

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME KENYA

INFOBRIEF [No. 25]

DECEMBER 2018

BARINGO COUNTY

WFP Support to Baringo County's Emergency Preparedness and Response

November 2017– June 2018

Emergency preparedness and response programmes are a shared function between Baringo 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 direct food assistance and implementing social protection programmes to advising and supporting the government to build its own institutional, legal and programme framework to implement safety nets and emergency preparedness and response programmes. This infobrief highlights achievements made in strengthening Baringo County capacity through the partnership with WFP from November 2017 to June 2018.





Chepkoryande community water pan – Kimorok sub-location, Marigat.

In brief...

- WFP and Baringo County Government undertook a technical review of the joint project *“Enhancing Complementarity and Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Resilience Building in Kenya’s ASALs 2015–2018”*. The findings and recommendations, which will inform further WFP capacity strengthening initiatives in targeted counties, were disseminated to officers from the national and county governments and NGO partners.
- Baringo County Government successfully finalized its second-generation county integrated development plan (2018–2022), which outlines county development priorities and provides a basis for budget appropriation and development.
- Technical officers developed standard operating procedures for humanitarian supply chain management in the county to clarify the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders along the supply chain.
- Baringo County Government officers developed response plans for three levels of emergency scenario based on data from the Kenya Drought Early Warning Bulletins and the Kenya Meteorological Office. Standard operating procedures to respond to multiple hazards were developed.
- Baringo county executives, county assembly members and technical officers improved their knowledge of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to better formulate disaster risk management policies and pass legislation that will strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the county.
- Baringo County participated in a forum for International Women’s Day 2018, *“Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women’s Lives”*. The event promoted cross learning on women’s empowerment and enhance linkages amongst county-based leaders, local civil societies and gender specialists from different sectors.
- The county legal officer and the principle legal counsel from Baringo County Assembly improved their understanding around adopting a gender perspective in legislation and policy development. The trained legal officers acquired skills and knowledge to help them mainstream gender in all policies and related legislation developed in Baringo County. It is anticipated that the officers will review the Baringo disaster risk management policy and related legislation. The Kenya Law Reform Commission committed to supporting Baringo County in developing gender responsive policies and legislation, starting with review of existing model laws and cascading similar training through the County Assembly Forum and Council of Governors.

- The pool of officers from Baringo County with the technical skills to undertake the county food and nutrition security assessments continued to increase. County officers gained practical experience in data collection, analysis and reporting and participated in disseminating the assessment findings to county stakeholders. Officers were also trained and certified on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. The trained officers are currently supporting the county in producing the long and short rains assessments.
- One county information officer undertook technical training on early warning and food security. The officer gained knowledge of the early warning indicators used in the Kenya Drought Early Warning System and how to integrate these into the monthly early warning bulletins produced by the National Drought Management Authority.
- WFP also supported the county government to improve its knowledge of early warning information in terms of data collection and information dissemination, use of geographical information systems and agro-climatic data in food security analysis.
- As WFP transitions to the Country Strategic Plan, several consultative meetings were held with Baringo County leadership and stakeholders to disseminate the new plan. The Disaster Risk Management Department under the Deputy Governor's Office agreed to host and coordinate resilience-building activities through the Sustainable Food Systems Programme in Baringo in consultation with other relevant departments.
- Baringo County Government reviewed and updated the Early Childhood Development Education School Meals Nutrition Policy to align it with the National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy (2017–2022). The updated policy provides the county with a framework for budgetary allocation and support to early childhood development education meals and nutrition programmes.
- County government staff from information communications technology, gender and social services undertook a joint scoping and assessment of county social protection systems. Two senior county government technical staff participated in a workshop to validate crucial inputs required for the design and development of a county social protection management information system. After its development, the same team will undertake user acceptance testing and validation before the system is piloted.



Mary Keitany is trying out fruit trees on her farm. Her biggest challenge is accessing a reliable source of water for irrigation.

