



Kenya

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Number of refugees:
598 000

Number of internally
displaced persons:
309 000

People in need of food
assistance: **639 600**

European Commission
humanitarian aid:

2016: €18.7 million

2015: €18.9 million

Other facts

Population: 45 million

17 million Kenyans
lack access to clean
water

Over 10 000 children
die each year of
diarrhoea related
causes

Under-five mortality
(per 1 000 births): 73
or 33rd highest in the
world

Sources: UN, UNOCHA, UNHCR,
UNICEF, WHO, ECHO.

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Turkana, Kenya ©EU/ECHO/Martin Karimi

Key messages

- Close to 640 000 people in Kenya are food insecure and more than 80% of these live in the country's arid regions. Inter-clan conflict, insecurity and disease outbreaks also continue to destabilise many people's lives in addition to drought. This year's El Niño has led to torrential rains and floods causing damage and fatalities across the country.
- Kenya hosts nearly 600 000 [refugees](#)* from South Sudan, Somalia and the Great Lakes region. Citing security concerns and discontent with the pace of voluntary returns to Somalia, the Government of Kenya announced its plans to expedite the repatriation process and close Dadaab refugee camp which has been functioning for a quarter of a century and is home to over 340 000 refugees.
- Over 54 000 refugees have arrived in Kakuma camp since the conflict broke out in [South Sudan](#)* in 2013 bringing the camp's population to over 190 000 on a site initially designed for 125 000 people.
- A cholera outbreak has affected 30 out of 47 counties since December 2014, including Dadaab refugee camp. 25 counties have managed to control the outbreak, but with over 15 000 reported cases and more than 230 deaths the disease continues to take its toll.
- Over the years, the European Commission has maintained its humanitarian support for refugee operations, while at the same time focusing on building the resilience of communities and the capacity of authorities to prepare for and respond to natural hazards, disease outbreaks and other emergencies. EU aid so far disbursed in 2016 amounts to €18.7 million.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Parts of Kenya are affected by recurrent drought, floods, inter-clan clashes and disease outbreaks. More than 5 million livestock farmers in the arid and semi-arid lands of northern Kenya are in a particularly vulnerable position. This year's El Niño has also unleashed torrential rains and floods, especially in central Kenya and Nairobi, which have led to damage, displacement and fatalities.

The deteriorating security situation in northern Kenya illustrated by several severe attacks has made it more difficult for the population to access services. The safety, especially of non-local health and education personnel, is threatened and humanitarian organisations are having more difficulty reaching the areas with the highest needs.

In addition to the lingering and widespread cholera outbreak, a recent measles outbreak in Mandera county proved difficult to curb due to the movements of nomadic communities while an outbreak of yellow fever has been successfully contained. As of 9 May 2016, more than 15 000 cholera cases and 238 deaths had been reported nationally.

Kenya hosts close to 600 000 refugees in urban centres and in the two settlements of Dadaab and Kakuma. Thousands of South Sudanese refugees continue to arrive in Kakuma camp, joining previous waves of refugees from South Sudan but also from Somalia and the Great Lakes region. Over 54 000 refugees have arrived since the conflict broke out in [South Sudan](#)* in December 2013, bringing the camp's population to over 190 000. Designed for 125 000 people, the influx has led to congestion and pressure on basic services such as water supply. A new settlement area in nearby Kalobeyei has been identified to help relocate refugees and ease the congestion. UNHCR will transfer new arrivals to this site which has capacity for 60 000 people. Plans are for Kalobeyei to become a 'hybrid settlement' where refugees and community members live and work together. As of 30th April 2016, Kakuma counted a total of 2 370 unaccompanied minors and 12 200 separated children who are vulnerable to abuse and in need of specific support.

A 2013 agreement between the governments of Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR laid the basis for safe and voluntary returns to Somalia. Repatriation of refugees from Kakuma and especially Dadaab which hosts more than 340 000 mostly Somali refugees has been picking up pace. During the first four months of 2016, over 7 600 people decided to voluntarily return to Somalia and were given support to do so. However, conditions in Somalia are not yet conducive for mass returns.

Food security in the camps is fragile since the World Food Programme (WFP) has had to regularly impose ration cuts as a result of funding shortfalls. Kenya's in-camp policy signifies that refugees have limited opportunities to earn a living or obtain a level of self-reliance.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

From 2012 to 2015, the European Commission allocated over €97 million in humanitarian funding to Kenya. The focus has been on supporting refugee operations; building the resilience of populations who are vulnerable to drought and natural hazards in Kenya's arid north; improving the care for acutely malnourished children; and on emergency preparedness and response, among others to the cholera outbreak. In December 2015, the Commission announced an additional €79 million to respond to El Niño in the Greater Horn of Africa including Kenya. In 2016, the EU's humanitarian funding amounts to €18.7 million. An additional €15 million has been provided in support of the Kalobeyei project from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) continues to support basic life-saving care and services such as healthcare, [nutrition](#)*, [water](#)*, sanitation and hygiene, protection as well as [education](#)*. ECHO also supports the roll-out of [electronic food vouchers](#)* which replaces part of the refugees' in-kind food rations. Moreover, concerted efforts are made to improve the safety of children and women in the camp through community-based protection interventions.



The EU has also supported the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) for preparedness and response to small-scale disasters, UNICEF for its response to the cholera epidemic, and the Ministry of Health for the treatment of malnutrition in arid and semi-arid regions.

Given the remoteness of refugee camps and other programmes in the volatile northern regions, the EU operates the humanitarian air service [ECHO Flight](#)*, which is available for humanitarian partner organisations at no cost.

Together with the government, development and humanitarian donors have agreed to develop a response plan showing funding gaps for each county and building preparedness capacity.

Examples of EU Funded Humanitarian Projects in Kenya



First declared in January 2015, a cholera outbreak has spread to 30 of Kenya's 47 counties. The EU has supported UNICEF for the implementation of a cholera preparedness and response plan. Together with the country's health authorities UNICEF is trying to bring the outbreak under control, especially in high-risk areas. Through community engagement and awareness campaigns, families and children are informed on how to avoid contamination. Demonstrations on hand washing and other hygiene practices are organised with partners so as to change people's behaviours.

For the first time in Kenya, the World Food Programme (WFP) introduced electronic vouchers in 2015-2016 in both Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, which together are home to over 534 000 refugees. The vouchers are a digital form of cash transfers that replace part of the refugees' monthly food ration, giving them more choice as well as stimulating the local economy. The cash is sent through mobile phone and can only be used to purchase food items in selected shops. As of February 2016, WFP contracted over 900 traders and injected the equivalent of over €2.5 million into local markets.



A consortium of three NGOs led by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) is working to enhance the resilience of communities in five counties in Kenya's arid north. More specifically, the programme enhances the capacity of communities to prepare for and deal with emergencies such as drought, natural disasters and livestock disease outbreaks. The pastoralist Turkana people are given tools to prevent outbreaks and monitor the health of their livestock through a network of 'community disease reporters' who are linked up with the local veterinary services. In addition to creating better linkages between communities and local

authorities, the programme also helps health facilities to better respond to spikes in acute malnutrition.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has installed a second solar-powered borehole in a section of Dadaab refugee camp in north-eastern Kenya. The solar water system, equipped with 278 solar panels and 69.5 KW power rating is serving potable water to 16 000 refugees who can now each receive the recommended 20 litres of water per day. The project is capable of supplying an average of 280 000 litres of potable water daily in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way. ECHO is funding similar initiatives in other areas of Daadab camp and in Kakuma through its partners.

