



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief

December 2022

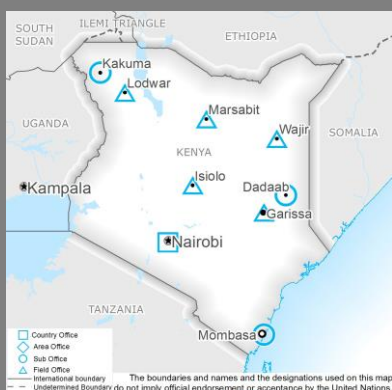


Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy is transforming rapidly. Social and economic inequalities persist, and more than one third of Kenyans live below the poverty line. Agriculture Sector remains central to Kenya's economy and provides livelihoods to more than 80 percent of the population especially in rural areas. Rapid population growth, climate change, underperforming food systems, gender inequalities and insecurity are the most significant challenges to food and nutrition security.

The most severe living conditions exist in the nine ASAL counties: Marsabit, Turkana, Baringo, Isiolo, Samburu, Garissa, Wajir, Tana River and Mandera, which are underdeveloped, drought prone and affected by frequent tribal and resource-based conflicts. The number of people in need of food assistance rose to 4.4 people 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 has field offices across the ASALs and in urban settings, providing direct assistance, 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

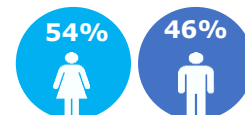
In Numbers

9,769 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 9.5 million cash-based transfers made

USD 161.4 million six months net funding requirements (Jan – June 2023)

1.62 million people assisted



Food Security Situation

Acute food insecurity remains elevated across Kenya due to the impacts of the five consecutive below-average crop and livestock production seasons, compounded by the impacts of high inflation on household purchasing power. In the pastoral areas, [IPC Phases 3 and 4 outcomes](#) will likely remain widespread as households continue to have limited access to food and income and rely on government and humanitarian assistance. Forage and water resources minimally stabilized because of the October-December rainfall, but they remain well below normal. As such, there is atypical livestock migration in search of pasture, browse, and water. Delayed and cumulatively below-average rainfall (October-December) is also expected to result in a 10-50 percent below-average harvest in February. Many households are relying on off-farm income sources which are limited by the impacts of inflation and increased competition for work opportunities. As a result of reduced income and high food prices, households are expected to either face food consumption gaps or forego non-food expenditures to purchase sufficient food. Ongoing humanitarian food assistance and the Government safety nets are expected to mitigate large food consumption deficits among beneficiary households.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

The Dadaab refugee camp faced cholera and measles outbreaks amid a surge of new arrivals, mostly from Somalia due to worsening drought. This led to a 5 percent increase in the number of people reached by WFP with food assistance in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in December compared to November 2022, and an increase in admission of children in stabilization centers in Dadaab. In total, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 547,409 refugees (51 per cent women), out of whom 54,000 people were pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months who received specialized nutritious foods for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Emergency food assistance to drought-affected people

As the drought intensifies, WFP continued focusing emergency food assistance in 12 of the worst drought-affected counties in arid and semi-arid lands. In December, WFP provided cash-based transfers or in-kind food comprising cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil to 534,807 people (55 percent women). Efforts to prevent and treat MAM continued in 15 counties. A total of 178,674 malnourished or at risk of becoming malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6 to 59 months received specialized nutritious foods to treat or prevent MAM. Nutrition support was given in line with the national Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol.

Caption: Children enjoy a meal in Wajir County courtesy of the Lisha Jamii drought response programme. **Photo credit:** © WFP/Martin Karimi

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
2023 Total Requirement (in USD)	2023 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
472.2 m	363.3 m	161.4 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activities:</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 to meet acute food needs.</p>		
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activities:</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 value chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers</p>		
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.		
<p>Strategic Outcome 3: National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activities:</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>		
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.		
<p>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.</p> <p>Focus area: Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.</p> <p>Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners</p> <p>Activity 7: Provide health supply chain services for partners. (deactivated)</p> <p>Activity 8: Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded project</p> <p>Activity 9: Provide supply chain services for Kenyan Government and partners</p>		

Resilience and food systems

WFP continues to implement evidence-driven programming to strengthen market opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhance access to nutritious and affordable food in local markets. For this purpose, WFP assessed the capacities of micro and small millers in Baringo and Makueni counties and identified actions to promote fortification practices, (adding essential vitamins and minerals) including providing milling equipment and training on how to the mills to 30 small-scale millers. Priority will be given to ensuring compatibility between milling and fortification technologies based on lessons learned from other counties. Investments have also been made towards rice fortification, and WFP supported the Government in developing a National Rice Fortification Brief to assess the status and prepare a way forward for rice fortification in Kenya.

In line with the WFP 2022-2027 Youth Empowerment and Employment Strategy, WFP conducted dialogues in five counties to identify youth aspirations for agricultural sector employment and opportunities for them to become changemakers within their communities to build sustainable food systems. These dialogues will help shape the design of the joint initiative with the Mastercard Foundation aimed to strengthen food systems for improved youth employment across targeted agricultural value chains.

Water scarcity has been severely impacting crop and livestock production in Kenya. As a result, WFP has firmed up its partnership with UNEP to improve water resource planning, promote ecosystem-based adaptation, and strengthen water governance systems in the ASAL counties.

Additionally, 363,684 food-insecure smallholder producers and other vulnerable populations in ASALs received seasonal food assistance helping them access food and reduce the adoption of negative coping strategies as drought-affected crop and livestock production.

Country Capacity Strengthening

WFP provided financial and technical support to review the county and national early warning reporting guidelines. The guidelines were revised to improve the clarity of early warning reports and meet user demands and cater for the needs of a broader audience, resulting in two new guidelines: the County Early Warning Reporting Guideline and the National Early Warning Reporting Guidelines. This investment supports evidence generation for informed policy and decision-making to help national and county governments better prepare, respond, and serve vulnerable populations. The primary beneficiary of this capacity-strengthening support was the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), which runs the early warning systems and is responsible for information generation and dissemination. The guidelines were reviewed by NDMA officers through a consultative workshop held in Naivasha from 28 November to 1 December 2022.

Government Donors

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