RESOURCE UPDATE

Refugee Support

January 2019

Highlights

Funding requirements: US$14 million

WFP requires US$14 million to cover all activities under the refugee programme until July 2019.

WFP provides unconditional food assistance to refugees through a combination of in-kind and cash-based transfers. The choice between in-kind food and cash-based transfers is based on analysis of markets, cost effectiveness and efficiency, available delivery mechanisms, protection considerations and beneficiary preferences. It is also affected by operational factors including the timing and form of donor contributions. Cash transfers also provide choice and empower beneficiaries.

Since September 2018, 40 percent of cereals in the ration have been substituted by cash, in line with the vision of WFP’s Country Strategic Plan.

Cash: The cash pipeline for refugees is fully funded until April 2019, partially funded in May and has no funding for June onwards. WFP requires US$5.6 million to cover the gap until July 2019. Introducing cash transfers to refugees in a progressive manner has allowed retail markets to gradually respond and meet the demands generated by the cash transfers. WFP would like to progressively increase the proportion of cash-based transfers to enhance effectiveness and provide more diversity in food choices as well as boost the multiplier effects of cash on the local economy.

In-kind food: WFP requires US$6 million until the end of July 2019 to complete the food assistance requirements. Food assistance to refugees will therefore remain at only 85 percent of a full food basket, as it has since the beginning of September 2018. For the in-kind portion of the general distribution ration, the cereal component will be fully available while only half rations of pulses and vegetable oil will be distributed.

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With additional resources, WFP Kenya has the option to close the current food gap for the general distributions, either through increasing the cash proportion of the total food basket or through WFP’s Global Commodity Management Facility, where cash donations can quickly be utilized to mobilize food from regional stocks and enable refugee food rations to resume at 100 percent.

**Nutrition:** The treatment of malnutrition programme requires approximately US$100,000 monthly and is fully funded for the next six months. However, programmes for prevention of malnutrition are only funded for February and part of March, and do not have any other confirmed funding.

**School meals:** WFP introduced full school meals for refugees composed of rice/pulses and vegetable oil at the beginning of term 1 in January 2019. This provides additional safety net for young learners during times of reduced general rations and is being prioritized and fully resourced for term 1 and partially for term 2 of 2019. The introduction of full school meals has been made possible thanks to funding from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and a significant in-kind donation of rice from the Republic of Korea. WFP will require approximately US$380,000 to cover part of June and all of July for the Home-Grown School Meals Programme in Kalobeyei.
Refugee General Distribution (Cash)
Six-month resource availability and shortfall

NOTE: The cash transfer pipeline for all refugees (in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei) is only secure until the end of April.

Refugee Nutrition – Treatment
Six-month resource availability and shortfall

NOTE: The pipeline for the treatment of malnutrition in refugees is secure for the next six months. Activities include treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and provision of a food supplement for targeted children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

Refugee Nutrition – Prevention
Six-month resource availability and shortfall

NOTE: The pipeline for prevention of malnutrition for refugees is seriously compromised. Activities include provision of a food supplement for targeted children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

Refugee School and Vocational Trainings
Six-month resource availability and shortfall

NOTE: Activities covered under this funding include school meal programmes, food-for-assets programmes, food for training, food for people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and institutional feeding. These activities are fully funded until May 2019.
WFP Tries Out Hydroponics in Kakuma Camps

WFP Kenya is piloting hydroponics technology in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement in the arid Turkana County.

This is a method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution. The testing of this cultivation technique, which does not use any soil, will run for six months (December 2018–May 2019). It will target families with micronutrient deficiencies, for instance the youth affected by scurvy in Kakuma, female- and child-headed homes, as well as farmers drawn from both the host and refugee communities in Kalobeyei in support of self-reliance.

In Kakuma 1, one hydroponic unit measuring 4 by 3 meters has been set up using both horizontal and vertical systems. These include capillary, net-tubes, grow-tubes, hydro mats and hydro crates.

This activity is particularly targeting the South Sudanese youth who were affected by scurvy in March 2018. Scurvy is primarily associated with a lack of vitamin C. Most of the affected youth are male, aged between 13 and 22 years who live and cook together, suggesting a common deficiency in their diet.

“I am very pleased with this project. The vegetables we have planted will give us an additional source of nutrients which will help keep off scurvy,” said 18-year-old Maru Turich Ador. “Our diet is comprised of the food from the general food distribution - commodities like sorghum and peas – and through the Bamba Chakula cash we get mainly beans and wheat flour. On rare occasions, we buy cassava leaves.”

Maru Turich Ador is one of the youth who were affected by scurvy. With guidance from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), he has learnt how to cultivate vegetables using hydroponics in his home.
Food Programme (WFP), Turkana County Government and other partners, the youth in Kakuma 1 have chosen to plant spinach, kales, a variety of traditional vegetables, capsicum, cowpeas and tomatoes.

The first harvest from this unit is expected in mid-February 2019. Encouraging the consumption of vegetables is expected to offer a longer-term solution to diet-related ailments especially among the youth who prefer high-energy but less nutritious foods.

The youth will also stand a chance of making an income from the sale of the extra vegetables. In total, WFP expects to directly reach about 800 people with the pilot scheme through additional hydroponics units.

Participating families will receive practical training on setting up different planting systems, establishing seedlings nurseries, mixing nutrient solution, watering methods and frequency as well as pest and diseases identification and control.

If successful, this project has the potential to increase agricultural activities in the camps, leading to increased access to fresh vegetables and produce at affordable prices. The current fresh produce that is consumed in Kakuma and Kalobeyei is mostly ferried from Kitale, 400 kilometres away, as well as from as far as Uganda and Tanzania.

The main challenge facing this pilot is finding a sustainable source of water for agriculture. While WFP’s hydroponics pilot is using material sourced from elsewhere in the country, the goal is to eventually identify local materials that can be used for the construction of the structures and for the ‘inert’ (the material on which the crops are planted) in a bid to keep the cost affordable and for ease of replication.

Currently, the pilot is using coco peat – husks from coconuts – pumice, and volcanic rocks as inert while the containers (tubes and crates) are manufactured elsewhere.

Overall, the pilot will help WFP and other partners understand the viability, cost and the limitations of hydroponics and the potential for large-scale replication in the most cost-efficient manner.

In Kakuma 1, the youth are already seeing different crops flourish at the hydroponic unit and have developed a very keen interest in the technology.

“This project will be very helpful to us - the youth who were affected by scurvy. We know it will help tackle the disease – and this is why we are very keen on participating,” said 22-year-old Madiny Gum, one of the youth working on the hydroponics trial in Kakuma 1.
List of Donors in Alphabetical Order
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If you would like more information, please contact:
antonio.salort-pons@wfp.org or
daniel.dyssel@wfp.org in the Kenya office.