



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief June 2025



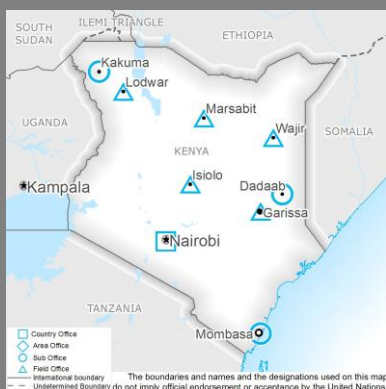
## Operational Context

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 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 shocks.



Population: **50 million**

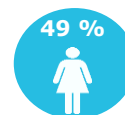
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**875,599** people assisted



**No** cash-based transfers were distributed

**USD 151.39 million** six months' net funding requirements (August 2025-January 2026)

**8,873 MT** of food commodities distributed

## Operational Updates

### Differentiated Assistance for Refugees

- The Government of Kenya's rollout of refugee data collection and registration into the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) in Kakuma and Dadaab in April marked a major milestone in advancing refugee inclusion. Aligned with the Shirika Plan, the Refugee Act of 2021, and the national vision for expanding social protection to the most vulnerable, the exercise successfully registered 102,177 households—representing 510,885 individuals—into the ESR. Led by the National Social Protection Secretariat, endorsed by the Department of Refugee Services, and facilitated by UNHCR, WFP, and ILO, the initiative laid a strong foundation for data-driven, targeted support.
- Following data-sharing clearances, WFP and UNHCR used the ESR data to refine the categorization of refugee households under the Differentiated Assistance (DA) Framework. In July, communication will be sent to stakeholders and refugees on household categories, the available recourse mechanisms, and the modalities of food assistance.
- WFP is facing significant funding gaps in its refugee operations which will result in adoption of prioritization approaches from August 2025. Category 1 (highly vulnerable households) and Category 2 (households with limited ability to meet basic needs), who will receive food rations at 40 and 20 percent of the recommended minimum food basket respectively. Categories 3 (partially self-reliant) and 4 (self-reliant) will not receive food rations but may benefit from livelihood interventions, subject to eligibility and availability of resources.


### Food assistance amidst resource constraints

- WFP 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 continues 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.
- In June, WFP experienced cash and cereal shortfalls. Cash-based transfer component of monthly assistance was suspended and the food rations reduced from 40 percent to a mere 32 percent of the minimum food basket. This drastic reduction falls critically below the threshold

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Dennis Matendechere

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
2025 Total Requirement (in USD)	2025 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
348.7 m	134.998 m	151.39 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.

required to sustain basic nutritional intake. To cut on distribution costs, WFP conducted a double distribution of in-kind food assistance for June and July, reaching 710,543 refugees (49 percent women) across Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei camps.

## WFP supports government-led climate-friendly school meals programme

- WFP continues to strengthen the Government of Kenya's capacity and systems to support food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations through sustainable school meals. In June, WFP participated in a national workshop convened by the Ministry of Education, with support from Food for Education. The workshop focused on developing Kenya's new School Meals Programme Policy. WFP actively contributed to the integration of a climate-friendly approach in the policy, reinforcing the country's commitment to a sustainable and resilient school meals programme. The new policy outlines strategic directions for implementing school meals, offering clear guidance to both government and non-government actors. It will also serve as a key advocacy tool for mobilizing resources and partnerships to expand the programme's reach and impact. Looking ahead, WFP will continue to position the National School Meals Programme as a vital safety net for vulnerable children and communities. The programme is not only a tool for enhancing nutrition and education outcomes, but also a platform for advancing human capital development, strengthening food systems, and driving climate action.

## Inclusive youth programming through strategic partnerships and learning

- WFP joined the Mastercard Foundation's Partnering for Accelerated Impact forum for Kenya partners—a platform for dialogue, peer learning, and advancing inclusive development. WFP and the Foundation reaffirmed their shared commitment to youth-centred programming, with a focus on young women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups. WFP highlighted its work on integrated resilience and innovation hubs for refugee and host communities, agri-food systems transformation, green growth, renewable energy, and the inclusion of youth-led organizations to enhance sustainability.
- In support of its internal learning agenda, the Foundation has commissioned a Strategic Review of the Youth-in-Work (YIW) Programme, led by CIFOR-ICRAF. The review assessed progress, identified effective strategies, and pinpointed areas for adaptation, with findings planned to be shared at an in-person learning event in Nairobi.
- In parallel, global preparations for the 2025 Youth-in-Work (YiW) Outcome Monitoring Exercise have been completed, with finalized guidance documents ready for country-level adaptation. In Kenya, WFP is set to conduct the monitoring exercise in July 2025, with readiness activities currently underway. The exercise aims to assess progress towards programme outcomes to inform strategic adjustments for greater impact.
- During the month, WFP built the capacity of 19,500 smallholder producers in post-harvest management, financial literacy, climate-smart agriculture, among others.