

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 30 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Security

- The security situation in the UNHCR Dadaab operation area was generally calm but remained unpredictable. Though no significant security incidents have been reported the security threats and risk level remain intact. Reports of sightings of armed men around the camps and movement of armed groups along the border areas persisted. However, humanitarian space remain permissible and UNHCR operations continued without interruption.
- Following the attack in the Garissa University on 2nd April, bus Company ‘Sabrin Bus Services’ was mentioned among 86 names and entities published in local media, suspected to be linked to supporting/financing terror activities. The Company was frequently used for transporting refugees in Dadaab. IOM currently look into other alternate transportation means.

Alternative Sources of Domestic Energy

- On 16th April, Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO) with support from UNHCR launched a new pilot project of alternative energy in Ifo 2 camp of Dadaab. 200 refugee families benefited from the new pilot project and they were given Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders or ethanol stoves.

This pilot project objective is to test the feasibility of the two kinds of domestic fuel (LPG) and Denatured Ethanol. This testing is expected to run for the next nine months of 2015.

Gas cylinders and ethanol stoves will not only improve the lives of refugees, but also contribute to their protection. It means women and girls spend less time fetching firewood and are therefore less exposed to risk and violence.

Refugees in Dadaab, often had to go to the bushes to collect firewood for cooking. In isolated areas they are at risk of violence. Firewood scarcity has also been associated with environment degradation of the areas surrounding the refugee camps.



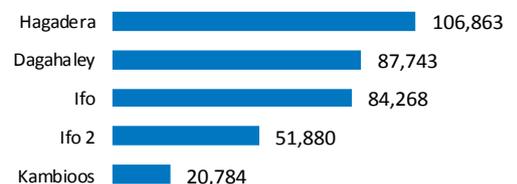
UNHCR's Dadaab Head of Operations, Ahmed Baba Fall inaugurated the new pilot project of alternative energy

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

UPDATES

Population as of 31 March 2015: **351,538**

Refugees: 348,089
Asylum seekers: 3,449





Individual Case Management and Protection Counselling

- During the second half of April, 174 Individuals from the three camps benefited from protection counselling provided by UNHCR. Among the services provided, included Resettlement and RSD inquiries, family reunification, requests for relocation to Kakuma, physical safety and legal support for SGBV and child protection and camp transfers. The cases were assessed, interventions made and/or referred for appropriate assistance.

Arrest, Detention and Freedom of Movement

- During the reporting period, a total of nine Persons of Concern (PoCs) (seven female and two male) were arrested and charged with being unlawfully present in Kenya and residing outside designated areas. It's important to note that for those charged with residing outside the designated areas without authority were fined Kshs 10,000 in default three months in prison and thereafter to be escorted to their respective camps. For the unlawful presence the PoCs, were fined between Kshs 30,000 and 50,000 in default six months in prison. The areas of arrest were Garissa town, Modika and Madogo.
- During the reporting period there were a total of 141 prisoners in both detention centers. A total of 14 PoCs (eight male and six female) were repatriated to Dadaab.

Registration and Documentation

- During the reporting period, UNHCR continued with registration activities in all the five camps. Fast-tracking of new birth registration exercise commenced on 20th April in Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo 2 camps. For the period 20th - 24th April and thereafter incorporated in their daily activities, a total of 513 were registered in Hagadera, a total of 299 were registered in Ifo2 and a total of 384 were registered in Dagahaley. Unlike in other camps, Ifo and Kambioos incorporated new birth registration in their daily activities whereby 318 and 61 babies were registered. Cumulatively, 1,575 babies were registered over this period.
- During the reporting period, 41 unregistered/new arrival refugees were registered by DRA and subsequently registered in UNHCR database.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- 28 refugee leaders were trained by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) during a two day SGBV prevention and response training for community leaders. The leaders were taken through the concept of human rights and how it relates to SGBV. They were also sensitized on how to prevent and respond to SGBV including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). The leaders resolved to report SEA cases and contribute to prevention violence against women and girls in the camp.
- On 21st April, a coordination meeting took place where UNHCR protection partners discussed their progress, objectives, challenges and the way forward.
- Care International reported that they conducted various Neighborhood Forums and Focus Group Discussions on SGBV prevention and response targeting adult men and women in Dagahaley Camp. In addition, they held empowerment sessions with both women and men support groups against Gender Based Violence. CARE also conducted eight behavioral change forums targeting adult male in addition to distributing 30 mattresses to the members of the community.
- On 28th April, a case conference was held in Ifo camp in attendance were DRC, Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), UNHCR and Save the Children International (SCI).
- In Ifo 2 camp, Kenya Red Cross (KRCS) conducted information dissemination sessions on SGBV prevention and response in health posts reaching 597 female and 308 male.

