



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kenya Country Brief December 2020



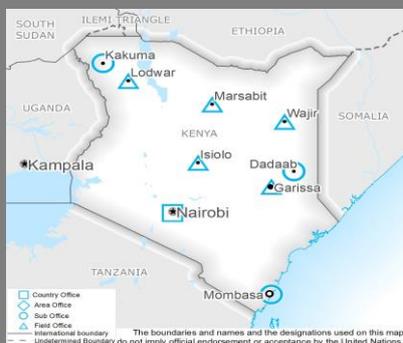
Operational Context

Kenya, a lower-middle-income economy is transforming rapidly. However, social and economic inequalities persist and more than one third of Kenyans live below the poverty line. Agriculture remains the main economic driver, although 80 percent of the land is either arid or semi-arid. Rapid population growth, climate change, stagnating agricultural production, gender inequalities and underperforming food systems are the most significant challenges to food and nutrition security.

The most severe living conditions exist in the arid north, which is underdeveloped, drought prone and affected by frequent tribal conflicts. The prevalence of wasting among children aged 6-59 months often exceeds the "critical" threshold of 15 percent. Stunting is above 25 percent in some counties. Net enrolment in primary education in the arid counties is still below 50 percent.

Opportunities to address these challenges include increased government investments in agriculture and in the social sectors, the devolution of service delivery to counties, use of technologies and innovation and an inclusive and equitable policy base.

Kenya hosts a large population of refugees, mainly in camps located in Garissa and Turkana counties. Unable to work or move freely, refugees are highly dependent on international assistance.



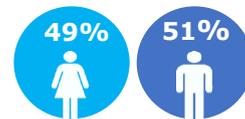
In Numbers

7,223 mt of food commodities distributed

USD 5.6m cash-based transfers made

USD 75.1 m six months (January–June 2021) net funding requirements

1,047,000 people assisted in December 2020



Food Security Situation

Food Security Outlook

According to FEWSNET's December update, poor urban households will continue to experience challenges through December and January, due to low labour demand and below-average income-earning opportunities. Poor urban households are likely to continue to employ coping strategies indicative of IPC Phase 2 ("Stressed" level of acute food insecurity) such as borrowing cash from relatives, purchasing food on credit and reliance on formal and informal credit facilities, and IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) such as selling of productive assets such as bicycles and sewing machines. A smaller proportion of households are likely to continue engaging in coping strategies indicative of IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), such as illegal activities.

Desert Locust

Immature locust swarms continue to arrive and spread throughout the northern part of Kenya and were sighted in Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit and Wajir. Breeding continues, and hopper bands are present in the southeast near Taita Taveta and along the coast. There is a moderate risk that a few swarms could reach central Kenya, as soil conditions are dry in some of the areas where the locusts are arriving. The surge in desert locusts threatens grazing and browsing conditions in pastoral areas and are likely to negatively impact Kenya's short rain season harvests in February. WFP in collaboration with the County Governments of Samburu, Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo and Turkana and FAO are monitoring the situation, carrying out climate-proofing and adaptation activities to ensure potentially affected communities recover quickly from the impact of the locust infestation.

Operational Updates

COVID-19 Urban Response

WFP provides assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) and nutrition support to urban populations in Nairobi (282,000 persons) and Mombasa (96,000 persons) Counties in addition to the Government's response to COVID-19. WFP is developing an urban strategy, drawing on the successful urban response, and leveraging WFP's expertise to address the gaps in support to the urban populations.

Integrating Gender and Food Systems

WFP launched the Gender Action Learning Methodology (GALS): a gender transformative approach that WFP intends to roll out as a complementary and integrated component of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme in arid and semi-arid countries. The pilot phase will cover Makueni, Kitui and Taita Taveta Counties, targeting smallholder farmers, to participate in crop insurance programme and Village Savings and Loans Associations. The approach aims to tackle

Population: 47.5 million

2019 Human Development Index: 147 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 26 percent of children between 6 and 59 months

Credit photo: WFP Kenya / Caption: Refugees wait to collect food at a centre in Kakuma camp

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
160.3 m	79.4m	75.1m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and asylum seekers living in camps and settlements and populations affected by natural and human-caused disasters have access to adequate food to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 1 focuses on crisis response, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 1 – “Everyone has access to food” – and SDG target 2.1 and contributes to SDGs 1 and 3.

