

### 1. Crisis overview

<b>3.5 / 5</b>	<b>6.4 million</b>	<b>4.3 million</b>	<b>\$452 million</b>	<b>81.8%</b>
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (Kenya Drought Response Plan 2023)	People targeted in the response plan (Kenya Drought Response Plan 2023)	Required to reach the target (Kenya Drought Response Plan 2023)	Of the required funding secured (Kenya Drought Response Plan 2023)
<b>36 MSEK</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9.1 MSEK</b>	<b>45.1 MSEK</b>	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2024	

Kenya continues to recover from a historic drought that destroyed livelihoods and eroded household resilience, causing widespread food insecurity, malnutrition and a rise in protection-related concerns, including displacement, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful coping strategies. Despite improvements in food security outcomes as a result of above-normal rainfall, the worst-affected households have not been able to fully recover due to chronic socio-economic vulnerabilities that has deepened as households have lost savings and assets during years of drought. Moreover, the high likelihood of below-average rainfall during the October-November-December season in 2024, may result in a deteriorated food security situation with up to 1,732,866 people experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity by the end of the year.

Kenya is also host to 796,331 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Somalia and South Sudan, who rely on humanitarian assistance for protection and their basic needs.

### 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Five consecutive below-average rainy seasons, compounded by socio-economic vulnerability and previous shocks, eroded household and community resilience across much of Kenya’s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties since 2021, leaving more than 6.4 million People in Need (PiN) of humanitarian assistance in mid-2023. The drought resulted in acute water shortages, failed harvests, rising food prices and widespread livestock death in largely pastoralist areas. Combined with the decreasing value of the Kenyan shilling, food and basic commodity prices rose, contributing to a significant rise in food insecurity, malnutrition rates and subsequent protection concerns, including GBV and child protection concerns.

Recent analyses indicate that there have been major improvements in the food security situation since the second half of 2023, down from 5.4 million acutely food insecure people in mid-2023 to the current figure of 937,222 as of September 2024. However, the malnutrition rates among children under the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating women remain high as nearly 873,000 people remain acutely malnourished, particularly in arid counties due to the lingering cumulative effects of five previous consecutive failed seasons, poor child feeding practices, and high disease burden.

Furthermore, large parts of the country affected by years of drought was impacted by heavy and erratic rainfall caused by El Niño, causing loss of life, widespread flooding and the displacement. The two refugee camps, Dadaab and Kakuma/Kalobeyi, have also been affected by flooding, destroying shelters and latrines and aggravating the risk for the spread of cholera and other diseases.

Kenya is currently hosting more than 796,331 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily in Dadaab and Kakuma/Kalobeyi. All refugees are in need of protection and rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs, including food, nutrition, shelter, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and healthcare. Unaccompanied and separated children, minorities, women and girls, and unregistered individuals in Dadaab, who lack legal documentation and official protection, are particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation.

In terms of sectoral priorities, there is a need to sustain the provision of integrated health, nutrition, education and WASH services in order to support the recovery of drought and flood-affected communities and refugees, with clear linkages to food security and livelihood, while ensuring protection is mainstreamed to respond to and mitigate gender-based violence and child protection risks.

### 3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian response in Kenya was rapidly expanded in 2022 and 2023, as a result of deteriorating drought conditions and subsequent increase in humanitarian needs. A Flash Appeal was launched by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in October 2021 and then revised in April 2022, later followed by the launch of the Kenya Drought Response Plan (DRP) for 2023. The DRP focused on the scale-up of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance and protection to the people most affected by the drought through integrated humanitarian interventions, while also aiming to strengthen the resilience of the drought-affected communities targeted. The Kenya DRP 2023 targeted 4.3 million people, including 602,000 refugees, with a particular focus on food security, nutrition, WASH and health, and large funding requests for education and protection.

What first started as an underfunded crisis in 2021 later saw a funding surge in 2022 and 2023, largely due to funding from the USA. Other large donors include Germany, ECHO, Japan, the UK and Sweden.

The food security and livelihoods sector, along with nutrition and WASH were the most funded sectors in the Kenya DRP 2023, while the health and education sectors remained underfunded. The Refugee Response was included as a separate sector in the DRP 2023, with its own funding requirement and targets. It did not cover the refugee response in full, but rather a drought-specific component within it, which was the only sector in the DRP that reached its funding target in full, far surpassing its funding target.

Although access is relatively stable, there have been incidents of banditry and intercommunal violence and the presence of the Somali terrorist group Al-Shabaab in north-eastern counties has complicated the operating environment and occasionally impacted the delivery and monitoring of life-saving interventions.

Due to the observed improvements in food security projections, OCHA has confirmed that there will be no UN-coordinated response plan or appeal for the humanitarian situation in Kenya during 2024.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The focus of Sida's humanitarian assistance to Kenya in 2024 is twofold, with one being to address the protection and multi-sectoral needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and unregistered individuals in Dadaab and Kakuma/Kalobeyei. Sida will prioritise organisations that provide multisectoral assistance to address basic needs of the refugee population, including protection, shelter, health, nutrition, education and WASH services. Partners with a particular focus on protection have been prioritised, including those providing psychosocial support, case management services and support to survivors of violence and at-risk individuals, including the unregistered population in Dadaab who await refugee status determination.

