



World Food Programme

WFP Kenya Country Brief

June 2023



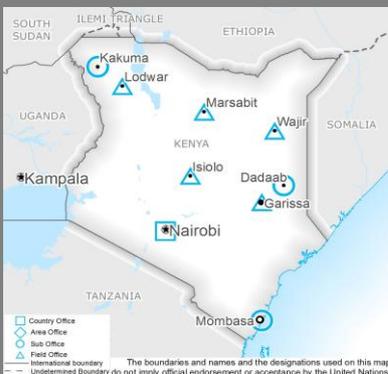
Operational Context

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

9,621 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 7.8 million cash-based transfers made

USD 82.5 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (August-January 2023)

1.8 million people assisted in June 2023



Food Security Situation

- The just-ended March to May rainfall season brought signs of improvement to the drought situation in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Among the 22 ASAL counties, 19 are now in the Normal drought phase (facing dry conditions that are part of their regular weather patterns), indicating more favourable conditions in those areas compared to 2022. However, as of June 2023, Taita Taveta County remains in the Alert drought phase, requiring continued attention and response measures. In terms of recovery, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Kwale counties are in the Recovery phase, showing progress towards better conditions. Despite these positive developments, there are still concerns regarding acute malnutrition, which remains prevalent among children under five years old and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls across the ASALs.
- According to the October to December 2022 Short Rains Food Security Assessment, approximately 4.4 million people require relief assistance. To further assess the impact of the March to May 2023 long rains on local livelihoods, the Long Rains Food Security Assessment is underway by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG), with technical support from WFP and other partners. The data collected from this assessment will be crucial in guiding response actions and collaborative efforts to address the food security situation in the country, particularly in the 23 ASAL counties heavily reliant on rainfall patterns. Concerted humanitarian efforts remain paramount alongside resilience building and livelihood interventions towards changing lives to save lives.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- In June, WFP distributed food assistance to 607,108 refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and in Kalobeyei settlement. The food assistance comprised in-kind food and cash-based transfers. A total of 34,382 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) and 30,052 children aged 6 to 59 months received critical nutrition support to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. Nutrition treatment support was augmented by social behavior change communication, which promoted healthy practices and empowered families to make informed choices regarding nutrition and overall well-being, such as Infant and Young Child Feeding. School meals are a valuable safety net helping boys and girls address nutritional needs and promote their education and overall development. WFP provided hot meals to 87,844 refugee school children while in school.

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Dennis Matendeche

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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	313.9 m	82.5 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 in order 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>		

Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to drought-affected Kenyans

- Through drought response “Lisha Jamii” Phase II, WFP provided food assistance to 884,679 Kenyans in 10 ASALs. The food assistance was through in-kind food and cash-based transfers across ten ASAL counties. Some 3,704 mt of in-kind food were distributed including sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil, while USD 4,194,530 cash transfers provided vulnerable households with the flexibility to meet their diverse food needs. As part of WFP’s commitment to addressing malnutrition, 132,547 children aged 6 to 59 months and 89,137 PBWG received their monthly nutrition support to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition. This assistance will span a duration of six months from March onwards.

Country Capacity Strengthening

- On June 12, 2023, the Ministry of Education, National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya, and other stakeholders assessed the progress made in the national school meals program since the Systems Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) exercise in 2021. The assessment focused on the alignment of the program with national policy, funding levels and budgeting, coordination, management, accountability, and quality assurance. The follow-up 2023 SABER score increased from 2.6 to 3, indicating that the programme is established, and policy development work has been undertaken. The increase in score is attributed to increased budgetary allocation and improved program design by the government. However, the assessment also noted the need for strengthening program reporting, monitoring, and evaluation frameworks.
- Through various capacity-strengthening initiatives including training and technical support, WFP reached 38 government officials in June (58 percent women).

Resilience and food systems

- In collaboration with the Meru County government, Mechanization Service Providers, Machinery Vendors, financiers, and farmers, WFP’s Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) organized a Climate Smart Agriculture business summit on 15 June 2023. The summit focused on “Strengthening partnerships to enhance sustainable agricultural mechanization practices,” and more than 10 organizations with 85 participants attended. The summit’s key outcome was the establishment of partnerships to benefit 5,000 WFP-supported farmers by connecting them with private sector partners who offer a range of climate-smart solutions, including machinery and equipment for land preparation. These partnerships will enable farmers to access advanced technologies that facilitate climate-smart agriculture practices and enhance their resilience to climate change, allowing them to adapt and produce in the face of climate change.
- Communities need to adapt and produce in the face of climate change. Under climate resilience programme, WFP supported vulnerable communities in the ASALs through both food and cash assistance, benefiting a total of 161,571 people. The food assistance was provided alongside resilience-building interventions, forming a comprehensive approach to helping those in need with a safety net.

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.