

## Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 30 September 2020

**80,776**

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in urban areas as at 30 September 2020

**2,108**

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

**16%**

Of refugees and asylum seekers registered in Kenya are in the urban areas.

### 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

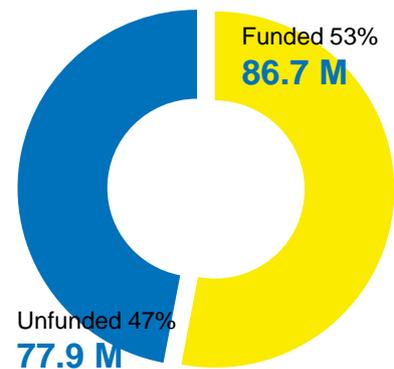
**129**

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

### FUNDING (AS OF 07 OCTOBER 2020)

**USD164.6 M**

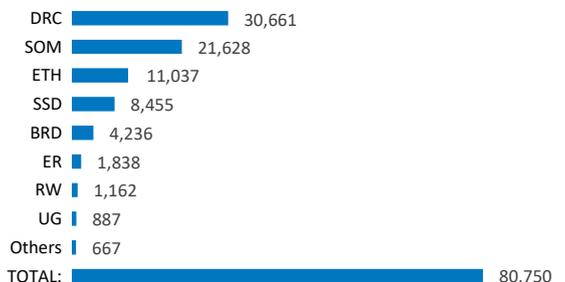
requested for the Somalia and South Sudan situations



Refugees recently participated in an exhibition at Village Market in Nairobi where they displayed and sold their art and crafts ©UNHCR George Ngechu

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

#### Host Countries



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

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) and UNHCR agreed to set up a working group to start a remote interviewing pilot for refugee status determination. Remote interviewing will increase the number of interviews conducted.
- UNHCR in partnership with Oracle launched the Oracle Workforce Development program which aims to impart digital skills training with global certifications. 5 PoCs (3 female, 2 male) from urban and 8 PoCs (3 female, 5 male) from Kakuma were shortlisted for the training after a competitive process. The trainees will be upskilled in Java Fundamental and Programming and later be linked to job opportunities.
- Refugee Bill 2019. Following the second reading, the debate of the Bill at the Committee of the whole house was scheduled on 22 September 2020. A supplementary order paper was issued on the date of the debate incorporating some of the critical amendments proposed by the TF. The debate did not take place as Parliament adjourned most matters to discuss the Chief Justice advisory to the President to dissolve Parliament over the lack of enactment on legislation on the 2/3 gender principle. Three MPs introduced amendments to the Bill different from those from the Departmental Committee on Administration of National Security (DCANS). As the Refugee Bill 2019 is a Government Bill the same were forwarded to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government for review before further debate at the National Assembly.

**PROTECTION****Protection Cluster****Legal****Achievements and Impact**

- Persons of Concern (PoCs) who can no longer support themselves in urban areas continued to request for assistance to relocate to the camps. UNHCR and RAS worked on resuming POCs' relocation to the camps. Camp relocation was suspended towards the end of August due high COVID 19 positivity rate among PoCs that had been tested for travel.
- UNHCR and RAS held a meeting with the police, Children's Department and the Chief Magistrate, Kibera Law Courts and agreed on strengthening cooperation in relation to management of PoCs especially those in conflict with the law.
- UNHCR conducted virtual individual counselling sessions for the protection cases in the Transit Center. In addition, UNHCR and HIAS held a virtual meeting with all the transit residents.
- 4 conventional travel documents for Kakuma students were processed by the department of immigration.

**Persons with Special Needs (PSN)****Achievements and Impact**

- PSNs continue to be assessed for various services, 40 vulnerability assessments were done in September, out of which 16 received individual counselling.
- During the reporting month the bi-weekly MHPSS coordination meeting between UNHCR and partners continue to meet virtually. Draft SoPs for interagency Referral were finalized and endorsed by the working group.

- The Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) working group organizing virtual activities to mark the World Mental Health Day which will be held on 9 October 2020. The theme for this year is “**Dealing with mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, combating Stigma associated with mental health and COVID-19**”
- Due to close monitoring of PSN during the COVID-19 period, the PSN community leaders have been able to report an increase of PoCs who require mobility aid for PLWDs and hearing aid from 4 to 8. 6 PLWD, 2 with hearing aids and 1 student requiring eyeglasses were referred for specialized services where they will be assessed and provided with the mobility aids and devices.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Remote counselling mainly for persons with mental health is a very big challenge because of the mental status of the PoCs. Monitoring of the mental status and ensuring that the PoCs take their medication is also a challenge due to restrictions of movement because of COVID-19.
- There is great need for financial assistance support but due to financial constraint, it is not possible to support most PSNs. UNHCR and partners are doing counselling and encouraging PSNs who include persons living with disabilities (PLWD), Women at Risk (WAR), Single Headed Households (SHH) and persons living with albinism to be relocated to the camps where they will receive the required support.
- More technical and specialized support for PLWDs and persons living with albinism need to be explored both in Nairobi and at camp level, to ensure that these persons with specific needs are provided with the required services and assistance according to their needs.

