

In The Loop

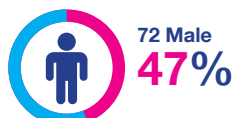
Refugee Voices Bulletin

INTERNEWS is currently implementing a project dubbed “Refugee Voices: Two-Way Humanitarian Communications” in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei Informal Settlement in Kenya, together with FilmAid Kenya, GeoPoll, Star Media Development Centre (owner of Eastleigh-based Star FM and Dadaab-based Radio Gargaar) and Radio Atta Nayece in Kakuma as consortium partners.

“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, of community concerns that need urgent addressing. Internews aims to achieve two-way humanitarian communications for closing possible 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 thus enhancing accountability. The Community feedback used in this report is sampled from recorded Vox pop interviews, social media highlights, one-on-one community meetings with all COVID-19 protocols observed and other feedback collected from the weekly live radio call-in shows Bilan, broadcasted in Dadaab by Nairobi’s Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1FM and Sauti Ya Mwanamke by Radio Atta Nayece in Kakuma. The topics of discussion for the period mapped were challenges women in Dadaab face to get facemask, government of Kenya directive to close Dadaab refugee camp, Covid-19 vaccine and state of affairs in Kakuma and family planning in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee camps.

Internews recorded 153 cross-cutting community feedback collected between the week of April 1, 2021 to April 14, 2021.

Data collected from
153 persons



Methods of data collection



ONLINE



ON-GROUND



ON AIR

HEALTH – COVID-19

Challenges in accessing face masks.

We have a lot of problems in getting face masks as they are costly. In my family, we are 12 in number, and each face mask costs KES50, totaling to KES600. We cannot afford to buy masks for all family members, which forces us to buy like three pieces and share among us to go to health centers, schools, and food distribution centers. It may happen that we are not all healthy, but we have no other option. We request the partners provide face masks to all the families.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

We have no money to buy masks. Every day we hear from the radio that we should wear masks, yet we do not see any partner distributing them. In my family, we are six in number, and we cannot all buy for ourselves, so we are forced to exchange the few we have.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Since the start of Covid-19, we received face masks only once during the first wave. We are now in dire need of them (masks). We want partners to distribute (masks). Life in the camp is difficult, thus most of the population cannot afford to buy a mask.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

We cannot afford purchasing masks. I propose and request partners to give out masks along with the food ratio depending on the family size.

Adult, Female, Hagadera Camp

Partners do not provide masks. It is mandatory to wear masks when accessing services either at the hospital or agency’s offices. Whenever we want to access any of the services, we get masks from people already served. We understand how dangerous our action is, but we lack the money to buy masks. We request agencies to provide masks.

Informal Women Baraza, Ifo Camp

VACCINE QUERIES



Because of Coronavirus and the state of poverty in the camps, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should find a way to provide masks for refugees all the time.

Adult, Male, Kalobeyei Settlement

I am confused. Does the vaccine bring Coronavirus, or is it the antibodies?

Adult, Female, Kakuma 2 Camp

Why is it that agencies only record Covid- 19 deaths, what of TB and AIDS?

Adult, Male, Kakuma Town

If I refuse to be vaccinated together with my family, will the government arrest us?

Adult, Female, Kakuma 3 Camp

We are getting reports that people are losing their lives after being vaccinated, others are getting sick. I want to be assured of my health. Why is it a person who has been vaccinated can also be infected?

Adult, Male, Kakuma 3 Camp

We want to know more about the vaccine. Does it cause impotence as reports say?

Resident Kakuma Camp

Is there a card a person gets after vaccination?

Resident Kakuma Camp

If a person gets the jab, then he/she dies. Is there any compensation to the family from the government?

Resident Kakuma Camp

I want to know if the Covid-19 vaccine is a must for everyone?

Resident Kakuma Camp

Why is it that after other vaccinations a person is given a certificate, whereas, for Covid-19 vaccines, there are no certificates issued?

Resident Kakuma Camp

FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning is good because it helps one to space their children. It also helps lactating mothers avoid pregnancy faster when having a small child while also reducing the loads of having many children.

