

WFP KENYA

COUNTRY BRIEF
May 2026

1.2 million people assisted in April 2026 *(52% female)*

9,853.7 mt food distributed in April 2026

USD 5.6M cash transferred in April 2026

USD 194.4M required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP reached 362,861 drought-affected people in Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa delivering mobile money cash-transfers.
- WFP is complementing the government-led emergency school meals programme by providing 1,054 mt of food to schools in Marsabit and Wajir counties targeting 225,000 primary school learners.
- WFP dispatched 17,000 mt of cargo across seven destinations through its Supply Chain services.
- UNHAS served 38 agencies by transporting over 900 passengers and light cargo.
- The Middle East crisis may impact household incomes and food security if remittance flows slowly, while fuel, food and fertilizer prices are on the rise.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Recovery from drought remains uneven. While severe drought in parts of the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASALs) persist, heavy downpours continued in western Kenya and the Central Highlands causing localized flooding, increasing infrastructure damage risks and access constraints. The Government also issued a flood alert for the Tana River basin, with Tana River and Garissa Counties at heightened risk. Overall, the rain remains favourable to support water and pasture availability, livestock recovery and productivity, and ultimately household milk availability.
- Annual inflation rose to 5.6 percent, up from 4.4 percent in March, driven mainly by higher food, transport and energy costs. This followed an increase in fuel prices in April (petrol +11 percent; diesel +18 percent), adding pressure to household purchasing power, transport-dependent supply chains and locally manufactured goods (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics)
- The Middle East crisis may impact household incomes if weaker remittances flow from the Gulf. The Institute of Economic Affairs estimates that about USD 4 billion in remittances was received in 2024, underlining the potential of implications if the crisis prolongs.
- Rising fertilizer import costs due to shipping disruptions and higher maritime costs increase the likelihood of higher production costs and reduced fertilizer availability and affordability, with possible implications for crop yields and food prices in coming months.

Reporting Period: April 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: Mimina Habera, 66, in Tana River County received food assistance through the WFP drought-response.

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OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Relief Response

- WFP secured USD 15 million through the UNOCHA pooled funds to sustain time-critical drought assistance, supporting food and nutrition interventions in ASAL counties while also covering refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma camps and the Kalobeyei settlement.
- WFP mobilized and registered 368,400 drought-affected people (61,400 households) in IPC Phase 4 across four counties, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa, and delivered the first round of mobile money cash-transfers to 362,861 participants in April. Each household received KES 7,000 (USD 54), covering about half of minimum food needs for a six-person household—with follow-on disbursements planned for May and June. WFP coordinated the implementation with the county governments through County Steering Committees.
- On government's request following the drought, WFP is complementing the government-led school meals programme by providing 1,054 mt of commodities for school meals in Marsabit and Wajir counties, targeting 225,000 primary school learners. Deliveries are ongoing to enable support from May–July 2026. The commodities include cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt
- To shift from response to readiness, WFP supported Garissa and Tana River Counties to finalize drought anticipatory action plans for the 2026 Oct–Nov–Dec season, positioning nutrition as a priority risk. The package combines surge support for acute malnutrition services, anticipatory cash top-ups and targeted nutrition education to strengthen resilience—protecting diets while strengthening county and national preparedness.

Nutrition

- Under the Nutrition Cluster drought response, WFP is supporting the supplementation for moderate acute malnutrition for 54,000 children (6–59 months) and 45,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls across seven ASAL counties, Mandera, Turkana, Marsabit, Garissa, Tana River, Wajir, and Samburu. Specialized Nutritious Food commodities are being procured and last mile deliveries underway. Partner-led mass screenings were conducted and are guiding deliveries to the most affected areas. Continuous engagement with county governments is ongoing to strengthen accountability and mitigate diversion of commodities.

Refugee Operations

Humanitarian food assistance

- In April, WFP supported 547,368 refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei with life-saving food assistance through the Differentiated Assistance framework, prioritizing the most vulnerable while maintaining a clear pathway toward self-reliance (50 percent women). Working closely with the Government and partners, WFP adjusted support to need (80/60/20 percent of the Minimum Food Basket) balancing protection, efficiency and transition objectives under the Shirika Plan[1]. In parallel, WFP strengthened integrated nutrition support and refugee school meals with education authorities, helping safeguard children's nutrition and learning outcomes during a period of continued funding constraints and climate-induced shocks.

