

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR DADAAB BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

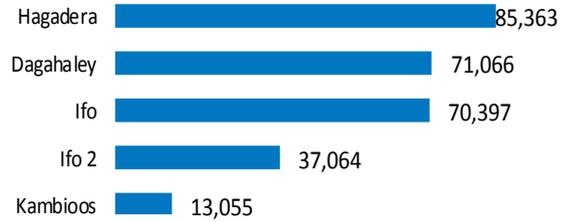
01 - 15 September 2016

UPDATES

Population as of 1st September 2016: **276,945**

Refugees: **274,342**

Asylum seekers: **2,603**



HIGHLIGHTS

Population Verification Exercise

- During the reporting period, report of the Population verification Exercise was finalized and published. The exercise was conducted in the Dadaab camps from 4th July to 10th August 2016, after more than three years from the previous one conducted between 2012 and 2013.

The objective of the exercise was to obtain accurate information on the persons residing in the Dadaab camps, in order to enhance the search for solutions to their situation.

The main findings of the exercise showed that out of 341,574 individuals registered in the Dadaab camps, 283,558 individuals were present in the camps. During the exercise, 25% of the current refugee population in the camps expressed their willingness to return (69,532 Somalis, 264 Ethiopians and 15 from other countries). The majority of them indicated their intention to return to Lower Juba (61%) followed by Bay (17%), Middle Juba (9%), Banadir (9%), Gedo (4%) and other areas (1%). A total of 24,655 individuals confessed to be Kenyans registered as refugees and another 3,355 households (15,799 individuals), at least one member has applied for or holds a Kenyan ID card. The number of individuals identified as “double registered” or impacted by “double registration” therefore totals 40,454.

Voluntary repatriation

- During the reporting period, 482 returnees were supported to voluntarily return to Somalia by flight.

In total, as of 15th September, 30,349 Somali refugees had returned home since 8th December 2014, when UNHCR started supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya, out of which 24,248 were supported in 2016 alone.



Refugees registering for repatriation in Kambioos camp, Dadaab

Photo: UNHCR/ A.Nasrullah

UPDATES

Protection

- **Continuous Registration:** 207 new born were registered during the reporting period. 10 new arrivals from Somalia were registered in UNHCR database after being referred from the Government Agency responsible for refugees in Kenya.
- **Relocation Help Desks (RHD):** 685 individuals from various nationalities comprising Ethiopians (Ogadens), Burundians and South Sudanese who had previously been relocated from Kakuma to Dadaab have been scheduled for interview with the view of being relocated to Kakuma camp. The Relocation Help Desk will ascertain queries and concerns that non-Somali refugees and asylum-seekers may have regarding their planned relocation to Kalobeiyi Settlement in Kakuma camp. Preliminary protection assessments has revealed that some of the individuals have reservations in relocating due to security concerns, with the belief that Kakuma camp has close proximity to their countries of origin, predisposing them to insecurity.
- **Meeting with Magistrates & Khadi:** On 7th September UNHCR convened a meeting with mobile court officials i.e. the Magistrate from Garissa and the Khadi. During the meeting the mobile court officials were informed that the construction of the permanent court was 90% complete. The court is expected to be fully functional by November 2016. Matters regarding placement of a permanent Magistrate and Khadi were also discussed. The Magistrate informed UNHCR that the matter had been discussed with senior judicial management in Nairobi and a permanent magistrate will be deployed hopefully the end of 2016 and the Khadhi would be permanently based by November 2016.
- **Training for Judicial Staff:** UNHCR in collaboration with the Judicial officials have finalized preparations for training judicial staff after the Chief Magistrate received express authorization from the Office of the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Kenya, allowing judicial staff to take part in the proposed training by UNHCR. In total 40 judicial officials will be trained on refugee law and international protection. The training will be conducted in two sessions the first session will commence from 4th to 7th October while the second training will be held from 27th to 29th October 2016.
- **Training of Health Workers:** 13 health workers based in Garissa were trained on how to fill P3 forms (medical form for SGBV cases filled by health partners). The training was conducted between the 7th and 8th September. The training was held to enhance partners' capacity with regards to response to Gender Based Violence.
- **Legal Representation:** 16 individuals comprising 9 male and 7 female were arraigned in court and charged with various offences, including unlawfully being present in Kenya and residing outside the camp. Three individuals who had been charged under the immigration laws were found guilty and fined Kshs. 500,000 or in default to serve two years imprisonment. Five individuals who had been charged with residing outside the designated areas were found guilty and fined Kshs. 10,000 or three months in default.

In the meantime, 25 (18 men and 7 boys) clients were provided with legal aid counselling at the detention centres. 151 Individuals were in detention centres comprising 112 convicted refugees. 39 individuals were held in the detention centres, whose court cases are ongoing.

Child Protection

- The monthly Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) meeting was held on 14th September with Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), Terre des Hommes, Save the Children, Handicap International and UNHCR in attendance. During the meeting partners reported that there was a reduction in the number of reported child abuse cases, neglect and exploitation cases during the months of July and August 2016. While not confirmed, information has been received that community members have not been approaching the agencies on the premise which files reports of cases requiring intervention may delay processing for voluntary returns to Somalia. In order to address this concern, the voluntary repatriation communication strategy will be adjusted accordingly.

