

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**



World Food Programme


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

SOCIAL PROTECTION Systems



Key Highlights

South Sudan


 Implementation of emergency cash response with digital biometric IDM system.


Djibouti

 WFP expanded coverage of the national SafetyNet, reaching additional **12,000 households** with food assistance.

Uganda

 The Government approved the design and pilot Government-to-Persons (G2P) payment mechanisms for the Senior Citizen's Grant (SAGE) in four districts in West Nile.

 Supported the development of national social protection strategies.

 Setup of data analytics for identity management improvement.

Somalia

 Delivering social protection on behalf of the Government.


Kenya

 WFP reached close to **1 million people** in 12 counties through the lean season response using the Enhanced Social Registry for targeting.

Rwanda

 WFP supported the Government in the design of a digitized cash transfer delivery system for the national public works program.

Burundi

 Support the Government in integration of refugees into the flagship national social protection programme, Merankabandi, and capacity strengthening to enhance social protection systems.



WFP enrolled over 5 million households across 24 counties into Kenya's national registry, linking it to the Enhanced Social Registry.

Overview

The situation in the region, characterised by shocks, fragility, and conflict in many countries, continued to highlight the importance of social protection as a way of meeting essential needs, responding to crisis, and building resilience to shocks. WFP enhanced partnerships with governments, donors, and international financial institutions (IFIs) to mitigate the impacts of this situation through supporting the scale-up of shock responses, refugee inclusion, systems strengthening and enhancement of policy and institutional frameworks. WFP also continued to implement complementary programmes and supported delivery of social assistance programmes on behalf of governments.

Shock Responsive Social Protection

As part of strengthening government shock responsive social protection (SRSP) systems, WFP implemented complementary programmes using national systems. In Djibouti, WFP utilised the national social registry to expand coverage of the national SafetyNet providing food assistance to an additional 12,000 households as part of the lean season response. In Kenya as part of the governments' national drought response, WFP progressively scaled up its existing lean season response, reaching close to 1 million people in 12 counties, using the Enhanced Social Registry for targeting.

WFP also supported capacity strengthening for shock responsive social protection. In Uganda, WFP supported the development of national shock responsive social protection guidelines and assessment of the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) programme.

Refugee Inclusion

The region hosts over 4 million refugees with most of them having been refugees for an average of more than 5 years. WFP is engaging across different sectors to identify ways to transform refugee assistance looking into long-term solutions including refugee inclusion in social protection systems. One notable example of supplementary initiatives by WFP included the integration of refugees into the Programme National de Solidarité Famille (PNSF) in Djibouti. In partnership with Ministère des Affaires Sociales et des Solidarités (MASS), WFP replicated the national safety net programme for 743 refugee households. These households were registered in the national social registry, with WFP providing cash transfers.

Strengthening Delivery Systems



In Uganda, WFP supported the enhancement of social protection delivery systems, including the approval by the Government to design and pilot Government-to-Persons (G2P) payment mechanisms for the Senior Citizen's Grant (SAGE) in four districts in West Nile.



In Rwanda, WFP supported the Government to design a digitized cash transfer delivery system for the national public works programme. In addition, WFP supported strengthening of the Grievance Redress Mechanism by conducting a diagnostic review, developing SoP's and new guidance for the national safety net.



WFP Kenya hosted multiple peer learning visits to showcase Kenya's delivery systems, ESR and shock responsive social protection programming.

Investments in Social Protection Digitization

WFP prioritized social protection digitization, investing in government management information systems (MISs) and social registries (SR) in Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda. This included system design, operationalization, and capacity building. In Somalia, WFP supported the registration of 2.9 million people, 14 percent of the population, into the registry. In Kenya, WFP supported in enrolling over 5 million households across 24 counties into the national registry, linking it to the Enhanced Social Registry. In Burundi, WFP helped develop a roadmap for the national social registry. In Uganda, the focus was on stakeholder engagement and a feasibility study for the proposed national social registry. These digital systems enhance the efficiency, coordination, and integration of social protection programs with humanitarian actions. In Rwanda, to facilitate data-informed emergency response, WFP supported the development of the first national digitalized household emergency needs assessment toolkit for use by the Government and partners.

Social Protection Policies

WFP supported review and formulation of national policies/plans/strategies in Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti. In Uganda WFP supported, the development of the national social protection strategy (2023-2028) and the national social protection capacity development strategy. In Kenya, WFP supported development of the revised National Social Protection Policy and the Social Protection Investment Plan which aim to establish a more comprehensive and inclusive social protection system. In Djibouti, in partnership UNDP (UN Development Programme), WFP provided support to the development of the National Social Protection Strategy 2023-2027. The strategy provides a framework for government to effectively reach 12 percent its population through non-contributory schemes.



WFP/Arete/Fredrik Lerneryd

Contact Information

RBN.reports@wfp.org

World Food Programme
Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa
wfp.org