



Highlights

Dadaab & Alinjugur Refugee Camps

16 - 30 April 2012

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- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) found in front of the police station in Dadaab;
- Contingency planning and distribution of plastic sheets to prevent damage from the rains;
- New water pipelines improve quality of living in Kambioos;
- Sensitization campaign on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) conducted in Ifo;
- Resumption of firewood distribution to extremely vulnerable groups to prevent sexual harassment and exploitation of women;
- The Department of Refugees Affairs (DRA) sends positive signals that registration of and assistance to new arrivals as well as relocation to Kambioos will resume.

Updates

Security

- The security situation in Dadaab operational area is unstable and the threat environment remains complex.
- On 28 April, an IED was found opposite Dadaab police station. The IED was a remotely controlled mortar bomb that had been placed in a tree under which police patrols are usually resting. This is the first IED incident for months and is a stark reminder about the unpredictable environment in Dadaab.
- On 28 April, gunshots were heard in Ifo camp. Police intervened but were not able to apprehend the perpetrators or established the background to the incident.
- In Ifo 2 East, there has been an increase in banditry attacks. Police are on high alert and are collaborating with refugee leaders to prevent further attacks.
- UNHCR attended a meeting between the police and youth leaders to promote better cooperation and address security and detention issues affecting the youth. The youth were concerned about arbitrary arrests, police curfew and claims of bribery. UNHCR intends to moderate such talks with other sector groups to enhance peace and security in the camps.
- Various staff safety trainings including fire awareness, management of staff safety and first aid in emergencies are ongoing.

Population and new arrivals

- As of 29 April, the population in the Dadaab camps stood at **464,782** persons.
- The DRA Commissioner visited Dadaab on 25 April and indicated that the Kenyan Government would soon give the go ahead for a resumption of registration of new arrivals, assistance to new arrivals as well as relocation of refugees from Hagadera to Kambioos.

Verification & registration

- A number of verification committees dealing with various aspects of the verification exercise have started their planning activities.
- A registration workshop with participants from UNHCR and DRA was held on 26/27 April in order to map out the registration strategy for 2012/2013.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

- There is concern that minor administrative problems have been delaying the arrest of some perpetrators. The Dadaab police station is lacking some official forms needed for making arrests and UNHCR and RCK are now working with the police to resolve the issue.
- An inter-agency monitoring team visited the Safe Haven in Ifo camp. Construction is ongoing to improve the condition of the shelter. The standard operational procedures of the Safe Haven are currently being updated to ensure inclusion of new GBV partners as well as reflect changes based on lessons learnt.



- One rape case was reported in Ifo 2 West, which occurred while the survivor was collecting firewood. Community leaders have expressed concern over the increase of reported cases of sexual violence associated with firewood collection. To address this problem, UNHCR will distribute firewood to extremely vulnerable persons and is encouraging partners to explore alternative sources of energy.
- IRC conducted a monitoring visit to the outskirts of Hagadera and found that many families in the outskirts have worn-out tents, putting them at risk of attacks by animals, thieves, and, for female-headed households, harassment and invasions of their privacy.
- In Kambioos, women complain that solar torches are being stolen when they are left outside to charge.
- In Kambioos, IRC continues to receive child SGBV survivor cases. Victims are given medical attention at IMC and if needed be referred to the IRC hospital in Hagadera. Cases are also forwarded to RCK for legal intervention.
- In all camps, IRC and CARE distributed dignity kits, consisting of a bucket with dirra, sandals, underwear, sanitary pads, soap, and a whistle, to every female of 12 years of age and older. Distribution was done with groups of 20-25 females invited for an information session in a safe space (i.e. block leader's home).
- In Dagahaley, a two-day training for 50 (22 female) community leaders was held on GBV and reporting procedures.

Shelter and contingency planning for the rains



Production of bricks continues in Dadaab (IOM) and Ifo Extension (DRC and PWJ). Since 1 March, a total of 233,000 bricks have been produced for 150 shelters. The target of 6,200 bricks per day (4 shelters) has not yet been reached, with IOM producing 5,000 and PWJ/DRC 4,000 per day. Production in Dagahaley and Ifo (NRC) and in Kambioos (LWF) will start within a few weeks. In Kambioos, the emergency tents that have a life span of six months and that were issued in August 2011 are worn out (i.e. torn, leaky, broken, collapsed, etc.). They are leaking during the rains which may result in growing food insecurity and malnutrition as food gets soaked wet. Children are also at risk of pneumonia. Since mid-April, UNHCR has been distributing plastic sheets and tents to households whose shelter has been damaged or collapsed (photo: Kambioos). A reserve quantity of tents and plastic-sheets is on stand-by in camp-based warehouses.

Child protection

- In Ifo, Save the Children organized a sensitization campaign on Female Genital Mutilation for more than 100 youth at risk. FGM is a child protection concern and a more comprehensive sensitization strategy needs to be developed in conjunction with protection and GBV actors.
- From 19 – 21 April, four children participated in a two-day consultative meeting in Garissa. The meeting aimed at assessing how Kenya is implementing the Convention of the Rights of the Child. One of the four participants was invited to attend the National Kenyan Children Assembly in Nairobi.
- In Kambioos, there is an urgent need for a child protection actor. Save the Children, IRC and UNHCR have worked to address serious cases of child abuse, but community-based child protection mechanisms and a Kambioos-focused case management actor is required to meet the need.
- UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children conducted discussions with children, adolescents and adult community members in all camps on how the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) are currently working, how they can be improved, and how to increase the participation of children. Parents are hesitant to send children to the CFS as it is perceived as a place for vulnerable children only, e.g. orphans. Some parents also suspect that the CFS is a place where children will be converted to Christianity. However, children who regularly attend the CFS said it was a place where they can learn more about their rights and be trained on life skills which they felt was very positive. A majority felt they could get help and support from the staff if they faced any problems at home or at school. They further mentioned that it would be beneficial if their parents could learn more about the risks related to early marriage and FGM.

Community participation and communication

- As a follow-up to the Participatory Assessment (PA), a meeting was held with the Eritrean community members in Kambioos to ascertain if any changes have been noted since the exercise was conducted. Among the noted changes mentioned was that under-scooping during food distribution had stopped and that refugees were getting the rations they are entitled to.

- In an effort to strengthen community structures in Kambioos, UNHCR and Handicap International facilitated the formation of leadership structures for the Somali Bantu community and for persons living with disabilities. The structures are expected to strengthen the relationship between the agencies and the community and to enhance intervention strategies. The Somali Bantu community also highlighted some of the challenges they face, such as discrimination, language barrier, lack of access to information.
- On 21 April, Lifeline organized environmental awareness campaigns in Ifo 2 and Hagadera and engaged the community, especially women and children, through a sumo wrestling tournament (see photo).
- In Kambioos, UNHCR, LWF and Oxfam met with religious leaders to discuss mapping of plots for building new religious institutions.
- The Dagahaley Community Emergency Response Team distributed assorted clothing items and soap to 5,000 refugees. The Ifo Community Emergency Team distributed food items donated from Turkey, assorted clothing items donated from Japan and soap received from Algeria to 1,400 individuals.
- On 23 April, FilmAid inaugurated their audio-studio in Ifo camp, which will be used to produce 24 radio features on various thematic issues, such as teenage pregnancy, which will be then broadcasted through StarFM. The features will be produced by youth from the community who receive training on audio-production.



Livelihood

- UNHCR and LWF held a meeting with the umbrella youth leadership body to discuss livelihood activities. The youth gave proposals on activities they would like to carry out in the camps and asked to be provided places to conduct these activities.
- LWF called for proposals on economically viable income generating activities in Kambioos in order to empower groups to be self-reliant and to act as role models for the younger generation.
- RRDO began the disbursement of cash grants to 300 vulnerable families in Ifo 2. The families were identified through a vulnerability assessment by KRCS and LWF. The families were given identification cards for this exercise and will benefit from this disbursement for three months, each family receiving 100\$ per month.
- 44 groups from Ifo 2 have been recruited for the shelter project by NRC. Each group comprises of four individuals. An additional 12 groups were recruited from the host community.

Youth

- UNHCR identified another 17 community sports initiatives to assist with sports materials, which includes five groups of youths living with disabilities, three female focused projects, six groups from non-Somali minority communities, and one project with YEP centres (vocational training centers). At least 757 male and 187 female youths are to benefit from sports activities while each project aims at female integration, social inclusion of people with disabilities. Behavior change campaigns against drug abuse is another objective.
- On 20 April, Ifo Youth Consortium, comprising of 27 youth groups, elected a youth chairmanship for the camp. UNHCR sees this as an interim leadership which could promote unity between the different groups in the camp. Altogether, the Ifo camp has 82 youth groups including non-Somali groups.

Relocation

- A small community in Dagahaley outskirts continues to refuse to move to Ifo 2. Despite the scaling down of services and numerous advocacy efforts, they continue to resist requests to relocate. It is evident that a small group of opinion leaders are against any relocation and their opinion is holding sway. UNHCR, IOM and LWF are holding advocacy meetings targeting small groups and individual families in an attempt to understand their resistance to moving.
- In Kambioos, a contingency planning and resource mobilization meeting was held with all partners to prepare for the event of resumed relocation activities.

Education

- CARE is facilitating the training of 170 newly recruited teachers in Garissa.
- The registration of students for the KCSE exams has been finalized.
- Graduation ceremonies took place at three YEP centres in the refugee camps and one YEP centre in Dadaab town.

Training/capacity building

- Protection training was held for UNHCR multifunctional teams and camp management agencies in Ifo and Ifo 2. The training agenda included basic themes in protection and means to incorporate a community approach to protection work in the field.
- On 24 April, a workshop on Anti-Fraud Awareness in the Context of Resettlement was conducted by UNHCR staff from Geneva HQ and Branch Office Nairobi.

WASH

- In Kambioos, the new water pipeline for the camp was successfully tested bringing an immediate improvement to the daily lives of beneficiaries (see photo).
- In Hagadera, members of the host community destroyed the water pipes in the outskirts of the camp with the intention of hastening the relocation of refugees to Kambioos.

Administration

- Office furniture for the offices were received and distributed. The new office prefabs occupied by Alinjgur staff members have been furnished with new desks and chairs including the conference hall.
- The Crisis Co-ordination Centre (CCC) office has been finalized next to the radio room at the UNHCR compound.
- A new 3.8 metre VSAT was installed and commissioned in Dadaab, with the capacity of carrying more bandwidth thus ensuring that future bandwidth expansion can be done comfortably without changing the current infrastructure. In addition, a new 2.4 metre VSAT dish was installed in Alinjgur, so that staff who will be working in Alinjgur will have reliable internet connection.
- Razor wire fence work has started at the compound in Dadaab, in preparation for the installation of the Hesco units due to arrive in early May. The Hesco fencing in Alinjgur is progressing with completion date extended till 4 May. Only 150 m of Hesco units are still to be placed but some filling of the units with sand still needs to be completed. The sites for the first set of staff accommodation will be handed over to contractors on 7 May.

Health

- A case of acute flaccid paralysis was reported in Kambioos in a ten year old boy.
- Mosquito net distribution has started in Ifo and Dagahaley. The exercise is expected to last for five weeks.
- 9 measles cases were reported bringing the total number of measles cases line-listed since January 2011 to 1,611. There was one measles death from respiratory complications in a 36 day old infant. The infant's mother had been admitted with measles and therefore was not immune.
- ACF trained 28 counsellors from Dagahaley using the WHO/UNICEF breastfeeding counselling module and gave training on monitoring tools for community level activities.

