

Urban Refugee Programme, Kenya

1 – 28 February 2021



Legal

Achievements and Impact

- The Refugees Bill 2019 was debated at the Committee of the Whole House stage between 23 and 25 February 2021. It was read a third time at the National Assembly on 2 March 2021 completing the legislative process at the National Assembly level. Proposals made by UNHCR and the task force on legislative process, that advocate for better access to rights for asylum seekers, harmonious existence with the host community, and strengthening the government institutions managing refugees were largely adopted.
- UNHCR and HIAS held a virtual meeting with the transit residents. 28 PoCs are currently accommodated in the transit for protection reasons.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

Achievements and Impact

- 26 vulnerability assessments were done out of which 8 received individual counselling.
- 2 meetings were held with 2 refugee committees, 1 for persons with disability and 1 for elderly persons for monitoring.
- UNHCR facilitated one day meeting with partners working with PSN to plan for 2021 activities, including training.
- The training was on suicide assessment and prevention, attended by 80 participants, 23 men and 57 women from UNHCR and partner agencies (HIAS, RefugePoint, RCK, Kituo Cha Sheria, MSF France, MSF Holland, CVT, DRC, NCKK, RefuSHE, IRC, Windle, HESED Africa, Alliance for Africa, Red Cross, save the children, TDH, and Kamili Organization).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Remote counselling, especially for persons with mental health issue is challenging in monitoring and ensuring adherence to medication. This is further compounded by COVID-19 regulations.
- Financial support to PSNs is quite diminished due insufficient funds. These include PWD, Women at Risk, Single Headed Households and persons living with albinism.

Community Based Protection

Achievements and Impact

- One community-based protection working group meeting was held, with participation from actors in all urban sites. Issues discussed included refugee leadership and coordination of refugee led organizations.
- Two sessions were held with refugee community leaders to discuss the impact of the high court decision on the refugee elections held in 2018 and the next steps.
- Support was provided to the external evaluation of UNHCR Kenya in its implementation of the Age, Gender and Diversity Policy (2018)
- There was an internal meeting, followed by session with partners, to discuss the planning and design of a series of capacity-building sessions for refugee-led organizations in the urban areas.
- The drafting of Community-based Protection and Outreach Strategy for the Urban Areas process continued, with a second draft submitted for review.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The coordination of refugee led organizations in the urban will continue in 2021, through joint efforts with partners.
- The development of the CBP and outreach strategy will also continue.

SGBV

Achievements and Impact

- 3 GBV cases were recorded in February involving 2 females and 1 male aged between 18-59 years and all were enrolled for psycho-social counselling. There are 15 GBV cases reported since the beginning of the year and 11 cases are under counselling.
- 2 coordination meetings with GBV working group partners were held and 2 international women's day preparations meetings were also held with the Nairobi metropolitan services (NMS) and the state department for gender (SDfG).

- UNHCR took part in the validation of GBV IEC materials for PoCs who are blind and deaf together with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and Partners. 20 POCs with disabilities took part in the exercise that included verification of brailles, animation videos and GBV posters. The materials were produced by the NCPWD in collaboration with Youth Voices community (YVC), a refugee lead community-based organisation and the project was funded by UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In-person support group meetings for the survivors are still on hold which limits proper interventions by case workers.

Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The Child Protection (CP) Working Group meeting took place where UNHCR and partners gave an overview of achievements and challenges in 2020, brief of the current situation of children and main activities for the month of February. It was also agreed to map up CBOs that assist children and the kind of assistance offered and also mapping of Charitable Children's Institution with the assistance of the Sub County Children Officers and identification of institution that assist children with specific needs such as the blind, those with speech impairment and those with cerebral palsy among others. This will ensure that opportunities to link children with services mainstreamed for Kenyans will be availed to refugee and asylum seeker children.
- 30 social assessments and 25 BIAs were reviewed in February. The specific needs, case linkages and individual child protection cases were updated in proGres V4. Follow up on various interventions was done internally with resettlement and refugee status determination units and externally flagged to partners such as HIAS for further assessment of various aspects and paneling for CBI consideration and Humanity and Inclusion for disability assessments.
- Two multifunctional case management meetings were held and one separated child and one child at risk were approved to receive cash-based interventions through appointed caregivers.
- Three minor children who were abandoned at the HIAS offices and placed in a children's home were reunified with their uncle.
- One unaccompanied child who is transiting to adulthood is under educational support in a charitable children institution. She will continue to receive education support beyond 18 years giving her an opportunity to be self-reliant in her adulthood.
- Individual counselling for 6 children at the Transit Centre was conducted. 4 of the children were referred for Best interest Determination, 1 child was referred

