

Kenya

22 May 2020



Temperature detection thermometers prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in Dadaab refugee camps.
© UNHCR/Dennis Munene

Background

- UNHCR Kenya's Biweekly Update provides consolidated and up-to-date information on issues related to the refugee situation in Kenya in relation to the COVID-19 Emergency Response.
- As of 31 March, Kenya hosts 494,585 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, as well as urban areas. In addition, an estimated 18,500 stateless persons live in the country.

Update on the COVID-19 Situation in Kenya

- As of 22 May 2020, there are 1,168 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kenya, of which 380 have recovered and 50 have died. In total, 52,507 persons have been tested in the country.
- UNHCR, humanitarian agencies and the Government of Kenya are strengthening their COVID-19 response, after it was confirmed by the Government that five individuals tested positive for COVID-19 in the Dadaab refugee camps. In line with Government directives, they are receiving care in the Ifo 2 Hospital in Dadaab. The Ministry of Health's Disease Surveillance and Response team has initiated contact tracing.

- On 16 May, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced an extension of the nation-wide dusk-to-dawn curfew and the cessation of movement in and out of certain counties for an additional 21 days.
- Kenya's borders with Tanzania and Somalia were officially closed the same date after 43 individuals who had crossed the borders the week before tested positive for COVID-19. The border closure will also remain in place for 21 days.

UNHCR Kenya's COVID-19 Response



- Discussions on Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) for people of concern living in urban areas are advancing. There will be a pilot phase for persons living in coastal areas, prior to commencing the roll-out of the project in Nairobi. Vulnerable refugees in Nairobi will continue to receive financial assistance until provision of blanket assistance begins.



In April, UNHCR and World Food Programme staff carry out distribution of food, hygiene kits and relief items for refugees in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, while encouraging physical distancing.
© UNHCR/Samuel Otiemo



UNHCR distribution of soap to refugees for practicing safe handwashing to prevent the outbreak COVID-19 in Dadaab refugee camps. © UNHCR/Dennis Munene

Impact on UNHCR Key Areas



PROTECTION

- UNHCR in Kakuma has initiated a discussion with child protection, health and other relevant partners on specific arrangements for children during the pandemic, including establishment of care facilities inside isolation centres. The facilities will provide interim care to asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic children whose caretakers are hospitalized.



HEALTH

- In Dadaab, health facilities have been enhanced, with the construction of isolation and quarantine centres providing beds for an additional 955 people. An additional 125 hand-washing stations have been installed at food distribution sites, schools and markets.
- In April and May, Dadaab health centres have received 68 personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline staff, 450 pairs of gloves, 45,000 surgical masks and four oxygen concentrators. Refugee-led groups are producing more than 150,000 cloth masks which will be distributed to people of concern. All health workers have been trained on COVID-19 prevention and response.

There are currently 18 medical doctors, 150 nurses, 52 clinicians, 11 lab technicians and 336 community health volunteers working in the Dadaab refugee camps.

- On 13 May, UNHCR in Kakuma donated to the County Government of Turkana's Health Department 10,000 surgical masks and 300 hand sanitizers. UNHCR in Dadaab has donated the same number of surgical masks to the County Government of Garissa. These were part of the consignment of 100,000 masks that UNHCR in Kenya received from the organisation's international supply.
- Refugee youth, including a DAFI (*Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative*) scholar, and community-based organisations in Nairobi have been active in raising funds for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in the city, as well as in making and distributing masks and soap.
- UNHCR Kenya 20 May Statement:

[UNHCR and humanitarian agencies strengthen health response in Kenya refugee camps](#)



EDUCATION

- Education partners in Kakuma have conducted a survey, which showed that 84 per cent of their teachers has access to a smartphone. This information will facilitate provision of internet data bundles to the teachers for receiving and sharing educational resources and providing support to learners and parents within the area where the teachers reside.
- Broadcasting of radio lessons is taking place in Kakuma by UNHCR partners. Moreover, some 500 solar powered radios have been distributed targeting 1,200 students in the final grade of primary school in Kalobeyei Settlement to ensure that learners take advantage of the broadcasting initiative.



PUBLIC INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION

- Hygiene awareness campaigns on COVID-19 prevention have reached more than 200,000 refugees, including through local radio, posters, leaflets, WhatsApp messages, social media and dedicated websites in Somali, Oromo, Dinka, Swahili, Nuer, French and English.
- UNHCR is regularly issuing notices and updates to refugees informing them about the latest Government directives, which are translated into various languages and distributed through a number of communication channels.

Inter-Agency Coordination

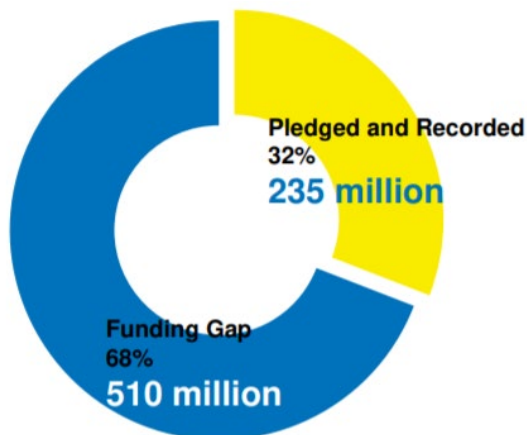
- On 15 May, UNHCR Kenya participated in a UN Country Team (UNCT) meeting with the Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Information and Communication (ICT), Innovation and Youth Affairs. UNHCR discussed its activities that target youth and encouraged inclusion of young refugees in national projects aiming to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 and reduce its impact.

