



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP's Work in Enabling Social Protection in Kenya

Highlights of the World Food Programme's Contributions to Social Protection in a New Normal

March 2021

Enhanced Complementarity Leads to Better Coverage in Kenya

In Kenya, the urban poor have been amongst the hardest hit by the pandemic. Some 56 per cent of Kenya's urban population live in informal settlements, many of whom rely on informal day-to-day employment.

The Kenya Emergency Appeal estimated that at least 84 per cent of people living in Nairobi's informal settlements have lost all or part of their income due to COVID-19.

In response to the rising needs across the country, the Government introduced an emergency safety net to support the most vulnerable populations, while ensuring the continuity of the regular social protection programmes. The emergency response initially covered the four counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa and was subsequently rolled out nationwide. WFP seconded technical staff to the Government to assist in the design, implementation and monitoring of the emergency safety net and regular social protection programmes.

To further support the Government's efforts, WFP in parallel launched a complementary urban cash response targeting 94,500 households in the informal settlements of Nairobi and Mombasa, who had not been targeted under the Government's emergency safety net programme.

The assistance provided by WFP was aligned with the Government's response, covering half of the monthly food and nutrition needs of a family of four. In addition, WFP supplemented this assistance with fortified nutrition products distributed through the county-run health centres to targeted elderly, children and pregnant and lactating women affected by moderate acute malnutrition.

The strong collaboration on the national social protection response was possible thanks to WFP's sustained support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection's leadership and coordination of the social protection sector. A key component in this endeavour has been the establishment of the government's Single Registry for Social Protection in 2015.



INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



WFP supported the software development and was the first non-government provider to link up with the Single Registry, feeding in information from its cash programmes. In the years that followed, WFP continued to be key partner to the ministry and was closely involved in the subsequent strengthening of the platform.

The Single Registry proved invaluable during the COVID-19 response, particularly on three accounts:

- **Provision of evidence to inform policy decisions.** Because of the Single Registry, policy makers and other actors were able to compare the coverage and benefit levels of existing social protection programmes with the new needs prompted by COVID-19, thereby ensuring a more informed response.
- **Horizontal expansion.** Through its linkage to the Kenya Population Register, the Single Registry enabled the Government, WFP and other partners to verify the identities of new beneficiaries, while simultaneously confirming whether and what type of assistance beneficiaries were already receiving.
- **Vertical expansion.** The Single Registry enabled international and non-governmental actors, such as UNICEF and GiveDirectly, to identify social protection recipients in need of additional support and deliver cash top-ups accordingly.

WFP continues to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to strengthen its capacities to lead and coordinate the sector. At the time of writing, WFP is providing technical assistance to the development of the Enhanced Single Registry, which is envisaged to facilitate, bridge and coordinate the delivery of social and humanitarian assistance, including in response to shocks, by storing reliable and updated demographic and socio-economic data on actual and potential social protection beneficiaries.



To know more about WFP's work in enabling social protection around the globe check the full publication and infographic:

World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,
00148 Rome, Italy | T +39 06 65131
[**socialprotection@wfp.org**](mailto:socialprotection@wfp.org)