

# Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

## 1-31 July



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- On 27 July, UNHCR conducted a training for Kenya Defence forces as part of their pre-deployment training. The participants were part of the AMISOM troops to be deployed in Somalia. The lecture on refugee protection that also discussed IDP issues was well received by the troops, who committed to use the knowledge during the deployment.
- PSNs continue to be assessed for various services, 51 vulnerability assessments were conducted out of which 27 individual counselling were conducted.
- UNHCR facilitated a three-day virtual capacity building training for HIAS case workers/social workers. The topics for the training included identifying and addressing vulnerability, eligibility assessment for CBI, assessment report writing including BIA, BID, social assessment and vulnerability assessment, role of each sector and other actors and steps in case management for GBV, PSN, children, LGBTIQ, dealing with cross cutting cases and legal and ethical issue in case management. The training was attended by 50 participants from HIAS and UNHCR protection staff. The training was facilitated by the Regional Bureau with the support UNHCR Staff from BO and Kakuma, and HIAS staff from their headquarters in New York.
- UNHCR, in conjunction with RAS and partners held the first joint vetting of refugee CBOs, seeking to be registered with the Ministry of Labour, social services department. 13 groups had been presented to RAS for initial assessment. 2 did not qualify because they failed to present their officials for physical verification. 11 were cleared to present their registration requests to their local social services offices.
- Remote case management of all GBV cases continued in the month including remote assessments and referrals as well as remote tele-counselling.
- 23 GBV cases (19F 4M) were managed during the month with the necessary psycho-social support, 18 was enrolled for counselling and 11 received sanitary ware support.
- Held one case conference to discuss one complex GBV case and recommended appropriate solutions including financial assistance
- Organised the GBV monthly coordination working group meeting on 6<sup>th</sup>/7/21 and JRS were re-admitted into the working group after long absence.
- UNHCR received 240 packets of sanitary ware donations from the US embassy that was handed to HIAS on 29 July.
- 24 (10 Best Interest Assessments, 14 social assessments and 1 best interested determination) were received from HIAS, reviewed and uploaded to the child protection module in proGres V4. Follow up was made internally and with partners to render interventions such as alternative care, expedited RSD, data transfer,

exemption, medical follow ups, voluntary repatriation and resettlement consideration. The BID assessment was placed before a panel and approved for resettlement.

- Provided individual counselling for 5 separated children who are currently accommodated at the Transit Centre who went on hunger strike after their COVID-19 results turned positive for the second time.
- Identified alternative care arrangement for two minor children who were abandoned by their mother outside the RAS offices.
- One case conference held between UNHCR/ HIAS to discuss care plan for a child and deliberate if separation is in the best interest of the child.
- Monitored 3 children currently under a private sponsorship by Far East Basketball Association (FEBA), a Kenyan non-profit organization. They are in 3 different boarding schools in Kisii, Busia and Nairobi.
- UNHCR assisted in the coordination of COVID screening of 5 separated children currently accommodated at the transit pending transfer to the safe house. The case is under resettlement processing.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Remote counselling mainly for persons with mental health still remains a very big challenge because of the mental status of the PoCs. Monitoring of the mental status and ensuring that the PoCs take their medication is also a challenge due to restrictions of movement because of COVID-19.

#### New Arrivals' & Birth Registration

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) registered **391 individuals** during the reporting period, albeit with strict adherence to the COVID-19 safety guidelines, bringing the active urban population to **82,432 individuals** (54,616 refugees and 27,816 asylum seekers) as of 31 July 2021.
- A total of **three hundred and seventy-five** (375) of age 5 and above were enrolled into BIMS during the reporting period; these include those registered earlier but were not enrolled at the time.
- A total of **thirteen** (13) 'Refugee ID Cards' were issued and updated in proGres during the reporting period.
- **One hundred and ninety** (190) asylum seekers were issued with 'Asylum Seeker Pass' documents during the reporting period.
- **Three** (3) minors were issued with Minors' Passes documents during the reporting period.
- One Birth Certificates was issued during the reporting period.

## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- DAFI has allocated 60 slots to Kenya for the 2021 intake. Selection process is ongoing, due to be finalized by August 2021.
- FXP has been allocated 40 slots for Form 1 enrollment using savings generated from the COVID19 movement restrictions/ new ways of working. Selection was based on vulnerability and academic excellence and includes support for a combination of day and boarding.

## **DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- BO RST unit's quota for 2021 stands at **1,219 individuals** (out of the 3,824 global quota for Kenya) as BO RST unit accepted an increase of 40 individuals to be submitted to the Netherlands in 2021, bringing a total of 54 individuals to be submitted to the Netherlands, 75 to Canada, 190 to Norway and 900 to the USA. Quota for Norway is completed, while the team is completing quotas for the Netherlands and Canada early August 2021.
- **588 individuals were submitted** (or re-submitted) to different resettlement countries since January 2021 (all locations), out of which **248 individuals were submitted by BO Nairobi** (175 to Norway, 42 to Canada, 9 to the Netherlands, 8 to France, 4 to AUL, 4 to Finland, 4 to USA, 1 to GBR and 1 to Sweden).
- Since January 2021, **resettlement departures for Kenya operation stands at 268 individuals**, out of which, **88 individuals based in Nairobi**: Canada (35), Sweden (17), USA (16), Australia (9), France (5), Norway (4), Finland (2).
- As of 31 July 2021, for BO Nairobi-based cases, **5,276 individuals** out of 24,462 individuals countrywide **are pending decisions by various RST countries** and 525 individuals out of **2,803 individuals** countrywide **are pending RST departure** (after acceptance by RST countries).
- Case status verification requests and responses to various enquiries were provided to Refuge Point, US Congressional Office, the AHC and other partners and RST countries upon request.
- RST Helpline activities continued during the reporting period during which 7 cases made inquiries and had received a follow-up email/counselling. Ad hoc RST counselling and counselling on parallel submitted cases were provided.
- In July, 12 urban refugees consisting of five households and 12 individuals of Burundi nationals were facilitated to return to their home country Burundi. Repatriating refugees were counselled to ensure decision for return is voluntary and returns are undertaken in safe and dignified manners. In this respect, several coordination activities were accomplished with the Burundian counterparts. Refugees were administered with COVID 19 tests and also provided a pre- departure cash grant of USD 150.

### Challenges

- The COVID-19 restrictions continue to present significant challenges for resettlement case processing as face to face interviews are limited and remote interviewing also presents many challenges. While RST staff members conduct RST interviews or follow-ups at HIAS premises, staff members continue to work from home which again presents challenges notably when it comes to access to physical files, case material and easy access to POCs.
- The other main challenge is related to limited infrastructure and resources (no RST office, limited phone and lines) as the Resettlement unit will soon expand by welcoming additional staff members.