

Sub Office Dadaab, Kenya

May 2020

The security situation in Dadaab and nearby Sub Counties remained calm throughout the month. Border points into Kenya were closed to mitigate the risks of transmitting COVID-19 from Somalia as more than 90 per cent of the cases reported in Dadaab refugee camps

Had a history of traveling from Somalia. New arrival profiling remained suspended due to COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures.

Relocation of non-Somali refugees to Kakuma remained suspended due to Covid-19 prevention and mitigation measures.

217,514

Dadaab population as at **31 May 2020**

56.5%

Percentage of Dadaab population are children

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION FROM DADAAB

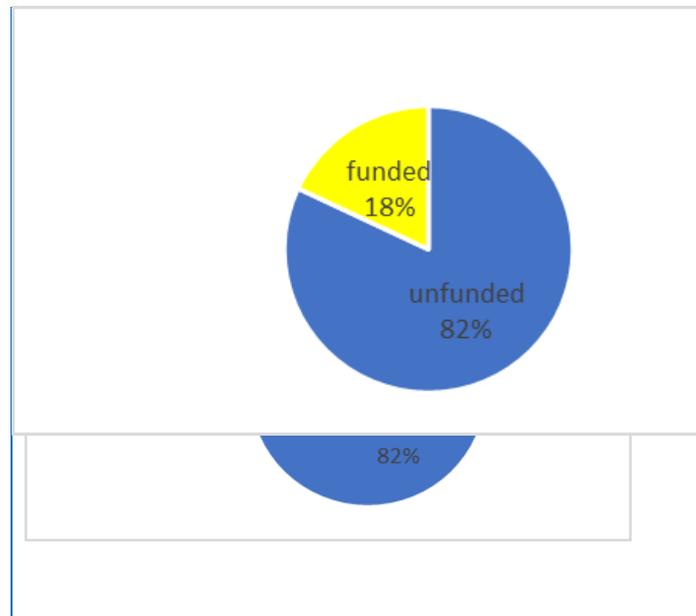
81,018

Somali refugees have returned home since **December 2014**

68,781

Refugee children are **enrolled in school** in the Dadaab camps

UNHCR staff supporting field activities during the recent outbreak in Dadaab. In this picture refugees are maintaining physical distancing during food distribution © UNHCR/Jimale Mohamed



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AS OF 30 APRIL 2020

<i>Somalia</i>	209,305
<i>Ethiopia</i>	7,354
<i>South Sudan</i>	612
<i>DRC</i>	71
<i>Uganda</i>	70
<i>Burundi</i>	63
<i>Sudan</i>	22
<i>Rwanda</i>	7
<i>Eritrea</i>	4
<i>Others</i>	3



Health workers supporting to treat confirmed COVID-19 patients isolated at the Isolation centre in Ifo II refugee camp. © UNHCR/Jimale Mohammed, 28 May 2020.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The protection environment remained favourable to refugees in Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaley camps. However, the recent outbreak of COVID-19 virus during the reporting period resulted to the Government of Kenya closing the Somalia-Kenya border to dissuade cross border movements as the cases reported in the refugee camps were traced to have travelled from Somalia to Dadaab. In order to maintain the preventive measures and support the wellbeing of staff and their families, UNHCR, UN sister agencies and partners in Dadaab reduced the presence of staff in the Dadaab operation. However, critical staff remained on ground to deliver essential services and are working with Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), partners, refugees and host communities to mitigate the risk of transmissions in the refugee and host community.

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

- Four cases of COVID-19 was reported in Dadaab and one case whose sample was collected in Nairobi but isolated in Dadaab, bringing the total of COVID-19 cases as of May 2020 to five patients. All cases are stable and being managed at the isolation facilities.

