



Refugees in Kenya

WFP Update

Bamba Chakula – Cash Transfers

WFP introduced restricted cash transfers dubbed Bamba Chakula in Kakuma in August 2015 and in Dadaab in January 2016.

With time, WFP has increased the amount of cash transferred to each refugee, while proportionately decreasing the portion of cereals given at the food distribution centres.

In February, refugees in Dadaab received Ksh. 500 per month for household size 1, Ksh. 300 per person per month for household size 2, and Ksh. 200 per person, per month for household size 3 and above. WFP disbursed 72,730,100 Kenyan shillings reaching 72,956 families.

According to market reports, in the month of February, rice is the most purchased commodity by refugees with the cash transfer they received from WFP, followed by sugar and milk.

In Kakuma, WFP transferred 43,575,500 Kenya shillings to 34,077 families in the month of February. In March, the value of the restricted cash was raised to 30 per cent of the food basket in Kakuma, bringing the food ration to 100 percent for all refugees for the first time since June 2015.

Wheat flour, sugar, rice, beans and maize flour still remain the most purchased food commodities by refugees from WFP-contracted traders under its cash transfer programme. Market prices remained stable.

Food Distribution and Supply Chain

WFP distributed a total of 3,015MT of assorted food commodities in Dadaab and 1,941MT in Kakuma during the month of February through the general food distributions, selective feeding, food for training and school meals. This assistance reached 333,119 people in Dadaab and 138,937 in Kakuma.

In Dadaab, the tonnage decreased by 592.226 from January which could be partly attributed to the increased Bamba Chakula cereal substitution and also lack of CSB+ in February's general food distribution food basket due to shortfalls.

Food balance in Dadaab stores as at 29 February 2016 is 8,286MT of assorted food commodities, sufficient for distribution in the month of March. However, CSB+ will be distributed at a reduced ration scale of 30g/p/d as the Sub Office continues monitoring the pipeline situation.

In Kakuma, WFP closed the month with a stock balance of 5,214MT of assorted food commodities.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Services

During the month of February 2016, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) operated 21 flights (12 scheduled flights, 9 Voluntary Repatriation (VOLREP) charters to Mogadishu. A total of 27 Agen-

cies (22 NGOs, 5 UN organisations) were served.

Overall, UNHAS transported 303 passengers from Dadaab to Wilson and 308 from Wilson to Dadaab. Total cargo ferried was 0.445MT from Dadaab to Wilson and 2.463MT from Wilson to Dadaab.

The cumulative figure for the period 1 January -29 February 2016 is 532 passengers from Dadaab to Wilson and 576 from Wilson to Dadaab, and 1.475MT of cargo from Wilson to Dadaab and 6.77MT from Dadaab to Wilson.

UNHAS transported 207 passengers from Wilson to Kakuma and 170 from Kakuma to Wilson in January. In February, 276 passengers were ferried from Wilson to Kakuma and 261 from Kakuma to Wilson, serving a total of 27 agencies (6 UN organisations, 3 donor/diplomatic bodies, and 18 NGOs).





Special Projects

Dadaab: Briquettes from Prosopis

Prosopis is an invasive shrub species prominent in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya. This is the raw material that is being harvested to make charcoal briquettes.

This initiative contributes to mitigating the negative impact of Prosopis on agriculture and the growth of other vegetation by properly harvesting it to be used as fuel.

After harvesting the prosopis, WFP will work with partners to rehabilitate the land.

Three briquette production sites have been constructed in Dadaab, Dagahaley and Ifo. So far the three sites have produced a total of 3.6 metric tonnes of briquettes. The briquette production model is based on carbonisation of the prosopis as a first step.

At optimum operation, each site is able to produce at least 3 metric tonnes of briquettes per month. Cumulatively 45 tonnes of prosopis twigs have so far been harvested across the three production sites. Cumulatively 336 beneficiaries have been trained on briquette production as well as usage.

WFP will give 5,000 hybrid stoves to the families participating in this project. This project is in line with the Garissa County Integrated Development Plan.

WFP implements innovative activities to keep women and girls safer by reducing their need for firewood collection, particularly in unsafe areas inside and outside of the camps, through the provision of alternative household cooking fuel. Through these initiatives, WFP focuses on reducing people's exposure to gender-based violence, and to mitigate the effects of firewood requirements on already fragile environments.