Emergency preparedness and response

Review of the Swedish-funded project “Enhancing Complementarity and Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Resilience Building in Kenya’s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (2015–2018)”

In November 2017, WFP commissioned an independent review of the multi-year “Enhancing Complementarity and Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Resilience Building in Kenya’s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands” project. The project objectives are to “Strengthen the capacity of government and communities to establish, manage and scale up sustainable, effective and equitable food security and nutrition institutions, infrastructure and safety net systems, including systems linked to local agricultural supply chains”. In Baringo County, this work focused specifically

on i) capacity development for newly devolved county structure, and ii) enhancing resilience to shocks, strengthening asset creation activities and transitioning responsibility to Government.

The review objectives were to assess and report on i) the results achieved by the project between January 2015 and June 2017, and ii) the effectiveness of the approach WFP had adopted to realize these objectives.

The review's recommendations were disseminated in May, where the Director for Disaster Risk Management, the Director for Gender, the

Director for Agriculture and the NDMA County Drought Coordinator represented Baringo County. The review's recommendations will inform further WFP capacity strengthening initiatives in targeted counties. These include facilitating county government participation in the national policy process around social protection financing, strengthening linkages between social protection and resilience programmes for disaster risk management and facilitating counties to establish their respective disaster risk management directorates, including developing medium-term strategies to staff and resource the directorates and operationalize core roles.

Summary of findings for Baringo County of "A Review of WFP's Capacity Strengthening Activities under the Project 'Enhancing Complementarity and Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Resilience Building in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands'"

- The emergency preparedness and response simulation exercises (SIMEX) undertaken in Baringo County in 2016 helped the county government to move beyond knowledge acquisition on disaster contingency and response planning to confronting operational realities. The exercise helped identify the need to broaden plans beyond drought hazard to become multi-hazard and highlighted the importance of costing an adequate contingency fund to cover various eventualities. It also helped Baringo County to identify other shortcomings, including the absence of an appropriate communications strategy, which is critical, especially in times of emergency.
- During the SIMEX exercise, trained officers from Baringo and NDMA undertook a three-way exchange to provide technical support to Samburu County Government. Technical officers were able to deepen their expertise in conducting emergency simulation exercises, and a critical mass of practitioners with the ability to organize and conduct such exercises was increased.
- Advisory support by WFP project coordinators embedded in county government assisted Baringo County Steering Group to act as a lead body in disaster risk management/emergency preparedness and response coordination. The County Steering Group has benefitted considerably from the various project interventions targeting its members. Project coordinators are members of the county steering group and in this capacity have been able to offer on-demand advisory support to assist in agenda setting, the conduct of meetings and follow-up actions.
- The approved Baringo Disaster Risk Management Policy provides a basis for enacting the laws and administrative rules that pave the way for institutionalizing disaster risk management as a core county function, with clarity of roles of stakeholders, allocated human and financial resources. An act is also under preparation that will spell out the powers and responsibilities of the Disaster Risk Management Directorate.
- A Directorate of Disaster Risk Management had been recently created in Baringo County. Baringo County intends to establish a "disaster response centre" with three sub-units: disaster preparedness; disaster response and recovery; and administration and coordination, to allow for real-time trend monitoring and a rapid response over 11 identified disaster categories.
- Baringo County has demonstrated strong multi-stakeholder coordination through the county steering group to facilitate a broad participation of actors in disaster preparedness and response – promoting complementarity and synergy – as well as in using early warning data in the development of response plans.

Baringo County Integrated Development Plan 2018–2022

In line with the requirements of the County Governments Act, 2012, which obligates a county to develop five-year county integrated development plan (CIDP), Baringo County Government, in collaboration with WFP and other partners, successfully finalized the second-generation CIDP (2018–2022): *“Transformational agenda for the People of Baringo County through Focused Investment in all Sectors of the Economy”*. The CIDP reflects the strategic mid-term term priorities of the county, providing a framework for county budget development and resource allocation and mobilization with a costed implementation plan, provision for monitoring and evaluation and a reporting mechanism.

