



World Food Programme **Kenya**

NEWSLETTER

Fighting Hunger Worldwide



Food Assistance to Refugees



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WFP compelled to reduce rations for refugees by half due to funding constraints

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been compelled to further cut food rations for refugees in Kenya amid persisting funding shortages.

Starting in December 2016, WFP had to cut the in-kind food ration size to half to avoid a sudden break in the assistance in February due to lack of resources. This measure is affecting 430,000 refugees living Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

WFP provides food assistance to refugees in Kenya as a combination of cash transfers and food transfers. Cash

transfers, which average 30 percent of the refugee food assistance, have remained unchanged. However, the cash resources will be exhausted by the end of February.

Ceasing cash transfers would particularly affect the refugees in the recently established Kalobeyei settlement, 25 km west of Kakuma, who receive almost all their food assistance as cash transfers. Kalobeyei is a 'model' settlement that would promote the self-reliance of refugees and host communities by providing them with better livelihood opportunities and enhanced service delivery.

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WFP urgently needs **USD 19.3 million** to ensure **refugee food assistance** from February to July 2017.

Malnutrition on the rise in Kakuma as diets deteriorate



© WFP/Martin Karimi

The drastic reduction of the food assistance to refugees comes in the midst of a precarious nutrition situation. Results from the late 2016 nutrition surveys carried out in both Dadaab and Kakuma show an overall increase in global acute malnutrition (GAM) amongst children, compared to 2015. GAM rates remain below the 15 percent “critical” threshold in all camps, but there are now four camps with rates above the “serious” threshold of 10 percent, compared to just one camp in 2015.

In Kakuma, GAM prevalence increased to 13.5 percent from 11.4 percent 2015. The survey was also carried out in the newly established Kalobeyei settlement where initial results indicate a GAM prevalence of 8.9 percent.

Nutrition programmes (prevention and treatment of malnutrition) are relatively well funded and achieving acceptable results. The overall increase in acute malnutrition is a result of complex cultural and multi-sectoral factors that vary between camps, including the provision of health and nutrition services, water and sanitation, and breast feeding practices.

Against this backdrop, it is critical that rations are returned to full levels. There are also indications that an increased proportion of the ration in cash, as opposed to in kind food, can improve dietary diversity and household food consumption where markets are functioning.

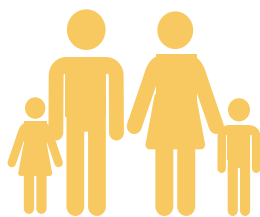
Malnutrition also increased in the Dadaab camp complex, with the most significant increase in Ifo2 camp, rising from 7.3 percent to 12.5 percent.

Of particular concern are the high rates of stunting that were recorded, in some cases over the emergency threshold of 40 percent, particularly in the 3 camps that have received high numbers of new arrivals from South Sudan i.e. Ifo 2, Kambios and Kalobeyei.

Also of great concern is the prevalence of anaemia, which remains above the emergency cut-off point of 40 percent in almost all the camps.

Household Diet Diversity and Food Consumption Score

Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM) data was collected in December 2016, at a time when several significant changes were ongoing including repatri-



Malnutrition increased in the Dadaab Camp complex, with the most significant increase in Ifo2 camp, rising from 7.3 percent to 12.5 percent.

ation Somalia, relocations to Kalobeyei, and the introduction of ration cuts. Attribution of particular findings is therefore complex and requires more analysis to be conclusive.

Preliminary results show that the **overall** food security is slightly deteriorating in both camps and is now similar to 2012/2013 levels, following an improvement in 2014/2015.

- In Kakuma households with poor food consumption are currently 21 percent. That’s the highest since December 2013 and an increase of 9 percent from the same time last year.
- In Dadaab 5 percent of the population have poor food consumption (up from 1 percent last year). Significantly borderline food consumption has increased by 11 percent to 26 percent from last year.
- In terms of dietary diversity, Dadaab scores 5 (meaning 5 food groups on average consumed in a week) and Kakuma is 3.4. The minimum acceptable level is 4.5.
- The FSOM also tracks **coping strategies**, where households undertake actions to meet immediate food needs that are detrimental to their livelihoods and wellbeing in the long term e.g. skipping meals, selling assets, or going into debt etc. Families adopting stress coping mechanisms are at 73 percent in Dadaab and 52 percent in Kakuma.

Why is Kakuma worse in terms of food security indicators when Dadaab has had ration cuts for longer?

