



WFP Kenya Country Brief

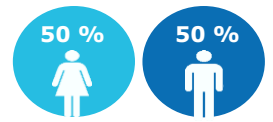
January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



In Numbers



1.1 million people assisted

4.3 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 148.3 million six months net funding requirements (March-August 2025)

885 mt of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates

Food Security Situation

- The February Short Rains Assessment indicate **2 million** Kenyans are facing acute food insecurity, more than doubling from July 2024 figures. Out of these, 265,900 people are experiencing "Emergency" levels (IPC phase 4) across Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, and Marsabit arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties. Below-normal rainfall was a key driver of food insecurity.
- Malnutrition remains a serious concern with over 800,200 children aged 6-59 months and 120,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women requiring supplementation. Regions like Samburu, all Turkana sub-counties, North Horr, Laisamis, Mandera, and Tiaty, remain in Critical IPC AMN Phase 4 levels, while Wajir and Garissa have worsened from Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) to Critical. Key drivers include food insecurity, persistent disease burden, household food consumption gaps, and limited access to nutrition services in hard-to-reach areas due to resource constraints.

Differentiated Assistance

- The Department of Refugee Services is leading the rollout of the differentiated assistance in collaboration with WFP, UNHCR, partners, and the UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub. Consultations with donors, non-governmental organizations, interagency teams, and communities, have secured broad support for the approach, including in Dadaab and Kakuma camps, and Kalobeyei settlement.
- Communication with Category 1 households (the most vulnerable) began in February, followed by a multi-agency recourse process for those who felt wrongfully categorized. Data for Category 4 households (self-reliant) is currently being gathered to help identify and accurately place them. Meanwhile, Categories 2 and 3 (households with limited potential to meet basic needs and those that are partially self-reliant) are temporarily grouped but will be separated in the third quarter of 2025 once adequate data on livelihoods is gathered and analysed. Additionally, stakeholders are refining costed assistance packages and aligning them with the 4 household categories for coordinated implementation.

Support to crisis-affected people

- WFP provided food assistance to 695,444 refugees (50 percent women) in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and Kalobeyei settlement comprising in-kind distributions of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and cash-based transfers (CBT). Additionally, WFP disbursed CBT assistance to 158,124 vulnerable Kenyans across seven counties (57 percent women). WFP also distributed specialized nutritious foods to 60,454 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and 80,736 children aged 6-59 months, for the supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition.

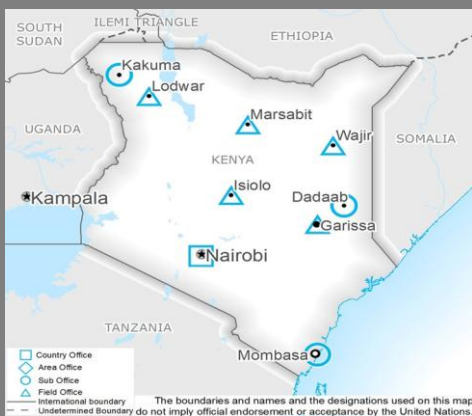
Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy, is undergoing rapid transformation while facing persistent social and economic inequalities. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, sustaining over 80 percent of the population, particularly in rural areas. However, with 80 percent of Kenya's landmass classified as arid or semi-arid, food and nutrition security remain fragile due to climate variability, population growth, underperforming food systems, gender disparities, and insecurity.

The February 2025 Short Rains Assessment indicates 2.15 million Kenyans are facing acute food insecurity, reflecting an increase from mid-2024. Of these, 265,900 people are experiencing "Emergency" levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) in Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, and Marsabit counties. Malnutrition remains a serious concern, with 800,202 children (6-59 months) and 120,732 pregnant and breastfeeding women requiring treatment. Regions like Samburu, all Turkana sub-counties, North Horr, Laisamis, Mandera, and Tiaty, remain in Critical IPC AMN Phase 4 levels, while Wajir and Garissa have worsened from Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) to Critical.

Despite these challenges, early action, resilience-building, and emergency assistance have helped mitigate the worst impacts of food insecurity. Continued investment in community-based disaster risk reduction, anticipatory actions, and social protection programs is critical to reducing reliance on humanitarian aid.

WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and partners, continues to provide targeted assistance while strengthening national



Population: **52 million**

2022 Human Development Index: 0.601 ranking **146 out of 193**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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Photo: Credits: @ WFP/Fredrik Lerneryd. Wario Salla is a young farmer in his passion fruit garden. The number of people reached, and MT distributed are estimates. A double distribution of in-kind food was done in December hence the small quantities of MT distributed in January.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Six Months Funding Outlook (March – August 2025)

CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	2025 Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
348.7	101.8	148.3

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

- Following the October 2024 launch of the National School Meals Coalition and scale-up plan, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with WFP and stakeholders, convened the Coalition's meeting in January. This meeting established coordination structures and a 2025 action plan to support the scale-up. In Kenya, the Coalition serves as a coordination mechanism that mirrors the Global School Meals Coalition and will coordinate implementation of climate-friendly home-grown school meals programmes, clean cooking initiatives in schools, school health and nutrition services, and knowledge management, while advocating increased budgetary allocation and operationalizing school meals programme policies. WFP will continue supporting the Government's commitment to expand the National School Meals Programme to 10 million schoolchildren by 2030.

- Under WFP's leadership, UN agencies including FAO, ILO, and UNICEF validated the 2024 annual report of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Joint Programme on Social Protection with the Government and stakeholders in January. Through the Joint Programme, WFP's technical assistance helped the Government register and enrol 500,000 more households into the Inua Jamii cash transfer programme, increasing coverage to 1.7 million households in 2024 aimed at addressing poverty, reducing vulnerability, and building resilient communities. With WFP's support, the Makueni County Cabinet also approved the Social Protection Bill in January and tabled it to the County Assembly for enactment. Once enacted, this legislation will enable the county Government to implement the Makueni County Empowerment Fund to enhance financial security and well-being for vulnerable Makueni County residents.

Food Systems and Climate Resilience

- In January, WFP launched the "Building Climate Resilience for Food Security in the Fragile Setting of the Horn of Africa," in Kenya. This initiative targets 18 Climate-resilient Food Systems Hubs across five ASAL counties: Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Makueni, and Samburu, to benefit over 180,000 people. The programme will enhance climate resilience of local food systems, support smallholder farmers, and improve livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities affected by climate shocks. WFP will promote climate-smart agricultural practices, provide access to climate risk insurance, and implement anticipatory actions to mitigate extreme weather impacts, strengthening community preparedness to future climate shocks.

- WFP remotely monitoring of 82 ecosystem restoration assets across nine counties using the Asset Impact Monitoring System (leveraging remote monitoring from space) confirmed that 80 percent of the water assets are visible and well-maintained. Furthermore, in-depth analysis shows improvements in vegetation conditions in 18 out of 28 assets. These assets are essential to WFP's resilience activities, which aim to diversify livelihoods for 350,000 beneficiaries, boost agricultural production for 48,000 smallholder farmers, and advance soil and water conservation efforts across ASAL counties. In January, 129,960 people were reached through capacity-strengthening in (65 percent women).

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.