



World Food Programme Kenya **INFOBRIEF** [No. 4]

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

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Emergency preparedness and response programmes are now a shared function between Wajir County Government and the national government. As recognized and supported by the county government, the role of the World Food Programme (WFP) within the county is changing: from providing and implementing social protection programmes to advising and supporting the government to build its own institutional, legal and programme framework to implement safety net programmes. This article highlights WFP's achievements in 2016.

## In brief...

- WFP and Wajir County Government formalized the **Wajir County Cooperation Programme** in April 2016. The programme outlines means of improving the county's emergency preparedness and response and implementation of safety nets in terms of institutional and operational capacity by addressing current gaps identified in the county's emergency response programme.
- WFP provided **logistical support** to Wajir 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 assessing the county's response plans across multiple departments for delivering food assistance as an emergency response.
- The success of the secondment led to the long-term secondment of a WFP policy officer to Wajir County Government.
- WFP has been supporting Wajir County Government through training of technical officers on relevant aspects of **emergency preparedness and response**, from an overview of its significance to technical aspects of its implementation. This support has already enabled Wajir County to allocate start-up funds and procure food for 2017 for all its 217 early childhood development education centres.
- WFP is assisting Wajir 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 and beyond.

- The scope and efficiency of **early warning data collection** in Wajir 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 supporting Wajir County Government to develop a productive safety net, i.e. an **asset creation programme**, for the county, aimed at enhancing community resilience to drought and other food security shocks. Support includes facilitating understanding of food security in emergency preparedness and response by county officials and the ongoing development of asset creation projects.
- Updated WFP **community-based targeting guidelines** have been used by WFP to re-target beneficiaries who have been receiving in-kind food.
- Wajir County Department of Education is assuming responsibility for the **school meals programme** within early childhood development education centres in the county, and WFP has been supporting the county government in this, including through the production of a draft policy on feeding 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 Wajir 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.

### Wajir County Cooperation Programme

WFP Kenya and Wajir County Government formalized a cooperation programme<sup>1</sup> in April 2016, which summarizes the activities to be undertaken by both organizations to improve the county's institutional and operational capacity for emergency preparedness and response, as identified in the 2015 *Wajir Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment*.<sup>2</sup>

The cooperation programme seeks to strengthen Wajir 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.



A farmer in Buna asset creation project.

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

<sup>2</sup> *In late 2015, a comprehensive and participatory capacity gaps and needs assessment for Wajir County (Wajir Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment, Wajir County Government and WFP (2015)), facilitated by WFP, was finalized. The assessment identified the main gaps and priorities for capacity-strengthening support required by Wajir 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 Wajir in response to El Niño alert

The regional El Niño alert issued in October 2015 presented an excellent opportunity for WFP to further understand the support it was best placed to provide Wajir County Government in terms of emergency preparedness and response. A WFP logistics associate was seconded to Wajir County Government for two months from mid-November 2015 to mid-January 2016 to support the county's disaster management committee in coordinating emergency preparedness activities for the El Niño alert. The associate assisted in assessing the county's response plans across multiple departments for delivering food assistance in the event of displacement of people.

This included the preparation of a comprehensive 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. Validation of the logistics capacity assessment report and the partner mapping matrix by the county steering group is expected by the end of 2017. The logistics associate, as well as a programme officer seconded to the county, continue to support the disaster management and education departments with on-the-job training on food management, storage, efficient

and cost effective transport and distribution planning.

### Training in emergency preparedness and response

In September 2016, 18 technical officers from the county's agriculture, education, planning and disaster sectors, as well as from the governor's office and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), were trained in humanitarian supply chain management and emergency preparedness and response. The three-day training, which included the principal concepts of emergency preparedness and response, supply chain management, information flow and reporting, and food quality assurances, aimed to enhance the county government'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 officers drawn from the agriculture, education, public health and nutrition, and disaster management sectors.

In October 2016 WFP loaned – for 15 months – a mobile storage unit to the county government to improve storage conditions of food commodities pre-positioned for emergency response or purchased under the early childhood development centre programme.



An onion crop in Alan uus asset creation project.

WFP will also be supporting the development of a logistics management information system to manage all aspects of information around the humanitarian supply chain in Wajir. This will integrate and harmonize all data management, including commodity tracking and reporting, so facilitating transparency, efficiency and accountability within the process. The system is expected to be in place by the end of March 2017.

## County nutrition and food security assessments

### Decentralizing long and short rains assessments

WFP has been assisting Wajir 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 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 Wajir 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 Wajir County's departments of livestock 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 data dissemination through report writing.

Following this, the officers conducted a 10-day assessment and 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 and the Wajir county officers conducted the 2016 long rains assessment independently, without officers from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, whose support was only required during the analysis.

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 24 county executive committee members and senior officers of the county government in June 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.

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

### Water availability and access

a) How long is available water expected to last?	Surface water (1 month)
How long does it usually last under normal circumstances?	2 months
Indicate the period water will last for by livelihood zones	It varies with the influx of animals to water points
b) Return trekking distances for livestock from pasture to watering point in km, by livelihood zone	
Current distance	5–7 km
Normal distance	3–4 km
What is the trend?	The trekking distances are increasing
c) What are the current critical water sources for livestock?	Boreholes, shallow wells and dams
How does the current water sources compare to sources at normal times?	Some dams/pans are almost running dry
Indicate the variation of water sources by livelihood zones	Water sources are becoming depleted with time

## 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 Wajir by increasing the breadth of data collected for the Kenya Drought Early Warning System. In March 2016, WFP supported two officers from Wajir – a county drought information officer and a county data analyst – to participate in national training on the roll out and use of a new online database system for drought early warning. This system is managed by NDMA and used by Wajir County Government to analyse drought monitoring indicators.

