

UNHCR Dadaab Update 14/13

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

15 – 31 October 2013

New developments

Reduction of food basket

On 28 October, World Food Programme (WFP) announced that in the November and December food distribution cycles, the food basket for persons of concern would have to be reduced by 20% due to funding constraints. The reduction translates to 1,710 kilocalories per person per day instead of the standard recommended 2,100 kc per day. Meetings were convened with refugee leaders and the food advisory committees in the five camps to explain and clarify the issue. Rumours were already circulating that this measure was actually part of a covert campaign to push refugees to start returning to Somalia. On 31 October, WFP and UNHCR issued a joint press release, appealing to donors for more funding to cover the gap.

New Food Collection Procedures

An analysis of the October food distribution exercise showed that 18,733 beneficiaries in the first distribution cycle and 7,863 in the second somehow managed to get food bypassing the biometric verification. Some of the reasons for this were identified as bottlenecks faced during the roll-out phase of the new system, outright fraud with counterfeit ration cards being produced by embossers in the community, and people accessing the food distribution points through exit gates or otherwise managing to avoid the verification entry point. Monitoring mechanisms were being strengthened in order to stop this abuse. Meanwhile, UNHCR and WFP continued the information campaign on the new food collection procedures, using local radio to broadcast the message.

An increasing number of separated children were presenting themselves at UNHCR field offices in the company of their caretakers seeking to be assigned Alternate Food Collectors, while the number of elderly and disabled persons seeking Alternate Food Collectors was decreasing. Profiling of vulnerable individuals arriving at the food distribution points was being organised in order to guarantee access to food for this category.

Security

On 17 October, six persons were injured when a cinema in Ifo was attacked by two masked gunmen. The attack was similar to the one against an NGO compound in Ifo in September. These attacks and recent robberies in the camps show a worrying trend towards increased use of firearms in criminal activities and in the settlement of business disputes.

The month of October was marked by several incidents of fire in Hagadera. Altogether five blocks were affected and over 30 houses burnt down. The most probable cause of the fires was faulty electrical cables. The fires spread fast because of the strong winds prevailing during this time of the year, just before the start of the rainy season. Firefighting in the camps is made difficult by overcrowding and roads



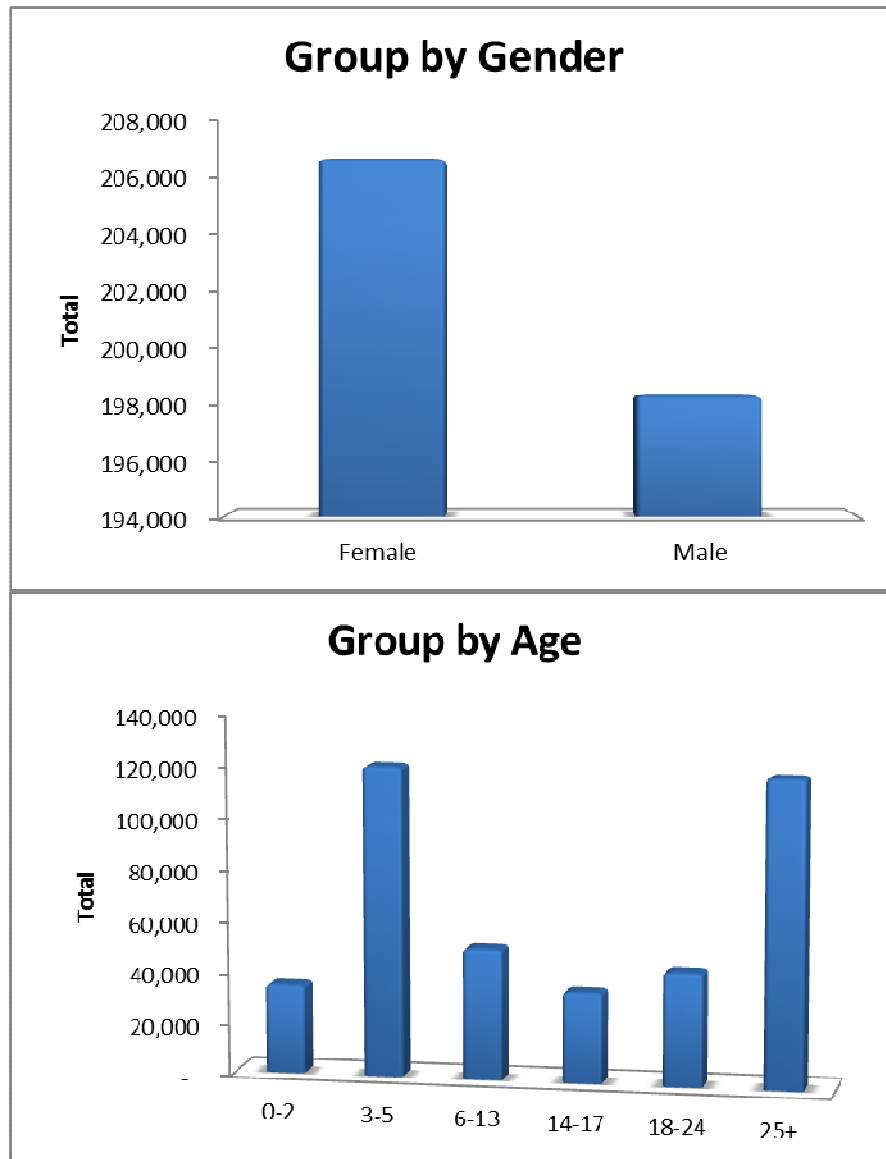
Support to fire victims Photo Jamal S Ayela/UNHCR

being blocked by encroachments from neighbouring plots. Support consisting of non-food items was given to 16 families affected by the tragedy.

