

Kenya

3 July 2020



© UNHCR/Mohamed Jimale
Refugees collecting UNHCR and WFP food and aid packages from partner staff at Dadaab camp in the beginning of June. © UNHCR/Mohamed Jimale

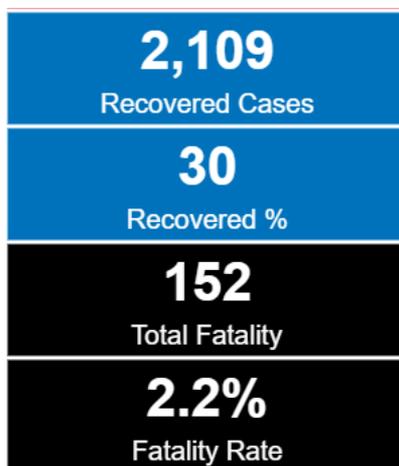
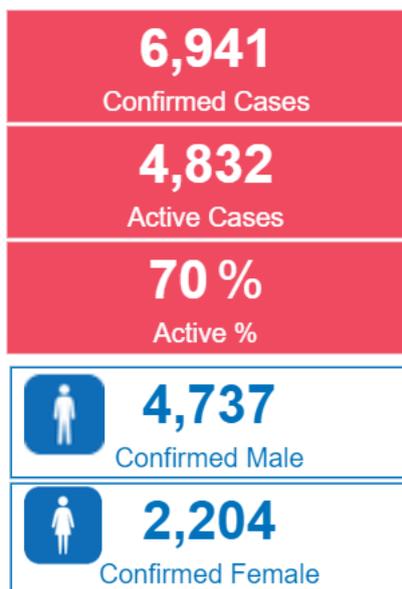
Background

- UNHCR Kenya's External Update provides consolidated and up-to-date information on issues related to the refugee situation in Kenya concerning the COVID-19 Emergency Response.
- As of 31 May, Kenya hosts 494,649 refugees and asylum-seekers in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, as well as urban areas (84% live in camps and 16% urban areas). In addition, an estimated 18,500 stateless persons live in the country.

Update on the COVID-19 Situation

- There are **16 COVID-19 cases among persons of concern** in the refugee camps (14 in Dadaab and two in Kakuma).
- Two cases in Dadaab and one in Kakuma have recovered. A 75-year-old individual passed away.
- As part of the testing of essential personnel moving in and out of the camps, 13 UNHCR and partners staff have tested positive on COVID-19. Two staff members in Dadaab have recovered.

National Statistics and cases among persons of concern to UNHCR residing in the refugee camps (as of 2 July 2020):



Refugees and Asylum-seekers

Total number of affected PoC in the country: **16**

Active POC: **12**

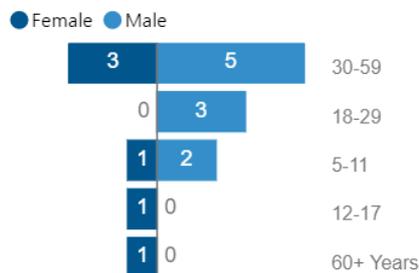
Total number of affected PoC in general ward: **12**

Total number of affected PoC in ICU: **0**

Total number of PoC recovered: **3**

Total number of PoC Fatality: **1**

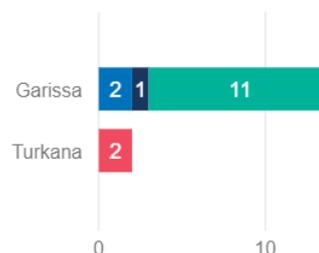
PoC by gender and age



Trend by camp/settlement



At camp/settlement level



Source: *Kenyan Ministry of Health*



UNHCR partner staff distributing soap at Dadaab camp. © UNHCR/ Mohamed Jimale

Impact on UNHCR Key Areas



PROTECTION

Urban

- A community monitoring exercise is ongoing to obtain a clearer understanding of the situation of different communities, including access to assistance and healthcare services.
- The UNHCR Helpline is back to functioning 24 hours a day following procurement of additional material, including laptops and data bundles.
- UNHCR has donated masks, gloves, sanitizers and mobile airtime to 35 community leaders in Nairobi to support them in their role as essential links to the refugee communities.
- Over 200 vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers have benefited from fundraising initiatives of refugee-led organisations.
- UNHCR's partner AVSI has supported 200 vocational students with food and rent.

Dadaab

- FilmAid continues to distribute child-friendly messages on COVID-19 through community workers, radio and broadcast.
- Vulnerable persons of concern receive food and non-food items through emergency social support and cash vouchers.

