

In The Loop

Refugee Voices Bulletin

“In The Loop” is a bi-weekly data-driven humanitarian feedback newsletter, produced to inform organizations and local authorities delivering services to refugees, returnees, and host communities in Dadaab. Internews aims to achieve two-way humanitarian communications for closing feedback loops to support the humanitarian community’s effort to put the concerns and feedback of the affected populations at the forefront of their service delivery to enhance accountability. The Community feedback used in this report is sampled from recorded Vox pop interviews, social media platforms, virtual community roundtable discussion, one on one community meeting and other feedback collected from the weekly live radio call-in show (Bilan) broadcasted in Dadaab by Nairobi’s Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1FM. The topics of discussion for the period mapped were “Importance of child spacing for families”, “Women and Peace”, “Role of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in preventing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic”, and “Access to justice for women in Dadaab refugee camps”.

A total of 127 Interactions were recorded in the week of Sept 21 - Oct 11, 2020.

Data collected from
127 persons



84 Female
66%



43 Male
34%

Methods of data collection



ONLINE



ON-GROUND



ON AIR

IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SPACING FOR FAMILIES

HEALTH

It is essential to space children because our religion teaches us to breastfeed for two years. I support child spacing so that the mother can have good health, and the child grows up well.

Adult, Female, Ifo camp

I do not support child spacing because anything happens with the will of God; if I can have a hundred children, I would love to have. My wife gives birth every year because we do not practice child spacing. I take care of my wife and do everything she needs and has no problem so far.

Adult, Male, Ifo camp

Child spacing is good both for the health of the mother and the baby’s growth. If the family has no wealth, it is hard to take care of many children, which necessitates child spacing.

Adult, Male, Ifo camp

It is important to keep space between children. It is upon the parents to ensure this happens.

Adult, Male, Ifo camp

Spacing children is significant for the mother and the baby because breastfeeding for up to two years improves the child’s health and his immune system.

Adult, Male, Hagadera camp

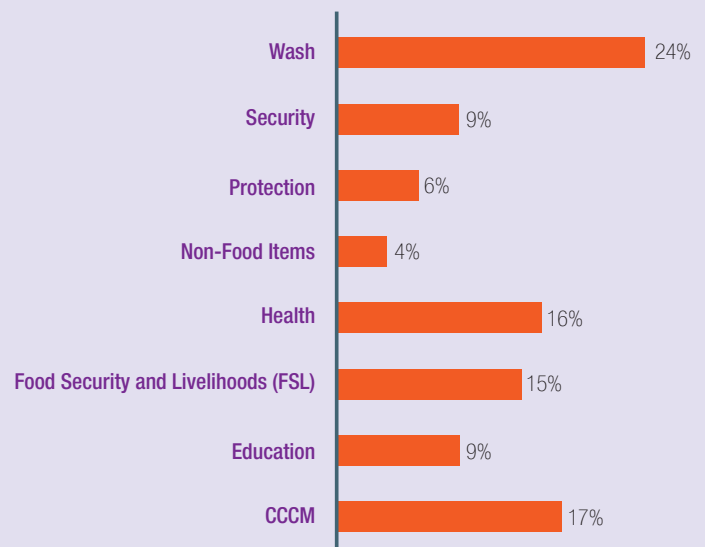
It is a good idea to space children since it is good for both the mother and the baby.

Adult, Female, Garissa

Women get pregnant while the smallest kid has not even started to sit, which is detrimental to the fetus, the one breastfeeding as well as the mother. I would advise mothers to utilize child spacing contraceptives available.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

Feedback Sector Summary



I do not support child spacing. My view is that let women give birth as much as they can.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

This program is informative. Women are different; some do not get pregnant while breastfeeding, while others get pregnant even if they breastfeed. Even so, child spacing is vital to the health of mothers and children. I believe that women should at minimum, space their children for two years.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

Childbearing and spacing is in God’s hands. I know to space children women must use contraceptives which have many consequences including women becoming infertile. Just leave the women alone, let them have as many children as possible.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

No medicine at the health centres, they only give pain killers.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp

