

## KISMAYO

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

27 November 2014

#### KEY FIGURES

**211,387**

Estimated population in Kismayo  
(UNFPA 2014)

**10,917**

Cross-border movements into Somalia  
from Kenya and Ethiopia since January  
2014

**31,000**

Estimated number of Somali IDPs in  
Lower Juba (about 20,000 in  
Kismayo)

**2,547**

New IDPs in Kismayo since January  
2014

**11,668**

New IDPs in Lower Juba since January  
2014

**15,642**

Forcibly Evicted IDPs in Kismayo since  
January 2014

**113,525**

Refugees from Kismayo district in Kenya

#### PRIORITIES

- Pursue sustainable solutions to displacement for IDPs in Somalia and Somali refugees in the region
- Strengthen partnership with development actors to create conducive conditions for return and reintegration
- Conduct IDP profiling and protection assessment in Kismayo

#### HIGHLIGHTS



Aerial view of Kismayo/UNHCR

- **UNHCR to strengthen its presence.** UNHCR is working to establish its presence in Kismayo and plan to open an office by the end of 2014.
- **Eviction threats against internally displaced people (IDPs) remain a major concern.** Most of the displaced people living in Kismayo are Somali Bantus and have been living there for at least a decade. An eviction notice of November 2013 asked people to vacate public buildings by 20 January 2014. Around 15,642 people have been forcibly evicted in Kismayo since January 2014. Evicted people have reportedly received cash assistance from the authorities as a means of compensation. The authorities suggested to relocate the displaced to a safe location that belongs to the local administration and expressed a willingness to work with UN agencies, humanitarian NGOs and concerned communities in supporting the local integration of IDPs in Kismayo.
- **Climatic shocks continue to increase vulnerability.** Heavy rains in May and June 2014 affected in Lower Juba region over 3,700 vulnerable people in 14 sub-settlements where displaced people and urban poor households reside. In November 2014, seasonal flooding has been reported from six regions of Somalia with different levels of severity, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. About 40,000 people have been temporary displaced due to the floods from September to November, of which around 2,000 are in Lower Juba region.

# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

## Operational Context

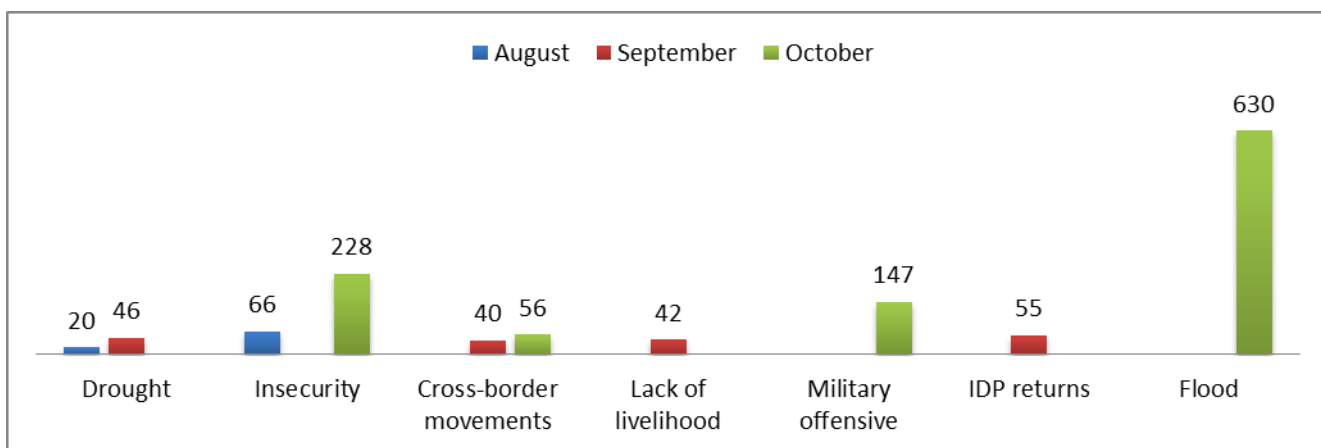
The security situation in Kismayo has improved since mid-2013 when two rival militia groups fought in the key coastal town, but it remains volatile. The armed conflict has caused limited access of humanitarian actors to the city as well as the district and region at large. The presence of Al Shabaab in the outlying villages and its influence in Kismayo continue to hinder the movement of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies in the entire region. In addition, Al Shabaab’s asymmetrical attacks on Government and AMISOM positions continue to destabilize the security situation in and around Kismayo town. Most international humanitarian organizations operate from Dhobley in Afmadow district using national staff and local partners in Kismayo to implement service deliveries. Al Shabaab attacks have targeted senior Jubaland officials, traditional leaders and Ras Kamboni militias in Kismayo between late 2013 and July 2014.

