The Dadaab Dilemma

A Study on Livelihood Activities and Opportunities for Dadaab Refugees

August 2013

Christine Kamau
John Fox
The Dadaab Dilemma: A Study on Livelihood Activities and Opportunities for Dadaab Refugees

Christine Kamau and John Fox of iDC, supported by Jan Fox, Mohammed Hassan, Mohammed Ali and Oscar Juma
‘We are tired of people coming here month after month, year after year, asking us the same questions – and nothing happens.’

A woman refugee in one of the focus group discussions
Preamble

The development of any long-term strategy for enhancing the livelihoods of the refugees of the Dadaab camps – 99% of whom are of Somali origin – is constrained by the absence of a comprehensive and realistic policy by the Government of Kenya – one that accepts the need for assimilation as well as repatriation. As it is now, the Government of Kenya is focusing entirely on the repatriation of Somali refugees. For its part, the Federal Government of Somalia does not have the capacity to cater for the welfare of those returnees who need continuing support.

As for the refugees, the latest assessments show little willingness to return voluntarily. Agencies implementing livelihood programmes in Dadaab are nevertheless required to prepare for such an event although it is unlikely to happen in the short-term.

This is the Dadaab Dilemma – and one that this study attempts to take into account.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Alien Refugee Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMO</td>
<td>Dadaab Main Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA</td>
<td>Department of Refugee Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGosS</td>
<td>Federal Government of Somalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSLC</td>
<td>Food Security &amp; Livelihoods Cluster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIT</td>
<td>Government Industrial Tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GoK</td>
<td>Government of Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS&amp;L</td>
<td>Group Savings &amp; Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information &amp; Communication Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAD</td>
<td>Inter-Governmental Authority on Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAs</td>
<td>Income Generating Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>International Rescue Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRIN</td>
<td>Integrated Regional Information Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAM</td>
<td>Joint Assessment Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KDF</td>
<td>Kenya Defence Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIM</td>
<td>Kenya Institute of Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KVO</td>
<td>Kaashif Voluntary Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWF</td>
<td>Lutheran World Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>Mandated Refugee Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Norwegian Refugee Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organisation of African Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLWDs</td>
<td>People Living with Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Enterprise Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDE</td>
<td>Royal Danish Embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRDO</td>
<td>Relief, Reconstruction Development Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWOT</td>
<td>Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDH</td>
<td>Terre des Hommes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical Vocational Education &amp; Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEP</td>
<td>Youth Education Pack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction

As the woman in our opening quotation indicated, there have been so many surveys of Dadaab refugees. It must be one of the most researched communities in the world. The emphasis of this study is not so much on collecting more data, but on analysing the issues that impinge on developing effective livelihood strategies for the refugees – both those who will go back to Somalia, and those who will stay, either temporarily in the camps, or (to be realistic) elsewhere in Kenya.

**Study objective**
A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of 2012\(^1\) argued for increased support for vocational training, and an expansion of existing activities in order to improve self-reliance opportunities for the refugees – and also for vulnerable host community members. In line with that recommendation, this study – commissioned by the Danish Refugee Council – is geared towards developing a strategy to support planning of livelihood interventions implemented by partners operating in the Dadaab refugee camps.

**Approach**
To augment and confirm existing data on the refugee populations of the five camps of Dadaab, we carried out interviews and focus group discussions. This fieldwork took place for a period of eight days in Dadaab, with additional interviews in Nairobi. In addition, a semi-structured questionnaire was administered to 300 respondents from all five of the camps (Dagahaley, Hagadera, Ifo1, Ifo 2 and Kambio), and 13 focus group discussions were held with groups such as youth, women, people living with disability and business people.

![Proportion of interviews per camp](image)

We interviewed 25 members of the host community. We also interviewed staff of DRC, UNHCR, Save the Children, LWF, Care Kenya, NRC, Handicap International, RET and Terres des Hommes.

---

An extensive literature review was conducted, which comprised previous surveys and studies carried out in Dadaab, in Somalia and elsewhere in Kenya, by a variety of agencies, as well as programme documents and reports related to livelihood interventions.

**Challenges**

To make a well-rounded assessment, a more thorough study of opportunities in Somalia (particularly in Mogadishu) for returnee refugees would have been desirable. As it was, we had to rely on a recent labour market study\(^2\), as well as on the opinions of informants.

Although there are numerous profiles of the Dadaab refugees and their aspirations and capacities, there seems to be far less documentation on what is actually being offered to them in the way of livelihood support. We found it very difficult to access programme documents, training curricula, and assessments. If time and budget had allowed, it would have been desirable to observe training in action.

Prevailing insecurity in the refugee camps limited our freedom of movement in the camps and, therefore, the ability to carry out more random and spontaneous interviews.

Furthermore, the delicate political situation, particularly related to current Government of Kenya (GoK) policies, is likely to have distorted refugee responses. For example, it is most unlikely that they would freely admit their intentions to find their way to Nairobi, Mombasa – or even abroad – rather than back to Somalia.

What follows is an overview of the current political and socio-economic situation of the Dadaab refugees and host community. Chapter 3 presents more detailed findings arising from interviews and focus group discussions. This leads into the presentation of an outline strategy for designing and implementing more relevant, structured and sustainable livelihood programmes.

2. Overview

The outlined livelihood strategy, which is the main output of this study, is written from a Theory of Change perspective. A distinctive feature of the Theory of Change approach is the development of a rationale based on a deep situation analysis, and a rigorous reflection on the assumptions that underpin the intervention design. This Overview chapter summarises the main findings of the study – based on a literature review, interviews with key informants, focus group discussions with beneficiaries, and responses to a questionnaire.

Situation analysis

There are now over 400,000 refugees in the Dadaab camps. The majority of them have been living in the camps (or in other places in Kenya) for a long time – some for over 22 years.

It is a difficult time for these refugees. Because of al-Shabab incursions into the country, there has been an increase of insecurity on the Kenya – Somalia border. In reaction, the Kenya Government stiffened the encampment policy, further curtailing the freedom of refugees, although the directive that all refugees should move to the camps was later withdrawn. Within the camps themselves, there has been an upsurge of violence, rapes and petty crimes.

For the majority of Dadaab refugees, a return to Somalia in the short-term is not a viable solution. Most of those contacted in this study argued that the situation in Somalia is far too fragile for them to go back.

The study team found that there was some level of resentment within the host community about the refugees. A number of respondents argued that refugees are receiving preferential support, whether in terms of services and job opportunities. On the other hand, it should be recognised that Dadaab town has grown because of the refugees, and the presence of many humanitarian agencies.

These agencies have been providing protection-related programmes, a number of which have included livelihood development components – mainly in support of income-generating activities. However, the difficulty refugees have in obtaining work permits limits the opportunities for employment in Dadaab or elsewhere in Kenya.

Dadaab refugees have been receiving assistance for over 20 years, and there has been a realisation that the orientation of this support needs to change in a manner that will provide more self-sustaining skills to refugees, whether they return to Somalia, stay in Dadaab, or find themselves elsewhere in Kenya or in other countries.

The proposed overall objective of a livelihood programme should be, *To enable Dadaab refugees to cope, adapt and thrive wherever they settle.*

The proposed strategic framework

Design assumptions

The assumptions underlying the proposed design can be categorised in three levels. At the political level, based on recent policy statements and on interviews with key informants, the assumption is that the current Kenyan Government’s policy on refugees severely restricts the livelihood options available to refugees.
Based on focus group discussions with a variety of beneficiaries, and on questionnaire responses, the following assumptions are made about the position of beneficiaries.

- Some refugees will return to Somalia;
- Some will remain in Kenya;
- A few will be resettled to a third country in the West;
- A few refugees in Dadaab run successful businesses, but most refugees lack skills that they could use to survive outside of the camps;
- Some members of the host community in Dadaab are resentful of the assistance given to refugees, who they see as benefiting more than they are;
- Most of the livelihood activities implemented in Dadaab currently form part of the larger protection programmes and are therefore, mostly capable of providing only day- to-day income for refugee families, and limited opportunities outside the camp setting.

At the institutional level, it has been observed that for most agencies, livelihood is not their core area of expertise and, therefore, they do not have sufficient staff to implement effective livelihood programmes.

**Key actions**
This reflection on assumptions points to the need for any comprehensive livelihood programme to have components addressing issues at the above three levels.

At the policy level, a number of advocacy actions are identified:

- UNHCR and its implementing partners seek to be involved more prominently in the Refugee Affairs Committee at the national level;
- Formulate or activate a vibrant forum to discuss issues of refugee: repatriation, rights and issues affecting refugees;
- Engage more strongly with refugee community committees and leadership structures;
- Engage with relevant ministries in Somalia, especially south-central Somalia.

At the beneficiary level, the main livelihood support actions would be to:

- Offer vocational skills training, recognising the skills gaps identified, as well as the market demands in Kenya and Somalia;
- Carry out periodic studies on evolving market needs, and opportunities in Dadaab and its environs, as well as in Somalia;
- Design a robust livelihood programme (led by one agency for the sake of coherence) that other agencies could contribute to with expertise in specific areas;
- Create linkages with public and private institutions in Kenya and Somalia to provide the necessary support in training, in offering opportunities for internship and apprenticeship, and as a resource to facilitate access to capital and micro-credit facilities.

At the institutional level, a number of capacity-building actions would need to be taken:

- Recruit specialist(s) with the requisite understanding and knowledge in identified livelihood areas;
- Establish a multi-agency steering committee to oversee the running of the programme;
- Establish an M&E system to inform decision-making at the steering committee level;
• Design a communication strategy for the programme;
• Recruit a dedicated M&E specialist;
• Recruit a communication expert.

**Outcomes**
The outputs from these actions should lead to three main outcomes:

• The policy environment allows refugees in Dadaab to engage more freely and fully in livelihood activities.
• Refugees are better prepared to engage in a range of economic activities wherever they settle.
• The selected lead agencies are better equipped to guide the design and coordination of livelihood programmes for refugees in Dadaab.

**Principles**
To implement such a programme, a number of key principles would need to be upheld:

• **Ensuring equal access**: through advocacy initiatives promoting support for all refugees, not only for vulnerable groups; enabling greater access to labour markets in Somalia and even in Kenya.

• **Engaging in effective communication**: using a variety of channels including learning platforms for raising and debating issues affecting programme performance.

• **Building partnerships**: with relevant public and private institutions to increase the effectiveness of programme activities – involving host communities in both Kenya and Somalia, as well as local and national governments.
3. Situation Analysis

3.1. The Dadaab refugee complex

---

3"Hasty Repatriation: Kenya’s attempt to send Somali Refugees Home, (Feb. 2013) The Heritage Institute for Policy Studies
In 1991 thousands of Somalis flooded into Kenya’s barren North East. The initial influx was prompted by the collapse of the Somali Government, followed by the prolonged civil war that followed. Two decades later, little has changed. A refugee complex designed for 90,000 inhabitants in 1992 is now bursting at the seams: by May 2013, the official number of registered refugees in Dadaab was 425,238, with 51% of them being women; living on land with an official capacity of 190,000 people. The 2011/2012 famine caused the latest exodus – a crisis which estimates suggest killed up to 260,000 Somalis, and forced 150,000 across the Kenyan border. Despite the rhetoric assuring a secure Mogadishu and a Kenyan Government keen to rid Garissa of its inconvenient guests, Dadaab’s refugees are still reluctant to leave. The reasons for this vary, but most still feel it is too unsafe to return. Others feel there are more opportunities in Kenya, or simply hold no ties to their ‘homeland’, having been born in the camp.

The Dadaab Refugee Complex now consists of five camps: Dagahaley, Hagadera, Ifo1, Ifo 2 and Kambios, three of which are operating well beyond their intended capacity. Although the camps are host to a number of different clans from Somalia, the clan profile of the Dadaab area is primarily made up of three Ogaden sub-clans: the Ailuhan, the Abdwak and the Magarbul.

### Table 1: The camps at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Dominant region of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hagadera</td>
<td>138,529 (42,218 HHs)</td>
<td>Mogadishu and other urban areas of Somalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagahaley</td>
<td>102,031 (25,755 HHs)</td>
<td>Pastoralist clans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifo 1</td>
<td>99,960 (25,984 HHs)</td>
<td>Mix of agricultural and pastoralist clans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifo 2</td>
<td>64,713 (7,400 HHs)</td>
<td>From south Somalia and arrived with drought of 2010/2012 (predominantly from the agricultural clans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kambios</td>
<td>20,005 (4,538 HHs)</td>
<td>From south Somalia and arrived with drought of 2010/2012 (predominantly from the agricultural clans)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population figures from UNHCR Dadaab update 16 April – 15 May 2013

For the Somalis, the settlement pattern within the camps broadly reflects the areas from which they were displaced; for example, Hagadera is populated mainly by refugees arriving from urban areas; Ifo 2 is host to families from the farming communities, while those from pastoralist areas reside in Dagahaley and Ifo 1. In addition, there are a handful of refugees

---

4 UNHCR data as of May 2013. However it has been reported that at least 40,000 people or more are Kenyan Somalis who have opted to register as refugees in order to receive food rations. Interview with the DRA representative in Dadaab.

5 Asylum Under Threat – Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along the migration corridor, (2012) RCK with the support of DRC.

6 In Search of Protection and Livelihoods: Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of Dadaab Refugee Camps on Host Communities (Sept. 2010) RDE, Norwegian Embassy.

7 The population figures above only indicate the Somali population and not that of other nationalities that are also resident in Dadaab.

8 The settlement pattern presented refers to the general trend, meaning that there are individuals from other regions also resident in the specific camps.
from other countries resident within the camps, although their numbers are minimal: South Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Liberia. A UNHCR report of October 2012 placed the number of Somali refugees at 96% of the total refugee population in the camp.9

At the heart of the refugee complex lies the Dadaab town – the focal point of the host community, which incorporates all the people that have settled within a 50km radius of the camps. Although no accurate figures for the host population exist, it is estimated that of the 150,000 people within this 50km radius 60% are in settlements and 40% are mobile pastoralists, not permanently settled in any of the villages surrounding the camps.10 Despite the perception of some in Dadaab who feel that the refugees have had a negative impact on the locals, the population of the host community has increased tenfold since 1989. The influx of over 500,000 people, and the humanitarian organisations that have followed them, has undoubtedly provided a unique market for a number of businesses in the host community, and has therefore attracted entrepreneurs and travellers from all over the country. In fact, it has been alluded to that Dadaab is one of the largest Somali-inhabited cities in the Horn of Africa.11 It is hard to refute this in as much as the complex has a higher population than some of the counties in Kenya.

By early 2013, UNHCR reported that it had a massive funding shortfall, where it required $145 million to continue providing assistance to refugees, but it only had $36.5 million.12 As a result, the agency had been forced to drastically cut down on the number of implementing partners providing assistance to refugees in the camps. Services have consequently suffered. But it is also important to note that there are operational partners operating in Dadaab that do not rely on funding from UNHCR, and they will continue providing assistance.

### 3.2. Political and policy situation

The issue of refugees did not become a problem for Kenya until the early 1990s when the numbers shot up from a mere 14,000 to over 300,000, fuelled by the civil conflicts among Kenya’s neighbouring states: Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia.13 The Government drafted a Bill in a bid to try and deal with the new situation but was reluctant to shoulder the burden of refugees indefinitely. Fuelled too by the negative aspects associated with refugees (perceived upsurge in armed crime, disease, and so on), the Government did not enact the Bill until after the 2002 elections that saw a change in Government-civil society relations. This allowed for wide negotiations and eventual enactment of the Refugee Act in 2006, which now provides guidance on the reception, entry and protection of refugees in Kenya.

