



# WFP Kenya Country Brief

June 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



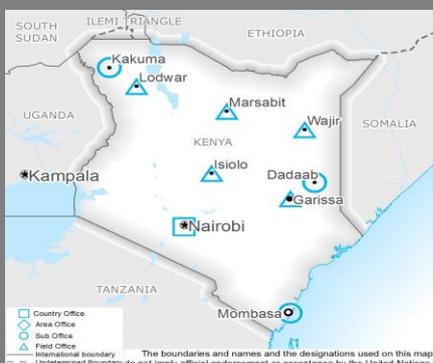
## Operational Context

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

**7,323 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 3.9 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 77.3 m** six months (July–December 2020) net funding requirements

**702,000 people** assisted in June 2020



## Operational Updates

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the country in June (6,366) was almost four times the number in May. The number of counties affected by the pandemic rose to 41 out of the 47 counties in Kenya, with Nairobi and Mombasa counties being the worst affected. The cessation of movement in Nairobi, Mombasa, Mandera, Dadaab, and Kakuma, along with the national curfew, were extended for an additional 30 days until 6 July 2020.

WFP continues to complement the Government's efforts in addressing the evolving COVID-19 situation in Kenya. In collaboration with the Government at national and county levels and other UN agencies and partners, WFP is supporting food security and markets analysis, the expansion of national social safety nets and services, and providing logistical support and UNHAS services.

WFP launched its urban response in Nairobi's informal settlements and released the first tranche of cash-based transfers to 1,114 households with each family receiving KES 4,000 (US\$ 40) each. This support will continue for three months and will contribute to 50 percent of the minimum food basket. The transfer value is aligned to what the Government is providing in the counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa. WFP plans to scale this up to reach 70,500 families affected by loss of income and livelihoods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to address looming nutritional challenges occasioned by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food access and availability, WFP is preparing to expand its management of acute malnutrition support to cover 2,500 children under five, pregnant lactating women, and elderly in 123 facilities in Nairobi informal settlements.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei, in collaboration with UNHCR and in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines. COVID-19 cases continue to increase in the camps among both refugees and humanitarian workers. Mitigation measures have been put in place and plans are underway to begin testing of both refugees and humanitarian workers in July.

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

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
173 m	83.5m	77.3 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.  
**Activities:**  
 Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners

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WFP supports 390,000 vulnerable people Kenyans to diversify and improve their livelihoods. In-kind distributions were successfully completed in Tana River, Garissa and Wajir counties and will be finalized in Turkana, Marsabit, and Mandera counties in the first week of July in compliance to guidelines on distributions in the context of COVID-19.

Due to the surging demand for utilization of the existing social protection system by non-state actors, WFP is providing ongoing support in accelerating enhancement of the Single Registry, including the development of an application programming interface (API) to enable partners link their support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

WFP is supplementing Government relief response to the flash floods by providing food assistance to over 9,000 households affected in four counties; Mandera, Garissa and Tana River and Turkana. Working closely with key stakeholders, including both the national and county governments and partners, WFP successfully finalized food distributions in Turkana and Garissa counties. In Mandera and Tana River food distribution is ongoing and will be finalized in July 2020.

**Monitoring**

As a member of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, and part of the Government’s ‘war room’ efforts, WFP is working with the Government of Kenya to monitor the impact of COVID-19, the desert locust invasion and flooding on the food security and nutrition status of the Kenyan population, including refugees and asylum seekers. WFP continues to carry out weekly supply chain and market assessments to monitor the level of food access and availability.

WFP’s complaint and feedback mechanism received 1,073 cases from beneficiaries, traders and the public. Majority of the cases were from the refugee operation regarding SIM card related issues Fifty-two percent of cases were successfully resolved in the month of June.

WFP commenced market monitoring in Nairobi’s informal settlements in six markets: Kibera (Toi), Mathare, Mukuru, Kangemi, Kawangware and Dandora.

**Challenges**

The combined effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity, flooding and loss of livelihoods is increasing the vulnerabilities among affected populations in Kenya. WFP requires an additional US\$30.7 million to meet needs until the end of the year. Restrictions related to COVID-19 have slowed some of the planned capacity strengthening activities.

**Donors**

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