"In the Loop" Bulletin is a bi-weekly data-driven humanitarian feedback newsletter, produced to inform organizations and local authorities delivering services to refugees and host communities in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. 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 shows Bilan, broadcasted in Dadaab by Nairobi’s Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1 FM and Sauti ya Mwanamke by Radio Atta Nayece in Kakuma. The topics of discussion for the period mapped were Supporting women in business, Women’s empowerment, Educational challenges, and Role of the public and agencies in preventing Female genital Mutilation (FGM) in Dadaab and Kakuma Refugees Camps, respectively.

Internews recorded 55 cross-cutting responses in the feedback collected between the week of Jan 30, 2021 - Feb 14, 2021.

Increase vocational Training!
A businesswoman can support and cover her family’s needs. In case of sickness, she will be able to take her children to the hospital. A mother is a strong pillar. Women’s empowerment in business helps a lot. We request the partners to increase vocational training such as tie and dye and tailoring.
Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Invest in Women!
Supporting women in business benefits families. If a mother runs a small kiosk, it caters for her children’s needs. I, therefore, urge partners to invest in women.
Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Women are the backbone of the community, supporting them is essential. I would urge donors and partners to support them financially. If the father is not there, he will not be missed, but without the mother, such a family will suffer. Therefore, women must be helped at any cost.
Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Need for Livelihood Opportunities!
Youth at the camps have acquired vocational skills. What we need now are livelihood opportunities.
Young Male, Section A, Ifo Camp

Food Ratio Not Adequate
The food ration we get particularly the oil is not enough to sustain us for two months. We request the resumption of the usual distribution plan used before COVID-19.
Adult, Female, Section G, Ifo Camp

We Do Not See DRC Livelihood Opportunities Advertised
I have a question for the DRC livelihood department. Why is it that we do not see your advertisements for livelihood opportunities for the public? We only hear of it after you identify beneficiaries. Is your program meant to benefit certain people only, or is it for all the refugees?
Adult, Female, Section D, Dagahaley Camp

Thumbs up LWF!
One must be determined when living in a refugee setup. Thanks to Lutheran World Service (LWF) for the provision of different technical skills for refugee women.
Adult, Female, Hong Kong- Kakuma 1 Camp

Empower Women
Agencies have forgotten women, mainly single and widowed ones. They should formulate creative methods to empower them.
Adult, Male, Don Bosco, Kakuma 1 Camp

Bamba Chakula is Not Enough
Bamba chakula is not enough. The food ratio is small. We request partners to kindly add more.
Adult, Female, Kakuma 1 Camp
Refugee voices Bulletin

Parents must take the lead in getting rid of harmful cultures like FGM by preventing their daughters from the cut. FGM has many complications. It hinders women from having pleasure with her husband making her anxious and distressed. People say FGM controls the sexual desire of women, which is false. FGM is an ancient tradition abandoned a long time ago. The world has developed. I would urge every member of the community to help in ending it.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

FGM is not something good, and it is against the law. It humiliates the dignity of our girls. Both women and men should fear God and support to end this cultural practice. Doing surgery on someone for no reason is totally out of our religious teachings. I would suggest to religious leaders, organizations, and wise people to raise their voices by warning women from this illegal old tradition that they inherited from their great grandparents. No community has ever benefited from FGM.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

Men should speak up and share their experiences towards the difference between a circumcised lady and an uncircumcised lady, including the advantages and disadvantages of FGM because they are the main reason behind this evil action.

Adult, Female, Dadaab

Child Labor is Increasing

Child labor is increasing at the camps, particularly young girls who work as household laborers. Why are organizations like Terre Des Hommes (TDH) and Save the Children not doing anything about it?

Adult, Female, Section A, Ifo Camp

Repair of Security Lights!

The security lights at the blocks no longer work and need repair. We want the concerned agencies to repair it.

Young Female, Section A, Dagahaley Camp

Conflicts Over land

People are fighting over plots causing conflict at the blocks. We request the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) planning department to intervene before it is too late.

Adult, Female, Section C, Dagahaley Camp

Hagadera Office Still Closed!

UNHCR offices in Hagadera are still closed. What is the problem? We need their services. I have gone there severally, but they remain closed.

Adult Female, Section F, Hagadera Camp

Did Repatriation Process Resume?

We have heard that the repatriation process resumed. Is that true?

Adult Female, Section N, Ifo Camp

Non-Food Items for Elders

Elders used to receive non-food items like blankets. These days, we do not get anything. What could be the reason?

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp

Solar Lamps for Revision

We request a solar lamp for Grade 8 and Form Four students to revise at night. They lost a lot of lessons when schools closed; they need to catch up.

Adult, Female, Section C, Dagahaley Camp

Need for Extra Lessons!

We request agencies to provide remedial classes to encourage girls to pursue education.

Young Female, Section F, Ifo Camp
Thank you, Kenya Red Cross!

I want to thank Kenya Red Cross for supporting breastfeeding mothers. Keep up the great work.

Adult, Female, Ifo Camp

Request for Care Centre

People with mental illness are increasing in our camps. They are suffering in the streets. We request partners to establish a care center for them.

Adult, Male, Section F, Ifo Camp

Request for Medicine

They are no drugs at the main hospital. We want Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to bring medicine!

Adult, Female, Section C, Dagahaley Camp

I am a first-time mum. I am worried and afraid of delivering at the hospital because many women go through a surgical operation. I would request the health partners to tell doctors to give us some time during labor before deciding on C-section.

Adult, Female, Section C, Dagahaley Camp

People go to the hospitals to seek help, but there is no medicine at the hospitals.

Adult, Female, Kakuma 1 Camp

Request for Jerry cans!

We have no water storage facility. We request Care International to provide Jerricans to store water.

Adult, Female, Section C, Dagahaley Camp

Water is not adequate!

Water is very crucial in life. We are suffering. For the past three months, the water we get is not enough.

Adult, Female, Kakuma 3 Camp

To support the two-way humanitarian communications, Internews team will

- Support communication efforts of partners by giving free Radio airtime in a segment called “Agencies Response Segment” during the weekly live call-in shows at Radio Gargaar in Dadaab, Star FM in Nairobi and Radio Atta Nayece in Kakuma.

- Support community correspondents in Dadaab and Kakuma 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, Nairobi based Star FM and Radio Atta Nayece (in Kakuma) teams to produce quality weekly live radio call-in shows that address thematic issues on health and protection in the camps.

- 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 a particular period from communities across the refugee and host communities in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement.

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