A reconciliation conference was held in Kismayo from 17 September to 5 October 2014. On 25 November, the Interim Juba Administration (IJA) requested UNSOM assistance in drafting the Jubaland constitution. The IJA expects a final draft of the constitution to be ready for the inauguration of the Juba regional assembly. The selection process for the assembly will begin on 30 December 2014. The IJA denied a recent media report that it had been involved in the export of charcoal from Kismayo.

In August 2013, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Interim Juba Administration (IJA) reached a political agreement in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to resolve the political and military tension in the region. The risk of conflict remains as long as the outcomes of the 2013 Addis Ababa agreement and the reconciliation conference in Mogadishu in October 2013 are not properly implemented by all stakeholders.

Following the Mandera bus attack by AS on 25 November killing 28 innocent civilians, the Kenya Defense Force conducted military air strikes against positions they assessed as Al Shabaab locations in Mareer village, about 100 KM west of Kismayo. So far, there have been reports on displacement and damages to structures, but no reports of casualties. The media reported that elders in Jilib, Lower Juba region, complained that the Kenyan military airstrikes in Hargeysa Yare, which is in the same area as Mareer, have largely affected the civilian population and killed livestock.

Figure 1: Number of IDP arrivals into Kismayo disaggregated by reason (Jan-Oct 2014)



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## Achievements

### Protection

#### Protection Cluster

- UNHCR established the Protection Cluster in Kismayo in 2014. The agency leads the Cluster together with a local NGO. The Cluster coordinates a wide range of preventive and responsive protection activities, including community-based sensitization, support to GBV survivors, protection to extremely vulnerable people such as disabled, and child protection. The Cluster also continues to focus on protection IDPs against forced evictions and seeks to increase its activities towards a stronger IDP protection response.

#### Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Lower Juba

- UNHCR, through its partner APD is supporting a GBV Prevention and Response project in Lower Juba, in particular, Kismayo, Dhobley and Kulbiyow. The project provides comprehensive response to survivors of Gender Based violence through medical, psychosocial and material support. The project also seeks to enhance access to services and three MCHs in each of the project location are being supported to provide response services. The project also includes an awareness raising component to inform communities on where and how services can be accessed. Transportation is provided to survivors who need further treatment and those under medication (PEP) are provided with supplementary food. To ensure systematic data collection on GBV trends in the region, UNHCR has rolled out an information management system (GBVIMS) in the project areas.

#### Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN)

- UNHCR, through its implementing partner NRC and a network of other local and international NGOs, ensures reporting and monitoring of protection violations as well as movements related to refugee and IDPs returns and internal displacement due to conflict, forced evictions, security, flooding and drought. Though challenging due to the weak protective environment and the limited capacity of partners, emergency response to victims of human rights violations is supported.

### Shelter and NFIs

#### Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR is supporting an infrastructure mapping exercise of IDP settlements in Kismayo. In 2014, the exercise was rolled out in 5 different locations in Somalia: Kismayo, South/North Galkayo, Mogadishu, Luuq and Bossaso. Pilots have also been tried out in Baidoa, Garowe and Dhobley. After changes in the settlements due to floods and evictions, the exercise will be carried out for a second time in Kismayo in late November and a report will be ready by end of December. The infrastructure mapping tool is a Shelter Cluster product, developed using mobile technology. The objective of the infrastructure mapping exercise is to provide a useful and timely 'snapshot' of the IDP settlements in the different locations, with a main aim to map out the basic services that IDPs can access in their respective settlements.

