WFP’s Work in Enabling Social Protection in Kenya

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

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