However, several reports of armed men in the camps and outskirts were reported. On 7th October, police arrested an individual who reportedly belonged to a group of three suspects who were terrorizing motorists along the Dadaab-Liboi road at Ifo junction. The other two men managed to escape. The arrested person led the police to a house in Ifo camp where they recovered ammunition.



UPDATES

Population as of 30 September 2014: **358,101**



Refugees: 354,663
Asylum seekers: 3,438

Protection

Registration unregistered refugees

- The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and UNHCR concluded a mass registration exercise on 15th October. A total of 2,274 individuals were successfully registered, the majority of whom were babies and children age 0 to 4 years. Since the beginning of 2014, a total of 11,749 unregistered refugees have been registered.

2,274

individuals were registered
(1 - 15 Oct)

Arrests, Detention, Freedom of Movement

- In the first two weeks of October, 18 refugees and asylum seekers were arrested in Garissa County (14 male, 4 female). Three were fined for residing outside the Dadaab camps. The other 15 were suspected of unlawful presence in Kenya and discharged after successful mitigation by UNHCR's partners RCK. Currently, 153 refugees and asylum seekers are held in Garissa Prison Center and receive legal counseling by RCK.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- Currently, nine survivors of Gender Based Violence and their children – a total of 24 individuals – are accommodated at the Safe Haven in Ifo camp. On 15th October, two more survivors of sexual violence were admitted to the facility. The decision was made in the monthly Safe Haven Panel. In this forum, UNHCR and its partners DRC, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) also discussed exit strategies and solutions for the current residents.

Education

- Bob Collymore, Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom, visited the Dadaab Camps on 8th October to see the newly established Instant Network Schools. Six primary schools, three secondary schools and four vocational skills centers now offer classes with tablets for teenagers and young adults. Safaricom is providing connectivity across all 13 solar-powered schools.

- 42 Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) in Ifo and Ifo 2 were trained on Girl Child Education. This was done within the framework of Windle Trust Kenya's Kenya Equity in Education Program (KEEP). KEEP supports a total of 15 schools. It targets girls and provides sanitary materials to schools. Boys also benefit from KEEP as, for instance, through the construction of classrooms.

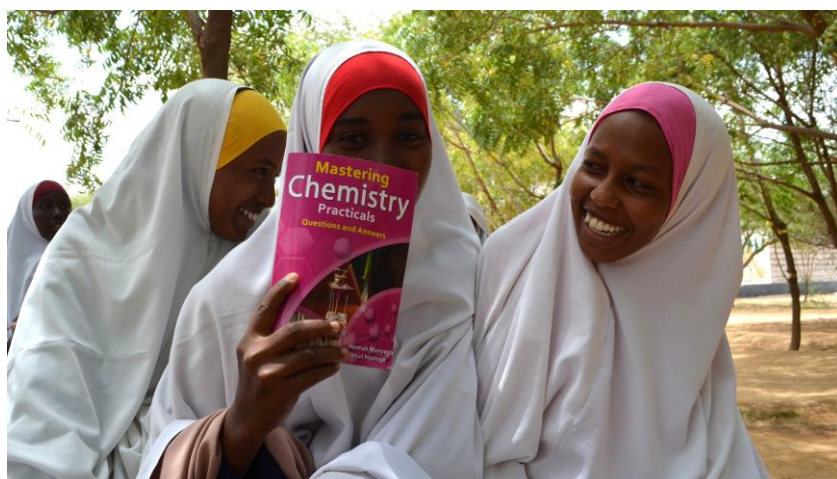


Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Students of Tawakal Secondary School in Dagahaley during preparations for their KCSE examinations in Chemistry