Statistics

Population as of 31 October 2013:

Hagadera	Kambioos	Dagahaley	Ifo	Ifo 2	Total
114,597	19,919	104,534	100,727	65,347	405,124



Protection

Documentation

A joint UNHCR/Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) Nairobi task force came on mission to Dadaab to identify gaps in registration and documentation of persons of concern. The mission held meetings with the local county administration, DRA, the police, refugee community leaders, unregistered persons of concern and UNHCR to gather views on the registration and ID-card distribution processes. The task force had also visited Kakuma camp.

Individual case management

A total of 221 individuals were attended to at the protection desks (Dagahaley: 45, Hagadera: 57, Ifo: 61, Ifo 2: 58). The cases included resettlement and refugee status determination inquiries; requests for relocation to Kakuma for reasons of security or family reunification; physical safety and legal support for SGBV survivors and in child protection. More than 100 additional cases were related to the new biometric food collection system. Referral to hospitals outside the camps remained a major challenge for unregistered persons.

Child protection

Save the Children International launched the Desert Flower Programme, an initiative to change the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) into Child Education and Welfare Centres (CEWC). The CEWC will integrate education, art, culture, life-skills training, sports, leisure, and well-being activities. The refugee community will be sensitized on the new approach in child protection which is based on the active participation of the children themselves.

Youth

The Kambioos Youth Umbrella completed the first football league in the camp with the final match between the teams United Youth Development and New Star on 30 October played at the Kambioos football pitch. The league comprises of 12 teams (some 150 young players) and commenced on 23 September. *Promoting Peace and Co-existence and Preventing Drug Abuse* was the theme highlighted during this season. This initiative was 100% funded by the youths themselves, purchasing the sports equipment with contributions collected from the community. The goal posts were hand-made by the community, and Lutheran World Federation and UNHCR provided logistical support and security arrangements. The initiative is a good example of how much the Youth Umbrella can achieve at the grassroots level despite challenges with insufficient resources. (United Youth won the final with 3-1, in a penalty shootout.)

Resettlement

- *Submissions:* 10 cases comprising 60 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. A total of 1,576 individuals have been submitted since 1 January 2013.
- *Departures:* 40 individuals departed the camp for onward resettlement. A total of 1,161 individuals have departed to resettlement countries since 1 January 2013. 24 individuals comprised of 13 cases were returned to Dadaab on 1 November after their departures to the US were postponed till 2014.

Resettlement Departures 16 – 31 October		
Country	Cases	Individuals
US	9	29
Denmark	3	11
TOTAL	12	40

- *Video Conferencing:* Norway held a resettlement video conference for 2 urgent cases / 13 individuals.
- *Missions:* The Norwegian circuit ride visited Dadaab 25 - 28 October and held adjudication interviews for 21 cases / 73 individuals. 172 cases / 546 individuals in the US Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) benefited from the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) circuit ride that completed pre-screening interviews on 24 October.

Education

An inter-school debate took place in Kambioos between teams from Hilal and Furaha primary schools with the objective of promoting peaceful coexistence and peace building in the community. The Furaha team was defending the proposal "young people can promote peace better than their elders" while Hilal primary was arguing that "elders can promote peace better than youth". Furaha emerged as the winner of the lively debate with 57 points against Hilal's 56 points. The debate was organized by Refugee Consortium Kenya and received live radio coverage on Star FM.

A mission from Vodafone UK came to Dadaab to plan the implementation of a donation providing internet connectivity, laptops, and ICT training to 6 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 4 YEP vocational training centers.

Livelihood

UNHCR in collaboration with UNCRD and the livelihood partners including DRC and NRC distributed computers, UPS, printers and modems to youth groups with ICT income-generating activities across the five camps and the host community. The assessment of the suitability of benefiting groups was based on gender balance, group cohesiveness, sustainability and their contribution to the community at large.

Environment

11 persons of concern were charged under the Kenya Forests Management Act with illegal logging of trees in Alinjgur. Three others from Ifo camp faced similar charges. They were arrested by the Kenya Forestry Service officers and arraigned before the Dadaab mobile court. To strengthen refugee awareness of environment conservation and of regulations and penalties associated with the destruction of the environment, UNHCR, The Relief, Reconstruction & Development Organization (RRDO), Fafi Development Association (FAIDA), and RCK participated in a live radio program aired on Dadaab FM.



Ifo 2 Photo Mohamed A Maalim/UNHCR

Donor visibility

UNHCR was improving donor visibility in the refugee camps. New signs were being put in place to replace old and worn-out ones and to better reflect the current situation. One problematic issue has been vandalism, often performed by children, defacing the signs or deleting the message. Various ways to combat this type of destructive behaviour are being tried, including sensitization of parents and teachers.

For further information please contact:

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[facebook.com/DadaabAlinjgur](https://www.facebook.com/DadaabAlinjgur)

Webportal on Somali Displacement:
<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>