

Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 31 October 2020

80,799

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

2,148

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

16%

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

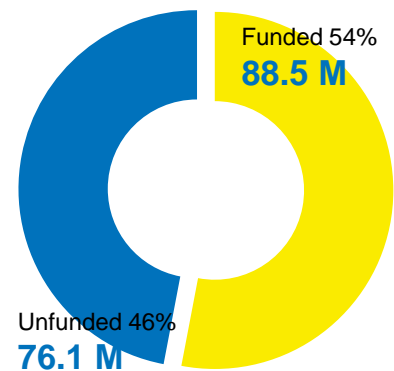
129

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

FUNDING (AS OF 07 OCTOBER 2020)

USD164.6 M

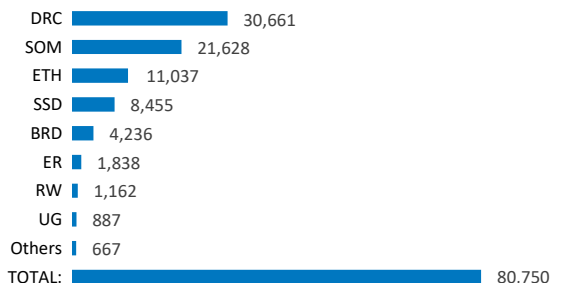
requested for the Somalia and South Sudan situations



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

- During the reporting period, the Shona community was supported to elevate their grievances to the government through a three-day pilgrimage.
- UNHCR also supported the Kilifi County Assembly's Legal and Justice Affairs Committee to write a report following several meetings between the Committee, the Pemba community and local community. The JLAC 's report contains recommendations for the registration of the Pemba of Kenya. The report will be debated in the Kilifi County Assembly for endorsement.
- Considering the continued impact of the COVID pandemic and the unpredictable timeframe for the lapse of COVID restrictions coupled with the need for business continuity, RAS and UNHCR planned and successfully implemented a pilot for remote interviewing where the applicants and interviewers, though present at RAS premises interacted online in different interview rooms. The criteria for the profile of cases considered for remote interview was agreed upon jointly by RAS and UNHCR and refining of the standard operating procedures for remote interviewing is ongoing.
- UNHCR met with the Denmark Permanent Mission to follow up on efforts to match the GRF pledges of Kenya and Denmark in the context of the Asylum Capacity Support Group. Denmark indicated interest to support Kenya on enhancing RAS' RSD capacity through available opportunities such as the new legal framework and under the quality initiative.
- UNHCR and the Kenya with Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an MoU that will create improved business opportunity for refugees and host communities and also offer an opportunity to scale-up digital entrepreneurial solutions.

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

- On 7 October, RAS organised the relocation of 10 Eritrean POCs to Kakuma. The PoCs were intercepted in Marsabit, but the Court ordered their relocation to the refugee camp.
- On 8 Oct, UNHCR assisted 28 PoCs to relocate from Nairobi to Kakuma. On 23 Oct another 23 POCs, mainly new arrivals were assisted to relocate to Kakuma. The PoCs all underwent COVID-19 testing and were put in quarantine upon arrival in Kakuma, as per the Ministry of Health guidelines.
- The legal partner Kituo Cha Sheria (KCS) in collaboration with Refugee Affairs Secretariat conducted a border monitoring mission along Nairobi- Isebania border areas from 26 - 31 October. The team engaged the border authorities including the county administrators, police, immigration and the judiciary.
- 4 Machine Readable CTDS were issued to refugees from Kakuma.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Challenges with the CBI transition once again led to a delay in delivery of assistance. PoCs did not receive their October financial assistance which will now be issued in November together with the November financial assistance.

Persons with Special Needs (PSN)

Achievements and Impact

- PSNs continue to be assessed for various services, 42 vulnerability assessments were done out of which 19 received individual counselling and 8 persons living with disabilities were supported with mobility aid which included 2 hearing aids, 4 wheelchairs, 1 with eye glasses and 1 PWD supported with financial assistance to enable him access his basic needs.
- Bi-weekly MHPSS coordination meeting between UNHCR and partners continue to take place virtually. SoPs for interagency Referral were finalized and will be shared with all agencies for implementation by end of November.
- The MHPSS working group together with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and the Nairobi County are in the process of organizing virtual activities for International day for Persons with Disabilities which will be held on 3 December 2020. The activities will also incorporate Kakuma and Dadaab, The planned activities will provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working with persons with disabilities talk about their work, and what some of the obstacles persons with disabilities face in access basic services and to advocate more for access to services by persons living with disabilities.
- The Ministry of Health is planning to facilitate a 5-day training for UNHCR and partners on Psychology First Aid. This training will equip the staff with the necessary skills to assess and address the immediate needs of a PoC before they are referred for specialized services. A total of 40 staff members from UNHCR and partners in Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab will benefit from the training.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Remote counselling mainly for persons with mental health is very challenging because of the mental status of the PoCs. Monitoring 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 but due to financial constraints most PSNs are not being supported. UNHCR and partners are counselling them to be relocated to the camps where they will receive the required support. These include the following PSNs;- PLWD, Women at Risk (WAR), Single Headed Households (SHH) and persons living with albinism.
- 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.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