Kakuma

- UNHCR conducted 17 remote resettlement interviews and continued working on complementary pathways by assisting students in communicating with universities abroad, supporting remote examinations and selection process and helping prepare necessary documentation.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR procured 2,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect health workers, of which 900 have been shipped to Dadaab and 1,000 to Kakuma. The remaining 100 were retained in Nairobi to cover emergency needs.

Urban

- UNHCR provided foodstuff and household items to five charitable children's institutions hosting refugee and asylum-seeker children, based on the institutions' priority needs.

Dadaab

- Distribution of masks to all vulnerable groups and their family members is ongoing.
- On 10 June, UNHCR Kenya received 10,000 reusable face masks for free distribution to the refugees residing in Dadaab refugee camps from the Al-Khair Foundation.

Kakuma

- UNHCR's health partners, Kenya Red Cross, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Africa Inland Church trained 50 community health volunteers, outpatient department incentive workers and safe motherhood promoters on COVID-19 home-based care for asymptomatic cases.
- 23 Farmer Field School facilitators supported 700 households in the Kalobeyei settlement and 166 households in seven nearby host community villages in establishing kitchen gardens to promote food and nutrition security.
- On 11 June, UNHCR completed the relocation of 112 asylum-seekers from the Reception Centre to the community. The Reception Centre can now be solely used as a quarantine facility.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Kakuma

- Community-level COVID-19 sensitisation is ongoing, reaching 1,246 households so far.
- With UNICEF's support, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Finnish Church Aid (FCA) and Windle International Kenya (WIK) distributed sanitary kits to 500 primary and secondary school students aged 10-18 years in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) also distributed sanitary kits to 712 Accelerated Education Programmes (AEP) students.
- An increased number of health and nutrition services are delivered at community level to avoid unnecessary visits to the hospital (e.g. home visits for patients with chronic illnesses).
- On 5 June, UNHCR donated two new vehicles to the Kenya Police Service in Kakuma, which will enhance its capacity to respond to security emergencies and conduct patrols.

Dadaab

- On 4 June, UNHCR distributed the five boxes of soaps donated by *iamtheCODE* initiative to persons with disabilities, sexual and gender-based violence survivors.
- UNHCR donated spare parts to host communities in Dadaab and Fafi Sub Counties to repair broken pumps and increase the community's access to water.



EDUCATION

- Radio lessons, which combine pre-recorded KICD (*Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development*) content and interactive live sessions with teachers, continue in the Kakuma camps, the Kalobeyei settlement and the Dadaab camps, with over 75,000 learners reached so far. UNHCR is procuring 5,000 radios to support this initiative.
- In Kakuma, special needs education teachers from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) disseminate accessible information in audio formats for students with visual difficulties and in video formats with captions for students with hearing difficulties. So far, they have reached 209 (32% girls) students in the refugee camps and in the host community.



PUBLIC INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION

WRD 2020

- On 19 June, UNHCR Kenya and RAS celebrated World Refugee Day (WRD) 2020 under the theme “*Everyone Can Make A Difference: Every Action Counts*”. Due to the global pandemic, this year’s WRD messaging was broader than previous years and inclusive of all vulnerable people, both refugees and host communities. For the first time, the WRD commemorations in Kenya was done virtually in its entirety through Facebook and local radio stations in Dadaab and Kakuma. The online event was co-hosted by UNHCR High Profile Supporter Pinky Ghelani and UNHCR’s Bernard Rono and included speeches and performances from e.g. world renown cellist and UN Messenger of Peace Yo-Yo Ma; the UNHCR Representative in Kenya; the EU Ambassador to Kenya; the Deputy Regional Refugee Coordinator of the US Embassy in Kenya; the Kenyan Commissioner for Refugee Affairs; UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and Afro-soul star Mercy Masika; plus a long list of refugee artists and performers from Dadaab, Kakuma and Nairobi.



[Facebook stream of the WRD 2020 Commemoration Event in Kenya](#)

Inter-Agency Coordination

- On 18 June, the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) launched virtually the *Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund* (KKCF). The UNHCR Kenya Representative, the UNHCR Regional Bureau Director, the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Operations), the Governor of Turkana, and the IFC Regional Vice-President, the IFC East Africa Regional Director, the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) Chief Executive Officer were among the key participants. The KKCF will help increase private sector engagement in the refugee-hosting areas in Turkana County by creating a competitive business environment, enabling and improving the business environment, and providing direct support to larger companies setting up operations in the Kakuma area.
- UNHCR Kenya participated in a call with the African Union Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons to highlight the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and asylum-seekers. Issues discussed included access to asylum, inclusion in national safety net programmes, non-penalisation for expired documents and clear messaging on COVID-19 to combat xenophobia or stigmatisation.