The county government and its partners improved their knowledge on the guidelines for developing the CIDP with WFP support, enabling them to lead the development of a quality and inclusive product. The Baringo County CIDP Secretariat, with support from WFP and partners, held public participation meetings in January 2018 in all 40 wards across Baringo County. A write-shop in February incorporated and aligned sector documents with government manifestos and mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals, HIV/AIDS prevention interventions and climate change adaptation into the CIDP. Baringo County Assembly is expected approve the CIDP in August 2018.



Loboi irrigation scheme in Baringo is one of WFP's asset creation activities. The scheme has helped families to transform their lives.

Humanitarian supply chain management support for emergency preparedness and response

In 2018, the humanitarian supply chain capacity strengthening interventions in Baringo County continued to focus on strengthening the technical capacity of selected officers to enhance their knowledge and skills in supply chain processes.

WFP continued to work with Baringo County Government to enhance the visibility of its food assistance supply chain with the aim of strengthening transparency and accountability and facilitating efficient flow of information for decision making across the different levels of the supply chain – from the strategic level to the target beneficiaries in the final distribution points.

In May, technical officers from disaster risk management, education, agriculture and public health county departments engaged in a consultative forum to develop standard operating procedures for humanitarian supply chain management. The procedures, which complemented the humanitarian supply chain management business processes mapped out earlier, support efficiency and accountability by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders along the supply chain.

A logistics management information system for the humanitarian supply chain was identified following extensive consultation with Baringo County Government, technology service providers and other relevant stakeholders. The system will be piloted in Baringo County in the third quarter of 2018 with a technical team from the county engaged in consultation to identify key considerations, opportunities and challenges relating to its roll out.

The feedback and lessons learnt from the pilot phase of the logistics management information system in Baringo, Samburu and Wajir counties will inform its scale up to other counties and potentially to the Directorate of Special Programmes nationally.



LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM DEFINED:

A logistics management information system is a system of records and reports used to aggregate, analyse, validate and display data from all levels of the supply chain system. The system is meant to facilitate effective supply chain management and decision making and enhance supply chain visibility of commodities from procurement to final delivery points. The logistics management information system will include data such as stock reports, distributed quantities, locations, transit losses, and warehouse locations.



Review of the baringo county multi-hazard contingency plan and updating of the standard operating procedures.

Development of emergency response plans

Baringo County Government has been working towards developing multi-stakeholder emergency response plans for action in drought – and other – emergencies. In May, 32 county technical officers (six women and 26 men) from the agriculture, livestock, water, health and nutrition and education sectors developed response plans for three levels of emergency scenario based on data from the Kenya Drought Early Warning Bulletins¹ and the Kenya Meteorological Office as well as traditional knowledge. Responses were incorporated for each of the key sectors with clear actions and scalability trigger indicators. This exercise has strengthened the coordination of the stakeholders by updating standard operating procedures to respond to multiple hazards and defining clear roles and responsibilities of each stakeholders. The county has been able to further consolidate a list of key stakeholders involved in all sectors for further resource mobilization.

County disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

County executives and county assembly members play a critical role in formulating disaster risk management policies and enacting related legislation. In April, county executives, county assembly members and technical officers from

Baringo County's newly elected leaders (36 men and seven women) improved their knowledge of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the county level, including effective strategies and mechanisms for integrating gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction policies and legislation. The trained officers are in a better position to plan, prepare gender-responsive budgets and pass legislation that will strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the county. Consequently, the county assembly formed a committee for disaster risk management.

International Women's Day

Women from Baringo County participated in a forum for International Women's Day 2018 "Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives" in March. This event aimed to empower female leaders and gender champions through knowledge sharing and networking, ultimately increasing their effectiveness through collaboration. Participants from Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir counties were also present.

