



Situation Report

UNHCR Refugee Operations in North Eastern Province, Kenya Alinjgur & Dadaab Sub-Offices

15 – 31 August 2012

General overview

The operational environment was generally calm. The improved security situation was attributed to the continued presence of General Service Unit (GSU) special police in the operational area. Assistance and service delivery to refugees continued without interruption.

Statistics

As of 26 August, the overall population in the Alinjgur/Dadaab camps stood at **474,076**.

New Registration *Standard Operating Procedures* were released on 23 August. The SOP will guide both the registration of new arrivals and continuous registration. (However, registration of new arrivals remained suspended.)

Verification

Preparations were concluded for the verification exercise scheduled to commence in Ifo camp on 3 September. These included a test run of IT equipment, finalising of security arrangements at the verification center, and training of the verification clerks.

An information campaign targeting refugees was running the whole working week of 27-31 August. The campaign was conducted using loudspeakers and local media (radio broadcasts). This community communication campaign will continue during the whole verification exercise, successively in all camps, using diverse means of communication.

Protection

Insecurity remained a concern in the camps despite the deployment of GSU. In particular, women and girls continued to be at risk. Community-based discussions involving the police and refugees were being planned with the aim of fostering mutual trust and increasing the confidence of refugees in reporting crime.

UNHCR Protection Unit continued to conduct induction training on international protection to GSU police officers deployed to the operational area. This included refugee law, refugee rights and obligations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The sessions were jointly facilitated by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya and the Danish Refugee Council. The Area Police Commissioner acknowledged that the training had had a positive impact on the conduct of the GSU officers. Refugee community leaders were also positive about the police training programme.

GBV

An inter-agency GBV meeting concluded that survivors of domestic violence were reluctant to pursue legal redress for fear of retaliation by perpetrators. It was important to engage community structures such as the Community Peace and Protection Teams and Peace Committees in settling disputes. Partners agreed that there was a need for strengthened co-ordination in case management requiring multi-sectoral interventions.

The GBV Working Group welcomed Women Kind Kenya as a new member. Wokike is a national NGO with extensive experience of women empowerment, working together with IRC on GBV issues.

Community participation

Discussions between the refugee community and humanitarian agencies on disaster preparedness in the camps continued. A plan for the creation of disaster preparedness teams in all camps was being drafted. The suggested model would include standard operating procedures for response mechanisms. In addition, it was suggested that a strategy for the provision of assistance to victims of disasters (livelihoods support) should be developed.

Persons with specific needs

The Persons Living with Disabilities' Committee addressed UNHCR with concerns about the quality of services offered to disabled people especially in terms of education and health. With limited educational facilities and few

trained special teachers, children with disability were not getting quality primary education, limiting their chances of enrollment in secondary school. While the committee generally appreciated the medical support provided, they requested more specialised treatment and care and called for group resettlement for disabled refugees.

Education

A ceremony was held to award certificates to 54 teachers who had participated in a seven-months long capacity building training conducted by AVSI and UNICEF. The main subjects of the training were: pedagogical skills; professionalism and ethics in education; and communication and life skills. The certification ceremony was a culmination of all the effort, commitment and diligence shown by the refugee teachers towards improving the quality of teaching.

Health and nutrition

Routine vaccination activities were ongoing in all the camps as per the Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunization. A nationwide mass polio campaign targeting children under five was also being implemented in all camps.

World Food Programme was planning to roll out a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) targeting children 6-23 months in the next distribution cycle. This is a change from the current BSFP which targets children under the age of five years. The 2012 nutrition survey will be conducted in September.

Water and sanitation

Random Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) monitoring was being carried out to assess the quality of the water in the camps, which was continuously being treated with chlorine. No alarming levels detected.

NRC was conducting a sensitisation campaign to stop people from making illegal water connections, a local problem in some camps.

Concerted efforts were being made by all WASH partners to increase the number of hygiene promoters in the camps by identifying and training new promoters. WASH partners were moving closer to attaining the minimum UNHCR standard ratio of 1 hygiene promoter per 500 persons.

Resettlement

Planning was being finalised for a transfer of selected cases from Dadaab to Kakuma for resettlement interviews. The IOM-facilitated transfer would altogether encompass 1,014 individuals and the first group of 500 was going to be transferred in late October. An information campaign was conducted in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps during the first half of August.

