

WFP Kenya Country Brief February 2024



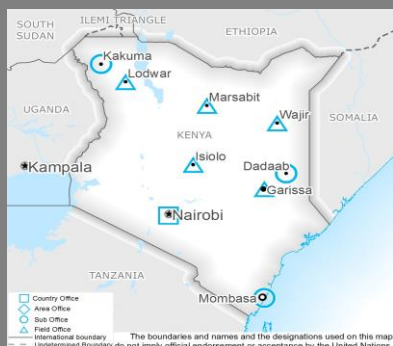
Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy, is transforming rapidly. Social and economic inequalities persist, and more than one third of Kenyans grapple with multidimensional poverty. 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. Rapid population growth, climate shocks, 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 1.9 million, an improvement from the 2.8 million people in 2023. Approximately 847,932 children aged 6 to 59 months and 124,359 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) face acute malnutrition.

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.



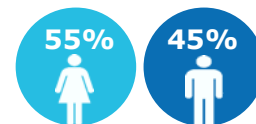
Population: **50 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18 percent of children between 6 and 59**

February in Numbers



1.2 million people assisted in February.

7,755 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 4.6 million cash transfers made

USD 138.4 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (March-August 2024)

Food Security Situation

- There is an improvement in food security across Kenya's 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties. The population facing critical food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) and requiring humanitarian assistance has decreased, dropping from 2.8 million in 2023 to 1.9 million. This positive trend is primarily attributed to the performance of the October-December 2023 short rainfall season. Most regions received above-average rainfall, leading to improved livestock and crop production and overall food security. Even so, disparities exist across counties with six ASAL counties remaining classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis and above): Turkana, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, and Wajir. Malnutrition remains a concern, especially in the ASALs with 847,932 children aged 6 to 59 months and 124,359 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) facing acute malnutrition.

Operational Updates

Refugee operations

- The Kenyan government gazetted the Refugee Act 2021 Regulations in February. This step signifies progress towards the full implementation of the Refugee Act. Once approved by the Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation, the regulations will become operational, paving the way for enhanced refugee rights, strengthening the protection and inclusion of refugees in Kenya, and to facilitate greater integration of refugees into socioeconomic programmes.
- WFP provided food and nutrition support to 641,200 (316,751 female) refugees and asylum seekers in Kakuma, Dadaab refugee camps in the Kalobeyei settlement in February. The food assistance helped the beneficiaries to meet their basic daily food and nutrition needs. Through the school meals programme, 98,640 (43,576 girls) primary school-going boys and girls enjoyed daily hot lunches in school.
- Starting February 2024, WFP Kenya reduced general food rations to 50 percent of the MFB, down from 60 percent. This difficult decision aims to extend the programme's reach to provide food assistance for a longer period and to more refugees as new arrivals continue arriving.

Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to Kenyans


- WFP's Lisha Jamii programme provided critical food assistance and nutrition support to vulnerable Kenyans across 15 counties, reaching 427,224 individuals (243,520 female). WFP provided assistance through in-kind food and cash-based transfers. The cash transfers offered beneficiaries greater flexibility in meeting their dietary needs. Additionally, WFP reached 76,552 PBWGs, and 103,723 children aged 6 to 59 months, by providing them with specialized nutritional support to prevent and treat MAM.
- WFP provided technical and financial assistance to the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development for a workshop

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Dennis Matendechere

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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)
347.5 m	131.8 m	138.4 m
Corporate strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.		
<p>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.</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> <p>Activity 1: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees in camps and settlements and surrounding host communities.</p> <p>Activity 2: Provide capacity strengthening and technical support to refugees in the settlements and surrounding host communities to enhance self-reliance.</p> <p>Activity 3: Provide food assistance, nutrient-rich commodities and social and behaviour change communication to vulnerable Kenyan populations in emergency contexts.</p>		
Corporate Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Corporate Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened.		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Corporate Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activity 7: Provide UNHAS services to all humanitarian and development actors.</p> <p>Activity 8: Provide humanitarian air services in support of projects funded by DG-ECHO.</p> <p>Activity 9: Provide on-demand services to the humanitarian and development community.</p>		

involving the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the National Relief Assistance Policy. The workshop facilitated a comprehensive review and update of the draft policy, incorporating feedback from a prior nationwide public participation exercise and addressing emerging issues. The TWG subsequently developed a roadmap for stakeholder engagement at the national level to validate the revised policy. Upon successful validation, the finalized draft will be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

Capacity Strengthening and Innovation

- WFP continued to strengthen institutional capacity in Kenya, ensuring sustainable financing, and promoting social inclusivity to build a robust and equitable social protection system that effectively safeguards its most vulnerable populations. In February, WFP helped to operationalize the Makueni Economic Empowerment Fund – an initiative which aims to promote economic empowerment of vulnerable Kenyans. WFP met with key leaders from Makueni County, including the County Executive Member for Gender and Social Services, the Chief Officer, the Director, and the Makueni County Empowerment Fund (MCEF) Administrator. The meeting focused on operationalizing the MCEF, a KES.146 million county initiative designed to enhance income security through affordable loans for youth, men, women, people with disabilities, and table banking groups. This initiative aligns with Makueni County's social protection policy, which WFP provided technical and financial support in developing. In February, WFP also consolidated its new approach to adaptive social protection in February in order to strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable people in Kenya against climate shocks by linking years of investments in Kenya's cash transfer programmes for the vulnerable with resilience initiatives, anticipatory actions and climate adaptation.

Climate Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP Kenya, with support from WFP Headquarters, Regional Bureau for the Eastern Africa, and the University of Nairobi, co-hosted a transformative ecosystem restoration bootcamp in Wamba, Samburu County. The event brought together 60 participants and facilitators, including WFP staff, university representatives, and government professionals from Kenya, South Sudan, and Somalia including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives [MOALD] and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change). This intensive training aimed to equip a group of regional experts who will train others and support the scale-up of ecosystem restoration efforts across ASAL counties. The curriculum focused on, among others, participants exploring approaches to design programmes that consider the food-water-energy nexus and relevant technical measures and strengthening stakeholder's capacity in Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) and Livelihood Creation methodologies and practical techniques for creating sustainable livelihoods.

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.