



Situation Report for Dadaab & Alinjugur Refugee Camps

1 – 15 May 2012

Highlights

- A police vehicle hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Dagahaley camp – two dead
- Two IEDs discovered in Hagadera camp
- Host community demonstrations blocked the road to Hagadera
- Deployment of a dog team to beef up security in the Dadaab agency compound
- 25 clinical staff trained in clinical management of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks
- New arrivals issued with food tokens
- Elections of refugee leaders approved by the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA)
- 178 tap-stands constructed in Hagadera camp to extend water supply to far-away blocks

Updates

Security

- Overall the security situation in Dadaab operational area remained unstable. The threat from improvised explosive devices (IED) went a step further with the discovery of four IEDs within 12 days (28/4, 10/5, 15/5). One of them was a mortar apparently brought here from Somalia.
- On 10 May, two improvised explosive devices (IED) were discovered in Hagadera, one inside the camp and the other on the road to Alinjugur.
- On 15 May a police vehicle escorting a UNHCR vehicle was hit by an IED in Dagahaley camp. One policeman was killed on the spot. Of the three seriously injured police, one later died.
- Despite the unchanged threat level, agencies have opted to continue with essential life saving activities in the camps.
- Information considered credible was received concerning a renewed threat of kidnapping in Dadaab area. The threat is believed to be from Al Shabaab or criminal elements or most likely a combination of both.
- Incidents of banditry and criminality were of concern, with four incidents and the death of two refugees reported. On 7 May, about one km from Dadaab airstrip a shootout took place between police escorting a humanitarian vehicle and suspected bandits. The same day, a refugee (male) was shot dead by unidentified men in Ifo camp. No motive established. The following day a female refugee was shot dead in Ifo by unknown people. Police believe the incident was linked to relationship issues.
- While previous incidents of banditry have been attributed to suspected Al-Shabaab deserters, police strongly suspect that some of these incidents are being committed by elements from the host community.
- During the first week of May, movement to Hagadera, Kambioos and Alinjugur was blocked due to demonstrations by the host community demanding employment. The roadblock also disrupted public transport and caused general inconvenience. The demonstration involved some 1,000 youth.

Dadaab Main Office perimeter HESCO fence being put in place



Picture: HESCO perimeter fence around DMO compound

- The work to secure Dadaab Refugee Operations Main Office compound was well in progress. A HESCO wall was being constructed to enhance security.
- A dog handler's team arrived to ensure 24/7 security in the UNHCR compound and provide response when needed. The team will undertake patrols within the compound and conduct luggage inspection at the airstrip. The dog is trained to sniff for explosives.

Refugee population & new arrivals

- The refugee population in Dadaab stood at **465,449** persons.
- A total of 417 new arrivals were issued food tokens.
- An exercise to fingerprint additional new arrivals was to be undertaken 14 – 16 May. This exercise is aimed at identifying new arrivals who do not have access to services in the camps.

Verification & registration

- A meeting was held with refugee leaders on 8 May in Hagadera to address issues regarding impostors and unregistered new arrivals. The meeting was also in preparation for the upcoming verification exercise.
- LWF reported the presence of 818 cases (about 1,000 persons) of unregistered new arrivals.
- The lack of registration poses a real risk of arrest by police during their night patrols as the new arrivals do not have any form of documentation. Refugee leaders have requested UNHCR to speed up the registration process.

Child protection

- A UNHCR mission to strengthen child protection capacity in Dadaab visited the regional capital Garissa. The team held meetings with government officials and also visited the prison, detention facilities and the Children Rescue Centre. The team observed that children of concern to UNHCR were kept in prison and other detention facilities together with their parents. Among the modalities agreed upon was that children in detention will be held at the Rescue Centre after court decisions are rendered.
- There are currently six children of concern to UNHCR at the Rescue Centre with one being a victim of child trafficking. Save the Children and UNHCR are following up on the cases.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with other child protection actors in Dadaab agreed to increase support to the Centre and to advocate for children not to be kept in detention for long periods.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

- To enhance the capacity of agencies, IRC in coordination with UNHCR organised a 5 day workshop on GBV Emergency Response and Preparedness. 27 participants representing 12 organisations took part. The main outcome was the drafting of an Emergency and Preparedness Plan that will be implemented by the joint SGBV working group.