The guest speaker at the event, Mrs. Ivy Kiptis (First Lady of Baringo County) emphasized the importance of women engaging as equal partners in addressing matters that affect their lives and households: incorporating women into leadership structures and policy formulation; enhancing women's access to information and resources; and facilitating an enabling and peaceful environment.

¹ The online system managed by NDMA that Baringo County Government uses to assess the county's food security status.



Elisabeth Folkunger (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) channels a question to the presenter of a women's self-help group from Baringo, who exhibited fruits and a honey-processing value chain.

She singled out gender-based violence as arguably the most widespread and socially tolerated human rights violation, which has a retrogressive effect on women's empowerment as well as a high economic cost. In her view, "if you empower a woman, you empower an entire nation."

In addition to the First Lady, Baringo County Government was represented by the Baringo Women Parliamentary Representative, the Director of Gender, and a women's group engaged in honey value addition activities. The forum provided a platform for women to share lessons on mainstreaming gender in the counties as informed

by the WFP gender analysis study² and share perceptions on how to promote empowerment of women.

Gender considerations have been incorporated into different sectors in the second-generation county integrated development plan and the county also has some targeted flagship projects on gender which draw on synergies with the national government's *Uwezo* and Women Empowerment Funds.

2 WFP (2018). *Gender Analysis in WFP: Capacity Strengthening Interventions in Four Counties in Kenya*. Nairobi: Kenya.



A community member showcasing honey value addition to the US Ambassador to Kenya, the Governor of Baringo and the WFP Kenya Country Director.

Gender responsive policy and legislation

Inclusive policy approaches and a robust legislative environment is critical to addressing sustainably the multiple causes of hunger and food insecurity in Kenya. In 2016, WFP undertook an analysis of the gender dynamics in capacity strengthening activities in Baringo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir. The study found that the counties' draft disaster risk management policies tended to be gender neutral or gender blind and recommended that the counties needed to systematically mainstream gender in all policies and related legislation. In response to these recommendations, WFP, in partnership with the Kenya Law Reform Commission, organized a one-week induction for legal drafters on the importance of adopting a gender perspective in law and policymaking.

Facilitated by officers from the Parliamentary Service Commission and Kenyatta University School of Law with technical support from the Kenya Law Reform Commission as well as WFP and UN Women, the legal officers were equipped with knowledge and skills to steer county policy and legislation towards achieving gender equality. Baringo County, one of eight participating arid counties, was represented by the county legal officer and the principal legal counsel from the county assembly.

It is anticipated that involving legal counsel in developing policy and legislation will enable gender equality to be mainstreamed within county policy and facilitate establishing targets and indicators for monitoring its progress.

Following the workshop, it was agreed that:

- legal officers and county attorneys will consistently apply the Kenya Constitution and international policy instruments in mainstreaming gender in county policy documentation and legislation across all sectors;
- legal counsel should be involved from the outset in policy development and drafting of legislation to ensure that gender is mainstreamed;
- county governments need to collect disaggregated baseline data on gender equality to inform county development plans, sector strategies, projects and programmes;
- county governments need to review their disaster risk management policies and related legislation to identify and champion opportunities for mainstreaming gender considerations;
- county governments should address and mainstream gender-specific needs in policy documents as well as project implementation plans;
- gender-responsive budgeting should be applied as part of designing and monitoring county strategies;
- targets and indicators of progress in gender equality and gender mainstreaming, including in disaster risk management, should be established, and ongoing collaboration between evaluation units and gender departments at county level should be encouraged in order to monitor the progress.

The Kenya Law Reform Commission committed



© Sportsman Arms Hotel, Nanyuki/Kimathi

Participants attending the gender responsive policy and legislation training.

to supporting Baringo County in developing gender responsive policies and legislation, starting with review of existing model laws and cascading similar training through the County Assembly Forum and Council of Governors. UN Women pledged to provide technical assistance to the national and county governments in their areas of expertise. It is anticipated that the trained officers will support their respective county departments of gender and social services to review and complete pending gender bills.

