Top Highlights

Overview of WFP’s response

- WFP is complementing the Government of Kenya’s COVID-19 emergency response for the urban poor through a number of initiatives:
  - Cash transfers are planned for 70,500 vulnerable families in urban informal settlements affected by loss of income and livelihoods.
  - In June, 1,114 households in Nairobi informal settlements received Ksh 4,000 (US$40). This support will continue for 3 months and will contribute to 50% of the minimum food basket (Ksh 2,000 per person per month). The transfer value is aligned to what the Government is providing in the counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa.
  - WFP will scale up treatment of acute malnutrition amongst children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women and the elderly across 123 health facilities in Nairobi’s informal settlements. This is in addition to the ongoing nutrition support in eight arid counties (Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and Marsabit).
  - WFP also continues to support the Government to strengthen the efficacy of the existing social protection systems.

Phase I Achievements

i. Establishment of the targeting criteria for the urban assistance in consultation with stakeholders.
ii. Development of the moderate acute malnutrition scale up strategy.
 iii. Collection of beneficiary data for phase I of the project: layering onto Government registrations and outreach efforts and ensuring full alignment with government systems.

 iv. First cash disbursement to the first 1,114 urban families.

 v. Baseline survey undertaken and first round of monitoring conducted.

 The Next Steps

 i. Analysis of baseline survey and monitoring to inform programming.

 ii. Continued targeting and registration of affected urban populations for relief assistance.

 iii. Second disbursement of the cash to the registered populations.

 iv. Mobilization, identification and verification of the integrated moderate acute malnutrition clients.

 v. Procurement and disbursement of the specialized nutrition commodities for the nutrition programme.

 Operational Details

 Cash Assistance for urban populations

 WFP has prioritised Nairobi for both the cash transfers and the scale up of the nutrition programme because it has the highest number of COVID-19 cases and a significant proportion of households in densely populated informal settlements are negatively affected by the impact of the prevention and control measures.

 The Transfer Value

 ■ This is based on 50 percent of the assessed minimum food basket for urban households – which is Ksh2,000 per person per month.

 ■ The value is aligned with the Government’s ongoing urban assistance.

 ■ Mobile money is being employed to disburse cash transfers for the COVID-19 urban response in collaboration with Safaricom.

 Targeting

 In the April Emergency Appeal, an estimated 725,000 people were identified as requiring assistance in urban areas. WFP has secured resources to reach 279,000 beneficiaries (70,500 households) with assistance for three months.

 Identification of beneficiaries is being done using the criteria outlined below:

 a. Geographical targeting:

 ■ Densely populated informal settlements of Nairobi, which have been in the ‘containment zones’ where COVID-19 prevention measures
have had severe effects on the local economy and therefore compromised vulnerable population’s access to food.

- Efforts are being made to coordinate with other stakeholders to ensure complementarity in coverage. The use of the national single registry is key.

b). Household/Individual targeting within the densely populated areas:
The household eligibility for targeting follows a multi-layered approach with the primary criteria being those households that have lost or have reduced incomes, remittances, or livelihoods.

Criteria includes:

- Households with more than four children and have lost their source of income (high dependency ratio).
- A household with elderly persons above 60 years or disabled persons with no regular source of income and are not covered under the social protection transfers.
- A household with a head who is mainly depending on the informal sector and has completely or temporarily lost a job or has reduced income earnings.
- A household largely relying on social support from others and is not receiving any formal or informal safety nets assistance.

Social Protection

- Investing in a shock responsive social protection system remains one of the priorities for the Government. WFP plays a key role in supporting the Government to adapt, expand and continue implementing the existing safety nets, and design new ones to maximise the coverage of the vulnerable populations.
- WFP provides technical assistance in coordination, expertise in enhancing delivery and management information systems and technical advice.
- WFP also supports Government’s planned assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Kenya and further assess the efficacy of the existing social protection system. The evidence generated through these assessments coupled with the operational knowledge obtained through implementing assistance in close partnership with the government will help in demonstrating the importance of a comprehensive shock-responsive social protection system and inform decisions on future adjustments and investments.

Nutrition Support

- Through the Ministry of Health, WFP Kenya is scaling up treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among the targeted groups in COVID-19 priority counties as well as high HIV/TB prevalence areas.
- Treatment programmes will help prevent the development of severe acute malnutrition and other morbidities and mortality associated with acute malnutrition. WFP will provide specialised nutrition products to the clients.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Health with the development and roll-out of a social and behaviour change communication initiatives at the national and county levels. This aims to promote appropriate nutrition practice as well as measures for COVID-19 prevention and control, particularly in marginalized communities.
- WFP is working with the Nairobi Metropolitan Service and community based organizations in the informal settlements for the Nairobi expansion programme.

Resourcing

WFP continues to engage with donors to mobilize resources to support the Government’s response to COVID-19.

Out of the US$64 million requirement that WFP included in the Emergency Appeal, WFP has secured 20 percent that is currently being utilized to kickstart response activities to reach the most vulnerable.

As of 6 July 2020, WFP has received US$ 11.1 million in support of the response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in urban settlements. The funds received so far are from the USAID (US$ 10 Million) and Finland (US$ 1.1 million). WFP is also utilizing a US$ 2.5 million multi-year grant from Sweden in support of stronger government social protection systems.

Coordination

WFP Kenya has a longstanding partnership with the Government of Kenya at national and county levels. WFP Kenya has maintained regular engagement on the evolving context and response plans both bilaterally and as a participant in various meetings and taskforces with the Government through the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry for Devolution & Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS), the Ministry of Health, the State Department for ICT and the Council of Governors. The implementation will be closely aligned to the already established Government social protection and health systems.

WFP is also engaging other humanitarian actors both bilaterally and through the Kenya Cash Working Group, the KHPT and other coordination forums to contribute to enhancing coordination.
Background

Kenya reported its first case of COVID-19 on 12 March 2020. As of 5 July 2020, 7,886 cases have been confirmed and 160 COVID-19 related deaths reported. The Government of Kenya has taken several measures to curb the spread of the virus, including implementing a curfew, restricting people’s movement and closing most of the urban and rural markets to enforce social distancing.

An estimated 1.7 million people are projected to be affected in the urban informal settlements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government of Kenya is leading the response to COVID-19 in the country supported by the UN, development and humanitarian partners and the private sector. A US$267 million Emergency Appeal was launched in April 2020 to mobilise resources to respond to the immediate needs of 10.1 million people, including refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya.

If you would like more information, please contact

Lara Fossi  
DCD - Head of Programmes: Lara.fossi@wfp.org

Felix Okech  
Emergency Coordinator: Felix.okech@wfp.org

Antonio Salort-Pons  
Head of External Relations and Innovations: Antonio.Salort-pons@wfp.org