

# ***KENYA: SOMALI REFUGEES***

*17 October 1996*

*Emergency Appeal no. 01.04/96*

*Situation Report no. 3*

*Period Covered: June - September 1996*

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*The camps for Somali refugees are planned for closure on or before the last day of this year. While the Delegation feels that this target is unlikely to be reached, due to non-co-operation of the refugees, mechanisms have been put in place for the eventual closures. Federation/Kenyan Red Cross operations continue, against a backdrop of rising crime and dissatisfaction among the refugee population with the policies of the authorities.*

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## ***The context***

The Federation/KRCS operation for Somali refugees was established in February 1992, soon after their initial influx into Kenya. Red Cross support activities include camp management, distribution of food and non-food items, preventive and curative health care and the provision of social services (education, mental health, physiotherapy and vocational training). At the beginning of 1995, the Federation/KRCS shared responsibility for managing five camps holding 100,000 refugees on the Kenyan coast, but since then the number of camps has reduced to three and the refugee population has fallen below 20,000.

## ***Latest events***

The period under review was marked by tragedy, conflict, disasters, general insecurity, refugee movement and the announcement of the closure of the camps.

In July, the resettlement process continued with approximately 1,000 more Benadirs leaving for the US bringing the total resettlement caseload for 1996 to 3,065 refugees. Whereas the resettlement programme has been perceived as providing a durable solution for many refugees, it has cast a gloom of despair for many others who have not been accepted. In July, a 33 year old hanged himself in Swaleh Nguru Camp, reportedly out of despair at not being accepted for this resettlement process. The family members were referred for psychological support and counselling by the Mental Health Officer.

Fighting erupted in August between the Somali National Front and the Islamic fundamentalists, Al-It-Had, near the Kenya-Somalia border, and one Kenyan soldier was killed and another was injured following a bomb blast in the town of Mandera (in

north-eastern Kenya). This violence affected the refugees in Dabaad and the coastal camps, causing tension and tightening of security by the Government of Kenya.

The number of security incidents on the coast continues to increase with four incidents occurring within two kilometres of the Delegation. In late August, the Health Delegate escaped unharmed after being attacked at gun-point in the post office.

On 13 August the Kenyan Government announced its decision to close all the camps on or before 31 December 1996. UNHCR plans to close Swaleh Nguru (the Benadir population) and Jomvu (the Bajuni population) simultaneously within the time frame set by the Government. Dabaad and Kakuma. Hatimi (the Barawa population) would remain open as the entire population of this camp is scheduled for resettlement to the USA and departure should be completed by June 1997.

On September 20 the Government and UNHCR announced "voluntary registration" for relocation to north-eastern Kenya in Swaleh Nguru and Jomvu camps. So far the refugees have refused to co-operate and remain adamant that they will not move voluntarily. To date not one refugee has signed up for relocation.

In preparation for the closure of the camps, the Kenya Delegation established a Task Force Committee and the first drafts of the "operation scale down and pullout plan of action" of services and activities have been developed. These include the reduction of services and staff and the movement of equipment and vehicles.

A fire broke out in Swaleh Nguru camp on 27 August. Ten shelters were destroyed while another twelve were pulled down to prevent the spread of fire. One hundred persons were displaced and an emergency package consisting of plastic sheeting, one blanket, second hand clothing, and a kitchen set was provided by the Red Cross and UNHCR to each family.

The first cholera case was detected in Swaleh Nguru camp in August and two children under the age of 5 years died on 11 August while undergoing treatment. Following these events an anti-cholera health education campaigns were implemented immediately and the situation appears to be under control with no new cases reported.

Over the past several months, the north-eastern pastoral districts of Mandera, Wajir, Isolo and Garissa, have shown signs of severe drought. In September, the district MPSs appealed to the Government to declare a national disaster. According to the latest media reports, 20 people have died in the famine stricken area of Garissa district. The KRC and the Federation is conducting a joint assessment in the region, where they carried out a drought programme in 1992-94.

An evaluation of the Kenya Somali refugee programme took place over a fortnight in September. Its objective was to evaluate the successes/failures and strengths/weaknesses of this five-year programme, and provide recommendations for the KRCS and Federation on how to better respond to future disasters that may strike. Two briefing workshops were conducted; one with the managers and supervisors of the Kenya Delegation and another one with the KRCS, Kenya Delegation, Regional Delegation and ICRC.

The registered population of the coastal camps dropped by about 2,000 owing primarily to resettlement, but an influx of new refugees were observed in Swaleh Nguru camp. The unregistered population figures remain stable at 8,000. During September, 21 families left for resettlement to the US. The numbers are not reflected in September's population figures (overleaf):

<b>Camp</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
Swaleh Nguru	8,344	7,795	7,365	7,365
Hatimi	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,312.00
Jomvu	5,256	5,231	5,231	5,231.00
<b>Total</b>	17,351	16,338	15,908	15,908.00

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

#### **Logistics •**

In order for the Logistics department to prepare for the closure of the camps while at the same continue to provide efficient and accountable services, it was necessary to restructure the department and modify the mode of operation for some of its components, such as warehousing procedures, management of vehicles and drivers, and procurement of goods.