Decentralizing county food and nutrition security assessments

The Government of Kenya through the Kenya Food Security Steering Group organizes twice-yearly food and nutrition security assessments after every short (October–December) and long rains season (March–May), commonly known as short rains and long rains assessments, respectively. These assessments assess the performance and impacts of the rainy seasons on food security across Kenya. WFP has supported Baringo County Government technically in this process and specifically through building the capacity of county officers with skills and knowledge to conduct these assessments. In 2018, during the short rains assessment, WFP continued to build a pool of officers with these technical skills, when county officers gained practical experience in data collection, analysis and reporting. Officers also participated in disseminating the assessment findings to county stakeholders. Moreover, five officers (four men and one woman) in Baringo County were trained and certified on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification as level one analysts, enabling them to conduct contextual food security analyses for the long and short rains assessments as well as any ad hoc food security assessment that the county may plan. The trained officers gained experience in improved food security analysis and are currently supporting the county in producing the long and short rains assessments.

Increasing the scope and efficiency of collection and dissemination of county food security and early warning data

Early warning is key to effective emergency preparedness and response. In addition to the twice-yearly food and nutrition security assessment reports (long and short rains assessments), Baringo County produces monthly drought early warning bulletins using the Kenya Drought Early Warning System managed by NDMA, which are shared with county stakeholders.

To improve Baringo County's capacity to produce and analyse early warning data, WFP facilitated one county information officer to undertake three days of technical training on early warning and food security in January 2018. The officer gained knowledge of the early warning indicators used in the Kenya Drought Early Warning System and how to integrate these into the monthly early warning bulletins produced by NDMA. The training also included integration of rainfall data from WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit into the monthly bulletins as well as improving the officer's existing capacity in understanding the food consumption and coping strategy indicators that were introduced into the early warning reporting system in 2017.³ As a result, five (monthly) bulletins were produced and disseminated in Baringo County between January and June with improved quality in terms of the additional indicators (rainfall, food consumption score and coping strategy index), making them more useful for decision makers.

Clear structures for disseminating early warning information have also been lacking, inhibiting access of this information to targeted stakeholders. In 2017, NDMA with support from WFP developed a tool in the form of an information template that is being used nationally to disseminate i) early warning information from the Kenya Drought Early Warning System and ii) food and nutrition security information from the long and short rains

³ The Food Consumption Score is an index developed WFP that aggregates household-level data on the diversity and frequency of food groups consumed over the previous seven days. A household's food consumption can be further classified into one of three categories: poor, borderline, or acceptable (http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp197216.pdf).

The Coping Strategy Index is a tool for rapidly measuring household food security, enabling monitoring and assessment of the impact of food aid programmes in humanitarian emergencies. First developing by WFP and CARE in 2003, the methodology was updated in 2008 (<https://www.wfp.org/content/coping-strategies-index-field-methods-manual-2nd-edition>).

assessments. Access to this tool is now being cascaded to county governments, and 10 technical officers (1 woman and 9 men) from Baringo County gained knowledge through training coordinated by WFP on the tool. This will enable them to develop messages and disseminate early warning and food and nutrition security information to relevant county decision makers (e.g., governors and executive members) and affected communities to take early action against droughts and other environmental hazards.

In addition, 10 NDMA field monitors from Baringo County, who interact directly with communities in data collection as well as information feedback, received training on the early warning data collection processes for the Kenya Drought Early Warning System to better understand the indicators used and how to repackage the information for dissemination to the communities.

NDMA subsequently undertook a pilot dissemination of early warning information to relevant communities to assess how effectively the communities were able to receive information on hazards and risks that will assist them in protecting their livelihoods.