Adult, Female, Kakuma 3 Camp

Taking a family planning tablet is good, but I prefer counting safe days because family planning may make me sick. Sometimes it damages the womb; hence one cannot be able to bear children again.

Adult, Female, Kakuma 3 Camp

I am on the injection of 3 years, are there any side effects if I remove the implant before its time expires?

Adult, Female, Kakuma Zone 2 Block 3

I have used the monthly family planning method, but for the past 17 years, I have been unable to get another child.

Adult, Female, Kakuma Town

I would like to ask the doctor if there are any family planning methods for men?

Adult, Male, Kakuma 1, Zone 2, Block 3.

Family planning has caused me to miss my menses for the past six months. I do not know what to do.

Adult, Female, Kakuma 3, Zone 3, Block 8

Family planning makes a woman barren.

Adult, Male, Kakuma 2 Camp

I do not agree on the use of family planning because of its side effects.

Adult, Male, Kakuma 3 Camp



Family planning helps in budgeting and providing a quality life for one's children in terms of upbringing and educating them. It also helps the wife to be strong and not become old.

Adult, Male, Kalobeyei, Village 3

PROTECTION

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

We have been here for over 30 years. If we are forced to return to our home country that we flew years back due to insecurity, it will have a lot of effect on us. We have adapted to life in the camps. It is a safe place with free education and health. We do not know why the Kenyan government is pushing for the closure of the camps as they have hosted us so well for years. We do not know anything bad that we have done that can make Kenya close the camps. We have intermarried and interacted with the host community and did businesses together. Furthermore, Somalia is not yet safe. We want the government to reconsider its decision to close the camps. We are refugees that need protection.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

The decision from the government of Kenya has caused panic and confusion among the refugees. We have been here for so long and interacted with the host community. The children who were born in the camp are now parents. They have never been to Somalia, so taking them to where they do not know is a disaster. We appreciate Kenya's generosity for hosting us too long, and we did not expect the government to have given us 14 days to close the camps. We request the president of Kenya to reconsider the decision.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

I have never seen Somalia. I was born in Kenya, and I do not want to go back to my country of origin or any other. It affects me so much every time I hear the Kenyan government issuing such directives. I request the Kenyan government to give us identity cards enabling us to be Kenyans.

Adult, Female, Dagahaley Camp

We are worried and frustrated about Kenya's decision to close the camp, we need information regarding the closure.

Adult, Female, Dagahaley Camp

What is the way forward, or what measures have been put in place for the refugees to move from Kakuma?

Adult, Female, Kakuma 2

We have stayed in Kenya for years. It would only be appropriate from the Kenyan government to settle us here and give us identity cards just like Kenyans.

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp

What has changed in the decision to close the refugee camps. We are worried!

Adult, Male, Ifo Camp

We would like to request the government of Kenya to stop the threats of always calling for the closure of Dadaab refugee camp. This has created a lot of fear and hopelessness. We have no other home; we do not know where to go back to and we only know Dadaab as home. We want the honorable government to continue hosting us as they have been doing for decades. Partners too should continue and increase the humanitarian efforts because the needs are many.

Informal Women Baraza, Ifo Camp

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

As residents of Fafi, the host community, we are in the middle of severe drought, we request the partners and the county government to come to our rescue.

Adult, Female, Fafi

We have many challenges. The food ration we get is not enough, we only get millet. Distribution of rice and wheat has been stopped. Bamba chakula has also been reduced to KES600, we do not get soaps either. As if that is not enough, we are now told we need to move from Dadaab, we do not know any other place. Some of us are born and bred here. We are raising families here too. We request agencies to respond to these challenges.

Informal Women Baraza, Ifo Camp

SHELTER

The rains have started, and we have no proper shelter. We need a plastic sheet to use during the rainy season.

Adult, Male, Hagadera Camp

WASH

Thank You CARE!

I want to thank care for increasing water and solving the water crisis.

Adult, Female, Dagahaley 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 Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement.