



# WFP Kenya

## Country Brief, May 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **142 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

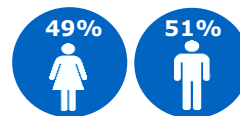
### In Numbers

**7,121mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 2.5 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 12 m** six months (June–November 2019) net funding requirements

**715,000 people assisted** in May 2019



### Operational Updates

- Following the poor performance of the 2019 long rains season, WFP provided financial and technical support for a mid-season assessment carried out by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group led by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). The results of the assessment confirmed that the food security situation has declined due to the cumulative effect of the below-average 2018 short rains and erratic 2019 long rains. Increased food prices, water stress, reduced milk production and malnutrition are some of the challenges being experienced in the worst affected areas.
- Through the Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, WFP is providing technical and financial support to the State Department for Devolution to develop a national relief policy that will provide a framework for food assistance response during emergencies. Additionally, WFP will support NDMA to carry out an after-action review of the 2017 drought response to inform drought interventions and review the livelihood zone mapping to support accurate analysis and presentation of food and nutrition assessments.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS and STI Control Programme and county nutrition officers from Homabay, Kiambu, Kilifi, Makueni and Turkana, WFP supported the review of the national nutrition and HIV guidelines to integrate recommendations from the antiretroviral therapy guidelines developed in 2018.
- WFP coordinated an assessment, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-McGovern Dole, of the Government's capacity to implement the National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy (2017-2022). This was conducted by a national team comprised of the Council of Governors, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and WFP staff. The recommendations will inform the areas for future capacity strengthening interventions by the government and partners, including WFP. The final report is expected in July 2019.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
198 m	103.2m	12 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.

**Contact Info :** Lara Fossi (WFP.Kenya@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Annalisa Conte

**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/Kenya](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Kenya)

- The Farm to Market alliance conducted an interactive voice recording (IVR) campaign to educate farmers on how to identify and control the Fall Army Worm infestation in parts of the country. The campaign targeted farmers in the worst hit areas in Homabay, Kisumu and Siaya counties successfully reaching over 1,000 farmers. Additionally, bulk SMS alerts were sent to over 15,000 farmers in Western and Eastern regions of Kenya. This is the first time mobile technology was utilized in reaching and training farmers as part of a new strategy to reach farmers using digital technology.
- The first International food safety conference was convened by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and provided an opportunity for WFP to showcase its contribution to food safety and quality in Kenya. It also allowed WFP to engage with key stakeholders on emerging innovations, best practices and initiatives to enhance consumption of safe and good quality food. Public health officers from various counties supported by WFP were present to showcase WFP’s investments.

## Monitoring

- WFP’s complaints and feedback mechanism registered 1,067 cases: 337 through the helpline, 729 through the helpdesks and the rest through email. Majority of the cases were related to the cash disbursements to the refugee operations and the Kenyan population affected by the drought. Over 60 percent of the cases reported were resolved during the reporting period.
- WFP has completed beneficiary targeting in all the nine priority counties for resilient livelihoods investments. Monthly food assistance transfers are being provided to beneficiaries enrolled in the programme. The current seasonal situation has extended the duration of the typical lean period; therefore, WFP is providing food assistance for longer than planned.

## Challenges

- In response to the deteriorating nutrition situation and rising concerns over national nutrition outreach and treatment capacities, WFP requires US\$ 6.5 million to continue to treat moderate acute malnutrition in health facilities and outreach centres. This includes provision of specialized nutritious foods to children aged 6-59 and pregnant and nursing women in the worst affected areas.
- An additional US\$ 40-60 million will be required to provide nutrition assistance should the nutrition status deteriorate further. Additionally, protection rations are required to prevent vulnerable, food insecure families from sharing the specialised nutritious food given to treat malnourished children.

## Donors

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