Activities:

Activity 1: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities to refugees, along with Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), and support for self-reliance activities in camps and settlement areas.

Activity 2: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities – complemented by SBCC – to vulnerable Kenyan populations in order to meet acute food needs.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted smallholder producers and food-insecure, vulnerable populations benefit from more sustainable, inclusive food systems and increased resilience to climate shocks enabling them to meet their food and nutrition needs by 2023.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 2 focuses on resilience, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 4 and SDG target 2.4 and contributes to the achievement of SDGs 1, 3, 5, 9 and 10.

Activities:

Activity 3: Create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households.

Activity 4: Facilitate access to markets and provide technical expertise in supply chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 3: National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 3 focuses on root causes, is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 5 – “Capacity strengthening” – and SDG target 17.9 and contributes to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10.

Activities:

Activity 5: Engage in strengthening the capacities of national and county institutions in the areas of disaster risk management, food assistance programmes, nutrition services and social safety nets.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government, humanitarian and development partners in Kenya have access to and benefit from effective and cost-efficient logistics services, including air transport, common coordination platforms and improved commodity supply chains, when needed.

Focus area: Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.

Activities:

Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners

Activity 8: Provide humanitarian air services in support of DG-ECHO Funded projects

Donors (in alphabetical order):

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, Private Sector, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations and United States of America.

gender, social, economic and political inequalities through a community-led empowerment methodology involving men, women and the youth, increasing ownership and leadership for enhanced sustainable livelihoods and resilience.

Sustainable Environmental Solutions

WFP has been implementing solutions to reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewables in the Kenya country programme. In 2020, as part of the Energy Efficiency Programme, a 14 kWp solar system with a 37-kWh storage capacity was installed at the Kakuma distribution point to provide power for the general food distributions and for the compound’s security lighting. In addition, three solar-powered illuminated billboards, broadcasting sensitization messages on nutrition practices, were erected at various market centres in Kakuma and Kalobeyi, providing light and thus facilitating economic activities.

Strengthening Government’s Assistance

WFP and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social protection to bring the stakeholders together to review and revise the National Social Protection Policy as well as the five-year Social Protection Strategy. The revision aims to enhance social protection coverage in the country, in order to increase the efficiency of national and county-specific responses to emergencies. The two policy instruments will be validated and approved within the second quarter of 2021.

Support to smallholder farmers

In Meru County, WFP inspected approximately 252 mt of sorghum produced by two local smallholder farmer groups, involving a total of 149 farmers, in view of future food assistance distributions in the region. WFP will continue supporting smallholder farmers to comply with all food quality and safety requirements and export documentation, giving them the opportunity to open up to new markets and contributing to sustainable food systems, though the support of the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMa), a public-private sector consortium of eight agri-focused organizations (of which WFP is a member), formed to make markets work better for farmers.

Funding challenges

WFP experienced a significant pipeline challenge, and a complete pipeline break was averted due to donor engagement, in collaboration with UNHCR, that resulted in additional funding for the provision of food assistance for refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyi. WFP continues to engage with donors to ensure that it can maintain the level of assistance for both refugees and the Kenyan population and alleviate future pipeline breaks and further ration cuts.

Monitoring

- In December 2020, WFP’s complaints and feedback mechanism received 1,424 feedbacks from beneficiaries, traders and the public. Fifty-three percent of the feedbacks were received from women, 50 percent came from beneficiaries benefiting from relief assistance, 38 percent from refugees and 26 percent from beneficiaries benefiting from improvement of livelihood and resilience activities. Eighty-four percent of all feedbacks were successfully addressed.
- A joint market monitoring led by REACH and WFP, together with the County Government, was conducted remotely in Mombasa. Food supply and general trade flows remained stable in December, with prices of cereals, pulses, processed commodities and fresh products experiencing minimal fluctuations.