- Following the confirmation of COVID-19 positive cases in Dadaab, the Ministry of Health Surveillance and Response were in Dadaab to initiate contact tracing.
- There is an established procedure according to WHO and the Government of Kenya guideline UNHCR and partners have put in place to respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Dadaab.
- In the efforts to mitigate the risks of infection and transmission of COVID-19 in Dadaab refugee camps, UNHCR mapped out target groups for Communication with the Community (CwC), through the Age, Gender, Diversity (AGD), approach to dissuade refugees and host community from using the porous borders for cross-border movements to Somalia and traveling to other Sub Counties and Counties. CwC was also crafted to change the attitude, perception and myths that the virus cannot be transmitted in the community, to stop the stigmatization of persons infected with COVID-19 and their families and to embrace the benefit of welcoming contact tracing and going to the quarantine if they been in contact with a confirmed case.
- In the same vein, the Ministry of Health stepped in to support UNHCR and partners in the tracing of persons that have been in contact with the confirmed cases while UNHCR held meeting with the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) and 14 senior police officers/law enforcers on 29 May to formulate strategies on stopping persons from escaping quarantine facilities and to dissuade taxi drivers from transporting persons across the borders.
- UNHCR donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical supplies to Garissa County to support the host community efforts in the fight against the pandemic.

Border Movement

- During the reporting period, 1,297 movements were observed in and out of the country through the Liboi, Abdisugow, Damajale, Degelema, Diif, Amuma, Dajabula and Kulan border points. Cumulatively, 10,848 cross border movements have been recorded since the beginning of the year.
- Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 in Kenya and Somalia, cross border movement continued along the porous borders. It has been noted that movement happens at irregular times and especially at night. From the recent contact tracing, it was observed that new arrivals to the camp cross over in probox taxis and are hosted by relatives in the blocks with several them trying to avoid mandatory quarantine.
- Coordination with the community protection committees and the police commanders has been enhanced in response to the noted challenges; to ensure that new all arrival individuals observe mandatory quarantine, and to dissuade taxi drivers from transporting persons across the borders. Community communication has also been strengthened in a bid to demystify the quarantine process and to elaborate its importance in fighting the spread of COVID-19.

Access to Justice

- As a result of COVID-19 outbreak in Dadaab, court sessions were extended in Garissa County. A notice was put up by the Garissa Law Courts on 8 May 2020 informing litigants and advocates of the extension of the Chief Justice's directive to scale down

court activities in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The notice elaborated that all matters that had been listed for mention in May, both at the High Court and in the lower courts, would be heard in July while giving priority to sexual offences matters; and highlighted specific changes in the mention dates.

- A refugee charged with suspicion of having or conveying stolen property, being in possession of a forged car license plate, being in possession of goods not cleared by customs, and residing outside the designated area for refugees. The accused changed his plea from not guilty to plea of guilty on all counts. The court noted that the accused had deposited a cash bail of 1,000 USD into the court accounts. He was fined an amount equivalent to the cash bail and he was released to be escorted back to Dadaab.

Child Protection

- Through the initiatives of the community, a dialogue and consultative forum was held on 20 May at Hagadera refugee camp to dissuade parents' childcare givers from domestic violence, child neglect and to advise them on tips to manage fear and anxiety during COVID-19. The parents and care givers reported that the curfew and restriction of movements has produced adverse effects on family livelihoods and provision of food for their children.
- In order to mitigate the risks of transmitting COVID-19, hygiene materials were distributed to 494 children and their families residing at the protection house in Ifo camp while mask and hand sanitizers were distributed to 360 community staff and members of child protection structures. These distributions will ensure that children adhere to the COVID-19 prevention measures.
- UNHCR distributed solar powered radios to 63 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children (UMSC) across the refugee camps. The distribution target UMSC within the school going age as support for learning via the broadcasted education contents on the radio in the community and mainly listen to child protection shows where protection information and child friendly COVID-19 prevention measures are disseminated.
- In Dadaab refugee camps, 60 vulnerable children were supported with cash vouchers to access foods and non-food items. The provision of Cash Based Intervention (CBI) to the children is a means to ensure economic safety and improve the nutrition of children as a result of the lock-down in the camps of which the lack of CBI support may expose children to protection risks, sexual exploitation, trafficking, smuggling, child labour and recruitment to join militia activities.
- Community and religious leaders were trained on child protection to prevent risks of transmitting COVID-19 to children. During the training, the community leaders showed anxiety of how they can better protect their children who are one of the most vulnerable categories at risk of contracting the virus.
- In the effort to strengthen child psychosocial support, 18 child community child counsellors were trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) to improve their counselling skills. The capacity building of community structures is an integral part of COVID-19 response in the refugee community as service delivery is conducted remotely through the community workers.

