



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief September 2018



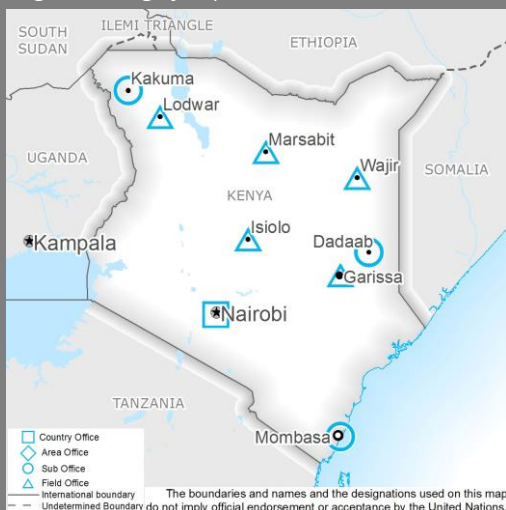
Operational Context

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**

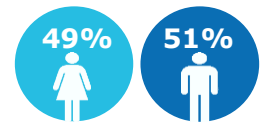
In Numbers

4,505 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$17 m six months (October 2018–March 2019) net funding requirements

265 800 people assisted in September 2018



Operational Updates

- According to the latest food security outlook released by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and WFP, above average October-December short rains are expected. Staple food prices are expected to be below those in the same period last year and the five-year average due to increased crop production. However, high levels of acute malnutrition will be sustained from September 2018 to January 2019, due to ongoing challenges such as poor child feeding practices and limited access to health care facilities.
- On 27-28 September 2018, WFP, supported by the Council of Governors, hosted a high-level consultation with county governors, deputy county governors and county executives and officers from 14 arid and semi-arid counties. These counties will be supported as part of WFP's five-year strategy. The objective of the meeting was to present the approved Country Strategic Plan for WFP in Kenya and deliberate on modalities to ensure its successful implementation at the county level. The meeting yielded a set of commitments and principles for engagement between WFP and the county governments. These commitments will aid the formulation of agreements and plan of operations between the parties.
- Preliminary results of a nutrition survey conducted in Dadaab refugee camps by UNHCR and WFP from 20 August to 8 September 2018 showed that the prevalence of malnutrition reduced from 9.7 percent to 8 percent. Promotion of optimal maternal, infant and young child nutrition remains a key recommendation to further improve the nutrition outcomes for children in the camp.
- WFP closed operations in two make-shift camps in Moyale that had been established to meet the needs of asylum seekers fleeing political unrest in Ethiopia. Initially, 10,500 asylum seekers were hosted at the camps in March 2018, but the number reduced gradually to below 3,000. UNHCR relocated 300 asylum seekers to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya's northwest, while the rest opted to return home to Ethiopia.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Martin Karimi
Caption: Health workers in a Kakuma health centre check a child for malnutrition. As a result of a shortage of commodities, WFP has scaled down support to children and women under the malnutrition prevention programme.

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	17 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.

- WFP funded and participated in a joint national technical committee workshop aimed at reviewing, discussing and adopting draft standards for blended flour. This is part of the **Kenya National Food Fortification Programme**, which seeks to combat malnutrition through adding vitamins and minerals to maize flour, edible oils and salt. The committee was composed of 38 experts working closely with Kenya Bureau of Standards and other key stakeholders. The draft standards will be presented to the Standards Approval Committee for approval.
- About 200 farmers in Meru and Tharaka Nithi will receive **crop loss insurance pay-outs** after the long rains season destroyed 80–100 percent of their crops. This was made possible through the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMa), a public-private sector consortium of eight agri-focused organizations formed to make markets work better for farmers, which WFP is part of. Crop loss insurance is part of the support offered through the input loans facilitated by FtMA as part of their support to farmers. Heritage Insurance and ACRE Africa agreed to cover all the losses incurred by farmers in Meru, after inspectors established that the damage to the crops was from the flooding. Plans are underway to compensate 500 farmers in Nyanza, who were also affected by the flooding once deliberations are completed.
- In early 2018, WFP’s **Supply Optimization through Logistics, Visibility and Evolution (SOLVE) initiative** started in Kenya. This is a multi-stakeholder partnership funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress toward the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) goal. The initiative aims to increase access to modern contraceptives to an additional 120 million women and girls. Strong health supply chains are critical to achieving the FP2020 goal, by ensuring the sustainable availability of health products across public and private health facilities. In Kenya, WFP/SOLVE has been partnering with the Ministry of Health, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority, selected county governments and other health partners to focus on sustainable availability of family planning products, and supply chain process maturity and performance. Additionally, as part of county engagement and provision of technical assistance, the SOLVE team visited Kajiado and Makueni counties to discuss their commitments and progress associated with their supply chain maturity.
- WFP supported the formulation of an **early childhood development education policy** for Turkana County. The policy provides guidance on implementation of school meals for early childhood development education centres from procurement to utilization. A draft policy and a training package will guide implementation of the programme. The policy document is in response to a request by Turkana County, which has been providing meals to children in early childhood development education centres without any written policy document.



Schools in Baringo, Turkana, and West Pokot are introducing locally grown foods into the lunch menu to increase diversity and nutrition as well as promote agriculture and local trade. Photo: WFP/ William Orlele

- WFP carried out **after action review** on 12-14 September 2018 for two activities implemented at the height of the 2017 drought. These are: provision of protection rations for children found with acute malnutrition and prevention of acute malnutrition. The meeting was attended by representatives from the national and county governments, implementing partners and donors. The objective was to review the programmes' successes, challenges and lessons learnt to inform future programming.
- WFP conducted **joint missions with the government** to monitor the fourth cycle of disbursements of the government-led cash transfer programme (dubbed *Chakula Kwa Jamii*) in Tana River and Taita Taveta. Approximately 22,700 households were reached by the government in the two counties as part of the targeted response, which was prompted by the effects of flooding and subsequent displacement of vulnerable populations.

Monitoring

- In September 2018, WFP's complaints and feedback mechanism registered 2,395 cases, 614 through the helpline and 1,781 through helpdesk calls, with 50 percent of the calls being from women. Most of the calls were related to the cash transfer programmes. Some 98 percent of the cases were resolved and closed within two weeks. Routine monitoring of distribution activities continued in the refugee camps. However, no monitoring was conducted for resilient livelihoods and market support activities as WFP and the government are using the first months of the County Strategic Plan to consult and plan with the communities.

Challenges

- Exceedingly high amounts of rainfall damaged most of the crops while in the fields in Turkana County, where WFP had planned to procure sorghum and cow peas from smallholder farmers. As such, there was a delay in fulfilling these contract orders.
- WFP requires **US\$21 million** to fund all its activities until March 2019 under the new Country Strategic Plan. As of September 2018, WFP will be able to provide 85 percent of the overall ration required for refugees until end of January 2019. The pipeline for nutrition is heavily underfunded for the next six months and additional funding is needed to provide urgent nutrition support to children and pregnant and lactating mothers in refugee camps, settlements, and areas affected by food insecurity.

Donors

Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Korea, Norway, OPID, Private Donors, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, UN CERF, USA, Zambia

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