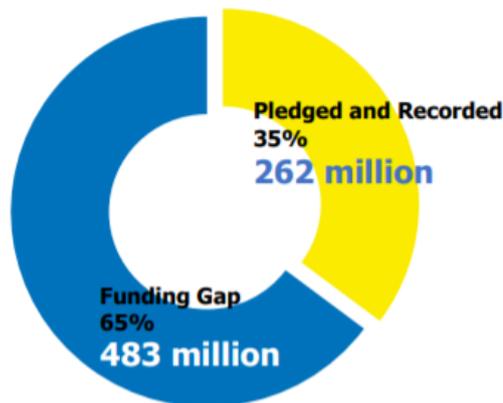
Funding Requirements

UNHCR Global Appeal

- 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 for the period April-December 2020. 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 35 per cent (USD 262 million) of the funds needed to assist refugees impacted by COVID-19.

USD 745M

Requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally until the end of the year:



Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's 2020 programme:

Sweden 76.4M | Norway 41.4M | Netherlands 36.1M | Denmark 34.6M | Private donors Spain 33.1M | United Kingdom 31.7M | Germany 25.9M | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.3M | Switzerland 16.4M

Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees, the internally displaced, stateless persons and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

Total contributed or pledged to the COVID-19 appeal:

USD 262M

Including:

United States	\$64.0M
European Union	\$43.0M
Germany	\$39.8M
United Kingdom	\$24.8M
Japan	\$23.9M
Denmark	\$14.6M
United Nations Foundation	\$10.0M
CERF	\$6.9M
Private donors	\$6.6M
Canada	\$6.4M
Ireland	\$3.3M
Sweden	\$3.0M
Sony Corporation	\$2.9M
Finland	\$2.4M
Austria	\$1.8M
Education Cannot Wait	\$1.8M
Qatar Charity	\$1.5M
Norway	\$1.4M
USA for UNHCR	\$1.0M

UNHCR Kenya Appeal

- UNHCR Kenya's budget requirements as part of the [revised COVID-19 emergency appeal](#) currently amounts to some **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 in Dadaab, Kakuma and urban areas.



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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's global web portal on the COVID-19 Situation: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/covid-19>
- UNHCR Kenya's reporting tool for COVID-19 cases in the refugee camps:
[UNHCR Kenya COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

- 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>



One of five isolation and treatment centres in Kakuma camp where hundreds of healthcare workers and community health volunteers have received COVID-19 training. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



Story

Refugees make protective masks to curb the spread of coronavirus

Across the African continent, displaced people are stitching masks to protect themselves and their neighbours.

When 24-year-old Fardowsa Ibrahim signed up for a tailoring course, she didn't imagine that six months later, she would be making face masks – much sought-after protection made necessary by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The former refugee who returned to Baidoa in Somalia's South West State from Kenya's Dadaab camp four years ago, is among a group of returnees and internally displaced women, actively involved in helping curb the spread of the coronavirus by sewing face masks.

The women were trained by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and Mercy Corps and after the training, received startup capital and tailoring kits containing sewing machines, scissors, iron boxes, needles, thread and materials.

"I am proud to be contributing to the fight against COVID-19 by making these masks," says Fardowsa, who's married with four children.

Since April, the women have made over 3,700 masks and sold 2,000 pieces for 50 US cents to a dollar apiece, depending on the quantities purchased. Their customers include the State's Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management and other aid agencies.

"I make up to 70 masks in a single day. I am so happy to see my family's income increase day by day," adds Fardowsa.

Four months into the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the world are adjusting to a 'new normal' that incorporates frequent handwashing with soap, observing social distancing and wearing face masks when in public. Refugees and displaced people have stepped up to help themselves and those around them by stitching face masks in various shapes, designs and colours.

In Kenya, after the first confirmed COVID-19 case in March, the government issued a directive requiring everyone to wear facemasks in public.

Maombi Samir, 24, from the Democratic Republic of Congo and a fashion designer living in Kenya's Kakuma camp, realized that he could put his skills to a new use.

"There was a shortage of masks and I had seen samples of facemasks on the internet," says Samir. "I wanted to use my talent to show that refugees can also contribute to the response."

Using locally available fabric, Samir and his staff of three set to work and within a week, he had delivered 300 masks to the UNHCR office in Kakuma to be distributed to staff. He also gave away masks to refugees and locals who could not afford to buy them.

"We live in a community with many other refugees so the best we can do is to protect ourselves as much as we can," he adds.

In South Sudan, internally displaced people (IDPs) at the UN site in Malakal stitch between 300 to 500 masks a day to support the COVID-19 response. Trained by UNHCR and the Humanitarian Development Consortium, a local non-profit, the tailors gather daily in a tent where they use pedal-powered sewing machines to make the masks.