#### **Food and Non-Food Distributions •**

More than 245 metric tons of food was distributed to approximately 16,000 refugees with an improvement in the calorific intake of the WFP food basket. Rations were issued as per prescribed scales. The food basket consisted of wheatflour distributed as 420 grammes per person per day (an increased of 20 grammes to compensate for the sugar ration which was last distributed in July 1995), lentils at 50 grammes per person per day (last distributed in February), oil at 25 grammes per person per day , and salt 5 grammes per person per day .

Although WFP reports that the customs clearance of food imports is finalised the food pipeline remains unstable because an additional three weeks delay is being experienced due to additional requirements related to payment of demurrage and port storage fees.

#### ***Food distributions***

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
Cereals	234.02	205.09	201.13	199.41
Lentils/pulses	0.00	24.47	24	23.47
Vegetable Oil	13.01	12.27	12.04	11.84
Salt	2.58	2.38	2.40	2.41
<b>Total (mt)</b>	249.61	244.21	239.57	237.13

The blended food allocated to support the supplementary feeding programme was not available this period due to delays (now rectified) in procurement of this commodity.

During the month of July, WFP reported that 300 M of maize and 30 MT of edible oil was issued for cross-border operations aimed at stemming the flow of Somali refugees into Kenya. However, an influx of new refugees in Swaleh Nguru has been reported .

In July, 18,938 pairs of sandals were distributed to Jomvu and Hatimi camps, distribution to Swaleh Nguru is scheduled for September.

#### **Medical •**

The second Stress Management Workshop organised by the Medical Co-ordinators was held on July 17-18 with 26 KRCS staff participating. A series of weekly training sessions are planned for the nurses and community workers to upgrade their skills so that they can better assist their community .

The first positive case of cholera was discovered in August when two children under 5 years from the same family developed diarrhoea and vomiting and died while undergoing treatment. All family members were screened for cholera and the mother's specimen tested positive. The Red Cross anti-cholera campaign team immediately started a cholera campaign which included screening, health education and sanitation.

The situation is under control, out of the 37 specimens tested only one was positive. Nonetheless, the Red Cross cholera health education campaign is continuing in all camps.

Following an increase number of infested stool specimens found in patients at Utange clinic, more than 225 specimens were distributed of which 100 specimens tested positive with worm infestations. Treatment was provided for the patients.

The Red Cross participated in the National polio immunisation campaign on 11-13 August in all camps, the Ministry of Health providing vaccines for 533 children. A follow-up immunisation day is scheduled next month.

*Utange and Jomvu clinics*

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
OPD	3406	3383	3280	2,789.00
Admissions	311	351.00	227.00	251.00
Referrals	144	130.00	126.00	125.00
TB cases	62	69	80	105.00
<b>Total</b>	3923	3933	3713	3,270.00
Mental Health cases	n/a	n/a	n/a	184.00
Physiotherapy cases	n/a	n/a	n/a	214.00

**Water, Sanitation and Construction •**

The National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation installed a new in Hatimi camp . Overall the water supply to all camps remainsadequate and safe, with an average of 20 litres per person per day being provided.

Repairs of toilet blocks in all camps was completed with replacement 336 sheets of corroded iron sheets and 118 toilet doors (which had been stolen by the refugees) in Swaleh Nguru with gunny sacks. The sanitation exhaustion is under controlled, however, the toilets are still being misused with food and other garbage being dumped in them. To control the spread of malaria the shelters were sprayed in all the camps and r odent control was also carried out.

**Social Services •**

School enrollment continues to increase, with a total enrollment of 1,690 pupils in July, 1,755 pupils in August and 1,508 in September in pre and primary schools and adult classes.

Following the announcement of the closure of the camps, the registration and attendance in skills training classes has increased, especially in typing and carpentry classes .

### *Staffing requirements for August and September*

<b>Category</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
Federation Delegates	3	4
National Staff	1	1
National Society Staff	132	129
Gok Seconded Staff	13	14
Refugee Volunteers	242.00	208.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>391.00</b>	<b>356.00</b>

### *Outstanding needs*

Funds for soap and fuel have yet to be found and replacements for three stolen laptop computers are sought.

### *External Relations: Government, UN, NGOs, media*

The communication and co-operation between Red Cross and its operating partners (WFP and UNHCR) improved this reporting period and weekly meetings have been re-established. A routine mission visit was made by the WFP (Regional) Emergency Officer to the project and a preliminary Food Need Assessment Mission was conducted by WFP.

The weekly case conferences between Red Cross health department and UNHCR Social Services continue to be productive even though the number of cases requesting referral assistance are increasing.

During September 20 students from the United States International University, Red Cross youth department, visited the camps.

Regular articles appear in the local newspapers on the refugees in Mombasa and other parts of Kenya which has heightened the community's interest in the movement of the refugees from the coast. Most, it has to be said, dwell on negative aspects such as crime.

### *Conclusion*

In general, the Delegation has taken the necessary security measures in preparation for the closure of the camps and is prepared to provide essential services until the closure. However, it appears that the camps may remain open past the deadline date of December 31, 1996 should the refugees continue to refuse to co-operate.

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