



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief November 2024



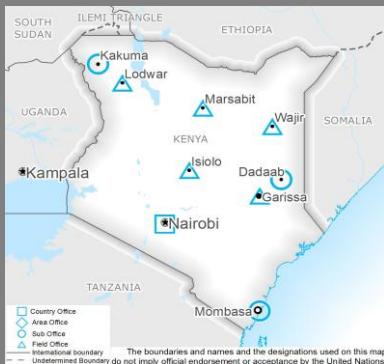
Operational Context

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 1million, 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**

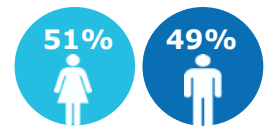
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

November in Numbers

1.2 million people assisted



2,894 MT of food commodities distributed

USD 3.4 million cash transfers made

USD 131 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (December 2024-May 2025)

Food Security Situation

- An estimated [1 million Kenyans](#), primarily in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), face acute food insecurity, as projected in the long rains assessment. The delayed onset and below-normal rainfall during the October-December short rain season will worsen the situation, with Garissa, Tana River, Kwale, and Kilifi counties classified under drought alert already. While some high-production areas are receiving near-normal rainfall, the overall impact of the poor rainfall season on food security remains significant. It is projected that with the below-average rainfall in the short rain season, the number of people requiring food assistance will increase to [1.8 million](#) by the first quarter of 2025.


Operational Updates: Refugee Operations

- WFP, UNHCR, and other stakeholders, led by the Department of Refugee Affairs, developed a differentiated assistance framework to tailor support to the specific needs of refugee households. This approach categorizes households based on vulnerability and capacity, ensuring that humanitarian and livelihood assistance is targeted effectively. To implement this framework, a household identification methodology is being finalized hand-in-hand with a transition framework to guide household identification and the movement of households from one category to the next, gradually out of high dependency on humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance and resilience.
- Costed humanitarian and livelihood assistance packages were developed and aligned with the defined household categories. Additionally, cross-cutting aspects, such as recourse mechanisms, communication, risk management, and monitoring and evaluation, are being incorporated into the framework. These preparatory activities will facilitate the successful rollout of the assistance approach in 2025, promoting long-term sustainability and self-reliance among refugees.
- In November, WFP provided support to 673,500 refugees and asylum seekers (330,200 women) with in-kind food assistance and cash transfers. Additionally, through the relief and emergency response activities, WFP is providing food assistance through cash transfers to 165,000 Kenyans (47 percent women and girls) in seven ASALs.

Climate-Friendly School Feeding and Social Protection

- WFP's Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa convened a four-day workshop in Nairobi from November 11 to strengthen government-led social protection approaches. The workshop reviewed progress, identified challenges, opportunities, and developed a roadmap for future engagement. By bringing together WFP staff and government counterparts, the event focused on consolidating lessons learned, enhancing capacity, and aligning WFP's support with emerging needs and organizational changes. The workshop addressed key thematic areas, including climate risk financing, refugee inclusion, and self-reliance.

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Dennis Matendechere
People reached and tonnage distributed are estimates.
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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	239.5 m	131.0 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.

- Following the launch of the National School Meals Coalition and The National School Meals Scale-Up Plan on 8 October, WFP and the Ministry of Education convened the first meeting of the Coalition on 19 November. The meeting aimed to activate the coalition by forming technical working groups, drafting annual work plans and agreeing on working arrangements. WFP was appointed the Coalition Secretariat, leveraging its experience supporting Kenya's school meals programme. The Coalition will help consolidate resources and streamline support by development partners. By streamlining coordination and resource allocation, the coalition aims to ensure the effective implementation of the scale-up plan and ultimately reach 10 million learners by 2030, (49 percent girls).

Innovations

- WFP Kenya has played a pivotal role in developing the first [WFP Innovation Playbook](#), a groundbreaking tool designed to foster a culture of innovation across the organization. This playbook, developed in collaboration with the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa provides practical guidance and case studies to empower staff to integrate innovative methodologies into field operations.
- By sharing these experiences and insights in the Playbook, WFP Kenya is setting a global standard for impactful development and driving systemic change. The Playbook, which was recently highlighted at the Annual Global Innovation Forum in Uganda and featured at WFP Innovation Champions Community Global Events highlights the significance of innovation in WFP's work.
- Some of WFP Kenya's innovative initiatives are featured as learning case studies in the playbook including MEZA, a digital healthcare solution, and H2Grow (hydroponics) which are changing how we impact the communities we serve. MEZA has transformed healthcare data management, improving efficiency and decision-making with over 3,000 patients' records digitized and integrated into the national patient database. H2Grow, implemented within County Innovation Centres in Wajir, Isiolo and Makueni Counties, is creating agricultural enterprises supporting 300 households while augmenting the school meals programme by integrating climate-smart agriculture in 3 schools, benefitting 3,000 learners by enhancing food security while building resilient communities.

Food Systems and Resilience Building

- Led by WFP in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, County Governments of Turkana and Marsabit and stakeholders, the 'Sustainably Unlocking the Economic Potential of Lake Turkana programme was launched. The overall objective of the multi-year investment is to enhance the food security and economic well-being of vulnerable populations around Lake Turkana in the face of climate change. It adopts an integrated food systems approach that unlocks the economic potential of fisheries, complemented by enhanced integrated water resource management. The programme consists of three pillars with the following specific objectives: Promoting healthy ecosystems, conflict sensitivity, community participation, while integrating inclusive governance. A deliberate focus will be on women and youth to benefit from the economic opportunities created based on an analysis of the root causes of inequalities within the communities.

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.