

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR'S SUPPORT TO THE HOST COMMUNITY

November 2014

BACKGROUND

The presence of over 350,000 refugees across five camps brings along numerous challenges and changes for local communities. Kenyans have been hosting the Dadaab refugee complex for more than 23 years.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Kenyan woman and child in Saretho

In order to overcome the perception that refugees are benefiting from international assistance while the local population is neglected, UNHCR and partners have been providing compensating projects and services. Since 2011, UNHCR has supported the Kenyan community residing in the wider Dadaab region in establishing community assets worth **over USD 5 million**.

Dadaab camps and humanitarian compounds are spread across four different constituencies: Wajir South Constituency (**Wajir County**) and Lagdera, Dadaab and Fafi Constituencies (all **Garissa County**). Kambioos, Hagadera and the UNHCR Alinjukur Field Office/Compound are located in Fafi Constituency. The UNHCR Dadaab Office/Compound is located in Dadaab constituency whereas the camps Ifo, Ifo 2 and Dagahaley are in Lagdera constituency. Dagahaley is also partly located in Wajir South. UNHCR's assistance is benefiting a host community population of **60,390 in Dadaab, 137,600 in Fafi and 130,070 in Wajir South**.

UNHCR's partners for host community peaceful coexistence projects are **three local Community Based Organizations (CBOs)**, namely, Fafi Integrated Development Association (FaIDA), Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO) and Pastoralist Initiative for Development and Advocacy (PIDAD) which cover Fafi, Lagdera/Dadaab and Wajir South sub-counties.

ACTIVITIES

Water and Sanitation

UNHCR is also supporting the host community with **establishment of communal assets** under the life-saving water and sanitation sectors. At Maleyley 2, a settlement located 31 km from Dadaab and with a population of 1,080 people, RRDO on behalf of UNHCR equipped the existing borehole with a submersible pump, a generator, a generator shed, two elevated water tanks, one water kiosk and two livestock water troughs. In Wajir South, UNHCR through PIDAD is supporting the community by **drilling and equipping a borehole** at Darfur village. During the dry season, UNHCR supports local communities by **ferrying water** to needy villages using water bowsers.



Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Newly equipped borehole in Maleyley

Environment

The protracted presence and settlement of the refugee population in and around the camps has had a negative impact on the environment and natural resources. In order to mitigate environmental degradation and to reinstate the natural ecosystem, UNHCR has established six **tree-nurseries** that provide seedlings used in rehabilitation of degraded land as well as institutional and residential compound tree planting. Three of the nurseries which are sited in Dadaab Centre, Alinjugur Centre and Borehole 5, are dedicated exclusively to the host communities in Dadaab and Fafi regions.



UNHCR Head of Operations in Dadaab, Ahmed Warsame, handing over a vehicle to Government Officials in Mandera County

Each of the nurseries has a capacity of producing over 150,000 seedlings per year and the seedlings are issued free of cost. Through the **green-belt approach of rehabilitating degraded land**, over 1,200 hectares of land adjacent to the refugee camp complex have been reinstated.

In a clear pointer to its commitment in addressing environmental issues associated with hosting of refugees in the region, UNHCR recently donated two **vehicles** to Mandera County Government and Garissa County Government **to facilitate environmental management interventions** and administration in the respective counties.

Security

In order to mitigate the security risks and to enhance security coverage in the camps, UNHCR and the Kenyan Government established the **Security Partnership Project (SPP)** in 2011. Under this bilateral security arrangement, UNHCR provides equipment, incentives and training to Kenya Police and Administration Police operating in the Dadaab area. In turn, the Kenyan government manages cross border flows, strengthens community-policing initiatives and protects humanitarian workers and assets.

Police are present in all five Dadaab camps and around the humanitarian compounds in Dadaab and Alinjugur; they escort convoys and individual vehicles of humanitarian agencies and maintain law and order in the camps.



Newly constructed police compound in Ifo 2 camp

During 2013 and 2014, UNHCR implemented 17 **construction projects of police accommodations and offices** under the SPP with financial support from European Union (EU). Under these projects, 153 accommodation rooms, 15 office rooms, one reporting office, two police mess and an external perimeter fence have been constructed for Kenya Police and Administration Police operating in the Dadaab area.

Education

Host community students are welcome in the schools in Dadaab camps. In addition, UNHCR has **built and supported host community schools**. At Maleyley 2, UNHCR constructed four class-rooms in support of the local primary school in 2013. In addition, the class-rooms were equipped with desks and solar lighting. Similar support was extended to Dadaab Secondary School where UNHCR constructed an 80 bed modern **dormitory** complete with sanitary facilities, beds and mattresses.



80 bed modern dormitory in Dadaab Secondary School

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab

Photo UNHCR/Dadaab



Host community boy in Maleyley

For the host community in Fafi region, UNHCR supported Fafi Primary School in construction of a dining hall and kitchen, fitting of the dormitory with racks and shelves, procurement of 120 beds and installing a solar lighting system. The Fafi community also benefitted from construction of an administration block for Alinjukur Secondary School. Currently, UNHCR is supporting the host community in Wajir South with construction of four classrooms in Nambaraha Primary School (2) and Finni Primary School (2). In addition, each of the schools will benefit with two gender segregated **sanitation blocks and a Resource Centre** equipped with benches, tables, shelves and assorted reading/reference material.

Partnerships

UNHCR encourages and supports the Garissa County Government in establishing and enhancing relations with other UN agencies, NGOs and donor countries.

On 19th November 2014, the first **Garissa County Stakeholder Forum** took place in Nairobi with support from UNHCR. In this event, the Governor of Garissa County addressed main issues of concern to the County and sought support from the international community. The forum underlined that international assistance should be complementary to the national development agenda and the County Integrated Development Plan



Governor of Garissa County, H.E. Hon.Nath if Jama Aden, addressing donors and agencies at Garissa County Forum

Photo UNHCR/ P. Ogola

Contacts:

UNHCR Dadaab External Relations Unit, kendapi@unhcr.org, Cell +254 704381822

UNHCR Dadaab Environment and Host Community Focal Point, Venanzio Njuki, njuki@unhcr.org

Web portal on Somali Displacement:

<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

[facebook.com/unhcrkenya](https://www.facebook.com/unhcrkenya)

twitter.com/UNHCR_Kenya