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

- 2,370 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$ 2.3m cash-based transfers made
- US$ 16.6 m six months (March-August 2020) net funding requirements
- 493,253 people assisted in February 2020

Operational Updates

During the month of February, WFP supported an assessment on the impact of the locust invasion in Kenya that was integrated into the short-rains assessment. WFP complements the Government of Kenya and FAO as part of the national locust surveillance and control operation, including emergency response- and recovery plan. As part of this, WFP is on stand-by to deliver logistics and warehousing for any immediate transport and storage requirements. The contingency response plan further includes support for targeting in affected counties, as well as a plan to deliver specialized nutrition products to eight arid counties where food security is likely to be most affected. As part of the livelihood recovery activities, WFP will provide capacity strengthening and food assistance to over 574,000 enrolled beneficiaries in WFP resilience building activities.

The expansion to unrestricted cash in Kalobeyi is ongoing with the first round completed in February 2020. Under the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023), WFP plans to deliver up to 70 percent of food assistance through cash-based transfers by 2023. Cash-based transfers offer beneficiaries more flexibility, choice and dietary diversity.

WFP Kenya Representative and Country Director, and the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education met to discuss the findings of the WFP-conducted review of the national school meals programme supply chain and identify areas for support. The Ministry requested WFP’s targeted technical support to strengthen supply chain capacity including food safety and quality and management of food suppliers and transporters.

On request of the County Government of Wajir, WFP brought together the key stakeholders at national and county levels to develop the Wajir County Disability Bill. Once approved, the bill is expected to allow the Wajir county government to create a disability fund and significantly improve inclusion of people with disabilities in social safety nets and their access to food, education, health and other vital services. Establishing mechanisms which will ensure that boys and girls, men and women who live with disability are fully integrated in food security interventions is a critical component of achieving national development goals: eliminating extreme poverty, reducing malnutrition, and enhancing food security for all.
In order to develop a relief assistance policy in Kenya, WFP supported the government to establish a Technical Working Group with representatives from the government, non-governmental organizations and the UN. Once finalized, the policy will help to coordinate relief assistance in Kenya.

WFP initiated stake-holder consultations for a Social Behaviour Change and Communication (SBCC) strategy in Dadaab. The objective is to improve nutrition messaging uptake and promote behaviour change amongst the beneficiaries. This follows various evaluation and assessment recommendations on the need to support the broader understanding of WFP food basket including cash assistance and strengthen better food use. This is coming after the completion of a similar activity in Kakuma in 2019.

The Farm to Market Alliance (FTMA)- a public-private partnership hosted by WFP that provides technical and digital solutions for smallholders, held a launch of expanded operations into Elgeyo Marakwet County. This is one of four new counties of operation (alongside Nakuru, Narok and Nyandarua) linked to FtMA’s expansion into the potato value chain. In 2019 FtMA assisted 32,000 smallholder farmers to produce and sell $5m of produce into private sector markets.

**Monitoring**

WFP's complaint and feedback mechanism received a total of 1,320 cases from beneficiaries; 94 percent were received through the help desk, six percent through the helpline and SMS. Of these, 50 percent were from women. 96 percent of the feedback received was on our refugee operations particularly Bamba Chakula programme, while the rest were from resilient livelihoods programme, relief, and unrelated WFP complaints. Of all the feedback received, 98 percent was from beneficiaries, with the rest being from non-beneficiaries, alternates and traders. 489 cases were successfully resolved within the month of February. WFP is working with communities and the telecommunication service provider to resolve the pending cases.

**Challenges**

The COVID-19 virus outbreak globally may affect shipment of in-kind commodities for the food assistance programme in Kenya.

**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

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>58.5m</td>
<td>16.6 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**Activities**:

Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners

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**WFP Kenya Country Brief**

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