The Act meant that the Government took on a greater responsibility in the registration and protection of refugees, and a specific Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) was set up within the Ministry of State for Immigration and Registration of Persons. The Government resumed the task of registration of refugees in collaboration with UNHCR. This was part of a plan for the eventual and full assumption by the Government of all key areas of refugee policy implementation. The DRA also chairs the Refugee Affairs Committee that comprises officials from relevant government agencies: Internal Security, Foreign Affairs, The National Registration Bureau, and Local Government. However, its activities have been hampered by a lack of resources and limited capacity. A number of international agencies (UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danida) have been assisting the DRA to build its

---

9 Guidance Note on Livelihood Activities in Dadaab/Alinjugur Camps. October 2012. UNHCR.
10 Ibid.
13 Refugee Consortium of Kenya.
capacity, but it is also recognised that the Government itself also needs to allocate more resources and support to the department.

The Act improved, to some degree, the protection of refugees as they are now issued with documentation: either a UNHCR Mandated Refugee Certificate (MRC) that is valid for two years, or the DRA-issued Alien Refugee Certificate (ARC) that is valid for five years. In order to acquire the right to work, an additional permit is required: the Class M Work Permit, which is extremely difficult to come by, as the Government’s priority is to create employment for its citizens first. Although there are still great restrictions placed upon refugees in terms of mobility, the government-issued ARC does accord them some measure of protection from harassment by security forces, and it also allows school-going children and youth to access education opportunities.¹⁴

Section 16 of the Act recognises that every refugee is entitled to the rights and obligations contained in the international conventions to which Kenya is a party to. This includes the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.¹⁵ However, one of the shortcomings of the Act is that it makes no recognition of vulnerable refugees; for example, unaccompanied minors, people living with disabilities, and the elderly – the categories of people that need specific attention, in order to ensure their protection, access to services and other opportunities that can prove to be especially difficult to secure.

A new Bill repealing the 2006 Refugee Act has already been drafted, but has not yet been passed. It lays more emphasis on security and it imposes stricter rules on the registration of refugees, and it ensures penalties for non-compliance. Aid agencies and civil society organisations have been lobbying for certain sections to be amended in order to protect the rights of refugees in this new Bill.

**Devolved government**

There is renewed interest in developing the North East, especially in this era of devolution. At the time of this study, the new county governments had just been put in place. Each county is run by elected officials: a Governor, a Senator, and County Representatives; and managed through a County Assembly. Devolution will mean change on two main fronts: the transfer of power and resources from central government to the county governments, and the reorganisation of local government.

The devolved system is meant to bring services closer to the people, improve planning and management, and thereby improve service delivery to citizens. After suffering years of social and economic neglect by respective governments, the former North Eastern region in general should benefit from devolution, as development programmes will, ideally, be better targeted to suit the specific needs of the people in a manner that takes into consideration the arid and semi-arid contexts.

The county governments have been given the responsibility for setting county legislation (in line with the national laws of the country). Certain functions will now be managed at the county level; for example, the management of primary healthcare services, livestock trade, local trade and markets, revenue generation, water and sanitation, and general public

---

¹⁴ However, in urban areas, and more so in Nairobi, refugees face harassment by security forces and it is therefore easier for them to move within the Dadaab area or within the Garissa County rather than in Nairobi.

works. The national government retains control over education, security and policing, and economic policy. Policy issues regarding refugees are still, therefore, a function of the national government. In relation to refugees, the various governors will have to coordinate efforts to manage their protection locally, as well as their ability to gain access to basic services.

The county governments of the North East could play an important role in advocating for rights and privileges of refugees, and aid agencies in both the development and humanitarian sectors have an opportunity to play a role as partners in local development and service delivery. Governors have the potential to influence public opinion around the issue of refugees, and in the process could prove to be effective partners in shaping the ongoing national debate, particularly with regard to Somali refugees.

On access to services, in as much as the counties have a minimum allocation of 15% of the national budget, there is a push to increase this to 40% to enhance service delivery. At the time of writing this report, there were heated debates going on about the powers and resources that would actually rest with county governments. The ability to provide better services at the county level will, in part, be determined by the decision that will be made regarding this.

### 3.3. Security concerns and refugee repatriation

The persistence of conflict and the worst drought and famine for sixty years have brought instability to the Horn of Africa, and in the last few years the violence gradually filtered into Kenya. In October 2011, Kenya launched Operation Linda Nchi – or ‘protect the nation’ – against al-Shabab who were believed to be responsible for a spate of kidnappings of tourists and aid workers, as well as the murder and kidnapping of Kenyans and foreigners resident in Kenya. There has also been mention of certain elements in the country taking advantage of this situation to carry out attacks in order to gain access to property (businesses) and resources.

Since then, whether driven by politics, poverty or famine, the steady flow of Somali refugees into both Kenya’s North East and Nairobi has continued; 33,537 refugees are now registered in Nairobi, with the majority of Somalis believed to be residing in Eastleigh – the city’s Somali dominated neighbourhood. For just over a month in late 2012, there were five separate grenade attacks in Eastleigh, killing 16 people and injuring 42, leading to increased animosity between Kenyans and civilians of Somali origin. The attacks in Eastleigh formed part of a series of low-level attacks around the country, including incidents in Mombasa. As a result, the Commissioner of the DRA ordered all refugees and asylum seekers to leave urban areas and return to their respective camps. Protests from numerous humanitarian and development agencies, however, prevented the Kenyan Government from enforcing the order, and on 22 January 2013 the High Court issued an injunction temporarily halting the relocation of refugees to the camps. It ruled in favor of refugees on 26 July 2013.

Although it is still high on the Kenyan Government’s agenda, eventual repatriation remains a largely unrealistic goal if the security situation in Somalia does not improve. During this study, when asked about their willingness to return to Somalia 52% of the refugees said that

---


17 *On December 13, 2012, the DRA issued a press statement announcing the authority’s plan to “put in place a structure encampment policy” because of an “unbearable and uncontrollable threat to national security” caused by “grenade attacks on our streets, churches, buses and business places”. Human Rights Watch Report May 2013. ‘You’re All Terrorists’: Kenya Police Abuse of Refugees in Nairobi.
they could not consider return, as the situation was still very fragile and circumstances in Somalia have a way of changing very quickly.\textsuperscript{18} However, it is also important to note that, though this was a general sentiment, opinions differed from camp to camp. The newer refugees, particularly those resident in Ifo 2 and Kambios – those arriving with the recent drought – indicated a greater willingness to return than those who have been in Dadaab for many years. This can be largely attributed to the fact that the new refugees still had a much stronger affiliation with their home compared to the long-term\textsuperscript{19} refugees.

During the study, the views expressed by the majority of the respondents were that long-term refugees were more settled, had developed networks. Others, it was said, had settled into a kind of malaise, where receiving aid for many years had fostered dependency. These were the most unlikely to voluntarily return to Somalia. As stated above, interviews with refugee groups confirmed this, with 52\% saying that they were not willing to return to Somalia. The 48\% who were willing to do so said they could only return when or if the security situation improved. Of the few that seemed definite about returning – given the right circumstances – the youth formed the majority. And, given their age, they still have the time to learn new skills and the energy to put them to use – in Kenya, Somalia or elsewhere, as the situation permits.

At the Somalia Conference in London on 7 May 2013, Kenya’s President, Uhuru Kenyatta, echoed the refugees’ sentiments, underlining that Somalia’s political and economic recovery, as well as the effectiveness of humanitarian programmes, would not be viable without first tackling the issue of security.\textsuperscript{20}

Despite the recognition from some refugees of better livelihood opportunities existing in Mogadishu and in the other regions of Somalia compared to those opportunities in Dadaab, the refugees simply will not return if instability persists. However, a few returnees have been recorded by UNCHR, but most of these have been from the most recent refugees who arrived with the onset of the 2011 drought.

Aside from insecurity, other factors that prevent voluntary return to Somalia, especially for protracted refugees, include: the inability to reclaim land and property, lack of access to social protection in areas of return, and the lack of confidence in the durability and efficacy of the new government.\textsuperscript{21}

The Somali Government appears to support returns, but also recognises its limitations in relation to the support it can offer to returnees, in addition to the constraints it faces in terms of its ability to provide basic services. The likelihood is that a significant number of returnees will move from being refugees in Kenya to being IDPs in Somalia. At the time of writing this report, the proposal to set up a tripartite commission, made up of the Kenyan and Somali Governments, and UNHCR, was under discussion, the aim of which would be to set guidelines and support the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees based in Kenya.

Another strategy that is being pursued is the setting up of a ‘safe haven’ within southern Somalia to host the displaced. This is a designated area, about 100km from the Kenya border,

\textsuperscript{18} This sentiment is documented in other reports as well; for example, the report: Asylum Under Threat: \textit{Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along the migration corridor}. Refugee Consortium of Kenya. June 2012.

\textsuperscript{19} In this report, the term ‘protracted’ and ‘long-term’ are interchangeable, but means refugees who have been in Dadaab for five years or longer, as defined by UNHCR.

\textsuperscript{20} ‘Uhuru: security key to relocation of refugees’ in \textit{The Sunday Nation} (7\textsuperscript{th} May 2013).

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid.
in Jubbaland. This scheme was tried out in the early 1990s when the Moi regime threatened to forcibly return Somali refugees. Since 2011, it has received even more support from Kenya, in the Government’s effort to create a buffer zone to protect its territory from al-Shabab incursions (some of whom have been said to pose as refugees or to have sympathisers among the refugees coming into Kenya). Reports indicate that Ethiopia has also been keen to see a buffer zone in southern Somalia, as long as its leadership is not sympathetic to the Ogaden National Liberation Front, an Ethiopian rebel group made up of people of Somali origin. And the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which comprises several states in the region, has also supported the Jubbaland Initiative.  

3.4. Protection issues

At the time of this study, security within the camps had been deteriorating. Cases of rape, shootings, assault and murder, were being reported regularly, with Ifo 2 experiencing the highest rates of insecurity incidents. But, generally, the security situation was reported to have taken a downward trend from 2011, when Operation Linda Nchi was launched by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). Attacks using improvised explosive devices had become a regular occurrence within the camps, affecting the operations of aid agencies, the majority of which could no longer access the camps without security. The threat of kidnapping also meant that visits to the camps were reduced to a minimum.

The agencies have been advocating with the Kenyan authorities to increase police presence in the camps. On the other hand, these same forces have sometimes been accused of being the perpetrators of violence. A paper signed by a number of agencies operating in Dadaab highlighted the protection needs of the refugees, where it mentioned that cases of sexual and gender-based violence had increased by 36% between February and May 2013. Other protection issues affecting the refugees include:

- The potential for attacks from host community members in retaliation for perceived bias of agencies to provide assistance to refugees while neglecting the host community;
- Recruitment of youth within the camp, unwilling or not – to al-Shabab;
- Increased criminal elements within the camps, especially with the increase in population and inadequate livelihoods and income;
- Culturally instigated disagreements, with those from minority groups in Somalia bearing the brunt.

These threats to personal security have prompted some refugees to attempt relocating to other areas of Kenya, specifically to Nairobi and Garissa, but this strategy poses a threat in itself as refugee movement outside of the camps – without and even with the necessary documentation – exposes them to harassment and extortion by the police. This violence has

---

23 The Somali Federal Government has stated that the way in which the Jubbaland State was formed contravenes Somalia’s Provisional Constitution, as the process has not been inclusive. To resolve the situation, at the time of writing this report, talks were on-going between Jubbaland and the Government, facilitated by IGAD.
24 Some agencies are of the opinion that moving with security escorts increases their risk of being targeted and therefore make do without security escorts.
resulted in a few refugees opting to go back to Somalia, and this group, unfortunately, forms part of the statistics recorded on voluntary returns.

3.5. Interest in refugee livelihoods and self-reliance

Over the years, and with growing cases of protracted refugee stays, it has increasingly become clear that the modus operandi of UNHCR and other refugee-supporting agencies needs to change. In many of these situations, the international community has been unable to offer effective solutions and, with longer displacement, there has been a tendency for funding levels to gradually reduce after the initial period of emergency. The donor community tends to focus on high profile, emerging humanitarian emergencies. In Dadaab, UNHCR and other agencies are currently experiencing this challenge. As mentioned earlier, UNHCR and other funding agencies are experiencing significant funding shortfalls for their operations in Dadaab.

UNHCR is increasingly encouraging the self-reliance of refugees, and in 2013 it adopted a prioritised set of objectives to improve self-reliance and increase livelihood opportunities for refugees. With the issue of return high on the Kenyan Government’s agenda, the agency is urging its partners to be proactive and to prepare refugees in self-sustenance strategies that they could use to boost their ability to make a living, whether in Kenya, back in Somalia, or in cases of resettlement to the West and elsewhere.

3.6. The host community

Hosting the world’s largest refugee camp presents unique livelihood opportunities for the residents of Dadaab. A town once inhabited solely by nomadic camel and goat herders has – over the last two decades – been forced to adapt to the influx of over half a million Somali refugees, who now reside in the five camps within a 18km radius of Dadaab’s centre. The host community comprises those who have settled in the 20 major villages within 50km of the camps. The co-existence of Dadaab’s residents and the refugees in terms of livelihood opportunities is limited by the encampment policy, and the inability of refugees to secure work permits. As mentioned earlier, there are a number of businesses outside the camp that employ refugees for their casual labour – a trend found mainly in Dadaab’s hotels and guesthouses. In an economic sense, therefore, it seems Dadaab and its surrounding campsites are largely separate entities, with the exception of a few shop-owners whose products are sold within some of the camps as well as in the town itself.

Dadaab town

Dadaab town has a variety of businesses running, with the most prominent ones being tailoring, electronics and hardware shops, restaurants and eateries and general stores. The same variety of trading activities was found to exist within the camps as well. The businesses in town were owned entirely by the host community, while those within the camps were owned by the refugees and the host community.

Spheres of influence

When considering the scope of product distribution and the nature of the clientele, it was evident that the distribution varied according to the location of the business relative to the five camps. The sphere of influence of those based in the heart of town is, in the main, limited to residents of Dadaab, though 44% claimed to sell their products to refugees as well.

Only a couple boasted distribution as far out as Garissa. The host community members adjacent to the camps had far stronger ties with the refugees; for example, three host
community representatives interviewed during the study ran shops with a refugee customer base, and all three of them were married to refugees. This reliance on the refugees, though, is not limited to those communities on the fringes of the camps; the owner of the *Mwingi Serena Hotel* in the centre of Dadaab said, ‘*If it wasn’t for the refugees, we wouldn’t have come to Dadaab*’. Although their customers are not refugees, they attract people who travel to Dadaab as a result of the refugee complex – whether for business or as aid workers. Aid agencies, too, provide considerable economic opportunities for a selection of businesses in Dadaab. The owner of the successful *Hanshi Palace* opposite the Dadaab Main Office (DMO), for example, hires Toyota Land Cruisers out to a number of NGOs, and he has won numerous contracts for construction projects within the DMO. The owners of the hardware stores also said that they profited from the aid agencies.

**Employment of refugees**

The only source of income for refugees in Dadaab is through casual labour. Of the 25 businesses approached during the study, only two employed refugees, and both were hotels. Of those that did not employ refugees, 80% said that they would if they could. A number said they would not employ a refugee even if the situation allowed, as there were many host community members without jobs. One of the business people interviewed said: ‘*I have heard that aid agencies provide transport for refugees working in town. They bring them here in the morning, and take them back in the evening. Why go to all this effort when an easier solution would be to support people from the host community?’*

So, to some extent, there exists a level of resentment about refugees taking jobs that could be filled by members of the host community, even if they involve menial tasks such as cleaning. Although there are also those who are of the opinion that refugees could contribute useful skills to the town. A hardware shop owner said:

‘*I would be very happy to employ a refugee but the problem is that they do not have identification cards, they only use asylum cards.... The movement of refugees is also restricted, I wouldn’t want to employ someone I can’t send around... These people have better business minds than locals, but our hands are tied when it comes to employing them.*’
4. The Refugees

4.1. Demographics

As indicated in the figure below, the majority of refugees in Dadaab, close to 70%, originate from south and central Somalia, with just over 20% originating from Puntland and less than 10% from Somaliland.