Geographic information systems agro-climate data in food security analysis

As part of continued support to Baringo County Government on emergency preparedness and response, WFP assisted four county officers to understand the use of remotely sensed drought monitoring data (e.g. rainfall estimates, the Water Requirement and Satisfaction Index for crops and rangeland and the Normalized Differential Vegetation Index) and the use of relevant analytical tools. For participants, this was an opportunity to improve their capacity for integrated analysis of food security data in line with that found at the national level within Kenya. The trained officers learnt how to apply online food security analytical tools using remotely sensed data within the county, including agro-climatic analyses, as well as present reports and conduct ground-truthing assessments for agro-climatic data. The training was also undertaken for Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir counties.

The training also covered the use of remotely sensed data in the production of early warning bulletins and other relevant county reports and briefs. With this knowledge, Baringo County

Government is now in a better position to support their decision making in instituting emergency preparedness measures and activating contingency and response plans, including allocating funds, with remotely sensed data.

Kenya Food Security Steering Group assessment methodology review and lessons learnt workshop

As part of continued support to the government on emergency preparedness and response, WFP continued to support both the national and Baringo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir county governments to conduct the short and long rains assessments independently. During the previous assessments, finalization of the sectoral data collection tools, further refinement of the assessment methodology and improvements on the analytical framework including estimation of the populations in need were identified as areas for improvement.

Some 32 participants from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group at the national level, which included two representatives from Baringo county, reviewed the food and nutrition security assessment methodology and tools, including approaches used in the analysis. The updated methodology and tools will be used during the 2018 Long Rains Assessment and subsequent assessments. A reporting guide was also produced and the methodology for classifying the severity of the emergency and level of affected populations reviewed. It is expected that the revised reporting guide will enhance the quality of analysis during the Long Rains Assessment as well as future assessments. With the improved quality of the process and the products, the usability of these products at the county level is enhanced.

Safety net programmes

Moving from relief towards investments in building resilience

WFP continued to support 27,000 food-insecure beneficiaries to build their resilience to drought through resilience-building activities in Baringo South and Tiaty sub-counties. Since August 2016, beneficiaries involved in resilience-building activities have been supported with cash rather than in-kind food. Currently, communities are undertaking a number of activities, such as building rainwater-harvesting structures for pasture establishment and regeneration. In addition, communities have been trained on good agricultural practices and agribusiness in partnership with county technical

officers. Other activities undertaken to support the transition of the resilience-building programme to the county government included sensitization of county leadership on the new WFP Country Strategic Plan.

Transitioning the resilience-building programme to the county government

In line with the implementation of its five-year Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023), WFP's resilience-building activities will be delivered through a food systems approach – focusing on the production, transformation and consumption of food. The implementation of the County Strategic Plan heralds a significant shift in WFP strategy from providing direct support to vulnerable people to strengthening capacities of county governments and communities to engage in emergency preparedness and response with the aim of ensuring that targeted smallholder producers and food-insecure and vulnerable populations develop long-term resilience to climatic and other shocks. Within this strategy, WFP will continue transferring cash or food to families working on productive assets to meet their food gap but in a reduced manner and will partner with county governments to strengthen their capacity to deliver sustainable food systems.

In terms of implementing the strategy for the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, several consultative meetings were held with Baringo County leadership and stakeholders to improve their knowledge and understanding of the WFP Country Strategic Plan. National consultative meetings were held with county executives and relevant directors, representatives from NDMA, and cooperating partners. Follow up meetings were held with the Deputy County Commissioner of Marigat, along with nine technical officers (eight men and one woman) from the agriculture, livestock, water, nutrition and disaster risk management sectors who benefited from the opportunity to contribute to the development of a county capacity strengthening strategy, including outlining capacity needs mapping.

