

Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 31 May 2020

81,015

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

2,039

New arrival refugees and asylum seekers registered in the urban areas since the beginning of 2020.

135

Refugees in Kenya resettled in third countries in 2020.

KEY INDICATORS

59.3% (48,066)

Of refugees and asylum seekers in the urban areas are between the age of 18-59 years

37%

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

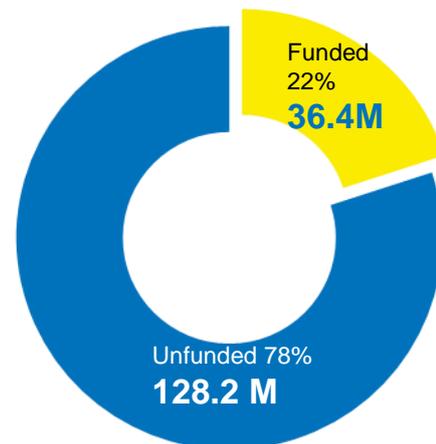
129

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

FUNDING (AS OF 08 MAY)

USD164.6 M

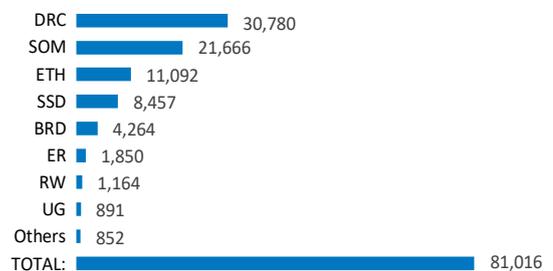
requested for the Somalia and South Sudan situations



Refugees in Nairobi recently fundraised to support the most vulnerable in their communities

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin



DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo
SOM – Somalia
ETH – Ethiopia
SSD – South Sudan
BRD – Burundi
ER – Eritrea
RW – Rwanda
UG – Uganda

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Legal Advocacy Working Group met virtually on 7 May to discuss the draft Guidelines for Reporting on SIM-Card Registration by Telecommunications Operators, 2019. Through the guidelines the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) is seeking to review the process registering SIM cards. UNHCR sent written comments on the Guidelines to CAK with a view to have refugees and stateless persons appropriately included.
- During the month over 20 cases were reported to be sleeping outside UNHCR office. The cases were virtually assessed and assisted accordingly. Issues raised by the PoCs include loss of livelihood and lack of employment opportunities during COVID 19 Pandemic.



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

Legal

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 20 cases reached out to UNHCR by phone for assistance. 10 were assisted on urgent basis while 10 were referred to HIAS for in-depth assessment. The cases will be discussed in the upcoming psychosocial panels for possible support
- UNHCR and its partner Kituo Cha Sheria continued to conduct monitoring of the protection and detention situation of persons of concern residing in the urban areas. During the reporting period, various police stations were visited including Likoni, Central, Buruburu and Pangani stations. Interventions were made for 37 persons of concern within Nairobi and Mombasa Counties who had been arrested for the offenses of unlawful presence and not wearing masks in public. UNHCR continues to sensitize persons of concern to adhere to government public health directives to prevent the spread of Covid 19.
- The Community Based Protection working group and the Urban Refugee Protection Network held 4 joint meetings.

SGBV

Achievements and Impact

- The GBV coordination working group held 4 meetings where 12 GBV cases were presented. 14 cases were enrolled for counselling and 21 were recorded in the GBVIMS presenting an increase from April where 15 cases were recorded. The working group also discussed possible virtual events to be held during the upcoming World Refugee Day.
- UNHCR attended 2 psycho-social panels where 14 GBV cases were presented and approved for financial assistance. UNHCR participated in 4 meetings of the National Gender Sector Working Group (NGSWG) led by the State Department for Gender. The Department has requested sharing of the GBV data from all stakeholders to develop a nationwide GBV dashboard. UNHCR held an internal meeting to discuss on how GBV data from the three locations may be shared and further discussions are planned with the Regional Bureau.
- UNHCR participated in the regional call on SGBV organised by the Regional Bureau and highlighted the urban GBV mitigation and response activities during the COVID-19 period. Operations in the region shared what they are doing to strengthen SGBV response and

services including effectiveness of SGBV remote management, communication with communities on SGBV risks, access to information on services and SGBV risks mitigation across the sectors. The discussions informed the Donor Briefing on Regional GBV Trends during the COVID.

- UNHCR participated in the PSEA Coordination meeting whose participants are drawn from other UN Agencies such as UN Women and UNFPA. The meeting discussed PSEA interventions during COVID 19. A concept note has been developed on responding to GBV experienced by UN staff during COVID-19. This will ensure relevant assistance is available to staff experiencing GBV.

