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.

Operational Updates

The 2019 Long Rains Assessment findings indicated that the food and nutrition security in the country has deteriorated and the number of people requiring food assistance has increased to 2.6 million. An estimated 623,000 children require treatment for acute malnutrition - 133,000 for severe acute malnutrition and 490,000 for moderate acute malnutrition. A further 69,000 pregnant and nursing mothers also require specific nutrition support. The situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months. The Government of Kenya reported US$7 million had been released to the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs in August for drought response, to procure and deliver food assistance to those affected.

WFP continues to provide technical support to national and county governments – the first-line responders in emergencies - to create permanent capacity within responsible government institutions to manage cash-based relief responses. WFP has been nominated to join a government task force to put in place a digital cash transfer platform for relief assistance in Kenya. Other representatives include: the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs, Ministry for Labour and Social Protection, the National Drought Management Authority, National Treasury, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology. WFP will leverage on its vast experience in cash programming across its operations in Kenya as well as experience in supporting both emergency cash transfers (such as Chakula kwa Jamii) and other Government-supported cash programmes.

Every month, refugees receive a general food ration from WFP consisting of a combination of in-kind and cash-based transfers (50:50). Beginning September, WFP will be forced to further cut in-kind rations for refugees, due to resource shortfalls. Beneficiaries will receive 70 percent of the recommended overall ration. Refugees have been receiving reduced rations since September 2017 due to insufficient funding.

The Farm to Market Alliance – which is a unique public private partnership with the goal of making markets work better for farmers - held its first Country Coordination Committee meeting in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by representatives from agricultural input companies, off-takers and processors, financial institutions, insurance providers, tech partners, WFP and donors. FtMA in Kenya is reaching over 30,000 farmers with access to quality inputs, affordable finance, access to markets and digital solutions and has generated US$ 5 million in crop sales in the 2018/19 agricultural season. Expansion plans include more digitisation of services and new value chains e.g. potatoes in addition to soya bean and sorghum.

### Operational Context

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

- **9,000mt** of food assistance distributed
- **US$ 2.4 m** cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 17.2m** six months (September 2019–February 2020) net funding requirements
- **776,000 people assisted** in August 2019

### Operational Updates

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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