

Camp snapshot

Population: 87,703 (44,493 female, 43,210 male), 22,448 households (28/02/2014) Nationalities: Somalis 90.09%, Ethiopians 8.6%, South Sudanese 0.3%, others 0.1% Size of camp area: 12.3 km² Average plot size per household: 12m x 15m

Background

Established in 1991, Ifo is the oldest of the five refugee camps in Dadaab, currently accommodating refugees from twelve countries. Since 2010, the population has increased by 35% because of the influx of new arrivals fleeing war and famine in Somalia. The neighbouring Ifo extension camp (Ifo 2) was established in 2011 to decrease population pressure in Ifo.

Protection

If is the central registration point for all new arrivals to the Dadaab camps. The Kenyan authorities suspended registration of new arrivals in October 2011. There is a transit centre for the temporary residence of new arrivals, awaiting registration, or refugees, awaiting relocation.

Various security incidents were recorded in Ifo, some of which were politically motivated. They included IED attacks (improvised explosive device), grenade attacks and assassinations as well as cases of banditry and robbery. Alleged Al-Shabaab terrorists were arrested in September 2012 and January 2013.

Within a foster home programme, vulnerable refugee children are accommodated with families in the refugee community. Children can play in two Child Friendly Spaces without fear of being harmed.

There is a Safe Haven providing a safe environment for women and children facing life-threatening situations. They stay in the Safe Haven while long-term solutions are being identified. Some livelihood activities have been designed to engage the occupants. The education of children staying in the Safe Haven is a challenge.

Especially vulnerable persons are accommodated in Safe Homes within the refugee community.

A Protection Area provides temporary shelter for families facing imminent threats to their physical safety.

There are 27 registered youth groups in Ifo. Their activities span various sectors, including promoting human rights, girls' and women's empowerment, prevention of SGBV, counselling and conflict resolution, leadership and social justice, fighting illiteracy, news circulation, multimedia training, promoting sports, and assisting vulnerable groups.

Education

Ifo has eight primary schools and two secondary schools as well as an adult literacy centre and one youth vocational centre. The primary school enrolment rate is 37% (63% boys) and the secondary school enrolment rate is 23.4% (76.6% boys). A major challenge are the high drop-out rates due to a shortage of teaching and learning materials, school uniforms and stationary as well as the lack of qualified teachers. There are limited services for children with specific needs.

NRC is running a Youth Education Pack Centre (YEP) in Ifo, providing vocational training for youth both from the refugee and host community. The four YEP centres in Dadaab (Dagahaley, Ifo, Hagadera and Dadaab municipality) enrol more than 700 students.

Refugee self-management

If o is headed by elected male and female chairpersons at the camp section and block level. In total there are two camp chairpersons, 16 section leaders, and 202 block leaders. Because of strong cultural traditions, most decisions are made by the men without consulting the women.

Health and nutrition

Ifo has six primary health posts, which is below the standard of one health facility per 10,000 residents. One level four hospital (Islamic Relief) provides surgical services. Usually, health clinics are overcrowded and clinicians have very little time for each patient, which is negatively impacting on service quality.

As a rule, 100% of pregnant women attending antenatal care services are voluntarily tested for HIV. Currently, 147 HIV positive persons receive care treatment and support services.

78% of all deliveries in the camp are attended by skilled personnel in health facilities. Round-theclock comprehensive emergency obstetrics care services are available.

There are both supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes in addition to the general food distribution. Children with severe malnutrition are admitted in the stabilisation centre in the main hospital.

Shelter and site planning

Ifo is divided into eight sections, all of which are overcrowded. Half of the camp is considered a flood-prone area. In 2012, canalisation work was undertaken to drain floodwater away, with good results during the autumn rainy season. The shelters in this part of the camp are very poor and some of them have not been replaced since the founding of the camp in 1991. Temporary shelters (T-shelters) are being constructed to resolve this situation.

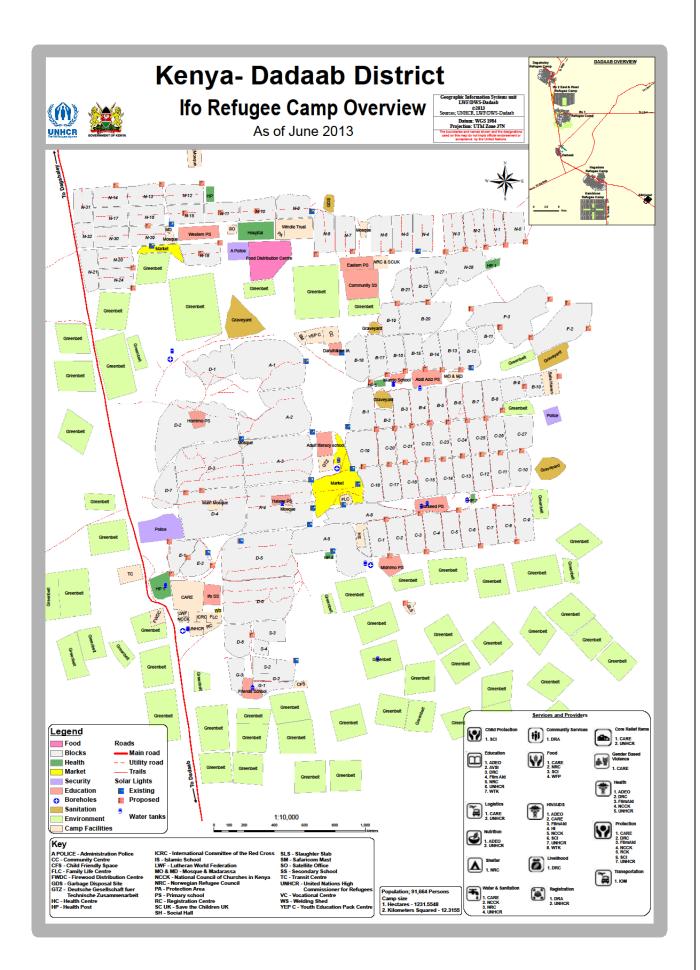
Water and sanitation

If o has seven operational boreholes. Average water coverage is 21.2 litres per person per day, which corresponds to the global standard.

There are 21,704 latrines, giving an average of six persons per latrine (global standard is maximum 20).

Environment

Serious environmental degradation has been caused by the overpopulation of the camp. Green belts (areas for natural regeneration of trees) have been established and are covering an area of 4.125 km².





Ifo from the air

Photo: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Partners active in Ifo

- Action Contre Faim (ACF): Infant- and young-child nutrition
- Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI) : Education infrastructure, teacher training
- CARE: WASH, Logistics, Warehousing
- Center for Victims of Torture (CVT): Psychosocial support
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC): SGBV, livelihood
- **Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA):** Camp management, registration, security, services to persons with specific needs
- Film Aid International (FAI): Community communication
- Handicap International (HI): Persons with specific needs
- Islamic Relief: Health, primary education
- International Organization for Migration (IOM): Health infrastructure (TB ward in Ifo hospital)
- National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK): Reproductive Health & HIV Services, Peace Education, Support Persons with Specific Needs (Elderly)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): Vocational training
- Peace Winds Japan (PWJ): Shelter
- Refugee Consortium Kenya (RCK): Legal assistance, protection monitoring
- Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO): Environment protection
 household energy, host community projects
- Save the Children International (SCI): Child protection
- UNICEF: Education
- UNOCHA: Humanitarian work coordination
- Windle Trust Kenya (WTK): Secondary education and scholarships
- World Food Programme (WFP): Food

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