

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR DADAAB BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

01 - 15 August 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting #TeamRefugees and standing #WithRefugees

- In support of #TeamRefugees playing at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil parallel sport events were organized in Dadaab refugee camps.

On 9th August, four refugee sport teams competed in football matches in Hagadera and Ifo camps. Both players and fans expressed their support to #TeamRefugees on that occasion and signed the #WithRefugees petition.

In another sport event on 13th August, more than 100 female and male refugee athletes from different nationalities and humanitarian workers competed in a race in Dadaab town. The girls competed in a 5km race whilst boys competed in a 7.5 km race.

UNHCR supported the players with sport uniforms, visibility items and the winning teams received their trophies as well.



Refugees and humanitarian workers in Dadaab competed in a marathon and announced their support to #TeamRefugees.

Voluntary repatriation

- During the reporting period, 3,390 returnees were supported to voluntarily return to Somalia by road convoy. All the returnees reached their destination safely.

In total, as of 15th August, 24,251 Somali refugees had returned home since 8th December 2014, when UNHCR started supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya, out of which 18,150 were supported in 2016 alone.

UPDATES

Protection

- The **Population Verification Exercise** which kicked off on 4th July 2016 by UNHCR and the Government of Kenya across the five Dadaab camps was concluded on 30th July in Ifo 2 and Kambioos camps and on 10th August 2016 in Hagadera, Dagahaley and Ifo camps. The verification exercise carried out in the Dadaab refugee camps in order to have a clear picture of the refugees living in the camps and gather more information on their condition and return intention. The exercise was conducted together with Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS)) which still continues with clearing the backlog. The final report is being finalized.
- **Continuous Registration:** During the reporting period a total of 331 new born babies were registered, 40 of whom were assigned in-situ birth status and 428 card mergers and splits were also effected during the reporting period.
- **Legal Aid and Representation:** The Kadhi Mobile court was in session from 8th to 13th August to deliberate on personal law issues affecting persons of concern who profess the Muslim faith. The court attended to 28 cases mostly divorce petitions from married females seeking to dissolve their unions due to differences with their partners.
- UNHCR held bilateral discussions with its legal aid partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) on the need for capacity building on international protection and access to asylum for their border and protection monitors. It was resolved to hold the forum within the month of August and early September. The aim of the forum is to improve their knowledge on same and streamline reporting and documentation of various protection issues within the migration corridor and the camps.
- **Community Policing/Prevention from Crime:** In an effort to enhance community policing within the refugee camps, UNHCR distributed material assistance comprising of boots and whistles to over 190 Community Peace and Protection Teams in Ifo camp. The same is expected to be replicated in the other camps with time.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- A bilateral discussion on the way forward was held between the UNHCR Dadaab and UNHCR Kakuma on the handover of the non-Somali asylum seeker caseload pending RSD process. Unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers special cases have been identified, and urgent intervention, relevant recommendations were made.

Child Protection

- UNICEF Country Office concluded its two week fact-finding mission in Dadaab (1st – 12th August) which focused on mapping information pathways within the child protection case management systems utilized by Save the Children and Terre des Hommes, analysing their capacity and efficiency. Meetings were held with UNHCR Protection and child protection staff in Save the Children and TdH, and a desk review of existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on child protection and case management, referral pathway and vulnerability criteria documentation was conducted. The exercise also took into consideration the ongoing discourse on voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees with a view of tailoring recommendations on improving systems to reflect the current child protection operational needs.



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

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV):

- The bi-weekly SGBV case conference was held in Ifo camp on 9th August. In attendance were DRC, RCK, IRK and UNHCR where nine cases were deliberated upon and appropriate intervention measures agreed on. On 10th August a joint case discussion and counselling was held for seven individuals in the presence of DRC, RCK and UNHCR. Various protection interventions, including psychosocial support, referral for medical services, shelter, legal procedures and community-based protection support were recommended.

- The Ifo 2 Camp inter-agency case conference was held on 11th August with Save the Children, RCK, Kenya Red Cross and UNHCR in attendance. Nine cases were discussed (1 forced marriage, 5 defilement, 1 physical assault and 2 psychological/emotional abuse) and referrals to relevant agencies for follow-up on interventions recommended. Two of the five cases of defilement have been filed in court with the accused persons held in remand, and the other three are under police investigation.

