Highlights

- Escalating security concerns in Dadaab Operation area include unprecedented threats such as the recently explosive device founded near Hagadera camp, November 5. Volatile security in the area includes likely risks of banditry, hijacking/carjacking, and landmines.
- Mitigating measures to reduce the vulnerability of the UN common compound have been adopted and the exercises continue.
- A severe deterioration of health conditions in Kambioos include confirmed localized transmission of cholera and a significant rise in mortality rate reported during the last week.
- One thousand households were provided with NFIs (blankets, sleeping mats) after the severe flooding that affected IFO 2 West camp. No access to water was reported in several blocks.
- Sector Updates.
  - During the last month, 98 additional police officers (Administrative and Kenyan Police) have been deployed in Dadaab are.

Security

Several incidents confirm the degradation of the security environment in Dadaab operation area. On 30 October, 4 AK 47 rifles and 466 rounds of ammunition recovered from Hagadera camp by Police. Two were arrested, one a registered refugee and the other a Somali national. An INGO vehicle was shot at by suspected bandits along Dadaab - Kulani road near Damagale on November 2. That day, a UN convoy returning from Liboi, Kenya heard some shots fired near it while temporarily halted near Kulan. On 4 November, a big explosion was heard in Hulugo and remnants of what appeared to be anti- personnel mine were found. A police escort vehicle traveling from Hagadera camp to Dadaab struck an IED which did not detonate November 5. The IED was later destroyed in a controlled explosion. A grenade was hurled into a church compound by unknown people in Garissa same day. Two people were killed, three injured. Also in Garissa, that night a factory made land mine partially exploded near a fuel station.

In response to UNHCR requirements, 92 Police officers (52 Administration Police and 40 Kenya Police) arrived to enhance security in Dadaab district, within the camps and to effectively escort humanitarian activities. A new Administrative Police station is operational in Dagahaley camp. Vehicles and communication equipment (VHF radios bases and handsets) have been provided by UNHCR.

As described in recent reports, concerns raised regarding potential threats to the staff compound of UNHCR and partners. A variety of measures have been taken up to quickly improve access control and overall safety for staff, including facilities re enforcement and security trainings. A complete revision was carried out of operational procedures, contingency planning and evacuation plan.

The Area Security Coordinator, UNCHR head of Operation in Dadaab, is calling for regular UN system area security management meeting and Inter-Agency Security meetings. Daily updates are shared with staff and heads of agencies, in order to maintain clear communication and coordination.

New arrivals

Impassable roads due to the rains and further reports of military operations at the border could be limiting the capacity of new arrivals to reach the camps. Spontaneous arrivals have been reported in several sites and remain in the blocks.

Registration

UNHCR- DRA continuous registration exercise in Ifo, which includes new born babies, activations, merging/splitting of households and records, verification of cases scheduled for resettlement departures, litigations on bio-data change requests, resumed last week. Provided improved security measures are
implemented, it is expected that the continuous registration exercise will roll out in the other camps, starting in Dagahaley and Hagadera on November 9.

Health

The situation in Kambioos has deteriorated remarkably over the last two weeks with increased mortality rates above the emergency threshold. Cholera and measles are still a high risk. Increased levels of malnutrition have been reported, with 48 out of 51 children in the stabilization centre in Hagadera being from Kambioos. Out of 163 children screened 41% had severe malnutrition.

In Ifo 2, the Kenya Red Cross has started providing medical assistance to beneficiaries. Diarrhea cases in Hagadera are still rampant. Further discussion is ongoing to coordinate an immediate response in balance with security tighten environment.

Water and Sanitation, shelter

Due to insecurity, the time required to gain access to remedy mechanical breakdowns has been increased. Stagnant water around the tap stands, heaps of rubbish in some areas and dead carcasses are posing health risk in the camps. Due to heavy rainfall, some latrines were reported to be full, but have since subsided due to high infiltration into sandy soil. Increased number of flies visible around latrines and health centre. Measures are implemented by different partners

Recent rainfall resulting in flooding in Ifo 2 prevented road access to some blocks for water trucking. As a result of this, people have been collecting rain water from the bush instead of walking to other distribution points within the camp. Watery diarrhea and vomiting children has been reported in these blocks.

Vector control is now becoming an issue as soak away pits at latrines and water points have become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Blocks where people have been recently relocated did not have complete latrines prior to security incident on 13th October. Blankets and sleeping mats were delivered to 5000 persons affected by heavy rains in IFO 2.

A certain number of shelters and latrines have caved in or collapsed in the camps as a consequence of heavy rainfall. In Dagahaley, 13 shelters are confirmed to have collapsed and 17 affected by the rains. A survey to ascertain the number of affected structures continues.

Food distribution

Beneficiaries in Kambioos are provided with transport by IOM to collect food in Hagadera and later transported back to Kambioos. Given the high levels of malnutrition, it seems that most of the population is still not aware and further measures are to be adopted early this week to disseminate the information.

Education

The National KCSE school exams are on going. There have not been any reported incidences and it is expected that they will continue without any disruption during this last week of the practical exams

KCPE primary exams will be held from the 8th to the 10th next week. Examination centres have been examined and approved by DEO and UNHCR. Despite security concerns raised, WTK teachers have been recalled in Dadaab to assist as invigilators so far the assessment from security is that they are not under direct threat.

As part of the GoK-UNHCR cooperation in terms of education, the District Education Officer (DEO) and UNHCR visited four examination centres in Dagahaley and Hagadera. They met with school management and the candidates and talked to them about the procedures of the exam and consequences of cheating.

Mass Information (Protection and ER/PI)

Intended to disseminate valuable information to the community and counter the massive cheating witnessed before, UNHCR and Film Aid cooperated on producing a short film released during a community meeting last week. Further meetings with leaders, community groups and youth leaders have been scheduled in order to reinforce communication processes with the community and strengthen camp response.

Environment

A two days clean up in each camp was organized in response of the accumulated waste posing health concerns among the refugee community. Several agencies are coordinating efforts to support community efforts in regards to follow up on designation of garbage dumping sites which UNHCR will support in fencing.
Resettlement

Since January 2011, a total of 1355 cases (6706 individuals) have been submitted to the BO Nairobi. During the last week, a total of 8 cases / 34 individuals interviewed. RRF interviews: 59 cases (268 individuals). 25 cases (127 individuals) were submitted to BO Nairobi for onward resettlement to Embassies/High Commissions.

Background

Due to the kidnapping of two MSF staff and the shooting at the MSF driver, taking place in Ifo 2 Camp on 13 October and due to the Kenyan cross border military operations against Al-Shabaab, UNHCR and partners initiated a reassessment process of the security threats, vulnerabilities and risks for staff. The Area Security Management Team (ASMT), which is an Interagency Committee consisting of UN and NGO representatives, and which is chaired by the Head of Operations of UNHCR, started to meet daily in Dadaab, to discuss those issues and to bring forward measures to enhance security for humanitarian workers in Dadaab.

Dadaab refugee camps

A total of 154,450 have been registered since the start of this year with 152,512 individuals arriving from Somalia, 1,697 from Ethiopia, 205 from Sudan, 15 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 5 from Burundi, 10 from Uganda, 1 from Eritrea, 1 from Côte d'Ivoire and 4 from Rwanda.

The overall population in the Dadaab camps stood at 463,710 persons. The average family size registered during the reporting period stood at 2 individuals. Family size 1 households represented 65% of all newly registered households. Out of total population, 230,884 (45%) are woman, 267,086 (57.5%) children (209, 920 are under 12), and 15,826 (3.4%) are elders.

Webportal on Somali Displacement: