

An Automated System for Donation and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid

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Kenya hosts refugees and asylum seekers who are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance for their basic needs. The refugees and asylum seekers hosted in Kenya are mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are mainly confined to camps and almost entirely depend on aid. In early 2021, a food and nutrition security assessment revealed that about 1.4 million people – mostly in arid and semi-arid areas were facing acute food insecurity. This is due to the low rainfall levels at the end of 2020, resulting in poor harvests and declining livestock conditions. The report further indicated that the situation may worsen during the first semester of 2021. In Kenya, drought conditions have exacerbated chronic stressors, including food insecurity and malnutrition. Through ongoing programs, the government and other non-governmental organizations are supporting efforts to strengthen health and nutrition systems in drought-affected areas in coordination with resilience initiatives to mitigate the effects of recurrent natural hazards. In addition, vulnerable populations across Kenya continue to confront several other challenges—including seasonal flooding, localized intercommunal conflict, disease outbreaks, and limited access to health and water, sanitation, and hygiene services—that contribute to sustained humanitarian needs in Kenya. Humanitarian organizations and the government have been providing relief to vulnerable groups for quite a while through physical distribution of food and other basic items. However, these organizations have faced several challenges, some of which include: lack of proper accountability by intermediaries, diversion of benefits to unintended purposes by those tasked with distributing the relief among other challenges. These problems are mainly as a result of the weak systems put in place during this process. The aim of this project is to come up with an IT based solution that facilitates the collection and distribution of relief aid to the vulnerable communities. The methodology used in this project is design thinking. This methodology was chosen since it helps empathize with all the stakeholders so that they can air the main challenges that are facing the collection and distribution of relief aid. It also helps in coming up with a feasible solution to the challenges that are aired by the stakeholders.