



World Food Programme

# WFP Kenya Country Brief

May 2023



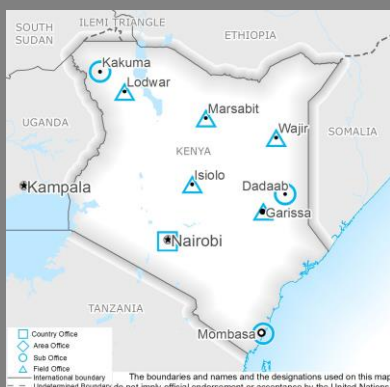
## Operational Context

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 Kenya 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 projected to rise to 5.4 million if the long rains and ongoing interventions are inadequate. 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 shocks, 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**

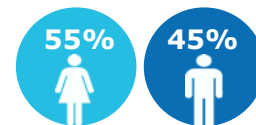
## In Numbers

**11,773 mt** of food commodities distributed

**USD 6.7 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 89.4 million** net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (July-December 2023)

**1.7 million people** assisted in May 2023



## Food Security Situation

- The [food security situation](#) remains a matter of concern. The impact of the recent severe drought persists with varying intensities across different counties, particularly in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). Within the ASALs, four counties are currently in the recovery drought phase and two counties are categorized as being in the alert drought phase. The prevalence of malnutrition in the ASALs continues to present a challenge, primarily due to the time lag between drought recovery and the availability of food. Based on the short rains assessment report in February, approximately 4.4 million people still require food assistance, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address the pressing food security needs.
- The March-May rainfall season had considerable variability in rainfall patterns, with some regions receiving favourable precipitation while others experienced below-normal rainfall. Albeit a general improvement in pasture and browse conditions in most ASALs, pasture and browse remain inadequate. Looking ahead, forecast predicts predominantly sunny and dry conditions across most parts of the ASALs. The persisting vulnerability to prolonged drought conditions underscores the necessity for sustained efforts to tackle food insecurity and to build climate-resilient food systems.

## Operational Updates

### Refugee operations

- WFP worked closely with its cooperating partners to address the critical needs of refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and in Kalobeyei settlement. In May alone, WFP distributed food to 618,379 refugees, thanks to generous contributions from donors. The food assistance comprised in-kind food and cash-based transfers. A total of 34,930 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) and 28,704 children aged 6 to 59 months received vital nutrition support to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. Nutrition treatment support was complemented with social behaviour change communication, promoting healthy practices and empowering families to make informed choices regarding nutrition and well-being e.g., Infant and Young Child Feeding. Education is an invaluable resource contributing towards developing human capital. WFP reached 94,118 refugee schoolchildren with hot meals while in school helping them address classroom hunger.

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


- WFP has successfully expanded its relief food assistance programme dubbed Lisha Jamii Phase II to encompass a greater number of individuals across ten ASAL counties. This has been made possible by the generous contribution from donors with

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Dennis Matendechere

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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)
423.8 m	308.7 m	89.4 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
<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>		
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
<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>		
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.		
<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>		
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.		
<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>		

a significant proportion of support from USAID. The period of support will span a duration of six months from March onwards, WFP targets to reach 943,300 people. As part of WFP’s commitment to addressing malnutrition, another 365,436 children aged 6 to 59 months and 170,596 PBWG will receive monthly nutrition support to treat and prevent MAM. In May, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 508,703 while another 74,688 received food assistance through cash-based transfers. For nutrition support, 89,137 PBWG and 132,547 children were reached.

### Country Capacity Strengthening

- WFP facilitated a joint mission in Wajir in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the County Government of Wajir, UNICEF and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on 10 May 2023. Participants were taken through the successful implementation of social protection and child protection initiatives in Wajir County, including the positive impact of the Disability Bill supported by WFP. The role of counties in building sustainable social protection systems targeting the most vulnerable people such as persons with disabilities was a key discussion area, led by the Governor of Wajir County. During the visit, there was consensus on the need to scale up social protection interventions and integrate them with child protection and resilience-building initiatives. Integrated approaches are significant in responding to climate-induced shocks, persistently faced by vulnerable communities, particularly in ASALs. Additionally, through various capacity-strengthening initiatives including training, and technical support, WFP reached 152 government officials in May (63 percent women).

### Resilience and food systems

- WFP launched the “Vijana in Kilimobizz” Youth Innovation Challenge, in partnership with the E4Impact Foundation and the Mastercard Foundation. This initiative aims to engage and empower young entrepreneurs in Kenya’s food system by calling for innovative solutions to address its challenges and create employment opportunities for young people. [The challenge](#) seeks high-impact, youth-led projects that span the entire food chain from production, processing, distribution, and consumption. It focuses on catalysing agricultural and agribusiness innovations within four regional blocks: the Lake Region Economic Bloc, North Rift Economic Bloc, Frontier Counties Development Council, and South-eastern and Aberdares Region Economic Bloc. Successful teams will benefit from financial support to further refine their innovative solutions and gain access to expert knowledge, coaching, and mentorship provided by WFP, the Mastercard Foundation, and the E4Impact Foundation.
- To support smallholder farmers in safeguarding investments towards resilience building, WFP provided critical support to vulnerable communities in the ASALs through food and cash assistance serving 278,082 people. The seasonal safety nets were provided alongside resilience-building interventions.

### Government Donors

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