During the reporting period, 39 individuals departed for resettlement to the USA and 20 to Canada. A total of 851 refugees have been resettled from the Dadaab/Alinjogur camps so far this year.

Sub-Office Alinjogur (Hagadera, Kambioos)

New developments

The deployment of the GSU special police force seemed to have reduced crime and the number of security incidents in both Hagadera and Kambioos.

Road traffic accidents were happening with increased frequency. One man was killed and two injured in a recent car crash in Hagadera camp. On the same day, a man was shot in the leg during an attempted robbery.

The victims of the fire in Hagadera earlier this month (see previous sitrep) were receiving emergency shelter assistance as well as support to re-establish their livelihood activities.

The Hagadera decongestion plan was being finalised and DRA was to take the lead in sensitising the refugees. No transport will be provided and refugees will only be assisted upon arrival in Kambioos. The target figure in 2012 will not exceed 6,000 persons.

Protection

854 individuals (518 in Hagadera and 336 in Kambioos) were found to be without registration papers. These individuals had reportedly arrived after the end of the one-month registration exercise in June. Over 30% of this group were single men who stated that the main reason for their flight to Kenya was insecurity. As these people did not have any documentation they were running the risk of being arrested for illegally entering Kenya. UNHCR has alerted the police and will further discuss the issue with the Department for Refugee Affairs.

Eight cases of gender-based violence were reported, making a total of 331 since January. 346 home assessments have been done in response to these incidents.

51 children in need of protection were identified by UNHCR and partners. The majority of them were victims of child labour. A campaign against child labour was being conducted in the camps, and this campaign may have contributed to the identification of these child protection cases. Other cases involved child neglect, as mentioned in the previous situation report.

Save the Children UK distributed additional food vouchers for children in need. This was the last month of the programme, which has reached 1,838 children between the ages of 6-12 months.

UNHCR and LWF met with all 19 women's groups in Kambioos to discuss the establishment of an umbrella group tasked with improving women's livelihoods and their condition in the community. Each of the 19 groups will be represented by two women in order to share ideas and directly coordinate with agencies working in Kambioos.

Education

The foundations of Kambioos' two new permanent primary schools were nearing completion. Students and teachers will enjoy 48 new classrooms in addition to the 62 currently in use. School enrolment was high compared to other camps but overcrowded classrooms affected the quality of education. Recruitment of qualified teachers remained a challenge.

Health

IRC national staff returned to the health posts in Hagadera after a long period of absence due to insecurity.

Water and sanitation

Last report raised the issue of water management in Hagadera. Since then, the water situation has stabilised and water per capita per day stands at 18.8 litres. NRC established a reporting/complaints desk in their office to deal with all queries regarding WASH activities and to improve the relationship with the Hagadera community.

Sub-Office Dadaab (Dagahaley, Ifo, Ifo 2)

New developments

Handicap International has withdrawn from Ifo 2 citing budgetary constraints. This will adversely affect the timely identification and assistance of persons living with disability.

Protection

On 21 August, a woman was shot by an unknown gunman in Ifo and died on her way to the hospital. The motive for the murder, which took place in broad daylight, was said to be that she was a police informer providing information on firearms hidden in the camp. The police was continuing the investigations into the killing.

Security remained a major concern in Dagahaley where women and children continued to be at risk. Reports indicated at least two rape incidents per week.

Health

Three suspected deaths from Hepatitis E occurred in Ifo, Ifo 2 and Dagahaley respectively, all of them mothers who had recently given birth. WASH and health partners immediately initiated an information campaign highlighting the vital importance of personal hygiene to prevent this infection. The campaign was being implemented in the camps by the community communication partners.

Water and sanitation

CARE rehabilitated 30 dilapidated tap stand aprons in Dagahaley.

At Ifo 2 West, Oxfam constructed two pump houses and two elevated steel tanks and excavated 1.7 km of trench for laying a permanent pipeline.

At Ifo 2 East, Oxfam completed 300m out of a 600m pipeline and trained 148 WASH committee members.

CARE has constructed 590 latrines in Ifo under the UNHCR 2012 budget.

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