- During the reporting period, awareness campaigns and mass information on COVID-19 was conducted by the child protection community UNHCR and partner staff reaching 519 children. The awareness campaign is an integral activity of child protection to prevent the risk of infection and transmission among children and the community.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

- In Dadaab refugee camps, 73 SGBV cases were reported in May 2020. There was an increase by 46.5 per cent in cases recorded as compared to the month of April. Cases of domestic violence continue to be the most prevalent and this can be attributed to COVID-19 'stay at home' prevention directives. The profiles include rape, sexual assault, physical assault, psychosocial and emotional abuse, denial of resources and opportunities to start-up livelihoods activities All the survivors received psychosocial counselling and referrals were made to the police and hospitals as appropriate. Follow up will be done with the police to ensure that proper investigations are conducted and witnesses record statements thereby aiding in survivors' access to justice.
- In the effort to prevent SGBV, 60 food advisory committee members across the refugee camps were trained on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), SGBV reporting mechanisms and response . the focus was to elaborate on SGBV referral pathways and to encourage reporting.
- The awareness creation on SEA is essential during COVID-19 response where exposure to risks is heightened by limited access to basic needs, prevention and mitigation directives affecting PoCs' ability to engage in livelihoods to supplement household incomes and a reduction in remittances received from abroad.
- Refugee camp based SGBV steering committees were conducted in Dagahaley and Ifo camps reaching 284 PoCs. The committee members through the meeting disseminated vital information on the dangers of early and forced child marriage and the psychological and medical impact on children and discussed measures to discourage the prevalence among refugees, for the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, agency hotline numbers, referral pathways and the need to report SEA cases through set channels was equally highlighted. Continuous information campaigns on preventing SGBV in the community is ongoing.
- In Dadaab, 60 SGBV survivors in Ifo and Dagahaley refugee camps received monthly multi-purpose cash grant support . The grant is intended to support survivors' access to choose goods and services in the camps and serve as a mitigation measure for COVID-19 while ensuring the economic safety of survivors who are some of the most vulnerable in the refugee community. The disruption of income as a result of Corona virus has been attributed to the raise in domestic violence in Dadaab camps.
- A bi-weekly radio sensitization and talk back shows are conducted at the radio stations in Dadaab to sensitize the community on preventing and responding to domestic violence. Listeners are leveraging on this medium to report their SGBV experience through the helpline shared during the talk shows.
- A total of 50 girls in the refugee camps were taken through a refresher training on the mentoring, how to find a mentor, the role of the mentor and the challenges of mentorship. The training was aimed at building the capacity of mentors to serve as good role models who are at risk of early or forced marriage as a result of not attending school for more than three months.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- UNHCR-World Bank rapid response telephone survey team interviewed 275 households from 14 to 21 May 2020 covering 29 per cent of the target. Data gathered from the respondents indicated that; 90 per cent of households were concerned about not having enough food, 10 per cent indicated that they have places to isolate COVID-19 infected household members, 98 per cent stated that they had changed their behaviour since learning about COVID-19 and 70 per cent were satisfied with the Government's response to the pandemic.
- Inter- Agency taskforce meetings on coordination of mass production of face masks for the refugee and host community populations were held during the week. In attendance were representatives from UNHCR, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and WFP. During the reporting period, 32,623 masks have been produced since the beginning of the process; indicating a slump in the anticipated production rate; attributed mainly to a shortage of tailors. For the produced quantities to meet the needs for the oncoming food distribution, it was agreed to distribute one mask per household.

Community Protection

- UNHCR and partners conducted a training for the 12-member community protection committee at Ifo refugee camp on 14 May 2020. Topics covered included introduction and key concepts in training child protection, SGBV, and PSN including identification and referral of cases under these categories; and the UNHCR code of conduct. The training will enhance their coordination with existing community structures and will ensure confidential handling of cases.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to strengthen community structure support on CwC on changing the perception of the community on the use of the quarantine as well as developing user-friendly messages and installing screened messages in the quarantine facilities to encourage and help people embrace the benefit of being quarantined.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impacts

- Mapping out of Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates' residences and assigning of teachers to the learners for home-based learning was completed during the reporting period. This will give the 3,136 refugee candidates in Dadaab safe access to personalized learning through mobile phones, print media, and discussion groups thereby supplementing ongoing radio lessons. This will also enhance monitoring of learner participation and progress in alternative learning modalities.
- In Dadaab, due to closure of schools, teaching and learning via Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp and radio continued. Radio lessons, related academic content and lessons on life skills in relation to COVID-19 were translated to sign language and disseminated in digital format to learners with hearing impairment via WhatsApp. Teachers continued to monitor participation of learners across the different platforms.
- Learners undertaking master's degree programs through the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) program completed their training and research projects online. The students are awaiting graduation.

