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.

Food Security Situation

Food Security Outlook
WFP supported the Short Rains Assessment as part of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group in partnership with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). Data collection was completed end of January. Analysis and report writing will take place in the first two weeks of February with WFP providing hands-on capacity strengthening. The results of the SRA will be disseminated mid-February 2020 in the Kenya Food Security Meeting which WFP co-chairs with NDMA.

Desert Locust Invasion
Mature desert locust swarms were reported in central and northern Kenya, while immature bands and groups of hoppers were reported along the coast in parts of Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties. During the upcoming March to May long rains season, mature swarm invasions are expected to persist into northern and expend into southeastern Kenya, while hopper invasions will continue in coastal areas. The desert locusts poses a serious threat to crop and forage production in affected areas. WFP is providing logistical support to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in transporting insecticide for desert locust control from Nairobi to Isiolo, Marsabit, Moyale, Garissa and Wajir Counties.

Operational Updates

General food assistance
WFP continues to provide food assistance and nutritional support to the refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei at support reception and isolation centres. In January a total of 298 mt of food was distributed and USD 81.1 million of CBT entitlements were transferred.

Garissa Country Nutrition Action Plan
The Garissa County launched the 2019 – 2023 County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) thanks to WFP’s support in both nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions and its contribution towards actualizing the development of the CNAP. The CNAP was developed to address county-specific nutrition issues and propose interventions that are appropriate for the local context. WFP will continue to work together with the County to achieve the vision of the plan, and strengthening its capacity to deliver different interventions.

In Numbers

298 mt of food commodities distributed
USD 2.4 m cash-based transfers made
USD 81.1 m six months (February–July 2021) net funding requirements
608,798 people assisted in January 2021

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

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:
1. 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.
2. 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:
1. Activity 3: Create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households.
2. 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:
1. 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:
1. Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners
2. Activity 8: Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded projects

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
- United States of America

WFP Kenya Country Brief
January 2021

Linking smallholders farmers to Markets

Despite COVID-19, the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA), a public-private sector consortium hosted by WFP, continues to support farmers to grow the appropriate crops for their soil and climatic conditions, and to find market opportunities for their produce. In January, WFP purchased 252 mt of white sorghum from two smallholder farmer groups comprising 149 farmers in Meru and exported it to South Sudan to provide assistance to people in need.

Support to people living with HIV

The National AIDs and Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) Control Programme (NASCOP) requested WFP to support the establishment of a nutrition and food security surveillance system for HIV clients, after anecdotal evidence shows that HIV clients on a new antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) are rapidly developing overnutrition. WFP is in discussion with The International Livestock Research Institute and NASCOP on the design and establishment of this system.

School Meals Capacity Strengthening

Thanks to WFP’s financial and technical support, the Baringo County Government finalised its Pre-Primary School Meals and Nutrition Bill and drafted regulations to establish a meals and nutrition fund. Once approved, the legislation will help ring-fence public financing to the programme and enable the County to receive and manage funding from other stakeholders.

Kakuma Solar Project

WFP completed the solar project at Kakuma Food Distribution Point 3. The project aimed at reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewables within WFP’s interventions. The site will be entirely powered by solar power, with the generator used only as a backup. There are 45 security lights, 14 KWP of solar capacity installed and 37 kWh of battery storage. The design of the system is centred around ease of maintenance, local availability of components, durability, simple and remote operations, with plans to replicate it in other similar locations.

Promoting Community Based approaches to Nutrition

WFP is scaling up two community-based approaches in Wajir County: family mid-upper arm circumference that involves training families on screening children and positive deviance hearth an approach focused on promoting good practices by mothers or caregivers of well nourished children. In January, 25 health workers in Wajir were trained on the rollout and monitoring the effectiveness of these approaches.

Monitoring

WFP’s beneficiary outreach and engagement strategy aims to harmonize engagement with communities, improve ownership of projects and create strong social connections in its areas of operation. In January, WFP’s complaints and feedback mechanism received 1,407 cases from beneficiaries, traders, partners, and the public. Of these, 47 percent were from women and 3 percent from people living with disabilities. Eighty one cases were resolved by the end of the month, with action being taken to resolve the remaining cases.