

Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Kenya

Saving lives through SAFE cooking

WFP works to ensure that the food assistance provided can be consumed as safely and nutritiously as possible. While cooking may be thought of as a safe activity, in many circumstances, especially humanitarian settings, it poses serious health, safety and environmental risks. In Kenya, people are facing severe challenges related to a lack of access to cooking fuel.

FACTS Kenya

- **Rising population density and demand for firewood** in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands are accelerating the **deforestation and degradation of fragile lands**.
- **An estimated 96% of households depend on firewood or other solid fuels for cooking**, with 92% of this wood coming from non-renewable sources.
- **Meals are commonly prepared on inefficient three-stone fires** that consume great amounts of fuel and expose cooks to toxic fumes and health hazards.
- In rural areas, women and girls can spend hours travelling long distances to collect firewood in unsafe areas, risking **gender-based violence**.
- Increasing competition for dwindling natural resources can cause **tensions between displaced populations and host communities**.

Until 2015, Kenya has supported 829,253 people through the SAFE initiative. WFP has globally reached over 6 million people with SAFE in 18 countries.

The challenge

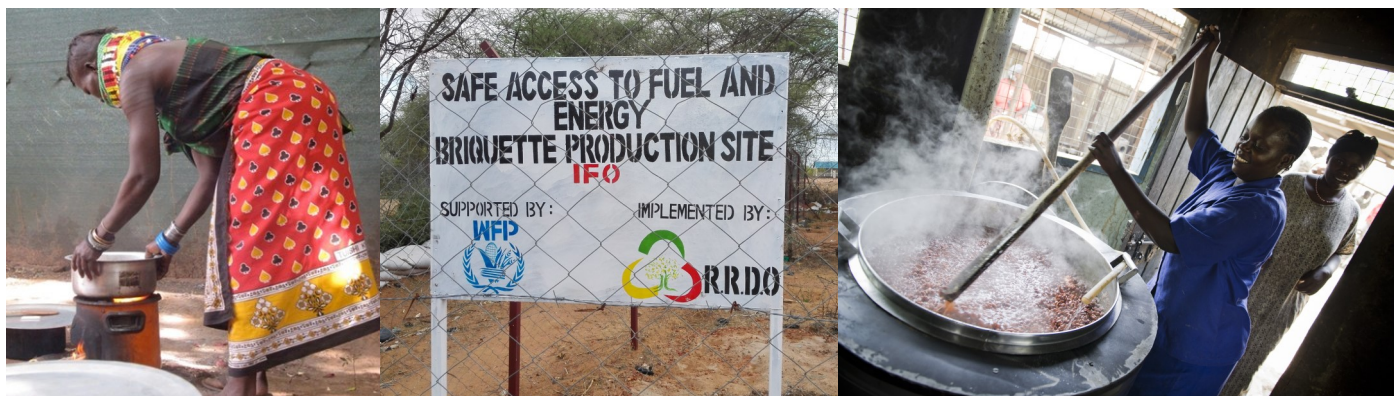
With about 80% of Kenya's land arid or semi-arid, climate change and natural disasters such as recurrent droughts are threatening the country's agricultural livelihoods and food security.

In the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps where access to firewood is limited, people can skip meals, undercook or sell food to buy or save on firewood and charcoal, jeopardizing their nutrition. These risks are exacerbated due to the unaffordability of firewood in the local markets, sending more households to collect firewood to meet their energy needs.

The country's School Meals Programme is a vital safety net reducing vulnerability to hunger and expanding access to free primary education. However, due to the unaffordability of fuel-efficient institutional stoves, many schools prepare their meals on three-stone fires. This can be a considerable burden for the pupils' families who often have to contribute firewood by buying it or collecting it themselves.



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Working on sustainable solutions

The **success of SAFE in Kenya** relies on an innovative combination of energy-related and income-generating activities addressing various challenges linked to access to cooking fuel. These activities focus on nutrition, health, gender, livelihoods and the environment.

SAFE in Kenya

SAFE in Kenya is a collaborative effort between WFP and its partners in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and surrounding host communities, as well as in WFP-assisted schools in the Nairobi, Narok, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Garissa, Wajir and Marsabit counties. Activities include:

1. **Technical training** on the harvesting and processing of the raw material for briquettes, on the rehabilitation and afforestation of harvested areas, and on occupational health and safety
2. **Production and distribution of mesquite briquettes**
3. **Distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to households and schools**
4. **Gender-based violence sensitization** through increasing awareness about risks in firewood collection



A global survey conducted by WFP in 54 countries in 2015 highlighted that two thirds of these countries had energy-related concerns affecting people's food security, nutrition or safety. WFP has cookstove activities in 27 of its country offices.

Progress to date

- **96 percent adoption rate of fuel-efficient household stoves and briquettes.**
- **Some 61 metric tonnes of briquettes has been produced.**
- The improved stoves have **reduced firewood consumption by more than 40 percent**, decreasing the financial burden for households and schools.
- **Firewood collection trips have been reduced** from an average of three trips per week to only one or two trips.
- **Communities have adopted better protection strategies towards safety concerns while gathering firewood**, for example by undertaking firewood collection in groups.

Future objectives Kenya

For the period 2017-2020, SAFE in Kenya is planning to provide fuel-efficient stoves to 450 primary schools in four arid or semi-arid counties (Tana River, Marsabit, West Pokot and Baringo) and the unplanned urban settlements of Nairobi.

Additional activities will include addressing gender and health concerns related to the lack of energy access, educating the community on environmental conservation measures, and promoting the adoption of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels in households. To achieve that, US\$2 million is actively being sought.

WFP has globally committed to support 10 million people through SAFE activities by 2020.