



Internews

EUROPE

Information Saves Lives

Humanitarian Information Service - Dadaab



'When I came to the camp I did not have any information on how to access simple things like water. Now that this programme is aired, all refugees have somewhere to get information from.'

Maano Hussein Ibrahim, Refugee Trainee Journalist

Bridging the Information Gap

Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp, presents an immensely complex information environment. Research carried out by Internews in 2011 identified major communications gaps. A comprehensive baseline survey conducted in 2013 by Internews in Dadaab found that radio is the most trusted source of information in Dadaab and Star FM is the most popular local radio station.



74% of the population in Dadaab relies on the radio as their main way of finding information

53% of Dadaab refugees don't have enough information to make decisions for themselves

Internews addresses the information needs through its Dadaab Humanitarian Information Service (HIS), a project that empowers local journalists to report on the issues relevant to their communities, and creates a platform for feedback with humanitarian stakeholders in the camps.

Humanitarian Radio Broadcasts in Dadaab

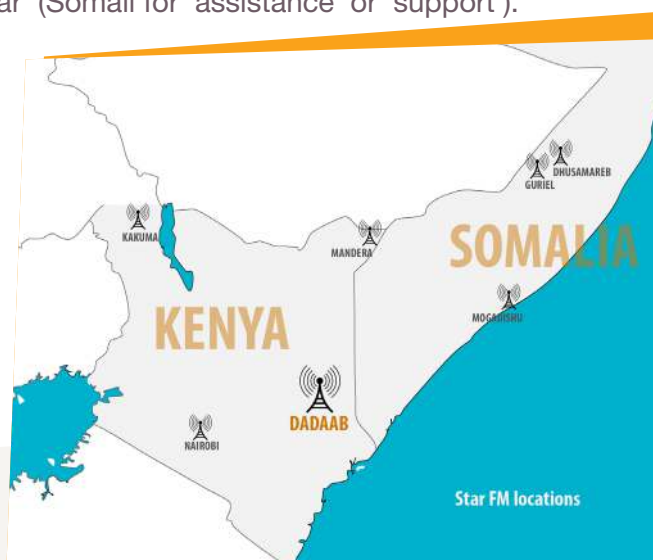
Through the production of daily radio programmes, Internews builds the capacity of local media and works with the humanitarian community to strengthen community dialogue.

The programme is broadcast from a purpose built station in the camps and repeated on Star FM's regional network which has a listenership reaching from Nairobi to Mogadishu, other towns in Somalia and the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya's north west.

In partnership with the local Somali language radio station Star Media Development Centre, local journalists and refugees in Dadaab produce 'Gargaar' (Somali for 'assistance' or 'support').

'People are putting their ears next to the radio and saying it is time for 'Gargaar.' Everywhere people are listening.'

Mohamed Abdi Osman,
Refugee Trainee Journalist



Community Voices

The humanitarian stories covered by Internews and Star Media Development Centre in Dadaab are identified through discussions with the humanitarian community, feedback from the refugee and host communities, and by the local journalists on the ground.

Since the production started, Gargaar has reported on refugee rights, repatriation and resettlement, changes to service delivery, food distribution, education opportunities, child protection, health provision, camp management, and the recent polio outbreak.

The people who know local issues best are locals themselves. Through the Dadaab HIS, Internews has trained and mentored more than twenty refugee and host community youth in humanitarian radio reporting, many of whom had no previous experience in journalism.

Thanks to the experience gained from the project these young reporters are now the driving force behind the 'Gargaar' humanitarian radio programme.



'People in the community are calling in and telling us how much they enjoy the programme. The refugees don't have a chance to tell their problems and share them with the community. There was no program which was the voice of refugees. But now they have a chance to share their problems.'

Mohamed Aden Ali, Refugee Trainee Journalist

Coordinating with the Humanitarian Community

Building on the support given to local journalists, Internews is also working closely with the humanitarian community to open the dialogue between local media and humanitarian agencies in Dadaab. Internews is working with humanitarian agencies in Dadaab to foster and develop this resource by, for example, organizing local press briefings on humanitarian topics.

Our local press briefings with humanitarian agencies help them to build relationships with local media, and create opportunity for a better understanding and exchange. By working closely with humanitarian and government actors, Internews is able to ensure accuracy, prioritise issues, and provide an essential platform for feedback and communication.



'Local journalists are an important resource and can play a complementary role in terms of awareness and community participation, advocating, reporting of human rights abuse or incidents that may be under reported.'

Vincent Briard, UNHCR Protection Officer, Dadaab

Internews is an international development organisation specialising in supporting independent media, freedom of information and free expression around the globe. The vast majority of our programmes are targeted at crisis-hit populations, emerging democracies and some of the world's poorest countries.

Internews has a dedicated team and resources to respond to humanitarian crises and to provide technical and professional assistance to the humanitarian sector. The Dadaab Humanitarian Information Service project is a joint initiative between Internews Europe and Internews Network.

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