



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Kenya Country Brief December 2025



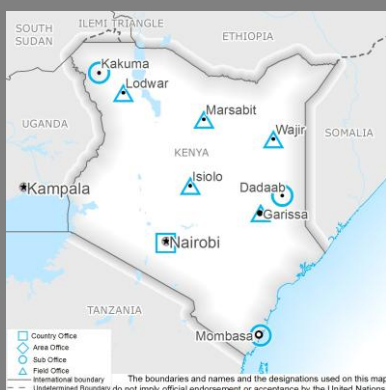
Operational Context

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**

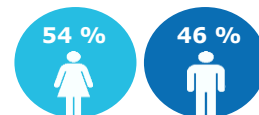
2022 Human Development Index: **150 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

1.7 million people assisted



USD 2.2 million cash-based transfers were distributed

USD 31.6 million six months net funding requirements (January-June 2026)

8,007 MT of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates

Drought and Food security outlook

- **In December**, drought conditions particularly in 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) continued to deteriorate with limited seasonal recovery observed. This was attributed to the delayed onset of the October-December rains, their uneven distribution and limited moisture recharge. This pattern suggests limited improvement in rangeland and water resource conditions across most ASAL areas. With the short rains expected to be severely below average, the crisis is likely to intensify throughout the January–March 2026 lean season.
- Anticipatory Action (AA) triggers were met in parts of the ASALs in September 2025, prompting WFP—working in partnership with the Government of Kenya and the county governments of Wajir and Marsabit—to activate its AA Plan in September to mitigate the impacts of a forecasted drought. Through early action, WFP helped curb the escalation of humanitarian needs, reaching 64,500 people with three-month cash transfers, including top-ups for households with children under two and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (only 21 percent coverage of the identified need due to resource constraints). To assess outcomes and effectiveness, WFP is conducting an endline review that includes a household survey, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and community dialogues, with nutrition learning embedded throughout. As the first anticipatory action activation to explicitly integrate nutrition, the findings will be vital for demonstrating impact, guiding future anticipatory action design, and strengthening the evidence base for nutrition-sensitive approaches.

Differentiated Assistance

- Since August, WFP is supporting vulnerable refugee households through the Differentiated Assistance (DA) framework in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and Kalobeyei settlement. This comprehensive approach allows WFP to provide assistance based on household needs. In December, 604,036 refugees were reached (49 percent women). The assistance level improved to 60, 40, and 20 percent of the minimum food basket for the highly vulnerable households, households with limited ability to meet basic needs, and partially self-reliant households respectively.


WFP supported Government's national programmes scale up

- In December, a significant milestone was achieved in strengthening inclusive social protection in Kenya, with the Turkana County Government approving and assenting to the

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Martin Karimi

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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	229.2m	31.6 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.

Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2025. This legislation was accompanied by a KES 20 million county budget allocation to support its implementation. This reinforced the policy and financing foundations required to reach persons with disabilities, one of the population groups most exposed to hunger, poverty, and recurrent shocks. Evidence consistently shows a strong correlation between disability, food insecurity, and exclusion from livelihoods, underscoring the importance of disability inclusion for the effectiveness of safety nets and shock-responsive social protection systems. This progress reflects WFP's broader 2025 focus on supporting inclusive systems that leave no one behind.

- WFP provided technical assistance to the County Government of Turkana to repeal the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017, develop the new Disability Bill, and draft regulations for the establishment of a County Disability Fund. WFP also supported the Turkana County Government and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to identify and register 400 persons with disabilities. This is an important step towards helping Government operationalize and expand social protection for people living with disabilities – which is one of Kenya's flagship social protection programmes. Registration has opened access to cash transfers, livelihood support, enterprise financing and other government opportunities that strengthen income security and economic participation.

Agricultural transformation and youth innovation

- WFP participated as a technical contributor and panellist at the Intergovernmental Summit on Agriculture, specifically within the “Generational Dialogue – Rebranding Agriculture for Youth” session. This engagement reinforced WFP's role in advancing inclusive, technology-driven, and climate-resilient food systems in line with national priorities. A key highlight was the success of a youth innovator from WFP's *Vijana in KilimoBiz* programme, whose locally fabricated multipurpose grain thresher placed third overall, demonstrating the programme's impact on youth-led agricultural transformation.
- The summit's outcome— including a ministerial commitment to a youth investment forum for youth innovators, resolutions promoting improved access to agricultural financing, and activation of drought contingency plans—areas directly aligned with WFP's work in resilience, anticipatory action, market systems, and climate-smart agriculture. These discussions on scaling technology adoption, financing pathways, and youth inclusion resonated with WFP's focus on livelihoods, market access, rural youth empowerment, and food security in Arid and semi-arid counties. Ultimately, the summit underscored how agricultural digitization and innovation, and climate-resilient approaches are essential to improving food security and nutrition outcomes, particularly for vulnerable farming and pastoral communities in Kenya.

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.