

In The Loop

Refugee Voices Bulletin

“In the Loop” Bulletin 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 highlights, 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 “**Teenage pregnancies**” “**Access to adequate and clean toilets**” and “**Bridging funding and leadership gap to fight violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Dadaab refugee camps**”

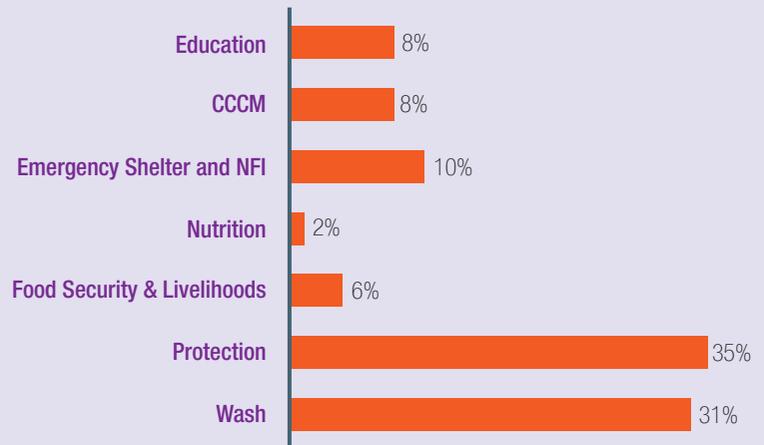
Internews recorded 49 cross-cutting responses in the feedback collected between the week of Nov 9 - Nov 29, 2020.



Methods of data collection



Feedback Sector Summary



Teenage pregnancies in Dadaab

CHILD PROTECTION

Parents can raise awareness for their girls to prevent teen pregnancy and be friendly with them. The agencies can also work together with the parents to raise more awareness for the girls. To prevent girls from falling pregnant, parents should keep them in school.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Pregnancy itself can cause many problems for girls when they are young. I would urge parents, particularly, mothers to educate, raise awareness, advise, and orient their boys alongside their daughters. I would recommend the agencies to provide training targeted to sensitize and advise girls to prevent them from early pregnancy and take care of their health and their lives.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

Prevention of teenage pregnancies can be done by raising awareness, educating girls via the media and everywhere. Ideologically, I believe it is not right to get pregnant at an early age, less than 18 years, as it affects one’s education and ruins life, making it difficult through non-stop thoughts, worries, and stress. I urge the community to educate the young girls because they are rising flowers that will replace the previous generation.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Teen pregnancy is a problem that has emerged in recent times. All my children are girls, which stresses me. I have not seen this before, and I ask God not to bring it upon us. Nevertheless, I do a lot of hard work. I urge the agencies and the parents to join hands in raising more awareness to make girls safe.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

According to new data from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), published by Devex, a media platform for the global development, community the numbers of teenage pregnancies has increased dramatically in Northern Kenya allegedly due to the recent school closures and lockdowns. Based on IRC’s data, girls living in refugee camps have borne the most brunt. At the Kakuma refugee camp, for instance, 62 teenage pregnancies were reported in June 2020 compared with eight cases in the same month last year. At Dadaab refugee camp, there was a reported 28% increase in teenage pregnancies during the April-June period, compared to the same period last year with even more cases going unreported.

Cases of small girls getting pregnant are increasing so much since the start of Covid-19. We feel bad about it. It can be prevented by sensitizing girls.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

First, I think the priority should be placed on awareness creation for girls to prevent them from engaging in bad behaviors, things like encouraging girls to study.

Adult, Male, Dadaab

Teenage pregnancy is becoming more prevalent in society these days. Girls should be made aware of this issue. Parents are required to be responsible for their children and need to look after them.

Adult, Male, Garissa

Partners and parents should coordinate to prevent early pregnancies by doing regular awareness-raising for the girls.

