



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief March 2022



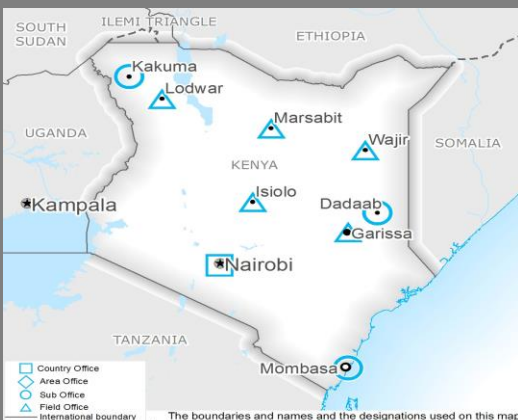
## Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy is transforming rapidly. Social and economic inequalities persist, however, and more than one third of Kenyans live below the poverty line. Agriculture remains the main economic driver, accounting for 34 percent of GDP and 60 percent of labour forces. This rises to 70 percent in rural areas, even though 80 percent of the land is either arid or semi-arid. Rapid population growth, climate change, underperforming food systems and gender inequalities are the most significant challenges to food and nutrition security.

The number of people in need of assistance has risen to 3.1 million in 2022 with a sharp increase in the number of people experiencing high levels of hunger and malnutrition. Women are most affected as they tend to earn less and with fewer assets.

A growing body of evidence shows that investing in mitigation and adaptation measures including anticipatory-action, early response, community-based disaster risk reduction and resilience-building can greatly reduce the need for humanitarian assistance when crises hit.

WFP operates a network of field offices across the ASALs and in urban settings, providing direct and technical assistance to the GoK, transformative interventions to increase resilience to drought, improve diets and strengthen food systems, and capacity building support to national and county governments to support long term food security and sustainable supply chains and markets.



Population: **47.6 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **143 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

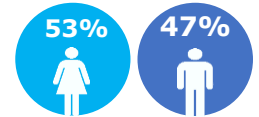
## In Numbers

**6,102.068 mt** of food commodities distributed

**USD 5.7 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 101.3 million** six months net funding requirements (April – September 2022)

**873,987 people** assisted



## Food Security Situation

### Food Security Outlook: global and regional challenges

- The worsening food security situation in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya, following three seasons of poor rains, is being exacerbated by regional and global influences. War between Russia and the Ukraine, which together provide significant shares of the world's wheat, maize, sunflower oil and fertilizer exports, is causing sharp rises in global food prices and fuel costs. Food prices are also rising in Kenya due to drought across the horn of Africa, while conflict is driving an influx of refugees, particularly into Kakuma, in the north-west.

### Food Security Outlook: drought in Kenya

- Drought in Kenya is causing increasing hardship. The number of people at IPC Phase 3 and above has risen from 739,000 in June 2020 to 3.1 million in February 2022 and is expected to reach 3.5 million by March-May, if the long rains are also below-average. The United Nations is preparing to release an updated Flash Appeal which focuses on lifesaving and life-sustaining interventions in the most affected counties. Under an earlier appeal launched in October 2021 to complement the Government of Kenya's response to the national drought disaster, WFP received USD 10.3 million, or 25 percent of the amount sought.

### Food Assistance to Refugees

- Resources for refugee rations are far short of requirements across the East Africa region. Refugees in Kenya have not received a full ration since September 2018. In March 2022 rations were reduced from 60 percent to 50 percent. Unless significant additional support materializes, rations will remain at this critical level throughout 2022, with increasingly damaging impacts on refugee health and nutrition.
- More than 50 percent of beneficiaries report negative coping behaviours such as skipping meals or borrowing. More than 70 percent of children in refugee camps suffer from anaemia, an accepted proxy indicator for other micronutrient deficiencies. The poor nutrition status among children is likely to result in poor growth and development.

## Operational Updates

### Horn of Africa Drought Response


- After three failed rainy seasons, an estimated 3.1 million Kenyans are in urgent need of food assistance. Delayed rains in late 2021 have reduced the area planted to crops by up to 97 percent in some regions, livestock are dying and many water pans are now dry. As part of the Horn of Africa Drought

**Caption:** Farmers in Turkana have embraced drought resistant, highly nutritious orange-fleshed sweet potato to boost local incomes. **Photo credit:** © WFP/Georgina Stickels

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
<b>Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)</b>		
2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
322.8 m	122.75 m	101.3 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>            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.</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>            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 value 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>            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  <b>Activity 7:</b> Provide health supply chain services for partners. (deactivated)  <b>Activity 8:</b> Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded project  <b>Activity 9:</b> Provide supply chain services for Kenyan Government and partners</p>		

Response launched on 10 February, WFP Kenya is seeking USD 70 million to provide emergency food assistance, malnutrition treatment/prevention and resilience support. Blanket supplementary feeding is now required in the most drought-affected regions to avert a further deterioration in nutrition status for critical groups.

### Nutrition support

- WFP is working with county governments in the ASAL regions to provide 110,576 children and 103,068 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) with treatment of moderate malnutrition. In response to the drought and further deterioration in the nutrition situation in the ASAL, WFP will be starting Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFPs) also targeting children and PLWGs, to prevent a further deterioration in nutrition status. The BSFP will start in the worst affected region – Marsabit County, and WFP continues to seek resources to cover seven additional regions with acute malnutrition prevalence above 20 percent.

### Resilience and food systems

- With drought expected to significantly impact harvest of the main food commodities, WFP continues to extend food transfers to 390,000 beneficiaries in nine arid counties beyond the normal lean season period to cover food gaps. This aims to safeguard investments made towards longer-term resilience. Smallholder farmer capacity to respond to climate change shock is strengthened through access to microinsurance, construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, and livelihoods diversification including through the introduction of drought-tolerant crops. Crop diversification particularly benefits women and WFP is undertaking a gender analysis in Marsabit to inform options for gender-transformative programming.

### Social Protection

- WFP continued to support the GoK’s Enhanced Single Registry for social protection. A county-level system is now ready for roll-out with technical staff in six pilot counties trained. Simultaneously, WFP generated lessons from data collection to populate the registry in Kisumu and Taita Taveta counties for wider system scale. With WFP’s support, GoK shared their knowledge and experience in social protection systems with Chad through the South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

### Refugee operations

- The newly approved Refugee Act 2021 will potentially offer more opportunities for refugees to participate in the local and national economy, with improved prospects for self-reliance in food security. WFP is working closely with the Government and partners to further understand the provisions in the act and identify next steps: most notably Denmark, which is developing a USD 30 million pilot in Kenya, seeking to establish a more self-reliance-based approach to refugee hosting. WFP continues to deliver cash and in-kind food assistance to more than 460,000 refugees and asylum seekers who are hosted in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and in Kalobeyei settlement.

### Government Donors

Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations and United States of America.