



World Food Programme

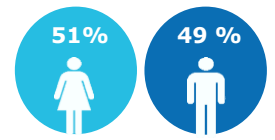
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief

December 2024



## In Numbers



1.2 million people assisted

USD 4.8 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 130.5 million six months net funding requirements  
(January - June 2025)

2,931 mt of food commodities distributed

## Operational Updates

### Food Security Situation

- The delayed onset and below-normal rainfall during the October-December 2024 short rains season is expected to worsen food insecurity. Arid and semi-arid counties (ASALs) such as Wajir, Mandera, and Kilifi are already on drought alert. According to the December National Drought Early Warning Bulletin, ten counties including Wajir, Garissa, Turkana, Marsabit, and Mandera are experiencing high levels of food insecurity, with malnutrition prevalent in Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo (Tiaty), and Turkana. Due to the projected below-average rainfall, the number of people requiring food assistance is expected to exceed 1 million in 2025, surpassing the August 2024 figures. A national Food Security and Nutrition Analysis scheduled for February 2025 will provide updated data on food insecurity and malnutrition levels.

### Support to crisis-affected people (Refugees)

- WFP provided food and nutrition support to 695,445 refugees and asylum seekers in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, and in the Kalobeyei settlement in December (335,265 women), with rations still low at 45 percent of the minimum food basket due to resource constraints.
- The rollout of the Differentiated Assistance framework for refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei is planned for the first quarter of 2025. Differentiated Assistance shifts assistance to refugees from uniform support to tailored assistance based on individual refugee household needs and capacity; aimed at fostering self-reliance by offering customized humanitarian and livelihood packages and promoting sustainability and efficient resource use. In preparation, WFP, UNHCR, DRS, and partners collaborated to finalize key components of the framework. This included refining the household identification methodology, developing robust recourse mechanisms, and finalizing livelihood assistance packages. Additionally, a communication strategy was developed to ensure effective dissemination of information to refugees. These preparatory efforts will ensure a smooth and successful implementation of the framework.
- The Turkana County Government, WFP, and camp partners held a validation meeting for the Kakuma and Kalobeyei Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) strategy. The strategy aims to promote sustainable behaviour change among refugees and host communities, particularly in dietary practices to prevent malnutrition and improve the uptake of integrated services such as health and social protection. It also aims to address gender dynamics among refugee households to support improved nutrition and resilience such as the collaboration between men and women on the use of household resources. By focusing on these key areas, the strategy aims to increase awareness and promote healthy and diverse diets at household and individual levels and support optimal household resource utilization including strengthening food choice and prioritizing nutritious locally available foods.

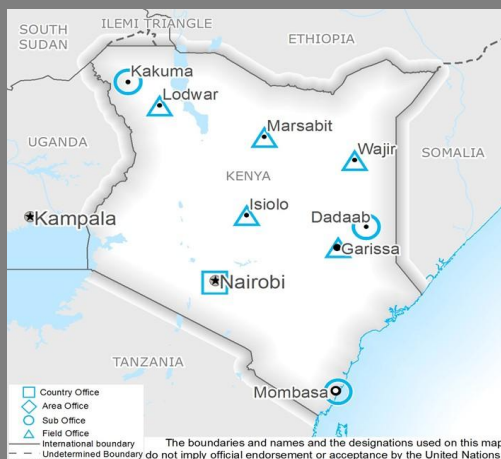
## Operational Context

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 was 1million in 2024, an improvement from the 2 million people in February 2024. Approximately 760,488 children aged 6 to 59 months, and 112,401 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls 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

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Photo: Participants harvesting vegetables from a horticultural livelihoods project. Credits:

WFP/Arete/Fredrik Lerneryd

The number of people reached, and metric tons distributed are estimates.

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

### Six Months Funding Outlook (January – June 2025)

CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	2025 Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
348.7	97	130.5

### WFP Strategic Outcome 1: Access to food and nutrition

**CSP 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.

**Focus area:** *Crisis response,*

#### Activities:

**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.

### WFP Strategic Outcome 3: improved and sustainable livelihoods

**CSP Outcome 2:** Food-insecure/ shock-affected populations in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and more resilient and sustainable food systems. **Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**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.

### WFP Strategic Outcome 4: Strengthened national programmes

**CSP Outcome 3:** National and county institutions and partners have strengthened capacity. **Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**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.

### WFP Strategic Outcome 5: Effective and efficient Humanitarian and development actors

**CSP Outcome 4:** Humanitarian/development partners and the government have access to reliable supply chain services. **Focus area:** *Crisis response*

**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.

## Expanding Social Protection, Economic Inclusion and Climate-Friendly School Meals with the Government of Kenya

- WFP provided technical assistance to Makueni County Government to align its social protection bill with national frameworks, ensuring that it effectively addresses the unique needs and vulnerabilities of Makueni residents. As a result, the county government committed to allocate dedicated funding for social protection interventions once the bill is approved by the County Assembly in 2025. The approval will guarantee sustainable financing for social protection programmes, strengthen the county's ability to respond to shocks and emergencies and improve the targeting and effectiveness of social protection interventions.

- In December, the Ministry of Education, together with other line Ministries developed a comprehensive action plan for the National School Meals Coalition. This major milestone followed a study visit to Brazil in November/December 2024, organized by WFP, which brought together key stakeholders from the Government of Kenya (including relevant line ministries), civil society, and development partners. The visit focused on successful Brazilian models for large-scale school feeding, including local food procurement and reducing the carbon footprint of school meals. These insights informed the action plan, which will enable the expansion of the national school meals to reach 10 million learners by 2030. The National School Meals Coalition, launched in December 2024 with support from the Government, WFP, and the Rockefeller Foundation, will spearhead this effort. WFP is supporting the Government as the coalition's secretariat.

### Food Systems and Climate Resilience

- In 2024, WFP in collaboration with the Government, introduced the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Hub approach to enhance climate resilience in Kenya's ASALs. WFP established 41 hubs across 10 ASAL counties, including 2 hubs integrating refugees and host communities. County Governments, in collaboration with communities and partners, led the hub selection process, considering factors such as vulnerability to shocks and stressors, levels of food insecurity, and investment potential in prioritized value chains, while building on prior investments. A total of 330,000 individuals (56 percent women) were registered as potential participants. A community-based planning approach was used to identify priority interventions, ensuring inclusivity, relevance, and community ownership.

- A key objective of the hub approach is to attract catalytic investments from diverse sources, including county governments, development partners, and the private sector. The interconnected nature of the hubs concentrates investments and interventions in priority areas, creating synergies across interventions using a food systems approach to achieve impactful, scalable results. For example, in Turkana County, fish sourced from the Lake Zone hub supplies the refugee/host community hub in Turkana West, providing an important local market. These linkages expand the reach of investments and maximize benefits for surrounding areas and populations beyond the hubs themselves.

#### Government Donors (listed in alphabetical order)

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.