



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief September 2025



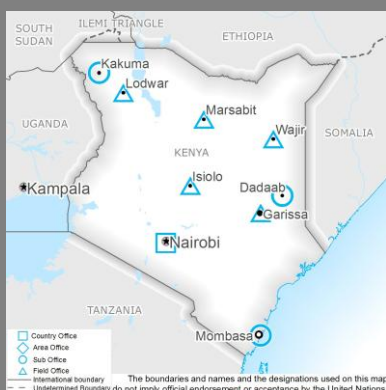
Operational Context

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**

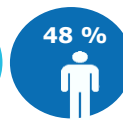
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

588,284 people assisted



USD 276,621 cash-based transfers were distributed

USD 23.1 million six months net funding requirements
(November 2025-April 2026)

318 MT of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates

WFP implements anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of impending drought in northern Kenya

- In a strategic shift from reactive response to proactive mitigation, WFP, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, and the county governments of Wajir and Marsabit activated its Anticipatory Action (AA) Plan in September. This forward-looking initiative was triggered by forecasts from the Kenya Meteorological Department indicating a high probability of severe drought conditions in Marsabit and Wajir counties. By acting ahead of the crisis, the intervention aims to protect vulnerable communities, equipping them better to withstand future climate shocks, safeguard hard-won livelihood gains, and avert a large-scale humanitarian emergency before it unfolds.
- The multi-faceted plan provides an integrated package of support designed to strengthen resilience to climate shocks at the community and household levels. The intervention begun with broad-based early warning messages, reaching 460,000 people with critical, actionable information on food security, water conservation, and livestock management. This foundational support was complemented by more targeted assistance for the most vulnerable. Approximately 10,750 high-risk households (64,500 individuals) are receiving 3-months (September to November) unconditional cash transfers of USD 79 to empower them to meet part of their household minimum expenditure basket (MEB) and avoid negative coping strategies, such as selling off productive assets. To enhance the nutritional impact of this assistance, households with pregnant or breastfeeding women and girls and/or children under 2-years will receive cash top-ups of USD 7 per month. Distributions are expected to finalize in November.

Differentiated Assistance

- 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 distributed to Category 1 and 2 households (the two 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

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Unice Musau

Contact Info : Bai ManKay Sankoh (wfp.kenya@wfp.org)

Further information : www.wfp.org/countries/Kenya

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)
204.204 m	206.4 m	23.1m

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.

2. Thanks to the timely contributions of donors, WFP will adjust lifesaving food assistance starting October. Food rations will be increased for the most vulnerable categories 1 & 2 and, crucially, assistance reinstated for Category 3 households. WFP will provide food rations at 55, 35, and 20 percent of the MFB for categories 1, 2, and 3, respectively. This positive development underscores the direct and immediate impact of donor support on the lives and food security of those we serve. With continued improvements in the funding situation, WFP can revert to the originally planned food assistance levels under the Differentiated Assistance (60, 40 and 20 percent for category 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

Building sustainable Home-Grown School Feeding systems through local food procurement

- The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with WFP, is advancing a nationally led Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model that links school meals to local food production. The approach ensures that every meal not only nourishes a child but also supports local farmers and strengthens community food systems, contributing to the Government's goal of reaching 10 million learners by 2030. In September, Kenya's experience was showcased at the Global School Meals Coalition Summit in Brazil, where it was featured in the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2024* report as a leader in expanding school meal coverage. Kenya shared its climate-smart approach that promotes locally sourced, nutritious meals and clean cooking solutions in schools. These efforts demonstrate how investing in school meals transforms lives by helping children stay in school and thrive, improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and building stronger, more resilient communities.

Strengthening social protection systems: policy and programme advances

- Kenya has taken an important step toward strengthening its national social protection system with the signing of the financing agreement for the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Programme Phase II (KSEIP II) by the National Treasury and the World Bank. The five-year initiative is co-designed by the Government of Kenya, WFP and the World Bank. KSEIP II brings together three pillars: social assistance, economic inclusion, and social security, to expand coverage and promote sustainable livelihoods. Through the Economic Inclusion Pillar, more than 26,000 of the most vulnerable households across 20 counties, many in drought-prone areas, will receive targeted support to strengthen their livelihoods. With the trickle-down effect of cash assistance improving the lives of entire families (on average four people per household), the programme is expected to benefit nearly one million people. WFP continues to provide systematic technical assistance to the government to prepare for implementation. This includes supporting in developing key tools such as a consolidated operations manual, mentorship framework, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, management information systems, and a communication and advocacy strategy. Together, these efforts are laying a strong foundation for an effective rollout and long-term sustainability of Kenya's social protection systems.