



World Food Programme

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# WFP Kenya Country Brief

February 2025



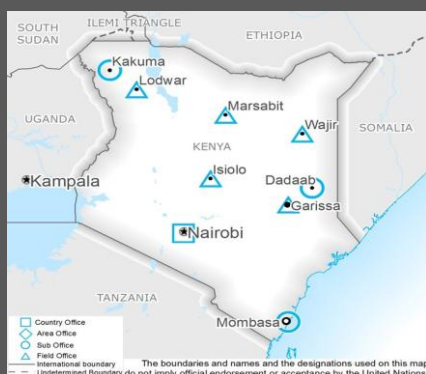
## Operational Context

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 and county-level capacities to build long-term food and nutrition security.



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**

## In Numbers

54 %



46 %



**1.1 million** people assisted

**4.8 million** in cash-based transfers distributed

**USD 143.1 million** six months net funding requirements (April-September 2025)

**2,585 mt** of food commodities distributed

## Operational Updates

### Food Security Situation

- The February 2025 Short Rains Assessment indicates over [2 million](#) Kenyans are facing acute food insecurity, with 265,900 people in Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, and Marsabit arid and semi-arid counties experiencing "Emergency" levels (IPC Phase 4). An estimated 920,900 children (6-59 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/Gs) require treatment for high acute malnutrition. Critical malnutrition conditions (IPC AMN Phase 4) persist in Samburu, all Turkana sub-counties, North Horr, Laisamis, Mandera, and Tiaty, while Wajir and Garissa have deteriorated from Serious to Critical levels.
- In February, WFP provided food assistance to 700,243 refugees (50 percent women) in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and Kalobeyei settlement comprising in-kind distributions of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and cash-based transfers (CBT). Additionally, WFP disbursed CBT assistance to 158,688 vulnerable Kenyans across seven counties (57 percent women). Furthermore, WFP distributed specialized nutritious foods to 47,199 PBW/Gs, and 72,800 children (6-59 months), for the supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition. Over 151,000 people received capacity strengthening under the WFP resilience-building activities.

### Differentiated Assistance

- The Government's Shirika Plan—a multi-year initiative to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees in Kenya by transforming camps into integrated settlements—was officially endorsed by the cabinet. Aligned with the Refugee Act 2021, this plan serves as a cornerstone for the Differentiated Assistance approach, ensuring that refugee support strategies are both sustainable and inclusive. By fostering self-reliance and integration, the Shirika Plan represents a significant step toward creating long-term solutions for refugees and host communities alike.
- WFP collaborated with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), UNHCR, and partners to design a differentiated assistance framework. This framework will tailor support to refugees based on household needs and capacity, rather than providing uniform assistance based on status. In February, communication was initiated to inform households placed in Category 1 (the most vulnerable). Concurrently, partners were gathering data to assess and classify self-reliant households (Category 4). In Dadaab and Kakuma, recourse teams also started receiving requests from refugees and asylum seekers, seeking re-categorization. The review of these requests is ongoing.
- Additionally, discussions are ongoing to develop a "single source of truth" module for Differentiated Assistance data, which will be integrated into the Government's Shirika Integrated System. This module will enhance the visibility of assistance provided within refugee operations, ensuring efficient use of limited resources and maximizing impact.

**Photo: Credits:** @ WFP/Blasio Omulama. Idil Bilala, a young farmer under the youth in agribusiness project on his horticulture farm in Isiolo County. The number of people reached, and metric tons distributed are estimates.

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	120.7	143.1

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.

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

- As a key enabler, WFP has continued to provide financial and technical support to strengthen the reach and capacity of national and county government programmes focused on climate-friendly school meals, adaptive social protection, and the economic inclusion of Kenya's most vulnerable populations. In line with this commitment, WFP participated in the UN Partners Retreat held from 12 to 14 February 2025, which aimed to develop a comprehensive Disability Inclusion Strategy (2025-2027) for Kenya. This initiative underscores WFP's dedication to driving systemic change in Kenya's approach to inclusion, particularly for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
- The strategy focuses on economic, political and digital empowerment, and access to facilities, services and data. By transforming disability inclusion into a driver of sustainable economic growth, the strategy represents a significant milestone in Kenya's efforts to advance the rights and inclusion of PWDs. Once finalized, it will serve as a critical framework for fostering equitable opportunities and empowering PWDs nationwide.
- WFP's Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) programme addresses child malnutrition through community-based practices that utilize locally available, nutrient-rich foods to rehabilitate and nourish children. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), WFP trained 35 healthcare workers and other stakeholders, equipping them to implement PDH in Turkana County, Aroo subcounty (17 women). This was followed by a PDH Community Health Promoters (CHP) training, which equipped 110 participants from 6 health facilities with the necessary skills to support PDH implementation at the community level in Turkana (72 women).

Food Systems and Climate Resilience  
Evidence generation & evidence-driven programming

- In collaboration with the University of Nairobi, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and representatives from various Garissa County departments, WFP is conducting a comprehensive rangeland degradation assessment in the Maalimin and Sankuri Climate-Resilient Food System Hubs in Garissa County. Similar assessments were conducted in December in Turkana, Marsabit and Wajir Counties. The assessments identify the root causes and scale of degradation, explore restoration opportunities, and design context-specific ecosystem restoration packages.
- The findings from these assessments will directly inform programming across WFP climate resilience and food systems initiatives, particularly those focusing on ecosystem restoration. Specifically, it will guide the implementation of the "Building Climate Resilience for Food Security in the Fragile Setting of the Horn of Africa" programme, launched in January 2025 in Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Makueni, and Samburu Counties targeting over 180,000 people. Interventions will aim at strengthening the climate resilience of local food systems, empower smallholder farmers, and improve the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities frequently impacted by climate-related shocks. By addressing rangeland degradation through sustainable restoration practices, these projects seek to achieve transformative and sustainable outcomes for vulnerable communities.

**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.