



Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 31 March 2020

81,024

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in urban areas as at 31 March 2020

2,039

New arrival refugees and asylum seekers registered by 31 March 2020.

404

Number of Children at risk of statelessness assisted to apply for birth certificates in Garissa County, Kenya in March 2020.

KEY INDICATORS

220

individuals submitted for resettlement consideration in 2020.

37%

Of asylum seekers and refugees registered in urban area are from Democratic Republic of Congo

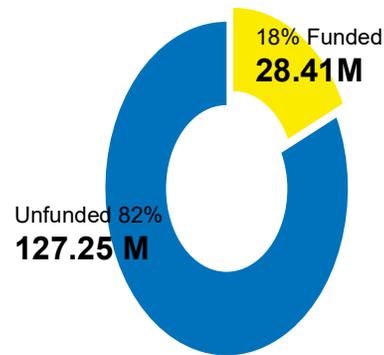
129

Number of children in urban areas being provided with financial assistance with funding from BPRM.

FUNDING (AS OF 06 APRIL 2020)

USD 155.7M

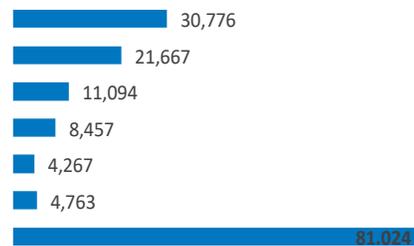
requested for the Somali and South Sudan situation



Gisele, a 14-year-old refugee student at Kabiria primary school in Nairobi listens to science lesson aired by national radio, a GOK to ensure that learning continues amid corona virus.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



HIGHLIGHTS

The first case of Corona Virus was reported in Kenya on 13 March 2020. With the COVID -19 being a reality, UNHCR developed an operations continuity plan (OCP) in consultation with partners to guide the delivery of protection and assistance to persons of concern (POCs). The OCP summarizes protection activities that can be undertaken remotely with increased involvement of the community. Shauri Moyo Protection services were stopped on 16 March 2020 following the COVID-19 situation. Virtual consultations continue with RAS counterparts on critical issues affecting PoCs.

UNHCR staff started working from home on 16 March 2020 and has since held meetings with its partners who provide assistance and monitoring through teleconferences. On the other hand, partners continue monitoring service delivery remotely through phone calls, community volunteers and incentive workers continuity of critical assistance.

During the month under review, a web page called 'REFUGEE' was created on the UNHCR Kenya to ensure that refugees and the public can access information on service provision and important updates during COVID19 phase. <https://www.unhcr.org/ke/coronavirus-covid-19-update>



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

Legal

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its partner Kituo Cha Sheria continue to monitor the protection situation of persons of concern residing in the urban areas. During the reporting period, various police stations and prisons were visited including Kileleshwa, Langata and Industrial area prison. Interventions were made for 58 persons within Nairobi and Mombasa Counties who had been arrested for various offences including unlawful presence and residing outside the designated area.
- On 17 March, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security (DCANS) tabled a report on the Refugee Bill 2019. The report was prepared following the completion of public participation forums held by DCANs in October and November 2019. The Bill was not debated because Parliament went into recess.
- 397 cases were scheduled for Protection Counselling through KASI, with 95% of the cases showed up. Additional 40 cases without appointments comprising persons with special needs and camp-based cases were attended to. Among the issues raised include insecurity, delayed documentation, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and resettlement requests.
- The Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) held their monthly meeting on 10 March chaired by Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS). Following the Covid-19 situation, another adhoc URPN on 25 and 30 March by teleconference to address emerging issues in refugee protection and solutions.
- 26 PoCs that had been camping outside the office were forcefully relocated to Kakuma on 24 March.
- During the period under review, no CTDs were issued.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.

- 80% of the cases approaching Shauri Moyo are requesting for resettlement. The limited resettlement quota has made the refugees anxious and hopeless.
- PoCs self-relocating from the camp and seeking support services in the urban remains a challenge, yet Shauri Moyo does not give audience to camp based refugees except for travel documents/movement.