Figure 2: Region of origin of Dadaab refugees

According to respondents, a vast majority of refugees have resided in the camps for 10 years or more, with a good number being second and third generation refugees. This portion of the population, meaning the youth and children, born and raised in Dadaab, have never been to Somalia and identify more strongly with Kenya, especially considering that most have gone through or are currently in the Kenyan education system.

According to UNHCR\(^{26}\), the number of women refugees stands at 51%.\(^{27}\) Reports place the number of youth and children at over 52% of the total refugee population; and, besides the few who arrived in 2011/2012 due to the famine, the rest were born in Kenya.\(^{28}\)

45% of the women interviewed were single and the heads of their households. So in as much as there has been criticism that more attention is given to women, they do form 51% of the camp population and, with more of them being single, they require additional support, especially taking into account the strong cultural practices regarding the role of women in Somali society.


\(^{27}\) As has been indicated earlier although Somalis make up the bulk of the refugee population in Dadaab, there are a few other nationalities resident in Dadaab, but their exact numbers are not readily available so these figures only relate to the Somali population.

\(^{28}\) The Human Costs of the Funding Shortfalls for the Dadaab Refugee Camps. Care International.
4.2. The livelihoods situation: Key Findings

A study carried out in 2010\textsuperscript{29} noted that the circumstances in Dadaab are better when compared to other similar arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya. The existence of the Dadaab refugee complex means that the aid agencies and the refugees combine to make for a comparatively better situation for the inhabitants of the area. In fact, there has been a significant amount of in-migration as a result of the trade and employment opportunities provided by the complex.

The long-term refugees, those who mostly arrived in the 1990s and mid-2000\textsuperscript{30} have developed coping mechanisms that include involvement in a variety of small and medium-sized income generating activities. The ‘newcomers’, on the other hand, mainly arrived in 2010 and 2011, at the height of the drought, and the majority have yet to develop these kinds of entrepreneurial activities. However, Somali society and culture are such that, even being newcomers, the refugees are able to receive some limited form of support from fellow Somali refugees. The figure below clearly shows these two categories.

![Figure 3: Length of stay in Dadaab camp](source)

Displacement in Somalia has been going on from the 1980s. So, although the major wave of refugees started arriving in the 1990s, there are a few refugees who have been displaced for over 26 years.

Access to education

For refugees, education in Dadaab is offered by aid agencies within the camps, although their capacity to offer education to all is limited due to the huge demand for the services.

\textsuperscript{29}In Search of Protection and Livelihoods: Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of Dadaab Refugee Camps on Host Communities (Sept. 2010) RDE, Norwegian Embassy).

\textsuperscript{30}Displacement in Somalia has been happening even before the Somali Government collapsed in 1991 and, as a result, there are refugees who fled the country as far back as the 1980s, particularly from the south Somalia region.
According to a report by NRC, only 57,000 of Dadaab’s 221,000 school-age children and youth are enrolled in school. Some refugees do have the resources to send their children to schools outside the camps, but these were said to be very few. According to a paper prepared by Care International, children and youth make up 52% of the refugee population in Dadaab, and the vast majority (over 70%) do not attend school. For the teachers, only one out of five have any formal teacher training. For children living with disability, access to proper education facilities is close to impossible because, first, according to the majority of the refugees interviewed during this study, the education facilities are not constructed in a manner that allows easy access for the disabled. In addition, the few trained teachers available are not equipped with skills on how to teach children with various kinds of disabilities or special needs. And finally, there are not enough schools to cater for the requirements of the refugee population.

Those refugees that have managed to get an education, more so the protracted ones, have gone through the entire Kenyan education system and received Kenyan school certification, but the dropout rate remains high, especially among girls.

Lack of education and low education levels is one of the hindrances to the ability of many refugees to gain access to vocational training. Based on their own views, refugees recognise that the lack of education gets in the way of their ability to make a living because, as they have experienced both in Somalia and in Dadaab, the chances of those having an education are better in terms of employability and in the degree of success when running a business/trade.

![Figure 4: Level of education in Dadaab and the gender disparity](image)

Source: Field study findings

The number of boys completing both primary and secondary school education is high, and markedly so when it comes to high school education. Cultural practices that hinder girls from going to school are largely to blame for this trend. The result is that male youth stand a better chance of gaining employment than their female counterparts. And this is the same when it comes to having the skills to run successful businesses.

---

32 The Human Costs of the Funding Shortfalls for the Dadaab Refugee Camps. Care International.
33 Kenyan school credentials are widely accepted in Somalia.
**Employment options**

With regard to employment by the aid agencies, as refugees are not allowed to work in Kenya, this is only possible through an agreement with the Government to hire refugees as ‘incentive workers’, for a fraction of the salary that a Kenyan national would receive in the same post. ³⁴ And the rates are well below the minimum wage. However, even this tends to create some level of resentment from the host community, who feel that the refugees get preferential treatment and are taking jobs that they should be getting.

Another source of income is casual work. The refugees who can afford it employ other refugees as laundry workers, sales people in their small vegetable and tea kiosks – for very little pay.

Securing employment out of the camps is only possible for the very few who venture out to the cities, although they have to deal with constant harassment at the hands of the security forces. ³⁵ Interviews with the host community confirmed that some refugees also get employment within the town, but in limited numbers and for low pay.

**Trade**

Trade is big business within the camps, and this has had an effect on the availability and cost of goods in Dadaab. ³⁶ Through their networks in Kenya (mainly Garissa and Nairobi) and back in Somalia, refugee traders are able to source for and sell their goods, usually at lower rates than those in other parts of the country. The already mentioned 2010 study of Dadaab found that items such as sugar, powdered milk, pasta, perfumes, cosmetics and *khat*, are imported from Somalia – tax free ³⁷ – through alternative border crossings. They constitute a large portion of the sales of these items, both within the camps and in Dadaab town. ³⁸

Trade activities are mainly informal in nature, and include products that the refugees have found to be marketable within the camps. These activities include grocery and commodity shops, beauty and barber salons, eateries, cloth and textile shops, sale of firewood and food items (such as milk, samosas, tea), small kiosks. Many of the goods sold are those sourced from Somalia.

The most successful business people were reported to be those refugees that have been in the camp a long time, as they have managed to develop networks and ways of manoeuvring in the current setting.

Discussions revealed that local officials recognise that the Kenyan Government loses a significant amount of money from the lack of a taxation regime for this refugee cross-border trade with Somalia. In addition, it is also clear that some of these refugee traders have become very rich, but do not pay tax, and are actually still on the list of aid recipients. One of the comments made by a host community member during the field study was, ‘Some of these refugees are millionaires. They have big wholesale shops and make more money than me. Yet, they do not pay tax; and me with my little money have to pay income tax. In fact, they are rich, and on top of that they also receive free food!’

---

³⁴ Interview with DRC staff.
³⁶ A study commissioned by Danida in 2010 found that Dagahaley and Ifo each had at least 1,000 shops, with almost three times that in Hagadera at 2,800. (In Search of Protection and Livelihoods: Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of Dadaab Refugee Camps on Host Communities (Sept. 2010) RDE, Norwegian Embassy).
³⁷ Although the traders, more often than not, need to pay bribes to get their goods across.
³⁸ The report estimated that these imports saved the Kenyan consumer close to Ksh 750 million p.a.
The new county governments have an opportunity to lobby for the articulation of guidelines that would allow for taxation of trade as a source of local revenue. Refugee traders could then begin to contribute in some way to the local economies of the North East and gradually begin to change the perceptions about refugees, so that they are viewed also as an important part of the local economy, and not just as a security threat. However, the necessary checks and balances would need to be in place to ensure that the system was not abused, and that the money collected actually contributed to local development and service delivery efforts.

The desire to supplement refugee rations with other food items has resulted in a thriving trade. Some of the food items distributed by the UN include maize and wheat flour, beans, corn, and cooking oil. Interviewees mentioned that the refugees sometimes fed the maize flour – and, at times, the maize itself – to their livestock, and this is especially common in times of drought. These items, as well as oil, are also put on sale in shops, both within and outside the camps. The income is used to buy other more desirable food items such as fresh milk, eggs, tea, vegetables and even firewood.

The residents of Dadaab benefit from the sale of these items as they are traded at lower prices than in other regions of the country. This acts as a pull factor for people living outside of Dadaab to move in. The table below, presented in the already mentioned Danida funded study of Dadaab, provides a snapshot of the savings made on certain common food ration items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Bulk size</th>
<th>Price per kg</th>
<th>Savings (Kshs/kg)</th>
<th>Savings (Kshs/mth)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>5 litres</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total monthly savings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1025</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total annual savings (Kshs mill.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total annual savings (USD mill.)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


As will be seen further below, for the poor refugee households, savings of over KES 1,000/- per month can make a big difference, when the average household income is between KES 1,500 and 4,500 per month.

Trade in livestock among the refugees was not found to be as high as was expected, although it constitutes big business for the host community. But, livestock products – meat, milk and leather – form part of the popular trade items within the camps.

Another livelihood activity that was mentioned by agencies, but that was categorically denied by the refugees, was the existence of commercial sex workers within the camps. However, in some interviews, a few respondents admitted that there were sex workers in the camps – but they argued that they were few. They also said that those involved in the practice are shunned by the community. The UN is currently supporting a programme for the rehabilitation of sex workers.

**Access to markets**

With regard to markets that are accessible to refugees, aside from those within the camps themselves, Dadaab town is the closest outside of the camp. However, the economy of Dadaab is limited and, therefore, it does not offer an adequate avenue for the range of
products produced by the refugees. For example, a number of refugees engage in activities such as weaving, soap-making, tailoring, vehicle repair, and tie and dye; but the absorption capacity within Dadaab for these services and products is minimal.

Other markets outside of Dadaab are in Garissa, Nairobi, and potentially also in the North East region. However, the encampment policy restricts the refugees’ ability to make good use of these markets. Also, the state of the roads is abysmal; further restricting access to markets. There is public transport available between the towns and, although this is infrequent, it is possible to move non-perishable goods for trade. In fact, a handful of refugees admitted to have, at one time or another, attempted to move their goods through public transport to Garissa and Nairobi for sale by relatives.

Access to finance and credit facilities
Until recently, Dadaab has had no banking services. At the time of the study, Equity Bank was in the process of opening a branch there, and Post Bank was up and running. This notwithstanding, money transfer services (hawalas) have been established for a long time. Although an official bank-based credit system was not yet available, informal credit facilities were present in the camps through the system of Ayuuto, a savings and credit facility developed among groups of people.

Not many of those interviewed admitted to receiving remittances from relatives, although a few refugee respondents mentioned that a large number of refugees do receive financial support from relatives abroad. In fact, some said that some of the money they made in Dadaab they sent back to Somalia to assist their family members.

So, even though the refugees do manage to engage in a variety of livelihood activities, there are a number of important factors to note:

• The severe restrictions on movement placed on refugees affects the range of options available to them;
• The physical environment and location of Dadaab limits the range of livelihood activities that can be implemented;
• The livelihood activities of refugees are mainly in the informal sector, as most cannot obtain work permits.

Diversity among refugees
Interviews revealed that there is a marked difference in attitude between the long-term refugees and the newer ones. As mentioned above, the more successful businesses operating in the camps are owned by the long-term refugees. Unfortunately, there are also those refugees who are caught up in the dependency syndrome. They are the ones most likely not to take up vocational training opportunities, and who do not exhibit a strong desire to go back to Somalia. On the other hand, the vast majority of newer refugees were said to have a keen interest in enrolling for vocational training for skills that they thought could benefit them or their children even in Somalia; skills such as literacy and numeracy, construction and tailoring.

Other differences were seen in the vocational preferences according to clan affiliation as well as to the region of origin; for example, the pastoralist communities showed a great reluctance

---

39Ayuuto comprises a group of people who contribute an equal amount of money to the group every few days according to a schedule that they agree on. The pot of money is distributed to individual members also according to an agreed schedule. ‘Migration and Remittances during the Global Financial Crisis and Beyond’, edited by Ibrahim Sirkeci, Jeffrey H. Cohen, Dilip Ratha, World Bank. 2012.
in getting involved in artisan activities, as they are considered to be the occupations of lower clans. Those refugees that had come from urban areas typically preferred training in such skills as IT and electronics; while those who originated from rural areas preferred to learn skills related to livestock rearing, farming and so on.

**Skills and economic activities**

The refugee population was found to be diverse in terms of backgrounds, skills and assets. As mentioned earlier, those in Hagadera, for example, were predominantly traders and business people who had arrived from urban areas of Somalia. Those in the newer camps – Ifo 2 and Kambios – arrived from southern Somalia, where they usually engaged in agricultural activities.

The refugees arrived in Kenya with a range of skills, and others were acquired while in the camp: either through on the job training, or through vocational training provided by the agencies.

A mapping of the skills possessed was as indicated below. The four most mentioned skills were business (interpreted to mean the running/ownership of small kiosks), tailoring, petty trade, and hairdressing. In terms of higher-level skills, those mentioned were literacy and numeracy, accounting, carpentry, computer skills, teaching, electronics, and construction. But these skills occurred in only a small number of respondents. Consequently, in tandem with the numbers possessing these higher-level skills, the number of refugees practising them was also low – at 18%, compared to 59% for unskilled labour and trade. (See Figure 6 below).

![Figure 5: Mapping of skills possessed by refugees](source: Field study findings)

Some of the economic activities that the refugees engage in are supported by funding agencies; while others are started through their own initiative. Figure 6 below highlights the range of activities mentioned and their prevalence. The majority of the income-generating activities were assessed to be self-initiated.

Although most of the other common businesses can be practised elsewhere outside of Dadaab, higher-level skills such as nursing, teaching, electrical engineering, masonry, are
skills that could provide an option for either employment of self-employment in many settings in Somalia and in Kenya. In Somalia especially, in the three regions, these skills are very marketable, taking into account the massive brain drain that the country has experienced. However, in the region as a whole, possessing these skills would enable refugees to make a living wherever they found themselves. In Kenya, for example, such skills could open up opportunities for self-employment.

**Figure 6: Livelihood activities of refugees**

In the figure above, of those interviewed, the majority - 59% - relied on unskilled labour as a means of income. And only 18% were involved in some form of skilled profession; for example, teaching, tailoring, midwifery, construction and motor vehicle repair. Only a very small proportion – 2% - said they relied solely on food aid, meaning that the majority of refugees supplement the assistance received with other income generating activities. This indicates a high level of willingness to engage in productive activities.
In terms of the types of income-generating activities per camp the most common are indicated in the table below:

### Table 3: Most common businesses by camp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hagadera</th>
<th>Dagahaley</th>
<th>Ifo 1</th>
<th>Ifo 2</th>
<th>Kambios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most mentioned</strong></td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>Electronics repair</td>
<td>Tailoring and dress-making</td>
<td>Tailoring and dress-making</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tailoring and dressmaking</td>
<td>Tailoring and dress-making</td>
<td>Carpenter and joinery</td>
<td>Carpenter and joinery</td>
<td>Tailoring and dressmaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpentry and joinery</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>Carpenter and joinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Motor vehicle mechanics</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Cyber café</td>
<td>Cyber café</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electrical wiring</td>
<td>Mobile phone repair</td>
<td>Mobile phone repair</td>
<td>Mobile phone repair</td>
<td>Catering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electronics repair</td>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile phone repair</td>
<td>Shoe repair</td>
<td>Shoe repair</td>
<td>Shoe repair</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average mention</strong></td>
<td>Cyber café</td>
<td>Welding and fabrication</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Catering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welding and fabrication</td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td>Mobile phone repair</td>
<td>Weaving mats, baskets and cloths</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td>Basket and mat weaving</td>
<td>Electrical wiring</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>Hairdressing and beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
<td>Cyber-café</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tie &amp; dye</td>
<td>Electrical wiring</td>
<td>Carpenter and joinery</td>
<td>Carpentry and joinery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>Bicycle repair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leather tanning</td>
<td>Carpentry and joinery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others – few mentions</strong></td>
<td>Plumbing, selling of firewood, milk, meat, tea, cereals, vegetables, livestock, khat, incentive payment by NGOs, MPESA, wheelbarrow loading, shoe shining.</td>
<td>Plumbing, selling of firewood, milk, meat, tea, cereals, vegetables, livestock, khat, incentive payment by NGOs, MPESA, wheelbarrow loading, shoe shining.</td>
<td>Plumbing, selling of firewood, milk, meat, tea, cereals, vegetables, livestock, khat, incentive payment by NGOs, MPESA, wheelbarrow loading, shoe shining.</td>
<td>Plumbing, selling of firewood, milk, meat, tea, cereals, vegetables, livestock, khat, incentive payment by NGOs, MPESA, wheelbarrow loading, shoe shining.</td>
<td>Plumbing, selling of firewood, milk, meat, tea, cereals, vegetables, livestock, khat, incentive payment by NGOs, MPESA, wheelbarrow loading, shoe shining.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Adapted from a report by RET

The new camps, Ifo 2 and Kambios, inhabited mainly by the newer refugees, had the least number of businesses running. To access some of the services, they go to the other camps. Although they are the most likely to return to Somalia, as long as they remain in Dadaab they are in need of greater support, in terms of skills development, in order to allow them to diversify their range of income generating options while in Dadaab. And the type of support given should also be of the kind that they could use when back in Somalia.

