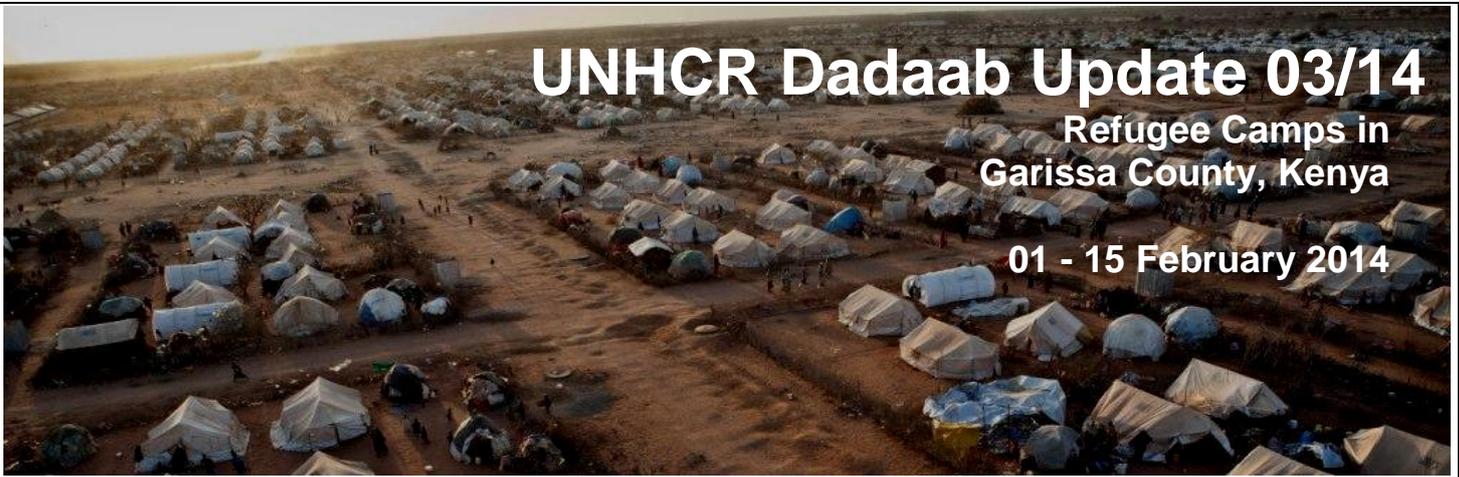


UNHCR Dadaab Update 03/14

Refugee Camps in
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 15 February 2014



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Advocacy Efforts to Respect Refugee Rights

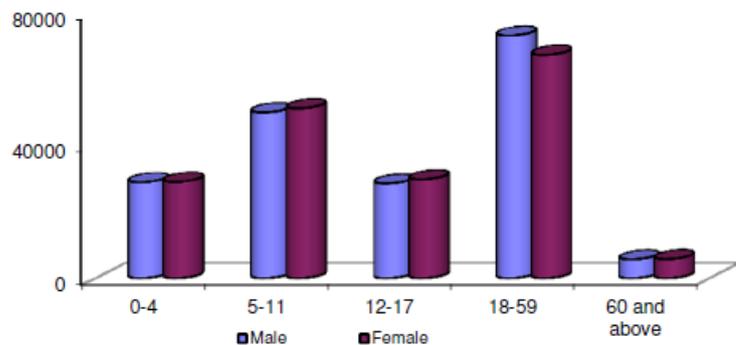
The UNHCR Liaison Office in Garissa held discussions with the Head of the Kenya Police Anti-Terror Unit North Eastern Division on 7th February to highlight concerns over increased incidences of arrest of over 100 refugees and asylum seekers in the camps since January 2014.

Similar consultations were held by UNHCR and the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) with the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Dadaab. The talks revealed that the Kenyan government security apparatus has intensified its focus on security in the Dadaab camps, in particular Ifo and Ifo 2. Buses transporting persons of concern from the border between Kenya and Somalia are now more frequently intercepted. Also, swoops are conducted to arrest mainly undocumented asylum seekers.

UNHCR and RCK are strengthening advocacy efforts with the authorities to emphasize respect of refugee rights and to raise awareness of Department of Refugee Affairs' suspension of registration of refugees and asylum seekers.

REFUGEE STATISTICS

Most of the 369,656 registered refugees living in the five Dadaab camps are between 18 and 59 years old. This is an overview of the figures at the end of January 2014:



Religious leader of Ifo 2 camp,
UNHCR/Dadaab

PROTECTION

Access to Legal Assistance

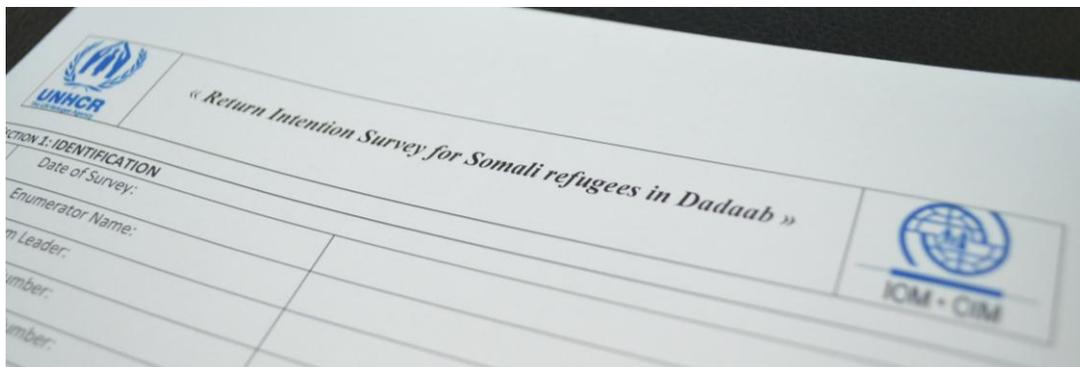
The Kenyan Judiciary established a permanent Kadhi Court in Dadaab and deployed one Kadhi and three support staff on 9th February.

