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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



A pupil at Kalobeyei Primary School receives porridge during break time.

KENYA

THE REFUGEE PROGRAM

Kenya hosts over 580,000 refugees and asylum seekers across two camp complexes—Dadaab and Kakuma—and the Kalobeyei settlement. Dadaab is in Garissa County, while Kakuma and Kalobeyei are in Turkana County, two of Kenya’s most marginalized and underdeveloped counties, which suffer from long-standing poverty, food insecurity, elevated malnutrition rates, and limited access to social and economic opportunities. While the Government of Kenya’s Refugee Act, adopted in 2021, establishes a progressive framework to foster social-economic integration of refugees into Kenya, it remains to be implemented. Refugees continue to be restricted to their camps or settlements and have limited opportunities to work, leaving them largely dependent on humanitarian support for basic needs. Malnutrition prevalence is elevated in the camps, and the provision of food assistance, nutritional support, and access to a diversified diet remains a priority.

OUR WORK

USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) through its partner, the UN World Food Program (WFP), provides emergency food and nutrition assistance to refugees living in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camp complexes and the Kalobeyei settlement. USAID/BHA assists refugees and vulnerable members of host communities with direct food distributions, voucher programs, cash transfers, and maternal and child health support and nutrition activities, including supplementary feeding support to vulnerable populations. USAID/BHA also provides a midday meal to school-going children in the camps.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$95 million to WFP to support cash-based and in-kind food assistance to 580,000 refugees in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camp complex and the Kalobeyi settlement. USAID/BHA's assistance has proven critical in sustaining the nutritional health of children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women.

In Kalobeyi settlement, refugees receive cash rather than food and are reporting higher dietary diversity as they can choose the foods they wish to purchase. The injection of direct cash into Kalobeyi has a positive impact on both the refugees and the host communities. Markets have sprung up and the two communities in and around Kalobeyi report more collegial interaction between one another.

In Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, USAID supports the *Bamba Chakula* program. The program utilizes mobile money technologies to enable refugees to buy food items of their choice from shops in the local market. This has helped families diversify their food basket and provided refugees with dignity. *Bamba Chakula* has also increased the volume of trade and improved relations of the host communities with the refugees as well.

BUDGET: \$95 million. (FY 2022)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

United Nations World Food Program (WFP)

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa County, Kakuma refugee camps, Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement in Turkana County.

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