

## **BBVA holds the “BBVA 2<sup>nd</sup> Solidarity Run” with almost 6,000 people taking part**

**Organised in collaboration with Madrid City Council and with the UNHCR, the race is for raising funds for African refugees in UNHCR camps**

- **The race participants, close on 6,000, paid a solidarity registration fee of €4 which is to be used entirely for African refugee children in UNHCR camps**
- **BBVA is to make a contribution equal to the sum raised with the registrations from participants, and undertakes to raise its contribution to €50,000**
- **Madrid City Council actively collaborates with the organisation of the ‘BBVA Solidarity Run’, together with Jesús Vázquez, UNHCR goodwill ambassador and race image**
- **BBVA recently signed an agreement with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), for a period of 3 years, whereby it undertakes to finance the primary education of a group of refugee children in Dadaab (Kenya)**
- **In Latin America, where BBVA has just held the same race, 20,000 people participated**

**Today in Madrid, BBVA held the 2<sup>nd</sup> BBVA Solidarity Run in which almost 6,000 people participated, among them employees, customers and friends of the company wishing to contribute with their 4-euro registration to this new solidarity initiative launched by BBVA. The aim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BBVA Solidarity Run is to help a group of refugee children in the camps of Dadaab (Kenya), coordinated by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). BBVA is to contribute €50,000.**

Ángel Cano, head of HR, IT & Operations at BBVA, and Jesús Vázquez, UNHCR Goodwill ambassador, have been entrusted with firing the starter gun at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Solidarity Run, which took place in Madrid’s Paseo de la Castellana, where the Bank has its headquarters, and running down several streets in Madrid in either of the two alternatives of 5 or 10 kilometres, and ending up in the Paseo de Camoens.

After the race, the prizes were awarded by the UNHCR’s representative in Spain, Agni Castro Pita, and BBVA Head of HR, IT & Operations, Ángel Cano. In addition, and following the awarding ceremony, an event involving diverse family activities was held.

### **Community investment and education in BBVA**

BBVA’s firm commitment to education materialise through its Community Investment and Corporate Volunteer plans, as can be appreciated in the €69m earmarked for all of these actions in 2007.

Thus, BBVA runs an Integration Grants Programme which provides grants for 28,000 children in Latin America. Education is one of the most important features of Community Investment for BBVA, with the ultimate goal being to provide an education to all groups, particularly, the most underprivileged.

For BBVA, education is likewise a commitment to continuity and promotion with a new solidarity dimension in which all those who make up BBVA: employees, customers, shareholders and society at large, take part.

By signing this agreement with the UNHCR, which will be in force over the next three years, BBVA undertakes to finance primary education for a group of children who are refugees in Dadaab (Kenya), whose three camps: Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaley are operated by the UNHCR.

### **Education in the refugee camps in Kenya**

The UNHCR manages three refugee camps in Dadaab: Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaley, which are home to over 170,000 people, of which 97.5% come from neighbouring Somalia, and the rest are divided up into Ethiopians, Sudanese, Eritreans, Ugandans, Congolese, Rwandans, Tanzanians and Burundians.

The camps are located 500 km. from Nairobi and about 80 km. from the Kenya-Somalia border, in an environment with extremely harsh climatic conditions (temperatures of around 40/50° C, drought, floods, and outbreaks of polio and Rift Valley fever) which make survival very difficult.

The UNHCR carries out activities aimed at seeing to the most immediate and long-term needs of the refugees in Dadaab. Education plays a crucial role as an instrument for building and maintaining society, preventing unemployment, reducing frustration and the sense of being uprooted, and creating a sense of normality in the community.

Currently, schooling is being provided to 32,663 children – 39% of which are girls – in 18 pre-primary and primary schools in Dadaab. However, a significant percentage of children do not attend classes (44%).

Access to secondary school is still very limited due to the scarcity of said schools, and third-level education is too expensive for secondary-school leavers.