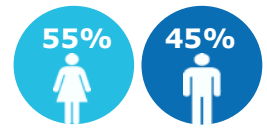




World Food Programme

# WFP Kenya Country Brief



## May in Numbers

**989,446 people** assisted

**4,554 MT** of food commodities distributed

**USD 627,936** cash transfers made

**USD 143 million** net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (June–November 2024)

### Food Security Situation

- After the devastating drought in 2023, Kenya has suffered another climate-induced crisis in 2024. The March-May long rains season continued in May, characterised by heavy rains and periodic storms before cessation at the end of the month. Flooding resulting from the rains affected [412,763 people](#) with over 278,000 displaced nationwide. In addition, about 48,000 acres of cropland were destroyed, 11,000 livestock lost, 129 schools affected and 54 roads were damaged with scores of people reported dead and others missing.

### Operational Updates

#### Refugee operations

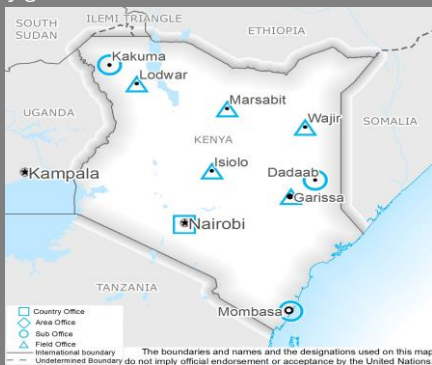
- In April, funding shortages forced WFP to suspend cash transfers via electronic vouchers for 580,000 refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps. In addition, the overall food basket was reduced from 50 to 40 percent of the minimum food basket starting May 2024. About 70,000 refugees receiving cash in the Kalobeyei settlement were unaffected. This drop was an effort to stretch the existing resources to support refugees and new arrivals for a longer period.
- In May, WFP provided food assistance and nutrition support to 646,262 refugees in the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, and the Kalobeyei settlement (322,249 women). Furthermore, 1,200 people continue to engage in self-reliance crop farming and livestock rearing activities through kitchen gardening, open-field vegetable farming, and chicken rearing, among other livelihood activities.
- In line with the Refugee Act and the Shirika Plan, WFP, UNHCR, and the Department of Refugee Services are collaborating to implement a differentiated assistance approach to refugee assistance. This means transitioning from providing blanket assistance to all registered refugee households to one that provides assistance based on needs/vulnerability. This shift will ensure beneficiaries receive support tailored to their specific vulnerabilities and needs.
- In May, International Organization Development Ltd. (IOD PARC), an external evaluation firm, conducted a strategic evaluation of WFP's support for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and irregular migrants in Kenya. This evaluation aims to assess WFP's effectiveness in addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of these vulnerable populations. A concurrent mission from the same firm is also reviewing WFP's environmental policy. The team visited the Kakuma camp and held discussions with WFP, other UN agencies, government ministries, Non governmental

## 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**

**Caption: Photo credit:** © WFP/ Brian Wanene

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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                            | 137.8 m                               | 143 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.

Organizations, and selected donors.

### Emergency food assistance and nutrition support to Kenyans

- WFP Kenya is planning to support a malnutrition prevention programme in Marsabit (North Horr subcounty) and Turkana (Turkana South sub-county) in June. This programme will exclusively target 10,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women with 39 metric tons of fortified SuperCereal, aiming to prevent deterioration in nutritional status and related morbidity and mortality. With new contributions from the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and other donors, WFP will continue to support the management of acute malnutrition (MAM) in 11 counties, including West Pokot, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Tana River, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, West Pokot, and Baringo (Tiaty sub-county). The contribution is estimated to cover 60 percent of the needs for six months.

### Capacity Strengthening & Innovations:

- A collaborative effort by the Turkana County Social Protection Department and WFP culminated in a capacity-building workshop to empower the county disability committee and county leadership. This workshop marked a significant step forward, with WFP and the Turkana County Government signing an agreement to bolster their capacity to plan, design, and implement social safety net programmes that effectively address hunger and poverty. WFP also assisted Turkana County in reviewing key documents: the Social Protection Policy and Bill, and the Disability Act of 2017. This collaborative review aimed to strengthen the legal and policy framework for social protection in the county thus ensuring sustained resource allocation for social protection interventions. Additionally, the workshop addressed the crucial issues of people living with disability registration and disability fund allocation within the national government *Inua Jamii* cash transfer programme.

### Food Systems and Resilience Building

- A youth-in-work survey was undertaken for the *Vijana in Kilimobizz* project that supported 25,510 participants in 2023 under the Mastercard Foundation and WFP initiative in 27 target counties (51 percent being young women). More than 19,000 youth participants (51 percent young women) were interviewed, and 12,171 (47 percent women) reported an increase, diversification, and reliability of income, capacity to employ others and enhanced decision-making attributed to the project. The survey findings underscored the need to provide more tailored services to youth through enterprises on production, service provision and processing. The survey also revealed a prevalent perception among youth equating employment primarily with 'white-collar jobs.' This highlights an opportunity to raise awareness about diverse employment opportunities. Interestingly, participants who shifted from formal wage employment to farming expressed high satisfaction and no desire to return to formal wage employment.
- The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) also continued to support a network of 1,272 Farmer Service Centers serving over 343,184 smallholder farmers across 13 counties through capacity strengthening in entrepreneurship.

### 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.