Achievements and Impact

- 10 assessments for GBV cases were handled within the Month of October. 5 cases were presented in the multifunctional team's panel and two cases were recommended for safe housing option, 2 cases were forwarded to the legal partners for legal assistance and one case was recommended for camp relocation.
- The 10 GBV cases involved females aged between 18-59 years, 4 were intimate partner violence, 5 rape cases, and 1 denial of resources.
- UNHCR attended planning meetings on 16 days of activism with various stakeholders including UNFPA, Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS)and the GBV working group. A tentative programme for the opening event on 26th/11/2020 has been drafted and shared with the senior management.

- A CBO was identified to develop SGBV IEC materials for persons with disability (PWDs). The IEC materials will be launched during the international day for persons with disability day on 3/12/2020.

Child protection

Achievements and Impact

- Children at risk were identified and virtual assessments done. In addition, remote counselling was provided.
- 80 cases were discussed in the HIAS BPRM psychosocial panel and 76 cases approved for cash assistance in line with the standard operating procedures agreed upon between UNHCR and HIAS. The cases approved for cash assistance were mainly children with medical conditions, severe disability, children living with caregivers with serious medical conditions, and those living with elderly guardians. Some are experiencing livelihood challenges due to covid-19 pandemic and counselling on the camp relocation option is ongoing.
- 24 cases of children were discussed in the CBI MFT psychosocial panel and 14 approved to continue receiving cash assistance in the urban while counselling on the camp option for those not approved is ongoing.
- One Social Assessment and 12 best interest assessments comprising of 5 separated children, 5 unaccompanied children and 2 children at risk were reviewed and updated in proGres V4
- Out of 27 children currently in safe shelters, 3 were exited and reunified with their parents by the children's department after a successful home assessment to verify their ability to care for their children and 5 are new arrivals pending relocation to the camp.
- One child whose parents are reported missing was placed in a CCI pending tracing of her parents
- One child who self-relocated from the camp was placed in a community safe shelter run by a refugee led organization and monitoring and counselling on the camp option is ongoing
- There was one reported case of child marriage which is being followed by legal partners and community leaders.
- UMMA CBO referred a case of two unaccompanied children rescued from abusive caregivers in Eastleigh and monitoring is ongoing.
- 9 girls facilitated for COVID-19 testing pending placement in RefuSHE
- Individual counselling was offered to 4 children at the Transit Centre.
- Monitoring of 15 children in the community to understand their wellbeing was conducted by UNHCR. Children are concerned about the prolonged school holidays stating that they are bored. Most of them are not willing to relocate to the camp citing insecurity and harsh weather.
- Monitoring of 3 children at risk at the Transit Centre conducted by the Department of Children Services.
- Requisition of items for child friendly space and educational materials submitted
- Requisition of donation in kind (food) for five children homes is being implemented by HIAS.
- The office is in the process of supporting the Department of children's services with chairs and tables. Requisition for office equipment (laptop and printer) for department of children's services has been submitted.
- Best Interest Procedure/Best Interest Determination training for CP partners including HIAS, RefuSHE, and Refuge Point conducted.

Statelessness

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the Shona community was supported to elevate their grievances through a three-day pilgrimage which targeted the Kiambu County Assembly, the Parliament and Senate and a final day of inter religious prayer held at Uhuru Park. The pilgrimage was aimed at bringing the issue of the Shona to the fore of the government. It also sustained the momentum on the need to resolve statelessness. Kiambu County announced it is ready for the registration of the Shona people and the National Assembly pronounced its support to the Shona community and that they would follow up with the Executive arm of government.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Support to all stateless communities to place their applications for registration online as required by government.
- The main gap is that all stateless communities have not been supported in similar activities that elevate their voices to the executive arm of Government.
- The Kwale County Assembly is in receipt of a petition from the Pemba community living in Kwale. It is expected that a similar process will take place in the Kwale County Assembly.

