



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief October 2024



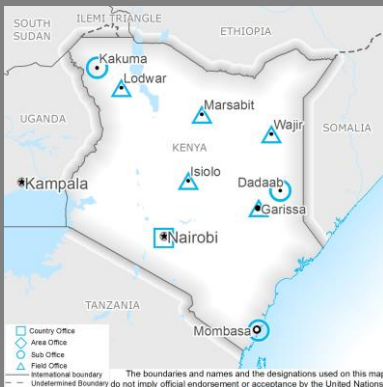
## Operational Context

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 million, an improvement from the 2 million people in February. Approximately 760,488 children aged 6 to 59 months and 112,401 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**

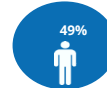
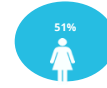
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## October in Numbers

**1 million people** assisted



**669,428 refugees** received cash assistance

**3,959 MT** of food commodities distributed

**USD 6 million** cash transfers made

**USD 137.6 million** net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months ( November 2024-April 2025)

## Food Security Situation

- An estimated one million Kenyans are acutely food insecure nationally, mostly from arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) with number projected to rise to 1.8 million by January 2025 due to anticipated La Niña weather. Over 900,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls require nutrition supplementation with high malnutrition rates concentrated in ASAL counties like Turkana, Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, and Tana River.

## Operational Updates: Refugee Operations

- Differentiated Assistance:** WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), is designing a differentiated assistance model tailored to support refugee and asylum seekers households based on their specific needs. Moving away from the traditional one-size-fits-all approach, this model will categorize refugees based on their vulnerability and capacity to meet basic needs. The most vulnerable refugees will receive comprehensive humanitarian assistance, while others will receive targeted support through livelihood programmes, skills training, and access to economic resources. This strategy promotes equitable use of resources, long-term sustainability and self-reliance among refugee populations.
- WFP and partners collected data and engaged with refugee communities to inform the categorization and profiling of refugee households for differentiated assistance. Mapping of livelihood and economic inclusion opportunities in refugee-hosting areas is also ongoing. The livelihood and economic inclusion activities will be implemented for both refugees and host communities within the climate-resilience "Hubs" identified by WFP and government. This major shift in how humanitarian and development services are delivered to refugees in Kenya requires a structured and inclusive process, guided by the do no harm principle. WFP is collaborating with donors and partners to ensure the differentiated assistance model is supported and effectively implemented, enhancing its impact on the people we serve.

## Climate-Friendly School Feeding and Social Protection


- Kenya's ambitious plan to provide nutritious meals to 10 million children by 2030, supported by the Government, WFP, and the Rockefeller Foundation, aims to address child hunger and malnutrition while promoting sustainable agriculture and local economic development. To this end, launching the National School Meals Coalition was a significant step for Kenya. The Government is expanding the national school meals programme to improve the overall well-being, cognitive development, and educational outcomes of vulnerable children, including those living in ASALs, low-income households, and children with special needs.

Caption: Photo Credit: © WFP/ Dennis Matendeche

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
<b>Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)</b>		
2024 Total Requirement (in USD)	2024 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
347.5 m	235.9 m	137.6 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.

### 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.

- The programme will also create opportunities for smallholder farmers to sell their produce to schools, boosting their income while supporting climate-adapted agriculture, and reduce the environmental footprint and carbon emissions by exploring clean cooking solutions and carbon trading initiatives. As the secretariat for the National School Meals Coalition, WFP will facilitate collaboration among stakeholders and provide technical expertise to support the implementation of this national initiative.

- Kenya hosted the second Ministerial meeting of the Global School Meals Coalition Taskforce in Nairobi on October 29, officiated by President Dr Samoei William Ruto. The event brought together global leaders to advance the mission of providing nutritious school meals to every child in school by 2030. Kenya's efforts and commitment to scaling up climate-friendly school meals were recognized.

### Food Systems and Resilience Building

- The increasing frequency and severity of climate shocks and acute food insecurity in Kenya call for innovative ways to mitigate climate-induced shocks and strengthening local food systems. WFP is actively implementing its Changing Lives to Save Lives agenda through diversified and innovative approaches in close collaboration with the national and county governments and partners. One such approach is the climate-resilient food system hubs that WFP has established in ASAL counties, led and co-financed by county governments. These area-based hubs serve as platforms to pool investments in climate-resilient value chains, livelihood diversification, financial inclusion, nutrition, and anticipatory actions, layered with national safety net programmes to help smallholders and pastoralists adapt to a changing climate.

- To date, 41 hubs have been established across 10 counties most affected by climate change in North and North-Eastern Kenya, including two in the refugee hosting counties, Turkana and Garissa, directly reaching over 110,000 people cumulatively (56 percent female). The hubs are designed to support families and communities to meet their needs and become more resilient to shocks, with less reliance on humanitarian assistance over time. This integrated approach is creating lasting impact by building economic opportunities, supporting food security and stability, and aligning with national and county-level priorities for sustainable development and resilience.

- WFP's efforts in livelihood diversification, asset creation, and natural resources management are aiming at contributing to long-term food security, including: through a WFP, UNESCO and county governments 5-year joint programme investing in the fish value chain in Turkana and Marsabit Counties to improve access to food and nutrition, boost incomes, and support climate-resilient livelihoods; beekeeping in Turkana, Wajir, Mandera, Tana River, Isiolo, and Samburu counties complementing livelihoods for 3,500 beekeepers (54 percent female) who have produced 131mt of honey since inception, valued at USD401,963; and investments in climate-proved water infrastructure which are enabling communities in ten most drought and flood-affected counties to produce crops and fodder for domestic use and sale in markets.