



WFP Kenya Country Brief

March 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



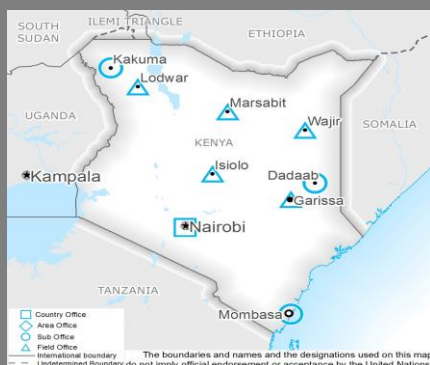
Operational Context

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, implementation of new technologies 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.



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**

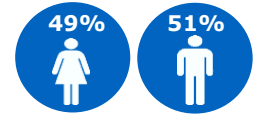
In Numbers

2,520 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.8m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 67.5m six months (April–September 2020) net funding requirements

448,536 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic due to the alarming levels of severity and spread of the disease globally. Kenya confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in March 2020.

WFP anticipates an increase in food insecurity and malnutrition if access to food becomes limited, as livelihoods are compromised and global supply chains and trade continue to be disrupted. The most vulnerable are those who are already facing acute hunger and malnutrition, refugees, low income urban households, market-dependant rural households and the children unable to access schools and school meals.

The Government of Kenya has put in place preparedness and response measures including a COVID-19 contingency plan that was approved in February 2020; constitution of a national task force for COVID-19 supported by technical committees; and an inter-agency committee for relief assistance has been formed by the State Department of Devolution, in which WFP and the Kenya Red Cross Society are co-opted.

WFP's priority is to sustain its existing lifesaving humanitarian activities in Kenya and has worked with UN partners to refocus the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to respond to emerging socio-economic needs.

Refugees are receiving two-months food assistance (April-May 2020) through a modified distribution process, in collaboration with UNHCR, cooperating partners and the government of Kenya to incorporate the Ministry of Health guidelines and protocols.

Resilience and livelihood support activities continue, particularly time-critical support to productivity for the current growing season, which has been identified as critical by county governments in the arid and semi-arid lands. Cash-based transfers were delivered in three priority counties for over 80,000 households.

WFP is supporting dissemination of Ministry of Health messaging on COVID-19 through bulk SMS, WhatsApp and *Dalili*, a marketplace app developed to provide remote shopping, price information, and delivery of food commodities to beneficiaries.

WFP Country Strategy		Gender and Age Marker 
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
224 m	58.5m	67.5 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Activity 2: Provide food assistance and nutrient-rich commodities – complemented by SBCC – to vulnerable Kenyan populations in order to meet acute food needs.</p>		
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>Activity 3: Create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households.</p> <p>Activity 4: Facilitate access to markets and provide technical expertise in supply chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers</p>		
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.		
<p>Strategic Outcome 3: National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2023.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>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.</p>		
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.		
<p>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.</p> <p>Focus area: Strategic outcome 4 focuses on crisis response and is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8 – “Partnerships” – and SDG target 17.16.</p>		
<p>Activities:</p> <p>Activity 6: Provide humanitarian air services for partners</p>		

WFP in collaboration with partners in the nutrition sector have developed a preparedness and response plan for COVID-19 that prioritises 14 counties. Nutrition guidelines in the management of malnutrition related to COVID-19 have been developed, along with Behavioural Change Communication materials for nutrition and COVID-19 in the ASAL counties.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Kenya, the Government of Kenya ordered the closure of all learning institutions in the Country. As a result, the national school meals programme was suspended. WFP is assisting the Ministry of Education in the management of food stocks during the school closure and developing possible school meals solutions depending on the duration of suspension.

With WFP’s leadership, the UNDAF Social and Child Protection team formulated options for the national social protection system to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, which has been discussed with the government. These included expansion of social safety nets, interventions prioritizing the urban poor and labour markets as well as mechanisms to ensure timely cash transfers to the existing beneficiaries.

Monitoring

Remote monitoring of markets and supply-chains has been scaled up. A weekly markets and supply chain update is being shared with stakeholders.

WFP’s complaint and feedback mechanism received a total of 1,281 cases from beneficiaries; 85 percent were received through the help desk, and 15 percent through the helpline. Of these, 50 percent were from women. Ninety-two percent of the feedback received was on our refugee operations particularly *Bamba Chakula* programme while the rest were from resilient livelihoods programme, relief and unrelated WFP complaints. Of all the feedback received 98 percent was from beneficiaries, with the rest being from non-beneficiaries, alternates and traders. 306 cases were successfully resolved within the month of March. Majority of the pending cases are technical issues related to SIM cards, WFP is working with communities and the telecommunication service provider to resolve them.

Challenges

WFP has suspended the majority of the activities with government institutions and communities that would entail non-essential travel and public gatherings. However, planning for lean season food distributions for vulnerable communities is underway in conjunction with counties to include special procedures and equipment to allow the assistance to be provided safely.

Delays in arrivals of in-kind food assistance to Kenya due to the impact of the global outbreak of COVID-19 on logistics and supply-chains remain a challenge.

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxemburg, Poland, Private Sector, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations and United States of America