- During the reporting period, two mini Best Interest Determination (BID) panel meetings were held wherein BIDs were approved for 98 unaccompanied/separated children (54 cases) who are under consideration for voluntary repatriation to Somalia with the caregivers. Nine cases were deferred for further assessment. The Inter-Agency BID SOPs have been revised by panellists and simplified procedures to expedite BIDs for voluntary repatriation have been adopted. Discussions are at the final stages with Save the Children and TdH as regards increasing human resource support for the processing of BIAs/BIDs in Kambioos and Hagadera Camp, with UNHCR issuing a Letter of Authority for recruitment of additional BID staff.



Refugee children in front of their house in Kambioos camp of Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV):

- Three Inter-agency case conferences took place during the period in all the Dadaab camps where support to about 32 individuals requiring immediate protection assistance were discussed. Under discussions were inactivated individuals as a result of the verification who were present in the camp resulting in missing food and other assistance, the plight of refugees who have not been registered becoming extremely vulnerable, the plight of women and children who had benefited from voluntary repatriation but have since come back to the camp to seek for asylum. Three camp based coordination meetings were held in Dagahaley Camp, Kambioos and Hagadera camps.
- Enhancing SGBV data collection and Analysis: UNHCR in collaboration with the Inter-Agency GBVIMS steering committee convened a webinar on SGBV data collection, analysis and reporting. Prominent during the discussion was the need to strengthen SGBV data analysis, thereby giving meaning to the key data trends, with the aim of utilising GBVIMS data in informing decisions in prevention and response activities.

Education

- UNHCR Education team from Nairobi and Dadaab led the Education Working Group members in a workshop to validate the draft National Education strategy for 2016 – 2020. Partners in the education sector reviewed lessons learnt from Dadaab context and realigned the education strategic objectives in light of the ongoing voluntary repatriation exercise. This workshop was a culmination of validation exercises undertaken in Nairobi and Kakuma. A Dadaab-specific education strategy currently being developed by a consultant was also presented for inputs.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The general food distribution for the month of September was commenced on 1st September. It was completed successfully across all the five camps by 9th September with no major incident reported.
- The annual nutrition survey was successfully completed on 3rd September. A representative sample of 2,979 children between 6 to 59 months were measured to assess nutritional status in all the 5 camps with participation of IRC, KRCS, MSF and IRK and technical coordination by UNHCR and WFP. The results will help to assess the change in nutritional status of Dadaab refugees from 2015 to 2016.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Improvement of an online job platform to enhance access to employment of Somali returnees is ongoing following initial feedback from Danish Refugee Council (DRC), American Refugee Committee (ARC) and UNHCR Kenya and Somalia. It was proposed that the online platform will need to be presented to stakeholders in Somalia to ensure buy in. DRC will introduce the platform to refugees in Dadaab where they can freely register to search for jobs, while ARC will mobilize potential employers in Somalia to register on the platform and advertise employment opportunities.

- Preparation is underway for the issuance of business start-up support. With the change of modality (from in-kind to cash), the groups were requested to identify a vendor where they will source the goods, to be verified by DRC. Verification of the beneficiaries' presence in the camps was also undertaken, whereby six individuals were noted to have returned to Somalia. Issuance of the business capital grant will be completed by end September.
- 28 groups were identified for the livestock value chain activity. DRC will continue to engage the groups to refine the proposed activities before commencement of the project.
- The farmers' group at the greenhouse project in Dagahaley held their first harvest of kales and spinach. The group continue to sell on site and has made a total sales of around Kshs 15, 000. The group will be further supported through engagement in village savings and loans activity.
- UNHCR in collaboration with Film Aid are conducting preparations for the 10th Film festival to empower refugee artists which will be held in Nairobi between 4th to 6th October. The festival will provide an opportunity for refugee advocacy as well as a way of empowering the youth to improve their skills and eventually enhance their livelihoods opportunities as a foundation for meaningful participation in the community.

Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- During the first half of September, a total of 21 cases comprising of 90 individuals underwent resettlement case composition interviews. 13 cases comprising of 65 individuals were interviewed for possible onward submission to resettlement countries.

During the period under review, a total of 144 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to the United States of America, Canada and Sweden.

Voluntary repatriation

- Road convoys were suspended from the 30th August 2016, after the Jubbaland administration notified UNHCR Somalia about their decision not to receive any more returnees until integration processes inside Somalia are addressed.
- The return of Somali refugees from Dadaab camps gained significant momentum as many refugees are reported to be registering for repatriation across the camps. UNHCR and its repatriation partners are working to reinforce their capacity to be able to respond to the high number of refugees willing to return.

UNHCR is working on the construction two new transit centers in both Ifo and Hagadera camp. These centers will have a capacity of accommodating 2,000 individuals each. In addition, the expansion of the Dagahaley transit center is ongoing. Meanwhile, recruitment of additional staff to boost up the capacity for repatriation is ongoing.

Water and Sanitation

- During the first half of September, on average, UNHCR supplied 34 liters of water per day per capita from 29 boreholes to the entire refugee population in the five Dadaab camps. 26 of these boreholes operate on Solar PV – Diesel hybrid system. The water supply schemes convey water to 48 tanks with a total storage capacity of 6,250m³, from where the water distributed to refugees through 900 tap stands scattered around the five camps.



Refugee children from Somalia walk with their Jerrycans to a water collection point to collect water in Hagadera camp of Dadaab.

Photo: UNHCR/A. Nasrullah

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:

<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

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