

Situation Report

Refugee Camps in North Eastern Province Alinjukur & Dadaab Sub-Offices

1 – 20 June 2012

- General Overview -

Operational environment and security: Despite frequent disruptions on account of security incidents, operations are proceeding normally. Movements to the camps are taking place on a daily basis although there are still access limitations for staff to work 'in the blocks'. On 4 June, an IED was destroyed by the police through controlled detonation. The device was found at the police barrack in Dadaab town, close to the agency compound. On 15 June, an IED attack against the Ifo Chair lady targeted her vehicle, at Ifo market. The Chair lady was in the company of two CARE staff, all three sustained injuries from the blast. While investigations into this incident are ongoing, it is of concern that IEDs may have become a 'weapon of choice', no longer confined to attacks against security forces. A comprehensive programme review is underway to reflect elements of the Operations Continuity Plan in partner agreements and to adjust implementation arrangements in line with UNHCR's coverage under the two operational Sub-offices.

Registration: As of 18 June, the refugee population in North-Eastern province stood at **468,599 individuals**. The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) & UNHCR are conducting a one month registration exercise from 4 June to 4 July, in order to register those new arrivals that were identified since October 2011 (4,066) as well as those are not yet identified. Families are brought from Dagahaley, Hagadera & Kambioos to Ifo Registration site by bus. Families from Ifo & Ifo 2 walk to the Ifo registration site. UNHCR and partners are doing health & protection screening at the registration center. As of 18 June, the total of registered new arrivals is **3,085**. This figure covers individuals who have arrived since October 2011. It is expected that the exercise will be completed within the one month window.

Protection: With the formal consolidation of a refugee status determination unit (RSD) covering both Dadaab & Alinjukur Sub-Offices, the unit is in process of drafting a comprehensive plan for the conduct of RSD in the operation. This will include exclusion screening to identify individuals who may have been involved in activities that will disqualify them from refugee status, such as crimes against humanity. The unit will also develop a plan to address the existing backlog of individuals for whom their status as refugees is yet to be determined and a capacity building plan of DRA officials.

Community Participation: DRA announced on 12 June that elections in the camps had to be deferred. However, the matter is still under discussion amongst GoK departments and the date may yet be reinstated. In furtherance of the operations continuity plan, UNHCR and partners have held several workshops on community communication. The workshops brought together information and outreach focal points of agencies, UNHCR teams, and leaders to discuss camp specific needs in the area of information and communication. Another initiative in terms of communication is the Resettlement (RST) SMS service managed by the resettlement unit, whereby refugees in the RST process can contact the RST unit with queries related to their individual cases. On 20 June, refugee communities gathered and celebrated World Refugee Day across all camps with agency and UNHCR representatives and marked the special day with lots of dancing, speeches & poetry and raised their voices regarding current challenges in the camps.

Health: In order to address concerns of a rise in multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB), a workshop was held for health workers based in the camps and nearby government facilities. 26 persons were trained in management of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB by the Provincial and District TB team in order to decentralize MDR TB services. Reproductive health interventions remain a challenge given the conservative outlook of the community. In order to introduce more cultural appropriate means of family planning, trainings have been held for health workers on the use of *Cyclebeads* to promote family planning. This method identifies days of high fertility windows and days of lower fertility windows. Though less effective than modern methods it is acceptable to the community. Cyclebeads have been distributed to all health facilities. The community health workers and community health committees will be sensitized next week.

Shelter: The construction of ISSB Shelters is in progress in Dagahaley, Ifo 2 & Kambioos with a total of 122 Shelters constructed out of the current 1,525 shelter target. Given prevailing funding constraints, efforts continue to further reduce the cost of the shelter options and to extend it to a larger number of beneficiaries.



Monitoring & Evaluation: Several initiatives are underway to improve operation-wide data collection & analysis. Over the past month, four training sessions for UNHCR staff have been held in order to strengthen capacity in measuring results, assessing impact from interventions, and develop a functional M&E framework and tools that will facilitate effective assessment of programmes. Additionally, the inter-agency M&E Forum of all partners has been revived in order to exchange best practice & to improve on reporting, impact assessment and overall M&E capacity development. The roll out of the Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) is another initiative to improve data collection & analysis with a view to improve protection interventions.

- Sub-Office Alinjukur (Hagadera, Kambioos)-

New developments

- The sub-office is now operational with 16 staff living and working out of the sub-office. Additional 26 staff is expected to be deployed over the next 2 months.
- Refugees from Kambioos and Hagadera are offered transportation to Ifo Camp, where a one-time Government registration exercise is taking place.
- 480 plots have been demarcated in Kambioos to accommodate refugees from Hagadera outskirts.
- Funding situation for partners operating in Kambioos is critical with several partners pulling out over the coming months leaving critical gaps in water and shelter

Security

- Banditry in the area of operation and particularly in Hagadera camp is becoming a major concern with regular reports of incidents of banditry around the camps as well as along the major roads leading to and from the camps.
- Some assistance & activities are being seriously delayed while staff is waiting for security escorts.
- A group of 15 youth from the host community, some armed, came to the stove production site of Lifeline in Hagadera, forced the staffs to close down the operation, and threatened that they would harm them if they report to the work next day. They demanded more employment for the host community. Following the incidence, a meeting in the Sub-Office was held with host community members to curb this form of criminal behavior.
- Host community groups are becoming increasingly demanding. It will be an ongoing challenge for the office to manage expectations of the community. UNHCR has taken the lead in agreeing with the community on ways to present proposals and grievances. A monthly coordination meeting involving the Jalajira Division Officer, the community leaders and UNHCR will take place the first week of every month in an attempt to create a platform for dialogue.
- The installation of critical security features is being completed, including access control and barb-wire on top of the inner HESCO wall.

