



WFP Kenya Country Brief July 2023



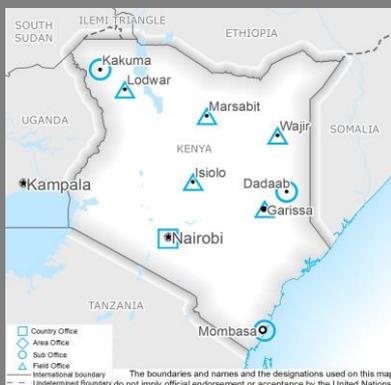
Operational Context

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 eight ASAL counties: Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa and Tana River, which are underdeveloped, drought prone and affected by frequent tribal and resource-based conflicts. The number of people in need of food assistance is 2.8 million people down from 4.4 million people in February. The improved food security situation can be attributed to favourable rainfall during the March to May season.

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

8,553 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 6.3 million cash-based transfers made

USD 73.8 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (September-February 2023)

1.76 million people assisted in July 2023



Food Security Situation

- The 2023 Long Rains Food and Nutrition Security Assessment carried out in 23 arid and semi-arid counties revealed a significant reduction in acute food insecurity levels. The assessment indicated that 2.8 million Kenyans are acutely food insecure, down from 4.4 million in February 2023. Out of this, 2.3 million individuals are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while 0.5 million are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The primary drivers of food and nutrition insecurity include poor rainfall distribution, the cumulative impact of previous poor rainfall seasons, elevated staple food prices, expensive agricultural inputs, and poor dietary intake among children, among others. The improved food security situation can be attributed to favourable rainfall during the March to May season, with further progress anticipated due to forecasted positive rainfall patterns in the upcoming October to December period, attributed to El-Nino conditions.
- Improvements in the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition were observed. This is attributed to expanded drought response efforts and the enhanced food security situation. Despite this positive trend, arid counties still experience elevated levels of acute malnutrition with extreme critical phases identified, in Turkana South sub-county. The number of acute malnutrition cases among children aged 6 to 59 months decreased to 947,000 in July 2023, from 970,000 in February, while 144,940 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) are currently affected by acute malnutrition. There is need for continued interventions to address malnutrition and enhance well-being.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- In July, WFP provided food assistance to 616,911 refugees living in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, and in Kalobeyei settlement. The assistance included food and cash-based transfers. The programme also provided nutrition support to 34,018 PBWGs, and 27,312 children aged 6 to 59 months to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. Families were also taught healthy practices like Infant and Young Child Feeding to make informed choices regarding nutrition and well-being of their children. WFP also provided hot meals to 92,029 refugee schoolchildren to help them with their nutritional needs and promote their education and overall development.
- Since the beginning July 2023, WFP reduced refugee rations to 60 percent of the minimum food basket due to resource constraints. Refugees last received a full ration in September 2018. This reduction in rations is likely to lead to poor food and nutrition outcomes for refugees.

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Martin Karimi

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
2023 Total Requirement (in USD)	2023 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
423.8 m	315.2 m	73.8 m
Corporate strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.		
<p>CSP Outcome 1: Refugees, asylum seekers and food-insecure populations in emergency contexts in Kenya have equitable access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food and inclusive, gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive pathways to self-reliance by 2027.</p> <p>Focus area: Crisis response, is aligned with SDG target 2.1 (access to food), is derived from UNSDCF strategic priority 1 (SP 1) (people and peace) and contributes to UNSDCF outcome 1.2</p>		

Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to drought-affected Kenyans

- Generous contributions from donors continue to make significant strides in addressing food insecurity across the ASALs. In July, WFP provided food assistance to 924,744 people across 10 counties (Garissa, Tana River, Baringo, Kitui, Wajir, Mandera, Samburu, Marsabit, Turkana and Isiolo). The food assistance was provided through cash-based transfers and distribution of food comprising sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil. To address malnutrition, 132,547 children aged 6 to 59 months and 89,137 PBWGs received their monthly nutrition support to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition. Lisha Jamii is fostering hope among targeted communities helping beneficiaries to live productive lives in their day-to-day livelihoods.

