



WFP Support to Marsabit County's Emergency Preparedness and Response, 2016

OCTOBER 2016

Emergency preparedness and response programmes are now a shared function between Marsabit County Government and the national government. The World Food Programme (WFP) has an ongoing commitment to provide the county with support in ensuring effective implementation of emergency preparedness and response and safety net programmes. This article highlights WFP's achievements in 2016.

In brief...

- The Marsabit County Cooperation Programme has been formalized between WFP Kenya and Marsabit County Government. The programme outlines means of improving the county's emergency preparedness and response in terms of institutional and operational capacity by addressing current gaps identified in the county's emergency response programme.
- WFP provided **logistical support** to Marsabit County Government in response to the El Niño alert of late 2015 by seconding a logistics associate to the county. The associate assisted in developing a logistics capacity assessment report for emergency response and in coordinating an El Niño situation room and mapping other partners for emergency response.
- WFP has provided training for **county executives, technical officers** and **operational officers** on relevant aspect of emergency preparedness and response, from an overview of its significance to technical aspects of its implementation. WFP is also supporting the development of a logistics management information system for humanitarian supply chain management in the county.
- WFP is assisting Marsabit County Government in strengthening its data collection, analysis and reporting of the **food security status** within the county, with the expectation that the county will produce its own twice-yearly long and short rains assessments in 2017.
- The scope and efficiency of **early warning data collection** in Marsabit is being increased with WFP support through the integration of data

variables for the WFP Food Security Outcome Monitoring report into the monthly NDMA Drought Early Warning System and Food Security assessment. WFP is also supporting the piloting of paperless data collection for the NDMA assessment.

- WFP is currently supporting Marsabit County Government in developing a productive safety net programme through the ongoing development and expansion of **asset creation projects** in the county.
- Marsabit County Government, with support from WFP, has gradually taken over **responsibility for all relief feeding** within the county.

- Twenty-six thousand six hundred beneficiaries of asset creation projects have been **registered in the Single Registry**. Electronic registration helps to harmonize beneficiary data from across various ministries. The new system consolidates data in one single place, eradicating the inefficiencies of the old system where there was no clear way of knowing who was receiving help, what kind of help, where and under which programme.
- WFP has been supporting the Marsabit Department of Education in taking over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development education centres.

1. Emergency preparedness and response

Moving from relief towards investments in capacity strengthening

WFP is shifting away from the large-scale emergency food assistance responses of the past towards a focus on technical support for government-owned safety nets that address food security and nutrition.

Counties are now responsible for emergency response and require strong technical and strategic partners to improve their capacity in this area.

WFP is supporting Marsabit County Government to improve its capacity in all aspects of emergency preparedness and response, drawing on its expertise in needs assessments, response analysis, and programme design and implementation.

Marsabit County Cooperation Programme

WFP Kenya and Marsabit County Government formalized a cooperation programme¹ in March 2016, which summarizes the activities to be undertaken by both entities to improve the county's institutional and operational capacity for emergency preparedness and response, as identified in the 2015 *Marsabit Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment*.²

The cooperation programme seeks to strengthen Marsabit County Government capacities to assess, analyse, prepare for and respond to food and nutrition insecurity and implement safety net and emergency response programmes within the county. The activities included in the county cooperation programme aim to address identified gaps and needs throughout the emergency programme cycle, including early warning and vulnerability assessment, response analysis, programme preparation and management, implementation, and monitoring and reporting.



Mapping community resources to help the community select viable asset creation projects, Dirdima.

¹ *Marsabit County Cooperation Programme: Strengthening County Capacities with Respect to Emergency Preparedness and Response and Safety Nets Programmes* (Marsabit County Government and WFP, 2016).

² *In late 2015, a comprehensive and participatory capacity gaps and needs assessment for Marsabit County (Marsabit Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment, Marsabit County Government and WFP (2015)), facilitated by WFP, was finalized. The assessment identified the main gaps and priorities for capacity-strengthening support required by Marsabit County to ensure adequate emergency preparedness and response to potential food and nutrition security crises.*

Humanitarian supply chain management

Secondment of WFP logistics staff to Marsabit in response to El Niño alert

The regional El Niño alert for 2015 opened up an opportunity for WFP to further understand what support it was best placed to provide Marsabit in terms of emergency preparedness and response. A WFP logistics associate was seconded to Marsabit County Government for two months from mid-November 2015 to mid-January 2016 to provide operational and technical support for the forecasted El Niño emergency preparedness and response activities. The seconded staff was incorporated into the Disaster Management Committee, set up to coordinate all El Niño emergency preparedness and response activities and implement responses as required, including establishing a communications centre. Work included assessing the county's response plans across the departments of education, disaster management, agriculture, health and nutrition and social security for delivering food assistance in the event of displacement of people. This included a logistics capacity assessment (e.g., how able is the county to procure and deliver food, what is the transport infrastructure and the county's warehouse capacity?) and mapping of partners.

