

## DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

### UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

01 - 15 May 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

#### Dadaab Refugee camps not to be closed; UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits Dadaab

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres visited Dadaab. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation from the Governments of Kenya and Somalia. Mr. Guterres's visit to Dadaab took place after he travelled to Somalia and met with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and other officials in Nairobi.

The High Commissioner met the refugee leaders in Ifo 2 camp and shared the outcome of his meetings with Kenyan and Somali authorities. He said that the Government of Kenya assured him that repatriation of refugees to Somalia would be voluntarily.

"I want to express my deep gratitude to President Kenyatta for his reassurance that repatriation to Somalia will be voluntary with safety and dignity and in line with tripartite agreement." Mr. Guterres said.

He also mentioned that it was agreed to mobilize support to improve security in Dadaab and in the region to protect both, refugees and host community. Mr. Guterres added that Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR selected eight districts in Somalia with a possible consideration of Mogadishu for repatriation. These are the districts from where the majority of refugees in Dadaab come. The eight districts are located in Jubaland and South West and considered relatively safe.

The government of Somalia together with the Regional Governments and UN agencies will prepare a plan of concrete projects for the eight districts. These projects will focus on education, health, shelter and support to agriculture to facilitate the integration of those who choose to go back.



*Refugees of Ifo 2 camp welcoming António Guterres*

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



*Refugee leaders addressing to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and his delegation*

The President of Jubaland assured the High Commissioner that his government would provide land and other support for the projects and the returnees. As soon as this plan is prepared, the Governments of Somalia and Kenya and UNHCR plan to convene an international conference for support to the implementation of the plan. "What we are trying is to convince the International Community that, in this world, in which there are so many wars and so many problems, Somalia is a country that can be stabilized". Mr. Guterres said.

## US Secretary of States meets Dadaab refugee leaders and speaks with refugee students via teleconference

On 4<sup>th</sup> May, United States Secretary of State John Kerry, visited UNHCR's Representation in Nairobi. Mr. Kerry met with refugee leaders from Dadaab refugee camps and held a teleconference session with students in a classroom at Tawakal Secondary School, in Dadaab's Dagahaley camp.

The refugee leaders and students discussed their challenges, concerns and aspirations with the visiting delegation.

Mr. Kerry assured the refugees that the US Government, as part of the international community, hears and understands their concerns, and would like to ensure that refugees continue to be protected, and that those who choose to return home voluntarily do so in conditions of safety and dignity.

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



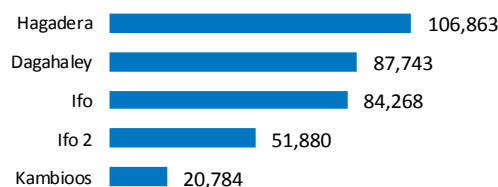
Students in Dagahaley camp talking with John Kerry

In his answer to concerns raised by students about their future in Dadaab once they finish high school, Mr. Kerry said: "We don't want you be in this camp forever, we want people to be able to move from the camp back to their home when there is peace." Mr. Kerry added, "You will need the skills that you got now. It's very valuable to be doing what you are doing. What we need to do is to try to figure out how to provide more education opportunities beyond where you are now."

## UPDATES

Population as of 1 May 2015: **351,538**

Refugees: **348,089**  
Asylum seekers: **3,449**



## Protection

### Individual Case Management and Protection Counselling

- UNHCR, Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and NGO partners jointly assessed the situation of 32 families comprising of 121 individuals accommodated at the Transit Centre in Ifo camp. In efforts to decongest the center and offer new perspectives to the respective families, NGO partners are in the process of identifying community-based solutions.

### Arrest, Detention and Freedom of Movement

- In the first two weeks of May, UNHCR attended three court sessions in Garissa to oversee court proceedings. UNHCR's partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) attended to court issues daily.

### New Arrivals

- On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 48 urban refugees consisting of 12 families were relocated from Nairobi to Kambioos camp. They were provided with basic amenities to help them start their life in the camp.