Secondly, Sida supports organisations that provide integrated health, nutrition, WASH and protection services to vulnerable communities in Kenya's ASAL counties who have been impacted by drought and flooding, thus facing high levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, health and protection concerns. For the drought response, Sida prioritises organisations with a multi-sectoral approach that is gender-sensitive and integrates protection during the provision of life-saving nutrition, health and WASH interventions.

Sida will provide quality funding through the Programme Based Approach (PBA) funding modality to all partners, in order to provide partners with the flexibility to adapt their programmes, and shift sectoral and geographical priorities, to meet the most urgent needs and to ensure partners can leverage Sida's support with other funding sources to holistically address the needs of the affected populations.

Altogether, these priorities have informed the following proposal for Sida’s humanitarian allocation for Kenya in 2024.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
AAH	Health, Nutrition, WASH, Protection	14,000,000	
DRC	Protection, FSL, WASH	9,000,000	
UNHCR	Multi-sectoral (Health, Protection, Shelter, WASH, Education)	13,000,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS			
PARTNER		FLEXIBLE FUNDING <sup>1</sup>	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
AAH		3,000,000	-
MSB <sup>2</sup>		1,115,000	-
Oxfam International		5,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,115,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Despite being classified as a lower-middle-income country, a large number of Kenyans, and especially rural and pastoral communities in Kenya’s ASAL counties, face multi-dimensional poverty in the form of poor health, nutrition and protection outcomes due to structural inequality and limited access to basic social services. Recurring and overlapping natural disasters and shocks often result in loss of crops and livestock, aggravating poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and protection risks. To reduce chronic poverty and socio-economic vulnerabilities that contribute to poor health, nutrition and protection outcomes, the national and county governments need to invest in critical infrastructure and enhance access to equitable education, healthcare, WASH and nutrition services in the ASAL counties, and also enhance access to protection services and opportunities for sustainable and shock-responsive livelihoods. Existing social protection programmes should be expanded, and made shock-responsive, to help mitigate the impact of future crises on food, nutrition and health outcomes and to reduce the risk of harmful coping strategies detrimental to people’s protection and well-being. In this

<sup>1</sup> Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

<sup>2</sup> Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.

regard, the devolution of government functions to counties offer an opportunity to expand the social protection coverage that can complement national programmes, if well-coordinated.

Another opportunity for programmes and interventions that bridge the humanitarian-development nexus concern the refugee response. The protracted refugee situation in Kenya is perpetuated by decades of political instability, conflict and food insecurity in both Somalia and South Sudan. Unless there are major improvements in terms of security and political stability in those countries, which appears unlikely, the number of refugees in Kenya will likely remain stable or increase. Against this background, the Government of Kenya (GoK) has passed the Refugee Act 2021, signalling a drastic shift in refugee policy from one of encampment and humanitarian service delivery, towards a more progressive refugee and asylum policy which will provide greater freedom and rights to refugees while aiming to foster socio-economic development in the refugee-hosting areas, self-reliance and refugee access to government-led social service.

As part of these efforts, the county governments of Garissa and Turkana have developed GISED and KISED (Garissa/Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan) to help plan, coordinate and implement programmes that foster socio-economic development among refugees and host communities, while enhancing access to inclusive public services. A national plan with similar objectives, the 'Shirika Plan' is currently being developed and will offer additional opportunities to support the protection of refugees through improved livelihood opportunities and expanded social and economic rights. Hopefully, this will help transform the refugee response, from an operation primarily sustained by short-term humanitarian funding, to a more sustainable one.

The Swedish bilateral development cooperation strategy to Kenya 2021-2025, totalling SEK 1.75 billion, includes interventions and priorities that clearly take the Humanitarian-Development nexus into account. For example, the bilateral strategy portfolio includes funding to UNICEF and WFP to support the provision of cash assistance to vulnerable households, including children with disabilities, while also strengthening government capacity and ownership by supporting the development of county-level social protection policies. The same intervention has also contributed to the strengthening of the social service workforce, including child protection professionals and volunteers, thus contributing to both government- and community-level capacity to mitigate and respond to protection risks.

The Embassy of Sweden has also been sensitive to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, adapting interventions to meet rising needs, including through a SEK 20.5 million programme in 2022 aimed at enhancing access to clean water in drought-affected communities. Another opportunity for nexus programming relates to the Embassy's efforts to improve joint programming by the UN, through a Multi-Partner Trust Fund to which Sweden was the first donor, in order to create inclusive economic development. This direction within the strategy, combined with a guarantee intervention that support lending to small businesses in the refugee camps, could result in interventions aimed at addressing household vulnerabilities and reducing

the need for humanitarian interventions in the refugee camps, potentially building on the Shirika Plan, GISED P and KISED P.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.