



WFP Kenya Country Brief, March 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



In Numbers

6,845mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 22.5 m six months (April–September 2019) net funding requirements

627,000 people assisted in March 2019



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.

Operational Updates

WFP finalized construction of a 100,000m³ water dam for livestock, a 30,000m³ water pan for horticulture, and spate irrigation structures to divert floodwaters to 50 hectares of land in Kalobeyei was finalized. This will contribute to improved reliability of water supply for refugees and host community members, as the structures will facilitate water harvesting during the anticipated long rains set to commence mid-April. It is expected that they will address challenges related to water scarcity and facilitate increased agricultural production for both refugee and host populations.

WFP handed over vehicles, computers and other equipment from the emergency cash transfer programme *Chakula kwa Jami* to the Department for Special Programmes to augment the capacity of the Government in emergency preparedness and response through cash transfers. Beneficiary data has also been prepared to link to the national Single Registry. *Chakula kwa Jamii* was a government-funded programme, whereby WFP - on request from the Government - provided technical support during the implementation of the emergency cash transfer programme in response to the 2017 drought emergency.

WFP handed over 240 energy saving stoves and 12 computers to Turkana County Early Childhood Development Education Programme. This support will assist the county to manage the programme and improve transition rates to primary schools. WFP will continue to support the management of the early childhood development education centres in the county and broaden capacity strengthening support to the county as outlined in a new memorandum of understanding, to be signed with the county government in April 2019.

WFP distributed food assistance in Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir counties, and cash transfers in Isiolo County as part of resilient livelihoods programming. Distribution of food in Garissa and Mandera counties, and cash to Baringo and Samburu counties will be finalized in April.

The nutrition sector, of which WFP is a part of, is currently undertaking a mass screening of malnutrition levels in the thirteen priority arid and semi-arid counties affected by the drought to facilitate early identification and referral of treatment for children and pregnant and nursing mothers. The mass screening will reveal the severity of the nutrition situation and facilitate decision making on programming.



Population: 48.5 million

2017 Human Development Index: 142 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 26% of children between 6 and 59 months

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	22.5 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.

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The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) finalized its first round of trade fairs attended by 11,500 farmers. A total of USD 53,600 in sales was realized and 500 farmers linked with input loans worth USD 50,000 for the Western region of Kenya. Currently FtMA is setting up sorghum demonstration plots in collaboration with Input suppliers and the Ministry of Agriculture.

In partnership with Makueni County, WFP organized a ‘write shop’ targeting county technical officers from the ministries of agriculture, health, education, youth, gender and sports, as well as officers from the National AIDS & STI Programme (NASCO) at the national level. The aim was to develop the nutrition and HIV facilitators guide for the youth empowerment programmes. This is geared towards achieving youth-HIV sensitive programming as a key priority in the HIV response.

WFP trained 47 farmer organizations in Baringo and West Pokot counties in post-harvest handling and storage, collective marketing, food safety and quality, bidding and contracting to supply public institutional markets such as schools and the national Home-Grown School Meals Programme. Four market linkage forums were held in these two counties to bring institutional buyers and smallholder farmers and small and medium traders together to foster matching between demand and supply of local foods.

Monitoring

WFP’s complaints and feedback mechanism registered 1,099 cases in March 2019. Of these, 688 cases were reported through the helpline, 407 cases through the helpdesks and the remainder through email and text messages. Some 47 percent of the cases were from female beneficiaries. Some 54 percent of the cases were on sustainable food systems programmes where beneficiaries called to enquire on cash and in-kind transfers. The rest of the enquiries were on the *Bamba Chakula* programme SIM card replacement, PIN requests and voucher enquiries and general enquiries on access to food or cash assistance and helpline services. Three-quarters of the cases recorded were closed within two weeks.

In March, beneficiary registration for the sustainable food systems programme was completed in Garissa, Tana River and Turkana counties.

Challenges

The number of vulnerable people suffering from moderate acute malnutrition has been increasing. WFP requires USD 12.7 million to provide nutrition support to approximately 140,000 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers who need specialised nutritious food for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition from May to October 2019. WFP would require an additional USD 76 million to provide a protection transfer to all members of families with children aged 6-59 months and nursing women suffering from acute malnutrition in eight targeted arid counties from May to October 2019.

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Korea, Poland, Private Sector, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations and United States of America