#### Distribution of Non Food Items (NFIs) in response to emergencies

- In response to the floods, UNHCR and its partner ARC have distributed 1,700 Non Food Item (NFIs) kits in July 2014, while another 3,000 are planned for distribution in November-December. 1,000 NFIs have been pre-positioned in Kismayo to be distributed to assist the refugee returnees from Kenya, within the framework of the Pilot Project for voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya.

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IDP settlements affected by floods in Kismayo/UNHCR

## Durable Solutions

### Support to returning Somali refugees

- In Kismayo, UNHCR has been working to support the reception of Somali refugees voluntarily returning home from neighboring Kenya. Following the signing of the Tripartite Agreement in November 2013 by the Governments of Kenya and Somalia, and UNHCR, a six-month Pilot Project has been developed offering support to Somali refugees in Kenya who wish to voluntarily return and reintegrate in their country of origin as a solution to their displacement. The Pilot Phase is expected to commence in the near future and will offer support to refugees wishing to return to three pilot districts in South Central Somalia – Kismayo (Lower Juba), Luuq (Gedo) and Baidoa (Bay), which have been selected according to a comprehensive set of criteria, including the presence of local authorities/FGS, INGOs, access, etc.
- The Pilot Project steps are meant to ensure close monitoring and to ensure the voluntariness and informed decision to return. UNHCR is providing up-to date information on the situation on the ground, particularly on the impact of the military offensive, at the Return Help Desks set up in Dadaab. A Go and See Visit to Kismayo with 19 refugee representatives from Dadaab Refugee Complex, Kenya was organized in August 2014 to ensure direct involvement of the refugee community in assessing the conditions in the areas of return and to share the feedback with the refugee communities in Dadaab. As of October 2014, some 3,200 individuals have approached the UNHCR Return Help Desks in Dadaab Refugee Camps for voluntary return counseling. Returnee families will be provided with a standard UNCHR return and reintegration package (two plastic sheets, three blankets, three sleeping mats, one kitchen sets, two jerry cans, soap 750 gram, 50 m plastic rope and nails) and food assistance for three months or the equivalent in cash. Once returnees settle in the place of origin, they and vulnerable members of the host community will be provided with livelihood/re-integration assistance. The return infrastructure required, including a Border Way Station in Dhobley and Home Way Stations in Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo, have been established and are ready for use. UNHCR conducted a mission to Kismayo in October to inform the regional administration and request them to provide the necessary support in terms of security and safety at the returnee routes under their area of responsibility. While the borders between Kenya and Somalia remain officially closed, an agreement between the signatory parties of the Tripartite Agreement have been reached to ensure the safe, dignified and lawful return of Somalis crossing the border with official travel documents in the form of a Voluntary Return Form issued by UNHCR.

### Home Way Station in Kismayo

- UNHCR has established a fully functioning Home Way Station in Kismayo town which will mainly be used to support voluntary refugee returnees whose final destination is Kismayo district. The center will provide a number of reception services including verification of travel documents, information on the further journey, a hot meal, clean water, sanitation facilities and accommodation for one night. In addition, UNHCR has prepositioned NFIs/shelter for

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the returnees, food for three months and the reintegration package (unconditional cash grant). Mercy Corps is UNHCR’s partner manning the Home Way Station in Kismayo.



Home Way Station in Kismayo/UNHCR

### Reintegration & Community-Based Projects

- Increased Access to Education.** Kismayo district has a total of 15 primary and 10 secondary public schools that are currently managed privately under the umbrella of the Jubaland Educational Network (JEN). In Kismayo, 80% of the children are reported to be from poor, vulnerable families that cannot afford to pay for education. This includes children from IDPs and returnee families. Most schools are damaged or have limited number of classrooms, lack furniture, teachers and teaching material. UNHCR through its partner Mercy Corps is currently supporting the rehabilitation of 14 classrooms and 10 latrines in four primary schools - Ganane, Rugta, Khalid Bin Walid and Fanole - located in Iskufilaan village of Kismayo, an area to where many IDPs and refugees have, and are expected to, return. Rehabilitation works, with site clearing, roofing, walls repairing, framing and doors/windows repairs, plastering and painting, preparation of 280 school desks, provide short-term job opportunities for 125 individuals selected amongst IDPs, returnees and local community members.