- This is a historical question. Culturally Dadaab as a primarily Somali population consume more animal products such as meat and milk. Markets and livelihoods are also well developed and prices are lower, so the purchasing power is greater. For Kakuma this is not so much the case.
- The value and purchasing power of the cash transfer is critical, as it is only through markets that refugees will be able to access more than three standard food groups required for improved dietary diversity and food consumption. WFP planned to transfer 400 Kenyan shillings to each refugee every month, but due to resource shortfalls, WFP is only transferring 2-300 Kenyan shillings per month. ■



Market day in Kakuma



An open-air integrated market in Kakuma refugee camps in December 2016 proved to be a successful trial. Traders drawn from the refugee and host population met to sell their wares, with different community groups showcasing their works — including weaving, tailoring, basket making and cooking skills. More than 230 *Bamba Chakula*¹ traders and fishermen from Lake Turkana participated in the event.

The market, situated on the edge of Kakuma 3 camp, opposite the refugee reception centre, has been made available by the Turkana County government. WFP supported the construction of the traders' sheds.

This initiative offers the opportunity to improve availability of nutritious foods in Kakuma (and Kalobeyei) as well as to contribute to economic and livelihood opportunities for the local producers — such as farmers in Turkana and the fishermen living by the lake - and to increase cohesion and peace between refugees and the host community

The event, which lasted three days, was hailed as successful by both traders and customers. Most traders sold all their stocks while fishermen got higher profit for their catch than they would normally get in markets close to the lake.

A team is currently reviewing and assessing the performance of the trial event with a view to establishing a regular market day in Kakuma.

¹ *Bamba Chakula* is name given to WFP Kenya's cash transfer system in Kenya. *Bamba Chakula* means "get your food" in Sheng, a Swahili-based slang.

WFP supports relocation of refugees from Dadaab to Kalobeyei



Refugees relocating to Kalobeyei settlement, Turkana . ©WFP/Claire Neville

WFP continues to support the relocation of non-Somali refugees from Dadaab camps to Kalobeyei settlement.

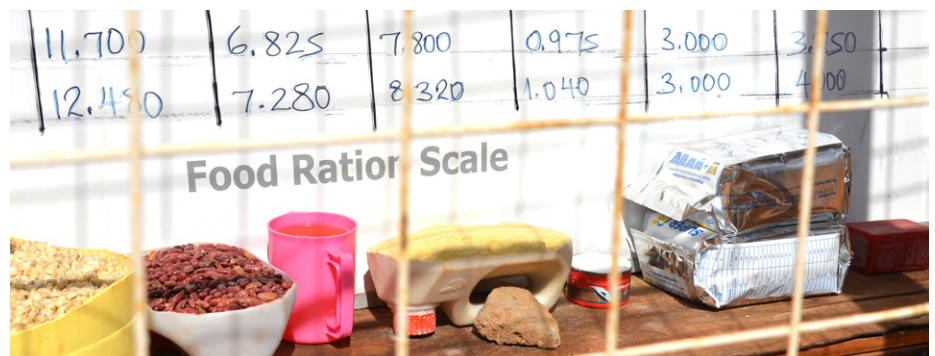
Families scheduled to relocate during food distributions are removed from the Dadaab food manifest and issued with *Bamba Chakula* cash transfers as per the

Kalobeyei entitlement, i.e. KSH 1,400 per person per month.

UNHCR removed 3,685 people from their database for not turning up during food distributions; this could be attributed to "spontaneous repatriation". ■

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WFP compelled to reduce rations for refugees by half due to funding constraints



A sample of food rations on display. ©WFP/Amanda Lawrence-Brown

Since the announcement of the ration cuts in November 2016, only USD 1 million in additional contributions has been confirmed so far but some donors have made indications of new contributions. WFP urgently needs USD 19.3 million to ensure refugee food assistance from February to July 2017.

Studies have shown that prolonged ration cuts cause refugees to employ negative coping mechanisms such as

stress livelihood coping strategies (e.g. purchasing food on credit, or borrowing food or money, selling household assets) or emergency livelihood coping strategies (e.g. begging, theft or engaging in illegal income-generating activities).

In Dadaab, refugees reported running out of food by mid-month, which has resulted in emergency livelihood coping strategies. Most families are having one meal per day in a bid to conserve the reduced ration. ■



(Left) Briquettes being aired to dry, (Right) Briquettes being processed in a kiln. ©WFP/Ibrahim Guliye

SAFE project in Dadaab continues beyond donor funds

While funding support for the Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Sources of Energy (SAFE) project ended in October 2016, the host and refugee community groups have continued to produce briquettes on their own.

