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Office of Food for Peace
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Food Assistance to Refugees in Kenya

Kenya hosts **560,000 refugees**, primarily from two of Africa’s most fragile countries—Somalia and South Sudan. The majority of these refugees reside in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camp complexes. Dadaab, where camps were first built in the 1990s to host Somali refugees fleeing the collapse of the Somali government, was expanded in 2011 when thousands of Somalis arrived due to severe drought and famine. The Dadaab complex currently is the largest refugee complex in the world. Kenyan national policies prevent refugees from leaving the camps or working, making them dependent on assistance.

With support from **USAID/Office of Food for Peace (FFP)**, the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides a range of services in Dadaab and Kakuma complexes, reaching over 536,000 refugees, who are among the most vulnerable and food insecure in the country.

USAID/FFP continues to support refugees in Kenya, and provided more than **\$28.8million to WFP** in Fiscal Year 2016, including **29,260 metric tons of U.S. in-kind food assistance**, to address emergency needs and reduce the strain on host communities.



Somali refugees at Dadaab camp. Photo credit: WFP

With this assistance, WFP/Kenya provides general food distribution of flour, sorghum, vegetable oil and yellow split peas for refugees, as well as supplementary nutritious foods for malnourished refugee children under five years and pregnant and lactating women. WFP also provides hot meals for refugee schoolchildren and food-for-training programs to help refugee youth and adults gain valuable vocational, literacy and numeracy skills.

In 2013, the Government of Kenya (GoK), the Federal Government of Somalia and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) formed the Tripartite Commission to work together to ensure safe, dignified and voluntary returns of Somali refugees from Kenya. The GoK recently announced plans to close the Dadaab refugee complex, citing security reasons linked to high profile attacks in Kenya by the extremist group al-Shabaab, a Somali affiliate of al-Qaeda. The GoK, however, remains committed to the need for an “orderly, humane and dignified repatriation” of refugees.

Breakdown by Nationality		
Somalis	393,277	70%
South Sudanese	87,924	16%
Ethiopians	28,756	5%
Congolese	27,457	5%
Sudanese	9,650	1.7%
Other Nationalities	13,070	2.3%

Total refugee populations based on UNHCR country data portal as of July 2016