

# 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 in order 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 and other feedback collected from the weekly live radio call-in show (Bilan) broadcasted in Dadaab by Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1FM. The topics of discussion was the role of women leaders in promoting hygiene and sanitation at the camps especially at a time when the world is experiencing a health crisis, COVID-19 pandemic as well as female genital mutilation (FGM) in relation to religion and culture . A total of 97 comments were recorded in the week of April 6-April 26, 2020.

### Methods of data collection



ONLINE



ON-GROUND



ON AIR

### WASH

#### Dagahaley environmental hygiene needs to improve!

I welcome the topic of discussion. I acknowledge and appreciate the fact that women do a lot for the society. The state of hygiene in Dagahaley is poor, particularly Barwaqo settlement. Something ought to be done to change the environmental hygiene of this area.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp.

#### Poor environmental Hygiene

Hygiene at the household level is good but there is poor environmental hygiene and sanitation. There is a lot of waste scattered within the camp, especially animal waste. Elders sensitize community members to practice safe environmental hygiene and sanitation behaviors. In as much as hygiene should always be maintained, this is a very critical time to ensure more efforts to fight and prevent Coronavirus through the maintenance of proper hygiene. Let everyone be responsible for their hygiene.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

#### Thanks for the Soap!

We want people to take hygiene seriously because there is a disease outbreak. May God save us from it. Washing hands using soap should be a priority. Let us take care of kids’ hygiene as they are home and all learning institutions have been closed. Be extra cautious. We thank humanitarian organizations who gave out soap.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

#### Increase water supply

The state of hygiene is good, though we have an issue with water adequacy. We only get 60 liters of water daily; this is hardly enough. We would like to request an increased water supply to sufficiently maintain proper hygiene at the household level.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

#### Water is scarce

I am in Hagadera, it is clean because everyone is taking part in improving the hygiene of the area. Nevertheless, we have an issue of water scarcity.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

Data collected from 97 persons



41 Female  
42%



56 Male  
58%

#### Request for sanitation tools

I welcome the topic of discussion. Dagahaley’s hygiene condition is poor. In the past, CARE used to give hygiene and sanitation kits, but we have not received any tools recently. Moreover, there are no ongoing activities to improve hygiene. The situation is worse particularly the water sources. We ask organizations to do something urgently.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp.

#### Provide us with sanitation tools and increase water supply!

I would like to thank women leaders spearheading and promoting hygiene in the camps. We are happy with what they do. However, they face a lot of challenges such as lack of sanitation tools and waste disposal sites. The organizations that used to provide tools no longer give. Moreover, there were two garbage disposal sites in Dagahaley, it has not been used for a long time now because they are filled with waste. The households burn waste at home which is risky and unhealthy. The houses are adjacent, and there is not much space to do this, forcing people to dump waste anyhow. Generally, the state of hygiene is wanting. I would like to request organizations to provide tools with women leaders to promote environmental hygiene. Water is also scarce in Dagahaley, please do something about these essential sectors.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp.

The program is exciting. I would like to say that cleanliness is half of the faith. I live in Dadaab, and I can attest to the fact that the hygiene state is of a high standard. I presume the other camps are clean too. Most people here ensure hygiene is maintained.

Adult, Female, Dadaab.

The hygiene state of Ifo camp is good. We try to ensure the area is clean. Greetings to the Bilan show family. Please continue with this program, we are delighted, and we love it.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp.

## FGM & PROTECTION

### FGM has severe health complications, lets end this cruel practice

One of the major consequences of FGM is death due to excessive loss of blood during the procedure, and oftentimes, instead of taking the victim to a health practitioner to save a life, people resort to herbal use, and subsequently, the victim succumbs. Moreover, they also experience painful menstruation, difficulty in labor, sexual health problems, and psychological impact. Furthermore, some women become infertile following FGM. Subjecting girls to FGM is like shooting them with a bullet, we better end it. I would request organizations and religious leaders to fight to end this cruel act

**Adult Male, Hagadera Camp.**

## PROTECTION

### Increase awareness against FGM

Female genital mutilation is not a religious practice. The religious leaders oppose it, and it only remains a tradition. These days not many people embrace it because of the sensitization by agencies as well as resistance by educated girls. Thus, FGM remains a custom causing a lot of complications to girls especially during childbirth, difficulties during periods. We should shun it. please increase awareness against it.

**Adult, Female, Ifo Camp.**

### To curb FGM, concerted efforts between religious leaders and humanitarian organizations are highly needed.

To begin with, FGM has no connection with Islam, but it is a culture that Somali people follow religiously, and is anchored on safeguarding honor, though it is a fiction. Besides, the consequences are dire. I would request both religious leaders and humanitarian organizations to be at the forefront of community awareness to eradicate this evil practice.

**Adult, Male, Dadaab.**

## NEXT STEPS

### How should UNHCR and partners respond to community feedback?

- Enhance community hygiene promotion such as hygiene education and mass media campaigns on environmental hygiene and sanitation to encourage the development of healthy behaviors for preventing the transmission of COVID-19.
- organize talks by religious leaders on importance of hygiene in Islam to create awareness and understanding on the utmost importance of maintaining hygiene in the fight against COVID-19.
- Implement community-led education and dialogue sessions by use of women's voices to speak about their experiences and the harms of FGM and empower champions for its elimination to achieve intensive and sustained collaboration from all community members.
- Amplify the religious leaders' voices to galvanize the community by de-linking FGM from Islam and support abandonment of the practice. This can be done on the Bilan weekly radio show so that they can answer relevant questions from community members in reference to the Islamic scriptures.

### What UNHCR is doing

In the light of preventing and containing Corona virus Outbreak in Dadaab refugee camps, below are some of the activities, assistance and initiatives of UNHCR to refugees, according to UNHCR Associate External Relations Officer, Eunice Kelechi Ohanusi.

1. Radio education/learning programme airing on Star FM's Radio Gargaar, Dadaab. This commenced after the closure of schools by Government of Kenya in response to fighting COVID-19.
2. Increased water production and supply to ensure adequate water for handwashing
3. Soap distribution to refugees to encourage washing of hands with soap
4. Establishing of isolation centers in the three refugee camps and equipping the centers with PPEs
5. UNHCR donation of medical supplies to the three health facilities in the refugee camps.