**Refugee preference – economic activities**

Discussion indicated that refugees from different camps had different preferences for economic activities. However, the newcomers were less selective about what they could become engaged in, compared to the long-term refugees. The area of origin and cultural differences had an influence on this. Traditionally in Somalia, pastoralist clans were considered to be the aristocrats, while those from the agricultural areas and those who engaged in manual labour were looked down upon. These perceptions have persisted, and are visible in the settlement pattern in Dadaab camp. This is also manifested in the kinds of skills preferred by the different groups. Those from urban areas and from pastoralist groups are more interested in gaining skills in such areas as electronics, ICT and accounting. They are

---

40 Apprenticeship Survey in Dadaab Refugee Camps and Host Community. RET. 2013
not too keen to be involved in manual labour such as mechanics, carpentry and construction. In planning for vocational skills provision then, in addition to market requirements, agencies also need to keep in mind these other dynamics in order to ensure appropriate targeting.

Business is by far the most common livelihood activity, followed by activities in petty trade (for example, pushing donkey carts, portering, shoe shining) and other unskilled labour.

When asked what would be the most preferred skills, the refugees gave a range of examples, presented in the table below in order of priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Youth</th>
<th>PLWDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>- Bakery</td>
<td>- New farming skills</td>
<td>- Further education (primary and higher level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Catering</td>
<td>- Carpentry</td>
<td>- Journalism/writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>- Masonry</td>
<td>- Mobile phone repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Teaching</td>
<td>- Leather work</td>
<td>- Masonry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Weaving and tailoring/dressmaking</td>
<td>- Mechanics and car repair</td>
<td>- New farming skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term refugees</td>
<td>- Teaching</td>
<td>- Carpentry</td>
<td>- Computer skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hairdressing and beauty</td>
<td>- Masonry</td>
<td>- Journalism writing and photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Catering</td>
<td>- Electronics</td>
<td>- Business management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bakery</td>
<td>- Plumbing</td>
<td>- Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Computer skills</td>
<td>- Mechanics/car repair</td>
<td>- Mechanics/vehicle repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Business management</td>
<td>- Leather work</td>
<td>- Electronic engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Weaving and tailoring/dressmaking</td>
<td>- Welding and fabrication</td>
<td>- Mobile phone repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Business management</td>
<td>- Masonry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Local government knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Catering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the refugees, the above were the most viable livelihood options available within the camps. During FGDs, the reasons given for preference of specific skills and trades included:

- Foremost, the amount of income one could make in a specific trade/occupation.
- The ‘clout’ associated with being involved in a certain trade; the youth for example were of the opinion that they would be seen as important members of the society if they were involved in professions such as ICT, journalism, and generally, more white-collar pursuits.
- How well a skill could be translated into an income generating opportunity in Somalia. This was more evident among the new refugees than among the long-term ones.
- Related to point one above was the need for up-grading already existing skills in order to gain an edge in the market and therefore increase income levels.
With regard to the demand demonstrated for certain skills per camp, recent trends – as indicated in our FGDs and in the survey conducted by RET – showed that the following skills were in high demand:

- Dagahaley: carpentry, welding, vehicle mechanics, electrical wiring, and construction.
- Ifo 1: Electrical wiring, and cyber cafes and PC repairs (due to recent installation of electricity in the market) vehicle and motorbike repairs, phone repair and barbers.
- Ifo 2: Market still limited and services that are in demand such as cyber cafes, phone repair, bicycle repair and fabrication are accessed from Ifo 1.
- Hagadera: No mention of specific demand for any one skill, but youth mentioned a rising demand for ICT and media training, as well as for teachers.
- Kambios: Cyber cafes, carpentry, electrical wiring and mobile phone repair.

Based on the above, the skills in most demand in the camps are also the ones in which only a few (only 18%) of those interviewed are skilled in. Some of these skills are on offer from the implementing agencies, and some would need to be provided using an alternative source, for example a training institution.

The above, combined with the full range of skills preferred by the refugees (Table 4) does not indicate a great divergence. However, it does give an indication of where agencies could lay emphasis when planning for vocational skills development. It is important to recognise that the nature of the market is fluid and as such, frequent market analyses – at least two-yearly – should be carried out in order to match the skills demand of the refugees with the market demands to make vocational training more relevant.

Responses related to livelihood activities revealed that refugee households do not limit themselves to one activity. It was found that the members of a household most often combine forces in order to increase their household incomes by diversifying their range of economic activities. In this way, they make the most of the opportunities available within the camp.

In comparing Figure 5 on skills possessed, and Figure 6 on activities refugees engage in, one can see the correlation between the possession of higher-level skills and the degree to which the refugees engage in skilled labour activities – 18% for higher level skills as opposed to 59% for unskilled labour and trade. Skills related to health, for example, were not mentioned at all, and neither were skills related to media or management.

In comparing the skills available within Dadaab camp and those that would be marketable in Somalia, it becomes clearer where the emphasis should be placed. As will be seen in Chapter 6, in Somalia the sectors in need of skilled labour as highlighted by the recent Labour Market Survey include:

- Construction (all aspects of the sector);
- The hospitality industry (all aspects of hospitality from front office, to housekeeping, food production and food and beverage service);
- Fisheries and livestock;
- ICT (computer repair, programming, computer-based businesses);
- Media (print, photography and electronic journalism);
- Management and financial planning;
- Skills necessary in the provision of basic services (teachers, nurses, doctors, etc).

And of those skills listed in Figure 6 above, they are either in short supply or non-existent – providing an opportunity for agencies to re-orient their programming to cover these gaps.
Refugee perceptions, on the other hand, regarding the kind of opportunities available in Somalia were as indicated below:

Figure 7: Refugee perceptions of opportunities available in Somalia

Source: Field study findings

Business and trading still factor highly, but of significance is the potential they see in agriculture. As will be noted further on, this is assessed to be an area of growth which, with appropriate support, could become an important source of employment and earnings. Fishing is another sector seen as having potential for the refugees. This sector is largely unexploited and, with Somalia having the longest beach in Africa, it has the potential to offer employment and income generating opportunities for a large number of people. Relevant structures and systems will, however, need to be put in place for these two sectors to offer the kind of livelihood options envisaged here. But there are efforts already underway, primarily in the agriculture and livestock sector, with support from agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Turkish Government.

Employment, either in government agencies or in private companies, is also considered to hold some promise. But, as mentioned by the refugees, their involvement in these areas needs them to acquire the right kind of skills.

Return to Somalia will not be easy or even desirable for some of the refugees; but the prospect of making a better living than is possible in Dadaab, could act as an incentive for greater numbers to eventually consider returning voluntarily. However, the Somali Government will need to put measures in place to encourage economic growth and to ensure the security of its people. Realistically, a lot still needs to be done to put the relevant structures in place, but security will be the greatest determining factor and, as the situation stands, this is still very fragile.
**Different socio-economic statuses of the refugees**

Respondents indicated that there are significant differences in the socio-economic status of the refugee households. We were able to distinguish five levels: the wealthy, people with a middle-level income, those who are relatively comfortable, the poor, and the very poor - living hand to mouth. An additional category was made up of a group of individuals who rely entirely on aid.

**Table 5: Income levels of Dadaab refugees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wealth group</th>
<th>General source of income</th>
<th>HH income level per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>Business: wholesale trade shops, import and sale of goods cross-border</td>
<td>100,000 and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle-income</td>
<td>Shops in Dadaab: hardware, general goods</td>
<td>21,000 and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable</td>
<td>Mini-kiosks: tea/food stalls, cyber cafes, salons, barber shops, butchers, bakeries, clothes shops, cosmetics</td>
<td>11,000 to 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incentive workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Shoe shining, Sale of milk, vegetables, khat, water, charcoal, loading and portering, carwash, selling grass and firewood when it is available</td>
<td>5,000 to 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor/destitute</td>
<td>Incentive workers</td>
<td>1,500 to 4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ‘wealthy’ group was made up primarily of business people, and many were said to own and run stores and wholesale shops in the camps, with earnings of Ksh 21,000/- per month and above. A handful were said to have earnings of Ksh 100,000/- and more per month from their businesses. Their customer base is not restricted to the camps; they also supply the shops in town. The ‘relatively comfortable’ group includes small traders and those involved in unskilled work, which generates little profit – but enough to live on. This was the group involved in running small to medium-sized stores and shops, bakeries and so on. This group also includes those employed as ‘incentive workers’ with the aid agencies, in as much as their income is significantly less than that of the businessmen. The earnings in this group ranged between Ksh 11,000/- and 20,000/- a month. Those involved in running very small shops, in carrying out menial tasks such as polishing of shoes, wheelbarrow pushing, portering and so on, were also a significant number. This group earned between Ksh 50/- and 350/- per day. As indicated in figure 8 below, the majority of the refugees fall in the categories of ‘poor’ and ‘very poor’. A number of refugees also mentioned not being involved in any economic activity and surviving only on aid.

**Figure 8: Income levels of the refugees**

Source: Field study findings
The number of new refugees falling into the ‘wealthy’ group was almost zero because, as said before, they had not formed the kinds of networks needed in order to run successful businesses. Start-up capital was another pressing issue, as will be seen from Figure 9 below. Earning power, then, cannot be assumed to be associated only with possessing a certain level of training. Other factors come into play: access to capital, having the right networks in Somalia and in Kenya (for cross-border traders), and having the business acumen to successfully manage a business.

**Limitations to refugee livelihoods**

Respondents mentioned a number of limitations that get in the way of their livelihood options. The three most repeated limitations were related to capital at 27%, insecurity and restrictions on movement each at 21%, and lack of skills at 12%.

**Figure 9: Limitations to livelihood activities**

![Pie chart showing the distribution of limitations to livelihood activities](chart.png)

We have dealt with the limitations caused by the restriction on movement and by adverse government regulations. But with regard to vocational training, one of the main complaints was, surprisingly, not about the range of topics, or the availability of vocational training opportunities, nor about the capacity to reach the individuals, but about their ability to gain access to these trainings.

Some of the factors reported to limit access:

- Very high qualifications are required relative to the skills, education level and knowledge of the refugees.
- Weak communication about available courses; often it depends on ‘an individual’s ability to network and solicit information’.
- Age limits that lock out older people who are still capable of learning a trade.
- Community leaders showing bias for their clan members when communicating about available courses.
It was also mentioned that the design and location of trainings rarely takes into consideration the needs of people living with disability and those that have special needs.

With regard to livelihood opportunities, another limitation that does not feature so prominently, which is related to movement restrictions, and which the study team assumes is an area of concern for the refugees, is the low purchasing power of the camp’s inhabitants and of Dadaab area residents in general. Consequently, this affects the degree to which specific income generating activities can create wealth or a comfortable income. Cases in point are such activities as carpentry (also complicated by a lack of wood) and weaving, as only a small proportion of camp residents can afford to purchase these items.

**Cross-border trade**

Earlier, we mentioned how the findings of a previous study had indicated that trade between Dadaab and Somalia made up a substantial part of the revenue of Dadaab. Discussions with refugees during our study also found that they maintained ties with Somalia, and that some even used these ties to pursue their economic activities. The continued insistence of the Kenyan Government on keeping its borders with Somalia closed means that the refugees have found alternative routes through which to carry out this trade, thereby linking market demands in Dadaab with supply sources in Somalia; at a cheaper rate since, as mentioned previously, they do not pay taxes. Some refugees even said that it is easier to get goods from Somalia than from other parts of Kenya, due to the poor state of infrastructure.

A survey carried out in 2013 by RET established that a large bulk of the longer-term refugee traders and business people source their goods from outside the camp. It also established that those from the new camps (Ifo 2 and Kambios) source their goods from within the camps – and close to 50% of the host community source their goods from within the camps.  

**Sport as an economic activity**

The majority of refugee respondents (66%) did not consider sport as having the potential to become an income generating activity. But those who saw opportunities in the field were mostly the youth. The table below indicates ways in which they thought this could become an income generating opportunity.

**Figure 10: Income generating potential of sports**

![Income generating potential of sports](source: Field study findings)

---

41 Apprenticeship Survey in Dadaab Refugee Camps and Host Community. RET. 2013.
The opportunities considered to have the most potential include: engagement in professional sport and thereby getting prize money, trade in sports items, and being recruited as a coach. At the time of the study, a few youth said they made some money from selling sports paraphernalia: football jerseys and footballs.

There are a number of sports activities organised by the agencies, most popular being football and volleyball. These are organised as part of community peace and cohesion exercises, as well as a means to prevent the youth from engaging in other detrimental activities: drug abuse, recruitment into gangs and militia groups, and other criminal activities.

In Somalia, sport is coming up, with support from international agencies, but it is still not very prominently featured.
5. Livelihood Activities Supported by Agencies in Dadaab

There is a variety of livelihood projects supported by agencies in Dadaab. These include the provision of vocational training and support in areas such as electronics, welding and fabrication, carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, plumbing, tie & dye, weaving, poultry keeping, hairdressing and beauty, soap making, small-scale agricultural activities (greenhouse farming, backyard farming) and so on.

Other longer-term support is also provided in the form of literacy and numeracy skills training, ICT skills development, and entrepreneurship skills training. Some of these programmes run for a period of one year, others for a few months, with trainees being, on average, between the ages of 15 and 30 years.

The emphasis of most projects was found to be on the youth and women. And, indeed, this was a view expressed by many of the respondents.

A number of interesting ideas are being explored by at least three of the agencies interviewed: DRC, CARE and LWF. In Dadaab, they are looking at the feasibility of introducing new approaches to group savings and loan schemes (GS&L) based on their experience with refugees’ livelihood programming elsewhere in Africa and in the Kakuma refugee camp. As opposed to giving cash grants or loans to group members, CARE will initiate a self-save mechanism, meaning that they will provide training in financial management, group management and so on, to the business groups assisted by the agency, and who have demonstrated the ability to make savings from their businesses; but they will not provide any money.42 The approach advocated by DRC and LWF, on the other hand, will provide seed money to groups to start up GS&L schemes. However, in both the focus will be on engendering the spirit of savings and financial education. Both approaches also advocate for self-selection of the group members as opposed to assisted selection by agencies, as well as the use of micro-finance institutions.

The team was not able to observe any vocational training sessions due to time limitations as well as the security situation. Such an observation would have enabled us to comment on the design and delivery of the training, and how this translates to efficacy and the likelihood of the trainees being able to apply the lessons learned.