#### Community Structures

- 33 refugee community leaders from Nairobi (26 male, 7 female) attended a training conducted by UNHCR and the CBP working group. The content included alternative dispute resolution facilitated by RCK, leadership and elections, proposed CBP strategy for Kenya, Covid19 resilience, among other topics.

#### Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

##### Achievements and Impact

- 8 GBV cases of 6 females and 2 males were recorded in the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS). These were: one intimate partner violence case (IPV), one sexual assault and 6 rape cases. 5 survivors (2 male and 3 female) underwent tele-counselling.
- In the two multi-functional team’s panels that took place 3 GBV survivors were approved for cash assistance for two months each. 8 female survivors received sanitary pads while 3 (1 Male, 1 Female, 1 Transwoman) were assisted with adult diapers to manage incontinence. All SGBV cases identified by UNHCR prior to COVID-19 were shared with HIAS.
- One GBV working group meeting was held and one partner involved in sexual and reproductive health education noted an increase in the number of men who showed interest in FGDs on sexual and reproductive health issues specifically on family planning matters.
- UNHCR attended the monthly national gender sector working group meeting (NGSWG) and a sub-group meeting on GBV helpline operators in the country organised by the State Department for Gender (SDfG). The state department has since shared data from 1195 helpline operated by Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) for Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru from March to September 2020.

## Child protection

### Achievements and Impact

- Online Identification, assessments and assistance of vulnerable children is ongoing. HIAS the UNHCR child protection partner has protection monitors who identify the children at community level and refer to HIAS social workers for best interest assessments. The cases are presented in a Child Protection Multi-Functional Psychosocial panel where they are approved for cash assistance.
- Multi-functional psychosocial panel took place in September where 53 cases of vulnerable children were approved for cash assistance under BPRM budget.
- RefuShe (operational partner) assisted 105 girls with cash assistance and 50 with food baskets which will continue until end of December 2020. 45 parents received diapers and 140 girls received pads during the reporting period.
- The Government run children charitable institutions have been on the forefront in assisting refugee children. Out of 27 children placed in 5 children homes, 6 were exited and reunified with their parents by the children's department after a successful home assessment to verify their ability to care for the children. UNHCR continues to support the homes through HIAS with in kind donations mostly foodstuff and in some homes milk and pampers for the babies. The homes have also benefited from donations of masks, soap and sanitizers during the reporting period.
- HIAS distributed 30 dignity kits to vulnerable girls in Eastleigh.
- 47 BIAs and 2 social assessments were received from HIAS and reviewed.
- Distribution of masks, soap and sanitizers donated by US Embassy through UNHCR is ongoing through HIAS protection monitors. The distribution will benefit 500 children.
- UNHCR and partners held 6 cases conferences one from Dadaab to discuss complex child protection issues such as GBV, custody issues, counselling on safe house guidelines/COVID safety measures and security related issues.
- Individual counselling was provided to 4 children accommodated in safe shelters, 5 children at community level and one admitted at Kenyatta Hospital.
- UNHCR and partners organized for children's dialogue where 30 children were in attendance and were given a chance to speak on COVID-19 coping mechanism and were also empowered on self-care to enhance their psychological well-being and exposed to education materials to use at home.
- UNHCR facilitated testing of 10 girls for COVID-19 as a prerequisite for placement at the safe shelter.
- UNHCR attended a webinar on family based care options where best practices from Greece were shared and how it has been implemented in partnership with UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR and local NGOs (LUMOS) . Action point from the meeting included family-based care option for refugee children to be integrated into National Protection System.
- UNHCR was invited by the National Child Protection Theme group and attended a zoom meeting which focused on COVID-19 and its negative effect on children, current situation keeping children safe, what can be done differently/way forward. Two guest speakers were invited to talk about mental health.

## Statelessness

### Achievements and Impact

During the reporting period, UNHCR met held a meeting with the Department of Immigration Services to review the existing registration form for stateless applicants and their descendants as well as the process of accessing the application form. The current situation is that stateless persons cannot apply for registration online as expected because to log in to the site, one requires to hold certain documents. The need to open-up a category of stateless persons and descendants of stateless persons as an application category was agreed upon. Further, documentary requirements to log-in to the site will be lifted, thereby enabling stateless persons and their descendants to apply for registration online. A template form was discussed and is being reviewed jointly by stakeholders, which include various Government departments and Civil Society.

