



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief May 2025



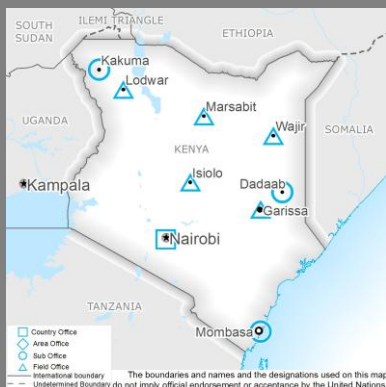
Operational Context

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, Laikipia, Mandera, and Tiati, 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 shocks.



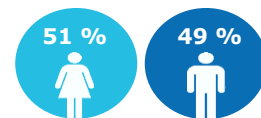
Population: **50 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers



984,480 people assisted

3.15 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 167.79 million six-month net funding requirements (July-December 2025)

3,094 mt of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates

Differentiated Assistance for Refugees

- The Government of Kenya's rollout of the refugee data collection and registration into the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) in Kakuma and Dadaab (April 2024) represents a significant milestone in advancing refugee inclusion, in line with the Shirika Plan and Refugee Act 2021. The exercise successfully registered 138,056 households (828,331 individuals) into the ESR. The demographic and socioeconomic data gathered will enable WFP to prioritize interventions under the Differentiated Assistance Framework. The Differentiated Assistance approach provides tailored support based on specific needs and capacities, moving away from uniform assistance solely tied to registration status. The registration was led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the National Social Protection Secretariat, with financial and logistics support from WFP, UNHCR, and ILO.
- The implementation of the Differentiated Assistance Framework continues to face resource constraints, requiring adjustments to the originally planned rollout timeline of May 2025. These constraints have impacted food rations, services, and livelihood investments under the Framework. WFP remains engaged with the Government and key stakeholders to refine timelines and implementation strategies.

Funding gaps impact food assistance


- WFP provided food assistance to 717,850 refugees and asylum seekers (49.6 percent women) in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, and Kalobeyei settlement comprising in-kind distributions and cash-based transfers at 40 percent of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) requirement. Additionally, 73,141 children (6 to 59 months) and 53,111 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls from Kenyan arid and semi-arid regions received nutrition supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition.
- WFP in Kenya is experiencing a significant funding shortfall in 2025, with anticipated contributions dropping by over 65 percent compared to 2024. This sharp decline comes at a time when humanitarian needs remain high, especially for refugees and Kenyans in food-insecure and drought-affected areas. As a result, WFP will be forced to scale back critical life-saving assistance, including food and cash transfers, and will need to make difficult prioritization decisions to support the most vulnerable populations, including suspending cash-based

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Dennis Matendechere

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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	134.83 m	167.79 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.

transfers and potentially reducing rations to just 30 percent of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) from June 2025. This drastic reduction falls critically below the threshold required to sustain basic nutritional intake.

Adaptive Social Protection and promoting Economic empowerment

- From 26–30 May 2025, a high-level delegation from the Government of Ethiopia undertook a South-South learning visit to Kenya, facilitated by WFP under its South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) framework — a modality that fosters peer-to-peer knowledge exchange between Global South nations to address shared development challenges. The visit, co-supported by the World Bank and the WFP Global SSTC Trust Fund, enabled Ethiopia to study Kenya's advanced social protection systems, including the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR), shock-responsive programming, and community-driven inclusion models. Delegates engaged with national and county officials in Taita Taveta, where interactions with beneficiaries — such as women-led savings groups boasting over KES 1 million in collective savings — underscored the transformative impact of these programmes. One mother's testimony highlighted how Kenya's safety nets helped her household transition from one meal a day to three.
- The mission achieved its core objective: Ethiopia identified transferable practices for its Rural and Urban Safety Net Programmes, now in reform, and laid groundwork for sustained collaboration, including virtual follow-ups and a reciprocal visit. This exchange exemplifies African-led solutions in social protection, while reinforcing Kenya's role as a regional knowledge hub. WFP's SSTC approach continues to bridge gaps by scaling proven solutions across borders.

Crop Insurance as a Pillar of Climate Resilience

- Climate risks pose a constant threat to smallholder producers, with erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts frequently wiping out entire harvests—a devastating blow for smallholders who depend on rainfed agriculture. Crop insurance serves as a critical safety net, helping farmers recover losses and reinvest in future planting seasons while building long-term climate resilience. In 2024, WFP supported 7,880 smallholder farmers in Kenya's Makueni and Kitui counties with crop insurance coverage. Notably, farmers contributed 30 percent toward their premiums, reflecting growing trust in insurance as a tool to mitigate climate shocks. Following below-average short rains that compromised crop yields in the October-November-December season 2024, 4,673 farmers across both counties will receive payouts totalling USD 153,370 in June 2025. These funds will help affected households offset lost income, purchase food, and prepare for upcoming planting cycles—demonstrating how crop insurance can cushion vulnerable communities against climate variability.