

KENYA

MARCH 2020

1,609 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in March 2020, **440** in urban areas and **1,169** in Kakuma.

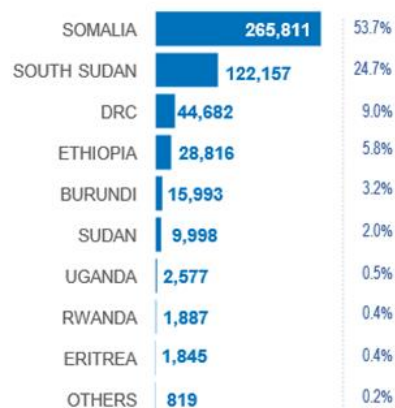
In March, **370** persons at risk of statelessness in Garissa County were assisted to apply for birth certificates.

In March 2020, there were **217,511** (44%) refugees in Dadaab, **196,050** (40%) and in Kakuma and Kalobeyei Settlement, **81,024** (16%) in urban areas

POPULATION OF CONCERN

494,585 refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 March 2020.

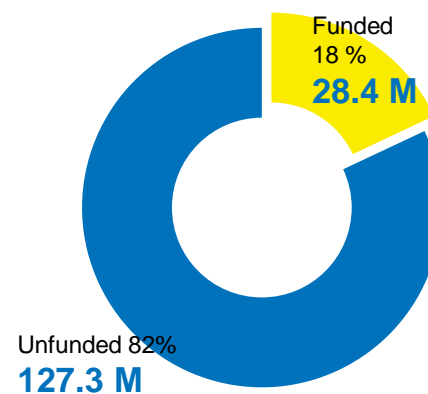
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2020)

USD \$155.7 million

UNHCR requirement for the Kenya operation for 2020



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

268 National Staff
50 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Nairobi
1 Field Office in Alinjgur
2 Sub Offices in Dadaab and Kakuma



UNHCR and health partner staff are conducting thermal screening and promoting hygiene measures in the refugee camps © UNHCR/Sam Otieno

Main Activities

Operational Highlights – February 2020

- UNHCR together with health partners have identified two facilities in Kakuma that have been set aside as isolation facilities. The two facilities located at the referral hospital in Kakuma 4 and the Kalobeyei village 1 health facility, which were previously used as a Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC). Plans are underway to identify and expand capacities of additional isolation facilities within the refugee camp and settlement.
- Information campaigns are ongoing in Dadaab and Kakuma to disseminate information on awareness and prevention of COVID-19. Various channels are being used including local radio, bulk SMS and WhatsApp messages, posters and mass awareness broadcasts.
- In a bid to ensure consistent information sharing on emerging trends and continuity of services during the COVID-19 emergency, UNHCR has engaged a committee of 36 protection monitors from community structures in the refugee camps. Their terms of reference will be *inter alia*, conducting door-to-door home visits, gathering information on emerging issues such as health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), child protection, shelter, and basic needs; identifying refugees at risk in need of urgent assistance and support, establishing networks with community structures and the police for referrals; and conducting community-level information sharing on prevention of COVID-19.
- As countries drastically reduce entry into their territories and restrictions around international air travel are introduced, travel arrangements for resettling refugees are currently subject to severe disruptions. Some States have also placed a hold on resettlement arrivals given their public health situation, which impacts on their capacity to receive newly resettled refugees. This, coupled with the fact that travel could increase exposure of refugees to the virus has necessitated IOM and UNHCR to suspend resettlement departures for refugees. This is a temporary measure that will be in place only for as long as it remains essential.
- New arrival profiling remained suspended in Dadaab in light of COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures.
- Relocation of non-Somali refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma has also been suspended due to COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures.



