



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief February 2023



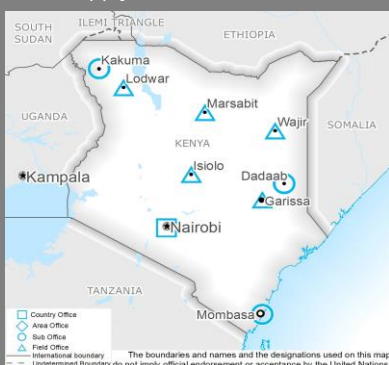
## Operational Context

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. However, 80 percent of the Kenyan landmass is either arid or semi-arid. 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 is 4.4 million people and expected to rise to 5.4 million from March to June 2023 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 assistance, transformative interventions to build resilience to drought, improve diets and strengthen food systems, and capacity strengthening support to national and county governments to support long term food security and sustainable supply chains and markets.



Population: **50 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18 percent of children between 6 and 59**

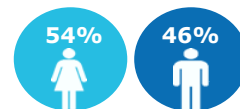
## In Numbers

**9,210 MT** of food commodities distributed

**USD 7.29** million cash-based transfers made

**USD 125** million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (March-August 2023)

**1.5 million people** assisted in February 2023



## Food Security Situation

- Kenya is facing a food crisis due to a prolonged drought, leaving 4.4 million people acutely food insecure, up from 739,000 in August 2020. This number is projected to increase up to [5.4 million](#) people by June if the drought persists. Almost 1 million children and 142,000 pregnant and lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition. Below-average harvests in 2022 and the death of 2.6 million livestock have worsened the crisis. Pastoralist communities are affected, with children lacking milk, which is a source of nutrition. Urgent intervention is needed from the Government, international community, and stakeholders to sustain the gains made so far in averting hunger.

## Operational Updates

### Refugee operations

- Kenya is currently hosting over half a million refugees, with over 100,000 arriving in 2022 and an additional 30,000 since the beginning of 2023, predominantly due to drought and protracted conflict in their home countries. These refugees and asylum seekers rely on international assistance as they cannot work or move freely. Working with cooperating partners, WFP distributed food to 581,405 refugees in February, safely and efficiently. Of these, 63,316 women and children under the age of 5 years who were malnourished or at risk of malnutrition received nutrition support, to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). This was complemented with social behaviour change communication (SBCC). About 70,000 schoolchildren in the refugee camps also received hot school meals every day in school.

### Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to drought-affected Kenyans


- WFP provided food assistance through cash-based transfers and in-kind to drought-affected Kenyans in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) through the *Lisha Jamii* programme, targeting 535,962 people for six months. The food basket comprised of safe and nutritious cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. In February, 360,642 people received food assistance helping them meet their basic food needs – of the targeted, 175,320 had received their six-months entitlements earlier. Another 216,544 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged below five years, who are more susceptible to malnutrition received prevention and treatment of malnutrition support. To complement the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, the programme provided SBCC and counselling to improve feeding practices and increase awareness of the importance of a balanced diet. In addition to meeting basic food

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Dennis Matendechere

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
417.7 m	267 m	125 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 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></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>		

and nutrition needs, WFP's assistance has the potential to mitigate the risk of malnutrition-related diseases and deaths, lessen the burden of food insecurity among supported communities and to create more resilient populations in the face of the severe drought situation.

### Country Capacity Strengthening

- WFP is partnering with six county governments to enhance food assistance programmes' accountability and transparency. This partnership aims to develop a Supply Chain Management Information System (SCMIS) that will be coordinated by the Council of Governors. After the initial development of the SCMIS strategy document, WFP has been engaging in bilateral discussions to finalize SCMIS strategy by the end of March. Furthermore, to ensure knowledge-sharing and efficient implementation of the system, WFP's Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa facilitated sessions between technical teams from Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. WFP Kenya will determine the next steps after validating the strategy document, expected in March.
- In conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and as part of the WFP South-to-South learning exchanges, Kenya hosted a delegation from Burundi. The visit aimed to learn about the development of the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) in Kenya. Led by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human rights and Gender, the team explored Kenya's social protection systems, the evolution of the ESR, and the operational requirements for its success.

### Resilience and food systems

- With the worst drought in 40 years in Kenya, smallholder farmers and pastoralists have lost their livelihood, and existing vulnerabilities have been exacerbated excluding particularly women and youth from making socio-economic gains. As a safety net, WFP provided food and cash-based transfers to 360,000 people in the ASALs, while working together with the local government and communities to enhance their climate adaptive capacities. The rehabilitation and construction of critical water infrastructure have helped secure access to water for farming and livestock while the efforts made towards promoting conservation agriculture have sustained access to food in local markets in the higher-potential areas in western Kenya.
- A multi-sectorial stakeholder workshop focusing on nixtamalization was convened by WFP and the Ministry of Health to identify the opportunities for introducing nixtamalization in Kenya –a process that involves cooking and steeping maize kernels or other grain in calcium hydroxide (lime) which significantly reduces mycotoxin in contaminated grain. It is an effective way of enhancing safety and quality in grains and their nutritional benefits by e.g., increasing calcium intake due to its absorption by the kernels during the steeping process, supply of dietary fibre by increasing resistant starch content in the food products and significantly reducing phytic acid which blocks the absorption of zinc, calcium, and other important minerals in the body. A draft strategy was developed to guide the introduction of nixtamalization in Kenya. A comprehensive work plan will be prepared in the next phase to ensure effective implementation.

### Government Donors

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