

## UNHCR BRANCH OFFICE FOR KENYA

Donors' Update  
October 1 to 15, 2009

This is a bi-monthly update of UNHCR's operational programmes in Kenya

### Completion of Relocation Exercise:

The Relocation of refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma refugee camp came to a close on 10 October with 13,131 refugees being relocated. The exercise was a collaboration between UNHCR and IOM and has been taking place since 13 August 2009. Since rains have already started in Kakuma, the last convoy had difficulty traversing the camp due to floods making most of the areas in the camp inaccessible to vehicles.



Newly relocated refugees load their dry ration & non food items onto bicycle taxis in Kakuma. UNHCR/C. Opile

## Dadaab

### Registration of new Arrivals:

Dadaab continues to experience a continuous influx of refugees. More than 55,000 refugees have been registered this year with more than 49,000 of them being from Somalia. The overall population in Dadaab currently stands at 273,446. Despite the continuous number of new arrivals, the overall population has seen a decline of 14,633 persons from 288,079 in August 2009. This is mostly attributable to the recent relocation of refugees to Kakuma refugee camp which ended on 10 October.



Material assistance being distributed to refugees arriving in Dadaab .UNHCR/A.Needham

### Verification Exercise:

The verification exercise continued in Ifo and Hagadera camps with 4,820 persons in Ifo and 4,584 persons in Hagadera camps having had their registration data verified. Since the exercise commenced on 6 July, 40,184 persons have been verified in Hagadera and 49,863 in Ifo. It was jointly initiated by UNHCR and the Government's Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA). In the course of the exercise, all refugees aged 18 years and above will be issued with Refugee Identity cards.

### El Nino Preparedness:

UNHCR and partner agencies carried out a 'table-top' exercise on 14 October as part of the ongoing emergency preparedness response for the expected El Nino rains. The exercise involved UNHCR and agency staff working through likely scenarios in the event of heavy rain and flooding in the camps. Three months' supply of food, fuel and medical supplies have already been stocked in the camps while putting of sandbags and digging of trenches at hospitals, boreholes and other strategically important sites are underway.

# Kakuma

## Registration of new Arrivals:

A total of 13,131 refugees have been relocated from Dadaab to Kakuma. Among them, 53% are males while 47% are females. The overall population in Kakuma currently stands at 60,638 from 42,000 in April 2009.



Government officials welcoming refugees who have been relocated from Dadaab. UNHCR/C.Opile.

The increase in population has also been caused by an influx of new arrivals mainly from Somalia that currently stands at 6,195.



Refugee women at the reception center in Kakuma with their new born babies on arrival by air from Dadaab. UNHCR/C.Opile.

About 4,254 refugees (32.4% of the population) are vulnerable and need special attention. This calls for the need to restart the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme. The programme was discontinued in 2009 by International Rescue Committee (IRC) due to budget cuts. There is only one health care facility in the camp. However, plans are underway to construct one more clinic.

## H1N1 Outbreak in Kakuma:

Five specimens collected in September for routine surveillance of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) and Influenza Like Illness (ILI) tested positive for H1N1. All the five samples were from children aged between 1 and 3 years old. IRC has been following up on the affected children to establish the outcome of their illnesses. They have also included detection of H1N1 like illness in the surveillance protocol and scaled up community sensitization on prevention and control of the disease.

## Cholera Outbreak:

As at 30 September 2009, a total of 30 cholera cases had been reported within 42 km radius of Kakuma refugee camp. Cumulatively, 849 cases with 10 mortalities have been reported in the Central Turkana District. One refugee was admitted for cholera at the camp hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009. UNHCR in conjunction with International Rescue Community (IRC) are on high alert to respond to any possible outbreak in the camp. Measures to contain the outbreak, such as contact tracing, increased surveillance, management of suspected cases, water chlorination and health education have been scaled up.

# Nairobi

## Refugee protection:

The new UNHCR policy on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas was shared with the implementing and operational partners and thematic working groups were established. In view of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection, UNHCR and its partners aim at contextually reviewing these guidelines for Nairobi and on this basis, it will design a policy guideline specific to Kenya's urban refugees.

## **Reports of Alleged Recruitment in Dadaab refugee camps:**

UNHCR has been made aware of rumoured attempts of recruitment of refugees in and near Dadaab refugee camps. A mass information campaign was launched to sensitize the refugee community on the serious implications of committing acts incompatible with the civilian status of

refugees. In parallel, investigations into these allegations are underway while discussions continue with Kenyan authorities as to further measures which may be required.

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