Their workstations are spread out to comply with social distancing guidelines and their conversations are muffled by the masks they have on.

“All of us have a responsibility during this difficult time to confront this disease,” says Chan Ajak Deng, 43, who helped mobilize tailors to participate in the face mask project. “I believe we can all make a difference but only when we stand together as one.”

Chan taught himself how to sew prior to the civil war that broke out in 2013, so as to make his then new bride, Eliza, a beautiful dress.

It had taken him a month to finish the dress and soon, he was churning out enough garments to support his family of nine. After the war, he was forced to leave his tailoring business behind.

When Eliza saw a UNHCR notice announcing the tailoring course, she told him about it and he jumped at the opportunity.

“My wife wanted me to continue making ‘the most beautiful dresses in South Sudan’ and I saw it as a chance to sharpen my skills,” he laughs.

Since production started, Chan and his fellow tailors have made over 6,500 masks. They are aiming for at least 8,000 masks by the end of June, to be distributed to health workers and vulnerable IDPs in Malakal and other displacement sites in remote areas.

Masks production is also under way in Wau, where UNHCR’s partner, Women’s Development Group comprised of refugees, IDPs and host community members, has produced 4,000 masks in three weeks, with an aim to produce a total of 12,000 masks.

In other parts of the continent where lockdowns have dramatically impacted refugees’ livelihoods, tailoring businesses are providing a lifeline.

Fatouma Mohamed, a Malian refugee living near Niamey, Niger’s capital, used to make and sell traditional Tuareg leather crafts. But after authorities imposed a lockdown, business dried up.

“Nowadays, people are scared to leave their houses. If I cannot sell my artefacts, I won’t have food to eat,” she says.

She started making face masks which she sells for about 50 US cents apiece to street vendors who in turn, sell them across the capital.

“I realize this is a temporary business, but with the money I make, I can continue to support my three children,” she explains.

Since April, refugees in Sudan’s White Nile State have made a total of 900 masks, to be distributed to fellow refugees and their host communities.

Trained by UNHCR and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the group of 11 refugees from Al Redis 2, Jouri and Khor Al Waral camps are working from a workshop normally used to make children’s school uniforms.

Their target is 9,000 masks and there are plans to involve refugees in three other camps – Um Sangour, Alagaya and Dabat Bosin.

In Tanzania, UNHCR has partnered with the Danish Refugee Council, HelpAge and MSF to engage refugees in camps in Kigoma district to produce face masks.

John Umimana, a self-taught Burundian refugee tailor, lives in Mtendeli camp and is the leader of a group of 1,200 tailors at one of the mask production centers.

“This project is a good opportunity for us to put our skills to good use in the fight against coronavirus,” he says. “I have trained many of these tailors how to sew and I am glad they can also participate in this effort.”

MSF is providing additional training so that each refugee receives at least two re-usable cloth masks.

Tanzania currently hosts approximately 286,000 refugees and asylum seekers, 86 per cent of whom live in three refugee camps situated in the Kigoma region.

In northern Mozambique, the German Development Agency, GIZ, through the Promove Agribiz Project, funded by the EU and the German Government, has provided masks produced by refugee tailors to Mozambicans employed in cashew nut processing factories. The refugees were trained by UNHCR, as part of its livelihoods programme.

Bina Lom Lokole, a Congolese refugee and the leader of the tailors, explains how the project is beneficial.

“I like when we are producing masks because it brings us together,” he says. “Joining this project has given me courage and healed my heart because we are taking care of each other.”

The Nampula health district has ordered an additional 10,000 cloth masks to be made by refugees. These will be distributed for free to other refugees and host communities living in Maratane.

In Uganda, refugees are producing non-medical face masks for more than 217,000 refugees living in the 19 settlements in Adjumani and Palabek, in the north.

A total of 500 tailors from the refugee and local communities have been identified to produce the masks. Each tailor is expected to make at least 75 face masks a day and will work with adequate sanitation and monitoring for compliance of standards.

Writing by Cathy Wachiaya with reporting by Njoki Mwangi for Somalia, Elizabeth Marie Stuart in South Sudan, Samuel Otieno in Kenya, Marlies Cardoen in Niger, Sylvia Nabanoba in Sudan, Winnie Italeli Kweka in Tanzania, Adaiana Lima in Mozambique and Duniya Aslam Khan in Uganda.



Maombi Samil, a 24-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, makes facemasks at his small business, Samir's Design Shop_One in Kenya's Kakuma camp – one of the many refugee-run businesses that is helping to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno