

Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 31 December 2020



PROTECTION

Legal

Achievements and impact

- The Helpline received a total of 15,207 calls in the month of December. This represents a 10.39% reduction in the calls received. A total of 10,839 calls were answered in the first instance. The biggest call driver was Data Management (at 23.22%) followed by Resettlement (at 21.71%). The team held 4 calibration (quality control) meetings.
- On 10 December UNHCR facilitated (virtually) a session on International Refugee Law as part of a training for a course for military personnel conducted by the International Peace Support Training Centre in Embakasi on the Protection of Civilians. 13 officers from the National Police Service, Kenya Defense Forces and the Kenya Correctional Services attended. An additional 3 participants joined remotely, including from India. The session focused on basic principles of refugee law and the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR facilitated a similar session on 16 December for 60 military officers from Burundi, Egypt, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, at the Karen Defence School.
- On 17 December 30 PoCs were assisted to relocate from Nairobi to Kakuma refugee camp.
- The Urban Refugee Protection Network and the Community Based Protection working group held 1 meeting during the reporting period.

Challenges

- A handful of PoCs demanding assistance camped outside UNHCR BO while declining relocation to the camps where assistance is accessible. Some moved to camp outside the RB creating security concerns. UNHCR BO and RB developed SOPs for the management of campers at the RB especially after the closure of the BO on Dec 22.

CBP**Achievements and impact**

- UNHCR distributed over 200,000 pieces of bar-soap to all urban sites, to enhance Covid-19 resilience. The soap was donated to UNHCR by Unilever Kenya Limited.

SGBV**Achievements and Impact**

- The 16 days of activism events were concluded on 10 December. The State Department for Gender marked the day with the launch of the Gender Based Violence Rescue Centres (GBVRC) guidelines.
- 6 GBV cases were reported in December. 5 were enrolled for psychosocial counselling, 2 received sanitary pads and 2 others received adult diapers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need to consider other options for safe housing given the inability of GBV caregivers to offer safe housing for survivors of GBV during the pandemic.

Child Protection**Achievements and Impact**

- 45 BIAs and 41 Social assessments were conducted, 10 Best Interest Assessments and 4 social assessments were reviewed, 3 Best Interest Determination panels were convened and approved 6 cases. 1 multifunctional case management panel held to provide support to cases of children-at-risk.
- 1 Child Protection Working Group meeting was held with CP partners providing an overview of assistance and support provided to vulnerable children in 2020.
- Routine monitoring of children in transit centre continued. Some were assisted to initiate tracing of parents at Kenya Red Cross, one child received psychiatric follow up and 2 cases were interviewed for resettlement. Individual counselling was provided to 2 children at the Safe House.
- Children in the Transit Center received Competency Based Curriculum books from Xavier Project. They include Targeter Series - combined Encyclopaedia for Grade 2, Grade 4, Pre-Primary, Grade 3, Std 7, Grade 1, Grade 6 and Form 2.
- Food and non-food items were donated to 7 charitable children institutions (CCIs) and 1 remand home.
- 308 boxes of bar soaps donated by Unilever were distributed to 6 CCIs and 1 remand home through funding allocated by the RB . Procurement of items for child friendly space and educational materials for the Transit Centre is ongoing.

- The office is in the process of supporting the Department of Children’s Services with chairs and tables. In addition, procurement is ongoing for a laptop and printer for the Department.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Identifying appropriate alternative care for unaccompanied minors with mental health needs and teenagers continues to be challenging.
- Need for community awareness on child marriage as it was noted that the community condone the practice and are reluctant to report to the authorities.
- Expanded support for UACs in supervised independent living is required as the cash assistance they are eligible to is insufficient to cater for their needs.
- Continuous counselling on camp relocation of vulnerable children is key as many children are not willing to relocate and face survival challenges in the urban.

Youth

Achievements and Impact

- The youth desk supported other activities including a Leaders Training organized by the CBP working group, and the MHPSS events of the month.
- UNHCR and the Alliance for African Assistance Kenya (AAAK) conducted one repeat training on Leadership for the youth.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need to offer valid certification for skills trainings to give youth credibility. Many youth have expressed a lack of supporting documents for skills attained that can lead to employment opportunities.
- Engage partners interested in supporting different aspects of youth activities to scale up programmes and share financial responsibility.