- Online training was conducted for all heads of subjects across the camps. Continuous teachers' training aims to identify areas of improvement and to provide a platform for sharing professional experiences. Emerging issues, current trends in education, new ideas and best practices were shared with the aim of improving access to education for learners through alternative learning modalities currently in use, that is, radio lessons, WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom and home learning support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



RESETTLEMENT AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impacts

- During the reporting period, 46 Resettlement Support Centre (RSC) deferrals requiring baby addition and submission of birth certificates were assessed and responded to and a total of 54 individuals were counselled on the status of their resettlement cases.
- UNHCR organized radio shows to share updates on the current resettlement activities due to the response to COVID-19, antifraud related information. The impact of COVID-19 resettlement was discussed. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, radio sensitization continued to play a crucial role in delivering resettlement information to persons of concern.
- There were no resettlement submissions in the month of May 2020 as the submission quota was met in the first quarter. A total of 352 cases have been submitted since the beginning of the year and 31 individuals have been resettled since the beginning of the year.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 536 samples were tested from Dadaab as of 31 May 2020.
- The National Multi-Agency COVID-19 Command Centre and the Ministry of Health visited Dadaab on 19 May 2020 to assess and support the efforts of the Sub County, UNHCR and partners in the response on COVID-19.
- Watery diarrhoea was recorded as the highest morbidity in May 2020 with a total of 3,367 patients across the three camp., other morbidity were bloody diarrhoea 10 patients, one case of meningitis and one case of measles.
- An average of 1,154 outpatient clients were attended to in the health facilities across the camps, there was a decrease compared to 1,223 reported in the health facilities in April

2020, an average of 52 new admissions was reported with an average of 58 consultations per clinician. Percentage of deliveries in health facilities were as follows; 100 per cent in Hagadera, 96 per cent in Ifo refugee camp and 87.9 per cent immunization coverage was recorded as follows: 85 per cent in Hagadera, 83 per cent in Ifo and Dagahaley 73.

- Antenatal care attendance was recorded at 77 per cent across the camps, prevalence of use of contraceptives at 14 per cent and 111 PoCs were on Anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). Three SGBV survivors were supported with emergency medical care within 72 hours at the health facilities.
- Routine activities of Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) are ongoing except the few activities that were suspended due to COVID-19 (Community dialogue and family bazaars, school club sessions, trainings, and coordination meetings of mother to mother support group /father to father support group.
- Early initiation of breast milk within one hour of delivery was conducted to 173 mothers at Ifo main hospital post-delivery. A total number of 106 mother to mother support group meetings were routinely conducted enrolling 1,464 (468 pregnant, 906 lactating) mothers successfully, 190 graduated as mentor mothers.
- The Breast Milk Substitute (BMS) programme admitted 15 children into the programme in Hagadera and Ifo. Currently there are 17 children below 6 months in the programme receiving formula milk.
- A total of 19 patients were referred for specialist care from Ifo and Hagadera camps to Garissa and Nairobi. Out of which 10 were emergency obstetric cases.
- As part of the government's COVID-19 public health measures, the cessation of referral of elective cases is still in effect.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 521 persons of concern were admitted in the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP), there was a decrease compared to 1,604 admissions reported in April 2020. 247 new admissions were recorded in Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) and 12 new moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers were enrolled in feeding programs across the camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There has been shortage of plumpy nuts therapeutic feeding across the three refugee camps in Dadaab.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Achievements and Impact