Adult, Male, Wajir

Youth committing suicide is increasing in Dadaab camps. It is because of their idleness, lack of a job, and education opportunities. We are requesting efforts to stop it.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp



Access to adequate & clean toilets in Dadaab

WASH

There is inadequate access to latrines in the camps; we need more latrines. Since we are in a rainy season, they are collapsing. It has been a long time since latrines were provided. If we do not get latrines, the hygiene standard of the camp will be so bad. We request quality latrines. Hygiene is half of our faith.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Since NRC left, there is no provision of latrines. The situation is so bad. COVID-19 coupled with the rains worsened the situation. Rainwater is filling uncovered latrines, getting most latrines filled. When you complain to the agencies, they say they have no budget. As refugees in Dadaab, our hygiene situation is poor. Cockroaches are all over the houses. I want to tell the agencies that the Cholera outbreak is imminent. Please provide cleaning materials for those with latrines. We have no latrines at all. Our children defecate outside. We have set up a structure like latrine, but it is not covered, and people can see you, making it difficult for women to use.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

Cleaning of latrines no longer happens in Dadaab. In the past, cleaning materials were distributed, and the spraying of latrines was done. In Hagadera, the latrines are dirty, others are filled up with cockroaches all over. We request the partners to spray the latrines. During the rainy seasons, most of the latrines collapse. New quality latrines were introduced recently, with very few people benefitting. People are not the same, some can buy detergents for cleaning their latrines while others are so vulnerable and cannot afford. I urge the agencies in charge of sanitation to distribute quality latrines like the recent ones provided.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

We have a big problem with toilets, and one of them is using filled up ones which are not appropriate while using. We have no one fixing or repairing the toilets.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

We still use toilets even when they are full instead of replacing and digging new ones due to lack of resources.

Adult, Male, Dadaab

The allocated toilets cannot cater to the whole population. Those in charge of distribution do not target the most vulnerable due to a lot of corruption. Sharing with the neighbors is hard too. If you use their toilet today, the next day they deny one access. Under these circumstances, you will be left with no option but to practice open defecation, which presents danger such as an outbreak of diseases, particularly during the rainy season.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Background Information

Global



4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation, 673 million still practice open defecation and three billion lack basic handwashing facilities.

Africa



60% of the population – about 715 million people still do not have access to basic sanitation.

Kenya



48% of Kenyans lack access to basic sanitation solutions.

I would call upon the community to clean their toilets. We are in a rainy season where we are predisposed to disease outbreaks. Even if organizations are not helping much, let the community show responsibility and clean their toilets.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

All our latrines have collapsed due to the rains. Children are defecating outside. We fear a Cholera outbreak.

Adult, Male, Section J, Hagadera Camp

The "huge pond in Hagadera camp next to the distribution center has claimed many children's lives during the last rains. Again, it is full, and children are swimming, which is so risky. We are requesting the agencies to fence the lake to save the children.

Adult, Female, Section J, Hagadera Camp

Bridging funding and leadership gap to fight violence against women and girls in Dadaab

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The funding the agencies provide to stop violence against women is necessary. Women are always vulnerable to situations; they are targets of forced marriage or rape, and many more. I would say the funding given to fight violence against women is the best funding so far in Dadaab camps. The role the leaders and activists play in the fight against SGBV is significant.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Funding given in the fight against SGBV cases is a deserving one because it supports women who get raped, forced to marry, or engaged in early marriages. Agencies support us when these cases arise. They welcome us in their offices and heed our pleas well. The leaders and the community stand with us.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

Funding is inadequate because women's problems are many. Sexual gender-based violence cases occur daily. The reality is agencies have no durable solution for these challenges; we do not know if it is because of funding. Reported cases get solved at the offices. No one comes to the home of the victim. It would be desirable if partners visit the person in his own house.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

Violence against women and young girls is on the rise. It is due to the presence of Coronavirus and staying at home. So, I would say to young men and fathers, let us be ashamed of ourselves. The girls are our daughters. Everyone has a sister and a mother. May God help our girls and women.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp



I welcome the money spent on the prevention of violence against women. It is the most deserving thing to spend money on, but then leaders must be fair in responding to the needs of women.

