



World Food Programme
FACTSHEET

REFUGEE SUPPORT

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FACTS

600,000 refugees live in Kenya, out of whom 89 per cent live in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

WFP has been **providing food** to refugees in camps since 1991.

Kenyan law does not allow refugees to work or run a business outside the camps.

It costs WFP about **US\$ 9 million** to provide the refugees food every month.

WFP **checks the identity** of each refugee collecting food against fingerprint records held by UNHCR.

In 2015, WFP introduced **cash transfers** to refugees.

WFP requires close to **US\$2.5 million** every month for the cash-based transfers.

Overview



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Kenya is home to 600,000 refugees, the majority fleeing conflict in Somalia and South Sudan. This is the second largest refugee population in Africa, after Ethiopia. In Kenya, refugees live in camps with restricted movement and are not allowed to work for pay outside the camps. Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps are located in the remote and food-insecure regions of northern Kenya.

Almost all refugees rely solely on WFP's food for survival. WFP has provided food assistance to the refugees living in the Kenyan camps since 1991, mostly providing in-kind food. Refugees collect a general food ration which consists of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, and a nutrient-enriched flour made from soya and maize.

In 2015, WFP introduced cash transfers to replace a portion of the in-kind food. The

cash, sent through mobile phones, allows refugees to choose from a wider variety of food available in the markets inside the camps. Refugees can buy a more diverse range of foods and have more control over their diets. Families can use the money to buy meat, milk, fruits and vegetables – foods that are not provided by the general food ration. The transfers, dubbed *bamba chakula* (Swahili-based slang for 'get your food'), are increasing business opportunities and boosting the local economies, benefiting both refugees and the surrounding communities.

In addition to the general food ration, WFP gives specialized fortified foods to young children, as well as pregnant women and nursing mothers, to stave off malnutrition. Moderately malnourished children under 5 receive a ready-to-eat paste to treat the condition.



Biometrics System

Introduced in 2013, the biometrics system checks the fingerprints of every refugee collecting food against fingerprint records held in the United Nations Refugee Agency's registration database.

The system ensures that only legitimate refugees residing in the camps collect food. The biometrics system has helped reduce fraud and results in monthly savings of about **USD 1.5 million**.

The cash transfers to refugees ('*Bamba Chakula*') is linked to the biometrics system.

This infrastructure and its robust controls are available for other agencies delivering assistance to the refugees.

Since 2013, WFP checks the identity of each refugee collecting food against the fingerprint records held by UNHCR. This biometric system ensures that only eligible refugees—registered with UNHCR and the Government, and living in the camps— receive food and the cash transfers.

Kakuma

Kakuma refugee camps are in Turkana County. Kakuma is 150 km south of the South Sudan border and 850 km northwest of Nairobi. The first camp was established in 1992 after the arrival of a group of 12,000 children, the so called "lost boys/girls" of Sudan, and their caretakers fleeing the civil war. In subsequent years, the camp population increased and more nationalities from neighbouring countries also sought refuge there.

After two decades of war in Sudan, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed in 2005. In the following years, a UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme and spontaneous returnees significantly reduced the population in Kakuma. Many more returned after the independence referendum in January 2011 in which South Sudanese voted overwhelmingly to break away from their northern neighbours, the Republic of Sudan.

However, in December 2013, fighting between government and opposition forces erupted in Juba. This has led to a civil war that has devastated the world's youngest country. Since the start of the conflict, the number of new South Sudanese registered in Kakuma is 57,000. The population of refugees in Kakuma stands at 192,000 (May 2016).

The host community is primarily the Turkana ethnic group, a nomadic pastoral community. Many live in general deprivation of social services and economic opportunities: poverty, chronic food insecurity and under-nutrition are very prevalent.

Dadaab

Dadaab refugee complex is located in Garissa County, 470 km east of Nairobi and 80 km from the Kenya/Somalia border. It is made up of five camps: Dagahaley, Ifo and Ifo 2 (Dadaab sub-county) and Hagadera and Kambioos (Fafi sub-county). The camps cover an area of 50 sq km within an 18 km radius of Dadaab town. UNHCR, which manages the complex, set up the first camp (Ifo) in 1991 after civil war broke out in Somalia; Hagadera and Dagahaley camps followed in 1992 as more refugees crossed the border into Kenya. Kambioos and Ifo 2 were established after the refugee influx in 2011. Somalis make up 95 percent of the refugee population in Dadaab.

