

Weekly Situation Update

UNHCR Kenya Operation

Week Ending Friday 16 October, 2009

Political, Social and Economic Developments within the last week

A report released by the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2009 rated Kenya among 30 countries with the least food security in the world.

The government came under fierce criticism from the international community and Kenyan civil society over the forceful eviction of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from their camps.

Refugee Influx

Registration 12 to 16 Oct 2009											Statistics	Total Registered in 2009
Location	Total	BDI	COD	ERT	ETH	RWA	SOM	SUD	TAN	UGA		
Nairobi	320	5	34	11	63	2	202		1	2		9,233
Dadaab	1,358				97		1,261					64,737
Kakuma	139		10		3		122	1		3		12,678
Total	1,817	5	44	11	163	2	1,585	1	1	5		86,648

Security concerns and security incidents over the last week

NSTR

Protection and protection related issues

Refugee Resettlement Statistics

Submission up to the end of September 2009: 6791 individual (1659 cases)

Submission: USA: 92.5%, Australia 2.6%, and Canada 2%.

COA: Somalia 85%, Ethiopia 11%, DRC 1%, Sudan 2.25%.

Operations Management Issues – Projects, ABOD and staffing

NSTR

IDP issues

The Presidential Decree to resettle nearly 25,000 IDPs from 19 self-help groups onto newly purchased land is facing severe challenges. This is as a result of rushed planning, lack of adequate consultation and insufficient funds. Up to 530 IDPs from the Mawingu self-help group in Central Province were supposed to have moved to their new land in Rongai in the south Rift Valley on 15 October. This did not happen and the Rongai MP made a statement on the 16 October in Nakuru saying that these IDPs would not be welcome in this area. On the same day, the Mawingu IDP leader, Patrick Kariuki, stated that the IDPs will not be resettled until health, school and water facilities are in place on

the new land. He also stated that the IDPs who would be moved should keep their land in Mawingu. UNHCR IDP staff have been in the Rift Valley over the last week and are increasingly concerned about the growing politicisation of this resettlement programme.

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

NSTR

Sub-Offices

Kakuma

During the week under review, the last batch of relocates was received in Kakuma: 476 by road and 63 by air on 9th and 10th respectively bringing the cumulative total of 13,124 refugees from 13th August - 10th 2009 October.

Vulnerability assessments revealed that out of the 4,254 (32.4%) persons with special needs, 1,385 (10.6%) of entire relocated population were medical cases and 642 (4.9%) were pregnant and lactating mothers. The refugee population has also increased from a level of 42,000 in April 2009 to 60,638 in October 2009. The increase in population is not only due to the relocation but also to an increase in the number of spontaneous new arrivals mainly from Somalia that currently stands at 6,195 since January to mid October 2009.

UNHCR/ IRC technical teams are still on high alert for more cholera cases, despite a lull of 12 days without a new case being reported in the refugee camp. However, more and more villages near the camp are reporting increased number of cases. Therefore, active surveillance of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) at both the health care facility and at the community level has been heightened, health education to the community intensified.

Surveillance for virus H1N1, Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) and Influenza-like illness (ILI) is on-going in the camp courtesy of Center for Disease Control (CDC). So far no new cases have been reported since the initial five reported in September 2009.

Water supply in the camp has improved following the repair of the generator for borehole no. 5. The current per capita supply in the relocation area is 24 liters/ day. However one of the boreholes that supplies water to about 3,000 families is at the verge of collapse. There is need to drill a new one to replace it.

UNHCR and GTZ accompanied by local leaders and GOK officials conducted an external firewood monitoring field visit to the firewood harvesting zones within Kakuma up to 30 km radius. The objective of the mission was to assess the impact of the firewood project on the environment and social economic impact of firewood harvesting.

Dadaab

The priority for Sub Office Dadaab has been finalizing and further refining the contingency plan for El Nino flooding. A Table Top Exercise was held on 14 October at which UNHCR and its partners rehearsed responses to a number of situations, and drew

conclusions on the likely effectiveness of aspects of the contingency plan ranging from coordination mechanisms and routine procedures to policies for handling disruptions to the plan caused by problems such as labour disputes. UNHCR also looked at scenarios for the handling of conflicting priorities, such as the detention of large numbers of asylum seekers in the border areas at a time when road conditions were deteriorating and transport was needed to move essential supplies to flood victims.

The Sub Office has visited the Agro-Forestry projects being run by the Community Based Organization for Lagdera district, which are now at the half way point of the six-month plan. The projects are all on schedule, and progress after the first three months is satisfactory.

Negotiations with other agencies in Dadaab on a harmonized system for incentive payments to refugee workers are being finalized. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the number of labour disputes in camps, while also creating a more stable work force in which workers are less likely to keep changing employers. There has also been agreement on a system to prevent any refugee holding more than one incentive-paying job at the same time, in order to give more refugees an opportunity for gainful employment.

The Health Coordinator will, in future, oversee interviews for employment in some medical positions in order to certify that a fair and objective selection process is taking place, based on the required technical competences of each job, and to mitigate host community allegations of bias and corruption by NGO managers. The HoSO has invested some time in mediating such disputes in order to improve relations with the host community. Claims by the host community have included allegations that some NGOs are smuggling nurses from Nairobi into the hospitals at night (in contravention of both security regulations and police advice) in order to avoid opening any such positions to members of the host community. Out of 16 purportedly qualified persons short listed to be interviewed for six nursing jobs on 17 October, 10 are from the host community.

With regards to alleged armed recruitment in the refugee camps, the Sub Office has distributed information bulletins explaining UNHCR policy on maintaining the civilian nature of refugee camps and the implications for the refugee status of anyone found to be involved in military activities of any type. Further mass information activities are being planned.