

# WFP Kenya Country Brief March 2024



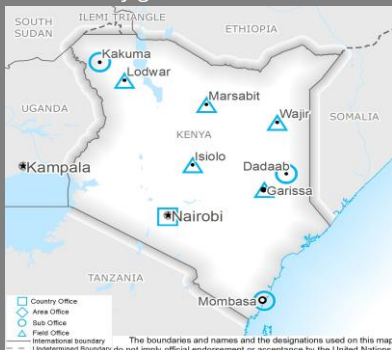
## Operational Context

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**

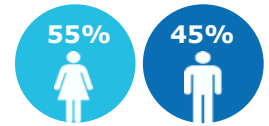
## February in Numbers

**1 million people** assisted

**USD 2.7 million** cash transfers made

**USD 136.4 million** net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months ( March-August 2024)

**4,265 MT** of food commodities distributed



## Food Security Situation

- The long rains season (March-May) has been characterized by heavy storms, leading to significant flooding and flash floods in several parts of the country. At least [150,000 people](#) across the country are displaced and nearly 191,000 affected. The flooding has also caused substantial agricultural damage, destroying over 27,700 acres of croplands and leading to the deaths of more than 4,800 livestock and more than 100 people.
- The Government and humanitarian partners are actively mobilizing resources to address the situation. This includes delivering emergency shelter and non-food items to flood-affected regions. Additionally, they are working closely with local authorities to assess the full scale of the needs and scale up the response efforts to support affected communities.

## Operational Updates

### Refugee operations

- In line with the Refugee Act and the Shirika Plan, WFP, UNHCR, and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) are collaborating to implement a differentiated assistance approach to refugee assistance, transitioning from providing assistance based on refugee status to one that provides assistance based on needs/vulnerability. This shift ensures beneficiaries receive support tailored to their specific vulnerabilities and needs. A two-tiered coordination structure has been established at the national and field levels. This government-led structure includes a multi-agency technical team responsible for developing key workstreams to achieve the differentiated assistance approach. Joint missions by DRS, UNHCR, and WFP were conducted in Dadaab and Kakuma camps to raise awareness and gather feedback from various stakeholders at the field level. The missions confirmed that refugee populations are not homogenous and have diverse needs. Stakeholder feedback also highlighted the importance of enhancing programmes that promote self-reliance and resilience for refugees.
- In March, WFP provided food assistance and nutrition support to 635,597 refugees and recognized asylum seekers (315,757 women and girls) in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps and the Kalobeyei settlement. More than 101,886 school going boys and girls enjoyed hot lunches served in school. An additional 16,230 (15,290 children and 940 PBWGs) received specialized nutritious commodities to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.

### Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to Kenyans


- WFP co-sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF8) and Action Planning process for Kenya, held from February 27-29. This forum served as a critical platform for collaboration between the Kenya Meteorological Department

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Angeline Wafula

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
2024 Total Requirement (in USD)	2024 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
347.5 m	137.5 m	136.4 m
Corporate strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.		
<p><b>CSP Strategic Outcome 1:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activity 1:</b> Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees in camps and settlements and surrounding host communities.</p> <p><b>Activity 2:</b> Provide capacity strengthening and technical support to refugees in the settlements and surrounding host communities to enhance self-reliance.</p> <p><b>Activity 3:</b> 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><b>CSP Strategic Outcome 2:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activity 4:</b> 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><b>CSP Strategic Outcome 3:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activity 5:</b> 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><b>Activity 6:</b> 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><b>CSP Strategic Outcome 4:</b> 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><b>Focus area:</b> 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><b>Activity 7:</b> Provide UNHAS services to all humanitarian and development actors.</p> <p><b>Activity 8:</b> Provide humanitarian air services in support of projects funded by DG-ECHO.</p> <p><b>Activity 9:</b> Provide on-demand services to the humanitarian and development community.</p>		

(KMD), various forecasting groups, and user communities. Participants at the forum reviewed and assessed available seasonal predictions from different forecasting groups and established a consensus-based climate outlook for the respective user areas. Following the forum, the KMD officially issued the climate outlook for the March-May 2024 Long Rains season. The forum also provided access to other climate prediction products, for emergency preparedness and the implementation of anticipatory actions during the season.

- WFP's *Lisha Jamii* programme provided critical food assistance and nutrition support to 268,315 vulnerable Kenyans (152,940 female). WFP assisted with in-kind food and cash-based transfers. Additionally, WFP reached 78,260 PBWGs, and 104,605 (54,240 girls) children aged 6 to 59 months, by providing them with specialized nutritional support to prevent and treat MAM.

### Capacity Strengthening

- WFP is supporting the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for a pilot climate-smart school meals program in Embu and Tharaka counties. This program utilizes an "aggregator model," where NACONEK proposes to procure food commodities directly from smallholder farmer organizations closest to the targeted schools. To assess feasibility, a joint WFP-NACONEK team visited sample aggregation centers in both counties from March 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The visit confirmed the potential of smallholder farmer organizations to supply schools with appropriate climate-resilient cereals (sorghum, millet, maize) and pulses (green grams, cowpeas, pigeon peas, beans).

### Food Systems and Resilience Building

- The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA), in collaboration with Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD) and FSD Africa, held a validation workshop for a recent deep dive study on Farmer Service Centers (FSCs). The workshop aimed to confirm key study findings, validate the proposed segmentation approach, and foster discussion on opportunities for a unified approach to digitizing FSCs and empowering smallholder farmers. The deep dive study explored the FSC business model, assessing its viability and sustainability across different segments, with a particular focus on female- and youth-owned centers. It also investigated strategies to enhance FSC access to finance, examined potential methods to leverage their services for financial inclusion of smallholder farmers, and evaluated the role of digitization in facilitating financial access for both FSCs and farmers. FtMA currently supports a network of 1,272 FSCs serving over 343,184 farmers across 13 counties.

#### 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.