The court will attend to personal law matters such as marriage and divorce for persons from the refugee and host community practicing the Islamic faith.

UNHCR donated three tents as support towards the accommodation of Kadhi Court staff members at the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) compound in Dadaab.

Preparation of the Return Intention Survey

During the reporting period, the comprehensive return intention survey which started on 17th February was prepared. The exercise led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR is taking place in all five camps for a period of six weeks. The objectives of this survey are, amongst others, to understand the concerns and expectations of Somali refugees as regards security as well as opportunities for livelihoods, to capture their knowledge on the conditions in Somalia and to determine their interest for voluntary return.



Questionnaire that will be used for the Return Intention Survey

UNHCR/Dadaab

In preparation of the survey, IOM trained team leaders, enumerators, community mobilisers and data processing staff. On 6th and 7th February, meetings with the refugee community leaders in all five camps were held in order to inform them about the purpose of the survey. On 12th February, UNHCR briefed twenty journalists based in the camps on the pilot phase of spontaneous voluntary returns to Somalia as well as on the Return Intention Survey. Regular public service announcements targeting the refugee community began on 14th February on the local radio stations Dadaab FM and Star FM.

Registration of New Arrivals

49 South Sudanese families comprising of 143 individuals were listed and screened in an exercise that began on 13th February. DRA provided its approval for the listing following continued advocacy by UNHCR for protection and assistance of the group which began arriving in Dadaab in late December 2013 after the outbreak of conflict in South Sudan. The South Sudanese new arrivals are now provided with temporary tokens to facilitate their access to assistance.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

In the last months, an increasing number of incidences of rape were reported by women who collect firewood in the bush surrounding the Dadaab camps. The agencies operating in Dadaab jointly identified safety advisories to avert SGBV incidents during one of the regular Dadaab Inter-Agency SGBV Co-ordination Meeting held on 13th February.

On the same day, UNHCR met with the residents of the Safe Haven in Ifo camp. The women shared their experiences and the challenges they face were discussed with a view to seeking solutions.

Resettlement

Between 1st and 15th February, 19 cases comprising 84 individuals were interviewed for processing and onward submission to resettlement countries. 15 individuals departed the camp for onward resettlement to Canada and Australia during the reporting period. A total of 192 individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries since 1st January.

A total of 516 individuals were relocated to Kakuma refugee camp for scheduled interviews with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on 17th February.

HEALTH & NUTRITION



Mother and child in Ifo 2 Refugee Camp
UNHCR/Dadaab

Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)

Sensitisation sessions on Maternal, Infant and Child Nutrition were held with various groups of the refugee community. The participants learned specifically about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding of children age 0-6 months.

30 youth representatives, 19 block leaders, 28 grand mothers and 26 fathers in Ifo camp and 30 religious leaders and 30 youth in Hagadera were involved. The selected groups are considered to be able to positively influence mothers in their decision to breastfeed.

Polio vaccination campaign

Between 1st and 5th February, the eighth round of Polio oral vaccination campaign was conducted in all Dadaab refugee camps. It targeted children under-five years from both the refugee and the host community. An administrative coverage of 95% was reached.

Since May 2013, UNHCR and its partners have implemented eight rounds of vaccination campaigns. The last confirmed case of polio in Dadaab was on 14 July 2013.

EDUCATION

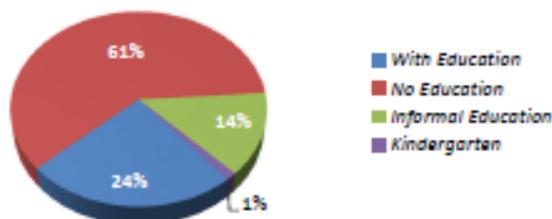
Facilities and material

By 15th February, all schools in Ifo 2 have been provided with hand washing facilities. Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) received in-kind donations (shoes, exercise books and chalk) from the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). A total of 999 cartons of shoes were donated by KRCS.

The agency also issued all girls in Class 4 to 8 with six packets of sanitary pads and pants which had been donated by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). IRK appealed for additional donations for sanitary wear to support girls in lower classes in need of the same.

Students with disabilities

Handicap International has embarked on a program to improve learning for persons with disabilities such as exchange visits between schools to learn best practices on coping mechanisms of students and sharing of experiences amongst special education teachers.



Education status of the population of the five Dadaab camps as of 31 January 2014

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Since the beginning of 2014, the UNHCR Dadaab operation has received 7,691 energy saving stoves and 8,999 solar lanterns. The stoves are meant to help bridge the gap between the amount of firewood that can be provided to the refugees and their actual demand for cooking. The use of these stoves will save up to 30% of firewood, a scarce resource in Garissa County. The solar lanterns can be used by families inside their shelters at night.

The procurement process for 750 solar street lights has also started. These lights are expected to improve the security in the streets of the camps at night. The project will be subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with Kenya Government environment management legislation.



A refugee family with a solar lantern previously distributed in Kambioos UNHCR/Dadaab

Between 22nd January and 3rd February, the Baseline Survey for CIDA Light Years Ahead Project was conducted. The Survey covered 930 households and 35 small business enterprises. The researchers measured the current use of firewood using traditional stoves and estimated the current coverage of households and blocks with solar lanterns and street lights. The survey results will enable monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of CIDA projects.

For more information, please contact:

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

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