Country Capacity Strengthening

- In July WFP facilitated a comprehensive 5-day workshop to develop an indicator handbook for the 2023-2027 County Integrated Development Plan III (CIDP). The workshop was organized by the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate in the State Department for Planning, in collaboration with the Council of Governors, representatives from 19 counties, WFP and other United Nations agencies. The CIDP indicator handbook prioritizes the critical outcome and output indicators that the counties will pursue from 2023 to 2027. Technical officers from counties were supported by WFP's technical experts in prioritizing county outcome and output indicators. They also aligned relevant indicators with the WFP Country Strategic Plan 2023-2027 priorities for collaboration (Kilifi, Kitui, Tana River, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, and Garissa).

Resilience and food systems

- Sustainable land reclamation and restoration in Kenya's Arid and semi-arid lands has the potential to enhance environmental resilience and community well-being by mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting food security. WFP in collaboration with the county governments of Wajir, Garissa, Turkana and the University of Nairobi representatives visited Niger to study the successful land restoration practices in the Sahel Region with the aim of replicating these practices in Kenya's ASALs. Plans are underway for the University of Nairobi to undertake seasonal livelihood programming (SLP) in multiple counties to enable stakeholders to design integrated multi-year operational plans and identify appropriate interventions to enhance resilience building. County government officials showed commitment to spearhead land restoration in their respective counties. This collaboration embodies a transformative approach to environmental stewardship as ASALs hold the potential for revitalizing degraded lands and fostering sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

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.

Activity 1: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees in camps and settlements and surrounding host communities.

Activity 2: Provide capacity strengthening and technical support to refugees in the settlements and surrounding host communities to enhance self-reliance.

Activity 3: Provide food assistance, nutrient-rich commodities and social and behaviour change communication to vulnerable Kenyan populations in emergency contexts.

Corporate Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

CSP Outcome 2: Food-insecure and risk-prone populations, especially women and youth, in targeted rural and urban communities are more resilient with regard to climate change and other shocks and benefit from more inclusive food systems, improved livelihoods and better access to safe, healthy and sustainable diets by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience, is derived from UNSDCF SP 2 (prosperity and planet) and contributes to UNSDCF outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. It aligns with Government's MTP IV, and SDG targets 2.4, 2.1, 2.3, 8.6, 12.3, 13.1, 17.16 and 17.17.

Activity 4: Provide integrated climate-adaptive support to enable communities at risk, including smallholder producers and other value chain actors, to produce, aggregate, add value, access markets, reduce food losses and consume safe and healthy food.

Corporate Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

CSP Outcome 3: By 2027, national and county institutions have in place stronger, more inclusive innovative policies, systems and capacities, especially through Kenya's own social protection and disaster risk management systems and relief programmes, to expand coverage and better assist populations vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

Focus area: Root causes, is aligned with SDG target 17.9 (capacity strengthening), is derived from UNSDCF strategic priority 1 (people and peace) and contributes to UNSDCF outcome 1.2. It is also aligned with the Government's MTP IV and contributes to progress towards SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10.

Activity 5: Provide technical advice, assistance and capacity strengthening (including South-South and triangular cooperation) support to national and county institutions and partners for Kenya's inclusive, gender-transformative, nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social safety nets and social protection systems and programmes and to strengthen Kenya's adaptive capacity to prepare for and respond to shocks.

Activity 6: Provide technical assistance to enable innovative, scalable and transformative approaches among government and other food security, nutrition and social protection actors and private sector actors at the national and subnational levels.

Corporate Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

CSP Outcome 4: By 2027, government at the national and county levels, United Nations agencies and humanitarian and development actors have access to, and benefit from effective and efficient supply chain services.

Focus area: Crisis response and is aligned with SDG target 17.16 (enhance global partnership), is derived from the UNSDCF strategic enabler (partnership) and contributes to UNSDCF outcome 3.1.

Activity 7: Provide UNHAS services to all humanitarian and development actors.

Activity 8: Provide humanitarian air services in support of projects funded by DG-ECHO.

Activity 9: Provide on-demand services to the humanitarian and development community.