## Health

- On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Handicap International (HI) launched a ten months refresher course on Functional Rehabilitation. 36 refugee community workers are expected to further improve their knowledge on prevention, management and control of disabilities. HI had successfully trained two groups of Functional Rehabilitation Workers through ten months of training in 2013 and 2014. The former graduates are currently working in rehabilitation centers in Dadaab camps.
- A blood donation campaign was organized by International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Dadaab on 14<sup>th</sup> May due to a shortage of blood supply from National Blood Transfusion Centre.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- A two day training on SQUEAC (Semi Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage) was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May with support from UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and Action Against Hunger (ACF). This training is to capacitate enumerators to collect data on the coverage and quality of the nutrition programme that targets children of the age group 6-59 months. The participants from Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRSC) used their newly acquired skills to conduct focus group discussions and key informant interviews with the refugee community. Among the people consulted were mothers and fathers of children under five years old, sheikhs, pastors, block leaders, traditional healers, Safe Motherhood promoters and Community Health Workers. The assessment in Ifo and Ifo 2 camps is expected to be completed on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## Water and Sanitation

- Since the rainy season started, watery diarrhoea incidences have increased in the camps. As Cholera cases have been reported in other parts of Kenya and in Doble, Somalia, UNHCR and partners have enhanced hygiene sensitization efforts in Dadaab camps. CARE, KRCS and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) engaged in outreach and hygiene promotion activities. 143 Hygiene promoters carried out intensive hygiene campaigns in all camps.
- Further boreholes are being equipped with Solar PV – Diesel hybrid systems. Currently, the Dadaab camps have 29 operational boreholes. 6,050 m<sup>3</sup> of water is stored in 46 tanks and distributed through a pipeline network of 314 km, 900 tap stands and 4,320 taps. An average of 24.3 litres are provided per person per day.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- 40 community opinion leaders conducted a forum to create awareness on the importance of Village Saving and Loans. UNHCR's livelihood partners and other stakeholders also contributed to the forum. A total of 77 groups with 1,413 members (1,124 female, 289 male) have been formed and mentored on the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) methodology to date.
- The market stall in Ifo 2 has been completed. The new facilities are expected to improve livelihood opportunities of refugees and the host community.



*Newly constructed market stall in Ifo 2*

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



## Host Community Relations and Environment

- In order to sustain a harmonious relationship between the local community and humanitarian agencies, UNHCR convened a two day stakeholder workshop from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May. Discussions revolved around employment, procurement, Host Community Support projects and a road map for mutual engagement. The workshop achieved its expected results by building consensus on all areas of concern. Representatives of the Host Community from Dadaab, Fafi and Wajir South sub-counties and the Garissa County Government attended the meeting together with humanitarian agencies operational in Dadaab.
- The main tree nursery in Dagahaley camp managed to produce 3,500 seedling, 2,000 of which were used for afforestation activities. 60% of the seedlings were distributed to refugee household, 20% planted in the camp's greenbelt, 15% were handed to humanitarian agencies and 5% went to local settlements.



RRDO facilitated tree planting in a school in Dagahaley camp

Photo Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO)

## Durable Solutions

### Resettlement

- During the reporting period, a total of 12 cases comprising of 42 individuals (including women and girls at risk) underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 30 cases comprising of 109 individuals were interviewed for resettlement processing and possible onward submission to resettlement countries. 18 individuals (spouses and new born babies) were added on to cases already in the US resettlement pipeline.

- 62 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States and Sweden.

### Voluntary Return

- Due to the road conditions and the ongoing rainy season in Somalia, return convoys have been suspended. No returns have taken place during the first two weeks of May. Since December 2014, when the pilot project of return started, 2,048 refugees from Somalia have been supported by UNHCR to spontaneously return to Somalia.



Dagahaley camp from the air

Photo Yann Arthus-Bertrand

### Contacts:

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit, [kendapi@unhcr.org](mailto:kendapi@unhcr.org), Cell +254 704381822

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

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