SGBV

Achievements and Impact

- Two coordination meetings were held, one of which was a virtual meeting to share contacts of focal points for ease of referral and to ensure continuation of critical SGBV response and response activities during the COVID-19 period.
- There was an increase of reported cases of domestic and intimate partner violence. 19 cases were reported through partner community volunteer and incentive workers- HESED (15), DRC (2) and HIAS (2).
- UNHCR and HESED Africa attended the National Gender Sector Working Group meeting 31 March 2020 convened by the State Department for Gender and UN Women. The meeting created 5 task forces (SGBV, Peace building and conflict resolution, Social economic empowerment, Women in power and leadership and Information and communication). The objective of the meeting was to come up with practical interventions in light of COVID 19. The interventions will be reviewed by a smaller team of experts on gender and public health, who will formulate policies to be forwarded to the national emergency response team. UNHCR that is part of the SGBV taskforce presented refugee challenges and concerns in the current situation.
- The International Women's Day celebration was held on 4 March 2020 in Kajiado County led by Government (Refugee Affairs Secretariat and Kajiado County Government Gender Department). The event was attended by over 600 refugees and Kenyan communities. UNHCR and partner agencies were encouraged to forge partnerships with the county government structures to safeguarded refugee rights.

Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 11 BIAs and three social assessments were conducted remotely through the phone. 29 children received financial assistance and 1 case exited from the transit centre to the community.
- A list of 129 children currently on financial assistance with BPRM funding will continue to be monitored by UNHCR partner, HIAS.
- A list of all sub county children officers in Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa was shared by the Children Services Officer to facilitate follow up, referral and assistance during the COVID-19 situation and the current teleworking arrangement.
- UNHCR participated in Area Advisory Council meeting with different government officials and partners where bad coping mechanisms by children including drug abuse were discussed and an outreach meeting was planned to sensitize the community on the same.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.

- Due to COVID 19, initiatives including online assessments, education access, and financial assistance distribution and remote monitoring via phone calls have been put in place. However, some vulnerable cases are still missing out on all these initiatives because they lack the necessary means of communication.
- Due to COVID 19 and the curfew imposed by the government, most of the children including foster parents continue to request for financial assistance to meet their basic needs. However, some families might not receive the support due to limited funding.

Statelessness

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's partner in Garissa assisted 370 persons at risk of statelessness to apply for birth certificates. The Civil registration officer, the Chief and Assistant Commissioner for Korakora assisted in mobilising the community for the exercise that was held at Jarirot Primary School.
- Paralegals in the same area also supported 34 POCs to apply for birth and death certificates in addition to raising awareness on the needs and Remaining Gaps

Refugee Status Determination

Achievements and Impact

- Since 16 March, staff began working from home as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which also led to discontinuation of eligibility interviews.
- RAS and UNHCR jointly conducted 83 interviews of which 39 were initial interviews and 44 were complementary interviews. 30 asylum seekers who were invited for interviews were no-show.
- 154 cases were reviewed, of which 136 cases are ready to be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) while the rest require complementary interview (15) and re-draft (3).
- On 08 March, the Commissioner of Refugee Affairs endorsed the recognition of 912 individuals, rejection of 7 individuals and deferred 3 cases. Of the 912 individuals, 317 are Nairobi-based.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 580 cases (1,057 individuals) are pending interviews; 299 cases (440 individuals) are pending assessment and 943 cases (1,448 individuals) pending review.
- With 407 new applications during the month, the number of asylum seekers in the urban area who have no access to RSD increased to 24,539.



