



WFP Kenya Country Brief

Highlights

- The 2017 short rains, typically lasting from October to December, came late and finished early in most parts of Kenya.
- WFP began registering and providing relief assistance to families with malnourished children and women in four counties.
- WFP is providing technical and financial assistance to counties as they prepare their next five-year plans.
- Results from the nutrition survey in Kakuma and Kalobeyi show an improvement in the nutrition status.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200680 (July 2014 – Jun 2018)	129 m	92.7 m (72%)	-

*January-June 2018

Food assistance for refugees	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200737 (Apr 2015-Mar 2018)	376.7 m	251.7 m (67%)	13.1 m (27%)

*January – June 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200737

The main goal of the Country Programme (CP) is to develop national capacity in addressing long-term hunger and nutrition issues in Kenya. It complements the resilience Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200736 and prioritises capacity strengthening for improved emergency preparedness and response; and supporting national social protection and safety net systems, including school meals. This is achieved through: (i) strengthening county governments' capacity to prepare, analyse and respond to shocks and accelerating government leadership and coordination of safety nets; (ii) supporting the national school meals programme; (iii) enhancing market access for smallholder farmers; and (iv) supporting the National Nutrition Action Plan.

Through this PRRO, WFP assists eligible refugees living in camps in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyi. Assistance is mainly through general distributions: a hybrid of in-kind food and restricted cash transfers. Refugees first pass through a biometric fingerprinting system to check their eligibility before collecting in-kind food and cash. This system yields efficiency gains and significantly enhances accountability.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition is provided to children and mothers. To prevent acute malnutrition, complementary specialised foods are given to all children 6-23 months and pregnant women or mothers with young children. Schoolchildren receive porridge. WFP also provides support to the host community through asset-creation activities and food-for-training (the latter is also available for refugees).

Bridging Relief and Resilience in the Arid and Semi-arid Lands	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200736 (May 2015 – Apr 2018)	295 m	218.8 m (74%)	21.4 m (28%)

*January-June 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200736

Through this operation, WFP addresses food and nutrition security in the arid and semi-arid lands as county governments enhance their capacity to prevent and respond to sudden and slow-onset disasters. It focuses on: (i) harmonising relief and nutrition support with emerging government safety nets; (ii) strengthening productive assets to improve food security and enhance resilience to climate-related shocks; and (iii) enhancing partnerships to scale and ensure the sustainability of assets. Households receive in-kind or cash transfers.

In Numbers

1.1 million people reached by WFP in December

410,000 refugees assisted

USD 120 is the amount each family will receive as protection rations for three months

7,000 water tanks purchased for use by families in Kalobeyi

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/ Apollinaris Wekesa
Caption: Beneficiaries being registered to receive cash transfers in Laisamis, Marsabit C



December 2017

Operational Updates

The Kenya Meteorological Service reported that rainfall analysis of the October-December 2017 season show that the performance was generally poor in the southeast and northeast, and in parts of south Nyanza and central Rift Valley. There was early cessation in some areas and below-average rainfall in others. Farmers in the southeast may have another poor harvest, which will affect food security and recovery from the three previous poor seasons.

WFP began registering and providing relief food assistance as "protection rations" for families of children and women identified with acute malnutrition in Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir. Of the planned 73,000 households (425,000 beneficiaries), 45,700 were registered and 13,000 of them had redeemed their first monthly entitlement of KES 4,000 by the end of December. Registration and provision of "scratch cards" continued into January; the cards allow cash to be redeemed via mobile phones or from a wide network of agents.

The external consultants commissioned by WFP to review the capacity strengthening activities in Kenya shared their preliminary findings. They found evidence of solid foundations laid in social protection, county capacity strengthening and transition of asset-creation activities to government ownership. The review made recommendations for adjusting the approach to ensure the investments made were sustainable.