The study revealed that support for livelihood programming in Dadaab is mainly carried out as an ‘add on’ to other activities, mainly in the areas of protection, health, water and sanitation.

Given the types of activities implemented by agencies, we propose that livelihood activities can, and should be divided into two categories: those that are part of a larger project and that form a small component of other agency core programming activities; and those that are stand-alone livelihoods programmes. In Dadaab, as far as we could tell, there are no such stand-alone livelihood activities being implemented.

In addition, the focus on protection has resulted in some deserving individuals being left out of the courses. A focus on stand-alone livelihood programming would be a way of giving

42 In addition to GS&L CARE provides material support for business start up to the vulnerable women and SGBV survivors who are identified and referred by the gender and development unit.
specific focus to individuals who have an interest in developing new skills or augmenting the
skills that they already have.

Focusing on stand-alone livelihood programming would allow for livelihood-specific
requirements to receive adequate consideration without being subsumed within other
programme priorities. In addition, as opposed humanitarian-specific activities, such as food,
shelter and water distribution, support to livelihoods for Dadaab refugees falls at the cusp of
both humanitarian and development assistance, and for the sake of sustainability, multi-year
funding is essential.

5.1. Successes in livelihood activities

There have been some success stories of refugees who have managed to graduate from their
vocational training courses and have started successful enterprises. For example, NRC was
able to record 58% of its graduates that are currently running successful businesses. One
lesson from this is that the success of these graduates was only possible through very close
coaching and follow-up support in terms of how to manage a business and on financial
planning. CARE had provided and continues to train youth in ICT skills with over 200
already having benefitted. Some of them were running their own small ICT-related
businesses within the camps, and a few had gained employment within the agencies. Other
successes from other agencies included a few women that were still running tailoring shops
after being provided with the start-up kit of a sewing machine; some retail and butcher shops,
and a few construction workers. However, the more common story was of failed projects and
businesses.

5.2. General challenges and shortcomings of livelihood
activities implemented by agencies

Limited knowledge of appropriate livelihood programming

In its 2013 programme, UNHCR is looking more significantly at the issue of livelihood
support and how this can also be implemented in the current policy environment where
repatriation is central to the issue of Somali refugees. Discussions with UNHCR’s
implementing partners revealed that, although UNHCR had requested for greater attention to
be paid to livelihood activities with the aim of equipping the refugees with a means for self-
sustenance in Dadaab or elsewhere in case of eventual return or resettlement, many of the
partners did not have sufficient professional know-how on the ground to design and
implement effective livelihood programmes. In addition, the core mandate of many of the
partners was other than livelihoods, so their livelihood components make up only a small part
of their strategies. However, given the general acceptance that there should be a greater
emphasis on promoting the self-reliance of refugees (especially, given the situation in Dadaab
where most of the refugees are ‘long-stay’), these components should be designed more
carefully, implemented with more vigour, and monitored more effectively. Additionally,
specialisation of agencies implementing livelihood activities would be crucial for achieving
greater effectiveness of such programmes.

The scale of funding for livelihood activities was also said to be minimal. But this is hardly
surprising because, as we have indicated above, these activities are usually only an additional
side component in most programmes.
Inadequate coordination between agencies

Discussions revealed that although there is some level of coordination between agencies, there is little joint programming. There is a Livelihoods Working Group in operation, but its effectiveness was said to be hampered because decision-making for most organisations was done in Nairobi. The staff on the ground, therefore, could only report on activities rather than make decisions on programming. Alongside the Livelihoods Working Group, another possible option to enhance coordination would be the setting up of a referral system between implementing partners, and managed within the Working Group. Doing this will support the progressions of trainees through different levels and taking up complementary studies.

Limited understanding of the market

Market analyses should form a critical part of sound livelihood programming. In Dadaab, however, most agencies admitted that their activities are not based on such analyses. Refugee respondents mentioned a lack of ready markets as one of the reasons that many of the income generating activities that have been supported by agencies have failed. However, the agencies do conduct needs assessments, which form the basis for activities. Although such assessments do give the refugees an opportunity to express their desires in relation to livelihoods, one way in which the agencies could strengthen how they use this information would be by applying it alongside a comprehensive market analysis. Additionally, the robustness of such analyses would benefit from joint planning and implementation by agencies. This would not only ease the burden of surveys and studies on both the refugees and the agencies, but would also assist in more comprehensive and complementary planning, not to mention the savings that could be made from the pooling of resources.

This notwithstanding, realistically, due to the physical location of Dadaab, the range of economic activities is limited, meaning that the local market can only absorb relatively few people with requisite skills before it becomes saturated. The encampment policy, therefore, presents a particular challenge when seeking to provide a range of vocational training activities, and the market in Somalia would therefore present a viable option for those individuals possessing a particular skill that is marketable there.

Limited support from the Kenyan Government

The provision of technical support and certification for vocational skills training provided by the agencies would go a long way in ensuring the marketability of the graduates of specific vocational training programmes. A handful of refugees have been able to attend Government certified courses, and these have primarily been teachers of primary and secondary schools. In assessing the skills that refugees would need to make them employable or give them the ability to make a living back in Somalia, the study team is of the opinion that skills in areas such as general and financial management, nursing, ICT and mechanics, would need to be of a high enough level. This can only be attained through training by professionals in these specific areas. Because of the current Government position about the repatriation of Somalis, and its earlier (and still persistent) perception about the role played by refugees in the insecurity experienced in the country, Government support to vocational training of refugees is constrained and limited. Various Government agencies have specialised technical expertise that is used successfully by these same agencies when implementing livelihood programmes in other parts of the country. But they have not been able to secure this kind of ready support in Dadaab. It is possible that, once trained, the refugees will seek to remain and work in Kenya, but it is just as likely that a few – primarily the youth – will seek to return to Somalia (especially given the difficulty in securing Kenyan work permits).

The limitation on refugee movement means that is extremely difficult to take refugees out of Dadaab to receive training; the alternative being to bring the training to the camps. A number of agencies have explored the prospect of bringing in short-term trainers to do this. But this
has proven to be inadequate, as full-time presence is necessary to impart the skills required. Other agencies have made agreements with private companies that offer specific skills training, but this proves to be very expensive and, therefore, only a handful of refugees can benefit from this.

One avenue that has only recently received attention is that of initiating a coaching/apprenticeship programme for youth, with established traders and business people operating both in Dadaab town and within the camps. This would be one way of equipping graduating students with opportunities to practise their skills and gain confidence before they either seek employment or venture out to start their own businesses. To take this further, agencies operating cross-border programmes in Somalia, such as DRC, CARE, NRC and so on, could use this same approach to secure attachment/apprenticeship opportunities with Somalia businesses or companies for graduates from Dadaab. This approach would have the added advantage of introducing youth born in Kenya to the Somali market. It would also allow them to create their own Somali networks for creating their own economic opportunities within Somalia or elsewhere.

**Limited attention paid to the elderly and people living with disability**

Both the agencies and the refugees reported a deficiency in the level of attention paid to people living with disability (PLWDs). Handicap International is the primary agency dealing with PLWDs, and LWF is also dealing with PLWDs in Hagadera and Kambios; but the needs are greater than these organisations’ capacity. Learning materials developed for vocational training do not take the needs of PLWDs into account, and livelihood strategies of most organisations do not cater for PLWDs. A number of groups have been formed, and small business introduced by a handful of agencies but, because of limited training on business management, and little follow up of activities from the agencies, most of these initiatives have failed.

Some initiatives from agencies that would be particularly useful for PLWDs were mentioned as being:

- Designing livelihood strategies in which disability is given as much weight as other selection criteria instead of it being placed under the ‘cross-cutting issues’ section as so often happens.
- Taking into consideration the challenges of children with special needs when building schools, designing curricula, and training teachers.
- Designing vocational skills courses while taking into consideration the needs of PLWDs. The involvement of Handicap International or similar agencies, in vetting such courses would provide useful guidance.

Another vulnerable group within the camps is the elderly who hardly receive any special support in terms of livelihood programming. It is important to include them in livelihood programmes that are being offered, even though their incentive for developing new skills might not be as high as for younger people.

---

43 RET recently conducted an apprenticeship survey whose objective is to initiate placement of out-of-school youth interested in learning a specific skill.
5.3. Specific challenges affecting current livelihood activities

Limited follow up of activities
Based on our discussions with both the refugees and various agencies, it became clear that monitoring of livelihood activities is weak. This is assessed to be mainly as a result of the marginal attention given to livelihood activities, which, as we have said, usually form only a small component of the refugee support programmes. In a visit to the camps, the team came across examples of project infrastructure or materials that had been provided at great cost, but were no longer in use: abandoned handloom machines, disused poultry houses, and chicken feed still in sacks that had been stored away for years. Many refugees complained that, at times, agencies started projects for them but the only support they provided was the provision of tools to carry out these activities, and there was inadequate follow up support to ensure the project was well established and well managed on a day-to-day basis. They pointed to this as a major setback affecting the durability of livelihood projects. As with the challenge of livelihood programming, monitoring of livelihood projects has been affected by the fact that they are implemented as part of larger protection programmes, meaning that livelihood specific objectives and indicators are not well articulated in programme documents.

The result of limited communication and inadequate monitoring of activities is that the same mistakes are repeated each time; useful lessons are not learned and good practices are not picked up. The sheer number of tailoring, weaving, soap making and other similar courses offered by a variety of agencies points to this, as well as to the lack of joint planning. As one group of refugee women put it, ‘You have been asking us the same questions for years and years, and we do not see anything different happening. What’s the use of telling you what we want? You will ask us these questions and we will not hear from you again.’ So, clearly, the refugees themselves feel they suffer the brunt of the weak communication and feedback mechanisms, as well as the weak monitoring processes.

Even though there is a Livelihoods Working Group in operation, as mentioned earlier, it proved very difficult for the team to access any programme documents from the agencies, and in terms of sharing strategies and general communication, this was deemed to be still very weak. Two key elements were assessed as possible causes for the group’s dysfunction: competitiveness of agencies for funding and therefore the need to protect agency plans and strategies from would be competitors; and, as previously mentioned, the lack decision-making power at the working group level in Dadaab. Revitalising this group, articulating its roles and responsibilities, and including members that have decision-making power is essential to Dadaab’s livelihood programming.

Language and life skills
Dadaab is a hardship area, and this makes it hard to attract the right kind of skilled personnel to take up training jobs there. Not many skilled Kenyans speak Somali, and not many refugees speak adequate English to properly follow a full course taught in English. But, having said this, it is also true that many of the refugee youth who have gone through the Kenyan school system have a good command of both English and Kiswahili. However, the number of those who have completed their schooling is woefully small. Language therefore presents a challenge in the delivery of vocational skills training, as targeting only those who have attained a certain level of English risks locking out a large number from the training, as does providing standardised training to all. Accelerated learning is provided by some agencies, where English and numeracy skills are taught. This is essential, and should be stepped up, given that English is the most common language of commerce and trade in many countries of the world.
Another area that merits greater attention is that of life skills. Only one of the agencies interviewed mentioned this as being part of its activities. One respondent referred to Dadaab as ‘the largest open prison in Africa’. Many of the youths born and raised within the camps have never had the opportunity to freely go out and experience life where they have to struggle to put food on the table or to access health care. Without meaning to belittle the plight of refugees, one advantage that they have in the camps is at least an assurance of some food, water, and healthcare. And this access to a certain level of basic services is what has driven some Kenyan Somalis to register themselves or their children as refugees. Making a life outside of the camp context would therefore require that the youth are taught skills – and attitudes – that would enable them to integrate into society with greater ease. Vocational training sessions would be ideal settings for such orientation exercises. They could cover areas such as the process of applying for a job, managing personal finances, leadership, a citizen’s rights and responsibilities, the rule of law, and so on: skills that would enable them to integrate into society in Kenya, Somalia – or elsewhere.

**High dropout rates**

As mentioned earlier, some of the livelihood activities implemented involve vocational skills training, some of which take up to a year to complete. One of the challenges that agencies experience are high dropout rates, especially in the early days of the courses. This was attributed to either a realisation by the participants that the courses would take up a lot of their time (time that they could use to make an income); household demands made on young women that make it difficult for them to engage in such courses; and, more disturbing, the dependency syndrome getting in the way of the individuals really applying themselves to gain useful skills.

The benefit of this is that it leads to a self-selection so that only candidates who have a real interest pursue the full course. On the other hand, the dropout of many young women is not a self-selection process but, rather, as a result of the demands made on them by their families. To tackle this, the agencies would need to explore, together with the girls, what would be the most appropriate timings for them to attend classes. In addition, an attitudinal change would also be required of their families in order for them to facilitate the girls’ attendance at classes. The onus for doing this lies with the agencies: in the manner in which they go about effecting this change. One way would be to make house visits with the families of girls who have expressed an interest in being involved in the courses, to encourage support for the girls from their family members.

In addition to the above challenges is the funding modality of humanitarian projects. One-year funding cycles have the potential to limit the range of activities, as many agencies can only plan and implement projects based on the annual allocations provided. There are those agencies that have multiple donors and, therefore, they have some flexibility in this. Nevertheless, as mentioned before, for sustainability there are livelihood activities that require more than a year’s support, and these would be hard to implement through annual allocations.

Below is a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) presentation in relation to livelihood support in Dadaab.
**SWOT Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES</th>
<th>LONG-TERM REFUGEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strengths</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weaknesses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A variety of agencies offering a range of livelihood support activities</td>
<td>Yearly funding cycles that affect long-term programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatively easier access to government agencies and institutions for advocacy and lobbying purposes</td>
<td>Limited on-the-ground understanding among agencies of effective livelihood programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to offer employment to a few refugees albeit at low wages</td>
<td>Weak monitoring of livelihood support offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong support structures in Nairobi</td>
<td>Weak Livelihood Working Group in Dadaab affecting action and effectiveness. Decision-making more at Nairobi level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Livelihood support mainly offered as part of protection programmes rather than as programmes on their own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refugee fatigue/disillusionment with studies and surveys without feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limited attention paid to PLWDs and elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strengths**  
- Willingness of refugees to engage in a range of livelihood activities  
- Cultural identification of refugees with host community  
- Household labour easily accessible to pursue diversified  
- Recent GoK policy on return to Somalia of Somali refugees – seen to be unrealistic  
- Limited livelihood/employment opportunities in Dadaab – and also back in Somalia  
- Possibility of using existing refugee committees for lobbying the agencies for better targeted vocational skills programming  
- Access to better education opportunities in camp  
- Engaging in cross-border livelihood activities  
- Constant threat of repatriation to Somalia through GoK policy  
- Harassment outside the camps  
- Insecurity within the camps  
- Poor infrastructure and access to markets outside of Dadaab
### Income Generation Activities

- Some infrastructure already established by agencies (schools, markets)
- Cross-border and internal trade/markets (existing and potential) through networks
- Fairly strong refugee-led committees

### Challenges

- Inability of Government of Somalia to support returning refugees
- Encampment policy restricts movement of refugees outside of Dadaab for livelihood activities outside the camps, and access to markets in Kenya
- High illiteracy levels, and more pronounced in girls
- Dependency syndrome of a segment of refugees, especially the ‘long-stay’ ones
- Limited access to capital and financial services
- Few productive assets among refugees
- Low wages for those in employment by partners agencies
- The few available money-lending services (*Ayuuto*) offer a source of capital for some
- Remittances offer a source of capital for some
- Low cost of items in Dadaab

### NEW-COMERS

In addition to the above general factors, the below additionally apply to the more recent refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More open to learning new skills notwithstanding clan affiliation (pastoralist – considered more superior in Somali compared to agricultural clans)</td>
<td>Extremely high levels of illiteracy</td>
<td>New skills can be learnt that can be used on return to areas of origin – including ‘life skills’ that can be applied wherever they move to</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to return to Somalia as hold stronger networks there</td>
<td>Lack of marketable skills in the context of Dadaab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack networks in Kenya (Dadaab) to support their livelihood activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language barrier due to lack of Kiswahili and English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More dependent on support from humanitarian agencies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. The Situation in Somalia: Labour Dynamics and Livelihood Opportunities

Conflict has adversely affected the economy of Somalia, which has experienced a massive brain drain in the last over 20 years. Somaliland is relatively peaceful and its urban areas are experiencing steady growth and, to a lesser degree, so is Puntland.