Child protection

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 35 Best Interest Assessments and 25 social assessments were conducted remotely by the child protection partner and shared with UNHCR for review and proGres update.
- 2 psychosocial panels were convened during the reporting period to discuss and approve cases of vulnerable children in the community for financial and other assistance.
- One BID panel was convened online where a total of three cases of children were presented and approved for resettlement with their parents and caregivers.
- Child protection unit held a meeting with resettlement unit on 12 May to discuss the BID process during COVID 19 pandemic. Due to strict procedural guidelines required in conducting BIDs, remote BIDs were discouraged during COVID 19 unless exceptionally urgent.
- Two child protection working group meetings were held remotely during the reporting. The partners provided update on child protection measures adopted during the current situation due to COVID19.
- Child protection unit participated in Regional Child protection webinar on 21 May. The discussions involved community engagement in child protection case management during the current pandemic.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSN)

Achievements and Impact

- A meeting was held with the National Council for Persons with Disability and attended by UNHCR Nairobi and Kakuma, Humanity & Inclusion, DRC and Turkana County government. The meeting discussed issues of inclusion of persons with disability and is geared towards proposing ideas for the inclusion of refugees with disability.
- During the month of May, UNHCR continued to closely monitor PSNs in all the urban centres which include Nairobi, Nakuru and Coastal region through community structures which includes refugee leaders and local administration mainly the Chiefs. In the Coastal region 27 PSNs (16 female and 11 male) were identified through refugee leaders and verified by RAS Mombasa. The PSNs comprising 20 elderly persons and 11 PLWD were assessed by HIAS and supported with financial assistance for 3 months.
- During the month of May, the number of PSNs requiring assistance increased due to COVID-19. Most of the PSNs are very vulnerable due to lack of access to support systems within the community and access to specialized services and as a result there is an increase of mental health cases that require psychosocial support and counselling. There were 75 vulnerability assessments conducted out of which 11 received individual counselling services. There were 32 PoCs who received financial assistance as emergency referrals by UNHCR.

- A psychosocial panel was held and attended by HIAS and UNHCR, with financial assistance approved for 8 persons living with Albinism, 4 PLWD, 13 SHH, 21 WAR, 14 elderly persons and 1 with mental illness.
- UNHCR continued to coordinate the weekly Mental Health and psychosocial working group meetings with partners. The coordination meeting have been used for coordination and referrals of vulnerable PoCs who may require psychosocial and counselling services. During the co-ordination meetings the issues of self-care and basic skills for handling cases of mental illness and suicidal cases were discussed. In order for the members of the coordination group exercise self-care during this period of COVID-19 pandemic, a training was conducted for 45 (26 female and 18 male) participated in a 2-hour training conducted by HIAS and CVT on self-care. As a result of the training staff were better equipped with better skills and knowledge of how to work better both for the benefit of the PoCs and themselves.
- Due to the high numbers of PoCs requesting FA during this period of COVID-19, UNHCR has been participating in the bi-weekly psychosocial panel with HIAS to identify vulnerable PoC who are in need of FA due to various factors that have affected their livelihoods hence not able to meet their basic needs.
- During the panel other needs that are not financial related are also identified and the PoCs referred to other partners for specialized services.

Youth

Achievements and Impact

- Refugee led organizations have engaged actively in responding to the rising COVID-19 related needs of the vulnerable in society, refugees and host community alike. UNHCR together with Refugeepoint, worked together to map out the activities of these organizations so as to be aware of the impact of their activities and to help paint a picture of the kind of support required to build their capacity.
- UNHCR facilitated coordination meetings for youth leaders and youth involved in refugee led organizations meetings for reporting of activities, challenges and successes. This led to pooling of resources among youth organizations for a greater impact. From the needs expressed virtual workshop for refugee youth was mooted. The first virtual workshop for youth and youth leaders was hosted in conjunction with the Alliance for African Assistance (AAA) on the 26th May, with a session on CV writing for jobs as well as scholarships.
- The UNHCR, Global youth Advisory Council and the Tertiary Refugee Students Network, that Kenya engages actively in, launched a COVID-19 youth campaign #foryou with the aim of sharing approved COVID 19 messaging and what refugee youth all over the world are doing to contribute to the response against the ongoing pandemic. Video submissions were received from Kenya, India, Pakistan, UAE, Chad, Uganda, among others.

Registration

- Due to movement restrictions occasioned by the current Covid-19 pandemic, Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) did not conduct any registration activities during the reporting period. The active Urban population stood at 81,015 refugees and asylum seekers as at 31st May 2020.
- 16 cases who called on documentation and were assisted with Proof of Registration (POR). 8 cases inquired on refugee identity cards. 4 voluntary repatriation (volrep) cases were referred to PDU and action taken accordingly. 12 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) cases were referred to hotline.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic challenge, staff worked from home the whole of the reporting month. However, consultation meeting and training on possible use of refugees' physical files

using proGres4 file management system took place and discussions to implement the same are ongoing. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) document on the use of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) is being finalized and will be launched soon. Other file management queries were responded accordingly. Data cleanup ongoing.