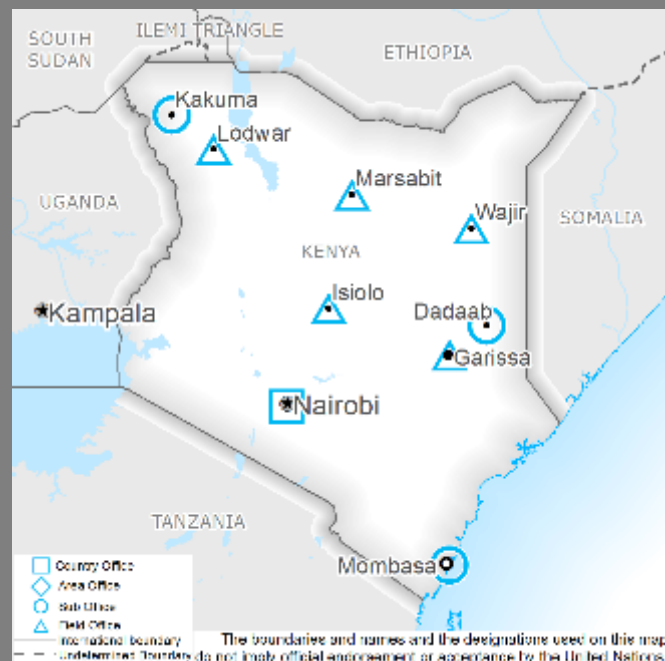
WFP supported Turkana County to develop a workplan on how to strengthen the county's capacity to provide meals to children in nursery schools. In addition, WFP and the Ministry of Education trained 107 education officers on how to manage the national school meals programme in primary schools. Training topics included programme management, food procurement procedures, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, food quality, nutrition and hygiene promotion.

WFP purchased 7,000 water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 litres each to support rooftop rainwater harvesting for kitchen gardens for refugees and host communities in Kalobeyei in Turkana County. WFP also purchased farm tools, survey equipment and shade nets. The latter will provide conducive temperature for intensive farming of high-value crops in the hot environment.

UNHCR and partners conducted a nutrition survey in Kakuma and Kalobeyei in November 2017. Preliminary reports indicate that acute malnutrition and stunting reduced in both camps compared to 2016. Anemia reduced in Kalobeyei but slightly increased in Kakuma. Dietary diversity and food availability were better in Kalobeyei than in Kakuma; the latter had ration cuts introduced in October 2017.

WFP is drafting its Country Strategic Plan for Kenya (2018-2023) for approval in the June Executive Board. The plan is designed to address some of the key hunger issues identified by the ongoing Zero Hunger Strategic Review. WFP and partners will work to ensure that Kenyans and refugees have access to more affordable and nutritious food, food systems are sustainable and resilient to climatic shocks, and national institutions have capacity to assist the food insecure.

Country Background & Strategy



Kenya has diverse natural resources and highly varied terrain. The country's highlands comprise one of the most successful farming areas in Africa, but 80 percent of Kenya is either arid or semi-arid. Agriculture remains the main economic driver but is highly dependent on seasonal rainfall. Value chains tend to be long, inefficient and unresponsive to farmers' needs.

In 2014, the World Bank reclassified Kenya's economy as lower-middle income. However, poverty, food insecurity, under-nutrition and income inequality remain high; 46 percent of Kenyans live below the national poverty line. The most severe conditions exist in the arid north, which is underdeveloped, drought-prone and often disrupted by local conflicts. There is high undernourishment with global acute malnutrition among children aged 6 - 59 months often exceeding the "critical" threshold of 15 percent. Stunting is above 25 percent in some counties. Net enrolment in primary education arid counties is still below 50 percent. The 2010 Constitution devolved governance to county level, which is an attempt to address these developmental issues. Kenya hosts thousands of refugees in camps located in Garissa and Turkana counties.

WFP continues its shift from service delivery to country capacity development. The focus is on: (i) helping drought-prone communities to better withstand future shocks; and (ii) strengthening the capacity of national institutions to prepare and implement programmes. Smallholder farmers are assisted to improve their capacity to engage in formal agribusiness. Support to refugees and school children is sustained, and innovative solutions to tackle poverty, hunger and malnutrition explored. Strategic partnerships are being consolidated and expanded. Support is through in-kind and cash-based transfers, and technical assistance.

WFP has been present in Kenya since 1980.

Population: 46 **million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2016 Human Development Index: **146 out of 188**

Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**