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 coverage and representativeness.

The Drought Early Warning System and the Food Security and Outcome Monitoring assessment both contribute to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for assessing food security. In the first two weeks of August, a county livestock production officer from the Wajir Ministry of Livestock and a county drought information officer from NDMA Wajir 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 Wajir, 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.



Buna asset creation water pan.

## 2. Safety net programmes

### Moving from relief towards investments in building resilience

Since 2000, WFP has supported communities in Wajir 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 programmes have expanded so successfully, WFP's relief activities have been able to shrink, to the extent that in January 2016 WFP completed the handover of 85,000 beneficiaries of general food distribution programmes to Wajir County Government. In 2015, Wajir County Government also entered into discussion with WFP regarding expanding asset creation projects in the county. Wajir has been intermittently targeted with general food distribution, and asset creation offers huge potential to transition beneficiaries from this safety net to livelihood resilience building.

Consequently, WFP is currently supporting Wajir County Government to develop an asset creation programme (i.e. a productive safety net) for the county based on the food insecurity issues that were highlighted by the Wajir Capacity Gaps and Needs Assessment. The programme is expected to directly benefit 28,000 people from pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods zones within Wajir and will build on the county government's prioritization of irrigated agriculture within a wider strategy to enhance resilience and reduce dependency on relief assistance. A number of large dams have already been established by the county government within the county specifically to support crop production.

### Learning mission to Baringo

In March 2016, WFP organized an exposure trip to Baringo County for senior technical officers from Wajir County working in food security and emergency response. The aim of the trip was to deepen knowledge of 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 for developing community project committees and community action plans
- project proposal development and approval processes
- linking asset creation projects to the Ending Drought Emergencies Framework,<sup>3</sup> county integrated development plans and the WFP resilience strategy.

### 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 of identifying and reaching 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. 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. In mid-September 30 county government officers, ranging from the Chief Officer of Agriculture to agriculture extension officers, were trained in a two-day workshop on the use of the community-based targeting guidelines for re-targeting of beneficiaries. The training was designed to improve the ability of the county to implement sustainable asset creation projects and covered the principles of food targeting and distribution, stock management, nutrition-sensitive programming, and programme monitoring and evaluation.

### Supply chain management for feeding in early childhood development education centres

Wajir has 217 early childhood development education centres, educating 15,000 children. Responsibility for providing both education and meals in early childhood development education centres was devolved to county governments through the 2010 constitution. In Wajir, WFP handed over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development education centres to the county government in 2015.

WFP has been supporting the Wajir Department of Education in taking over this role, including through advocating the benefits of feeding in early childhood development education centres.

<sup>3</sup> 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.



A tomato crop in Alan uus asset creation project.

In mid-October, WFP shared the draft early childhood development policy of Baringo County with Wajir Department of Education with the expectation that it can assist the ongoing discussion around the development of the county's own draft policy.

In March 2016, WFP and the county government formally outlined WFP's role in strengthening Wajir County Government's capacity to manage the supply chain for feeding in early childhood development education centres.

The expected outcome of this partnership is for Wajir County Department of Education to:

- have the necessary policy framework to allocate resources for the feeding programme of early childhood development education centres
- have the capacity to deliver food commodities to the feeding programmes in a timely and cost effective way through an efficient supply chain system
- ensure that food quality is maintained at all stages of the supply chain through best practices of warehouse and commodity management
- ensure accountability and transparency throughout the supply chain system.

In December 2015, WFP facilitated a three-day workshop in Garissa for 10 participants from Wajir County Department of Education to support the smooth handover of the school meals programme in early childhood development education centres to the county government. The training covered the basic rationale and implementation of school feeding, food management skills and how to effectively monitor the programme.



A farmer with his onion crop from the Bute asset creation project.

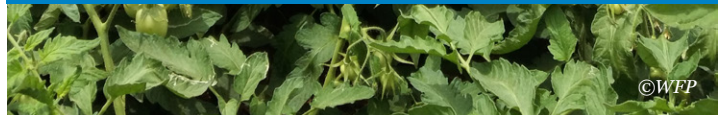
Throughout August and September, WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the county early childhood development team on developing guidelines for the early childhood development education centre feeding programme, including procurement, food quality management, commodity accounting, and programme monitoring and reporting.

WFP has also continued to advocate to the county government prioritization and budgetary allocation for feeding in early childhood development education centres. As a result, the county government allocated KES32 million for early childhood development education centre feeding in the 2016/17 budget, and has been able to procure 283 mt of cereals, pulses, oil and salt, sufficient to cover the needs of all the early childhood development education centres for the 2017 school year. WFP will continue providing technical support to the county government on warehouse management, food dispatch, quality control and assurance, and reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the school meals programme.



Three days of training in Garissa were also facilitated by WFP in early September 2016, targeting, amongst others, seven technical officers (*including one county director*) of early childhood development education centres from the department of education.

The training focused on the principal concepts of emergency preparedness and response, including supply chain management, logistics capacity assessment, budgeting and procurement, warehouse management, transport operations, and information flow and reporting.



Tomatoes in Buna asset creation project.



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