Statelessness

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the government of Kenya granted citizenship to 1670 Shona and 1300 persons of Rwanda descent.
- The IBelong event was conducted bringing together the government, civil society, stateless and formerly stateless persons and other stakeholders. During the event the government committed to continue to resolve statelessness.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Support to the Pemba to amplify their voices so that the national government is aware of their presence, their plight and the need to resolve their situation. This is as a result of information that the Pemba caseload requires special advocacy due to the proximity of their origins, and in order to maintain working diplomatic conditions with the country of origin of their ancestors.
- Mapping the steps required for Kenya to accede to the two statelessness Conventions was conducted but the entire process needs to be supported.

Registration & Documentation

Achievements and Impact

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) registered 102 individuals (including 46 birth registrations), on an emergency basis, and with strict adherence to the COVID-19 safety regulations.
- As at 31 December 2020, the active urban population stood at 80,898 refugees and asylum seekers.
- Two hundred and thirty (230) refugees were issued with 'Refugee ID Cards', out of which thirty-nine (39) were updated in proGres .
- Forty-Four (44) asylum seekers were issued with 'Asylum Seeker Pass' documents while Five (5) minors were issued with Minors' Passes documents.
- Five (5) individuals (registered in December 2020) were issued with birth certificates. New birth registrations are only registered upon presenting original birth certificates at the registration desk. Some individuals already issued with Birth Certificates may yet approach RAS for registration.
- Seventy-two (72) individuals, of age 5 years and above, were enrolled into BIMS.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Refugee Status Determination

Achievements and Impact

- The Commissioner for Refugee Affairs endorsed 127 cases as refugees which were recommended for recognition by the 10th TAC meeting of 17 December.
- Interviews conducted stood at 26; one case was a no-show and one case rescheduled. Assessments completed at 55. Reviews conducted were 90 of which 77 cases were ready to be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) while the rest require complementary interview (10) and re-draft (3).

- RAS and UNHCR presented the phase 1 methodology to the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs. While the CRA advised that he did not see the need for changes to the backlog reduction strategy, it was agreed the tools and guidance of the methodology can be used to simplify the current methodologies. The CRA further guided the RSD team to develop a detailed Plan of Action based on the current strategy to facilitate monitoring of progress.
- The pilot for remote interviewing at Shauri Moyo continued in December with the Working Group reviewing the process so far and making necessary adjustments to expand the interview schedule.
- UNHCR and the Refugee Appeal Board agreed on a way to update proGres for appeal cases. The updates were made for all pending and completed cases.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 657 cases (1219 individuals) are pending interviews; 339 cases (498 individuals) are pending assessment and 793 cases (1,297 individuals) pending review. The number of asylum seekers in the urban area who have no access to RSD remained largely stable at 23,681.



Livelihood

Achievements and Impact

- Refugee artisans participated in Village Market Christmas events.
- L’Oreal kits were distributed to PoCs who graduated in 2019. The distribution was done through the CBOs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Support small businesses affected by Covid19 with grants remains the main gap.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Through FXP procurement and distribution of 824 desks, 70 large capacity tanks, 300 hand washing points to schools in Nairobi and Nakuru. Procurement

of teacher's furniture for 10 schools in Nakuru initiated to support the required distancing in staffrooms. 12 public primary schools in Nairobi received furniture donated by UNHCR's Regional Bureau.

- Schools went on recess for the Form 4, class 8 and grade 4 learners who had been in school for 2 weeks Christmas break
- 526 DAFI scholars were supported with allowances.

Challenges:



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR attended resettlement coordination meetings including the monthly USRAP Partner's Coordination meeting; a meeting with Norway on Norway's case assessments for 2020 and Norway's 2021 quota for Kenya as well as various coordination and planning meetings.
- In December 2020, the Resettlement unit submitted 3 cases/15 individuals to Canada, Netherlands and Finland through the Regional Bureau.
- 26 individuals departed on resettlement in December – 8 to the USA, 17 to Canada and 1 to Sweden.

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.