



WFP Kenya Country Brief

January 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



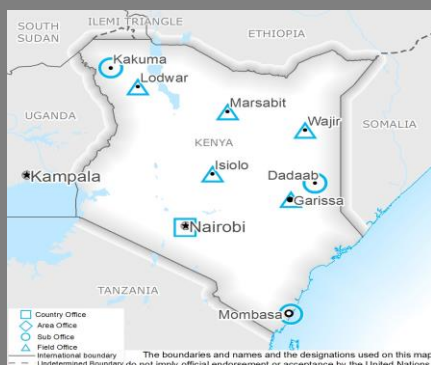
Operational Context

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.



Population: **47.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **147 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

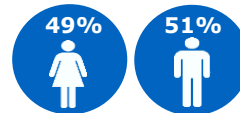
In Numbers

2,494 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.3m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 37 m six months (February–July 2020) net funding requirements

477,840 people assisted in January 2020




Operational Updates

The Horn of Africa is facing an unprecedented outbreak of desert locusts. In Kenya, swarms of the highly destructive pests have now been sighted in 10 counties – the same areas that were affected in 2019 by prolonged drought followed by severe flooding. WFP is working closely with FAO and the Government and is providing technical assistance for the assessment and surveillance of the locust invasion. Additionally, WFP is ready to provide logistics support for the aerial control operations. Should the outbreak lead to severe food gaps, WFP will be ready to mobilize additional support.

Preparations for the expansion of unrestricted cash transfers in Kalobeyei refugee settlement were completed. This scale up is in line with the transition from e-vouchers (Bamba Chakula) to unrestricted cash that began in June 2019. Unrestricted cash gives households more flexibility in the choice of food they can purchase and increases the potential for multiplier effects in local economies besides enhancing livelihood opportunities.

In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to undertake a research study on "Linking Social Protection to Improved Productivity: An Investment Case for Cash Plus Programmes in Kenya." The study sought to develop a framework on how to build and strengthen linkages between social protection and the promotion of productivity and employability, particularly looking at livelihoods, basic social services, skills or asset development and labour market activities, and how these can be used to mainstream social protection in the national development agenda. The key outcome was that cash in itself is not a solution to overcoming barriers in productivity, but, when combined with other services (Cash Plus) then social protection can address specific environmental or household-level barriers, enhancing programme outcomes and wellbeing for beneficiary households and individuals.

¹ Isiolo, Samburu, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Laikipia, Mandera, Kitui, Baringo and Turkana.

WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
224 m	58.5m	37 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activity 2: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities – complemented by SBCC – to vulnerable Kenyan populations in order to meet acute food needs.</p>		
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>Activity 3: Create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households.</p> <p>Activity 4: Facilitate access to markets and provide technical expertise in supply chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers</p>		
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.		
<p>Strategic Outcome 3: National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>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.</p>		
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.		
<p>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.</p> <p>Focus area: Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners</p>		

WFP handed over ten fishing boats, motors and equipment to fishing communities in Lake Turkana. The equipment is part of a joint programme of support with the Turkana County Government that will benefit more than 1,000 fishing families by improving profitability of the fish value chain in Lake Turkana. The assistance is meant to improve fish production, fish value addition, marketing and consumption at household level besides strengthening governance structures for better management and utilization of fisheries resources in their areas.

As part of its partnership with county governments and co-financed annual work plans (2019/2020), WFP led a consultative monitoring process to assess progress of implementation, jointly with the county governments of Turkana, Tana River, Wajir, Isiolo and Samburu counties. The consultative forums facilitated food security dialogue between WFP and the respective county governments and strengthened partnership in delivering food and nutrition security to vulnerable populations. The counties on their part demonstrated commitment to the agreement signed with WFP as well as ownership of capacity strengthening initiatives in their respective counties.

A youth induction and mentorship training was held in Marsabit in which one hundred youth representatives from 50 youth groups participated. The training provided an opportunity for the youth representatives to learn and share their experiences in various agribusiness value chains.

Monitoring

WFP's complaint and feedback mechanism received a total of 1,205 cases from beneficiaries; 1,124 cases were received through the help desk, 79 through the helpline and two through email. Of these, 55 percent were from women. Majority of the cases received were on our refugee operations particularly *Bamba Chakula* programme while the rest were from resilient livelihoods programme beneficiaries. Ninety-seven percent of the cases were from beneficiaries, with the rest being from non-beneficiaries, alternates and traders. 595 cases were successfully resolved within the month of January. WFP is working with communities and the telecommunication service provider to resolve the pending cases.

Challenges

Due to funding constraints in the refugee's response, WFP has been forced to reduce rations to 70 percent of the minimum recommended level since September 2019. WFP requires US\$26.2 million to continue to provide food and nutritional assistance to refugees over the next six months.

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

Contact Info : Lara Fossi (WFP.Kenya@wfp.org)
Country Director : Annalisa Conte
Further information : www.wfp.org/countries/Kenya