Protection

Protection Delivery

- UNHCR Kenya has created a dedicated webpage on the Kenya website to ensure that refugees and the public can access information on service provision and important updates during COVID-19 emergency: <https://www.unhcr.org/ke/coronavirus-covid-19-update>.
- In Dadaab, in order to empower community structures with skills on how to handle children during emergencies, 60 community volunteers, including mothers, foster parents, Child Welfare Committees, and Child Education Welfare Committees were trained by UNHCR partner Save the Children International (SCI) on children's rights and child protection. In addition, 14 teachers were trained on psychosocial first aid, psychosocial support, child protection, positive disciplining and referral mechanisms. In Dadaab, UNHCR activated the Inter-Agency Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group to encourage collaboration and pooling of resources in providing psychosocial services to refugees and asylum-seekers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working Group members shared agency hotlines, available resources and helpful strategies that will be utilized across sectors.
- Protection services at Shauri Moyo were suspended on 16 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, virtual consultations continue with the Kenyan Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) on critical issues affecting refugees and asylum-seekers.

- On 31 March 2020, UNHCR and Foundation for Health and Social Economic Development Africa (HESED Africa) attended the National Gender Sector Working Group meeting convened by the State Department for Gender, and UN Women. The meeting created five task forces (SGBV, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, Social Economic Empowerment, Women in Power and Leadership, and Information and Communication). The objective of the meeting was to come up with practical interventions for COVID-19.
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, several initiatives including online assessments, financial assistance and remote monitoring via phone calls have been put in place in urban areas.

Registration

- So far in 2020, 4,915 refugees and asylum-seekers have been registered by the RAS in Kakuma and in the urban areas. The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers are from South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Education

- A joint education response plan developed to guide implementation of learning continuity measures amid the COVID-19 pandemic which has forced the closure of all learning institutions in the country.
- Secondary schools' students issued with text assignments to work on at home during the school closure period.
- Education WhatsApp communication tree has been established to facilitate dissemination of important information and educational resources including online lessons to learners.
- World University Service of Canada (WUSC) has increased cash grants to girl students in Kakuma from KES 2,000 to KES 3,000 to enable them meet other needs such as buying soap during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNHCR partner Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) has provided mobile phone data and laptops to higher education students.
- UNHCR partner Xavier Project conducted a podcast to ensure learning continuity. Classes are also being continued via WhatsApp and the Google Cloud Platform for participants with smart phones. All trainers are administering remotely.
- In Dadaab, vulnerable girls, children with specific needs continued to be supported through Cash Based Intervention (CBI). Some 960 learners benefitted from CBI during the month of March representing 64 per cent of the overall target.
- In Dadaab, primary and secondary school teachers conducted radio lessons every weekday over Radio Gargaar. Plans are underway to include lessons from the Accelerated Education Program (AEP). Feedback from the community indicated a wide reach through this particular teaching modality.
- The Dadaab Education Working Group engaged in regular monitoring of students with a focus on early identification of protection concerns such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and child labour. Keeping students engaged will not only mitigate these concerns but will also reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 as information on prevention and mitigation will continually be shared in the course of educational radio presentation and digital/online media interaction.



Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and WASH partners heightened information awareness campaigns on proper handwashing practice, ensuring the adherence to hygiene etiquettes and adherence to social distancing.
- To enhance prevention of COVID-19, hand washing stations with liquid soap and water tanks have been installed at various Food Distribution Centres (FDC) in Kakuma and Dadaab camps to facilitate handwashing during the general food distribution.
- UNHCR in collaboration with partner CARE provided water, sanitation, and hygiene services to the 233,284 individuals in the Dadaab camps. Water is conveyed to 2,822 taps across the camps.



Health

- The Ministry of Health, UNHCR and partners have enhanced prevention and awareness measure in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and Kalobeyei settlement following COVID-19 pandemic.
- In Kakuma, training has been undertaken for health workers, targeting 110 individuals on case management, infection prevention and surveillance.
- As of 31 March 2020, 34 patients who had recently travelled from areas outside Kakuma continued to be monitored with daily temperatures taken and simple screening of key symptoms and reported daily with ministry of health. There is currently no active case reported in Turkana county.
- Public health campaigns on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation were conducted in the Dadaab camps and its surrounding host community areas. A readiness and response training was conducted for all health workers in the operation from 23 to 31 March 2020. Health workers were also trained on specific COVID-19 support measures for the April food distribution exercise.