Education

- Following a circular issued by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) on revised term dates, schools nationwide including the ones in Dadaab closed for the holidays on 12th August 2016 and will open for third term on 29th August 2016. During the holidays, girls will be offered remedial and catch up classes under the KEEP project to improve on their performance. During this period, KEEP will also facilitate Parents Teachers Association (PTA) training targeting refugee and selected host community schools.
- UNHCR Education and WTK's DAFI Scholarships focal persons met in Nairobi to carry out shortlisting of successful applicants for the said scholarships. A total of 291 applications were received from Dadaab where 158 of them were shortlisted based on an elaborate set criteria. A panel with representation from UNHCR, WTK Nairobi office and one camp based Education Agency conducted oral interviews for three days (3rd – 5th August 2016) to select the final 46 successful applicants. The DAFI scholarship programme is funded by the German government, administered by UNHCR and implemented by Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) with the goal of helping refugee students access post-secondary education in Kenyan universities. The scholarship covers all tuition and fees associated with the academic course for the scholars.
- On 10th August, UNICEF in partnership with NRC launched the Out-Of-School-Children (OOSC) programme targeting to enrol 7,000 out of school children from the host community. UNICEF, with funding from Qatar Foundation, has identified NRC to implement the project in 18 primary schools in Fafi and Dadaab sub counties. WTK will implement the project in 11 other primary schools in Dadaab Sub County. The selected schools will benefit from provision of learning and teaching materials, sanitary kits for girls, refurbishment of classrooms and WASH facilities.
- On 11th August 2016, UNHCR Education team from Nairobi and Dadaab led the Education Working Group members in a workshop to validate the draft National Education strategy for 2016 – 2020. Partners in the education sector reviewed lessons learnt from Dadaab context and realigned the education strategic objectives in light of the ongoing voluntary repatriation exercise. This workshop was a culmination of validation exercises undertaken in Nairobi and Kakuma. A Dadaab-specific education strategy currently being developed by a consultant was also presented for inputs.



Girl students in their classroom at Hurmod Primary School, Ifo camp of

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Food Security and Nutrition

- The general food distribution for the month of August was commenced on 1st August. It was completed successfully across all the five camps by 9th August with no major incident reported.
- The World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated in Dadaab by all nutrition partners from 1st to 7th August. There was a launch in each camp on 1st August followed by different activities in the community. UNHCR Nutrition team attended the event in Ifo camp, where there were speeches, dances, and drama emphasizing the importance of the key recommended infant and young child feeding activities, especially early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding. The theme of this year's event was "Breastfeeding-A key to Sustainable Development"
- The Annual Nutrition Survey for Dadaab began on 8th August with enumerator training and pilot testing in Hagadera Hospital for the Hagadera and Kambioos camps teams. Data will be collected on indicators of child and maternal

nutritional status. Data collection using the Open Data Kit (ODK) method began on 15th August and is expected to be completed on 20th August in both camps.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The first phase trainings on the Artists for Refugees program ended on 3rd and 11th August. 14 visual artists and 49 musicians have so far been trained on music and performing arts. Two artists who were part of the trained musicians have been supported to record their music and produce 100 copies of the same to be shared at a fund raising dinner in Canada on 29th of August hosted by an Individual Donor Mr. Warren L. Creates, the Head of Immigration Law Group (Canadian and American).
- Horticulture activities are picking up with the transplanting of vegetable seedlings and installation of the tank and drip irrigation system in the greenhouse in Dagahaley and in the open field gardens in Ifo. The initiative is aimed at improving food security of the households engaged in the activity and to supplement their source of income.
- The Training of Trainers on Start and Improve Your Business course by ILO is currently ongoing, with 13 staff participating in this training. The objective is to enable staff to carry out business skills training reducing the need for external trainers. It will also allow them to mentor micro-enterprises more effectively with newly acquired knowledge.
- **Strengthening community-based structures:** The training on group dynamics and leadership continued in Ifo, Ifo 2 and Kambioos camps with 300 participants (133 female, 167male). The training was aimed to increase cohesion of group members and improve the group's ability to effectively manage their activities.



Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the second half of July, a total of 8 cases comprising of 37 individuals underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 27 cases comprising of 89 individuals were interviewed for possible onward submission to resettlement countries.
- During the reporting period, 41 cases comprising of 165 individuals were submitted to UNHCR Branch Office Nairobi for onward submission to the United States of America. Two emergency cases submitted were accepted by Sweden. During the period under review, a total of 29 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States of America and Australia.

Voluntary repatriation

- During the reporting period, the return of Somali refugees gained significant momentum as many refugees are reported to be registering for repatriation across the Dadaab camps.
- With an increasing number of refugees registering for repatriation and showing general interest in the process, the capacity of the return help desks is being strengthened in order enable UNHCR to assist all those willing to return to Somalia to do so in a free and informed manner.
- The flights transporting returnees to Mogadishu resumed on Monday 22nd August following a suspension due to the incident that had claimed the life of a UNHCR colleague in Mogadishu.

Water and Sanitation

- During the first half of August, on average, UNHCR supplied 32 liters of water per day per capita from 29 boreholes to the entire refugee population in the five Dadaab camps. 26 of these boreholes operate on Solar PV – Diesel hybrid system. The water supply schemes convey water to 48 tanks with a total storage capacity of 6,250m³, from where the water distributed to refugees through 900 tap stands scattered around the five camps.

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

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

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