

WFP Kenya Country Brief September 2023



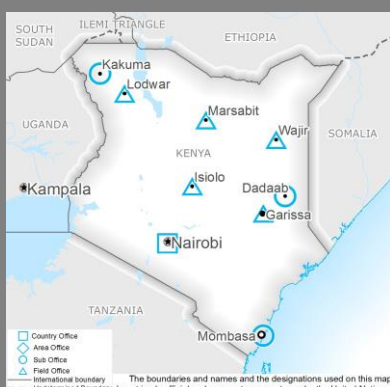
Operational Context

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 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. Approximately 946,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and 144,940 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls are acutely malnourished.

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**

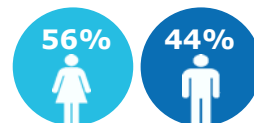
In Numbers

10,307 mt of food commodities distributed

USD 6.18 million cash-based transfers made

USD 117.2 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (November 2023-April 2024)

1.79 million people assisted in August 2023



Food Security Situation

- Food insecurity remains high with 2.8 million Kenyans still facing acute food needs. Similarly, over 1 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and children aged 6-59 months are affected by acute malnutrition.
- In October, many regions across the country are expected to receive above-average rainfall. With this increased rainfall, farmers are ready to expand crop cultivation and pasture production. However, challenges such as soil erosion and waterlogging are likely to affect agricultural activities. The Government is encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices to mitigate such challenges, while fully leveraging the projected precipitation increase.
- There is a possibility of flash floods and lightning strikes, posing dangers to communities in various regions. The Government and humanitarian actors are putting in place flood mitigation measures.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- In September, WFP provided food assistance to a total of 627,325 refugees and asylum seekers residing in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps as well as the Kalobeyei settlement. The food assistance included in-kind food and cash-based transfers. Among the beneficiaries, 65,066 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) and children aged between 6 to 59 months received critical nutrition support to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. This support was complemented by social behaviour change communication, which promoted healthy practices and empowered families to make informed choices regarding nutrition and well-being, such as Infant and Young Child Feeding. As a safety net, WFP also provided hot meals to 96,221 school-going boys and girls, helping them to address their nutritional needs and promote their education and overall development.

Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to drought-affected Kenyans


- Through drought response "Lisha Jamii" Phase II, WFP provided food assistance to 953,226 Kenyans in 10 ASALs. The food assistance was through in-kind food and cash-based transfers. WFP distributed 7,131 mt of in-kind food were distributed including sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil, while USD 4 million cash transfers provided vulnerable households with the flexibility to meet their diverse food needs. As part of WFP's commitment to addressing

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Rose Ogola

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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	322.5 m	117.2 m
Corporate strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.		
CSP Strategic 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. 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		
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 Strategic 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 Strategic 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 Strategic 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.		

malnutrition, another 119,806 children aged 6 to 59 months and 84,657 PBWGs received their monthly nutrition support to treat and prevent MAM.

Climate Resilience and Food Systems

- In September, WFP Engaged in a 5-day collaborative monitoring exercise alongside World Vision in Kitui in three sub-counties namely Kitui East, Kitui South and Kitui Rural on the Integrated Climate Risk Rural Resilience Initiative (R4). The assessment revealed that farmers perceived the R4 programme as pertinent to their needs and displayed a readiness to contribute their share of premiums during the October-December short rainfall season. It was also observed that farmers Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) groups had successfully disbursed funds (share outs) and initiated a fresh savings cycle in the groups. However, it remains evident that these groups require further support and capacity building on Area Yield Insurance that helps them mitigate crop losses. In addition, Kitui County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries commended the timely insurance payouts to 2,300 farmers from insurance companies, a move that would enable farmers to prepare their land and buy seeds for the short rainfall season. It is anticipated that the smallholder farmers in Kitui will benefit from WFP support on all the components of R4 namely Risk Reduction, Risk Transfer, Risk Diversification and Risk Reserves.

Innovation revolutionizing healthcare data accessibility in remote Kenyan clinics

- Given the current state of the healthcare system, where critical patient data is locked away in paper-based archives, far removed from the digital age, and where health workers are burdened with manual data entry, consuming 60 percent of their valuable time, a digital transformation is necessary to improve patient outcomes and increase efficiency. This has been the reality in the remote healthcare facilities in Kenya, where understaffed clinics struggle to provide necessary services while battling the challenges of manual data aggregation.
- Recognizing the need for transformative change, WFP has introduced MEZA, an Artificial Intelligence-powered innovation. MEZA captures photos of handwritten patient encounter forms and converts them into digitized records. Health workers in remote clinics use a mobile application to submit these photos to the cloud server, even with limited internet connectivity.
- The impact has been profound. Seventy-nine healthcare facilities have joined the MEZA network, digitizing over 3,000 patient records and processing over 6,000 clinical encounters. The benefits are far-reaching. The innovation has streamlined data flow, improved reporting timelines, enhanced data accuracy, and improved patient care and overall healthcare delivery.

Government Donors

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