Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy is transforming rapidly. However, social and economic inequalities persist and more than one third of Kenyans live below the poverty line. Agriculture remains the main economic driver, although 80 percent of the land is either arid or semi-arid. Rapid population growth, climate change, stagnating agricultural production, gender inequalities and underperforming food systems are the most significant challenges to food and nutrition security. The most severe living conditions exist in the arid north, which is underdeveloped, drought prone and affected by frequent tribal conflicts. The prevalence of wasting among children aged 6-59 months often exceeds 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 in 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.

In Numbers

**5,357 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US$ 2.85 m** cash-based transfers made

**US$ 100 m** six months (October 2019–March 2020) net funding requirements

**616,000 people assisted** in September 2019

Operational Updates

WFP took part in a high-level stakeholder consultation on the Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan in Nairobi. The plan puts the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan into practice in Garissa. The plan aims to address the socio-economic needs of both refugee and host communities in a sustainable manner. WFP is well positioned to the realisation of this and will leverage on experience from Kalobeyei as well as resilience building initiatives in the county.

WFP completed the first cycle of disbursements of unrestricted cash to refugees using a mobile money platform to more than 1,500 households in ‘village 2’ in Kalobeyei settlement. This complements the unrestricted cash provided through the bank disbursement model that started in June. WFP plans to scale up unrestricted cash transfers in Kalobeyei, setting the foundation for an approach which looks at the basic needs of beneficiaries. So far, about 2,500 households have benefited from this approach.

With support from USDA, WFP provided technical assistance to the County Government of Baringo to review, validate and finalize the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) policy and feeding implementation guidelines. The policy and feeding guidelines will support the county government in ensuring fund allocation to the programme and effective management of the ECDE meals programme in the county. WFP will continue to provide ECDE policy support to Marsabit County Government in October 2019.

WFP participated in the Second Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) Conference, hosted by the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs and County Government of Kajiado in Amboseli from 10 – 12 September. The workshop brought together 29 county governors with a view to deliberate on enhancing opportunities and areas of strategic partnership to achieve economic empowerment in the ASALs. WFP staff participated in panels on food and nutrition security and partnership and coordination, as well as displaying a booth jointly with other Rome-Based Agencies. While resolutions of the Conference are still being considered, a key outcome will be further work on establishing a partnership and coordination framework for the ASALs, which WFP is supporting through a developing partnership with the State Department.

WFP participated in the national dialogue platform on early warning early action from 24-25 September 2019. WFP Country Director delivered opening remarks alongside Dr. Abbas-KRC Secretary General, Col. (ret) Owino-NDOC Director and Mr. Mwangi- Dep. Director Meteorological Services. WFP expressed its support for forecast-based financing to reduce losses and damages in the livelihoods of people who are faced with increasing climate extremes. WFP continues working with the Government as part of the technical working group to establish forecast-based financing in Kenya.
WFP attended the launch of the Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Kenya Country Programme implementation plan, hosted by NDMA on Thursday 26 September. The EDE had been approved by the IGAD Summit in Nairobi earlier in September. Coordination structures and lessons learned were reviewed with pillars refining their priority areas of work, including a planned mid-term review of the EDE.

WFP is carrying out feasibility studies and operational preparatory work ahead of the roll out of the R4 micro-insurance programme in Makueni an Taita Taveta Counties in 2020. WFP is working with Kenya Cereals Enhancement Programme (KCEP-CRAL), Rome-based Agencies and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the agricultural insurance models are complimentary and draw on WFP’s lessons learnt through implementation of R4 micro-insurance in Kitui county.

Following the approval of the Kenya proposal to the Joint SDG Fund, WFP is leading the preparation of the joint programme document with the other participating UN agencies, namely FAO, ILO and UNICEF. The Joint Programme will support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to develop a roadmap for the realization of Universal Social Protection in Kenya in the next two years.

WFP together with the Ministry of Education trained 510 (450M, 60F) school level managers and 50 (39m,11F) government officials from the ministries of Education, Health and Agriculture in Marsabit county. These training will greatly strengthen management and coordination of the national School Meals Programme at all levels.

**Monitoring**

WFP’s complaints and feedback mechanism registered 997 cases; 421 through the helpline, 572 through the help desks and the rest through SMS and email. Of all the cases reported, 36 percent were from women. Majority of the cases were related to WFP’s refugee assistance (91 percent), while eight percent related to the food systems activities and one percent to other activities. Fifty-four percent of cases were resolved within two weeks. Majority of the issues were related to SIM card related challenges (for refugee assistance beneficiaries) and missed cash disbursements due to incomplete beneficiary details (for the resilient livelihoods beneficiaries). WFP is working with the telecommunications service provider to resolve the SIM card related issues, and with communities to ensure that beneficiaries details are updated and accurate.

**Challenges**

Over three million people in Kenya are projected to be severely food insecure by October 2019 due to drought conditions. The failure of consecutive rainfall seasons has hampered recovery and contributed to high levels of acute malnutrition.

WFP requires **US$2.9 million** to provide nutrition support to 107,000 children aged 6-59 months and 39,000 pregnant and nursing mothers for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in nine of the worst affected arid counties up to March 2020.

**Donors**

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