Using *Prosopis juliflora*, an invasive alien evergreen tree found around Dadaab, the groups have produced more than 600 kg of briquettes, with a potential income of USD 180 in sales.

WFP's partner the Relief, Reconstruction and Development Organization is facilitating these groups to make the briquettes available on the market by help-

ing them to build permanent sheds in the markets. Though the future of local energy markets is uncertain due to the planned closure of the Dadaab refugee camps, the host and community groups have learnt invaluable skills, not only in the production of briquettes, but also in group management and marketing.

The kilns, which are locally fabricated, are easy to make and inexpensive to run. With little investment, they will be able to continue producing briquettes for sale, while at the same time conserving the environment by reducing the use of firewood as a cooking fuel. ■



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Asset creation around the camps continues



©WFP/Rose Ogolla



36,000 men and women living near the refugee camps in Garissa and Turkana are participating in **resilience-building activities**.

The establishment of the refugee camps in Dadaab and Kakuma caused immense pressure on natural resources, resulting in some conflict between the host population and the refugees.

The populations living around the camps often felt excluded while refugees were receiving humanitarian support and services such

as clean water, education, and free health care. Considering the food insecurity around Dadaab (Garissa County) and Kakuma (Turkana County), and in order to diffuse the tension, WFP introduced resilience-building activities targeting households from the host communities. The initial objective was to support

the creation of assets to mitigate environmental degradation. Currently, 36,000 men and women living within a radius of 40 km from the refugee camps in Garissa and Turkana are participating in resilience-building activities aiming at enhancing and diversifying their livelihoods to improve food security. ■



©WFP/Rose Ogolla

In Dadaab, women are leading the way in conservation

Dadaab Women's Group is one of the 29 projects around the camps. It consists of 266 members, of whom only four are men.

Faced with devastating land degradation, the group, through asset-creation support, built contour bunds initially on one-acre (0.4 ha) of land. Here, they grow kale, cowpeas, chilies pawpaw fruit, and other fruit trees. Farming has given these families a variety of nutritious foods.

Water is scarce in most parts of northern Kenya. Dadaab Women's Group identified this challenge and, with technical assistance through WFP, they constructed a 4,000 m³ water pan to harvest rainfall and surface water for both domestic use and livestock.

As a result of demand for firewood as a domestic fuel, the tree cover around Dadaab has been greatly depleted. Dadaab Women's group has planted indigenous trees on 2-acres. They draw water for irrigation from the water pan and are continually working to restore the lost tree cover. ■



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FACT & FIGURES

Dadaab

- **273,000** – Refugee and asylum seeker population requiring food assistance as of January 2017
- **33,000** – Repatriated between January and December 2016

Since January 2016 refugees receive part of their food assistance in the form of cash transfers

Kakuma

- **143,000** – Refugee and asylum seeker population as of January 2017
- **26,604** – New arrivals registered since the beginning of 2016, of whom 22,358 are from South Sudan

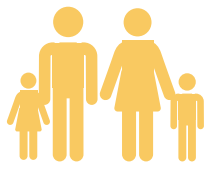
Since August 2015, refugees receive part of their food assistance in the form of cash transfers

Kalobeyei

- **12,000** - Refugee and asylum seeker population to be verified in February 2017

Since the creation of the settlement, refugees receive their food assistance in the form of cash transfers. Fortified food products i.e. corn-soy-bean flour, are still provided in-kind

Kakuma verification exercise and new influx



close to **9,000** South Sudanese refugees arrived in Kakuma.

Between September and December 2016, UNHCR coordinated a population verification exercise in the Kakuma refugee camps. Before the verification exercise, the camp population stood at 162,811 individuals. 143,021 people have been verified in the Kakuma Camps. Kalobeyei's verification exercise is scheduled for February.

Heightened influx

In November and December 2016, close to 9,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Kakuma. This was a sharp rise from the average monthly figure of 1,500 recorded in previous months.

The high numbers of new arrivals caused congestion at the two reception centres in Kakuma and



©WFP/Martin Karimi

Kalobeyei. Al Nuur primary school was briefly used as a temporary reception centre. ■

List of Donors in Alphabetical Order (Since 2011)

Australia	France	Multilateral	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Germany	Norway	Spain
Brazil	Greece	OPEC Fund for International Development	Sweden
Canada	Hungary	Private Donors	Switzerland
Denmark	Ireland	Republic of Zambia	UN CERF
European Commission	Israel	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Finland	Japan		United States of America



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