Funding Requirements



- UNHCR is seeking **USD 745 million** as part of its global appeal to prepare for and prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 among refugees and other displaced populations. This is UNHCR's portion of the revised UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) appealing for USD 6.7 billion. Based on the latest assessments of global needs to curb the impact of the pandemic among forcibly displaced, it is an upward revision of the initial USD 255 million sought in the earlier appeal for UNHCR in the end of March. UNHCR's global appeal has so far received 31 per cent of the funds needed to assist refugees impacted by COVID-19.
- UNHCR Kenya's budget requirements as part of the COVID-19 emergency appeal amounts to **USD 11 million** to cover the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, with a focus on Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education and Protection.

USD 745 million requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally:



USD 235 million contributed or pledged:

Including:

- United States \$64.0M
- Germany \$38.0M
- European Union \$31.8M
- United Kingdom \$24.8M
- Japan \$23.9M
- Denmark \$14.6M
- CERF \$6.9M
- Canada \$6.4M
- Ireland \$3.3M
- Sweden \$3.0M
- Sony Corporation \$3.0M
- Luxembourg \$2.7M
- Finland \$2.4M
- Education Cannot Wait \$1.8M
- Various Private donors \$2.8M
- Qatar Charity \$1.5M
- Norway \$1.4M
- USA for UNHCR \$1.0M

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's 2020 global programme:

Sweden 76.4M | Norway 41.4M | Netherlands 36.1M | Denmark 34.6M | United Kingdom 31.7M
 Private donors Spain 26.6M | Germany 25.9M | Switzerland 16.4M
 Private donors Republic of Korea 13.9M



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Web and Social media

- UNHCR Kenya Website: <http://www.unhcr.org/ke>
- Facebook: [UNHCR Kenya](#)
- Twitter: [@UNHCR_Kenya](#)
- Instagram: [@unhcrkenya](#)

- UNHCR web portal on the COVID-19 Situation: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/covid-19>
- Web portal on Somali Displacement: <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>
- Web portal on South Sudan Displacement: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>



Story



Innocent Havyarimana, a Burundian businessman, holds a bottle of freshly made hand sanitizer, which he sells to fellow refugees, aid workers and Kenyans in Kakuma refugee camp. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Soap maker in Kenya refugee camp lowers prices to fight COVID-19

When Innocent Havyarimana, a Burundian refugee, first heard handwashing was crucial in preventing coronavirus, he did something few businessmen would do – he lowered his prices.

Others might have raised prices to increase profit, but his aim was to make his soap as accessible as possible, so he also boosted production.

“Everyone needs soap. I decided to reduce the price so that everyone would be able to afford it,” he said.

The Coronavirus has left many people feeling helpless, but Havyarimana is an example of someone who saw an opportunity to make a difference and took it.

Fellow refugees, aid workers and Kenyans in the local community buy the products made at his small workshop in Kakuma refugee camp.

“I vary the containers, starting from 100 millilitres to 1 litre so that even those with only 50 Kenyan shilling (approx. USD 50 cents), can buy some soap so that they can protect themselves from the virus,” said Havyarimana, who fled conflict in Burundi in 2013 and received a loan to start the business two years later from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

UNHCR and its partners work with the government to enhance capacity at local health facilities and share COVID-19 and other relevant health-related information with the public. UNHCR has also increased access to clean water and soap as part of coronavirus preventative and preparedness measures.

“Refugees are playing an important role in prevention. In Kakuma, there are so many people doing something in the fight against COVID-19, whether it is mask making or spreading awareness,” said Kahin Ismail, Senior Operations Manager for UNHCR in Kakuma and currently in charge of the refugee camp.

Innocent Havyarimana is not only supplementing the supply of soap, he is also making and selling hand sanitizer with Aloe vera, which he has planted at his workshop and outside his house.

The camp in north-eastern Kenya hosts close to 200,000 refugees. Development and private sector investment boost the economy and help the soap business, Havyarimana’s Galp Enterprises, thrive.

An [IFC Study](#) in 2018 found that there are over 2,000 businesses in Kakuma contributing USD 56 million to the region’s economy.

Havyarimana has a diploma in chemistry and worked for a chemical company back home in Burundi. He used those skills to develop a range of products including soaps, bleach and shampoo. The products are certified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

“Coronavirus has affected the world. Refugees are also afraid and that is why they are always washing their hands now,” he said.

Together with heads of state and government and leaders from UN agencies, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi is calling for the prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene in the response to COVID-19. Learn more about their [Call to Action](#).

By Samuel Otieno Odhiambo in Kakuma, Kenya
Additional reporting by Linda Muriuki in Nairobi, Kenya



[Refugee entrepreneur lowers prices, boosts production so more people can have soap](#)