Registration & Documentation

Achievements and Impact

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) registered 40 individuals (including 21 birth registration), 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 80,799 refugees and asylum seekers as at 31 October 2020.
- A total of two hundred and eleven (211) refugees were issued with 'Refugee ID Cards' (out of which forty-five were updated in proGres) in October 2020.
- A total of seven individuals (7) were issued with 'Asylum Seeker Pass' documents in October 2020.
- A total of two individuals (2) were issued with 'Birth Certificates' in October 2020.
- NB: New birth registrations are only registered upon presenting original Birth Certificates. Some individuals already issued with Birth Certificates may yet to approach RAS for registration, and all those registered during the reporting month have their Birth Certificate issue dates varying between March 2019 and October 2020.
- A total of eighteen individuals (18) were enrolled into BIMS during the month of October 2020.
- Registry among other activities continued to support RSD and RST in ensuring that those cases missing in EDMS have been scanned and uploaded. About 68 files of this nature were addressed.
- Data for 2 individuals who travelled to Kakuma was transferred according to laid down procedures.
- Nairobi remote verification exercise has started jointly between UNHCR/ RAS by end of October. On 28-29 October, training was conducted for the newly recruited staff to brief them about the standard operations procedures, as well as the refugee database used by RAS/ UNHCR. As of end of October, 1,892 Persons of concerns were verified and their data was updated.

Refugee Status Determination

Achievements and Impact

- On 6 October, UNHCR organized a self-care/ vicarious trauma session conducted by the Global Learning Centre for the RSD teams in RAS and UNHCR. The training equipped the team with practical ideas to build resilience and invest in their well-being.
- During the period, the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs endorsed 320 cases as refugees, and 3 cases for rejection. On 14 October, TAC held its sixth meeting this year in which 160 individuals were recommended for recognition and 1 individual was recommended for rejection.
- RAS and UNHCR continued to work on the new methodology for the RSD backlog reduction strategy. Elements of the methodology were refined further such as defining the exclusion profiles for Sudanese and Ethiopian cases, the explanatory annexes on the process for the Commissioner were shared with RAS and the assessment form was uploaded in ProGres. Testing and implementation is now planned to start in November relying on the data of the Urban verification exercise.
- 15 interviews were conducted; 2 were no-show. 52 assessments were completed. 102 cases were reviewed of which 93 cases are ready to be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) while the rest require complementary interview (8) and re-draft (01).
- The activation of automatic RSD case creation at registration was successfully followed up with PRIMES. UNHCR Eligibility team updated RSD related information on help.unhcr.org which is essential for providing relevant, up-to-date information to persons of concerns on the asylum process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 782 cases (1130 individuals) are pending interviews; 342 cases (502 individuals) are pending assessment and 894 cases (1,411 individuals) pending review. The number of asylum seekers in the urban area who have no access to RSD reduced slightly to 23,419.
- Since the beginning of the year the decisions for 1207 individuals have been reviewed. To make the target for 2020 of 16,500 individuals reviewed 15,293 individuals (nearly 7,650 per month) will still need to be reviewed during the remainder of the year. Although the new methodology for the RSD backlog reduction strategy increase the output, it is not realistic that this target will be met anymore.



Livelihoods

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the partnership with private sector, 5 refugees from Nairobi have completed training by Oracle on Java programme.
- The Toyota soft-skills virtual meeting was completed for the Nairobi and Kakuma group.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- 234 learners from Nakuru were issued with solar powered radios by FXP to enable them to continue accessing radio lessons.
- 2 mental health awareness sessions for tertiary education scholars were held on 23rd and 30th October focusing on Self Awareness and Self Esteem and Depression respectively.
- 69 std 8 and 60 form 4 candidates have been supported to confirm their bio details for their national examinations through their schools nominal rolls.
- Discussions with University of Nairobi to finalize on the Collaborative Agreement were held.
- Weekly meetings with FXP and WIK for DAFI were held. During this period, DAFI program lost one student through a terminal illness.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Uncertainty around school re-opening for the other classes with increasing cases of COVID-19 cases in the country is causing anxiety among parents and students.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- 38 individuals were submitted to resettlement countries (28 to Canada, 1 to Finland and 9 to Netherlands). We were however later informed by Canada that they would not be accepting more cases after Sept. 30th and so these cases will be held for submission after Jan. 1st 2021.
- 170 individuals departed on RST in October (48 to Canada and 122 to Sweden).
- Norway has conducted remote interviews for cases in Nairobi that had been submitted to Norway. Over 90 individuals have been interviewed so far.
- RST counselling was conducted for POCs in safe shelters in Nairobi (safe House and the Transit Center).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The continued COVID-19 restrictions with staff working from home and refugees not able to come to the office has greatly hampered the Unit's ability to interview cases and process resettlement cases. Staff also continue to face many challenges such power and internet fluctuations. These challenges have greatly affected the team's productivity.
- The premature non-acceptance of further cases by Canada after Sept 30th reduces the annual RST quota for Nairobi which the RST Unit was working to meet.