Livelihood

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR livelihood partner, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted business development skills training for 33 PoCs (25 female, 20 male and one LGBTI) who are engaged in small enterprises within Nairobi. Key subjects of the training included among other subjects - canvas model, SWOT analysis, marketing, costing, pricing, record keeping, risk identification and mitigation mechanisms. The knowledge imparted will be instrumental in the next phase where the PoCs will be developing their business plans.
- DRC conducted the mapping and assessment of 13 new businesses in the artisan and food vending sectors. Some of the findings indicate that 46% of the businesses operate from a business premise while 54% operate from home with marketing and distribution happening in the field. 15% have undergone training in catering while 85% expressed interest in being trained. 7% have a business license while 15% of the traders have KRA pins. Packaged products such as peanut butter and spices are yet to undergo KEBS certification. It was noted that none of the traders have a written contractual agreement with their employees.
- 31 recipients of 2019 business grants in were monitored. These are PoCs are engaged in different business sectors such as tailoring, cosmetics, African fabric, food, shoe selling and phone accessories. They indicated to be earning an average monthly income of KES 10,350.
- The Livelihood Unit participated in the LGBTI information sharing forums that took place on 12 March 2020 in Kawangware and Rongai.
- The Livelihood Unit coordinated an online meeting for the urban working group on 26 March 2020. The objective of the meeting was to understand response measures instituted by partner organizations in light of the COVID-19 situation. While it was observed that most livelihood interventions have been postponed, partners have developed business continuity plans which allow for realignment of activities and remote monitoring of activities.
- UNHCR Kenya and Innovation Unit at Regional Bureau held a telcon meeting with Safaricom on 25 March 2020 to discuss connectivity and mobile money access for refugees. As a follow up to the meeting, a fact sheet with data on mobile service access and connectivity was developed to assist in developing an advocacy strategy.

Refugee Sports

- On 16 March, 17 athletes (7 female) under the UNHCR/ TLPF Athletes Project in Ololua, Ngong, completed their high-altitude residential training in Iten that began on 17 February.
- The athletes, all training under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Scholarship Holders scheme, proceeded to Kakuma refugee camp in line with the Government of Kenya directive to close all athletics training camps as a measure to curtail the spread of COVID-19.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Institutions of learning were closed by 15 March following presidential directive following the confirmation of the first COVID 19 case in Kenya.
- Boarding schools were closed on 18 March with 11 students currently learning at M-PESA foundation academy, a secondary school being supported to return to the camps.
- A virtual meeting was held with DAFI on 25 March to ensure all the scholars complied with the Government directive to vacate universities and colleges. directive.
- Urban Education Working Group meeting was held on 26 March with partners to ensure that learners are follow up and encouraged to tune into Government of Kenya sponsored radio programs and available education resources.
- National Response Plan on COVID-19 meetings were held on 18, 19 and 30 March respectively. It was noted that Ministry of Education through Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development is broadcasting educational content through Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and EduTV Channel.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Voluntary Repatriation

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR attended the monthly Country of Origin Information cross border meeting on Somali returns. The meeting deliberated on the development of areas of return brochure for potential returnees in order to inform them of the situation in Somalia, as well as post return monitoring for PoCs who have been repatriated.
- UNHCR has since postponed all repatriation movements in light of the COVID-19 Emergency.

Resettlement

Achievements and Impact

- In March 2020, the UNHCR submitted 6 cases/31 individuals to Australia, Canada, Finland, Iceland and the UK. 63 cases/220 individuals have so far been submitted in 2020.
- Due to COVID-19 the Norway and Netherlands resettlement missions were postponed indefinitely. Australia, Canada and the US are not processing cases at their respective embassies either while IOM is working remotely with no out-processing activities being undertaken.
- The Bureau and HQ are now reviewing the capacity of both the resettlement countries to process and the various operations to deliver against targets in light of the COVID-19 situation. It is unclear remains unclear what the total target or the internal Nairobi target will be.

Risk Management

Achievements and Impact

- 20 suspected fraud cases concerning PoCs were resolved under policy and guidelines on Addressing Fraud Committed by Persons of Concern.

Working in partnership

UNHCR continues to work closely with the Government of Kenya through the office of the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), and partners to ensure support to refugees and asylum seekers.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the **Kenya** operation amount to **US\$ 28.41 million**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Kenya operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked funds in 2020

United States of America 13.8 million | Germany 5.7 million | Canada 2.3 million | Sweden 2.9 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million | Luxembourg | Morocco | Slovakia | Private donors

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UNHCR Kenya website: www.unhcr.org/ke UNHCR Global website: www.unhcr.org

UNHCR regional portal

Somalia: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/horn>

South Sudan: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

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