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

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Emergency preparedness and response programmes are now a shared function between Samburu 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 **Samburu County Cooperation Programme** has been formalized between WFP Kenya and Samburu 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 Samburu 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, the success of which has led to her further one-year secondment to the county.
- WFP has been supporting Samburu County in **emergency preparedness and response through training of county executives, technical officers and operational officers** on relevant aspects 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 Samburu.
- WFP is assisting Samburu 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 Samburu 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 piloting paperless data collection for the NDMA assessment.

- WFP is currently supporting Samburu County Government to develop a productive safety net, i.e. an **asset creation programme**, for the county. This has included organizing an exposure visit to Baringo for senior county officials to understand the practical implications of effective asset creation projects as well as through ongoing asset creation project development.
- Samburu County Government, with support from WFP, has successfully taken over **responsibility for all the relief feeding** within the county.

- Updated WFP **community-based targeting guidelines** have been used by WFP to re-target beneficiaries who have been receiving in-kind food assistance to asset creation programmes.
- Twenty-three thousand beneficiaries of asset creation projects have been **registered in the Single Registry**. Electronic registration helps inform potential overlap of multiple safety net programmes and is also an important measure in emergency preparedness.
- WFP has been supporting Samburu Department of Education in taking over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development centres. This has included **training of programme managers on supply chain management**, e.g. procurement and food quality management, for school feeding.

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 Samburu 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.

Samburu County Cooperation Programme

WFP Kenya and Samburu County Government formalized a cooperation programme¹ in April 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 *Samburu Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment*.² The cooperation programme seeks to strengthen Samburu County Government's 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, management and implementation, and monitoring and reporting.

Humanitarian supply chain management

Secondment of WFP logistics staff to Samburu 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 Samburu County in terms of emergency preparedness and response. A

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

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

WFP logistics associate in emergency response was seconded to Samburu County Government for one month in mid-November 2015 to provide support for the forecasted El Niño. She assisted in assessing the county's response plans across the departments of education, disaster management, agriculture 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 the disaster management section within the governor's office in readiness for validation and in preparation for potential activities in response to La Niña in late 2016.

Training in emergency preparedness and response

In June 2016, 29 senior county officers attended a two-day training workshop organized by WFP. The training provided the county executives 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. In addition the methodology behind and significance and relevance of the long and short rains assessments to the county government was explained.

In August 2016, 22 technical officers from the county's agriculture, education, procurement, executive secretariat and health sectors, were trained in humanitarian supply chain management and emergency preparedness and response. The three-day training, which included contingency planning, budget preparation and food quality assurances, aimed to enhance the county's knowledge and skills on how to manage humanitarian supply chain systems efficiently and effectively.

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 Samburu. 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 support to develop warehouse management manuals, guidelines and standard operating procedures.

Twenty-nine 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



A Samburu homestead.

County nutrition and food security assessments

Decentralizing long and short rains assessments

WFP has been assisting Samburu 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 Samburu 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 Samburu's departments of agriculture and health and from 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 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 was repeated in July 2016 prior to the long rains food security assessment.

This training will enable the Samburu County officials to undertake post-rains assessments in 2017 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. The training will be repeated in 2017 until a pool of trained officers who can run the assessments independently is created within the county.

Twelve technical officers from Samburu County were trained on the assessment methodology for the long rains assessment, which included a review of the tools and indicators used during assessments. Dissemination of the short and long rains assessment to senior county



A community planning meeting in Loriak-Orok village, Samburu. Communities are involved in selecting and planning the implementation of asset creation activities from their outset.

officials is planned through county meetings for November 2016, refurbishing 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 Samburu by increasing the breadth of data collected for the Kenya Drought Early Warning System.

WFP produces a Food Security and Outcome Monitoring report for Kenya three times per year. Market prices and a coping strategy index, 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 range 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, a county agricultural production officer from the Samburu Ministry of Agriculture and a county drought information officer from NDMA Samburu 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 nine tablets for Samburu, one for each data collection site; and nine field monitors will be trained on use of the software in a three-day training course in November, with the anticipation that by January all data collection for the Drought Early Warning System will be paperless.



A smallholder farmer participating in WFP's asset creation activities in Samburu. Farmers grow drought-resistant crop varieties using dryland farming technologies that help conserve the little water available.

Part of the long rains assessment questionnaire for Samburu, 2016

Rain-fed crop production (indicate for three main crops grown in the county/sub-county)

Crop	Area planted during 2016 long rains season (Ha)		2016 long rains season production (90 kg bags)	
	Total	Long-term average	Projected	Long-term average
Maize	9 600	4 870	96 000	48 700
Beans	4 800	1 500	14 400	7 500
F/ millet	600	200	300	100

Variation in acreage

- The increased acreage of both maize and beans during the period under review was because of opening up of new lands for crop production by farmers using the county tractors with subsidized ploughing rates by the county government, provision of certified seeds, increased extension services by both government staff and NGO staff and use of radio programmes (KILIMO MEDIA) through SERIAN F.M.

Variation in production

- The anticipated increase in production during the season when compared to the long-term average is due to favourable rainfall distribution, both spatial and temporal. Also, increased uptake in the use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers by farmers is a contributing factor, as well as the use of certified seeds by the majority of farmers.



Loriak-Orok community at a water pan. One of the activities that livestock-keeping families opt for is the renovation or construction of water pans for livestock and domestic use.

