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Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

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Dalma, Kenya

Multidimensional Poverty Index Profile



Dalma and her husband, Jomo, live in Lunga Lunga slum, after leaving their village in central Kenya in search of a better life. She is 30 years old and has seven children. She would have had eight children, but one of them passed away a few years ago at 4 months of age.

Dalma's husband can only work when there are jobs available in the surrounding industry park. Unfortunately this isn't that often. Dalma has to stay at home to take care of the children, so she can't work. Despite this, she tries to earn a little from other households by delivering water for them. The overall household income is inadequate to support the family's needs. Her six year old daughter should already be enrolled in preschool but they cannot afford the registration fee of 300 Ksh (USD 9.87).

On top of this, the family sometimes has to go without meals and so other community members have to help. "I am

worried about not being able to feed my kids," she says. On a typical day, Dalma gets up at 5.30am and prepares breakfast for the family and gets her daughters ready for school, which is not far from their home. Although her family is not malnourished, they are food insecure, sometimes having to skip meals because of lack of food.

She encourages her children to go to school because she believes that the children would be depressed if they had to just stay at home and because the school has a feeding programme that will provide them with meals sometimes. Dalma hopes that in the future her family will be able to renovate their current old-iron sheeted house and enlarge it. In the meantime she hopes to find well wishers who will fund her girls to attend secondary school. She believes this will help them have a better future. Dalma says she feels hopeful when there is no sickness in the home. The family is close knit which she is grateful for.





Dalma's household is poor according to both the local income poverty measure and the MPI. The shaded boxes of the figure below show the deprivations that her household faces.

