



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief

## April 2021



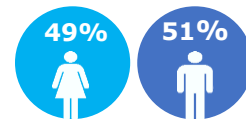
### In Numbers

9,513 mt of food commodities distributed

US \$ 3.2 m cash-based transfers made

US \$ 118.1 m six months (May–October 2021) net funding requirements

846,060 people assisted in April 2021



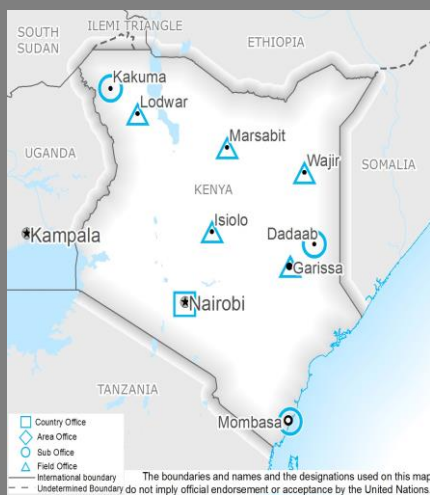
## Operational Context

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 socio-economic impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation by affecting the poor households, especially in urban areas.

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

The 2021 long rains have so far been below average, with more than 80 percent of ASAL counties receiving less than 50 percent of average rainfall amounts as of April 2021, and the rainfall has been poorly distributed in time and space. It is projected that most ASAL counties will drift into food insecurity with worsening pasture and browse, water sources drying up, poor livestock body conditions and a rise in malnutrition in the second half of 2021. The Kenya Food Security Steering Group projected that there would be two million acute food insecure Kenyans as of May 2021. WFP continues to work with National and County governments to address food security and nutrition needs. WFP is also providing food assistance to refugees and asylum seekers along with vulnerable Kenyans impacted by the food insecurity.

### Desert Locust Invasion

Following the largely successful control (despite localized impacts) of the first wave of desert locusts entering Kenya in mid-2020, the second wave of hoppers arriving from Somalia and Ethiopia have laid their eggs in North and Eastern Kenya. The eggs are expected to hatch after the long rains season, and if not adequately controlled, they could have negative impact on pasture and fodder production. The Government of Kenya and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) continue to minimize the spread of the swarms through ground and aerial control. WFP is providing logistical support in the movement of insecticide to various locations in Kenya and in the region.

### COVID-19

Kenya is currently going through the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP continued to complement the Government's response through its support to the Social Protection Sector and its urban response in Nairobi and Mombasa counties targeting 378,000 people with cash and nutrition support. WFP will conclude its response in May 2021 after which it will transition into an urban strategy aimed at creating opportunities for urban livelihoods and providing nutritional support to the urban poor.

Population: 47.5 million


2019 Human Development Index: 143 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

Main Photo

Credit: WFP Kenya/Martin Karimi  
Caption: Mary Wanjiku, who received four cash transfers from WFP, is a beautician in Kibagare village in Nairobi.

WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
<b>Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)</b>		
2021 Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
249 m	169.4 m	118.1 m
<b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>		
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activities:</b></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>		
<b>Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable</b>		
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activities:</b></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>		
<b>Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.</b>		
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.</p> <p><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activities:</b></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>		
<b>Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.</b>		
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.</p> <p><b>Activity 6:</b> Provide humanitarian air services for partners</p> <p><b>Activity 7:</b> Provide health supply chain services for partners. (deactivated)</p> <p><b>Activity 8:</b> Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded project</p> <p><b>Activity 9:</b> Provide supply chain services for Kenyan Government and partners</p>		

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## Operational Updates

### Refugee Operations

The Government of Kenya has called upon UNHCR to close the refugee camps by June 2022. UNHCR has submitted to the Government a roadmap with comprehensive sustainable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers. The roadmap was accepted by the GoK and will be implemented by June 2022. UNCT has established a task force that is offering support to UNHCR on the implementation of the roadmap, and WFP is part of that taskforce. Provision of services to the refugee population has not been interrupted. WFP continues to deliver food assistance to over 400,000 refugees residing in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyi camps through a hybrid of in-kind and cash-based transfers. WFP is supporting the implementation of the Government and UNHCR roadmap.

### Food Systems Summit

In 2021, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. Kenya has commenced national and sub-national dialogues through the economic blocs aimed at developing national pathways towards sustainable food systems. WFP is providing technical and other support to the national dialogues through the UN System and is the lead partner for the North Rift Economic Bloc sub-national dialogue.

### South-South Technical Co-operation

WFP facilitated an introductory virtual dialogue between the Ministries of Education of Kenya and Namibia. The purpose was to initiate collaboration on a market assessment on the Namibia school meals programme. Next steps were agreed on for the Government of Kenya to provide technical expertise to peer review the market assessment approach, methodology and tools.

### Nutrition Support in Urban Areas

WFP launched its partnership with [Tiny Totos](#) aimed at increasing community level opportunities to access health and nutrition services through informal day-care centres in urban settlements. The partnership will facilitate access to deworming and vitamin A supplementation during national health campaigns, regular screening of children for malnutrition and awareness sessions on emerging health and nutrition issues.

### 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 April 2021, WFP's complaints and feedback mechanism received 967 cases from beneficiaries, traders, partners, and the public. Of these, 47 percent were from women and four percent from people living with disabilities. Seventy four percent of cases were resolved by the end of the month. WFP is working with service providers and the local community to resolve the pending cases.

### Donors

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.