

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR DADAAB BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

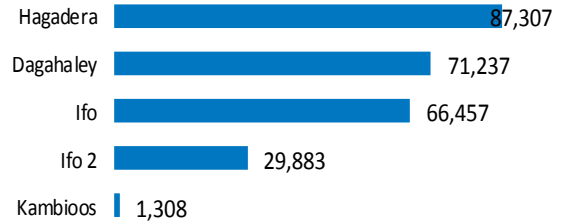
1 - 15 March 2017

UPDATES

Population as of 15th March 2017: **256,192**

Refugees: **254,249**

Asylum seekers: **1,943**



HIGHLIGHTS

Drought assistance to host community

- On 14th March, UNHCR handed over a 30kVA generator to Welmarer Water User Association in the presence of elders from the host community. The generator will go a long way in alleviating the water crisis in the Alinjugur area following the severe drought that is currently being experienced in the region.

UNHCR's Dadaab Head of Operation, Jean Bosco Rushatsi in his remarks expressed his gratitude to the local community for hosting refugees for over 25 years and he acknowledged the drought situation in their areas. He noted UNHCR intervention on numerous projects targeting the host community in water trucking, drilling of boreholes, repair of generators and distribution of non-food items.

- The host community representatives who were present at the handover ceremony appreciated UNHCR for its continues efforts towards assisting the host community and especially underscored the huge investment the organization has done towards water provision in the face of the drought.
- Since 2009, UNHCR spent 13 million USD on the implementation of various host community support projects in Dadaab refugee operations areas.



UNHCR's Dadaab Head of Operations hands over a power generator to the host community representatives.

Voluntary repatriation

- During the reporting period, 3,970 refugees were supported to return to their home in Somalia. In total, as of 15th March, 57,329 Somali refugees returned home since 8th December 2014, when UNHCR started supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya, out of which 17,359 were supported in 2017 alone.

Road convoys were organized from Dadaab to Dhobley respectively on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Flights to Mogadishu have resumed on 27th February after a long suspension due to security restrictions in Mogadishu since December 2016.

UPDATES

Protection

- **Go and See visits:** On 9th March, 28 refugee from Dadaab camps travelled to Somalia, more especially to Kismayo and Baidao respectively, in the framework of Go and See visits. The refugee delegates returned back to Dadaab on 13th March. The visit was aimed at enabling refugees to familiarize themselves with the situation in these two towns (that are among the 12 areas of return) in order to share their findings with refugees in the camps upon their return.
- On 15th March, a debriefing session was held with participants of the visit, which was attended by officials from the Government of Kenya and UNHCR. Refugee delegates reported that there were significant improvements in Kismayo compared to 2014 when the first Go and see visit was organised to this location, economic activities being on the rise. In Baidoa instead, there were more challenges due mainly to the drought whose impact was more felt in this town, even if some returnees that had returned to Baidoa had purchased land and built their houses.
- A live radio talk show on a local radio station will be organized for some selected delegates to widely share their experience and give feedback to the refugee community. Moreover, debriefing sessions are planned in all camps and during which refugee representatives are expected to share first-hand information on conditions prevailing in Baidoa and Kismayu with their fellow refugees.



De-briefing session for the Go and See delegates at UNHCR Sub Office Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/M. Dubat

- **Relocation to Kakuma:** So far, a total of 4,053 individuals have been relocated to Kalobeyei in Kakuma since the process started in November 2016 whereby 3,805 individuals were relocated in 2017 alone. The total population of Non-Somalis remaining in the camps stands at 6,031 and the majority are Ethiopians and South Sudanese with 5,632 and 231 respectively. UNHCR Dadaab shared a list of 1,641 with IOM to relocation. These are refugees who have approached the Relocation Help Desks (RHD) and have registered for relocation.

Within the period of 1-15 March, a total of 595 cases were processed at the RHD in the various camps. Majority of these cases are from Hagadera camp. 421 of them accepted to be relocated while the other 170 refusing to be relocated.

- There are a total of 59 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education candidates. Nine have been relocated to Kalobeyei where they are trying to be put in the secondary Schools in Kakuma. UNHCR Kakuma has confirmed their plans to provide 50 scholarship opportunities to Form 4 students, giving priority to the nine candidates from Dadaab. On Primary education, 50 out of 115 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) candidates, have been relocated and joined Kalobeyei Primary School. In Dadaab, there are currently 65 KCPE candidates remaining.
- **Camp consolidation:** A total of 1479 households of 6331 individuals have been transferred to Hagadera camp as of Friday 10th March. A total of 1,052 have received shelter kits as at 15th March and most people are either constructing or finished construction. 11 households have been transferred to Dagahaley camp among them eight families received their shelter kits and the rest of the 3 are scheduled for 20th March. A family of five members has been transferred to Ifo camp and the shelter kits will be given on the same date as above.
- **New Arrivals Registration:** During the reporting period, ten New Arrivals/ unregistered refugees were registered in UNHCR database. These cases were registered on medical /protection grounds and relocation purposes.