## Registration & Documentation

### Achievements and Impact

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) registered 12 individuals, on an emergency basis, and with strict adherence to the COVID-19 safety regulations. They also undertook regular proGres data clean-up during the reporting period. The active Urban population stood at **80,776** refugees and asylum seekers as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- Registry continued to support refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement in ensuring that those cases missing in Electronic Document and Records Management Systems (EDMS) have been scanned and uploaded.
- Data for 14 individuals who travelled to Kakuma was transferred according to laid down procedures.
- Preparations of the Database for Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment (DIMA) are in the final stages for the planned urban remote verification.

## Refugee Status Determination

### Achievements and Impact

- RAS continued conducting interviews at a low scale in light of the strict adherence to the COVID-19 prevention measures. 23 interviews were conducted which were all initial interviews.
- Other RSD processing included 78 assessments were completed. 106 cases were reviewed of which 76 cases were submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) while the rest require complementary interview (25) and re-draft (5). A Technical Advisory Committee meeting took place which recommended 123 individuals for recognition to the CRA who endorsed the recommendations.
- The automatic RSD case creation rule was implemented in proGres. Before this, RSD cases had to be created manually.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 536 cases (994 individuals) are pending interviews; 353 cases (522 individuals) are pending assessment and 877 cases (1,410 individuals) pending review. The number of asylum seekers in the urban area who have no access to RSD remained largely stable at 23,950.
- Since the beginning of the year the decisions for 1117 individuals have been reviewed. To make the target for 2020 of 16,500 individuals reviewed 15,400 individuals (slightly over 5,000 per

month) will still need to be reviewed during the remainder of the year. It is expected that the new methodology for the RSD backlog reduction strategy will facilitate these targets



## Livelihoods

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR in collaboration with Bizarre Bazaar Craft Festival and the Village Market Mall facilitated the participation of 11 refugees (8 female, 3 male) in an artisan market exhibition. Sales of artisanal products realized from the market linkage were Kes 92,000.
- UNHCR through its market outlet at the UN Commissary facilitated the sale of Kes 44,800 worth of artisanal products benefitting 6 PoCs (1 male, 5 female).
- UNHCR in partnership with Oracle launched the Oracle Workforce Development program which aims to impart digital skills training with global certifications. 5 PoCs (3 female, 2 male) from the urban programme and 8 PoCs (3 female, 5 male) from Kakuma were shortlisted for the training after a competitive process. The trainees will be upskilled in Java Fundamental and Programming and later be linked to job opportunities.
- UNHCR held discussions with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) on the signing of a cooperation MoU. KNCCI are keen to have the MoU concluded and tentative dates for the signing ceremony are in discussions. Further discussions were also held to explore the possibility to include refugees in the partnership program (MSME COVID-19 RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM) between KNCCI and Master Card Foundation. The program aims to provide a finance facility through a revolving loan fund that will be accessible to MSMEs in the form of a short-term interest free and zero concessional loan.
- UNHCR in collaboration with Hand in Hand Eastern Africa (HiH) through their VISA funded 'Kenya Micro-Enterprise Success (KMES) Programme' shared a list of 5 Community Savings and Loans Associations (75 individuals) as potential groups of PoCs for targeting to benefit from the project. The groups will be vetted by HiH for possible inclusion into the program. The project which is targeting 8,600 disadvantaged urban and per-urban entrepreneurs aims to provide business development skills and improved access to resources for their beneficiaries to potentially run and grow profitable and sustainable enterprises.



## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- 300 class 8 learners were issued with encyclopaedias by education partners.
- 1000 solar powered radios were received for distribution in October.
- 513 DAFI scholars were supported (127 females 386 males) were supported with upkeep allowances
- Discussions with University of Nairobi on a possible MoU were held. The partners are checking with their legal departments for clearance awaiting the signing.
- Windle International Kenya (WIK) and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) working on a Mental Health awareness forum among the tertiary education scholars to be observed around Mental Health Day in October.

- 420 households were reached with packages (green card, info graphic and audiovisual) dubbed *My Home My playground* facilitated by Futbol Mas.
- Weekly coordination meetings with WIK and Francis Xavier Project (FXP) and biweekly education working groups continued.

#### Challenges:

- Growing anxiety among students because of lack of definite school opening dates. Psychosocial support needed when announcement is made and during school reopening.



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

### Achievements and Impact

- In the month of September, The Resettlement Unit continued submitting cases towards the annual target for the year. The Unit continued giving feedback to POCs on their resettlement cases mostly through the Helpline.
- In September a total of **61 individuals** were submitted to different RST countries as follows: 37 to Canada; 10 to Netherlands; 7 to Sweden; and 7 to the UK.
- A total of **45 individuals** departed in September (32 from Nairobi and 13 from Kakuma) to different resettlement countries: 33 to the USA; 4 to Canada and 8 to Sweden.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The biggest challenge still remains the inability to conduct face to face RST interviews with refugees due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the RST country offices are also closed and not much case processing is on-going.