



Refugees in Kenya

WFP Factsheet

Overview

Kenya is home to over half a million 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 enclosed 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 giving in-kind food commodities.

Every month, refugees collect a general food ration from WFP, 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 given at the food distribution centre.

The transfers, dubbed *bamba chakula* (Swahili-based slang for 'get your food'), are increasing business opportunities and boosting the local economies, bene-

fitting 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.

Since 2013, WFP checks the identities of each refugee 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.

Close to 600,000 refugees live in Kenya;
WFP has been providing food to refugees in camps since 1991; it costs WFP about US\$ 9 million to give each one of them a full ration of food every month;
2015, WFP introduced cash transfers to refugees;
WFP is transferring over US\$1 million to Kakuma and Dadaab every month (Feb, 16);
Kenyan law does not allow refugees to work or run a business outside the camps;
Refugees' movements inside the country are restricted

Kakuma

Kakuma refugee camps are situated in Turkana County. Kakuma is 150 km south of the South Sudan border and about 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 after 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, Sudan.

However, on 15 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 49,000.

The host community is primarily 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 therefore 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 that broke out in Somalia. Hagadera and Dagahaley camps then followed in 1992 as more refugees crossed the border into Kenya. The rest were established after the refugee influx in 2011. Somalis make up 97 percent of the refugee population there.

The 2011 drought crisis in the Horn of Africa caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. There was 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 348,000 (January 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 Somalis in Kenya return back 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.

Our Programmes

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 mothers 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 Super Cereal 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.

Food for Training (FFT)

FFT supports learning among disenfranchised young people in vocational training centres in the camps. The youth come from both the host and refugee communities. They are trained and electrical and mechanical engineering, carpentry, vehicle mechanics, cookery, computer lessons, tailoring and dress making.

Asset Creation

Asset Creation alleviates short-term hunger and improves food security for the host community by creating productive assets. It also reduces tension between refugees and host communities. Projects include water ponds, tree planting as well as trapezoidal bunds (water harvesting structures) and water diversion ditches for crop farming.

Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy (SAFE)

WFP implements 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 source of cooking fuel. WFP is focusing on reducing 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 giving 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 ‘prosojis’ as an alternative source of cooking fuel - firewood is the dominant fuel source. This will also provide a livelihood option and reduce possible violence towards women and children who collect firewood in the bushes.

Integrated School Health and Nutrition in Kakuma

WFP is testing how flour from sorghum that is 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 camp.

Our Partners

WFP works with the following partners in Kakuma and Dadaab:

- 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 Asisi
- 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