

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR DADAAB MONTHLY UPDATE

1 - 15 May 2016

UPDATES

Population as of 1st May 2016: **343,884**

Refugees: **340,775**

Asylum seekers: **3,109**

Hagadera  106,219

Dagahaley  87,374

Ifo  83,851

Ifo 2  47,993

Kambioos  18,447

HIGHLIGHTS

Government of Kenya announcement to close Dadaab Camps

- On Friday 6th May, the Government of Kenya announced that it intended to close the refugee camps in Kenya, citing economic, security and environmental burdens. A statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, said the Government had disbanded its Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and was working on a mechanism for the closure of Kenya's refugee camps.

On 9th May UNHCR issued a statement appealing to Kenya over decision to end refugee hosting. "It is with profound concern that UNHCR takes note of this announcement. For almost a quarter of a century Kenya has played a vital role in East Africa and the Horn of Africa in providing asylum to people forced to flee persecution and war." The statement said. "The safety of hundreds of thousands of Somalis, South Sudanese and others has hinged on Kenya's generosity and its willingness to be a leading beacon in the region for international protection. Tragically, the situations in Somalia and South Sudan that cause people to flee are still unresolved today." The statement added. [Click here to read the full statement.](#)

- Following the statement above as well others by Kenya Government Officials, refugees have been visiting various UNHCR field offices seeking to know their plight. In addition, UNHCR held meetings with refugee leaders and representatives in the camps to share with them UNHCR's stands on the Government statement.

- The Dadaab refugee complex has a population of 343,884 refugees and asylum seekers and consists of five camps. 95.3% 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.

The five Dadaab camps are Dagahaley, Ifo, Ifo 2, Hagadera and Kambioos.



Ifo camp, Dadaab

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

UPDATES

Protection

- **Counselling:** 291 Individuals from five Dadaab camps benefited from protection counselling provided by both Community Services and Protection Delivery staff. Among the services provided included Resettlement and RSD inquiries, family reunification, requests for relocation to Kakuma, physical safety and legal support for SGBV, child protection and camp transfers. The cases were assessed, interventions made and/or referred for appropriate assistance. 10 cases were handled in two detention centers based in Garissa.

Child Protection

- UNHCR conducted a joint meeting with the County District Registrar of births on 11th May, in collaboration with the medical practitioners comprising Swiss Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) to explain the new Government of Kenya policy on notification of home births by the hospitals. It was noted by partners that the new system may lead to more home deliveries.
- The Dadaab Inter-Agency Best Interests Determination (BID) Panel meeting was held on 4th May where five cases (two resettlement, two temporary care arrangements, and one protection) of children in need of consideration for durable solutions and interventions for children facing diverse protection risks were discussed. The presentations were compiled and presented by Save the Children International (SCI) and Terre des Hommes (TdH) with the participation of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), Handicap International (HI) and UNHCR.
- Children Assembly Forum was held in Hagadera camp on 5th May at the IRC conference Hall. The forum was organized by TDH and attended by UNHCR, partners and members of children assembly. The forum gave an opportunity to children to ask questions to UNHCR and its partners. Some of the concerns raised by children were early marriage which is affecting many girls, child labour, defilement, limited access to services in the camp, repatriation of children in school, movement pass and issuance of Alien cards for refugees, issuance of birth certificates, scholarship and livelihood support to refugees. The stake holders gave feedback on the issues raised by children assembly members. UNHCR and TdH promised to work closely to monitor and follow up on issues raised for urgent action.
- UNHCR participated in a meeting in Garissa County where it was agreed that a working group will be constituted with a mandate of monitoring the services within Garissa town. The Working group will be comprised of various government representatives including the security authorities within the framework of child protection. This will be led by the Sub County Children's Officer.



Refugee children in front of their house in Dagahaley camp of Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV):

- During the first three months of 2016, 281 incidences of SGBV were reported in Dadaab camps. While 281 survivors received psychosocial support, 40.9% representing 115 SGBV survivors had access to health and medical services within the Dadaab camps. 54% comprising 152 SGBV survivors reported incidences within 72 hours. Intimidate partner violence has continued to be a persistent phenomenon during the period accounting for 37.7% comprising 106 reported incidences. 42 incidents of rape and sexual assault were reported representing 14.9% of the reported incidences. Psychological and Emotional abuse accounted for 98 incidences representing 34.8%, five forced marriages were reported and rest of the reported incidences were physical assault. 92% of the SGBV survivors were women and girls while men accounted for 7.8%.
- One Inter – Agency case conference was held on May 10, 2016 with the aim of ensuring protection assistance and access to ten survivors. The session was steered by UNHCR in collaboration with NCK, IRK, UNHCR, SCI, CVT and RCK.