Rehabilitation of primary schools in Kismayo/UNHCR

- Increased Access to Clean and Safe Water and Sanitation Services.** Accessing clean water, and maintaining proper hygiene and sanitation structures is critical and a major challenge among returnees, IDPs and most of the communities in Somalia. In Kismayo, there are few boreholes with limited yield, while shallow wells dry up or experience frequent breakdowns as they are used without being properly serviced. Additionally, limited sanitation facilities and often open defecation practices in overcrowded areas, coupled with the lack of basic knowledge on hygiene practices increase the risk of diseases. UNHCR is funding ADP to address these gaps by increasing access to clean water and sanitation for about 12,000 individuals including returnees, IDPs and local communities in Kismayo

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city through the rehabilitation of 53 water points, construction of 25 latrines, and hygiene promotion activities in Faanole, Farjanno, Calanley and Shaqallaha areas.



Rehabilitation of wells in Kismayo/UNHCR

- Livelihoods opportunities for returnees.** Most households in Kismayo struggle to earn any income at all. Employment opportunities are limited with most men have only few options beyond daily labor or informal charcoal production. Women most often attempt to contribute to family incomes through small businesses – selling vegetables, fruits, and homemade sweets in the local markets or their own neighborhoods. The steady influx of returnees into Kismayo, as well as the IDP community, stretches the few opportunities that exist and could lead to further tensions between the local community, IDPs, and the returnees. To increase livelihood opportunities and to develop the supportive conditions for ‘durable’ returns in Kismayo, the UNHCR project implemented by ARC seeks to engage 140 households (returnees, conflict-affected IDP and local community families) in livelihood- and income generating interventions through commercial fishing. Some 104 men are provided with training in commercial fishing practices, water-safety, boat/equipment/engine maintenance and repair, fish handling and preservation, storage, and business and marketing practices. Upon successful completion of the training, the 104 men divided into eight groups, are provided with a locally-procured standard grade commercial fishing vessel, engine, and fuel, as well as necessary fishing and safety equipment (nets, cooling boxes, shoes, life jackets, swimming glasses, first aid kits, flares and signaling equipment). An additional 36 women benefit from training in fish handling, storage, and hygiene, as well as marketing, financial literacy, and asset management. Basic storage equipment is also provided.



Training on fishery activities in Kismayo/UNHCR

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR has partnered with a number of humanitarian agencies and local NGOs in Kismayo to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV), including with ARC, APD, KISIMA, WRRS, SAF, SEDHURO, ARDI and KISIMA.

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- Implemented in close cooperation with UNHCR Somalia the UNDP Local Economic Development in Somalia (LEDS) project seek to contribute significantly to the achievement of UNHCR’s ‘Durable Solutions’ strategy for supporting the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees and the successful social and economic reintegration of refugee and IDP populations in South Central Somalia and Somaliland. In October, UNDP and UNHCR jointly carried out a mission to Kismayo to identify basic needs and priorities in each of the target communities. Local consultations and focus group meetings were undertaken with stakeholders in Kismayo, including Interim Juba Administration authorities, local community representatives, other UN and international agencies and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The missions identified a range of priorities interventions such as the rehabilitation of a market in Kismayo and the provision of business training and micro-grants for 120 retailers; the second phase of rehabilitation of a school which was partly rehabilitated by UNHCR to absorb more IDPs; and support for the fishery sector through a value chain analysis and the provision of capacity development support for the establishment of new micro-enterprises.
- UNICEF is also supporting UNHCR interventions through the provision of education material such as recreation kits, replenishment kits and “School in a Carton”, to be provided to the UNHCR/Mercy Corps rehabilitated schools.

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