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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME KENYA

**INF BRIEF** [No. 45]

SEPTEMBER 2020

# Emergency Response for Persons Affected by COVID-19 in Nairobi's Informal Settlements

## Highlights

- With the support of BHA, Finland, Poland and SIDA, WFP is supplementing the Government's COVID-19 response.
- WFP has provided cash transfers to 50,000 households affected by the loss of income due to the pandemic in Nairobi's informal settlements. WFP is on track to reach an additional 20,500 households within the month of September 2020.
- Nutrition support to 2,500 women and children in Nairobi's urban informal settlements commenced following completion of training for health and nutrition workers.
- Expansion of the COVID-19 urban response into Mombasa County is underway following engagement with county representatives and development of a draft roll out plan.

## Implementation Update

### COVID- 19 Response

- Household targeting at the community level continued in close coordination with government and

humanitarian actors on the ground. Overall, WFP envisages disbursing cash transfers to over 70,000 households affected by COVID-19 out of a targeted total of 70,500 households in the informal urban settlements by the end of September 2020.



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- According to post distribution findings, majority of the households (97 percent in wave 2 and 92 percent in Wave 3) were satisfied with the entitlement received with over 50 percent of the cash being spent on food.
- The third wave of the baseline survey was completed. Findings reveal loss of livelihood among households (49 percent had suffered a household member loss of employment in the last three months) and using consumption-based coping strategies (93 percent reducing size of meals and 89 percent reducing number of meals eaten per day).
- Findings show households' main income as casual work with unskilled labour following closely. There is a substantial reduction of households whose main source of income is skilled labour and small business compared to pre-COVID period.
- Further, the results show an increase in households relying on gifts, remittances and petty trade or hawking compared to the pre-COVID period.



- Approximately 99 percent of households are employing consumption-based coping strategies including reducing size of meals (98 percent), reducing number of meals eaten per day (98 percent), borrowing food or relying on help from friends (85 percent), relying on less preferred/less expensive food (99 percent) and restricting consumption for adults for small children to eat (85 percent).
- WFP has reached out to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and Mombasa County representatives on the expansion of the COVID-19 urban response. A WFP scoping mission from Nairobi is planned for the coming two weeks in coordination with WFP's office in the Mombasa port.
- Weekly monitoring on price, availability of staple commodities and fresh produce and quality food commodities was undertaken in the informal settlements in Nairobi. This aimed to monitor the market trends and establish the effect of cash transfers on the local markets.
- Findings from the market monitoring show that purchasing power remains low in Nairobi's informal settlements. There has been no improvement in commodity demand and purchases by consumers in the settlements. Retailers continue to express concerns on reduced sales, with those who rent business premises indicating they are experiencing difficulties in paying rent.

### Nutrition Support

- WFP has commenced mobilization to increase coverage of the nutrition treatment programme through: i) mass media and ii) community health volunteers who will support the household screening, household training and referral of the malnourished clients.

- The first community level activities were undertaken in Dagoretti Sub-County in the last two weeks of August 2020. Similar support will be extended to the other six sub-counties (Makadara, Kasarani, Langata, Kamukunji, Embakasi West, and Westlands).

## Social Protection

- Investing in a shock responsive social protection system remains a Government priority. 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 is supporting the Government of Kenya's assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Kenya and the efficacy of the existing social protection system to inform decisions on future investments.

## Coordination

- WFP is collaborating with the sub-county administrators, local administration leaders and all humanitarian actors in the targeted informal

settlements of Nairobi to undertake data quality assurance checks for the household data received from the government ministries.

- In partnership with other UN agencies, WFP is part of the UN Development Assistance Framework and is coordinating with UN and NGO partners through the OCHA cluster system.
- WFP field teams continue to work closely with Government representatives including the District County Commissioners, Assistant County Commissioners, chiefs and *nyumba kumi* leaders as well as other stakeholders during household targeting exercises.
- WFP is working directly with the Nairobi Metropolitan Service in all the 123 health facilities to rollout the nutrition expansion programme. Community based organizations are supporting WFP's mobilization efforts including Women Empowerment Link, *Afya Jijini* and *Youth Bunge*.

## 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 UN Emergency Appeal, WFP has secured 36 percent that is currently being utilized to reach the most vulnerable households.



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## Next steps

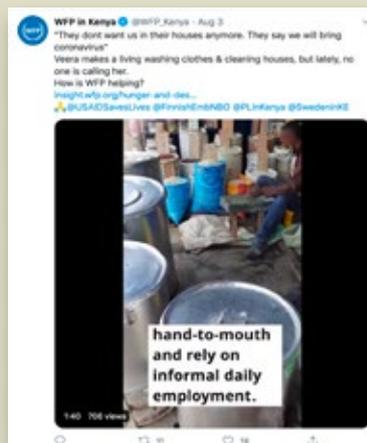
- Continuous engagement with the government and other stakeholders on the progress of the intervention and discussions on the next steps.
- Engagement at field level to address identified gaps and targeting of the remaining households for cash transfers in Nairobi.
- Engagement with Mombasa County Government on the planned expansion of urban COVID-19 response in Mombasa.
- Bolster beneficiary messaging on nutrition and protection themed information.
- Scale up mobilization approaches to increase coverage of the nutrition treatment programme.
- Data analysis and reporting for wave 4 baseline survey.
- Engagement with external evaluation team on qualitative data collection to complement the baseline survey data.
- Undertake market monitoring to assess the impact of cash transfers on the local markets or economy.
- Planned donor meeting to brief on progress of the response and funding situation.

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