



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief August 2018



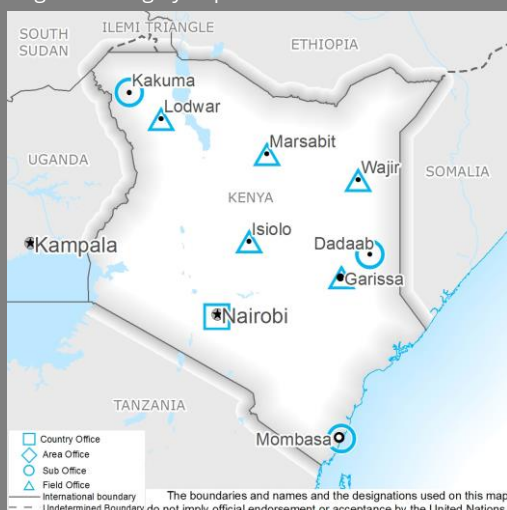
Operational Context

Kenya is transforming rapidly, and the country achieved lower-middle-income status in 2014. Social and economic inequalities persist, with significant challenges to food and nutrition security driven by rapid population growth, climate change, stagnating agricultural production, gender inequalities and underperforming food systems. Agriculture remains the main economic driver, although 80 percent of the land is either arid or semi-arid.

Over one third of Kenyans live below the 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 in the arid counties is still below 50 percent.

Opportunities to address these challenges include increased government investments in agriculture and the social sectors, the devolution of service delivery to counties, implementation of new technologies and an inclusive and equitable policy base.

Kenya hosts a large population of refugees, mainly in camps located in Garissa and Turkana counties. Unable to work or move freely, refugees are highly dependent on international assistance.



Population: **48.5 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **142 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

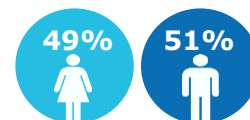
In Numbers

6,033 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 34.4 m six months (September 2018 – February 2019) net funding requirements

0.4 m people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

The findings of the long rains assessment conducted by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, and supported by WFP and partners, were presented on 31 August 2018. The assessment revealed that the food security and nutrition situation has significantly improved in all areas following very favourable rains. However, the lingering effects of consecutive poor seasons in 2016/17 and persistent underlying vulnerabilities mean that there are still 700,000 people across the arid counties that require support to meet their food needs. Acute malnutrition remains above critical thresholds in some of the northern counties.

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), UNDP and WFP provided technical and financial support to the County Government of Marsabit in the multi-hazard scenario contingency planning. Consequently, the county government has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on activation of response plans and an understanding of when to scale up or scale down a response. These SOPs also clarified roles and responsibilities for each of the stakeholders to facilitate better coordination during emergencies.

WFP met with governors from Garissa and Turkana counties to promote sustainable food systems and align WFP Kenya's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023) with the County Integrated Development plans (2018-2022). The governors assured WFP of political goodwill and partnership to promote community resilience and address root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in their respective counties, which are among the worst affected in Kenya.

In August, WFP provided food assistance to 392,500 refugees and asylum seekers in Dadaab, Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Moyale. Additionally, WFP, along with other potential partners, discussed the UK's Department for International Development proposed five-year refugee assistance programme. The focus will be to ensure increased access to basic shared services and livelihood opportunities for both refugees and host communities to promote more equitable and socially cohesive societies.

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Martin Karimi
Caption: Samuel Ekeru Lokware, one of the WFP-supported farmers in Moruese irrigation scheme, Turkana County, Kenya.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97 m	62.5 m	34.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and asylum seekers living in camps and settlements and populations affected by natural and human-caused disasters have access to adequate food to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 1 focuses on crisis response, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 1 – “Everyone has access to food” – and SDG target 2.1 and contributes to SDGs 1 and 3.

Activities:

- Activity 1: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees, along with Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and support for self-reliance activities in camps and settlement areas.
- Activity 2: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities – complemented by SBCC – to vulnerable Kenyan populations in order to meet acute food needs.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted smallholder producers and food-insecure, vulnerable populations benefit from more sustainable, inclusive food systems and increased resilience to climate shocks enabling them to meet their food and nutrition needs by 2023.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 2 focuses on resilience, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 4 and SDG target 2.4 and contributes to the achievement of SDGs 1, 3, 5, 9 and 10.

Activities:

- Activity 3: Create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households.
- Activity 4: Facilitate access to markets and provide technical expertise in supply chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 3: National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 3 focuses on root causes, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 5 – “Capacity strengthening” – and SDG target 17.9 and contributes to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10.

Activities:

- Activity 5: Engage in strengthening the capacities of national and county institutions in the areas of disaster risk management, food assistance programmes, nutrition services and social safety nets.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government, humanitarian and development partners in Kenya have access to and benefit from effective and cost-efficient logistics services, including air transport, common coordination platforms and improved commodity supply chains, when needed.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.

Activities:

- Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners.
- Activity 7: Provide health supply chain services for partners.

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, WFP released a fourth cycle of cash transfers (*Chakula kwa Jamii*) to 13,635 households in Tana River County. 80 percent of the immediate recipients were women, to 9,297 households (77 percent of the immediate recipients were women) in Taita Taveta County. Prior to this, the Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands informed the communities about the transfers. This was the final tranche of funds allocated by the government to meet acute food security needs in 2017, for which WFP provided technical assistance.

WFP and NDMA prepared and validated guidelines to support county governments to undertake community participatory planning and targeting exercises, to identify livelihoods activities that would ensure food systems become sustainable.

Schools opened for term three on 27 August 2018. All schools have adequate food commodities to last the entire term. WFP fully handed over the school meals programme to the government on 1 July 2018 but is still enhancing accountability by supporting schools in ensuring the proper utilization of food.

Monitoring

WFP's complaints and feedback mechanism through its toll-free helpline registered 237 calls in August of which 50 per cent were from women. Most calls were enquiries related to the cash transfer programmes. 98 per cent of the cases were resolved and closed within two weeks.

WFP accompanied the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on a mission to Kakuma Refugee Camp that focused on restricted cash-based transfers (*beneficiaries' choice regarding the use of the transfer is limited*). ECHO advocated for WFP to further explore possibilities of moving to unrestricted cash (*beneficiaries have no programmed limitations on how they use the transfer*). UNHCR has effectively been using unrestricted cash transfers for the construction of shelters in Kalobeyei, which provides a platform for expansion for other agencies.

Challenges

Refugees continued to receive reduced rations due to funding shortfalls. With the current funding outlook, WFP will be able to provide approximately 85 percent of the overall ration required for refugees until end of January 2019. However, this falls short of meeting micronutrient requirements as the blended food (SuperCereal) component is not available. The ration cuts will compromise the nutrition and micronutrient status of the refugees. The current funding for cash transfers will only cover requirements until mid-October 2018, unless additional funding is received.

Donors

Australia, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Private Donors, Russia, Switzerland, USA