Refugee Status Determination

- The RSD Handover process to the government is still in transition. During the reporting period the average number of days taken from the time of 1st Instance RSD interview to decision notification is noted to be 90 days. It is worth noting that since 01/07/2014, all RSD decisions are being endorsed by the Commissioner of Refugee Affairs. In the reporting period, 22, first Instance RSD instance interviews were conducted, 17 cases were rescheduled, 18 no show cases and three cases were reviewed on appeal and recommended for appeal interviews.

Education

- All the schools based in Dadaab refugee camps closed on 10th April for the April Holiday and is expected to open on the 4th May.
- UNHCR Staff from Branch Office Nairobi and Regional Support Hub (RSH) in Nairobi supported the Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) teachers who had been relocated to Nairobi for debriefing following the demise of their colleague in unusual circumstances. The WTK staff were assured that UNHCR will intervene with authorities to provide a more robust security and safety coverage. In the meantime, security risk assessment is going on for partners' compounds in the camps.
- Borderless Higher Education for the refugee (BHER) Holiday classes have been postponed due to the prevailing security situation. Moi university which is one of the collaborating partners for BHER could not send its Lecturers due to the Garissa attack that killed 147 students, knowing as well that Garissa University is a constituent college of Moi University. The Garissa attack has greatly affected more than 100 students who were to go for holiday courses at different colleges and universities in the country. This was due to the suspension of the issuance of movement passes following a directive from the Government.

Health

- A meeting between UNHCR and the Health partners comprising of health coordinators and Lab in charges regarding operationalization of central blood bank in Dadaab was deliberated as a measure to prevent blood stock out in the camps. What was in agreement is having one partner to be in charge/take the lead in managing the central blood bank (sourcing, storage etc.) on behalf of the rest of the other health partners.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) received five samples of acute watery diarrhea cases from Dhobley, Somalia. Two out of the five samples turned positive for cholera by culture. Dhobley lies along the Kenya-Somalia border and act as transit point to the camps and towns/villages in Kenya. Therefore, it was recommend that camps, Liboi and other host community towns/villages to enhance surveillance, especially at this time of raining season where diarrheal events are likely to increase. All outbreak preparedness measures were put in place by the Health and WASH partners in the camps.

Water and Sanitation

- The Water infrastructure across the five camps remained as water storage capacity of 6050 m³ in 46 tanks, distributed through a pipeline network of 314 km and 900 tap stands and 4,320 taps. 29 boreholes continued to operate and supplied to a refugee population of 351,538 in the five Dadaab camps.
- FRC levels in water being supplied to refugees was raised from 0.5mg/l at tap stand level to between 1-1.5mg/l due to an increase in watery diarrhoea incidence across camps and the suspected cholera incidence in Ifo camp, which later analyzed as not being a cholera case.
- Installation of Solar PV – Diesel hybrid in four more boreholes by CARE and KRCS begun in Dagahaley and Ifo2 camps respectively. Boreholes being targeted are boreholes 6 and boreholes 9 in Dagahaley and boreholes A and boreholes B in Ifo2 camp. This works is due for completion in the next two weeks.

- Boreholes A and 3 where Solar PV – Diesel hybrid was installed recently failed but is being repaired by Davis and Shirtliff Company.
- Host community borehole at Hagadera boreholes 5 continued to receive water from one of the refugee boreholes after the borehole that serve the community broke down in February 2015. This borehole was repaired successfully by CARE borehole maintenance team on behalf of UNHCR.
- During the reporting period, 143 Hygiene promoters were actively engaged in hygiene promotion in all camps, carrying out intensive hygiene campaigns in the camps.
- UNHCR WASH Partners continued to engage in outreach and hygiene promotion activities sensitizing the community on hygiene, as Cholera cases had been reported in Homabay, Migori and Nairobi counties in February and March, 2015 but more recently Mombasa in Kenya and Doblej in Somalia.



A newly solarized borehole in Ifo camp of Dadaab

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the reporting period, a total of 43 cases comprising of 231 individuals (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 18 cases comprising of 50 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries
- Though there were no submissions during the period under review. An additional 71 individuals (44 new born babies and 25 spouses) were added on to cases already in the US resettlement pipeline during this reporting period.
- During the reporting period, a total of 10 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to Australia.

Voluntary Return

- Since December 2014, when the pilot project of return was started, 2,048 refugees from Somalia have been supported by UNHCR to spontaneously return to Somalia.

There are 2,605 Somali refugees, currently active in UNHCR database, who have communicated a willingness to return on a date convenient to them. The return convoys have currently been stopped due to the bad condition of the roads.



A child who returned to Somalia along with his family in January 2015

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

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

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