Kakuma: Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy (SAFE)

In 2015, WFP distributed 9,416 stoves to refugees and the host population in Kakuma. This year, 6,426 stoves will be given out.

Routine monitoring has however found out that refugees in large household sizes are facing difficulty in cooking most of their meals using the stoves already distributed (the M5000 brand) due to their small pot rest. Although the stoves are suitable for the average refugee family in the camp (five persons), refugees tend to cook in larger families/communities. At the same time, some refugee households visited (6 percent), indicated that they had sold their stoves to meet other basic unmet needs while others suggested they had donated to other refugee relatives within the camps.

The SAFE project distributed fuel-efficient stoves to 2,156 (1,425 Female) refugee households and 2,785 (1,985 Female) host community households in February.

Meanwhile the SAFE project distributed and planted a total of 11,248 tree seedlings, with 733 tree seedlings distributed and planted in institutions, 9,653 in the refugee camp and 862 in the host community. The survival rate of the tree seedlings provided to the host community is 60 percent whereas at the refugee camp the survival is 96 percent. Water shortage continues to be a major challenge for the host community.



Challenges

- Funding for the long-standing refugee operation in Kenya remains one of the greatest challenges. This forces WFP to introduce rations cuts in order to stretch available resources to cover a longer period. WFP still lacks the resources to allow going back to full rations for all refugees.
- Markets both in Dadaab and Kakuma have effectively absorbed the Bamba Chakula cash with minimal fluctuations in prices. WFP sees an opportunity to increase the proportion of cash transfers to refugees, subject to receiving additional and sustained resources.
- The current resourcing level is low. WFP risks running out of cash for the Bamba Chakula programme in April. Starting May, WFP will begin experiencing pipeline breaks, initially affecting the non-cereal items in the food basket.

Dadaab: Voluntary Repatriation

UNHCR continued with the refugee Voluntary Repatriation operation to Somalia. A total of 2,417 individuals were repatriated in February 2016. The cumulative total repatriated from December 2014 to date is 10,420 persons. WFP Dadaab provided a ration of 2.5 Kg of BP5 to each returnee and hence 6.043MT of BP5 were distributed in February.



Pilot - Bread Rolls Snack in Kakuma

WFP undertook the first phase of project to pilot bread rolls as a mid-morning snack. Hundred per cent of the learners interviewed stated that they like the bread roll just as much as they liked the porridge currently being provided as a mid-morning snack at schools. The teachers also recommended full implementation of the project stating that it is a good initiative and that it saves their time as opposed to the porridge where teachers must supervise the learners as they are being served.





Overview

Dadaab

- 338,000 - Highest number of refugees that received WFP food in 2015
- June 2015, WFP cut rations to all refugees by 30 percent because of severe funding shortfalls
- Ration size was revised upwards in November, after almost six months
- January 2016, WFP introduced restricted cash transfers in Dadaab

- 766 Bamba Chakula traders contracted in Dadaab; 70 percent from the refugee population, and 30 percent Kenyan citizens living in Dadaab
- On average, contracted traders are doing business worth 95,494.15 Kenyan shillings every month with WFP cash
- 24,000MT of food - The capacity of WFP stores in Dadaab

Kakuma

- 187,333 - Overall population as at 29 February
- 1,607 - New arrivals registered in February, mostly from South Sudan
- 144,000 - Highest number of refugees that received WFP food in 2015
- 23,002MT of food distributed between January and December 2015
- 8,400MT of food - The capacity of WFP stores in Kakuma
- August 2015, WFP introduced restricted cash transfers

- Between August 2015 and January 2016, WFP transferred about 108 million Kenyan shillings (US\$1.1 million) to Kakuma
- 246 traders contracted in Kakuma (200 actively transacting)
- On average, contracted traders are doing business worth 165,084 Kenyan shillings every month with WFP cash
- 139,571,690 Kenyan shillings – Amount WFP has transferred to Kakuma since August 2015

Facts

Close to 600,000 refugees live in Kenya, out of whom 89 percent live in 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 give each of the refugees a full ration of food every month;

Since 2013, WFP checks the identities of each refugee against the fingerprint records held by UNHCR, prior to collecting food;

In 2015, WFP introduced cash transfers to refugees;

WFP is transferring over US\$1 million to Kakuma and Dadaab every month (Feb, 16)