Education

- Schools reopened on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 for the second term of learning. Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) were administered to students as part of the school calendar. With support from DRA and LWF, 69 students from Kambioos were transported back to Alinjgur Secondary School for the second term.
- Monitoring visits aimed at assessing resumption of Learning and School Meals programme were undertaken in three learning institutions (Mwangaza Primary school, Bidii Primary School and Nasib Secondary school). It was observed that most learners in the visited primary schools had not reported back with the teachers preparing to receive them. The situation was different in secondary schools where most of the learners and all teachers had reported back. The need for structural improvements on the kitchen in Bidii primary school was highlighted with technical unit undertaking to conduct an assessment.
- A taskforce on Special Needs Education (SNE) with representation from UNHCR, WTK, IRK, LWF, CARE and HI met on 12th May to deliberate on inclusive education. The focus of the deliberations was to identify the most cost effective approach in addressing Special Needs Education at secondary level i.e. setting up an SNE school in the camp vis-à-vis taking learners for scholarships. It was observed that the nature and severity of disabilities will inform the approach to be adopted; where some will have to be taken to specialised schools and others mainstreamed in existing schools but with additional infrastructure and specialised personnel.
- Following the verification of refugee and resettlement status for 32 candidates shortlisted for World University Service of Canada (WUSC) scholarships, oral interviews was undertaken.
- A stakeholders' meeting to discuss the management and performance of Hagadera secondary school was convened with Sub County Director of Education, DRA, WTK, refugee leaders, UNHCR attending. It was resolved, the school administration needed urgent restructuring followed by reconstituting the school's Board of Management (BOM). WTK was tasked to initiate the process with support from all stakeholders.



Student in their classroom in Central Primary School, Hagadera camp of Dadaab, Kenya.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Food Security and Nutrition

- The general food distribution for the month of May was commenced on 3rd May. It was completed successfully across all the five camps by 13th May with no major incident reported.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- 183 PoCs have been newly identified and selected for technical and professional studies through the support of UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and other donors. The beneficiaries who already secured admission for diploma courses in clinical medicine, nursing, water engineering and motor vehicle mechanics were scheduled to travel during the reporting period. Following the Government of Kenya directive on disbandment of DRA, the skills development beneficiaries could not travel to their learning institutions for lack of travel passes out of Dadaab. At the same time, vocational training beneficiaries were registered for the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) grade 1, 2 and 3 examinations to be undertaken in August, September and December.
- UNHCR in collaboration with DRC plans to undertake a tracer study to determine the eventual impact of skills development support on refugee beneficiaries whereas establishing the whereabouts of the majority alumni. Preparatory activities for the study, to be conducted across all the camps, were completed during the reporting week.

- The monthly livelihoods coordination meeting was held on Friday the 13th May and attended by representatives from eight different livelihoods implementing agencies. The meeting agreed to support a one day 'Market / trade exhibition day in Dadaab' to enable refugees showcase their products during the week of the 2016 World Refugee Day commemoration. Participants also expressed and documented the emerging negative impact of the 'camp closure directive' on markets (price increase) and livelihood activities (lack of movement passes).
- Following the opening of a new traders' market in Kambioos camp and subsequent handover to community traders, relocation of traders from blocks and resultant increasing trading activities at the central market was recorded. Through joint collaboration between UNHCR Dadaab and Kakuma, the LWF supported Nadhif Soap Production group in Kambioos was linked to a charity organisation (Barefoot to Boots) who expressed interest to purchase 10,000 bars of soap for their planned hygiene kit distribution in Kakuma Camp. The sales opportunity exposes the potential of the group and the need to create markets for refugee made products e.g. through Cash Based Interventions.
- Following bilateral engagement between UNHCR and the American Refugee Committee (ARC), livelihoods unit received and reviewed a proposal by ARC Somalia aimed at enhancing cross border linkage through promoting job placement of returnees from Dadaab to employment opportunities in public and private sectors in Mogadishu and Lower Juba regions.



Local shop in Dagahaley camp, Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Water and Sanitation

- During the first half of May, on average, the daily water production from 29 operational boreholes was 6250 m3. On average, 24.1 litres of water was supplied per capita per day. Water is chlorinated at the boreholes and regularly monitored Free Residue Chlorine (FRC).

Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the first half of May, a total of 34 cases comprising of 138 individuals underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 96 cases comprising of 310 individuals were interviewed and assessed for possible submission to various resettlement countries.

24 cases comprising of 84 individuals were submitted to UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi for onward resettlement to the United States of America. Since 1st January 2016, 642 individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries. A total of 47 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to Australia, Canada, Sweden and USA. Since 1st January 2016, 542 individuals have departed to resettlement countries.

Voluntary Repatriation

- During the reporting period, 118 returnees were supported to voluntarily return to Somalia. In Total 13,918 returnees were supported as of 15th May 2016 out of which 7,796 were assisted between January and April 2016.
- The voluntary repatriation was suspended since the government announcement of camps closure. Following the announcement, DRA which used to issue movement passes for returnees and other special cases has stopped issuing those documents.

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

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