

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 Nairobi’s Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1FM. The topics of discussion for the period mapped were “Refugees’ behavior towards COVID-19” and “Empowering girls through education”.

A total of 44 interactions were recorded in the week of August 24 – Sept 6, 2020.

Data collected from
44 persons



16 Female
36%



28 Male
64%

Methods of data collection



ONLINE



ON-GROUND



ON AIR

Refugees’ behavior towards COVID-19

When I go to the market, I wear facemasks and gloves. When I am with my friends or greet people, I disinfect my hands using a sanitizer. At the camps, people are not taking care of their lives. They think that the virus has ended, but the virus is still existing. Currently, in the camps, people do not wear facemasks, they need awareness campaigns about the virus.

Adult, Female Hagadera Camp

I am a businesswoman, I always wear a facemask when I am in public places, but I remove it when I am alone. I always tell the community to wear a facemask, though some of them will tell you they will not wear facemask or observe social distancing because there is no virus. I think this is caused by reduced awareness in the camps. People believe that the virus is only in big towns and not in the camps.

Adult, Female Hagadera Camp

If I give my opinion about people living in the refugee camps, they take no precaution, and they act as if they have never seen Covid-19.

Adult, Male (anonymous location)

If I speak about where I am in Hagadera camp, we last talked about Covid-19 in May 2020. We have forgotten about it because it has become a normal thing. If we compare now to March, there is a big difference. I did not see anyone who cares. Thank you.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

There is less fear of Covid-19 disease because you see people not even wearing masks. Thanks.

Adult, Male, Mandera

People are not as precautious as they were at the beginning of the virus. These days it is like the disease is no longer in existence. May God save us as there is no precaution practiced.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp.



In Ifo where I am, no one follows the health regulations. Few people are wearing face masks leave alone social distancing. Shops do not have handwashing facilities.

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp.

People still fear but not as before when the virus has begun. Initially, they used to fear the virus a lot and wear face masks. Now, unless someone is traveling, you rarely see people wearing face masks.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

Through phone calls, adults and youth comprising of females and males registered that there is a general reluctancy in following the health providers’ guidelines to protect oneself from the Coronavirus.

Adult and youth, Dadaab.

Empowering girls through education



Girl's education can be promoted by creating a bond between parents, girls, and teachers. Educating a girl is educating a whole society. Some of the parents send their boys to school and their girls to the kitchen. They are all our children; we should not discriminate them. The narrative of keeping girls at home is an outdated idea. If the girl is educated, she will support her family, children and will develop herself. She will be a teacher to her children, so her knowledge will reach the whole society. So, I would urge the parents to educate their girls just like the boys.

Adult, Female Hagadera Camp.

Girl's education can be promoted by creating a working relationship between the girls, parents, and teachers. Girls should always be encouraged to study, but if they are just pushed to the kitchen, it will be challenging to keep them in school. If parents do not play an active role in a girl's education, it will bring a lot of setbacks. Parents should do follow up on the education of their girls by looking at their books. If you educate a girl, she will get a job and support her mother. Without education is like being in a dark, so what the boys can achieve girls can do it better.

Adult, Male Hagadera Camp.

Educating girls is a priority for us because, in today's world, girls are leading. We also want our daughters to be among world leaders.

Adult, Male, Dadaab

Education for girls living in Dadaab refugee camps can be improved if parents and authorities cooperate and work on ways of making girls develop .

Adult, Male, Garissa.

Girls' education can be enhanced if parents provide equal educational opportunities for both boys and girls. Often, parents are the main barrier affecting girl's education.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp.

Teach the girls how to manage the house, how to deal with their husbands, and how to be a good mother. Education is not just about books and pens. Unfortunately, many girls get divorced due to a lack of knowledge about home management. In the past, girls were taught home management; and how to take care of their houses, and it was difficult to see a divorced woman.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp.

Girl's education can only be attained if the parents are willing to ensure their girls get educated, particularly the mothers who are home since the fathers fend for the family. Therefore, I urge parents to ensure their girls get educated.

Adult, Female, Dagahaley Camp

As a community, we should work towards giving both girls and boys the same opportunity when it comes to education. The girls can help their mothers with domestic chores after school.

Adult, Female, Garissa.

I would advise the parents now that children are home and schools are closed, let us use this time to teach girls vocational skills.

Adult, Female, Garissa.

I have attained education up to the university level and jobless. I do not see any difference between educated and uneducated girls.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp.

SUGGESTIONS

How should UNHCR and partners respond to community feedback?

The feedback from the community regarding their behaviour towards COVID-19 indicates that many people believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, hence reducing the fear people initially had about the disease, which is leading to people becoming relaxed and reluctant about following the health measures designed to keep us safe. Therefore, we encourage continuous creation of awareness about Coronavirus to provide insights into community perceptions and practices around COVID-19 to contain further transmission of the virus.

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