Refugee Status Determination

Achievements and Impact

- Precautionary measures undertaken by the office since 16 March in light of the COVID-19 pandemic are still in place; staff are working from home and eligibility interviews are on hold. Remote interviewing will be explored by UNHCR and RAS during the month of June.
- During the period, no interviews were conducted; 35 assessments were completed.
- RAS and UNHCR Eligibility staff reviewed 27 cases, of which 18 cases are ready to be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) while the rest require complementary interview (06) and re-draft (03).
- The requirements for a standardized monthly RSD report and several dashboards assisting the RSD supervisor to manage the team and process have been agreed with RAS.
- The Commissioner for Refugee Affairs approved that cases who arrived after February 2017 and had already had an interview would be completed. This applies to a total of 641 individuals.
- The processing and secretarial support to the Technical Advisory Committee has been handed over to RAS. UNHCR will continue to provide technical guidance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 569 cases (1,056 individuals) are pending interviews; 410 cases (605 individuals) are pending assessment and 1,217 cases (1,936 individuals) pending review. With the approval of the CRA and no new applications during the month, the number of asylum seekers in the urban area who have no access to RSD decreased to 23,882.



Livelihood

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR coordinated a Livelihood working group meeting where partners updated on ongoing activities. It was noted that a few partner organizations had rolled out financial support initiatives for consumables mostly on food and rent while most of the partners were still fundraising for safety net approach projects. Some partners have also initiated small scale rapid impact assessments to understand the extent of COVID-19 impact on the livelihoods of persons of concern. The analysis of these assessments and their recommendations will be significant in identifying relevant responses and recovery measures within the livelihood sector.
- UNHCR held an introductory meeting with the McKinsey Generation project in Kenya which aims to support its beneficiaries with skills development and linkage to the labour market. The program is currently supporting Kenyan nationals. Discussions held were on the possibility of including refugees in the program. The work permit approval process presents an impeding

challenge, however there are opportunities to explore possibilities of refugee inclusion which will be pursued in follow up meetings.

- UNHCR continues to advocate for financial inclusion for refugees to be able to access micro-credit from Microfinance institutions. This has seen one of the Microfinance institutions extending micro-credit with a moratorium on debt repayment to 3 persons of concern for business continuity during the COVID-19 crisis. The microfinance institution also intends to extend its services to urban refugees in the Mombasa region and UNHCR facilitated their engagement with the Refugee Affairs Secretariat to assist with linkage to the refugee entrepreneurial community in that region.
- UNHCR supported 10 refugee owned businesses to produce and deliver 440 face masks which were distributed to persons of concern within the Transit Centre and Safe Houses to mitigate against COVID-19 infection.
- A regional meeting between UNHCR Livelihood colleagues to discuss the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) and its potential adaptation to the COVID-19 crisis was held. Different operations in the region shared their experiences and learnings with the implementation of the PAC and the graduation approach within their contexts.
- UNHCR's project partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) guided remotely (through WhatsApp & phone) 17(15F:2M) persons of concern who are business development trainees on developing business plans. This was designed from exploring a business idea from the clothing, photography, shoes and textile value chain



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- DAFI scholars participated in community-based activities sensitizing the communities on COVID 19 related issue, distributed masks, soap and hand sanitizers.
- An online comparative survey was carried out by Francis Xavier Project to compare the extent of reach to online studies for primary and secondary school students among refugee students and Kenyan counterparts. The brief report will be released in due course.
- Partners continued to monitor the students on lessons aired on KBC radio, EduTV and other online platforms.

Challenges

- Some families are having challenges accessing food due to reduced livelihood opportunities. Appeals for safety nets through different organizations have been distributed.

Statelessness

- During the month of May, partner paralegals supported 59 stateless persons with the process of applying for birth certificates. Out of the 59 cases, 37 are still in progress, meaning the PoCs are waiting to get feedback from the registrar, 14 were resolved successfully and have birth certificates while 8 were closed due to unresponsiveness of the PoC.
- Cumulatively since January 2020, paralegals have supported 427 cases, of which 389 are birth certificate cases while the rest are ID card and passport cases.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS****VolRep****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR conducted three cross border meetings with colleagues in South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Regional Bureau, where the team undertook a strategic plan revision of repatriation activities in light of the Covid pandemic. UNHCR has undertaken to draft a voluntary repatriation and re-integration strategy for Somalis willing to return, while tentative plans for the repatriation of the Ethiopian caseload in Dadaab are being maintained, to be undertaken later in the year once travel restrictions are lifted.

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\$ 36.4 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.

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Links

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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