

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 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 for the period mapped were special editions including a program on child labor in Dadaab refugee camp to join the world in marking the Day Against Child Labor and World Refugee Day.

A total of 55 comments were recorded in the week of June 8-June 21, 2020.

Data collected from 55 persons



20 Female
36%



35 Male
64%

Methods of data collection



ONLINE



ON-GROUND



ON AIR

CHILD PROTECTION

Child labor is a result of vulnerability, some children are orphans with no parental care, so they are forced to work for themselves to survive.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

Girls work for rich families; they are taken away from their families at a tender age to support their poor families. Here in Dadaab, they work as laborers, washing clothes, cleaning houses, and utensils. It is unfortunate a lot of children end up in the streets due to a lack of parental care and vulnerability in their families.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

We have child labor, and it is common among poor families because of their living conditions. Organizations working on child protection do not support these families to protect the children from the harmful practice. The solution to child labor is to support the families who subject their children to child labor while taking the children to school.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

The leading cause of child labor is when parents’ divorce, become orphans or do not get care at home. Some of the work they engage in include domestic work, working on farms with no pay, and many more. I would request organizations to establish child protection centers in Dadaab to care for children who undergo all kinds of exploitation.

Adult, Male, Dadaab.

Frankly speaking, this is a topic that is very crucial to discuss. There are a variety of reasons that underpin underprivileged children to engage in work that they neither have the energy to handle nor the training. Agencies working on child protection must come up with a resolution that protects the violation of Children’s rights.

Adult, Male, Dadaab.

It is usually orphans who are mainly subjected to child labor. I would like to tell people to fear their Lord and not misuse hopeless children.

Adult, Male, Eastleigh, Nairobi.

I would like to tell parents to cease using their children to earn a living. The agencies must visit the blocks to sensitize the community about the danger’s child labor pose to children. They should identify such families, and if possible, take the children to protection centers or boarding schools to keep them away from exploiters.

Adult, Female, Dadaab.

The major cause of child labor is poverty. Both parents and those who employ children should think about the future of the kid involved. I would appeal to all parents to educate their children.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley camp.

Child labor can be prevented by raising awareness and sensitizing the community. The government should also ensure children’s rights are protected.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp.

For me, child labor is not a good thing; the only way to stop this practice is to sensitize the parents about the impact it will have on their child’s wellbeing.

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp.

I do not think it is possible to stop child labor currently because circumstances are hard hence forcing children to work. May God help us overcome this.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp.

Child labor cannot be stopped because kids do not voluntarily go to work, but their parents send them to work. If the parents tell them to stop, I am sure it will end.

Adult, Female, Dadaab.

Child labor is bad practice. It is neither good for the child’s future nor his development. Let us stop it. I would like to tell agencies that sensitization only cannot help people who struggle with their daily bread. Do something concrete that can help them stop working.

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp.

There are a lot of children who work but younger than 12 years old. Parents should be sensitized against making their children work and informed about the consequences it will have on their development. Agencies should also consider ways of supporting such families.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

If parents get an income, I believe child labor will stop. The only reason children work is because parents are very poor.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

REFUGEE VOICES ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Our emotions are so high. As women in Dadaab refugee camps, World Refugee Day is a day we raise our concerns and grievances to the partners, donors, and our host country. It is a special day for us to present our successes not just challenges, to show the world what we can achieve despite our refugee status.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

We thank agencies for their support especially during this hard time of COVID-19. This year's world refugee day is different from the other years. People could not meet to celebrate because of Coronavirus. We will celebrate in our homes whilst practicing social distancing. We will voice our concerns in any means.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

This year's celebration of the refugee day is a bit different than before because of COVID-19. In the past, we used to come together to sing, dance with Joy, and do a lot of presentations. Children, women, men, teachers, students, and all the community in the camps plus the partners used to come together, but now, we can only celebrate in our homes which is unfortunate.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

World Refugee Day is an important day for all refugees around the world. As women the day means a lot to us. It is a day we raise our concern as a group in the presence of all the heads of the partners. It is the only day we hear from the head of the UN in Geneva, which allows us to directly share our concerns and suggestions.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

Refugee day is a day the refugees and partners who support them come together to discuss problems that need attention. With Coronavirus, there was no event held, so we thank the BILAN program aired on Radio Gargaar for giving the refugee community in Dadaab a platform to express their concerns with partners through the Radio.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

World Refugee Day has no significance for the refugees and does not change anything for them. Every year, during the celebration of the day, refugees express their needs but nothing changes for them.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp.

Our emotions are very high. This year the day is being marked differently because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We used to air our voices, which is not possible in the current context.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

The Refugee Day is a happy day for me. We used to celebrate this day while sharing our grievances with stakeholders. This year Coronavirus has affected the celebration style.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

We welcome the day; however, the celebration will not be the same as the previous year's celebration because movement is restricted. Life as a refugee is becoming extremely hard in the wake of COVID-19.

Adult, Male, Dagahaley Camp

SUGGESTIONS

How should UNHCR and partners respond to community feedback?

- Sensitization of the public on child abuse, exploitation, and children rights.
- Provision of space where children are encouraged to talk about their concerns and parents/guardians receive information on their duties and responsibilities.
- The refugee communities need to feel that UNHCR and partners are listening to them. Internews provides additional platforms namely, Virtual Community Roundtable and Bilan Radio Show thus giving the community a chance to voice issues that need urgent address in the different camps.
- "In the Loop" Bulletin comes as an extra bonus to communications with communities (CWC) efforts. It gives beneficiaries the assurance we, as partners, are listening to them. When we inform the humanitarians and they DO something, the people get to know that something is being done – the loop is closed.