UNHCR Urban Refugee Policy - Nairobi

300 to 500 new arrivals a day

380,000 served by UNHCR in Kenya

May 2010
Statistics April 2010

Total refugee population in Kenya
387,372

- Dadaab 272,712
- Kakuma 69,414
- Nairobi 45,246: 300 to 500 new arrivals a week

Nairobi (majority Somali)

Country of Origin: Somalia; Ethiopia; Eritrea; Sudan; Great Lakes etc.
Developments

- UNHCR Global Urban Refugee Policy, Sept. 2009
- Kenya specific discussion paper
- Nairobi one of the global pilot cities for UNHCR Policy on Refugees in Urban Areas
Principal Objectives:

- To ensure that cities are recognized as legitimate places for refugees to reside and exercise the rights to which they are entitled; and
- To maximize the protection space available to urban refugees and the humanitarian organizations that support them.

Key Principles:

- Refugee rights; State responsibility; Partnerships; Needs assessment; AGDM; Equity; Community orientation; Interaction with refugees; Self-reliance.
UNHCR Urban Refugee Policy
contin.

Comprehensive Protection Strategies:

- Providing reception facilities;
- Undertaking registration and data collection;
- Ensuring that refugees are documented;
- Determining refugee status;
- Reaching out to the community;
- Fostering constructive relations with urban refugees;
- Maintaining security;
- Promoting livelihoods and self-reliance;
- Ensuring access to healthcare, education and other (nat.) services;
- Meeting material needs;
- Promoting durable solutions;
- Addressing the issue of movement.
Constraints and Weaknesses in Implementing the Policy

- GoK position (e.g. loose implementation of the “encampment policy”);
- Inter-linked with the right to the freedom of movement;
- Security concerns – GoK (e.g. recent round ups and arrests of Somali refugees in Nairobi);
- Limited UNHCR staff capacity to deal with the number of new arrivals and therefore prolonged waiting periods for registration;
- Limited access to basic services;
- Limited access to Durable Solutions (Voluntary Repatriation, Resettlement and Local Integration);
- Limited access to livelihoods (e.g. ability for refugees to work legally);
- Limited funding available to develop or initiate programs to addressing these gaps.
Vulnerabilities of Urban Refugee Population in Nairobi

- Exposure to different types of abuse (e.g. bribery, extortion)
- Infringed freedom of movement
- Lack of documentation (at risk of arrest, detention, deportation)
- Xenophobia
- Lack of access to services and rights (e.g. health care and education)
- Lack of livelihoods
- Poor shelter and living conditions
Urban Refugee Program

Nairobi
UNHCR Services

- Registration
- Refugee Status Determination
- Protection (Detention; Security Claims; Documentation; Police Outreach; Community Outreach; Training on e.g. GBV issues; Refugee Rights and Obligations)
- Community Services (Community Outreach; Home Visits (UAMs); Community Development; Best Interest Determination (BID) Panel; Education; Livelihoods)
- Durable Solutions (Resettlement; Voluntary Repatriation; (local integration))
Services Implementing Partners

- Kituo cha Sheria (free legal aid)
- GTZ (health, education, livelihood, community development)
- Center for Domestic Training (training)
- Windle Trust (scholarships)
- International Organisation for Migration (repatriation, DNA)
- Department of Refugee Affairs (docum.)
Operational Partners

Various International, National NGOs, GoK and international organisations provide services to urban asylum seeker and refugees

For example:

- JRS (e.g. food; micro-credit projects)
- RCK (free legal aid and legal representation)
- HIAS (durable solutions)
- Kenyan Red Cross Society (family tracing)
- City Council (health)
Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN)

- Bi-monthly Forum:
  - To discuss issues of urban refugees
  - To coordinate activities (including service provision) among various stakeholders
  - To share information
  - To identify issues for Advocacy

The Next URPN meeting will be held on the 9th of June in the UNHCR Nairobi office in Westlands, Rhapta Road 50 at 10 am
Questions and Answers?

Thank you!