Food Security and Nutrition

- The nutrition program in Kakuma and Dadaab incorporated COVID-19 preparedness and awareness measures in all the interventions following the release of guidelines that emphasize the promotion of breastfeeding promoting hygiene measures such as handwashing and social distancing at all distribution points.
- New admissions to Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) was 756 in Kakuma and 119 in Kalobeyei.
- In Dadaab, 632 admissions were recorded in the SFP. 398 new admissions were also recorded in Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) and 45 new moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers were enrolled in feeding programs across the camps.



Shelter, NFIs and CBI

- In March 2020, 7,085 households in Kalobeyei (37,461 individuals) received a total of KES 9,243,750 in cash assistance to cater for the cost of core relief items, including soap, sanitary wear and sanitary napkins.
- During the reporting period, 546 transitional shelters were constructed for 1,491 newly arrived refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei.
- There is a need for the construction of adequate permanent homes for the over 5,000 families who are currently living in temporary shelters in Kalobeyei settlement.



Environment and Access to Energy

- In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, 867 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were assessed on cooking and lighting for the purposes of creating business linkages to companies on solar stoves for productive use. Data analysis has been conducted and plans are underway to share the data with the companies.
- A total of 582 clean lighting products such as solar systems at home and solar lanterns from three different private sector companies were sold to refugee and host communities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei.
- In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, 256 locally produced clean cooking stoves were sold to the refugee and host community markets.

- In Kakuma and Kalobeyi, 20,150 tree seedlings were produced in March and 17,143 tree seedlings were distributed to both refugee and host communities for planting.
- To enhance afforestation and tree nursery establishment in line with the policy on re-orienting environment management activities to focus on income generation and self-sufficiency among refugee and the host communities, environment partners in Dadaab distributed fruit tree seedlings across the camps. The prevailing favourable weather and technical backstopping will ensure survival of the seedlings distributed.
- UNHCR partner Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO) fabricated 950 firewood saving stoves at the stove production site in Dadaab. The devices are expected to meet the gap in provision of firewood to vulnerable refugee households.



Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) officials conducted a compliance verification exercise at the Don Bosco centre in Kakuma to confirm adherence to the Kenya TVET Policy.
- To ensure learning continuity, Don Bosco is employing the use of WhatsApp communication for theoretical studies.
- Individuals representing 396 business start-ups (32% from the host community) and existing business owners in Kakuma and Kalobeyi were trained on business development.
- To continue to provide livelihood support to refugees and asylum-seekers, partners have developed online platforms for continuity of skills learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNHCR in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) continue to offer remote mentorship training for refugee freelancers in the camps through Skype and Zoom.
- UNHCR in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Dadaab, conducted cash voucher disbursement worth USD 8,200 to eight groups comprising of 94 women from refugee and host communities for business start-ups. The beneficiaries will set up retail shops and goat selling businesses.
- UNHCR and its livelihood partner DRC, conducted a mapping and assessment of 13 new businesses in the artisan and food vending sectors in the urban areas. Some of the findings indicate that 46 per cent of the businesses operate from a business premise while 54 per cent operate from home with marketing and distribution happening in the field. 15 per cent have undergone training in catering while 85 per cent expressed interest in being trained. 7 per cent have a business license while 15 per cent of the traders have Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) pin numbers which is a requirement for conducting business. It was also noted that none of the traders have written contractual agreements with their employees and UNHCR will liaise with ILO to explore avenues of formalising the work relationships in order to enhance and promote decent working rights.
- On 26 March 2020, UNHCR coordinated an online meeting for the urban livelihoods working group. The objective of the meeting was to understand response measures instituted by partner organizations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it was observed that most livelihood interventions have been postponed, partners have developed business continuity plans, which allow for realignment of activities and remote monitoring of activities.

Refugee Sports

- On 16 March, 17 athletes under the UNHCR/Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Athletes Project in Oloolua, Ngong, completed their high-altitude residential training in Iten that began on 17 February.
- The athletes, all training under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Scholarship Holders scheme, proceeded to Kakuma refugee camp in line with the Government of Kenya directive to close all athletics training camps as a measure to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Statelessness

- UNHCR and partners in Garissa assisted 370 persons at risk of statelessness to apply for birth certificates. The Civil registration officer, the Chief and Assistant Commissioner for Korakora assisted in mobilising the community for the exercise that was held at Jarirot Primary School.
- Paralegals in the same area also supported 34 stateless persons to apply for birth and death certificates in addition to raising awareness on the needs and remaining gaps.