2. Safety net programmes

Moving from relief towards investments in building resilience

Since 2000, WFP has supported communities in Samburu County with food assistance through general food distribution, school meals and linking farmers to markets. 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 July 2016 WFP completed the handover of 54,500 beneficiaries of general food distribution programmes to the Samburu County Government.

In 2015, Samburu County Government entered discussion with WFP regarding developing asset creation projects in the county. Samburu, and Samburu Central sub-county in particular, 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. As a result, WFP has been able to redirect and concentrate its programme work on assisting Samburu in managing asset creation programmes, targeting around 20,000 beneficiaries in 2016.

Identifying the pilot areas

In discussion with the Governor of Samburu in December 2015, Samburu Central sub-county was identified as the pilot area for implementing asset creation projects, targeting around 20,000 beneficiaries, and to be expanded later to Samburu North and Samburu East sub-counties. The governor proposed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries take the lead in managing the asset creation programme until a disaster risk reduction coordination unit is in place. Joint WFP and county government budgeting and resource mobilization arrangements were also discussed.

Forming a project steering committee and action plan

A project steering committee was formed in March 2016 to oversee the preparatory phase of the roll out of asset creation projects. Committee members included directors of the departments of agriculture, livestock, veterinary/fisheries and environment, natural resources and water, as well as being drawn from WFP and NDMA.

An action plan to guide the roll out of the asset creation projects was developed, outlining the steps to be taken to launch them. In January and February, project sites were selected and both community leaders and members of the county assembly sensitized on the value of asset creation. By September frontline staff had been trained and community action plans developed.

The county government has budgeted KES45 million for the implementation of asset creation projects in Samburu Central for 2016/17, whose launch is anticipated for November 2016.

Learning mission to Baringo

In March 2016, WFP organized an exposure trip to Baringo County for 21 participants from Samburu County drawn from the departments of agriculture and livestock development, environment, water and disaster management, as well as from NDMA and an NGO partner. The aim of the trip was to deepen the understanding of the Samburu officers on the practical aspects of effective implementation of asset creation projects. In particular, the visit was designed to give a better understanding of:

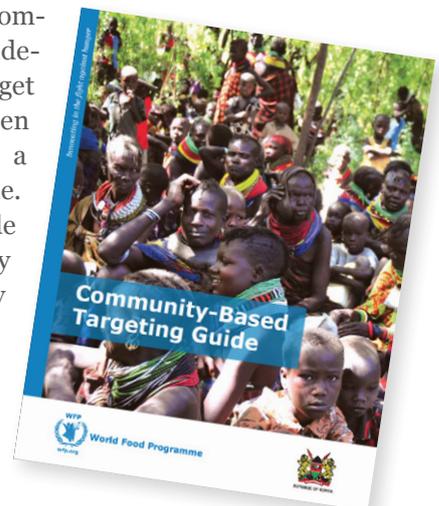
- the institutional arrangements for effectively implementing asset creation projects
- community-based planning approaches through the formation of project committees at the community level and development of community action plans
- project proposal development and approval process
- linking asset creation projects to the Ending Drought Emergencies Framework,³ CIDPs and the WFP resilience strategy.

³ The Common Programme Framework for Ending Drought Emergencies is the product of a series of discussions between the Government of Kenya and its development partners that took place between October 2013 and August 2014. It represents the first phase of a ten-year programme to end drought emergencies by 2022. The framework has three areas of emphasis: eliminating the conditions that perpetuate vulnerability, enhancing the productive potential of the region, and strengthening institutional capacity for effective risk management.

Applying updated community-based targeting guidelines to asset creation programmes

For more than two decades, the Government of Kenya and WFP have used community-based targeting in relief and recovery interventions in Kenya as a reliable way to identify and reach food insecure households, with the full involvement and ownership of communities. Guidelines for community-based targeting were first developed in Kenya for the 1992 drought emergency operation, and were most recently revised in February 2015 to reflect changes in the kind of assistance that is being provided, the way food assistance is coordinated in Kenya, and the way in which WFP and the government work with cooperating partners.

In mid-2016, the new community-based targeting guidelines were used to re-target beneficiaries who had been receiving in-kind food for a food for assets programme. The new guidelines provide a strong platform for county governments to actively participate in the targeting process of beneficiaries, starting from the ward level, where community meetings are held. Five technical staff seconded to the asset creation project from the county government received on-the-job training on community-based targeting by participating with WFP in the re-targeting process.



Livestock in Samburu. Dry spells often push families to migrate in search of water and pasture.

Electronic registration – adding more beneficiaries to the Single Registry

In April, WFP began electronic registration of asset creation beneficiaries in seven counties, including Samburu. To date, WFP has registered 23,000 beneficiaries in Samburu, adding to the total of 290,000 asset-creation beneficiaries who 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 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.

Supply chain management for meals in early childhood development centres

Samburu has more than 1,000 early childhood development centres, educating 50,000 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. In Samburu, WFP handed over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development centres to the county government in 2015. This was part of a larger transition strategy agreed with the government in 2009. However, WFP and the Ministry of Education remained committed to supporting the county government during the transition.

WFP has been supporting the Samburu Department of Education in taking up this role, including by advocating the benefits of feeding in early childhood centres to the Samburu County Assembly in April 2016. A draft policy on feeding in early childhood development centres was published in May 2016.

In September, seven programme managers of early childhood development centres from each of Samburu's sub-counties were trained on humanitarian supply chain management. The training included procurement planning, warehouse and storage of food items and food quality management across the supply chain. Further training will be conducted on warehouse and inventory management as well as on food quality assurance for public health officers in December 2016.



Members of a farmer organization in Samburu.



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