



# WFP Kenya Country Brief

## November 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, use of technologies and innovation 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

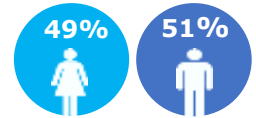
## In Numbers

4,390 mt of food commodities distributed

USD 4.7m cash-based transfers made

USD 80.9 m six months (December 2020–May 2021) net funding requirements

788,355 people assisted in November 2020



On 9 October, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger globally, including its work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Norwegian Nobel Committee acknowledges WFP's work as being critical in preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict. WFP Kenya joined other colleagues around the world in celebrating this award.

## Operational Updates

### COVID Response

WFP is complementing the Government's COVID-19 response in Kenya through its urban response, targeting 282,000 individuals in Nairobi's informal settlements and 96,000 people in Mombasa County, affected by the loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP offers food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) and nutritional support to women and children in the targeted areas.

### Desert Locust

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned that from mid-December onwards, successive waves of immature swarms are expected to migrate south to southeastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia into northeast Kenya, then spreading to northern and central counties. WFP in collaboration with the County Governments of Samburu, Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo and Turkana and FAO are carrying out surveillance activities coupled with climate proofing activities to ensure resilience of potentially affected communities.

### School feeding - Back to school

Schools will resume in January 2021 after being closed since March 2020. In support to the Ministry of Education, WFP provided technical and financial support for the distribution of take-home rations to pupils. The Government purchased food items for 2020 that could not be utilized fully due to the outbreak of the COVID -19 pandemic. The food stocks in schools were distributed in Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa, Mandera, Tana River and Wajir.

### Support to smallholder farmers

WFP and FAO initiated a joint programme, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, for groundnuts production in WFP-supported irrigation schemes in Turkana County. This initiative intends to boost the local economy and provide a source of nutritious food for the communities, as well as create a stable market for the production of groundnuts.

### Main Photo

Credit: WFP Kenya  
Caption: In addition to the Govt-recommended measures, WFP has provided wheelbarrows for refugees to safely cart their own food out of the distribution centre – instead of relying on porters. This ensures adherence to social distancing.

| Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023) |                                  |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Total Requirement (in USD)         | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
| 160.3 m                            | 79.4m                            | 80.9m                                       |

**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  
**Activity 7:** Provide health supply chain services for partners  
**Activity 8:** Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded projects

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**New Partnerships**

WFP launched a new initiative with the National Treasury and the World Bank: the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program. WFP’s climate actions will be within the framework of its Country Strategic Plan, while the Government’s interventions will be aligned with the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Climate Actions in Kenya, the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS, 2010), and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

**Capacity Strengthening**

WFP supports the University of Nairobi for the pilot Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), a collaborative tool used to identify the most appropriate programmatic strategies in specific geographical areas, based on areas of convergence of historical trends of food security and natural shock risk

WFP, UNDP and other stakeholders support the Tana River County Government to develop a disaster risk management policy.

**Monitoring**

**Monitoring of activities and accountability**

WFP developed a beneficiary outreach and engagement strategy to harmonize engagement with communities, improve ownership of projects and create strong social connections in its areas of operation. In November 2020, WFP continued to address feedbacks through its complaints and feedback mechanism and addressed most of the 940 cases received from beneficiaries, partners and the public.

**Market monitoring**

Food supply and general trade flows remained stable in November, with price trends of cereals, pulses, processed commodities experiencing minimal fluctuations. Fresh products recorded the highest price decrease, with post-harvest losses reported in many producing areas in Kenya, attributed to the surplus production of fresh vegetables and rains.

REACH and WFP, together with the Mombasa County Government are carrying out a joint market monitoring for market prices monitoring.

**Challenges**

Due to lack of financial resource, WFP was forced to reduce ration for refugees to 60 percent of the food basket since September 2020. The situation jeopardizes WFP activities in 2021: WFP targets 400,000 refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei. A potential escalation of conflict and insecurity in neighbouring countries could result in an influx of refugees into Kenya further straining resources to provide food assistance.

**Donors (in alphabetical order)**

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, Private Sector, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations and United States of America.