Government-led refugee transition framework

- WFP, working with the Department of Refugee Services and UNHCR, convened consultative sessions to develop a transition framework to guide harmonized delivery of economic empowerment support to refugees and host communities toward self-reliance and reduced aid dependency. The framework defines costed livelihood packages and common metrics to track progress, trigger household re categorization, and enable coordinated referrals and joint resource mobilization. To operationalize this, WFP supported the Government to develop a cloud-based Livelihood Module to consolidate livelihoods data and guide evidence-based targeting and transition decisions, alongside a draft data sharing agreement to enable secure exchange of personal data across partners. The platform enables stakeholders to plan, implement, and monitor livelihood programmes on a single shared system.

Building Self-Reliance

- WFP is partnering with communities to strengthen agricultural production through improved rainwater harvesting systems. In Dadaab camp, two of three WFP-supported high-capacity (100,000 m³) irrigation

[1] Most vulnerable households received 80% of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB), households with limited ability to meet basic needs receive 60% of MFB and partially self-reliant households receive 20% of MFB

water pans harvested water during the March-May long rains. The infrastructure will irrigate 48.5 ha and support 1,140 refugee and host community families through production and sale of vegetables and fodder, while reducing flood risk and enabling nature-based livelihoods (e.g., beekeeping). Building sustainability, WFP began training Irrigation Water Users Associations and is supporting their registration with the Garissa County Government.

Supporting Climate Resilient Food Systems

- In April, through the Vijana in Kilimobiz (ViK) initiative—part of WFP's Youth in Work partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, WFP Kenya contributed results and lessons to the Mastercard Foundation annual Global Programme Meeting in Mozambique, helping shape priorities for the next implementation phase. Kenya's scale, integrated approach and delivery in harder-to-reach locations were highlighted as a model, and the Foundation signalled interest in deepening engagement in Kenya's ASAL counties—creating a platform to mobilise further investment and influence on resilience outcomes.

Advancing Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP II)

- In April, WFP joined the Government of Kenya and partners in the KSEIP II Implementation Support Mission, a key step in translating policy commitments into operational readiness for large scale, adaptive social protection. WFP highlighted the importance of linking economic inclusion, climate resilience, and humanitarian response through stronger delivery systems, including the use of market, value chain, and risk analyses to support economic inclusion initiatives and expand the shock responsive Hunger Safety Net Programme. The Mission also reinforced the need for coordinated financing and complementary partner support to enable timely scale up, sustain government leadership, and ensure investments deliver measurable resilience and food security outcomes for vulnerable households.

Climate-smart school meals

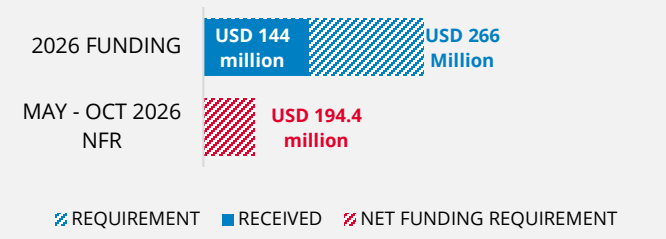
- To strengthen national capacity for safer and more sustainable school feeding, WFP is supporting the government-led shift to clean, energy-efficient cooking under the National School Meals Programme—pairing evidence generation with practical rollout. WFP supported the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) to establish five clean cooking demonstration schools in Kajiado, Isiolo, Samburu and Tana River under the Kenya Primary Education, Equity and Learning (KPEEL) pilot. The schools are using energy efficient cooking systems, improving the safety, sustainability and reliability of school meals delivery in hard-to-reach ASAL contexts. An ongoing feasibility study is informing scalable policy and investment options; roll-out to Garissa and Turkana is planned. Beyond technology, the pilot is strengthening the systems that keep school meals running: safe operation and maintenance, food safety, nutrition and governance are being integrated into existing school management structures through a multi-agency approach—creating a scalable blueprint for ASAL contexts.

Supply Chain & UNHAS

- WFP remained a regional enabler, strengthening the capacity of humanitarian and development partners to access efficient supply chain and logistics services, including the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In April, WFP dispatched 6,000 mt of sorghum from Mombasa to Madagascar by sea and 11,000 mt from Nairobi to six destinations in Ethiopia, overcoming weather, fuel shortages, and insecurity. Evidence led routing improved efficiency and value for money, saving about USD 880,000 in Ethiopia and reducing lead times by 2 to 4 weeks by shifting from sea to overland transport. WFP also deployed fleet assets across the region, including 15 cargo trucks to Uganda and 14 light vehicles within Kenya, increasing transport capacity in East Africa. UNHAS remained a critical access enabler, operating 53 flights to four destinations, transporting 956 passengers and 2.3 mt of cargo for 38 organizations, sustaining inter agency reach and flexibility.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors

Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, United Nations CERF, and United States of America, International Financial Institutions, Private Sector.

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