

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, Kakuma and Kolobeyei informal settlements. By providing analysis of the feedback gathered, Internews aims to achieve two-way community feedback loops to support the humanitarian community’s effort to put the concerns and feedback of the affected populations at the forefront of their response to enhance accountability.

This issue is based on community feedback collected between February 12, 2020 - March 14, 2020 and from 78 interactions received from Star FM and Radio Gargaar weekly radio show platform and one-on-one on-ground feedback. The discussions on the Bilan radio show tackled health and protection issues affecting women in refugee camps. The topic of discussions included: how to enlighten single mothers on their constitutional rights, and ways to support them in accessing psychological counselling, early marriage, women with disabilities, Fistula and views gathered from the International women’s day coverage. Bilan is a weekly live call-in radio show and with Internews technical assistance, they have so far produced five shows from the beginning of February.

Episode one- Early marriage

Early marriage comes in many forms. Parents force girls to marry rich men. It’s also possible that men seduce young girls in schools only to lure them into marriage. It is always good for a girl to get educated so that she can take charge of her health and family at large. **We need sensitization of the parents on this issue.**
Adult, male, Hagardera camp

There is nothing good about early marriage. I propose we should be careful about it. Both young girls and boys have responsibilities over their lives. It’s always **good for girls to be educated**, get employed, then marry on their own will. Most early marriages end in divorce, and that’s why **divorce rates are high among the Somali community.**
Adult, female, Hagardera camp

Thanks for the program, it’s a great one. My opinion on early marriage is that young girls cannot take responsibility that comes with starting a family. **Girls should finish their studies and marry on their own terms. An educated girl can take care of herself and her family well.**
Adult, male, Dadaab

Episode 2 - Fistula

Fistula is like any other sickness. We should support our fellow sisters and not tag them. This is something that has been brought by God, and we should not use it to discriminate against people.
Adult, male, Dadaab

Episode Three - Women with disability

We can only stop discrimination against women with disabilities by **teaching people about their rights** as stipulated in the Islamic religion.
Adult, male, Nairobi

We should **increase awareness** creation around women with disabilities. Let’s understand that abled people are not different than the disabled ones. Women with disabilities are very vulnerable. We should extend our hand in protecting their rights and stand by them always.
Adult, male, Nairobi

It’s shameful to discriminate against disabled persons. We should **strive to protect their rights.** I suggest **sensitization on their rights should be increased.** Anyone can become disabled anytime in their lifetime. Let’s be responsible for them.
Adult, male, Nairobi

People with disabilities have the right to education and employment. They should be able to enjoy their right, just like any other person. **Let’s strive to protect their rights.** We should stop discriminating against them. Let’s **empower them** and follow our teachings and fulfill their rights.
Adult, Female, Nairobi

People with disabilities are **neglected** so much. The **public should be sensitized on their rights.** I know instances where disabled children are taken to care homes, but they are not accorded the necessary support.
Adult, Female, Nairobi

Episode Four – Single Mothers

According to my opinion, single mothers rights are violated. I commend the show.
Muna, adult, female, Dagahley camp

Somali men are not encouraged to support their families, and take part in children’s upbringing especially after a divorce.
Hassan, adult, male, Garissa.

My opinion is that men neglect their children and leave it upon the mothers for upbringing following divorce.
Salma, adult ,female, Hagardera camp.

Today’s topic is very interesting. Both widowed and single mothers do not get support from society. They met with a lot of difficulties. Regards.
Nasteha, female adult, Ifo camp

Episode Five - International women's day

Women deserve more days than only a day to be celebrated. Women should be praised, supported, and empowered in all spheres of life. I am very happy, and I would request days commemorating women should be increased.

Adult, female, Dagahley camp

I am happy that women's roles are being recognized and given a day to celebrate them. I would be happier if we were provided more days to celebrate. Nevertheless, I am excited that we women are the backbone of society. My emotions are very high since women worldwide are celebrated today.

