



World Food Programme

WFP Kenya Country Brief

October 2023



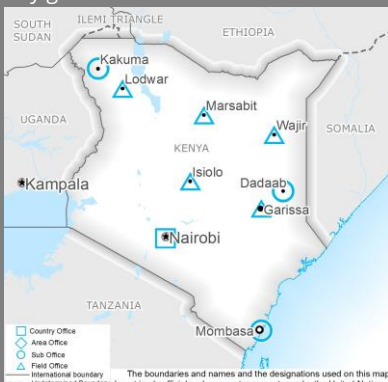
Operational Context

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. The agricultural sector remains central to Kenya's economy and provides livelihoods for more than 80 percent of the population, especially in rural areas. However, 80 percent of Kenya's landmass is either arid or semi-arid and 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 arid and semi-arid (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 now 2.8 million, down from 4.4 million in February. Of these, approximately 946,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and 144,940 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls are acutely malnourished. The improved food security situation can be attributed to favourable rainfall during the March to May rainy season.

Investing in mitigation and adaptation measures including anticipatory actions, community-based disaster risk reduction and resilience-building activities can greatly reduce the need for humanitarian assistance when crises strike.

WFP has field offices across the ASALs and in urban settings, providing both immediate support for vulnerable people and implementing longer-term initiatives to build resilience, improve diets, and bolster the capacity of national and county governments to withstand shocks.



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

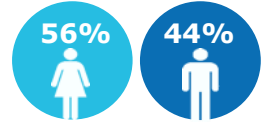
October in Numbers

1.78 million people assisted

10,780 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 6.1 million cash transfers made

USD 134 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (December 2023-May 2024)



Food Security Situation

- Food insecurity remains high with a projected 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. With the ongoing October to December rainfall, crop and livestock production will likely improve across the country. This will improve household access to food.
- Flood-prone counties such as Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Kilifi and Kwale are already experiencing flooding. As a result, loss of human life, livestock, displacement of households, and destruction of cropland, property, and infrastructure (roads, markets) have been reported. WFP is collaborating with other humanitarian partners and the government in monitoring the situation while providing emergency assistance to affected populations.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- In October, WFP provided food assistance to 631,000 refugees and asylum seekers residing in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and the Kalobeyei settlement. The food assistance included in-kind food and cash-based transfers. Among the beneficiaries, 65,000 PBWGs and children aged between 6 to 59 months, who were malnourished or at risk of malnourishment, received nutrition support to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). This support was complemented by social behaviour change communication, which promoted healthy nutrition practices and empowered families to make informed choices regarding their health and well-being. Additionally, 96,000 school-going boys and girls were provided with a daily hot meal.
- In collaboration with the University of Oxford, WFP is finalizing a study on refugee debt in Kakuma and Kalobeyei to inform refugee programme design and strategy. Initial findings from the study have revealed an estimated 75 percent of refugee households in Kakuma are in debt, while in Kalobeyei the debt levels are at 95 percent. The debt levels are concerning because they are impacting the refugees' ability to access nutritious foods - they are paying higher food prices to cover interest payments on their debts, spending cash equivalent to two months' worth of rations to pay their debts. Furthermore, the study shows the size of debt incurred by refugee households has tripled since 2019.

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/Alessandro Abbonizio

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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	332.5 m	134 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.

Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to drought- affected Kenyans

- Through drought response "Lisha Jamii" Phase II, WFP provided food assistance to 960,000 Kenyans in 10 arid and semi-arid counties. The food assistance was through in-kind food and cash-based transfers. As part of WFP's commitment to addressing malnutrition, another 111,340 children aged 6 to 59 months and 81,780 PBWGs received their monthly nutrition support to treat and prevent MAM. WFP distributed 4,037 mt of food including sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil, while USD 4 million cash transfers provided vulnerable households with the flexibility to meet their diverse food needs.

Capacity Strengthening: Social Protection

- With financial and technical support from WFP, the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs launched the Community Development Management Information System (CDMIS). The CDMIS will support the effective implementation and management of government-led programmes including the Economic Inclusion Programme (EIP), volunteerism and the Community Group Registration. The EIP focuses on enabling extremely poor households to participate in social and economic activities by increasing their access to skills, productive inputs, assets, finance, and economic opportunities. The programme participants are mentored to open and run successful businesses and participate in village savings and loan associations (VSLAs).

Climate Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP collaborated with the county governments of Tana River, Garissa, Mandera, Wajir, and HIVE Limited (a private sector partner) and carried out a beekeeping value chain assessment. The objective was to jointly explore the potential and the challenges in the value chain as a resilient livelihood option to inform WFP's beekeeping programme. Over 460 beekeepers were engaged out of whom 180 were youth. These beekeepers manage over 1,900 beehives in 26 apiaries. Assessment results show that beekeeping in these counties is influenced by forage availability, community interest, and access to agricultural extension services. Notably, there is a recognized need to increase the number of extension officers and so far, Tana River County Government has assigned two extension officers to support local beekeepers. Additionally, the assessment highlighted the need to establish aggregation and processing centers. The HIVE Limited is proactively addressing this need through ongoing initiatives aimed at creating such centers in high-potential counties, thereby bridging existing gaps.

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.