The 2011 drought crisis in the Horn of Africa caused a dramatic surge in the camps' population, with more than 1,000 people arriving per day. The number of registered refugees





reached 467,000. This figure has since reduced to 343,000 (June 2016), indicating that a significant number of Somali refugees may have returned spontaneously.

In November 2013, UNHCR and the Governments of Kenya and Somalia signed a tripartite agreement to help Somali refugees in Kenya return home. The returning refugees receive a standardized financial and in-kind assistance package to ensure safe and dignified return, as well as longer-term support to help returnees reintegrate in the areas they once fled from. WFP in Kenya provides high-energy biscuits to those returning.

In Dadaab, the host community is primarily of Somali ethnic groups. They are nomadic pastoral communities, but also engage in other livelihood activities, notably small-scale trading and farming. Chronic food insecurity and under-nutrition are prevalent.



WFP activities for refugees

General Distributions

This meets minimum food consumption and nutritional requirements of all refugees. The food basket consists of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, SuperCereal and iodised salt. Refugees also receive a monthly cash transfer sent through mobile phones. The biometrics finger print verification system introduced by WFP and UNHCR in Kenya in October 2013 ensures that only eligible refugees residing in the camps collect food. This enhances accountability.

Nutrition Support

(prevention of acute malnutrition)

WFP targets pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6–23 months. This prevents under-nutrition during the “first 1,000 days”, between conception and a child’s second birthday. The women receive SuperCereal and vegetable oil through the health clinics to meet their increased nutritional requirements. The children receive SuperCereal plus, a highly nutritious fortified food that prevents acute malnutrition, supports linear growth and improves access to micronutrients.

Nutrition Support

(treatment of acute malnutrition)

The activity targets pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children aged 6–59 months identified with moderate acute malnutrition. The women receive SuperCereal and vegetable oil while the children get ready-to-use supplementary foods.

Youth Initiative

Food for training supports learning among disenfranchised young people in vocational training centres in the camps. The youth come from both the host and refugee communities.





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They are trained and electrical and mechanical engineering, carpentry, vehicle mechanics, cookery, computer lessons, tailoring and dress making.

Asset Creation

Asset creation activities alleviate short-term hunger and improve food security for the host community by creating productive livelihood assets. Such activities also reduce tension between refugees and host communities. Projects include water ponds, tree planting, trapezoidal bunds (water harvesting structures) and water diversion ditches for crop farming.

Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy (SAFE)

WFP supports activities to keep women and girls safer by reducing their need for firewood collection, particularly in unsafe areas inside and outside of the camps, by providing an alternative source of cooking fuel.

WFP aims to reduce exposure to gender-based violence, and to mitigate the effects of firewood requirements on already-fragile environments.

The SAFE project is distributing fuel-efficient stoves to refugees and host community

in Kakuma and is also providing tree seedlings for replanting in and around the camps.

Briquette production in Dadaab

WFP is setting up production units to test briquettes from the invasive prosopis weed as an alternative source of cooking fuel. Firewood has been the dominant fuel source. The use of briquettes will also provide a livelihood option and reduce potential violence towards women and children who collect firewood in the bushes.

Integrated School Health and Nutrition in Kakuma

WFP is testing how flour from locally-grown and processed can support the school meals in the camps to stimulate farming and local economic growth. This includes building the capacity of farmer organizations to sell to local structured markets, and equipping and training local groups to mill and fortify the flour, and to supply the local schools.

Using the locally-milled flour, WFP has trained groups to bake bread rolls as a mid-morning snack on a test basis (currently, children are served with porridge). The school meals are intended to maintain enrolment and attendance rates among children in primary schools in the camps.



Our Partners

WFP works with the following partners in Dadaab and Kakuma:

- CARE International
- Don Bosco
- International Rescue Committee
- Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- Lutheran World Federation
- Médecins Sans Frontières - Switzerland
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- St. Claire's of Assisi • World Vision International
- Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization
- Lotus Kenya Action For Development Organization
- Food For the Hungry - Kenya
- Women's Refugee Commission
- Film Aid International

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