- **Continuous Registration:** During the reporting period, a total number of 148 new born babies were registered and issued with the birth certificates.
- **Legal Aid Clinic:** A total of 35 persons of concern were provided with psychosocial counselling in court, prison and at the Rescue Centre. They were all provided with counselling on how to cope with their current situations and updated on the progress of their cases along with being provided with pre-trial preparation.
- **Arrest/legal representations in Court:** During the reporting period, ten persons of concern were represented in court in Garissa. Seven were represented for migration related charges and five were charged with residing outside designated areas. Five persons were charged with being unlawfully present in the country. For unlawfully residing outside area cases, persons were convicted and fined between KES 10,000 and KES 5,000 or one month imprisonment in default. For being unlawful inside Kenya cases, three Ugandan girls were released to the children department for tracing and family reunification.
- **Court attendance monitoring:** UNHCR Garissa attended four court sessions to oversee court proceedings of cases and monitor representations of persons of concern over the two weeks, while our partner agency Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) attended to court proceedings daily.
- **Prison data:** During the reporting period, there were a total of 104 persons of concern in both detention Centers, however, the figure keeps on changing from time to time depending on discharges and arrest on each particular day.

Child Protection

- A UNHCR multi-functional team carried out a joint monitoring on 10th March to evaluate the activities carried out by Save the Children (SCI) to monitor compliance with their 2016 Project Agreement. The Team had meeting with community workers, selected fostered children, various community structures representatives and they confirmed their support from SCI. Impromptu visits were conducted at ABE Centre and Dagahaley camp and Child Friendly Space at Ifo 2 camp to ascertain the reported repair and maintenance work and met with various children at the center who also reported of their support from SCI.
- During a mini Best Interest Determination (BID) panel meeting on 1st March, a total of 29 BIDs corresponding to 59 children were reviewed to explore voluntary repatriation as a durable solution. Of these, 27 BIDs corresponding to 55 children were approved, while two BIDs relating to four children were deferred pending further assessment.



Refugee children in Ifo camp of Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- UNHCR conducted monitoring for SGBV activities across all the camps. Among the partners who were monitored included, Care International, Kenya Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council and International Rescue Committee. The meetings took place in the various locations that the organizations are mandated to undertake SGBV activities. During the monitoring sessions, it was observed that SGBV cases continued to be reported, with adequate response provided to survivors. The major challenges affecting the SGBV activities were cited to be lack of funding, voluntary repatriation and the effects of camp consolidation and closure.
- During the period, UNHCR in collaboration with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) trained 100 teachers working in Ifo camp on identification, prevention and response of SGBV incidences at schools. The teachers were trained on help seeking referral pathways comprising of reporting, psychosocial assistance, health assistance and the legal service points that are available in Ifo camp. The training targeted 100 teachers working in 12 schools at Ifo camp. The aim of the training is towards enhancing SGBV awareness in schools. At the same time two mentorship activities were undertaken during the period comprising of 60 students from various schools, targeting adolescent girls and boys in school.

- During the reporting period in Ifo the monthly SGV case monitoring was held on 14th March in DRC office. In attendance was DRC, UNHCR, Save the Children International (SCI), Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) and Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT). Seven cases were reviewed, discussed and appropriate action recommended.

Education

- Mid-term examination for secondary schools was administered during the week of 6th to 10th March, 2017.
- During the reporting period, joint multi-functional team monitoring exercise was conducted with program, field and project control sectors to assess how far the partners achieved their 2016 objectives and the impact it had to the refugee children in as far as education delivery is concerned. A joint recommendations was done on how to improve on the gaps experienced in 2016.
- UNHCR's Education sector had a planning meeting with the Ministry of Education (MoE) directorate of quality assurance and standards at County and Sub County level on 12th and 13th March. The aim of the planning meeting was to organise a quality standards assessment scheduled to take place from 20th to 31st March. The scope of the assessment is from pre-school to secondary education including the alternative pathways to education delivery.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The general food distribution for the month of March was commenced on 1st March. It was completed successfully across all the five camps by 8th March with no major incident reported.
- Between 6th and 10th March, a Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) assessment was conducted in 3 hospitals, namely: Hagadera, Ifo and Ifo 2.
- BFHI is a global effort, which has been adopted by the government of Kenya, to implement practices that protect, promote and support breastfeeding, and the aim of the assessment was to evaluate the status of the hospitals in compliance to the ten successful steps of breastfeeding according to national and global guidelines.
- The assessment team is finalising their report, which contains a scoring of the services and helps to assess progress and come up with suitable recommendations.



WFP food distribution center at Hagadera camp of Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Water and Sanitation

- During the reporting period, on average, UNHCR supplied 33.6 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 47 tanks with a total storage capacity of 5,950 m³, from where the water distributed to refugees through 909 tap stands scattered around the five camps.

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