



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief November 2025



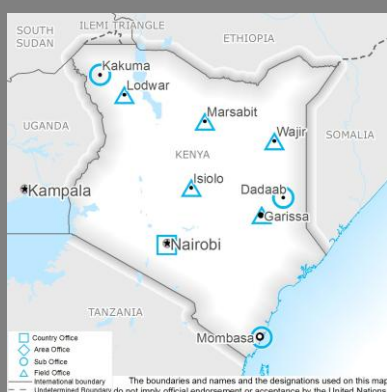
Operational Context

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

54 %



46 %



USD 3.2 million cash-based transfers were distributed

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

155.7 MT of food commodities distributed

Operational Updates

Food security, nutrition outlook, and response

- The delayed onset and poor performance of the October–December 2025 short rains across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) led to predominantly depressed rainfall, [accelerating a deterioration in drought conditions](#). Most ASAL areas received less than 75 percent of normal rain, and November was particularly dry in Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Lamu, and northern Tana River. The uneven and insufficient rainfall resulted in delayed planting, caused moisture stress, and poor crop germination in key agricultural semi-arid counties, including Kitui, Makueni, and Kajiado. As a result, below-average harvests or total crop failure are anticipated in early 2026. This will likely worsen household food availability, constrain income and livelihood opportunities, and heighten food insecurity among vulnerable populations.
- With contributions from WFP's global climate trust fund, pre-arranged climate financing enabled early interventions that helped prevent a full-scale humanitarian crisis. WFP activated anticipatory action in September reaching 460,000 people (51 percent women) with drought early warning messages via radio, SMS, and community forums. WFP also provided three-month cash transfers to 64,500 people, including nutrition-sensitive top-ups for 7,300 children (6-24 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls.


Advancing self-reliance for refugees

- In November, WFP advanced the implementation of the Kenya Changing Lives Transformation Fund (CLTF) Initiative under the differentiated assistance approach which is tailored to household needs and capacities. The initiative promotes self-reliance and economic inclusion among refugees in Northern Kenya. Under this initiative, WFP is partnering with a non-governmental organization, The BOMA, to implement the Changing Lives Project, supporting refugee households who are partially self-reliant in their transition towards self-reliance. BOMA will work with communities to identify 2,000 participants and engage community leaders to inform them about the Changing Lives Project and facilitate household visioning sessions, enabling families to define their pathways to sustainable livelihoods. In February 2026, participants will receive business development training. Evidence generated from a 12-month implementation period is expected to guide future scale-up and replication.
- In November 2025, WFP, in collaboration with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), UNHCR, and Safaricom, facilitated eligible refugees to register

Caption: Photo credit: © WFP/ Unice Musau

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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)
204.2 m	229.2 m	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.		

a SIM card. Through a largescale SIM card registration exercise in Dadaab and Kakuma, more than 20,000

refugees successfully registered a SIM card using their official Refugee ID. This milestone represents a significant enabler for refugee self-reliance by expanding access to critical digital and financial services. With a registered SIM card, refugees can now access mobile money, open bank accounts, engage with government services, and connect with online job opportunities. This mass registration exercise will continue into first quarter of 2026 to ensure refugees with valid government refugee ID and willing have registered SIM cards.

- Since August, WFP is supporting vulnerable refugee households through the Differentiated Assistance framework in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and Kalobeyei settlement. In November, 598,745 refugees were reached (49 percent women) with food assistance and nutrition support. Thanks to new resources from donors in September, in October and November, assistance rations increased to 55, 35, 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. The assistance level is further expected to improve to 60, 40, and 20 percent in December 2025.

WFP is supporting Government's national programmes scale up

- WFP collaborated with the Government and the World Bank to advance preparations for the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Programme Phase II (KSEIP II). KSEIP II is a five-year programme with Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and National Drought Management Agency aiming at expanding social assistance, economic inclusion, jobs and social security for the poorest Kenyans. Engagements in November focused on shaping green value chains and market linkages to support job creation for Economic Inclusion Pillar participants, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. WFP is providing technical support to help define practical livelihood pathways, identify market opportunities, and embed climate-smart approaches into programme design, ensuring alignment with national social protection systems and readiness to scale up. In November, the World Bank approved and signed the KSEIP II Operations Manual; a key milestone that enables the Government to proceed with rolling out the programme.

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.