Durable Solutions

Finding durable solutions for the refugee population was the major topic of discussion during an inter-agency meeting held in Dadaab in March. During this meeting, the importance of having refugees at the centre of the process and the need for humanitarian and development agencies, financial partners and the county government to work as one through pooling resources and expertise required. Recommendations from the deliberations included, follow up on the possibility of refugee students acquiring resident permits as durable solution, development of an information leaflet on family reunification as a complementary pathway and continuous engagement with the refugee community on the importance of engaging in court-led mediation; in anticipation of the operationalization of the Dadaab Court.

Resettlement

- Since the beginning of the year, 883 refugees have been submitted to various countries for resettlement consideration.
- Since the beginning of the year, 120 individuals departed Kenya for resettlement, in Australia, Sweden, United States of America and United Kingdom.
- A total of 93 cases, comprising of 136 individuals, have been assisted through UNHCR's complementary pathways.

Working with Partners

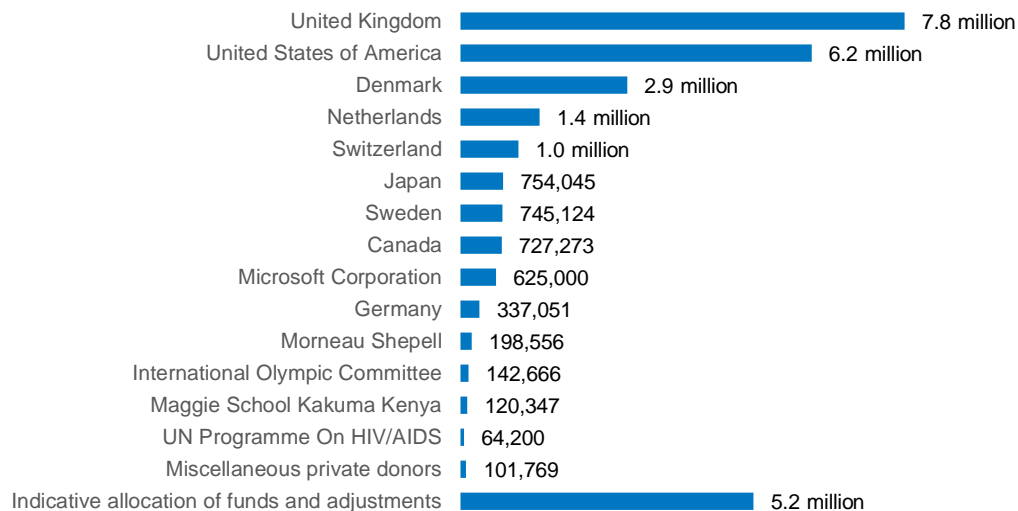
- UNHCR continues to work with its main partner, the Government of Kenya, through the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) and the Office of the Deputy County Commissioners (DCC), as well as with other international organizations including WFP, UNICEF, IOM and other partners.
- UNHCR continues to run a joint protection desk with RAS at the refugee-processing centre in Shauri Moyo, Nairobi.
- UNHCR Dadaab coordinated its refugee operation in the three refugee camps in Dadaab. UNHCR Field Office Alinjgur is a part of the larger Dadaab operation and covers Hagadera camp in Fafi Sub-County.
- UNHCR Kakuma continues to work closely with the Government of Kenya, the Turkana County Government through DCC and RAS and partners to ensure support to refugees and asylum-seekers. Monthly Inter-Agency meetings chaired by UNHCR and RAS continue to be held including monthly meetings with refugee representatives in the camp.

Funding and Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Kenya operation amount to **USD 28.4 million** (as of 31 March).

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 13.8 million | **Germany** 5.7 million | **Canada** 3.7 million | **Sweden** 2.9 million | **Private donors Australia** 2.1 million | Luxembourg | Morocco | Slovakia | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 76.4 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 20 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 10.5 million

Australia | Belgium | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

UNHCR Kenya Website <http://www.unhcr.org/ke>
 Web portal on Somali Displacement <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>
 Web portal on South Sudan Displacement <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>
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