



World Food  
Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Kenya Country Brief October 2025



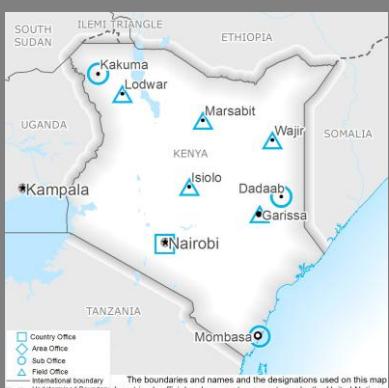
## Operational Context

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

1 million people assisted



USD 4 million cash-based transfers were distributed

USD 23.9 million six months net funding requirements  
(November 2025-April 2026)

5,346.6 MT of food commodities distributed

## Operational Updates

### Food security, nutrition outlook, and response

- The July 2025 Long Rains Assessment showed a modest reduction in acute food insecurity from 2.15 million to 1.8 million Kenyans in Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and above), including 180,000 in Emergency Phase; however, these gains are fragile. Drought is projected following forecasts of below-average October–December rains which are expected to reverse this progress, potentially pushing the number of food-insecure people back to 2.12 million by late 2025. Malnutrition remains a concern with 742,000 children (6-59 months) and 109,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women still requiring treatment.
- WFP, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, and the county governments of Wajir and Marsabit activated its Anticipatory Action (AA) Plan in September to mitigate the impact of the forecasted drought. WFP provided early support prevent a full-scale humanitarian crisis and reduce humanitarian needs, reaching 460,000 people with early warning messages (51 percent women), and 64,500 people with three-month cash transfers including top-ups for households with children under two and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs).

### Impact of the global funding crisis

- A 30 percent drop in anticipated contributions in 2025 severely constrained WFP's ability to respond, forcing unprecedented operational adjustments compared to 2024. This necessitated the suspension of cash-based transfers to over 700,000 refugees in June and a reduction of in-kind food rations in July to as low as 32 percent of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB); the lowest level of assistance ever provided to refugees in Kenya. These cuts led to increased negative coping mechanisms including selling essential household items for food, adults skipping meals for children to eat, and social tension in the camps. Monitoring data confirmed 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. Humanitarian relief for Kenyans stopped.
- MAM supplementation programmes were suspended in seven of the ten ASAL counties, except Wajir, Samburu, and West Pokot. As a result, nutrition programmes in the arid and semi-arid lands significantly scaled down, reaching only 17,000 children aged 6–59 months compared to the target of 100,000

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Unice Musau

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WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
<b>Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)</b>		
2025 Total Requirement (in USD)	2025 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
204.204 m	213.9 m	23.9 m
<b>Corporate strategic outcome 1:</b> People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.		
<b>CSP Strategic Outcome 1:</b> 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. <b>Focus area:</b> 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		
<b>Activity 1:</b> Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees in camps and settlements and surrounding host communities. <b>Activity 2:</b> Provide capacity strengthening and technical support to refugees in the settlements and surrounding host communities to enhance self-reliance. <b>Activity 3:</b> Provide food assistance, nutrient-rich commodities and social and behaviour change communication to vulnerable Kenyan populations in emergency contexts.		
<b>Corporate Strategic Outcome 3:</b> People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.		
<b>CSP Strategic Outcome 2:</b> 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. <b>Focus area:</b> 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.		
<b>Activity 4:</b> 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.		
<b>Corporate Strategic Outcome 4:</b> National programmes and systems are strengthened.		
<b>CSP Strategic Outcome 3:</b> 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. <b>Focus area:</b> 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.		
<b>Activity 5:</b> 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. <b>Activity 6:</b> 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.		
<b>Corporate Strategic Outcome 5:</b> Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective		
<b>CSP Strategic Outcome 4:</b> 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. <b>Focus area:</b> 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.		
<b>Activity 7:</b> Provide UNHAS services to all humanitarian and development actors. <b>Activity 8:</b> Provide humanitarian air services in support of projects funded by DG-ECHO. <b>Activity 9:</b> Provide on-demand services to the humanitarian and development community.		

in the ten counties. Furthermore, no (PBWGs) were reached out of the planned 80,000.

- Since August, WFP is supporting vulnerable refugee households through the Differentiated Assistance (DA) framework in Dadaab and Kakuma camps and Kalobeyei settlement, reaching a 624,630 (87 percent of the population) to date. This strategic shift moves from providing same assistance to all to categorizing households based on needs and providing tiered support. Thanks to new resources from donors in September, in October, assistance rations increased to 55, 35, and 20 percent of the MFB for the highly vulnerable households, households with limited ability to meet basic needs, and partially self-reliant households respectively. With improved resources, WFP will revert to the planned assistance levels of 60, 40, and 20 percent for Categories 1, 2, and 3, respectively, in December 2025.

### Resilience building through the hub approach

- WFP's resilience strategy is centered on the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Hubs in 10 counties, which serve as the core platform for integrated interventions, supporting 330,000 people (56 percent women). Forty-one hub centers attract catalytic investments and create vital market linkages. This is exemplified by projects such as the joint County Governments of Turkana and Marsabit-WFP-UNESCO Lake Turkana Programme, a flagship initiative professionalizing the fish value chain, expanding complementary livelihoods, promoting peacebuilding and increase in revenues for fisherfolk and small enterprises, reaching 102,000 people directly (53 percent women).

### Scaling National Programmes

- WFP is supporting the Government to scale flagship national programmes. This includes supporting the nationally led Home-Grown School Feeding model that has expanded from 1.9 million children in 2023 to 2.6 million in 2025, which links school meals to local food procurement. This approach nourishes children and acts as an anchor buyer for smallholder farmers through Government's new Aggregator Model, contributing to the Government's ambition of reaching 10 million learners by 2030.
- WFP co-designed and is helping government to scale up its national Social and Economic Inclusion Programme (KSEIP II), a five-year programme with Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and National Drought Management Agency, as well as the World Bank, that will expand social assistance, economic inclusion, jobs and social security, for Kenya's hundreds of thousands households that are most at risk of extreme poverty and dependent on social protection. This is an investment that will change protection to opportunity.

### 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.