WFP Tanzania
Country Brief
FEBRUARY 2021

Operational Context
While Tanzania is largely food secure and is oftentimes a commodity exporter, there are occasional pockets of food shortages at the regional, district and household levels. This is mainly due to dependence on rain-fed agriculture and limited use of modern farming techniques. Seventy-four percent of rural Tanzanians are engaged in agriculture while agriculture only contributes 28 percent of the country’s GDP. One in ten Tanzanians live below the poverty line, and one in three children is chronically malnourished. Diets are generally lacking diversity, and nutritious diets remain unaffordable for the majority of households. Over the last three years, Tanzania’s economy has grown at a rate of 7 percent annually, driven mainly by telecommunications, financial services, tourism, transport and construction. The discovery of large reserves of natural gas and crude oil offers promise of a new and significant revenue stream for the Tanzanian economy.

WFP has been present in Tanzania since 1963.

In Numbers

USD 13.2 million six-month funding shortfall for the Country Strategic Plan

USD 9 million six-month funding shortfall for refugee assistance

234,810 refugees and asylum seekers in camps supported with food assistance

Operational Updates
Support to refugee communities: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) met to discuss and validate the 2020 Joint Mission Assessment (JAM) report findings and recommendations. The final JAM report will be shared early March with MoHA for approval.

WFP distributed only 68 percent of the minimum required kilocalories to the refugees hosted in camps in Kigoma region because of the continuing funding shortages. Nutrition support to vulnerable populations, however, was maintained at 100 percent. WFP is advocating for additional funding to support the provision of full rations to the refugees. Voluntary repatriation for the month of February 2021 stood at 2,547.

Smallholder Farmers: In Dodoma, more than 90 percent of 19,906 farmers in the Climate Smart Agriculture Project have planted and a majority have reported good crops with few technical issues for support. Rain distribution has been good, farmers are expecting good harvest in 2021. Three smallholder farmers’ VICOBAs (village community banks), namely Chiwe, Chamae and Ilindi Youth groups have received zero interest loans in February from the National Microfinance Bank. A total of Tshs 10.4 million has been disbursed to the groups to strengthen smallholder farming activities.

In late February, Imara Tech was introduced to Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko District Executive Directors. The Directors were also accompanied to meet with farmers in six wards for field demonstrations of the multi crop threshers developed by Imara Tech. This visit provided insight on how this technology can be disseminated to other farmers in the region and its potential to reduce post-harvest losses.

Nutrition: Boresha Lishe continued to provide services at community level with special attention given to latrine slabs construction; use of local radio for social and behavioural change communication; and the planning of cooking demonstrations which will be used to develop a recipe book.

WFP participated in the nutrition sensitive and governance technical working groups of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) and in Development Partners Group nutrition meetings where updates on implementation status of the NMNAP as well as partners activities in nutrition were shared.

Photo: Ground maize flour being unloaded into storage.
WFP/Mawazo Millinga

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Operational Updates (continued)

mVAM/M&E: WFP’s mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) showed that in February, the proportion of people with poor food consumption and using coping strategies has remained stable around 10 percent and 20 percent respectively.

WFP’s VAM unit and Innovation Hub conducted a workshop on big data and food security analysis with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The objective of the workshop was to share technical expertise and to identify new ways of collaboration with NBS.

Social Protection: With funding from Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, WFP hired Oxford Policy Management (OPM) in September 2020, to provide technical support to Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF). The results of the OPM modelling analysis were presented to TASAF and the Social Protection Sector Working Group. This analysis provides a good basis for discussing how the current system could be made more shock responsive, should new resources become available and Government decide to prioritize this in future.

Supply Chain: WFP refurbished over 40 rail wagons and handed them over to Tanzania Railway Corporation in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Transport. This activity is part of WFP’s initiative to strengthen the national supply chain capacity. This recent effort is a win-win for the Government, WFP, public and the private sector as the improvements in the railroad transport system translates to reduced transit times and transport costs.

In February, WFP delivered 16,289 MT of food commodities for WFP projects in five countries including Tanzania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan. Some 2,900 MT of food commodities valued at USD 1.26 million were procured, bringing the year to date total to 12,900 MT valued at USD 3.93 million of purchases originating from Tanzania.

WFP Tanzania and Burundi conducted an assessment of major ports of Lake Tanganyika to identify gaps and opportunities for capacity enhancement which has the potential to lead to economic growth of the countries surrounding the lake.

Strategic Partnerships: WFP has partnerships across a wide spectrum of stakeholders including Government, UN agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and academia. At the national level, WFP works with line ministries and related institutions, including the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, Tanzania Railways Corporation, and the Tanzania Ports Authority, to name a few. NGOs and CBOs implement capacity building activities among farmer groups, provide social behavior change communications to beneficiaries of its nutrition interventions and carry out food distributions at the refugee camps. WFP also works with the private sector in both its programmatic work, as well under its supply chain activities.

Donors
Canada, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, One UN, United Kingdom, United States of America (in alphabetical order)