

## Regional News Roundup

### AFRICA

#### **UN refugee agency urges more countries to establish refugee resettlement programmes**

UNHCR estimates that over the next three to five years more than 805,000 refugees will need resettling in third countries, as there will neither be a possibility for them to return to their homes nor there will there be integration options in countries presently sheltering them. For many refugees, resettlement in a third country is the only way to find lasting safety and a new and permanent home. While voluntary repatriation remains the preferred solution among most of the world's refugees, persistent conflict or fear of persecution often prevent people from returning to their countries of origin. More than 80 per cent of the world's refugees live in developing countries where many cannot remain safely and have no possibility of integration. Currently, only a small number of nations take part in UNHCR resettlement programmes, accepting refugees in quotas on an annual basis. "We need to act. There is a growing gap between resettlement needs and available places. I strongly hope more countries will establish resettlement programmes or increase resettlement opportunities," said António Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

**Read more:** <http://www.unhcr.org/4c31cd236.html>

#### **Tools to improve education in emergencies**

Ten years after the Dakar Education For All forum, the global educators' coalition, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), has launched revised tools to improve governments' and aid agencies' education responses in emergencies. The new handbook, which outlines minimum standards for setting up education programmes in natural disasters and conflict zones, reflects changes the sector has undergone since the last published edition in 2004. These include the since-formed education "cluster" – a coordination group of UN agencies and non-profits working in education, and a new focus on the links between education and disaster risk reduction as well as conflict mitigation, said Marian Hodgkin, INEE coordinator for partnerships and knowledge management.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89641>

### KENYA

#### **Kenya police abuses Somali refugees**

Kenyan police at the Somali border and in nearby refugee camps are abusing asylum seekers and refugees fleeing war-torn Somalia, Human Rights Watch said in a report released in June. Kenya should immediately rein in its abusive police, and the UN refugee agency should step up its monitoring of the situation and press for an end to the abuses, Human Rights Watch said. Based on interviews with over 100 refugees, the 99-page report, 'Welcome to Kenya': Police Abuse of Somali Refugees, documents widespread police extortion of asylum seekers trying to reach three camps near the Kenyan town of Dadaab, the world's largest refugee settlement. Police use violence, arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention in inhuman and degrading conditions, threats of deportation, and wrongful prosecution for "unlawful presence" to extort money from the new arrivals. In some cases, police also rape women. In early 2010 alone, hundreds, and possibly thousands, of Somalis unable to pay extortion demands were sent back to Somalia, in flagrant violation of Kenyan and international law

**Full report:** <http://www.hrw.org/node/90852>

#### **Kakuma camp cuts child malnutrition**

Aid workers in Kakuma camp hosting some 80,000 refugees in northwest Kenya have in six months slashed acute child malnutrition rates by doubling the provision of nutritional supplements, scaling up feeding and adopting community feeding programmes. The number of acutely malnourished children in the camp has fallen from 1,800 in November 2009 to fewer than 1,200 in June 2010, according to John Burton, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) health coordinator in Kakuma, a decline from 17 percent of the children to 7.9 percent. According to Kakuma Medical Unit, 70 percent of acute malnutrition cases reported in December

2009 were among the 13,100 Somali refugees relocated from Dadaab, in northeast Kenya, at the beginning of the same month.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89578>

## UGANDA

### **Children wounded in war missing out on treatment**

Hundreds of children injured during years of conflict in northern Uganda have been unable to obtain the specialist treatment they need for lack of funds or suitable facilities, according to a local advocacy group. "We have registered up to 1,500 cases that require major or minor plastic surgery, but only 300 have been enlisted to have it because of the limited resources," Hellen Elengat Acham, chairwoman of the Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group, said. Recently, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, Radhika Coomaraswamy, echoed these concerns during a visit to the region. "Developmental aid is mainly structural development and the social aspects are neglected," she said. "The main challenge in the north now is livelihood training for the real victims of war and government is not pushing forward on livelihood training. Psycho-social issues still need our attention and investment."

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89652>

## SOMALIA

### **Refugees in Somaliland angry at status change**

The announcement by the government of Somalia's self-declared republic of Somaliland that there were no refugees in the region – only economic migrants from neighbouring countries – has angered hundreds of refugees in the country. "We are political refugees, not economic migrants; we were politically persecuted in our homes," a representative of Ethiopian refugees said at a ceremony marking World Refugee Day on 20 June in Hargeisa, capital of Somaliland. The representative said Somaliland's directive went against its humanitarian responsibilities to refugees.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89573>

### **Somali refugees face danger and obstacles on their flight to safety**

Despite the continuing deterioration in Somalia's security and humanitarian environments the flow of refugees into most neighbouring countries has decreased considerably compared to the same period last year, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said. According to their data, the numbers of arrivals in Yemen and Kenya are down sharply. In Yemen there were 6,660 new arrivals in the first half of this year, compared to 13,801 in the first half of 2009. In Kenya, arrivals have fallen by a third from 44,385 in the first six months of 2009 to 29,848 in the same period this year. UNHCR sees the reasons for this drop not in safer or more stable circumstances. The situation is worsening and everyday violence and human rights abuses in Somalia continue to displace thousands of civilians. UNHCR estimates that more than 200,000 Somalis have been forced to leave their homes this year alone – with most becoming displaced internally.

**Read more:** <http://www.unhcr.org/4c2dbcab6.html>

## SUDAN

### **In Sudan, planting trees eases environmental impact of hosting refugees**

A few hours north-east of Khartoum towards Kassala, near the Sudanese border with Eritrea, the UN refugee agency has planted more than 19 million trees in a programme, launched a quarter-of-a-century ago, to green the denuded landscape of eastern Sudan. Species of acacia, neem, eucalyptus and many others, now cover almost 28,400 hectares of once barren land. The refugee agency has been conducting the reforestation programme as part of its mandate to protect and assist refugees in eastern Sudan, including some who have been there for more than 40 years. In the 1980s, more than a million refugees lived in the area. Today, 66,000 refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea live in 12 camps in four eastern and central states; while an estimated 40,000 others reside in local communities. About 2,000 new asylum-seekers arrive at the border every month. The presence of so many people living in the area and needing wood for cooking and shelter has taken a heavy toll on the environment.

**Read more:** <http://www.unhcr.org/4c2c472e9.html>