The logistics capacity assessment report and the partner mapping matrix, both of which will be validated by the county steering group, are in the final stages of development. They will then be reviewed by Marsabit Directorate of Disaster Management in readiness for validation and in preparation for potential activities in response to La Niña in late 2016.

The secondment of the WFP logistic associate also provided real-life validation of the findings of the capacity gaps and needs assessment conducted in 2015, providing input to the design of the interventions.

Training in emergency preparedness and response

In May 2016, 18 senior county officers attended a two-day training workshop run by WFP. The training provided the county officers with an overview of the importance and relevance of emergency preparedness and response and an understanding of the processes and products employed for decision-making related to food security in emergency preparedness and response.



On-site training on pasture production and vegetable growing, Dirdima.

In August 2016, 16 technical officers led by county directors from the agriculture, education, procurement, and health sectors, as well as from the Directorate of Cohesion, and the executive secretariat, were trained in humanitarian supply chain management in terms of effective emergency preparedness and response and safety net implementation. The three-day training, which included contingency planning, budget preparation and food quality assurances, aimed to enhance the county officers' knowledge and skills on how to establish and manage humanitarian supply chain systems efficiently and effectively.

County officers from the Directorate of Disaster Management will be trained in early November on siting and assembling mobile warehouses. As part of the process, WFP donated two mobile warehouses to the Marsabit County Government, and WFP will provide ongoing technical support in their management in 2017 until the government is well-placed to take over their management.

Further training on operational and practical humanitarian supply chain management, e.g. on warehouse and food quality management, post-harvest management and commodity tracking, is planned for November 2016 for 90 officers drawn from the agriculture, education, public health and nutrition, and disaster management sectors.

WFP will support the development of a logistics management information system for use by the Directorate of Disaster Management and the Department of Education to manage all aspects of information around the humanitarian supply chain in Marsabit. This will integrate

and harmonize all data management, including commodity tracking and reporting, so facilitating transparency, efficiency and accountability within the process. This will be followed by additional support to develop warehouse manuals and guidelines, as well as standard operating procedures for emergency warehouse management and commodity accounting.

Nineteen senior county officers were trained on emergency preparedness and response mechanisms in a three-day workshop. Topics included:

- **food security** – what is it and what does it entail?
- **processes and sources of early warning**, e.g. indicators for food consumption and food diversity
- choice of **appropriate emergency response interventions**, e.g. a switch between in-kind and cash transfer interventions as appropriate
- **contingency planning**, e.g. stockpiling emergency food and other items
- **post-emergency recovery and resilience-building**, e.g. terracing and water-harvesting projects

County nutrition and food security assessments

Decentralizing long and short rains assessments

WFP has been assisting Marsabit County Government to improve its data collection, analysis and reporting of the food security status within the county.

National assessors from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, coordinated by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), have traditionally carried out assessments of food security following the two rainy seasons in Kenya. Part of the Kenyan devolution process entails decentralizing this process and ensuring that counties have the ability to undertake their own food security assessments. Since early 2016, WFP has been assisting Marsabit County Government to strengthen its capacity in this area, with the goal of producing its own twice-yearly credible nutrition and food security assessments.

In January 2016, WFP coordinated the incorporation of three county officers from Marsabit County's departments of agriculture and water and NDMA into a one-week training programme (facilitated by WFP, UNICEF, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, FEWSNET and NDMA) for the national data collection team of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group. The officers were trained on data collection methods relating to food security in the county using the relevant



Tomato farming in Dirdima.

©WFP/World Vision

pre-rains assessment questionnaires, as well as on data analysis and dissemination through report writing.

Following this, the officers, together with the national Kenya Food Security Steering Group officers, conducted a 10-day assessment and jointly produced the February 2016 short rains food security assessment report. The pre-assessment training of the county officers and data collection analysis and report writing was repeated in July and August 2016 for the long rains assessment. However, high turnover of county government officers will necessitate that this training is repeated in 2017 until a pool of trained officers is created within the county.

The training will enable the Marsabit county officials to undertake post-rains assessments with minimum support from national assessors, making the assessment process more efficient and also giving the county the potential capacity to assess food security in relation to other forms of disasters within the county.

To explain the methodology behind and significance and relevance of the long and short rains assessment to the county government, WFP held a two-day sensitization workshop for 18 county executive committee members and senior officers of the county government in May 2016. Dissemination of the short and long rains assessment to senior county officials is planned through county meetings for November 2016, furbishing senior county executives with the possibility of aligning the assessments' recommendations to the county development plans.

Increasing the scope and efficiency of early warning data collection

Early warning is key to effective emergency preparedness and response. WFP is improving the scope and efficiency of early warning data collection in Marsabit by increasing the breadth of data collected for the Kenya Drought Early Warning System. In March 2016 WFP supported four officers from Marsabit, two county drought information officers and two county data analysts, to participate in national training on the roll out of an online early warning database system. This system is managed by NDMA and is used by Marsabit County Government to monitor various indicators for drought monitoring.

WFP produces a Food Security and Outcome Monitoring report for Kenya three times per year. Market prices and a coping strategy index,



Farm visit showing various types of infection in kale, Dirdima.

which reflect accessibility of food, and a food consumption score, which reflects the population's utilization of food, are among the principal food security indicators used for this report. These indicators are being incorporated into the data collection of the Drought Early Warning System, so increasing its coverage and representativeness.

The Drought Early Warning System and Food Security and Outcome Monitoring both contribute to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for assessing food security. In the first two weeks of August, the Marsabit county director of agriculture and a county drought information officer from NDMA Marsabit received training on report writing and analysis using this tool.

WFP trained one NDMA county data analyst and one county drought information officer on best practice for sampling early warning data. Data collection for food security assessment is clustered by livelihood classification (e.g. pastoral, irrigated cropping), and data must be collected accordingly.

In addition, WFP is piloting paperless data collection for the Kenya Drought Early Warning System in partnership with NDMA (who have created an app for the data collection). WFP has procured 11 tablets for Marsabit, one for each data-collection site; 11 field monitors will be trained on use of the software in a three-day training course in November, with the anticipation that by January 2017 all data collection for the Drought Early Warning System will be paperless.

A section of the long-rains assessment questionnaire for Marsabit, 2016

Water availability and access for livestock

a) How long is available water expected to last?	The small water pans are likely to dry up within the next 1 month
How long does it usually last under normal circumstances?	3–5 months
Indicate the period water will last for by livelihood zones	By end of August most of the smaller water pans will have dried
b) Return trekking distances for livestock from pasture to watering point in km, by livelihood zone	
Current distance	10–20 km
Normal distance	5–10 km
What is the trend?	The trekking distance will increase
c) Frequency of watering (days) for cattle, sheep and goats, by livelihood zone	
Current watering frequency	
Cattle	2 days
Sheep	3 days
Goat	3 days
Normal watering frequency	
Cattle	1 day
Sheep	3 days
Goat	2 days

Frequency of watering days will increase by 1–2 days for each species as drought sets in

2. Safety net programmes

Moving from relief towards investments in building resilience

Since 2000, WFP has supported communities in Marsabit County with food assistance through general food distribution. However, in recent years WFP has been able to drastically reduce the amount of relief assistance that it has provided to the county. Devolution has empowered the counties to respond to periodic food insecurity, which, in conjunction with the government's expansion of safety net programmes, means that demands on WFP to use relief assistance to address food insecurity are decreasing.

As the government's safety net programmes have expanded so successfully, WFP's relief activities have been able to shrink, to the extent that in October 2015 WFP completed the handover of 53,000 beneficiaries of general food distribution programmes to Marsabit County Government. In 2015, Marsabit County Government also entered into discussion with WFP regarding expanding asset creation projects in the county. Marsabit has been intermittently targeted with general food distribution, and asset creation offers huge potential for transitioning beneficiaries from this safety net to livelihood resilience building.

Consequently, WFP is currently supporting Marsabit County Government to expand an asset creation programme (i.e. a productive safety net), based on food insecurity issues that were highlighted by the Marsabit Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment. In 2016, WFP has supported 48 communities in Moyale sub-county, reaching around 24,000 beneficiaries, to develop assets that contribute to livelihood resilience; these have included developing water pans to harvest runoff rain water for use by the communities and their livestock, water harvesting for pasture production for livestock feed, planting of tree seedlings for agro-forestry, and land rehabilitation to heal gullies.

In July, several meetings were held with county executives to underline the value of a county-led asset creation programme in increasing the resilience of households and communities against food insecurity. The county government embraced the programme and subsequently a county project steering



©WFP/World Vision

Community members digging furrows for reseedling and preparing the seed for scattering, Gimbe.

committee was formed to oversee its design. A series of further sensitization meetings are planned, targeting county assembly members, decision-makers and other non-state actors in the county.

In November, WFP will facilitate a meeting to identify the ministry and director to lead the asset creation programme in Marsabit. Any gaps in the ministry's capacity will also be identified at this time, and WFP will assist in strengthening the capacity of the county project steering committee to facilitate the successful implementation of the productive safety net programme. To date, the asset creation projects have been based in Moyale sub-county, but there is potential to expand this work to the whole of Marsabit County.

Asset creation highlights in Marsabit County, 2016

Reducing environmental degradation	
Number of tree seedlings planted	37 441
Number of tree seedlings established in the nurseries	20 932
Hectares of gully land reclaimed as a result of check dams and other gully rehabilitation structures	191
Hectares of cultivated land treated and conserved with physical soil and water conservation measures.	15
Hectares of cultivated land treated with biological stabilization or agro-forestry techniques (e.g. multi-storey gardening, green fences, tree belts)	4
Improving pasture and browse production	
Hectares of land developed for pasture production (e.g. area enclosures, semi-circular bunds, micro-basins, irrigation)	40
Improving access to markets and schools	
Kilometres of new feeder roads built	21
Improving access to water for human and livestock consumption	
Number of new water pans constructed (3,000–15,000 m ³)	6

Electronic registration – adding more beneficiaries to the Single Registry

In April, WFP began electronic registration of asset-creation beneficiaries in seven counties, including Marsabit. To date, WFP has registered 26,600 beneficiaries in Moyale, adding to the 290,000 asset-creation beneficiaries that will shortly all be incorporated into the Single Registry (as soon as some slight configuration changes are updated in the system).

The registration is a joint undertaking of UNICEF and WFP and includes collecting information on vulnerable children to help inform potential programme overlap and is also an emergency preparedness measure. The registration is expected to finish in November of this year, after which WFP can analyse (through the Single Registry) the extent to which households participating in asset-creation activities are also receiving benefits under one of the Inua Jamii (government safety net) programmes. This analysis will inform a dialogue about who should be receiving what under which programme, and support harmonization of programmes.

Capacity strengthening for early childhood development education centre meals

Marsabit County has more than 300 early childhood development centres, educating 18,000 children. Responsibility for early childhood development centres was devolved to county governments through the 2010 constitution, and county governments are now responsible for providing both education and meals within the centres. Consequently, WFP handed over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development education centres to the county government in 2015. This was part of a larger transition strategy agreed upon with the government in 2009. However, WFP and the national Ministry of Education remain committed to supporting the county government during the transition.

WFP has been supporting Marsabit Department of Education in taking on this role in the county. In October 2016, WFP met with the Marsabit County Executive and County Assembly to advocate the benefits of feeding in early childhood centres, and the WFP Marsabit field office subsequently held several follow-up meetings with the county government to further highlight the significance of a school feeding policy. The county now recognizes the importance of safety nets like school meals



Ellebor water pan.



Community members participating in sorghum value addition and utilization training, Mansile.

to help meet the needs of food insecure and vulnerable households efficiently and effectively, while also increasing attendance and retention of children in school.

A draft policy on school meals in early childhood development education centres is being formulated by Baringo County Government with support from WFP, and it is anticipated that this may assist in discussions around the development of Marsabit County's own school meal policy.

Other planned support for January 2017 includes the provision of a computer and printer to the Department of Early Childhood Education Development, training on food procurement and management, and piloting a milling and flour fortification programme using local mills to process flour for school meals. This latter activity will include an exposure visit to Kakuma refugee camp for the chief officer, director, assistant director, early childhood development education centre manager and enterprise management officer of the Department of Early Childhood

Education Development to learning about the local milling and fortification project that has been trialled there for school meals.

WFP is continuing to strengthen the capacity of Marsabit County Government to manage the supply chain of early childhood development centre feeding efficiently and effectively. In August 2016, seven programme managers of early childhood development centres from each of the four sub-counties were trained on humanitarian supply chain management alongside technical officers from the departments of agriculture, water, livestock, disaster management, and health and nutrition, as well as NDMA. The officers were trained on food procurement process planning, warehousing, and food quality management across the supply chain. Food quality assurance and management remains a primary concern among education stakeholders, hence additional training in this area is planned for November 2016, along with the roll out of a food quality strategy for the county, whose development WFP has been supporting and which is planned for early 2017.



World Food Programme



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

For more information please contact:

Charisse Tillman

*Private and Government
Sector Relations Officer,
WFP Kenya*
charisse.tillman@wfp.org

Bernard Nyatuga

*(National Focal Point)
Programme Policy
Officer, WFP Kenya*
bernard.nyatuga@wfp.org

Sarah Waithaka

*(Marsabit Focal Point)
Programme Policy
Officer, WFP Kenya*
sarah.waithaka@wfp.org