Arrest, prison and border monitoring

- After intervention by UNHCR, three refugees arrested for violating curfew regulations were released. Police were once again requested to desist from making arbitrary arrests.
- On 22 April, UNHCR visited Garissa prison and found persons of concern remanded, awaiting trial. A female refugee and her children had been arrested and detained for attempting to travel to Nairobi. After UNHCR and RCK intervention, the authorities dropped the charges of residing outside the designated areas. UNHCR and DRA are following up on the welfare and needs of the family.
- RCK conducted a border monitoring mission to Liboi border town and found out that the immigration officials had been withdrawn from there. UNHCR is intervening with immigration authorities to clarify the reason for such a withdrawal. RCK also found 64 asylum seekers in police detention who were subsequently released.
- The Chief Magistrate's court made its April circuit ride to Dadaab to facilitate administration of justice. Of interest were 42 cases involving 28 registered refugees and 14 asylum seekers who had been arrested in a border village near Dedajibulla. The refugees were convicted for being illegally present outside the designated areas. UNHCR monitored the court and RCK represented the POCs.



Environment

- Since 1998 when the firewood distribution project was launched in the Dadaab operation, the mode of distribution has always been the general format with each household receiving a maximum of 30% of its total energy requirement per month. Over the years however, this approach has been rendered ineffective due to the ever increasing cost of fuel wood. To improve the overall impact of the firewood distribution intervention, UNHCR has decided to adopt a different approach which targets the extremely vulnerable groups of the refugee community. The ongoing targeted distribution to critical institutions such as schools, hospitals, and the safe havens will also continue.
- The Dadaab Inter Agency Energy Task, which was established on 4 April, held its first meeting and discussed the promotion of energy saving devices and practices, the mapping of agencies involved in promotion of household cooking stoves, the mapping of stove coverage per camp site, the promotion of appropriate sources of energy, and the provision of policy and technical advice on energy matters.
- UNHCR and RRDO launched a mini pilot project for testing viability of commercial Methylated spirit / Bio-ethanol as an alternative source of energy for cooking. The study was launched in Dagahaley camp where fifteen families were provided with a clean cook stove and 5 litres of ethanol. This was after the participants had received thorough training on handling of both the stove as well as the liquid fuel. The study is expected to provide valuable information on the viability of the product.
- The report on Dadaab refugee livestock census and management plan was published by UNHCR through RRDO. This provides stakeholders with a good roadmap for planning and implementing project interventions in support of the livestock sector.

External Relations / Public Information

- 16 – 18 April, ECHO conducted a monitoring mission to Dadaab, joined by the ECHO's Senior Desk Officer for Kenya, based in Brussels. The ECHO Team visited all camps, visited the ECHO funded projects and seized the opportunity to meet with refugees, UNHCR staff, and partners.
- The ECHO Team was also joined by a representative of the EU DEVCO (Development Cooperation) Unit who is the focal point for the Regional Protection Programme (RPP) in Kenya, which includes programmes in the area of human rights, child protection, GBV, and other protection related programmes.
- On 25 April, a donor mission consisting of representatives of the Canadian High Commission and the Norwegian Embassy visited Dagahaley and Ifo 2 and seized the opportunity to meet with partners in Dadaab.
- On the same day, the DRA Commissioner and the UNHCR Representative came to Dadaab and visited Kambioos and Hagadera camps in order to discuss, amongst other issues, the need for a resumption of the registration of new arrivals, the assistance to new arrivals, and the potential resumption of the relocation of refugees from Hagadera outskirts to Kambioos. The DRA Commissioner was very receptive and promised to follow up on Nairobi end.
- 19 – 22 April, the media agency PANOS came to Dadaab and covered human interest stories from the camps, such as stories of youth, livelihood programmes as well as environment activities.
- 25 – 28 April, SkyNews Arabia visited Dadaab to cover positive stories from Dadaab including the graduation of students at the YEP Vocational Training Centers.

Acronyms of partners

In the order they appear in the text:

DRA Department of Refugee Affairs
RCK Refugee Consortium Kenya
IRC International Rescue Committee
IMC International Medical Corps
DRC Danish Refugee Council
PWJ Peace Wings Japan
NRC Norwegian Refugee Council
LWF Lutheran World Federation
RRDO Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization

For further details please contact:

Bettina Schulte
Associate External Relations Officer
UNHCR Office of the Head of Operations
Tel.: +254 720 095 990
Email: schulte@unhcr.org
Twitter: @BETTIUNHCR

Updated population statistics of Dadaab can also be accessed via the UNHCR Web Portal:

<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/region.php?id=3&country=110>