Adult, Male, Wajir

Violence against women is on the rise these days. I extend my appreciation and commend those responding to violence against women.

Adult, Female, Garissa

It is a good thing to fund initiatives like gender-based violence. I would encourage continuation of such because women and refugee children suffer a lot of problems.

Adult, Female, Kakuma

There are different forms of violence meted on women, such as rape and assault. The only organization we see supporting women who suffer GBV is IRC. We would want others to emulate them, make their work become as visible as theirs (IRC).

Adult, Male Dadaab

I live with a disability. I suffered violence, reported to the authorities, but was never helped. Many women and girls in the camps suffer violence.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp

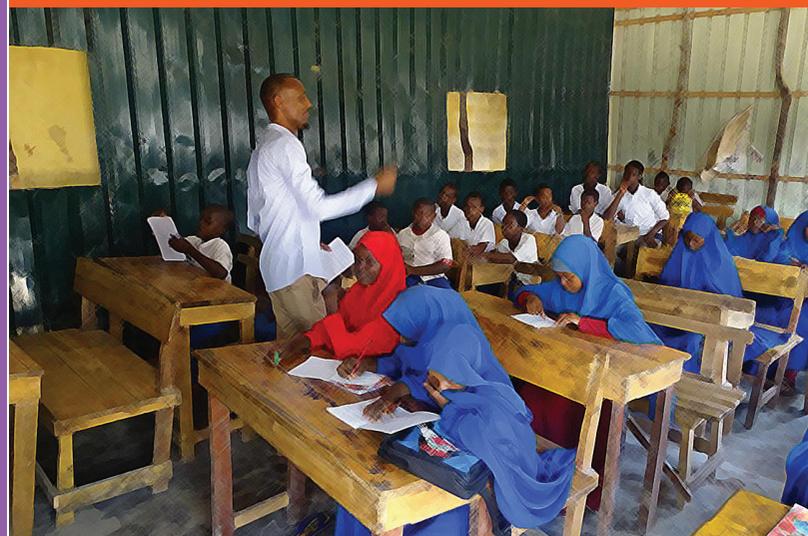
EDUCATION

Why are the students from the Ethiopia Ogaden region sent away from schools? I have registered for the relocation of non-Somali to Kalobeyei, yet it is UNHCR that has stopped relocation due to COVID-19. We were sent away from school, with our names said to be transferred to Kakuma while we are still here. Why is this happening?

Youth, Section J, Hagadera Camp

Students are not wearing masks at school despite COVID-19. We are worried.

Adult, Female, Section C, Ifo Camp



NON-FOOD ITEMS

There is a lot of mosquitoes. We cannot sleep during the night because we do not have mosquito nets as we cannot afford to buy them. We request the government and agencies to consider distributing nets.

Adult, Female, Fafi



NUTRITION

The biscuits meant for the malnourished children are sold in the camps and not given to the right people. Why is this so? Are the agencies aware of this?

Adult, Female, Section K, Hagadera Camp

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

I heard that new refugees are coming from Ethiopia running from the Tigray conflict, and UNHCR is bringing them to Dadaab. Is that true?

Youth, Section M, Hagadera Camp

Thanks to RAS for giving movement pass to the refugee students travelling to Nairobi for studies despite the restrictions.

Youth, Hagadera Camp



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

We heard rumors that WFP will stop food distribution, and everything will be given through Bamba Chakula. Is this true? We need information.

Adult, Female, Section L, Hagadera Camp

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions to Partners

- Communities, parents, guardians, religious leaders, and organizations should put more effort in creating awareness to reduce teenage pregnancies among adolescent girls in Dadaab refugee camp. This recommendation came up strongly based on the feedback highlighted in this Bulletin.