

## Weekly Situation Update

### UNHCR Kenya Operation

Week Ending Friday 30 October, 2009

#### **Political, Social and Economic Developments within the last week**

In the last week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) praised Kenya for its management of the economy. They singled out a strong balance of payment position, a low inflation rate, and the dialogue the government has been having with the private sector.

The US government revoked the visa of a top Kenyan government official for being a perceived impediment to the political reform process. The US Assistant Secretary for African affairs, Mr. Jonnie Carson, announced that more visa-bans would follow.

The government stated that those suspected of organising the post election violence in 2008 could be arrested by December. The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is expected in the country on 6 November to meet the President and the Prime Minister.

#### **Refugee Influx**

Registration 26 to 30 Oct 2009									Statistics	Total Registered in 2009
Location	Total	BDI	COD	ERT	ETH	RWA	SOM	SUD	UGA	
Nairobi	207	1	11	3	27	1	158	6		9,537
Dadaab	562			25	522		14	1		66,204
Kakuma	156			2	5		135	12	2	12,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>88,706</b>

#### **Security concerns and security incidents over the last week**

NSTR

#### **Protection and protection related issues**

NSTR

#### **Operations Management Issues – Projects, ABOD and staffing**

UNHCR has been communicating with field-based partners, with the aim of prioritising 2010 implementation within the Kenya Operations budget target.

On Thursday 29 October, the monthly programme coordination meeting between UNHCR and implementing partners was held. Among matters discussed were the harmonising of partners' salaries, the rumours suggesting that refugees were being recruited into armed groups from the camps, and the demands from host communities that UNHCR and partners locally recruit their staff.

## **IDP issues**

An audit undertaken by the Office of the President has stated that the Ministry of Special Programmes has been unable to account for large sums of money issued assigned for assistance of IDPs. The Minister for Special Programmes has dismissed the audit claims and said that she asked the Kenya Anti-corruption Commission to investigate cash payments to IDPs back in March 2009.

UNHCR staff visited the new re-settlement site at Rongai on 29th October. They found that the resettlement process was dominated by political concerns centred upon the 2012 elections rather than driven by humanitarian impulses. UNHCR is especially concerned that the resettlement of Kikuyu IDPs into predominantly Kalenjin areas will endanger the security of these IDPs.

## **Emergency and other technical support**

On 23 October, in Ifo camp, an inter-agency team carried out shelter, latrine and vulnerable case assessments. LWF identified 580 families in 10 blocks that have shelter and latrines needs. On 28 October, heavy rain caused flooding throughout the camp. This has hampered activities, including the digging of latrines and the transportation of slabs. In Hagadera, flood-affected tapstands have been sandbagged.

In Dagahaley a meeting with all agencies and section leaders to discuss flood-related information dissemination was held in the LWF compound on 28 October. Leaders were requested to sensitize their communities on actions to take before, during and after floods in order to mitigate destruction of shelters and property. They were also asked to instruct families to relocate to higher ground when rainfall is excessive.

At Dadaab level, in order to aid El Nino preparedness, an interaction meeting was organized with staff who had been involved in past floods, namely 1997/98, 2003 and 2006 to discuss any lessons learned. It was expressed that a strong and appropriate fleet of vehicles and experienced drivers was essential, as were NFI items and the pre-positioning of emergency life-saving services. Access to groups with special needs in case of relocation, and a reliable communication system were also deemed very important.

SO Kakuma has also begun creating sand dikes using 5000 bags. These bags would be placed along the 800m fence using a dozer and grader from the Ministry of Public Works. The office is also creating a drift at UNHCR's main gate and digging trenches to direct the water back to the river. Even without El Nino, Kakuma camp suffers from serious flooding each year as a result of heavy rains in North-eastern Uganda.

## **Sub-Offices**

### **Kakuma**

Five additional cases of cholera were confirmed, bringing the cumulative total to seven. As at 26 October, 40 refugees and 33 members from the host community had been admitted at the camp hospital. The proportion of refugees and host community that tested positive for cholera was 15% and 30.3% respectively.

The Kakuma camp nutrition survey is ongoing and expected to end on 31st October 2009 and preliminary results expected to be out by 21st November 2009.

There have been frequent breakdowns of the water pumping equipment and piping equipment failures that have adversely affected water distribution in the camp. To alleviate the problem, UNHCR is in the process of procuring two new generators for LWF.

On 28 and 29 October, the heavy rains that fell in North-eastern Uganda and in the border areas flooded the rivers, thereby cutting the main highway from Kakuma to Lokichoggio. More road movement delays are expected with the onset of El Nino.

### **Dadaab**

Dadaab continues to experience a continuous influx of new arrivals from Somalia. More than 57,000 new arrivals have registered this year with more than 51,000 from Somalia. The overall population in Dadaab stands at 275,381 persons as of 25 October 2009.

Tensions between some members of the host community and IRC, who manage the hospital and health posts in Hagadera, have continued. Certain host community leaders are dissatisfied with a decision to award only four out of seven nurses positions to local candidates. UNHCR Health Coordinator monitored the selection process and has confirmed that it was fair and objective, with every possible opportunity being given to those locals meeting the minimum criteria before the remaining positions were offered to candidates from other parts of Kenya due to the necessity of maintaining standards in order to safeguard the health of refugees. As result IRC staff have been subjected to frequent stoning by members of a host community youth group, and some staff were attacked and physically injured. Health centres had to be closed for four days due to fears for staff safety, and in consequence services to refugees have suffered. Pre-mixed food in nutrition centres has had to be destroyed as it could not be kept. The local authorities have provided additional police officers in order to enable IRC to resume work