for psychosocial and medical support and 1 child was supported to follow up on an alleged physical abuse with the law enforcement.

- UNHCR in collaboration with GIZ and AAK conducted a post-valuation session of the peacebuilding seminar series that was implemented in September 2020. This was in the form of a focused group discussion with the participants of the seminar series to discuss their peacebuilding engagements after workshop. The outcome was that a lot of the youth had put to practice the skills acquired from the training and even shared with their peers in the community.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need for a trained teacher to guide the children in the use of education and child friendly space materials at the Transit Centre as the current volunteer teacher who is a refugee is departing on resettlement soon
- Managing unaccompanied children with mental health conditions in UNHCR safe shelter without specialised expertise remains challenging. There is need to secure funding for children who require specialised mental health rehabilitation in a private health facility given that the government mental health facilities do not admit unaccompanied children
- COVID-19 continues to hinder implementation of home visits to vulnerable children and therefore virtual assessment of UASC continues.

Statelessness

Achievements and Impact

- As a result of a petition filed at National level in November 2020, during the reporting period, UNHCR supported the Member of Parliament, Kilifi North to provide a brief and respond to questions about the Pemba of Kenya. The session was held before the Parliamentary Committee on Administration and Security (Committee). The impact of that meeting is that the Committee has planned a public hearing of the Pemba community during the month of March.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Support the Pemba community to prepare to meet with the Parliamentary Committee on Administration and Security. The public hearing will involve strengthening the community leader's ability to stand up to authority in order to firmly provide the history of the Pemba of Kenya on behalf of the community.
- Meeting with relevant stakeholders to begin discussion of accession to the two Statelessness Conventions.
- Issuance of identity documents (certificates of registration, birth certificates to adult Shona born in Kenya and Identity cards to Shona above 18 years) to the 1670 Shona whose registration was positively completed in December 2020.

- Mapping persons of Rwanda descent, and supporting them to apply for citizenship in addition to collecting community data to support their applications.

Registration & Documentation

Achievements and Impact

- Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) registered 545 individuals (including 33 birth registrations), on an emergency basis, and with strict adherence to the COVID-19 safety guidelines, bringing the active urban population to 81,574 individuals - 54,271 refugees and 27,303 asylum seekers as at 28 February 2021.
- A total of 529 persons of age 5 and above were enrolled into BIMS during the reporting period.
- A total of 211 refugees were issued with 'Refugee ID Cards', out of which thirty-two were updated in proGres during the reporting period.
- A total of 148 asylum seekers were issued with 'Asylum Seeker Pass' documents during the reporting period.



LIVELIHOOD

Achievements and Impact

- BawaHope, a local social enterprise engaged by UNHCR on product design and marketing, participated in the 4th edition of the bizarre bazaar exhibition held at the village market. A wide range of products in the jewellery, baskets and bags trade were on display.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- 480 (111 women, 369 men) DAFI scholars were supported with allowances and tuition fees payments
- A DAFI scholar (Adhieu Achuil Dhiew) mobilized a consignment of books and foodstuffs to be distributed to secondary school students in Kakuma and Dadaab.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Anticipated anxiety among candidates who may be feeling inadequately prepared for the final examinations. This calls for increased monitoring and psychosocial support.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- 11 cases with 42 individuals were submitted to resettlement countries.
- 2 individuals from Nairobi departed on RST in February (one to Canada and one to Finland).
- The RST Unit worked around the clock in the month of February to prepare cases for submission to Norway. The submissions will be reflected in March.