During a third consultative meeting with the Deputy Governor, County Executive Member in Charge of Water and the Directors for Disaster Risk Management and Agriculture, the Governor of Baringo charged the Disaster Risk Management Department under the Deputy Governor's Office to host and coordinate the Sustainable Food Systems Programme in Baringo in consultation with other

relevant departments. He expressed his support of the programme and the rollout plans. Baringo County Government has since submitted a letter of commitment to WFP, affirming its support for the Sustainable Food Systems Programme and endorsing the host department to take up its role.

Capacity strengthening for county-led safety nets

Early Childhood Development Education Meals and Nutrition Policy

Baringo 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 Baringo, WFP handed over responsibility for funding and implementing the school meals programme in early childhood development centres to the county government in 2015. The county recognizes the importance of safety nets like school meals, which can help meet the needs of food insecure and vulnerable households efficiently and effectively, while also increasing attendance and retention of children in school. WFP and the Ministry of Education remained committed to supporting the county government during the transition.

WFP in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Education and NDMA continued to provide technical and financial support to Baringo County Government to review and update the Early Childhood Development Education School Meals Nutrition Policy to align it with the National School Meals and Nutrition Strategy (2017–2022) launched by the Ministry of Education in May 2018. The updated policy provides the county with a framework for budgetary allocation and support to early childhood development education meals and nutrition programmes.

WFP further supported the Education Director and the County Public Health Officer to attend the validation workshop of the Kenya School Meals Food Safety and Quality Guidelines providing practical guidance on how to implement and manage an effective and quality food safety system for school boards of management, traders, suppliers and public health officers. The guidelines focused on cereals and pulses, edible

fats and oils, salt, vegetables, fruits, meat, milk and other dairy products. Successful implementation of these guidelines is expected to improve the implementation of food safety standards in educational centres and hence increase enrolment, retention and health of students. These engagements were meant to strengthen the capacity of the county officials as they finalize their food and nutrition policy towards improved school feeding programmes.

Social protection

The second Baringo County Integrated Development Plan for 2018–2022 prioritizes protection programming alongside other sectors that are considered a priority at the county level. Besides the national social protection schemes, the county has developed a draft gender policy and established some social protection interventions for vulnerable groups. The social protection sector is mandated to design and implement county-specific programmes and strategies for persons with disabilities, provide social assistance support to women and youth, and stimulate measures for family and child protection. Baringo County Government is further complementing the national government's social protection programmes through provision of loans and grants to promote key investments for youth, women and vulnerable groups to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

WFP provided technical assistance to develop a county social protection management information system that will be used by county governments, including Baringo, to manage the operations of their social protection initiatives. This system will be

linked to the national Single Registry. Linking data from county-led social protection programmes will strengthen the capabilities of the Single Registry. The additional data will further expand the use of the Single Registry as a policy tool to provide a single point of reference for information in the social protection sector, providing policymakers, programme managers and implementers with the information they need to coordinate activities in the social protection sector.

The development process of this system brought together senior technical officers from information communications technology and gender and social services from selected county governments to provide the crucial inputs required for the development of the management information system. The participants provided clear and concise feedback on their current and proposed social protection interventions, programming processes, their expectations for a county social protection management information system, prioritization of functionality to be developed first and the comprehensive support framework they would require from WFP to effectively establish this. The outputs of the workshop were used to develop a generic county social protection management information system that was validated through a user-acceptance test by participants drawn from eight counties, including Baringo. The next phase of the project will provide an opportunity to further determine if the system is ready to be piloted. Besides the piloting process, each targeted county, including Baringo, will develop a social protection strategy, if not in place already, which will form the basis for establishing social protection interventions.



For more information please contact:

Antonio Salort-Pons

*Head of Government and
Private Sector Partnerships,
WFP Kenya*

antonio.salort-pons@wfp.org

Bernard Nyatuga

*(National Focal Point)
Programme Policy
Officer, WFP Kenya*

bernard.nyatuga@wfp.org

Christine Omondi

*(Baringo Focal Point)
Programme Policy
Officer, WFP Kenya*

christine.omondi@wfp.org