Water Access

- In the efforts to scale up the access of water to refugees and improve the maintenance of hygiene and sanitation, UNHCR and Care International provided WASH services to 233,266 persons living in the Dadaab refugee camps. Water is conveyed from the treatment plant to 42 storage tanks with total capacity of 4,950 m³, distributed through a pipeline network of 236 km and relayed to 774 tap stands with about 2,822 taps, installed around the three camps.
- On average, the daily water production in May 2020 assessed from 22 operational boreholes was 11,082m³, where about 7,734m³ supplied to the refugee population in the Dadaab camps. This translated to an average daily per capita water allocation of 33.2 litres. About 3,348m³ (30.2 per cent) was apportioned to other users including agencies, markets, institutions, hospitals, leakages, livestock and other losses.
- The increased per capita water of 33.2 litres per person per day is aimed at ensuring PoCs have additional water to support handwashing as response to COVID-19.
- Routine operation and maintenance of the water reticulation system was continuously done during the period

Sanitation Coverage

- There were 37,322 household latrines and 250 communal latrines across the three refugee camps during the reporting period, translating a coverage of 80.6 per cent. 105 sanitation cleaners were actively engaged in managing solid waste in public areas in the camps with Care International currently incorporating community structures in the camp cleaning.
- Targeted exercise by camp leaders was conducted to identify and mobilize beneficiaries for the planned 2,000 new latrines and 1,850 repair kits across the camps was completed, pending project commencement.

Hygiene Promotion

- A total of 6,027 households/35,740, across the three refugee camps were sensitized on proper disposal of human wastes, proper hand washing, proper storage of drinking water, hand washing, food hygiene, dangers of open defecation and proper use of latrine towards disease prevention and control. The awareness on COVID-19 pandemic to the community was done during the visits by discouraging handshakes, avoiding social gatherings, and encouraging hand washing with soap every time and use of hand sanitizer.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR conducted camp monitoring at Ifo refugee camp on 6 May and Hagadera refugee camp on 13 May 2020. The safe space, rehabilitation centre, child friendly space, SGBV recovery sites, mask production workshops and the police station were visited. It was noted that service delivery was ongoing with presence of both national and community staff at some of the facilities. Adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures was noted as partial; with children still freely playing in the field and individuals only wearing their masks when a police vehicle is spotted. Discussions with the police revealed that sensitization campaigns were ongoing in the market and other public places, that there was strict enforcement of the lockdown directive including a ban on inter-camp movement and reduction in crimes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- NSTR



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- During the month under review, firewood was issued at the COVID-19 quarantine centres as well as the stove production factory. The wood was the main source of cooking energy for persons of concern hosted at the quarantine facilities in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps.
- A total of 500 energy saving stoves were fabricated by Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO) and distributed to households hosting vulnerable persons across the three refugee camps.
- The partnership between the Government of Kenya and UNHCR on environmental management was strengthened during the reporting period. UNHCR supported the Kenya Army with 3,000 seedlings of assorted trees for planting in the newly established military base at Modika, Garissa while the Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) also collected tree seedlings from the Dadaab tree nursery
- Focus on promotion of livelihoods generation based on environmental management was sustained during the reporting period. All the agencies implementing environmental management interventions that is RRDO, Fafi Integrated Development Association (FaIDA) and Kenya Red Cross Society supported persons of concern in growing of vegetables, fruits and other food crops.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



LIVELIHOODS AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Achievements and Impact

- Following the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Dadaab, Livelihood partners have scaled-up efforts to increase mass awareness and information on Corona virus through CwC via radio stations and community structures to reach refugees and sensitize them to develop positive attitudes towards the reality of the virus
- As part of community mobilization, NRC conducted radio talk show that covered cross section of information geared towards COVID-19 awareness creation for the refugees and the host community.
- A total of 1,800 bars of soap produced by refugee livelihood groups were distributed to institutions in Dadaab town, Ifo and Dagahaley camps including hospitals, and police stations. The materials will ensure upholding of high standards of hygiene in the area thereby preventing spread of COVID-19 and other diseases.
- Learning and teaching is going on for both Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) digital skills trainings through virtual and WhatsApp mode.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

Working in partnership

In Dadaab, RAS and UNHCR are working together with WFP, UNICEF, IOM, County Government of Garissa, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Save the Children International, Terre Des Hommes, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran World Federation, Humanity and Inclusion, Center for Victims of Torture, Windle International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Kenya Red Cross Society, Médecins Sans Frontier, FilmAid International, CARE International, RRDO, and Peace Winds Japan.

External / PI/ Donor Relations

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