Protection

- 24 persons were arrested and charged for being illegally present in Kenya. According to the police they say that they were arrested in Debajulla, South Wajir district. Four are registered as refugees and the rest are asylum seekers. Out of those arrested, seven are minors and two are expectant mothers. UNHCR and partners are providing them with legal assistance to ensure their release.
- A selected group of vulnerable families were provided with donkey carts that would enable them to start a small transportation business. This might become a promising enterprise given the regular movements between Kambioos and Hagadera.

Education

- In Hagadera, each class room holds 120-130 students, while the standard is 40 students in a class room.
- The schools in Kambioos are tent constructions. The roofs have been torn apart by the wind and the students are now fully exposed to the harsh weather conditions. Naturally these conditions affect the quality of learning and compromise the rights of the children.

Health and Nutrition

- Mortality rates are low and stable. In Kambioos grave counting is taking place every day to verify the numbers of deaths reported, if any.
- The four health clinics and one hospital in Hagadera are seeing a total average of 454 patients a day.
- In order to meet the standard of 1 health post per 10 000 individuals, Hagadera will need two new health posts. Currently, overcrowding in Hagadera serious strain existing health services.
- The standard of services in the International Medical Corps run health center in Kambioos continues to improve with an average of 72 patients a day. Prefabricated consultations rooms are being installed to replace the existing tented structures. However currently only 75% of all deliveries are supervised by skilled health workers.
- The relatively new arrivals in Kambioos do not have the same health knowledge as those who have been in the camps for several years. This makes it more difficult to promote different practices related to for example reproductive health.

Water and Sanitation

- Breakdown of water pumps in Hagadera led to a drop in water per person to 15 liters per day. Back-up generators have now been put in place to remedy the situation & prevent a similar situation in the future.
- Water services are now running well in Kambioos, delivering 19 liters per person. There is a need to identify funds and a partner to manage the water sector in Kambioos.
- In general the sanitation infrastructure is working well in both camps, although Hagadera is still in need of additional latrines.

Shelter

- Refugees in the Hagadera outskirts are still living with inadequate shelter. In Kambioos, the emergency shelters distributed earlier are being replaced as per needs. Refugees arriving to the camp are also receiving NFIs and tents.

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

Security

- In Dagahaley, during a meeting with business men and leaders, it was decided that every businessman must hire a night watchman in order to increase security measures.
- MSF Switzerland noted the increasing number of traffic-related injuries admitted at the hospital. Last week, three critical cases were referred for medical treatment in Garissa following road traffic accidents which occurred in the congested blocks. Thus, there is a need to decongest public areas and regulate encroachment on the roads.
- The HESCO fencing of the compound in Dadaab is almost completed.

Food

- In Ifo, during a meeting with the Food Advisory Committee (FAC), it was noted that some blocks lack representation. As a result, information about the items, quantity & procedures of food distribution is not shared properly. To ensure adequate coverage and prevent protection risks, there is need to advocate for camp elections to be conducted as soon as possible.

Protection

- In Ifo, Save the Children distributed 75 flasks to Child Welfare Committee (CWC) who are the focal persons in the blocks to monitor and report on violations of children's rights.
- UNHCR Ifo Field Team and Save the Children conducted a joint assessment to ensure that vulnerable children living in alternative care arrangements are provided with core relief items (CRIs). 598 children will be targeted for distribution of CRI kits.
- In Ifo, protection and technical staff visited the Safe Haven to find out the improvements that have been done by Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Two blocks are near completion & four blocks are underway. The safe haven currently accommodates three families, mainly women and children with protection concerns from all five camps. After construction, more families will be able to find temporary accommodation at the centre.
- In Dagahaley, on 6 June, an interagency case conference was held, including cases involving sexual exploitation and abuse in schools and at the food distribution centre. It was recommended that refresher sessions on PSEA for school teachers and community workers are conducted,
- In Ifo 2, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) facilitated SGBV training for female Community Peace and Protection Teams (CPPTs) in Ifo 2 East.
- In Ifo 2, general distribution of sanitary pads for women aged between 12-50 years is currently ongoing.

Education

- In Dagahaley, CARE completed the ICT centre installment in the social hall, planning to hand it over to Dagahaley Youth Association (Umbrella). CARE's second computer centre in Dagahaley has ten computers to be expected to provide IT training with the youth community, to improve access to information and education opportunities.

Health

- In response to the suspected diphtheria cases, MSF Switzerland has carried out diphtheria vaccine mop-up campaigns in the affected sections of Dagahaley. In total, 805 children under five years of age were vaccinated.

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