Even with the fragile security situation in Mogadishu, the last few years have seen accelerated growth, and many urban areas in Somalia are experiencing a greater number of Diaspora Somalis returning. In as much as insecurity still gets in the way of achieving greater growth, the Somali regional economies are making some headway in a number of sectors. However, unemployment rates remain extremely high, at 67% for the youth.44

6.1. Opportunities for skilled labour

There are signs of hope, however, with the installation of the new Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS), which has received a lot of goodwill both from the Somalis themselves, as well as from the international community. A number of private investors are making use of the improvement in stability and security. These investors are commonly from the Diaspora – Somali descendants who fled and have since prospered in other parts of the world.

With the exception of beauty salons, the majority of all employees in the range of Mogadishu’s businesses assessed by a recent Labour Market Study were all men. The study found that biased employment requirements, as well as cultural factors and limited training, were the main reason behind these gender-based variations dictating employment opportunities in the capital.45

Construction

Literally, re-constructing Mogadishu is becoming a massive industry. It has been identified as one of the most important drivers of the economy, because its expansion or contraction has a direct effect on the behaviour of the labour market.46 In December 2012, DRC, in partnership with the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC), conducted the study to assess marketable skills and existing and potential employment opportunities within the 16 administrative districts of Mogadishu. According to the study, private investors, home-owners and real estate developers, are returning in large numbers to reconstruct the capital. Construction is therefore considered to be the fastest growing economic sector in all of Banaadir’s districts, and it has huge potential for the employment of skilled workers. It is also a sector that calls for other areas of expertise: from brick making and laying, to electrical installation, carpentry and plumbing. A recent visit by the team to Mogadishu ascertained the extent of the construction boom, with the number of roads being laid and skyscrapers going up.

Hospitality

Another growing industry is hospitality. According to the Labour Market Study, the demand for hotels and restaurants is outweighing the supply, and this demand stems from the entrenched social habits of Mogadishu’s men in particular. The already established cafeterias

---

45 Labour Market Study, December 2012, DRC and FSLC.
46 ibid
and teashops are full of Somali men between meal times; so the service industry is undoubtedly thriving and, importantly, it has room for expansion. It can also be assumed that the returning Diaspora Somalis, women included, have developed a taste for a more cosmopolitan lifestyle, meaning that women too have started to constitute a significant portion of the clientelle.

**Fisheries and livestock**

The relative success of the service industry has had a knock-on effect on a number of other industries; for example, in the fisheries sector. The rapid development of the hotel industry, coupled with a rising domestic and international demand for seafood, has revealed rich markets for occupations in the fishing industry. This, despite a cultural preference for livestock products, and disruption from piracy and limited government and donor support, could, over time, offer serious potential for employment.

Unlike in Mogadishu, the economies of south-central Somalia’s rural townships are driven largely by the livestock sector. The focus here has been on tapping into the industry and creating jobs by strengthening the production output. This opens up positions for veterinarians, animal health workers, fodder growers and a range of others. This links with agriculture and specifically crop cultivation which, in south-central Somalia, is also a major economic activity.47

**Agriculture**

Agriculture is also another potential area of growth. Somalia produces only about 50% of the cereal requirements for the country, 48 whereas the potential is assessed to be far higher. But a number of things need to be done first: the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and roads to improve market access, introduction and encouragement of the use of appropriate agricultural practices and storage techniques; improved access to quality seeds and other farm inputs; and government policies that support the growth of the sector.

**ICT**

Somalia currently has a rapidly expanding information and communication technology (ICT) sector. The telecommunication and money transfer sectors are some of the few predominantly privately owned sectors that provide high employment opportunities. Suitable skills in ICT, however, are beyond the level currently provided by established technical vocational education and training (TVET) institutions. There are only two major mobile phone repair shops in Mogadishu, so the demand is understandably high.

**Media**

In Somalia of late, journalism has been a particularly risky business to be involved in, though there is evidence that this is a growing industry. The Kaashif Voluntary Organisation (KVO) – one of the local organisations implementing a project funded by the US supported African Development Foundation – has recently been offering skills training in journalism, and it has proved particularly popular with female beneficiaries. This trend is mirrored in Dadaab where a significant number of women are reporting for *The Refugee* – a newspaper written by refugees being distributed around the camp complex. In Somalia, there is a proliferation of newspapers and papers, internet blogs and sites, all of which show the potential of this sector, more so for the youth.

---

47 Labour Market Study, op. cit.

48 FAO
Beauty and tailoring
The Labour Market Study found that ‘beautification’ was by far the most marketable skill for Mogadishu’s women, followed closely by tailoring.

Management and finance skills opportunities
With the development of the above industries, it therefore follows that skills in general management and financial management will increasingly have a greater demand in Somalia. An assumption is that, for the time being, these positions are being filled by the few Somalis who possess them, and by returning Diaspora Somalis, but that demand will outstrip supply should the current trend in stability and reconstruction continue.

Skills for improved basic service provision
At this juncture, when reconstruction and stabilisation are top on the FGOS’ agenda, basic service provision will factor prominently in its development programming. Because of the massive brain drain experienced in Somalia, skilled labour that could be deployed to support this is sorely lacking and will need to be developed. There is a high demand for returning Somalis who can be employed as doctors, nurses and teachers. There is also a high demand for veterinary services, given the fact that a large proportion of the population rely on livestock as a means of livelihood. These areas, therefore, present a gap and an opportunity that agencies working both in Somalia and in Dadaab could take into consideration when planning for returns, as well as for skills development.

Mogadishu, therefore, has got potential for considerable economic growth and, as the city is gradually rebuilt, so too will industries that were undermined by its socio-economic and political fragmentation following decades of civil war. The newly restructured Government institutions, specifically the Ministry of Human Development and Public Service, have set an ambitious agenda related to economic development and employment creation: to establish training centres for the Somali workforce to improve skills and employability; to rebuild the economy of Somali families by creating IGAs; to encourage the Somali business community in the Diaspora to invest in Somalia. Keeping in mind that, as mentioned before, the government structures are still being set up and as yet have limited capacity, aid agencies will still need to provide a lot of support to these institutions in order for them to start delivering on their mandates for the people of Somalia.

In addition, as noted above, Somalia suffers from extremely high unemployment rates. The numbers of Diaspora Somalis that have been returning have also triggered a growing resentment on the part of the local Somalis about the ability of the Diaspora Somalis to get jobs due to the fact that they have a considerably better education. Returnees from Dadaab and elsewhere are likely to put increased competition on the scarce resources available. To mitigate this, agencies with cross-border operation will need to engage with government institutions, to mount information and awareness campaigns with the aim of diffusing these tensions, by providing information around the return process, and the role of the Government and the citizens in the process.

Taking into consideration the views of the refugees about opportunities available in Somalia, the findings of the Labour Market Study, and the study team’s own experience in Somalia, a summary of skills that need to be developed, which would have a market in Somalia, is as indicated below. These skills would be equally useful even for those refugees that choose to remain in Kenya, or who move to other countries in the region or elsewhere.
Table 6: Summary of skills requirements of refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture, fisheries and livestock</th>
<th>Service sector</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>ICT</th>
<th>Construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Modern practices in animal husbandry</td>
<td>• Hotel and hospitality industry</td>
<td>• Business management</td>
<td>• Media and journalism</td>
<td>• Construction work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Modern agricultural services</td>
<td>• Professional chefs and cooks</td>
<td>• Financial management</td>
<td>• Computer science</td>
<td>• Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Veterinary training</td>
<td>• Food and beverage service</td>
<td>• Office management</td>
<td>• Basic mobile phone technology (for mobile phone repairs)</td>
<td>• Wiring and electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Irrigation techniques</td>
<td>• Nursing</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Welding and fabrication</td>
<td>• Carpentry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriate education level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apart from veterinary training, for most of the above, even those without literacy and numeracy skills can be trained. The ideal training technique would be through practical demonstrations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>These skills would require that the refugees should have an advanced level of literacy and numeracy skills, the lowest being high school level.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many of the youths who have gone through the Kenyan education system could qualify.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| There are various levels of literacy skills required for these set of skills. Basic literacy and numeracy skills would equip current and potential business owners with the ability to grasp the basics of running a business and of management. However, education at secondary level would be even better. |

| These skills would require that the refugees should have an advanced level of literacy and numeracy skills, the lowest being high school level. As with the service sector, many of the youths who have gone through the Kenyan education system could qualify. |

| Depending on the specific trade, a variety of education levels is required. Even those with no formal education can get involved in certain fields: carpentry, masonry and plumbing, for example. Those with secondary school education and higher can engage in any of these fields according to their preferences. |

Although there was the complaint made during the interviews about the emphasis laid on supporting refugee women to the disadvantage of men, the above skills sets provide plenty of opportunities for both men and women who have an interest. But, the team would also like to emphasise the need to develop programmes that recognise the needs of PLWDs.
7. Potential Partners to Support Livelihood Activities in Dadaab and in Somalia

In order to provide the kind of vocational training that will impart sufficient skills and knowledge, it would benefit the agencies to consider partnerships with both private and public institutions, in both Kenya and Somalia. It is important to note that although individualised training might be more costly and require more than yearly commitments, the benefits to the trainees would be greater, giving more value for money in the end.

As already mentioned, in order to access higher-level training and education facilities, the refugees need to meet the minimum standards. There are agencies in Dadaab offering accelerated learning courses for refugees, and there are refugees who have gone through the entire Kenyan school system that would be able to benefit from the kind of partnerships recommended here.

7.1. In Kenya

The private sector

1. Inoorero University/Regional Centre for Enterprise Management (RCE)

With support from the Danish Embassy, the university (in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Enterprise Management) provides a business mentorship-training programme. Many small enterprises in Dadaab have failed due to the lack of appropriate support in business management. The agencies could consider sponsoring a number of refugees to this course – possibly those who are already running their own successful businesses. They could then be used as a ready resource by refugees, to provide technical advice on financial and business management expertise. Ideally, they could be used by the agencies as part of their ongoing support and coaching for any business activities started up for, and by, refugees. They could be particularly useful to any groups that are supported to start businesses through the earlier mentioned GS&L schemes.

2. Kenya Institute of Management (KIM)

KIM offers a well-recognised certificate (six-months course) and diploma courses (in four semesters) in SME management and business management. The advantage of KIM is that it has branches in many towns in Kenya, so the refugee students would not need to go to Nairobi where they would suffer more harassment from the security forces. Another advantage is that it is possible to make arrangements with the institution in order to tailor the training to the specific needs of the students.

3. Online studies

A number of Kenyan universities are now offering online studies in courses such as teaching, computing, and health. These include the Kenya Methodist University, the University of Nairobi, and Maseno University. However, the courses are very competitive and the universities apply stricter rules regarding enrolment, but refugees who satisfy these requirements could follow these programmes, but they would need the support of agencies in order to go about the initial application process.
Online studies require a lot of discipline, and only those with the most interest would be able to complete them. For moral support, it would beneficial for a group of refugees to beenrolled at the same time, and in this way they could form study and discussion groups as part of the support mechanism.

The public sector

4. North Eastern Technical Training Institute

This is a technical training institute located 3km from Garissa Town. It is a government institute, the only such institute in the entire North East Region. It offers technical training to form-four leavers in the areas of business management (two-year diploma courses), IT and computer studies (one to two year courses depending on whether it is a certificate or diploma course), and more technical courses in plumbing, mechanics, welding and fabrication, masonry, carpentry and joinery (1½ to 2 year certificate courses).

The kinds of courses offered are of particular interest when considered against the skill sets we have identified that could provide useful employment opportunities for the refugees. Many youths in Dadaab have gone through the Kenyan education system, so entry into these courses could be a possibility for them. Of significance is that the institute offers boarding facilities, so any refugee wishing to follow a course there would not need to worry about accommodation and meals.

7.2. In Somalia

The private sector and public sector

1. Business enterprises

As part of their training, refugee students participating or graduating from vocational training courses could be assisted in gaining hands-on experience through internship/apprenticeship opportunities in Somalia. Private companies dealing in trade, in the construction industry, in agriculture, and so on, could be encouraged to engage in such schemes. Agencies in Dadaab that are also running operations in Somalia could support such an undertaking. One way of doing this would be through their civil society partner institutions or NGOs that could be encouraged to develop these kinds of connections with businesses and companies in Somalia.

2. The Ministry of Human Development and Public Service and the Minitsry of Trade

These two ministries could form part of the support system that could be used to deploy graduating students to various positions in either private or public institutions. Being newly reorganised, and with the emphasis being on the creation of employment and human capacity, the cross-border agencies working in both Dadaab and Somalia have an opportune whereby they could influence policy making to support the capacity development and absorption of graduates into the Somali market. For example, the public sector could be encouraged to institute an internship policy through which graduates wishing to work in the public sector could gain valuable experience.
8. Towards a More Targeted Baseline

This chapter draws on the findings of the field interviews and group discussions, as well as on the literature review, in order to summarise a situation analysis, and to identify gaps that would need to be filled in order to formulate a comprehensive baseline for the Dadaab refugees.

We suggest that a comprehensive baseline would deepen a number of elements: a profile of the refugee population, their aspirations and capacities; the opportunities that exist in the context in which the refugees might find themselves; the government and UN policies that either enhance or restrict those opportunities; the current livelihood programmes in terms of their objectives, scope, methods – and the capacities of the implementing agencies.

This study has dealt with a number of these elements: the broad features of the Dadaab refugee population; their stated willingness to return to Somalia and the conditions that would make this possible; their sources of livelihood; the relationship with the host community; their access to markets, both in the Dadaab locality and in Somalia; the current livelihood programmes and their relevance; the policies that influence the range of choices available.

In addition, a number of other issues could be covered, in order to develop more precise results frameworks and relevant sets of indicators.

**Political economy analysis**

First, it would be useful to have a more rigorous assessment of the political dynamics – both in Kenya and in Somalia – influencing the opportunities for livelihood enhancement, and therefore the support programmes that could be provided. For example, the interests of local stakeholder in Dadaab: the host community in general, businesspersons in particular and, possibly, local government officials. Each of these has an interest in having the refugees stay in Dadaab. On the other hand, the interests at the national level are that the refugees should be repatriated. So there is a clash of interests between local and national levels.

As shown in a recent gatekeeper study in Mogadishu, the power dynamics at play in IDP settlements have a considerable impact on the choices available to IDPs with regard to, for example, shelter, access to services and work. A similar study could be carried out in both Dadaab and in resettlement areas in Somalia.

**Alternative interventions**

More time could be given to exploring the comparative advantages – in terms of sustainable outcomes – of different livelihood support strategies. For example, it would be interesting to consider the benefits of making cash transfers rather than food. It could be particularly relevant in Dadaab since so many of the refugees have been there for such a long time, and yet are still receiving food aid, some of which is, anyway, turned into cash. The hypothesis would be that the additional cash could open up a variety of opportunities for further income generation. It could also well be that this would increase the chances of people moving out of the camps because they would have the financial means to conduct, for example, cross-border trade which we have already highlighted in the report as being a lucrative activity.

---

Market analyses
The labour market study referred to in this report has been useful in identifying employment opportunities in Mogadishu. However, it will be important for it to be updated given the fluid and unpredictable nature of the security situation in the capital, and in the rest of Somalia. Also, there needs to be a broader study of livelihood opportunities in other parts of the country.