Adult, female, Dagahley camp

Women are our mothers, wives, and daughters. Things are changing these days because women are very empowered compared to the past. **Let's embrace change by educating girls.** Marriage is good, but let's prioritize education. Education is fundamental and undoubtedly the cornerstone for a quality life. Let's not make marriage a barrier to education. An educated woman raises a remarkable family.

Adult, male, Dagahley camp

ON-GROUND FEEDBACK ON GENERAL ISSUES

Concern over Bamba Chakula

I have not received my Bamba Chakula for February and their line is not going through. I went to the WFP office and did not find them. I am confused. Is it because of the Coronavirus that the office is closed or something else is wrong with their system? Where can we get assistance from if the office is not operational?

Adult, female Ifo camp

Concern over closer of Dadaab camps

We are hearing that Dadaab camp will be closed in August 2020, and it's the reason why non-Somalis have been relocated to Kakuma camp. We also heard that refugees of Somali origin will be left without aid while all organizations will go to Kakuma. We are worried, we want to know the truth.

Adults, Hagardera camp

Women denied access to offices

It is so hard for women to access the offices of agencies working in Dadaab. The security will not allow anyone without a badge. Since the partners come from Dadaab in the morning and return in the evening getting them is a challenge especially for us women. We want this to change so that we can access the offices of partners and raise our issues and concerns.

Adult, female, Hagardera camp

Safe delivery options

"I delivered all my four children at home. The discussions on the importance of delivering at the hospital have brought me hope. This is the first time that I will deliver my baby at the hospital," said Maryam Abdi, a film-based workshop participant in Dadaab.

Cholera: The information gained through information campaigns saves a life



"Previously at a month like this, the number of people who would be affected would be huge. But with a lot of awareness in my community on Cholera, deaths have dropped drastically," said Maryan Arow, 42, community mobilizer, Hagadera. Ms Arow, a community leader among the Somali Bantu community, attended a film-based workshop that provided information on hygiene services. She is using her newly acquired skills to help her community prevent disease outbreaks due to poor hygiene. Upon learning about the signs and symptoms of Cholera, Maryan recognized that her neighbor, who was exhibiting similar symptoms, required immediate assistance. She used the skills she had learned in the workshops to prepare and administer homemade Oral Rehydration Solution and arranged her direct transfer to a hospital for further care. Maryan uses her spare time to walk around her residence and point out the dangers of poor hygiene and delayed medical response to illnesses.

RESPONSE

This means that information campaigns through Film-based workshops and action plans continue to correct misperceptions on maternal health services and is a good way for partners to communicate with the communities on safe delivery and other infectious diseases. FilmAid delivered 409 mass information campaigns through public address, mobile screening and cinema in February alone.

The key messaging was on access to maternal health, water, sanitation and health (WASH), HIV services, cholera and malaria.

NEXT STEPS

SUGGESTIONS

How should we as implementing and operating partners respond to community feedback?

Update your messages and activities to

- Address the community concerns and fears on Bamba chakula, Dadaab camps closure, by providing the correct information
- Use community suggestions to improve the response where possible

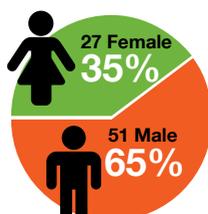
To support this process, the Internews team will;

- Support community correspondents in the camps to collect, use and act on community feedback for timely referral of urgent cases.
- Produce bi-weekly fact sheets addressing the most asked questions, rumors, misperceptions and fears, collected in that period from not only refugees but also host communities.
- Provide technical support to Star FM and Dadaab-based Radio Gargaar to produce weekly live radio show – Bilan – to discuss health and protection issues affecting women and girls in the communities.
- Build FilmAid's capacity to continue producing impactful PSAs, films, mobile screening and cinema on matters affecting the community and their concerns.

How can UNHCR and other partners support;

- Providing experts in studio during the Bilan weekly live radio show to provide expert opinion and correct information on topics of discussions.
- Provide timely response to the feedback collected in order to close the loop on possible information gaps at camp level.

Total Feedback: 78



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