WOMEN AND PEACE

SECURITY

Women have a significant impact on peace. When there is no peace, there is no stability. Mostly only women can bring peace in the community. Whether at the households or at the community level, women always preach peace and highlight its importance.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

Peace is something crucial. Mothers love peace. At Dagahaley camp, we participate in peace initiatives. We work on peace and stability at the block level. We help people who are in disputes.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

To promote peace, women should collaborate with men. Together they can build peace to solve the problems that arise at home.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

Somali mothers are a pillar in our community; therefore, mothers must teach their children the importance of peace when raising them. Our status of being a refugee must not stop us from supporting peace programs. Possible ways that we can build peace is to intervene whenever a dispute occurs between two persons, help them mediate to sort out the issue at hand. If women cannot support peace, men will not support it.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

The role of women in peace is to preach peace and stability. Enmity is what made us flee from Somalia. Therefore, we must preach peace at public places such as tap stands and give awareness on the importance of peace. Both men and women must campaign for peace.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

Women play a key role in working on peace. They can deliver on this by doing an awareness campaign at the community level.

Adult, Female Dagahaley Camp

We can encourage women by showing confidence in them and not belittling them. Women can do everything men can do if they are willing. Therefore, let us encourage women always.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

Women play an important role in peace and stability in society. Women are the foundation of peace and stability. Encouraging women on peace can start at their households, then expanding to other different sections of the society. I urge all women to work on building peace wherever they are.

Adult, Male Dagahaley Camp

Women can only access justice if the partners and the government educate them on their rights and do follow up. Mas'laha (Communal dispute resolution) will not give women their rights. Mas'laha is not bad, although it does not grant women their rights. Women should speak out and voice their rights with the partners and the council.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

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Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp



Women who experience violence seek justice from elders through Mas'laha. I would say women should seek justice from the agencies that deal with matters of justice. I would also suggest that the elders and the agencies to collaborate to give women their rightful justice.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

Women who get abused should get justice by approaching security agents. Women face different abuse, including family disputes, rape, or assault. In case they suffer assault or rape, they must report to the security agencies, visit the hospital for treatment, and inform the agencies so that she accesses her rights. Therefore, I would say women should stand for their rights and help other women get justice.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Elders solve a lot of issues, however, to prevent assault cases, the perpetrators should face the law. Cases happen every day. You hear a girl was raped and killed with the case ending up being solved by elders, and this trend continues. It is necessary that when someone commits gender-based violence, he should face the law.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

Women can get justice if they report their cases and present their plights to the government's concerned offices. The government should support women's rights. It is only the government where women can get access to justice.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

There is no justice in the camps because I have often seen girls raped with no action taken. So, I would recommend awareness campaigns by religious leaders as well as agencies.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

Women can access justice through court of law. Communal justice through the elders undermines justice. Adult, Male, Dadaab



EDUCATION

Thanks, LWF for providing books!

We want to thank LWF for distributing textbooks to class eight students.

Youth, Hagadera Camp

PROTECTION

Child marriage is becoming rampant in Dadaab camps. No action is taken to curb it.

Youth, Hagadera Camp

The UNHCR protection office does not operate and is closed. People with protection concerns have not been able to report their cases since Covid-19 started.

Youth, Hagadera Camp

NON- FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

I want to thank LWF for distributing non-food items to the elderly and we want it continued.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

We have heard that the UK embassy is starting resettlement process; is that true?

Youth, Hagadera Camp

Newborn babies do not get birth Certificates. We want UNHCR to give us a birth certificates!

Adults, Female, Hagadera Camp

Has relocation of non-Somalis to Kalobeyei stopped?

Adult, Male Hagadera Camp

When will the resettlement process resume?

Adults, Female, Dagahaley Camp

What happened to the resettlement of the refugees who got feedback from the American embassy?

Adult, Male Hagadera Camp

Schools were re-opened. Our children cannot travel due to lack of movement passes. RAS is not working to facilitate the movement pass.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

When will the burned down Dagahaley markets be built? We are about to die of hunger. We were refused to build on our own.