Health

- UNHCR in collaboration with KRCS continues to support the Garissa Medical Referral Center. In the first two weeks of October, the center supported 28 refugees and asylum seekers. Five cases were referred to Nairobi for further care. The center conducted two health education talks to improve awareness among patients.
- On 3rd October, the Hagadera Butchery Committee met at NRC's office in Hagadera and made plans for regular meat inspection. The team agreed to invite government Veterinary and Public Health Officers to inspect meat at the Hagadera slaughter slab. This was considered essential in efforts to avoid a decline in hygiene standards which might favor a cholera outbreak.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR shared preliminary result of the annual nutrition survey. The data had been collected in August and September in all Dadaab camps. The overall weighted prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children 6-59 months reduced from 9.9% last year to 8.9% this year. Generally there was no significant change in GAM and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with the exception of SAM reduction in Ifo camp.
- In efforts to improve the quality of health and nutrition services provided to refugees, IRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health conducted an integrated Management Malnutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding Training. This improved the capacity of 42 national and refugee community staff.

UNHCR/ Dadaab



Wall painting at Bahati Primary School, Dagahaley



Water and Sanitation

- On 6th October, 100 residents of Hagadera camps were trained in water management and hygiene promotion at house hold level.
- Global hand washing day was celebrated across all five Dadaab camps on 15th October with the theme “Choose Hand Washing, Choose Health”. The campaign is dedicated to raising awareness of hand washing with soap as a key approach to disease prevention. Celebration organized by UNHCR’s WASH partners included pet group performances, drama, poems and songs.
- A mass clean-up campaign was conducted in Kambioos and bars of soap distributed to WASH committees and camp leaders.

Access to Energy

- National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) distributed 538 solar lamps in Ifo camp, targeting elderly persons aged 71 years and above. Individuals who had difficulty leaving their houses were visited at home or received the lanterns through trusted persons.
- UNHCR supported 667 students sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination with solar lanterns. Many learners had had to overnight at electrified schools because there was not enough light at their homes for them to study. This posed protection risks to the teenagers. The students were taking advantage of solar lighting that had earlier been installed by the Ministry of Energy in all the secondary schools. The students will now study at home using solar light. In addition, their families make use of the cell phone charging facilities of the lanterns.

1,205

secondary school students and elderly now use solar lights.



KCSE candidates in Dagahaley Secondary School with their new solar lanterns



Photos UNHCR/ Dadaab

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The demarcation of Kambioos market has been completed. 640 plots have been allocated to wholesale shops, retail shops, light industries, an animal market, a dump site, an open air market and a parking lot.
- Thirty women from Ifo 2 camp increased their knowledge on Selection, Planning & Management of Income Generating Activities. They participated in a five day training organized by DRC, one of UNHCR's livelihood partners. All women are members of Income Generating Activities (IGA) groups.
- Participatory Assessment (PA) feedback sessions for the community were successfully conducted in Ifo, Dagahaley and Ifo 2 camps on 14th October. During the sessions, the results of the PA held in early 2014 were shared with the community as well as the actions taken by different agencies in reaction to the PA findings. The community also got an opportunity to air their views, ask questions and offer suggestions regarding the delivery of services in the Dadaab camps. The collated views will feed into the planning process for 2015.



UNHCR/ Alinjur

Demarcated market plots in Kambioos



UNHCR/ Dadaab

Focus Group in Ifo 2 camp discussion during the Participatory Assessment in early 2014

Durable Solutions

Spontaneous Voluntary Return to Somalia

- Five UNHCR Repatriation Assistants participated in a two-day training session on Mine Risk Education (MRE) held in Dadaab on 9th and 10th October. The session was organised by UNHCR's partner NRC and delivered by trainers from the Danish Demining Group (DDG) who are also undertaking MRE in Somalia. The training included participants from DRA engaged at the Return Help Desks across the camps.

Resettlement

- 37 cases (167 individuals), including women and girls at risk, underwent interviews to verify family composition. 35 cases (122 individuals) were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Forms (RRF) processing and possible submission to resettlement countries. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided for 89 individuals in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps.
- During the first two weeks of October, 21 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States of America and Sweden.

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

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