Livestock and agricultural industries
A good deal of the focus on labour markets is related to either construction or service industries. Although, as pointed out in section 2.6 above, not as many of the refugee families in Dadaab had livestock as assumed, nevertheless, given the persistence of the pastoralist traditions, another important study would be to ascertain the actual proportion of refugees interested in resuming their pastoralist way of life – and what livelihood support mechanisms would be most beneficial for them.

The same case could be made for a focus on agricultural livelihoods, given that a significant number of the refugees are from the farming communities of southern Somalia.

Capacities of implementing agencies
As pointed out earlier, the study team encountered an unusual difficulty in accessing livelihood programming documentation for interventions in Dadaab. It seemed that the staff deployed there did not have the authority to decide whether to provide the documentation or not. This poses questions about the level of trust and the reasons for the uncertainty and reluctance. Therefore, another issue to be taken up in a well-rounded baseline would be the existing capacities of staff engaged in the livelihood programmes. This could be part of a study into the recruitment and deployment strategies of agencies working in Dadaab.

In particular, there should be a focus on the capacity of organisation in relation to their core activities, and how best placed they are to undertake livelihood programmes.
9. Conclusions and Recommendations

Refugee livelihood activities are hampered by a number of factors:

- The encampment policy, which restricts the movement of refugees, thereby limiting the range of economic activities they can engage in, as well as their employment options.
- In relation to the above, the Dadaab environment is harsh and remote, also limiting the livelihood choices for the refugees.
- The livelihood activities implemented by the agencies are usually part of larger protection programmes, meaning that not enough attention is paid to ensuring that any implemented activities are well designed, monitored and supported.
- Given that for most of the agencies operating in Dadaab, livelihood provision activities are complementing protection programmes, there are only a few staff on the ground with the necessary livelihood expertise. In addition, not many of the agencies are specialised in specific livelihood programming. This would be essential in order to provide more effective livelihood support within the camps.
- Existing livelihood support interventions are not designed according to a theory of change approach – key assumptions underlying the rationale for the projects are not articulated, nor are the links predicted between project outputs and outcomes, the immediate results and the longer-term impacts.
- Annual funding allocations, as is the practice in humanitarian programmes, limits the extent to which many agencies can plan for and deliver livelihood activities that are likely to run over 12 months; for example vocational training in technical schools.

Nevertheless, the range of economic activities that are still carried out are impressive, and could be even greater if the agencies developed more robust livelihood strategies – with comprehensive monitoring processes put in place, strong coaching, mentoring and support for those involved in business enterprises and strong communication and feedback mechanisms.

Based on this, below is a set of recommendations for livelihood programming in Dadaab.

1. We propose that agencies promoting livelihoods programmes should seek to form partnerships with SME and microfinance expert agencies that will support them in design and implementing a robust livelihoods programme. A possible partner would be the Regional Centre for Enterprise Management. This would ensure that expert knowledge in SME training, start up, monitoring and support is brought to bear.
2. One comprehensive livelihood strategy and programme should be designed and developed to provide a stand-alone livelihoods programme. This would mean that agencies could still provide protection-specific livelihood activities, but these would need to be designed within the framework of the livelihoods programme. A management committee, chaired by one selected lead agency, should oversee the main programme, and ensure that coherence and complementarity is achieved in the manner in which livelihood support is provided in Dadaab.
3. The above programme should include core skills/life skills training (language, literacy and numeracy skills) for refugees, with psychosocial support offered by an agency that has advanced expertise in this field.
4. Private and public sector actors in the delivery of vocational training should be included in order to enhance the learning, and to facilitate internship/apprenticeship opportunities.
5. The agencies implementing livelihood support programmes should put greater emphasis on recruiting staff with the required experience and expertise.
6. The livelihoods programme should comprise a robust monitoring, communication and feedback mechanism, which would aid the agencies in their management decisions, as well as facilitate the capturing of lessons learned.

7. Refugee committees should be formed and strengthened to support livelihood planning, monitoring and implementation.
10. Strategy Outline

What follows is an outline of a strategy to inform livelihood programming in Dadaab. A more robust strategy, with a comprehensive set of activities, inputs, outputs, outcomes and indicators, will need to be articulated after discussions between UNHCR and its livelihood partners in the Livelihoods Working Group.

**Dadaab**
Dadaab is now home to over 400,000 refugees, the majority of them – 99% - being of Somali origin. A vast majority of these refugees have been residing in Dadaab or in other parts of Kenya for a long time, some for over 22 years, with the numbers swelling with the recent drought of 2010/12.

**The political/policy situation**
Somali refugees are going through a particularly difficult period in Kenya:

- Increased cross-border insecurity affecting Kenya as a result of al-Shabab incursions into the country, some under the pretext of being refugees, in addition to the group having sympathisers among the refugee population.
- The reaction of the Kenyan Government to these security threats which has severely curtailed the freedoms of refugees in terms of a stricter enforcement of the encampment policy, (although this was later rescinded by the ruling of the High Court, and increased reports of harassment of refugees by security forces. In addition, the Government is pushing more strongly for the repatriation of Somali refugees back to Somalia.
- The rising insecurity in Dadaab refugee camp that has affected the operations of the agencies operating there, and their ability to safely access the camps.

This heightened sense of insecurity has not augured well for the refugees, and even those who had settled in Nairobi and managed to get into trade, business or employment from fellow Somalis, lost this opportunity when they were ordered to move back to the camps.

Return to Somalia is not an option that many refugees consider as a viable solution in the short-term. (We have to be sceptical about the sincerity of the 49% who said they would be willing to return.) Most consider the situation in Somalia to be still too fragile for them to risk it. The Somali Government, moreover, is not yet in a position to offer support to returning Somalis, or even the promise, at least, of access to the most basic services: shelter, education, water and healthcare.

Ongoing talks between the Kenyan and Somali Governments are looking at how both administrations can deal with this issue. The international community, through the UNHCR, is also a key party in these talks.

**The host community**
The host community of Dadaab is also of Somali origin, but there is some level of resentment among the community that refugees receive preferential treatment in terms of services and jobs (as incentive workers for agencies in Dadaab). However, trade links exist between the two groups, and not all host community members hold a negative view about the refugees. Some recognise that Dadaab has grown as a result of the refugees, and even acknowledge that they have benefitted as a result. For the agencies, most make an effort to include host community projects in their plans in order to mitigate the potential for conflict between the groups.
Livelihood support and activities
UNHCR and its partner agencies have been providing protection related programmes to the refugees, and these programmes have had a certain aspect of livelihood development. However, most of these livelihood activities are developed as part of the larger protection programmes, mostly as small components to support small income generating activities. The majority of the refugees in Dadaab engage in a variety of economic activities, but apart from a handful of them who have become very successful businessmen, a large number fall within the category of poor or very poor. The restrictions on refugee movement, and the difficulty of acquiring a work permit, limits the degree to which they can get employment in Dadaab or elsewhere.

There has been a realisation that there needs to be a more rigorous approach to the support offered to refugees in terms of enhancing their capacities in order to increase their ability to engage in self-sustaining livelihood activities, whether they stay in Kenya, go back to Somalia, or are resettled in a third country. As will be seen in the proposed strategic framework, support to livelihood and vocational training activities forms an integral part of the framework.

10.1. The strategic framework
To support the implementation of a more robust livelihood intervention approach, the UNHCR and agencies operating in Dadaab nominated DRC as the lead agency to take forward the development of a livelihood strategy that could be used by the partners.

The strategy will look to support the objective of the partners to support the refugees to gain greater capacity for self-reliance no matter whether they settle in Kenya, Somalia or in a third country. The overall objective of the strategy will be, ‘To enable refugees in Dadaab to cope, adapt and thrive wherever they settle.’

Because the refugee situation in Dadaab remains uncertain, we propose for this to be a five-year strategy that can be revised during implementation in order to better respond to new realities. We have kept in mind the prevailing security situation in Somalia as a factor that will affect both short-term and long-term programming choices.

In order to provide more sustainable livelihood support, donors will also need to consider a move towards multi-year funding.

The Theory of Change
With the above objective in mind, we have used a Theory of Change model to present the logic of the framework guiding livelihood programming; it is based on the findings of the study.

The underlying assumptions

Policy level
1. The current Kenyan Government’s policy on refugees severely restricts the livelihood options available to refugees.
   - The encampment policy is unlikely to change anytime soon without strong advocacy from civil society, human rights agencies, the UN and international partners.
The pending amendment to the Refugee Act could still be passed, and this will impose even stricter rules on the registration of refugees and impose penalties for non-compliance.

Because the UNHCR and other agencies do not have the capacity to change the above on their own, it will require that a strong advocacy strategy is in place for the programme.

**Beneficiary level**

2. Some refugees will return to Somalia
   - Some refugees will return to Somalia, but come back to Kenya when and if they encounter unfavourable conditions.
   - The youth who go back will most likely head to Mogadishu and other urban areas of Somalia, as they do not have a strong affiliation with the rural lives of their parents.
   - The older generation will prefer to return to their areas of origin, but will only do so if conditions allow it.

3. Some will remain in Kenya.
   - Those who have intermarried with Kenyans.
   - Those who are completely unwilling to return to Somalia.

4. A few refugees will be resettled to a third country.

5. A few refugees in Dadaab run successful businesses, but most refugees lack skills that they could use to survive outside of the camps.
   - There are a few agriculturalists and pastoralists who still possess the necessary skills as they used them in Somalia, although the use of modern farming and livestock husbandry techniques would need to be provided for them to have a greater chance of success.

6. Some members of the host community in Dadaab are resentful of the assistance given to refugees, who they see as benefitting more than they are.

7. Most of the livelihood activities implemented in Dadaab currently form part of the larger protection programmes and are, therefore, mostly capable of providing only day-to-day income for refugee families, and limited opportunities outside the camp setting.

**Institutional level**

8. For most agencies, livelihoods is not their core area of expertise and they, therefore, do not have staff with adequate livelihood programming experience to run the projects.

**Programme priorities and actions**

To address the above assumptions in a manner that will lead to the achievement of the stated objective, a number of actions will be necessary. At the policy level, UNHCR together with its implementing and operational partners will need to work towards influencing the policies and actions taken by the respective governments. Consequently, a strong advocacy platform will need to be in place for them to be able to do this effectively at the international, regional level.

50 They are interested in taking up their former activities: agriculture and livestock rearing. But for this to be sustainable, they will need to have access to their land or to some other land, access to capital and inputs, as well as new practices in order for them to be successful. In addition, certain aspects such as infrastructure and favourable policies will need to be in place to encourage growth in these sectors.
and national levels. At the beneficiary level, they will need to formulate comprehensive livelihood support and, at the institutional level, take actions targeted at strengthening the institutions involved in livelihood support, to design and deliver robust livelihood interventions.

In addition, we recommend that a strong monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy should form part of the overall livelihood strategy, as well as a communication strategy that will enhance the learning and advocacy actions of the programme.

Below are the actions proposed for the three levels identified above.

**Advocacy actions**
A number of actions that could support the advocacy activities would include:

1. There is a Refugees Affairs Committee currently chaired by the Commissioner of the DRA. UNHCR and livelihood implementing agencies should seek to be involved more prominently in this committee as it makes key decisions affecting the affairs of refugees in the country.
2. Formulate or activate a vibrant multi-agency forum to discuss issues of refugee repatriation, rights, and other issues affecting refugees, with the aim of bringing this to the attention of the Refugee Affairs Committee, as well as to support actions taken by agencies with regard to livelihood programming, among other issues.
3. Engage more strongly with the refugee community committees and leadership structures. This will help in identifying issues, enhancing a two-way communication between agencies and refugees, and allowing them to take a stronger role in handling refugee affairs.
   (To avoid forming divisive or predatory power structures within the camps, the committees should be formed using the CDRD model.)
4. Engage with relevant ministries in Somalia, especially south-central Somalia, where most refugees originate.

Ministries such as those of trade, human affairs, agriculture and the Ministry of Interior. (Somalia is in the process of developing a Somalia Compact, based on the New Deal Principles for fragile states, and this will lead to the articulation of a Somali National Development Plan. The livelihood strategy could influence this plan, so that the issue of protection and livelihood options of refugees are included.)

**Advocacy outputs**

- Position papers and studies.
- Press releases.
- ToR for refugee forum.
- A functioning and active forum.
- ToT for community refugee committees.
- Refugee forum meetings and documentation of sittings.
- Functioning community-based refugee committees/groups.
- Meetings with relevant authorities and forums in Kenya and in Somalia.

At the beneficiary level, livelihood support activities will need to be planned for and implemented. Below are the actions that will support this level.
**Livelihood support actions**

1. Offer vocational skills training, recognising the skills gaps identified, as well as the demands of the market, particularly in Somalia.
2. Carry out periodic studies on the evolving market needs and opportunities in Dadaab and its environs, as well as in Somalia.
3. Design a robust livelihood programme (led by one agency for the sake of coherence) that other agencies could contribute to with expertise in specific areas.
4. Create linkages with public and private institutions in Kenya and Somalia to provide the necessary support in training, in offering opportunities for internship and apprenticeship for graduating refugee students, and as a resource to facilitate access to capital and micro-credit facilities.  

**Livelihood support outputs**

a. Livelihood programme document.
b. Up-to-date labour market studies, updated periodically (possibly every two years).
c. Updated mapping of agencies implementing livelihood activities.
d. Updated mapping of service providers for linkage purposes.
e. Contracts/agreements with selected private and public institutions in Somalia and in Kenya.

**Institution strengthening actions**

1. Recruit specialist(s) with the requisite understanding and knowledge in areas of:
   a. Livelihood programming.
   b. Vocational training.
2. Establish a multi-agency steering committee to oversee the running of the programme.
3. Establish an M&E system to inform decision-making at the steering committee level.
4. Design a communication strategy for the programme.
5. Recruit a dedicated M&E specialist.
6. Recruit a communication expert.

**Institution strengthening outputs**

a. Job descriptions for experts.
b. ToR for steering committee.
c. A functioning and active steering committee in place.
d. An M&E system established and used to guide the programme.
e. A communication strategy.
f. Requisite staff in place.

Dadaab is a hardship area, and attracting qualified experts to be based there can be a problem. The Programme will need to agree arrangements that will enable them to secure the necessary experts.

Based on the above, and the three levels of actions identified – policy, beneficiary and institutional – we have identified three broad outcomes: one at each level.

---

51 A model is that used by the Kenya Women Finance Trust or Faulu Kenya, where the micro-finance institution members are taken through a thorough financial and business management training.
**Higher-level outcomes**

**Outcome 1:**
The policy environment allows refugees in Dadaab to engage more freely and fully in livelihood activities.

**Outcome 2:**
Refugees are better prepared to engage in a range of economic activities wherever they settle.

**Outcome 3:**
The identified livelihood lead agency is better equipped to support the design and coordination of livelihood programmes for refugees in Dadaab.

The policy environment outcome is not likely to be attained in the short term (within two years), and we have therefore included it as an outcome that can potentially be achieved only in the medium to long-term (three to five years). Outcomes 2 and 3 are a mix of both short-term and medium term, depending on the activities implemented at the beneficiary and institutional level.

**Indicators**
To gauge the extent to which activities are likely to lead to the achievement of the programme’s objective, we suggest a number of broad indicators.

1. Kenya adopts a less restrictive refugee policy in line with international refugee protocols that Kenya has signed by the end of the five-year period.
2. Most refugees are able to access their land on returning to Somalia.
3. A stand-alone livelihood programme is in place that not only caters to vulnerable groups but also offers greater access to opportunities for able and willing refugees.
4. The design ensures that the needs of PLWDs are planned for as an integral part of the programme.
5. Refugees possess a range of marketable skills and life skills that enable them to thrive wherever they settle.
6. Within the five-year period, the number of refugees who are able to access a wider range of livelihood opportunities in Kenya and in Somalia increases.
7. A specific proportion of appropriate support is targeted at host community to mitigate hostilities.
8. Effective linkages with agencies whose core business is addressing the various aspects of the livelihood programme: training and apprenticeship, business development and management and micro-finance.

