

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 28 February 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Security Law Amendment Act

The High Court of Kenya passed its judgement on the Security Law Amendment Act on 23rd February. The judges declared the section limiting the number of refugees in Kenya to 150,000 unconstitutional. The High Court found this to offend the principle of *non-refoulement* as recognized both domestically and internationally under the Kenyan Constitution, the Refugees Act 2006 and the 1951 Refugee Convention. The judges noted that the State had not indicated how it was to deal with the remaining refugees and underscored that a refugee is a special person and therefore must be protected. Security Laws (Amendment) Act No. 19 of 2014 had been enacted on 18th December, 2014. UNHCR's partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) had moved to court as an interested party to the petition to stop the implementation of this section.

However, another section of the Act that intends to limit refugees' right to movement was declared constitutional. The court found that there was no violation in regard to the freedom of movement as contemplated in the Kenyan Constitution.



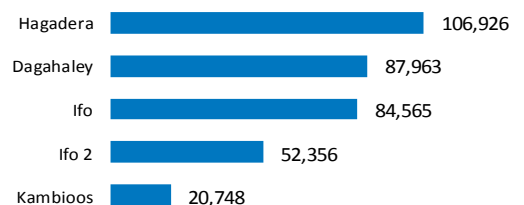
Photo Eduardo Lima

School girls in Ifo camp

UPDATES

Population as of 28 February 2015: **352,558**

Refugees: 349,013
Asylum seekers: 3,545



Access to Legal Assistance/Justice

- Additional religious leaders in the camps will be licensed to officiate marriages and divorce in order to streamline the issuance of civil registration documents. This was decided on 25th February, when UNHCR and RCK staff met with the Chief Magistrate for the Garissa court who was in Dadaab for the monthly mobile court sessions.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- UNHCR will enhance its engagement with men across all five Dadaab camps in the prevention of violence against women and girls. Awareness raising among men aims at encouraging them to change their individual behaviours and to positively influence the community. This was discussed with partners during the monthly inter-agency SGBV coordination meeting. Focus group discussions with men and mixed groups will take place in the next months. The intention is to create safe spaces for women to raise their concerns and discuss them with men.
- Information dissemination sessions on prevention and response to SGBV were conducted for 611 individuals (360 female) in Ifo 2 blocks and health posts by UNHCR's partner Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).

General Protection Environment

- Non-Somali refugees living in Dagahaley camp reported to face discrimination at water points and in other areas in the camps. Solutions and community base protection approaches were discussed on 25th February.

New Arrivals Registration

- In the second half of February, 185 new arrival refugees were registered by the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and subsequently registered in the UNHCR database, the majority being persons of concern relocated from Nairobi.

Education

- Schools in Dadaab camps do not meet all criteria for registration as Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination centers. The biggest hindrance is the requirement to have at least ten qualified teachers registered with Kenya's Teachers Service Commission (TSC). Currently, each school in Dadaab camps only has one or two TSC certified teachers. UNHCR and its education partners held a consultative forum with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) and the Garissa County Education Board from 20th to 22nd February. Solutions were found for registration of candidates from Dadaab camps for KCPE 2015 and a strategy was developed to meet the school registration criteria in the future.
- Dadaab camps currently have 35 primary schools with integrated Early Childhood Development Centers with a total enrolment of 89,194 learners. The schools have 1,183 teachers, 31% of which are trained. 5% are termed as 'qualified teachers' and recognized by the Ministry of Education.
- On 25th February, Andrew Dunnett, Director of Vodafone Foundation, visited Dadaab together with Lee Wells, the Vodafone Foundation Head of Programs. They assessed the impact of the Vodafone Instant Network Schools (INS) as well as areas of possible improvement in the project. The team visited a vocational training center in Dadaab town and a primary school in Ifo 2 camp and observed the integration of technology in learning. Both institutions are INS centers and use internet enabled tablets in one of their classrooms. The team also met UNHCR education and ICT partners involved in this pilot project to discuss gaps as well as means to increase project impact.