Adult, Female Dagahaley

WASH

We cannot drink the water from the tap; there is too much chlorine. Please reduce it.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp

Community Concerns and Questions on WASH & COVID-19 during virtual community roundtable discussion conducted on 1st Oct 2020

Concern 1 - In terms of sanitation, you see places where there are lots of carcasses, garbage, and children go there to play since schools are closed. I fear for them a lot. Only two sanitation workers come to clean. The place is too big for two people to clean it. I would ask the agencies to let us know if they have indeed assigned those two people only to the whole section or are their other plans.

Adult Male, Hagadera Camp

Concern 2- There is no cleaning of jerrycans undertaken by the population, either using soaps or sand. Also, four households use one toilet. Children practice open defecation, which can bring an outbreak of diseases. Why are agencies watching all these menaces?

Adult Male, Hagadera Camp

Concern 3- Solar is used to pump water, chilly days when there is no sun, we experience water shortage. Even during sunny days, there is not enough water. How can this be improved?

Adult Male, Hagadera Camp

Concern 4- There is a garbage dumping tank situated between sections M and N. The garbage was not disposed of for years, approximately three years. Let agencies advise us and keep us in the know as to why this is happening.

Adult Male, Hagadera Camp

Concern 5- 90% of Somalis eat meat. The hygiene of the butcheries is dreadful. The workers do not practice hygiene, they do not wear gloves, and flies fly everywhere. Agencies should tackle this matter.

Adult Male, Hagadera Camp

Concern 6 - There is poor sanitation. Latrines are few. Some people are using filled up latrines. Butcheries' hygienic conditions are very poor. The sanitation situation is very bad. Refugees used to get soaps, shampoo to wash up jerrycans, this no longer happens. We request for wire mesh to store meat to make it dust-free. It is possible agencies are tired of helping us, they have been helping for 30 years, but then, we still request for the necessary help. We get water, we cannot say we do not get it. There are instances we have challenges with water access, particularly dry seasons. In conclusion, we request increased water quantity and distribution of soap.

Adult Female, Hagadera Camp

Concern 7- Before Corona, we used to receive shampoo, soap, and stones, these days, we do not get this support. The water taps are loose, whenever we report, we are told they will come to fix it, but no one comes. The water keeps on flowing on the ground, this causes breeding of mosquitoes and many other communicable diseases. We request agencies to support us.

Adult Female, Water Kiosk Worker, Dagahaley Camp



Concern 8- We do not get chlorine. Moreover, Since Coronavirus started, we have not seen agency workers coming to the blocks to see the water sources. Why have the agencies forgotten us? Besides, we want the places where there is stagnant water fumigated the same with the latrines? Since 2018, the fumigation of latrines has not been done. We have asked the agencies to carry out fumigation, but they have not heeded our request. They just do what they want.

Adult Female, Water Kiosk Worker, Dagahaley Camp

Concern 9 – We have water, we only experience water shortage whenever the tanks are cleaned. We request CARE to increase the number of tanks to overcome this problem. These days, there is Coronavirus, we are told to maintain hygiene standards, yet CARE does not provide soap. Also, community sensitization is not conducted.

Adult Female, Ifo Camp

Concern 10 – As we know, CARE manages hygiene and sanitation matters. In our section(N) we do not have sanitation workers because the garbage sites are filled up. My question is do we have sanitation workers for our section? We also know that the rainy season is approaching, yet the hygiene and sanitation standards are very poor at the camps. We request community sensitization, provision of soap, jerricans, and handwashing facilities at water points.

Adult Female, Ifo Camp

Concern 11 – How many workers does CARE have? How have they been assigned to the blocks? And how do they work?

Adult Female, Ifo Camp

Concern 12 – Firstly, I would like to thank CARE particularly the WASH department. Water access in Ifo has improved. Of course, we still have a long way to go which, I think UNHCR can help us through CARE. CARE tries it is best, but we request UNHCR to increase the funds for CARE so that WASH intervention's needs for the refugees are addressed. Water storage tanks are leaking, they need rehabilitation. UNCHR has fixed some of the leaking tanks but we want the remaining tanks rehabilitated. All generators do not have a solar system, we request the installation of solar to the generators. We also request increased fuel, more repair teams, and more sanitation workers.

