



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief August 2025



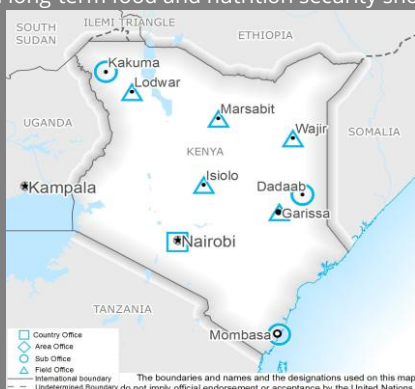
Operational Context

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 July 2025 Long Rains Assessment indicates 1.8 million Kenyans are facing acute food insecurity, a notable improvement from the 2.15 million people in February. Of these, 180,000 people are experiencing "Emergency" levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) in Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana counties. Malnutrition remains a serious concern, with 851,000 children (6-59 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women requiring treatment.

Poor rainfall, below average crop production, conflict and insecurity coupled with high food prices were among the food insecurity drivers. Continued investment in community-based disaster risk reduction, anticipatory actions, and social protection programme 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**

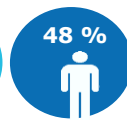
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

588,284 people assisted



USD 276,700 cash-based transfers were distributed

USD 34.88 million six months' net funding requirements (October 2025-March 2026)

5,032 mt of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates


Differentiated Assistance Roll-out

- In August, WFP implemented prioritized General Food Distributions (GFD) under the Differentiated Assistance (DA) approach, reaching 512,887 (258,987 women) vulnerable refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei (69 percent of the population). Food assistance was limited to Category 1 and 2 households (the most vulnerable households), with double distributions provided to cover August and September. Rations provided amounted to 40 percent of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) for Category 1 and 20 percent for Category 2. While these provisions are lifesaving, they remain far below the basic survival needs for these vulnerable groups. Alongside distributions, WFP continued an intensive communication campaign to strengthen community understanding of the DA approach. A supplementary GFD is planned for September to include households newly reclassified into higher vulnerability categories through the Joint Recourse Mechanism.
- Severe funding cuts are deepening humanitarian needs in Kenya's refugee camps, driving rising crime, social tension, and protests. On 28 July, demonstrations in Kalobeyei turned violent, underscoring the mounting frustration as refugees face dwindling access to essential services. The suspension of cash-based assistance and further ration reductions—from 40 percent to just 32 percent of the MFB in July 2025 and now up to 20 percent for Category 2—have left families critically below the threshold required for basic nutritional intake, with malnutrition rates rising.
- Nearly two-thirds of households reported they lack adequate food or money to purchase it during WFP's Post-Distribution Monitoring. In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, virtually all households are resorting to extreme consumption-based coping strategies—such as selling essential household items for food—while over 90 percent show high levels of stress on the Reduced Coping Strategy Index. These harmful strategies are eroding livelihoods and pushing families deeper into crisis.
- Community-level nutrition data confirms the deteriorating trend of malnutrition: in Dadaab, one in four children under five is at risk of malnutrition, with 5–9 percent already moderately or severely malnourished. Yet, due to reduced funding, outreach and admissions into nutrition programmes are declining, leaving the most vulnerable children exposed. Urgent, donor support is essential to restore adequate rations, sustain malnutrition screening, and prevent further deterioration of the quality of life and stability in the camps.

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)
265.775 m	137.190 m	34.88 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, Private Sector.

With adequate funding, WFP *has the systems in place* to immediately scale back lifesaving humanitarian support.

The Aggregator Advantage: Building Markets, Feeding Minds

- WFP continued to support the Government of Kenya in strengthening the national school meals system as a driver of inclusive development and resilience. In July, 740 participants from school management teams in 245 schools that receive government cash transfers were linked with 60 officials from 20 farmer aggregators in Embu and Tharaka Nithi Counties. This new connection equips schools to source food directly from local smallholder farmers, creating predictable markets for producers while ensuring thousands of children access more diverse and nutritious meals.
- This approach reflects a broader shift toward a sustainable, home-grown model of school feeding that promotes local procurement, community ownership, and stronger rural economies. By embedding the aggregator model within Kenya's National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy—co-created with WFP—the programme not only advances food system resilience but also supports Kenya's ambition to scale up school meals to reach 10 million children by 2030.
- In addition, the aggregator model pools produce from multiple smallholder farmers, reducing costs, cutting delays, and guaranteeing farmers a reliable market. This innovation not only empowers farmers—especially women—but also strengthens local food systems by keeping value chains short and community-driven.

Strengthen social protection in Kenya

- A Kenyan delegation led by the Directorate of Social Development—together with county officials from Makueni and Taita Taveta—undertook a study visit to Bihar, India, to draw lessons from the Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme. Facilitated by WFP, this cross-country exchange ensures Kenya's upcoming Social and Economic Inclusion Programme (KSEIP II) can scale faster and more effectively, drawing on proven approaches while tailoring them to local contexts. The lessons will directly inform the roll-out of KSEIP II, which will reach 26,000 participants across 20 counties. By fostering South-South collaboration, WFP is helping Kenya strengthen nationally owned solutions for inclusive growth and sustainable poverty reduction.

Rangeland Degradation Assessment in Mandera

- WFP, in collaboration with the Wajir county government departments (livestock and agriculture), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Forest Services (KFS), and local authorities, conducted a rangeland degradation assessment in the Takaba and Banisa Climate Resilient Food Systems hubs of Mandera. The assessment examined the drivers and pressures of land degradation, the ecological status of rangelands, and the impact of degradation on community livelihoods. Findings will inform the design of targeted restoration options, guide technology adoption, shape policy directions, and promote financial incentives and behaviour change among communities and partners. Planned interventions include sustainable land-use management practices and the promotion of nature-based enterprises to strengthen both ecosystem health and complementary livelihood opportunities.