- Two inter-agency case conferences were held with participation from the police, CARE-GAD, LWF, SCUK and UNHCR.
- Cases that had been pending since the onset of the emergency and the period of insecurity in 2011 were assessed and closed.
- There was an increasing trend of reports of domestic violence against women which has been attributed to lack of livelihood opportunities.

Education

- Overall, pupils resumed classes after end term holidays on 7 May.
- The condition of schools in Kambioos camp remains substandard. In some classrooms the roof is damaged. Fencing of the three schools has yet to be completed. The schools have no water as the water piping has not yet been installed.



Picture: Students in a primary school in Kambioos

Health

- 25 health staff trained in clinical management of acute watery diarrhea facilitated by the International Diarrhoeal Diseases Research Centre, Bangladesh and supported by AmeriCares through International Medical Corps.
- National Blood Transfusion Centre undertook an assessment of blood safety activities.
- One maternal death occurred in Hagadera camp and was attributed to eclampsia. This brings the total number of maternal deaths in Dadaab this year to 13.
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Ministry of Public Health and UNHCR conducted camp based trainings for 64 clinical staff on the proper completion of P3 (medicolegal forms) and the presentation of these in court.
- 8 measles cases were reported bringing the total number of measles cases line-listed since January 2011 to 1,630. IRC is carrying out a measles vaccination campaign targeting children under 5.

WASH

- NRC has constructed 178 tap-stands at Hagadera camp in order to extend water services closer to blocks which were accessing water at distances greater than 200 meters from their households.
- In Hagadera, a major generator breakdown occurred, incapacitating one borehole (no. 3). The areas served by this borehole had to be supported from borehole 4.
- Also in Hagadera, refugees had encroached onto land set aside for sanitation, making it difficult to construct latrines due to lessened space. However, after some negotiation, the refugees were willing to allow space for the new latrines.

Environment

- UNHCR commissioned a consultancy firm to conduct an environmental audit of the implementation of the Dadaab refugee support programme in 2011. The audit is a mandatory requirement enforced by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

- Plans are underway to commemorate World Environment Day on 5 June. Agencies pledged to contribute towards implementing interventions that resonate well with the global theme – **Green Economy: Does it include you?**
- UNHCR, jointly with Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organisation (RRDO), organised a demonstration by Polish Aid (AIDPOL) of an alternative source of cooking energy with potential to replace firewood. AIDPOL demonstrated the utility of a charcoal briquette made of sawdust for cooking and heating purposes. AIDPOL also committed to provide enough amount of the product to enable a more comprehensive piloting among the refugees.

External Relations / Public Information

- A mission from the UNHCR Rome Office visited Dadaab to see the family of a Somali Italian woman who had been adopted as a child in 1994. The girl who was sick had been left in the Italian military hospital in Johar by her father. He did not return to take her back because he had had an accident and was hospitalized for weeks. When the Italian military contingent left and the hospital was closed down, one of the military officers who had become attached to the little girl was worried about what would happen to her. After consulting with his family in Italy he decided to adopt her, with the approval of the local authorities in Somalia.

When the father of the girl returned to the area where the Italian hospital had been located, he found an empty plot. Given the dangerous situation in Somalia, the father ended up in Dadaab but never stopped looking for his daughter. Throughout the years he spoke many times to UN personnel or visitors about his daughter asking for assistance in locating her. In 2008 he met two researchers working for CARE in Dadaab, one of whom was Italian. This person promised to help in locating the daughter and got in touch with an Italian TV program that helps in finding missing relatives.

UNHCR Rome participated in the TV program and the young woman herself happened to be watching it. Her Italian mother and father recognised the circumstances and understood that the girl the program was looking for was their adopted daughter. The young woman immediately called the TV program. Incredibly, the search had been successful.

During this mission, UNHCR Dadaab facilitated for the father of the girl to travel to Nairobi for the reunion with his daughter. The reunion was a remarkable display of joy and emotions.

- The UNHCR Office in the Hague facilitated a mission to Dadaab by the UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in the Netherlands, TV personality Laureen Verster. The context of the mission was a 2 million euros Dutch lottery pledge in support of the education sector in Dadaab.

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