Vocational training students chatting with Andrew Dunnett

Photo UNHCR/ Dadaab

- The admission to secondary schools for primary school graduates took place in February. Dadaab camps have seven secondary schools which are managed by UNHCR's partner Windle Trust Kenya. A total of 865 boys and 371 girls qualified to join secondary education this year. The secondary school entry marks were agreed upon by UNHCR, education partners, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and refugee leaders, taking into account the performance in KCPE exams as well as availability of space and resources in secondary schools.



Health

- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) based 'Eye Program' conducted a 3-day Primary Eye Care training for Community Health Workers at IRC hospital in Hagadera camp. This contributed to the capacity building of staff of all agencies working in the health sector in the five Dadaab camps.
- UNHCR handed over new accommodation and a maternity block, including a nurse station, labor room, delivery room and ward to the health center at Borehole Five. This host community settlement is located a few kilometers from Hagadera camp. With the aim of promoting peaceful coexistence between host community and refugees, UNHCR implemented a number of projects in this area through its partner Fafi Integrated Development Organization (FaIDA).



Water and Sanitation

- Another Solar/Photovoltaic-Diesel hybrid system was completed in Hagadera by UNHCR's WASH partners Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Dadaab camps now have eight boreholes operating on solar power (seven hybrid systems, one fully solar).
- UNHCR conducted WASH monitoring visits in Dagahaley and Hagadera camps at distribution hours and consequently proposed a new fuel allocation to be implemented from the beginning of March. This was done in reaction to concerns raised by the refugee community about water shortages in the two camps. In August 2014, UNHCR reduced the water supplied per person per day from an average of 29.2 litres to 22 litres and has since closely monitored the impact on the community. UNHCR's standard is 20 litres per person per day. The reduction was done in order to save expenditures on fuel for boreholes and as a water conservation measure.
- Joint visits were conducted by UNHCR, DRA, CARE and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) to borehole sites in Dagahaley and Ifo 2 camps. The visits aimed to ensure that all sites are prepared for the solar installation in 2015. Some of the locations have been encroached on and there is need to create buffer zones around the boreholes to ensure safety for both, water consumers and solar panels.



Water point in Hagadera camp

Photo Yann Arthus-Bertrand



Concrete bench in Kambioos camp



Shelter and Site Planning

- A total of 20 concrete benches with chairs have been constructed in each camp. In February, 20 benches for Kambioos camp and 20 in Hagadera camp were completed. The benches and chairs are aimed at providing well lit learning and gathering sites in the evening. They were constructed beneath the newly installed solar lights in each camp.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The construction of Ifo 2 market has commenced. There is currently no market in the camp and this obliges its residents to travel to Ifo and Dagahaley camps to buy essential commodities. The market is expected to improve livelihood opportunities and ultimately living conditions of refugees and their host community. Kambioos camp's market is also under construction.

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



Woman in Ifo 2 camp

- A meeting between agencies and religious leaders of Hagadera camp was held on 23rd February. The 20 religious leaders cited their engagement during polio outbreak response as one of the success partnerships between the health sector and religious leaders. They proposed this to be replicated in others sectors such as waste management, camp planning, hospital delivery, peace promotion, SGBV and school enrollment.
- UNHCR's livelihood partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has called for proposals from business groups and individuals. Based on the business plans, the agency will support feasible income generating activities across the five Dadaab camps.
- The monthly Older Persons Coordination Forum was launched in Dagahaley camp to enhance the protection of older persons. Issues highlighted included health and nutrition concerns, material support and shelter needs.



Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- UNHCR facilitated a training on 'Resettlement Identification Categories, Anti-Fraud Measures and Management of Resettlement Expectations' for UNHCR and partner staff. The training aimed at enhancing the identification of cases for resettlement consideration and strengthening the internal and external referral processes.
- Since the beginning of 2015, 140 individuals have departed for resettlement.

Voluntary Return to Somalia

- A total of 1,771 Individuals (383 Households) have voluntarily returned to Somalia since the beginning of December 2014. 5,252 individuals have approached the Return Help Desks, of which 5,214 have expressed interest to return.
- On 27th February, UNHCR Dadaab and UNHCR Somalia discussed whether the number of return areas can be increased. They also reviewed the protection concerns identified in a Protection Assessment Report commissioned by the UNHCR Somalia office. An update was provided on the planned military offensive by AMISOM/SNA and its impact on the return operation.

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

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