Adult Male, Chairman- Water users association-Ifo Camp



HUMANITARIAN ACTORS' RESPONSES

We have 105 sanitation cleaners. Each camp has 35 cleaners tasked to clean the public spaces such as roads between the blocks and markets. In terms of household cleaning, we engage more with the community, of which they are camp cleaning exercises organized by Care. It occurs twice/ thrice a month, depending on the schedule organized for each camp. The turnout has not always been good, but we encourage the community to participate and help us clean the environment. We request the community to come out in numbers and participate in the cleaning exercises, thus ensuring the sustainability of interventions along with getting the areas they live in clean. Years back, agencies used to collect carcasses; as part of sustainability efforts, we moved this role to the community. We ask residents to take charge and uptake sanitation activities.

Evans Nyangano – Wash Associate | UNHCR

We are trying to work with the community to ensure solid waste management should not be solely the responsibility of agencies. We are gravitating towards sustainability. To achieve this, we would want to work together with the community and come up with a system that is more sustainable than the current trend.

Water is adequate save for some small pockets of the pressure problem. The UN standard for water use per person per day is 20

liters, but in Dadaab, we provide 30.6 liters of water per person per day. The issue of even water distribution across the camps could be a problem from time to time due to leaking tanks.

Osman Ahmed – Associate Wash Officer | UNHCR

Solar depends on the solar energy available; whenever solar energy fluctuates; the water production goes down. From the onset of COVID-19, we have added three extra hours on the water supply duration to increase water consumption to improve water sufficiency for the community.

Care used to clean jerrycans at the tap stands before though not anymore. We do hygiene promotion at the tap stands to inform the community to spur sustainable interventions.

I do not think there is a dumping site that was left unattended for many years. The sanitation cleaners ascertain that all designated dumping sites for solid waste are managed, burned down, and leveled. We urge the community to take the initiative and participate in scheduled environmental cleanups.

Latrine construction is dependent on resource availability. Furthermore, due to the nature of the soil, the depth of latrines cannot go deeper than three meters causing latrines to fill up in a year or so, depending on the number of users.

Every beneficiary gets a soap. We give 500g per beneficiary, which is more than the UNHCR standard guidelines of 450 g per beneficiary.

Abdifatah – Wash Officer - Dadaab I Care International

We have a problem with butcheries. We have been working with County public health officers in Hagadera and Dadaab. Compared to the past, some improvements have been noted,

particularly in meat handling as they put screens to ward off flies. Furthermore, the slaughterhouse was pathetic, though now there is a great improvement. Despite that, I would urge camp leaders to work with the public health officers to ensure butcheries are clean. UNHCR, CARE, and other agencies are working with public health officers to enact and enforce public health laws.

Osman Ahmed – Associate Wash Officer | UNHCR

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions to Partners

- The feedback on the use of family planning was varied. Some community members support it, while others shun it. Key inhibitors to the uptake of family planning include the desire for a large family, lack of women's decision power on fertility preferences, and the influence of cultural and religious misinterpretation of Islamic teaching. Therefore, countering the negative notions around child spacing requires the active engagement of religious leaders and scholars who are in a position of power and influence at the community level.
- Agencies should work with the community and religious leaders to condemn the use of communal justice system by the community members to settle gender-based violence. Affected families must be encouraged to report cases without any hesitation and sort for justice through the legal court system.



To support this process, the Internews team will;

- Support communication efforts of partners by giving airtime during the Bilan show, a weekly live call show at Radio Gargaar in Dadaab and Star FM in Nairobi.
- Support community correspondents in Dadaab refugee camps and host communities to gather community feedback for timely referrals and response.
- Continue mentoring and providing technical assistance to the Dadaab based Radio Gargaar and Nairobi based Star FM teams to produce Bilan – a weekly live radio call-in show that addresses thematic issues on health and protection.
- Produce a bi-weekly factsheet (In The Loop Bulletin) capturing the most asked questions, rumors, needs, requests, suggestions, myths, misconception, complaints, and fears, collected in that period from communities across the refugee and host communities in Dadaab

For more information on **"In The Loop"** Bulletin and Communicating with Communities efforts by Internews in Kenya, please contact Stellar Murumba on smurumba@INTERNEWS.ORG