

# UNHCR Dadaab Update 08/14

Refugee Camps in  
Garissa County, Kenya

01 - 15 May 2014

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

UNHCR/Dadaab



New arrivals were interviewed by UNHCR staff in Dagahaley camp

### Arrival of urban refugees and asylum seekers

In the month of May, the Kenyan police continued with Operation *Usalama Watch*. During the reporting period, 242 urban refugees and asylum seekers were relocated to the Dadaab refugee camps.

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, UNHCR received new groups of urban refugees and asylum seekers from Nairobi. The individuals had been arrested, detained by the police and forcefully brought to the Dadaab camps.

UNHCR and the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) organized for their reception and provision of core relief items such as wash basins, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and mosquito nets. UNHCR conducted a health screening and referred the new arrivals to the health services in the camps.

UNHCR/Dadaab



After the reception in Hagadera camp, a group of urban refugees and asylum seekers was temporarily moved to Ifo camp

Through interviews with new arrivals, UNHCR established that some of them had been separated from their family members including children. The findings of individual interviews were shared with the UNHCR office in Nairobi for follow up. UNHCR has expressed great concern about family separations and its impact on mental health of relocated persons of concern. It appears that the Government of Kenya is enforcing its encampment policy also for urban refugees with alien cards.

The new arrivals will eventually be relocated in the relatively new and less overcrowded camps Kambioos and Ifo 2. UNHCR and Peace Winds Japan have completed the demarcation of 120 plots to settle 120 families in Ifo 2.



A group of Congolese men waiting for further information

UNHCR/Dadaab

## SECURITY

Despite the armed attack and attempted kidnapping of UNHCR staff on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, humanitarian operations continued without hindrance during the reporting period. However, threats such as attacks with improvised explosive devices, kidnapping and banditry are eminent, posing challenges to the Dadaab operation. Together with other agencies operating in Dadaab, UNHCR is currently reviewing the programme criticality.

## PROTECTION

### General Protection Environment

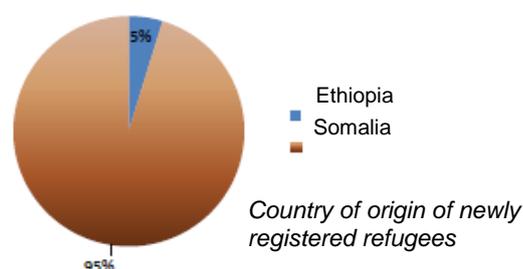
UNHCR regularly holds 'Tango Talks' in all Dadaab camps. In these meetings, the refugee community and police jointly discuss security matters. During Tango Talks in Kambioos camp on 14<sup>th</sup> May, the community praised the improved working relationship with the police. Religious leaders were present for the first time. They commenced to take a key role in enhancing community policing and spreading peace messages in the community. The Leaders undertook to share information on unknown persons visiting the camps in light of the increased insecurity.

### Registration of unregistered persons of concern

During the reporting period, UNHCR and DRA continued registration of unregistered persons of concern.

Between 14<sup>th</sup> April, when registration resumed, and 15<sup>th</sup> May, a total of 2,995 refugees and 154 asylum seekers were registered in the Dadaab camps. 2,123 refugees and asylum seekers were registered during the reporting period.

As a result of the registration exercise, UNHCR identified 49 unaccompanied minors and separated children in Kambioos camp. UNHCR and its partners Terre des Hommes are currently assessing the care given to these minors and their living arrangements in order to mitigate their protection risks.



### Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

An increasing number of women and girls in the Dadaab camps have children out of wedlock. During a meeting in Hagadera camp, the refugee community acknowledged that although this is culturally not accepted among most refugee groups, cases are on the rise and there is need to engage the community in accepting them. As a preventive measure, the community members committed themselves to creating awareness and their leaders were asked to intervene through dialogue with affected families.

### Resettlement

During this reporting period, resettlement referral interviews for 24 cases comprising of 93 individuals were conducted and completed. 250 individuals travelled from Dadaab to Kakuma refugee camp for interviews with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). 54 individuals departed for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom and the United States. One medical referral case departed to Nairobi.

### Education

UNHCR is cooperating with Vodafone and Safaricom to build the capacity of teachers involved in the thirteen innovation centres in the Dadaab camps. During the reporting period, the team visited two installation sites in the camps where internet boosters connecting the thirteen innovation centres are located. Vodafone is providing additional tablets for use in primary, secondary and tertiary (middle college) education centres as one of the ways of encouraging innovative learning.

Between 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, a team of InZONE and the University of Geneva in collaboration with Kenyatta University, provided training for 40 refugee interpreters in the Dadaab camps.

## Community Empowerment

During the reporting period, five youth forums were held in Dagahaley, Hagadera and Kambioos camps. Among the issues raised by youth was the lack of projects benefitting youths in the camp. Somali youth mentioned that they are keen to strengthen their relations with the Government of Somalia in order to be more informed about a possible return and job opportunities in Somalia.

The youth umbrellas, supported by UNHCR, proposed that projects be put in place, which aim at engaging youth in sports and recreational activities while using the platform to create awareness on topics such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), drug abuse and peace building.



Football in Ifo Camp

UNHCR/Dadaab

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

A successful polio campaign targeting children under-5 years was conducted from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of May with an administrative coverage of more than 95%.

## SHELTER

50,000 new shelters are currently needed in Dadaab. 2.3% of this target will be met through the construction of 1,366 Temporary Shelters (T-Shelters) which will be built by UNHCR's partner, Peace Winds Japan. T-Shelters consist of timber frames, plastic sheeting and tin roofs.

The shelter programme had been halted for some time until UNHCR was informed that the Kenyan Government would allow only provisional shelters such as tents and T-Shelters in the Dadaab camps.

In July 2012, the Kenyan government had stopped the production of ISSB-shelters which were made out of locally produced inter-locking stabilised soil blocks. In early 2014, UNHCR made a follow-up request for construction of dried mud shelters for vulnerable refugees in the Dadaab camps but this was regrettably also disapproved by the Government of Kenya. According to the authorities, these structures looked more like permanent dwellings than temporary shelters for refugees.



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

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