

Weekly Situation Update

UNHCR Kenya Operation

Week Ending Friday 02 October, 2009

Political, Social and Economic Developments within the last week

The perpetrators of the 2008 post-election violence will now face prosecution at the International Criminal Court (ICC) following the failure to establish a local tribunal by the 30 September deadline. The ICC chief prosecutor has already flown key witnesses out of the country.

The Kenya Anti-corruption Commission (KACC) director Justice (Rtd) Aaron Ringera gave in to public pressure and resigned. The move came three weeks after MPs nullified President Kibaki's gazette notice reappointing him and his two deputies.

Refugee Influx

Registration Statistics 28 Sep to 02 Oct 2009										Total Registered in 2009
Location	Total	BDI	COD	ERT	ETH	RWA	SOM	SUD	UGA	
Nairobi	253	4	46	10	48	1	143		1	7,113
Dadaab	939				69		870			61,380
Kakuma	91		4		15		66	6		11,729
Total	1,283	4	50	10	132	1	1,079	6	1	80,222

Security concerns and security incidents over the last week

Hostage incident training was conducted in Dadaab by UNHCR security staff. Over 100 staff were placed through this training.

Protection and protection related issues for which HQ response required

During the last week, several protection staff involved in Registration, Eligibility and Resettlement attended an anti-fraud workshop, aimed at educating staff about general trend and development of the resettlement activities over the last years, the fraud policy, types of fraud, and conditions conducive to fraud. Staff were also made aware of mechanisms through which cases of suspected fraud could be reported, such as the UNHCR Inspector General's Office (IGO).

Operations Management Issues – Projects, ABOD and staffing

In view of the low implementation rate currently evident among implementing partners, BO Nairobi is holding discussions with partners to assess their capacity to absorb their

funding as per the partner agreements in order to make necessary budgetary rearrangements. The exercise is due to be completed on Monday, 05 October 2009.

IDP issues

Late last week, President Mwai Kibaki issued a decree ordering all IDP camps to be closed within a two week period, before the short rains begin. He requested the Ministry of Special Programmes, the Ministry of Lands, and the Rift Valley Provincial Administration to manage this new initiative. Apparently, land is to be purchased for the IDPs in the South Rift Valley. A population of 6,806 IDPs is to be moved. The only site where there has been any movement so far is the Eldoret Showground, where at least 800 people have moved out, though some IDPs are still remaining.

UNHCR protection staff will monitor the impact of the decree on a daily basis, though the decree deadline runs out next week.

Emergency and other technical support being provided and any potential gaps to be addressed by HQ

NSTR

Sub-Offices

Kakuma

The eighteenth convoy with 635 refugees arrived in Kakuma on 30th September 2009 at 1420 hours. This brings the cumulative total of refugees relocated so far to 10,839 individuals.

Five specimens collected during September for routine surveillance of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) and Influenza like illness (ILI) tested positive for H1N1. All five samples were from children aged between 1-3 years old from various nationalities; 2 Somalis, 1 Sudanese; 1 Ethiopian and one Turkana. IRC has been following-up these cases to trace close contacts etc. UNHCR is now including H1N1-like illness in the surveillance protocol and has scaled up community sensitization on prevention and control of the disease.

As at 30 September 2009, a cumulative total of 30 cholera cases have been reported within a 42 km radius of the refugee camp. Cumulatively, 849 cases with 10 mortalities have been reported in the Central Turkana District. In light of the outbreak in the vicinity of the camp, UNHCR in conjunction with other stakeholders, are on high alert to respond to any possible outbreak in the camp and is already collecting data for analysis on a daily basis. So far no refugee case has been reported.

The copy of the El Nino contingency plan has been prepared and the budget reviewed with a view to identifying urgent elements that need to be pre-positioned and activities that need to be implemented.

Dadaab

On 29 September, the Provincial Commissioner issued the new procedures for the authorization and issuance of movement passes for refugees. The instructions were not issued directly to UNHCR, but to DRA which was told to bring them into effect within 48 hours. Both UNHCR and DRA have concerns that the measures could delay, or effectively cancel, the travel of refugees with legitimate and urgent needs, such as medical treatment. UNHCR and the DRA Camp Officer will meet the Provincial Commissioner on Monday 5 October to discuss this and other concerns.

Following discussions between UNHCR, LWF, DRA, DO and officials of the Garissa County Council, the unauthorized structures on land allocated for humanitarian use in Ifo camp have been removed under the supervision of local authority officials. Further such actions are expected in other camps in the near future. UNHCR and agency staff have been instructed to keep away in order to ensure that these actions are seen as a government initiative.

Garissa County Council officials also assessed the host community encroachment in the other camps, and have promised to hold a formal session next week to approve and promulgate new by-laws laying down the process for allocation of land within refugee camps. The new laws will also authorize the police to act against those found "allocating" land illegally or selling it to either refugees or members of the host community. Some adverse reaction to this development may be possible, but heads of agencies have agreed that a more assertive stance from the humanitarian community is necessary to prevent further erosion of the already limited space.

Training in hostage survival was carried out for more than one hundred staff of UN agencies and NGOs by UNHCR security staff.