**Theory of change in a snap shot**
The programme will be built on the premise that equipping refugees with appropriate knowledge and skills will enable them to be in a much better position to reintegrate into society and to engage in economic activities in the labour market that will enable them to be self-sustaining. Below is a representation of the change process.
Policy level

Advocacy actions
1. UNHCR and its implementing partners seek to be involved more prominently in the Refugee Affairs Committee at the national level.
2. Formulate or activate a vibrant forum to discuss issues of refugees: repatriation, rights, and issues affecting refugees.
3. Engage more strongly with refugee community committees and leadership structures.
4. Engage with relevant ministries in Somalia, especially south-central.

Beneficiary level

Livelihood support actions
1. Offer vocational skills training, recognising the skills gaps identified, as well as the demands of the market in Kenya and Somalia.
2. Carry out periodic studies on the evolving market needs and opportunities in Dadaab and its environs, as well as in Somalia.
3. Design a robust livelihood programme (led by one agency for the sake of coherence) that other agencies could contribute to with expertise in specific areas.
4. Create linkages with public and private institutions in Kenya and Somalia to provide the necessary support in training, in offering opportunities for internship and apprenticeship, and as a resource to facilitate access to capital and micro-credit facilities.

Institutional level

Institution strengthening actions
1. Recruit specialist(s) with the requisite understanding and knowledge in identified livelihood areas.
2. Establish a multi-agency steering committee to oversee the running of the programme.
3. Establish an M&E system to inform decision-making at the steering committee level.
4. Design a communication strategy for the programme.
5. Recruit a dedicated M&E specialist.
6. Recruit a communication expert.

Advocacy outputs
a. Position papers and studies.
b. Press releases.
c. ToR for refugee forum.
d. A functioning and active forum.
e. ToR for community refugee committees.
f. Refugee forum meetings and documentation of sittings.
g. Functioning community-based refugee committees/groups.
h. Meetings with relevant authorities and forums in Kenya and in Somalia.

Outcome 1:
The policy environment allows refugees in Dadaab to engage more freely and fully in livelihood activities.

Outcome 2:
Refugees are better prepared to engage in a range of economic activities wherever the settle.

Outcome 3:
Selected lead agencies are better equipped to guide the design and coordination of livelihood programmes for refugees in Dadaab.

Impact
Refugees in Dadaab are able to cope, adapt and thrive wherever they settle.
10.2. Principles to guide the livelihood programme

**Equal access**
Through advocacy, the livelihood programme will work towards ensuring equal access to support for all refugees, and not only for vulnerable groups. Accessibility will also be made possible for PLWDs. In addition, the programme will ensure that the refugees have greater access to the labour market in Somalia, and work towards achieving the same in Kenya, at least in the North Eastern region.

**Communication**
Effective communication with all stakeholders will be established using a variety of channels: learning platforms, forums, periodic meetings for planning, monitoring and assessing progress. This will not only support the advocacy actions of the programme, but will ensure that any issues are identified and addressed well before they can present a real threat or challenge to the programme.

**Partnership/networks**
There will be an added advantage to fostering partnerships with relevant public and private institutions in order to increase the efficacy of programme activities, and increase the chance for it to attain its desired objective. In addition, partnerships with other implementing partners in Dadaab will be strengthened in order to draw on the comparative advantage of the various partners. This partnership will also include the host communities both in Kenya and in Somalia, as well as local and national governments.

**Monitoring, evaluation and learning**
Regular monitoring of livelihood interventions will be carried out to gauge progress towards the achievement of the programme’s objective, to guide management in reviews, and to assess necessary shifts in approaches and requirements.

10.3. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

M&E has the potential to become a key management and learning tool for an organisation, but only when the M&E plan and implementation is rigorous enough. Based on the theory of change above, a set of tools, for example, an MIS system and a reporting schedule, will be selected to aid in collecting the necessary information. Monitoring will be carried out quarterly and annually, with programme reviews after two years of implementation, and an evaluation at the end of the five-year term. The Most Significant Change approach will be used to collect stories of change and to develop case studies.

The purpose of the M&E will be to:

- Assess whether the programme is on track to achieving its stated objective and the various programme outcomes.
- Assist management in identifying areas that need to be reviewed, if at all.
- Document best practices, share stories of change, that will assist in identifying specific impacts of the livelihood programme on individual refugee lives, that will also inform the advocacy strategy/actions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Tools</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inputs</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Workplans, MIS</td>
<td>Quarterly reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Workplans, MIS</td>
<td>Quarterly reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Annual, Mid-term</td>
<td>OECD DAC criteria for M&amp;E, Quarterly reports, Workplans, MIS</td>
<td>Annual reports, ToR, Mid-term review report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Mid-term (likelihood of achieving the desired impact), Ex-post</td>
<td>OECD DAC criteria for M&amp;E, Quarterly reports, Workplans, MIS</td>
<td>ToR, Impact assessment report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10.4. Communication strategy

The objective of the communication strategy will be to promote the livelihood programme, and provide information for learning and sharing purposes, as well as for advocacy. Issues on policy, partners’ activities, potential and active linkages, the issue of refugee self-reliance, refugee innovation, will be highlighted using various communications tools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print media</td>
<td>• Project briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Livelihood policy briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Press releases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Studies and surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic media</td>
<td>• Videos, documentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Radio shows and TV talk shows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dedicated Dadaab livelihood programme website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>• Facebook – link with relevant sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Twitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• YouTube</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 1: Example of Livelihood Activities Implemented by Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Livelihood activities in Dadaab</th>
<th>Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)**    | - Provision of market-demand vocational training opportunities for employment to 1,086 refugees in the following areas: diploma courses such as nursing, community health, nutrition, public relations, business management, human resource management, project management, supplies management, automotive engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, slab making and latrine construction, driving,  
  - Renovation and construction of community training centre in Dagahaley, Ifo and Ifo 2  
  - Basic education and life skills trainings for 270 beneficiaries in the three camps (Dagahaley, Ifo 1, and Ifo 2)  
  - Support for two ICT centres in Ifo & Dagahaley  
  - Micro finance support for refugees through grants revolving funds to 1365 refugees and that were enrolled in UNHCR-funded CARE training programme in 2012 to complete grade 3 government industrial tests (GIT) and provide further support to 317 new refugees in the same  
  - Technical training skills on handloom garment making, tailoring, ICT, ISSB blocks production, and other related skills  
  - Provision of 500 grants in cash to viable business plans to promote self-reliance  
  - Provision of up to 300 micro-loan revolving fund to targeted refugees  
  - Material grants to 565 small business enterprises in Ifo 1, Ifo 2 and Dagahaley who will provide realistic business plans  
  - Training host community groups and refugees on group savings and loans (GS&L) and financial literacy in order to improve their saving culture, to mobilize resources and start up income generating activities (IGAs)  
  - Milk packing and value addition facility                                                                                                                                         | Dagahaley, Ifo 1, Ifo 2, Hagadera, Kambios |
| **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** | - Vocational training programmes. Courses offered through youth education pack (YEP) centres Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera. Courses offered include mechanics, beauty, construction, electrical and welding                                                                 | Ifo 1, Dagahaley, Hagadera |

---

52 Compiled by DRC-Dadaab Office.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Livelihood activities in Dadaab</th>
<th>Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief, Reconstruction Development Organisation (RRDO)</td>
<td>• Support to YEP centres&lt;br&gt;• Training in ICT&lt;br&gt;• Training to livelihood groups in Ifo 2 on environmental conservation and business management skills to start up IGAs. Some of the income generating activities initiated with the support of RRDO include farming, car washes, supply of donkey carts for transportation businesses to promote self-reliance&lt;br&gt;• Installing posho mill machine to be run by the beneficiaries in both Ifo 2 east and west</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terre des Hommes (TDH)</td>
<td>• Income generating activities and capacity building to the target beneficiaries on selection planning and management of IGAs to support vulnerable families in both host community and the refugee camps</td>
<td>Kambios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET</td>
<td>• Implement mentoring and on-the-job training for refugee youth through partnerships with established traders and business people within the camps and in the host community&lt;br&gt;• Sponsoring youth and out of schools Class 8 drop outs with vocational skills</td>
<td>Dagahaley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ifo 1, Ifo 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hagadera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kambios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran World Federation (LWF)</td>
<td>• Implementing technical basic training skills on soap making for washing and bathing and other related skills to the refugees. They are also training on handloom and tailoring&lt;br&gt;• Implementing technical basic training skills on soap-making for washing and bathing.&lt;br&gt;• Training on handloom weaving and production of fabrics&lt;br&gt;• Tailoring and dress making&lt;br&gt;• Tie and dye of fabrics and making of ‘diras’ from the dyed fabrics&lt;br&gt;• Making pasta done by women groups for sale locally&lt;br&gt;• Making of classroom chalk for distribution in schools around the camp&lt;br&gt;• Training of groups on business development skills&lt;br&gt;• Training and support of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)&lt;br&gt;• Providing access to business grants for youth and women</td>
<td>Hagadera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kambios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International life line</td>
<td>• Trained refugees in Hagadera on production of energy saving jikos</td>
<td>Hagadera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2: List of References and Documents Consulted


CARE, CRS, DRC, IRC, LWF, NRC, Oxfam Terres des Hommes The human costs of the funding shortfalls for the Dadaab Refugee Camps. 2012.

Catholic Relief Services Host Community Water and Livelihood Assessment Report [Report]. - February 2012.


DRC Project Description: Improving Resilience and Livelihood Opportunities for Refugees in Dadaab. Dec 2012.


UNHCR, LWF Dadaab, Geovantage Lagdera District, Dagahaley Refugee Camp overview. August 2011.

Annex 3: Terms of Reference

Study of livelihood strategies for the Dadaab refugee camps (IFO, IFO 2, Dagahaley, Hagadera and Kambios).

1. PURPOSE
The objectives of the study are to:

- Assess the preferred vocational and professional training needs in the refugee camps depending on the level of education.
- Assess and provide linkage of livelihood and sports activities in Dadaab refugee camps to possibilities of return to Somalia.
- Explore how to entrench age, gender and diversity in livelihood interventions.
- Explore market surveys that have been conducted for livelihood activities within Dadaab refugee camps and in Somalia.
- Explore the most common and preferred livelihood needs in Dadaab refugee camps.
- Map skills available in the camps.
- Explore the viability of livelihood projects undertaken by various implementing partners clearly indicating the gaps.
- Explore the refugee and host community coexistence and linkage in terms of livelihood opportunities.

2. BACKGROUND
Within Dadaab district features the world largest open air refugee camps since early 1990’s covering a total area of 50 square km and are within an 18 km radius of Dadaab town namely Ifo, Ifo 2, Dagahaley, Hagadera, and Kambios. The camps are hosting approximately four hundred and forty seven thousand five hundred and thirty six (447,536) persons as per 31st Dec 2012 (Dec UNHCR sitrep). The refugees are mainly from the war torn countries of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Uganda and Burundi in fear of persecution and to find a better living. UNHCR and other implementing partners provide basic humanitarian services to the refugees such as Health, water, shelter and food. With the protracted situation of the refugees in the camps that have little or no near visible hope to either return home voluntarily or finding other durable solution coupled with donor fatigue, it’s increasingly becoming impossible to sustain and provide them with all the necessary requirement for a living, it’s therefore important to develop the capacity of the refugees economically so that they become independent and self reliant rather than relying on humanitarian/relief agencies and other donors. To help provide a clear baseline against which actions initiated by different actors can be measured, Danish refugee council would like to hire a Consultant/Consultancy firm to conduct a livelihood assessment that will provide solid and basic livelihood needs assessment for refugee in Dadaab refugee camps as well as linking the suggested livelihood opportunities to their native country in the event of voluntary repatriation.
3. SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The Consultant/consultancy firm, in cooperation and consultation with DRC field staff, other livelihood implementing partners in the camps, the various sectors of the local administration, beneficiary communities and other stakeholders, will conduct the study and produce an independent livelihood assessment report of Dadaab refugee camps.

The scope of work of this livelihood assessment is as follows:

i. Review of existing information, studies, project reports and identification of livelihood interventions under the project area;

ii. Collection of additional data on livelihoods and socio-economic conditions of the total project area;

iii. Description of the relevant financial institutional, legal and policy framework for livelihood sectors;

iv. Assessment of potential impacts of livelihood activities on the lives of the refugees and social components both qualitatively and as well as quantitatively;

v. Preparation of livelihood strategic plan for the refugee camps in Dadaab and ways to improve the enhancement, incorporation of multi-sectoral approach and monitoring plan of livelihood interventions;

vi. Identification of the risk factor to livelihood activities in the refugee camps and any remedial measures and identify further steps towards sustainability of the projects.

4. METHODOLOGY

The Consultant/consultancy firm is hereby required to provide a detailed methodology of how he/she will carry out the livelihood assessment.

- The livelihood Consultant/consultancy firm is expected to design all the necessary tools required to collect the livelihood assessment data which should capture all livelihood aspects.
- The consultant should conduct a desk review of relevant documents/studies that were done previously to provide insights from the past interventions from various organizations/individuals aimed at incorporating learning’s from the past experiences and to improve upon sustainability of the activities.
- The livelihood consultant/consultancy firm is requested to use the Participatory Learning Approach Methods to collect livelihood data/information from the refugee in the camps. This is a combination of methods that encourage people to participate in the assessment process and to learn about their needs and opportunities and steps required to address them.
- The Consultant/consultancy firm is expected to plan their work and create time to visit all the five refugee camps during the data collection (qualitative and quantitative), before finally providing an analysis as preliminary findings to be discussed by all stakeholders in a validation workshop then developing a final report acceptable to DRC. This can be achieved by employing any or all of the following methodologies: Group discussions, direct interviews with specific livelihood beneficiaries as well as key informant and focal persons within the camps as Security situation will permit.
5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS
The livelihood assessment consultancy in Dadaab refugee camps (IFO, IFO extension, Dagahaley, Hagadera and Kambios will generate the following outputs or deliverables:

- Development of tools to carry out the actual assessment in the camps.
- Assessment of the preferred vocational training needs in the refugee camps depending on the level of education.
- Appraisal of the linkage of livelihood activities in Dadaab refugee camps with the situation in Somalia.
- Review of market surveys for livelihood activities within Dadaab refugee camps and in Somalia.
- Appraisal of the most common and preferred livelihood and sports industry needs in Dadaab refugee camps.
- Assessment of the viability of livelihood projects undertaken by various implementing partners clearly indicating the gaps.
- Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt.

6. CONSULTANT Requirements
The livelihood Consultant/consultancy firm team should have a degree with bias towards livelihoods, economics, rural development or sociology from a recognised Institution. He/she should have thorough knowledge about the various aspects of livelihood interventions preferable in a dynamic set up like refugee camps. The Consultant must be willing and able to travel to conduct fieldwork in DADAAB refugee camps within Dadaab District, Garissa County.

7. CONDITIONS
The total duration for this assignment is for a total of 20 working days with effect from 15th to 10th March 2013, (including travelled days to the camps). This will include field work, one day validation workshop, and finalization and submission of an acceptable final report of the assessment.

For general information about the Danish Refugee Council, please consult www.drc.dk.

8. APPLICATION, BUDGET AND PLAN
Interested applicants or consulting firms are encouraged to apply for this assignment by submitting a concise proposal that includes:

- A detailed methodology to be used to carry out the assignment.
- Detailed work plan.
- CVs of the Consultant/Team to carry out the assignment.
- Detailed budget.
- References of similar work, or documented evidence for other similar assignments.

Submit your proposal in electronic format to meofficer2.ddb@drekenya.org copied to logs.asst@drekenya.org, indicating “livelihood assessment –Dadaab refugee camp” as the subject heading.

The deadline for application submission is 31st January 2013