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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME KENYA

INFOBRIEF [No. 26]

DECEMBER 2018

SAMBURU COUNTY

WFP Support to Samburu County's Emergency Preparedness and Response

November 2017–June 2018

Emergency preparedness and response programmes are a shared function between Samburu 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 Samburu County capacity through the partnership with WFP from November 2017 to June 2018.



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Community construction of rainwater harvesting structures at Lpusi community demonstration farm.

In brief...

- WFP and Samburu 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 recommendation, which will inform further WFP capacity strengthening initiatives in targeted counties, were disseminated to officers from the national and county governments and NGO partners.
- Samburu 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.
- The Samburu Disaster Management, Peace and Cohesion Directorate led the formulation of a disaster risk management policy for Samburu County. It is expected that once approved, the policy and corresponding bill will provide guidance to the county government to mitigate, prepare for and respond to disasters. In addition, the policy will provide a legal framework for emergency preparedness and response activities, including those addressing food and nutrition insecurity.
- Samburu county executives and county assembly members, elected and appointed after the 2017 general election, 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.
- Samburu County Government 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 enhanced linkages amongst county-based leaders, local civil societies and gender specialists from different sectors.
- The Samburu County legal officer participated in training on adopting a gender perspective in legislation and policy development. The skills and knowledge acquired will assist in mainstreaming gender in all the policies and related legislation developed in Samburu County with the expectation that this will facilitate review of the disaster risk management policy and related legislation in Samburu County.

- The pool of officers from Samburu 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 Samburu County leadership and stakeholders to disseminate the new plan.
- Discussions to position resilience building within county structures were also conducted with Samburu County authorities focusing on institutional structures and relevant policy frameworks, and strengthening partnership, capacities and coordination structures.
- As they finalize their food and nutrition policy, Samburu County Government officers strengthened their understanding on how to implement and manage an effective and quality food safety system through a validation workshop of the Kenya School Meals Food Safety and Quality Guidelines.
- 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.



Asset creation programme monitoring in Losenge, Samburu County.

Emergency preparedness and response

Review of WFP supported 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 Samburu County, this work focused specifically on i) leading and coordinating a disaster risk management unit, ii) managing county humanitarian supply chains; iii) planning, budgeting and mobilizing resources for effective disaster risk management, and iv) enhancing resilience to shocks, strengthening asset creation activities and transitioning responsibility to the 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 Samburu 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 Samburu 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'"

- A number of partners including WFP, Cordaid, the United Nations Development Programme and Kenya Law Reform Commission supported the formulation the disaster risk management policy. It is anticipated that the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2015 will have to be repealed and replaced as per specific new policy provisions.
- The Disaster Management, Peace and Cohesion Directorate has already been established within the Department of Special Programmes to coordinate the emergency preparedness and response activities in the county. At the time of the study, the directorate was only two months old, with four staff.
- The institutionalization of disaster risk management within county government structures has progressed but the impact on the overall quality of response will take some time to show.
- Stronger multi-stakeholder coordination through the Country Steering Group to facilitate broad participation of actors in disaster preparedness and response was noted.
- The County Government of Samburu and county NDMA officers have the capacity to generate high quality evidence on food security within the county. They now have the capacity to routinely prepare and report on the bi-annual short and long rain assessments (food and nutrition security assessments) as well as monthly drought bulletins (from NDMA's Kenya Drought Early Warning System).
- The humanitarian supply chain management training has assisted the county government in the implementation of the early childhood development education centre meals programme.
- In Samburu County, at the time of the study, pilot resilience-building activities had been launched in Central sub-country, targeting 20,000 beneficiaries selected by a vulnerability assessment. Community implementation committees had been set up, community action plans drafted, sites selected and a first round of projects were being implemented by communities with extension support provided jointly by WFP, county extension officers and NGO implementation partners. In addition, 25 projects sites had been identified following extensive sensitization in other sub-counties, 10 community action plans prepared and activities identified.

Samburu County Integrated Development Plan 2018–2022

In line with the requirements of the County Governments Act, 2012, Samburu County Government, in collaboration with WFP and other partners, successfully finalized the second-generation county integrated development plan (CIDP) (2018–2022). The CIDP reflects the strategic mid-term development 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 of the guidelines for developing the CIDP, enabling the development of a quality and inclusive product. Some 127 (109 men and 18 women) sub-county administrators were sensitized on the CIDP process, therefore helping to create county ownership on the proposed CIDP. The draft CIDP was validated in February in a meeting chaired by the Governor Samburu County and attended by the county executive, county assembly, technical officers, WFP and other partners.

Humanitarian supply chain management support for emergency preparedness and response

In 2018, the humanitarian supply chain capacity strengthening interventions in Samburu 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 Samburu 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 Samburu County Government, technology service providers and other relevant stakeholders. The management information system will be piloted in Samburu 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.

In June 2018, WFP provided technical support to Samburu County to review and update the drought contingency and supporting response plans for each sector. The process was supported by the technical officers from the NDMA national office to incorporate crucial lessons learnt from the drought response activities of 2017/2018 as well as the flood response activities in April and May 2018. The Samburu County Contingency Plan is a key framework that forms the basis of resource mobilization and coordination action by the county steering group across the emergency preparedness and response cycle.

Disaster risk management policy for Samburu County

The Samburu Disaster Management, Peace and Cohesion Directorate led the drafting of a disaster risk management policy for Samburu County through a participatory process involving all stakeholders. The process started with a training session in November 2017 to equip 38 technical officers from the Samburu Disaster Risk Management Secretariat and stakeholders with knowledge on disaster risk reduction.

This was followed by a one-day inception meeting to discuss the process, budgetary requirements, timelines and responsibilities of the different partners in drafting a disaster risk management policy and legislative framework that would be evidence based, inclusive, equitable, gender transformative and nutrition sensitive. The Deputy Governor of Samburu County, the Samburu County Disaster Risk Management Secretariat, county

attorney, WFP, UNDP, the Kenya Law Reform Commission, the National Disaster Operations Centre, Cordaid, Caritas Maralal, Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT) and community representatives participated in the meeting.

The draft disaster risk management policy will be validated in August 2018 and the existing Disaster Management Act of 2015 will be reviewed in line with the approved policy. Samburu County Government recognizes that the approved policy and corresponding legislation will provide guidance and a legal basis for mitigating, preparing for and responding to disasters causing food and nutrition insecurity.

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. County executives (11 men and three women) and county assembly members in Samburu County (12 men and seven women elected and appointed during the 2017 general election) 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 policies and legislation. The officers improved their knowledge and understanding of underlying risks of climate change and disaster risk management and their



Community construction of rain harvesting structures at Lpusi community demonstration farm.

drivers as well as mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, the relationship between disaster and development and the cycle of disaster risk reduction, from prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. The trained officers are in a better position to plan and prepare gender-responsive budgets and pass legislation that will strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the county.

In addition, the new direction of the WFP resilience-building programme in line with WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023) was outlined during the workshops. The county executives and county assembly members were sensitized on the need to anchor the resilience-building programme within a specific county department and provide firm budgetary commitments to the programme.

International Women's Day

Samburu 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 Baringo, Marsabit 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. 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."

Samburu County was represented by six participants (five women and one man), led by the Director of Gender. The forum provided a platform to share lessons on mainstreaming gender in the counties as informed by the WFP gender analysis study¹ and share perceptions on how to promote empowerment of women.

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



Samburu County technical training of county ministry officers on appropriate dryland water harvesting and farming techniques and establishment of a community demonstration farm.

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.⁴ 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, 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, WFP and UN Women, the legal officers were equipped with knowledge and skills to steer county policy and legislation towards achieving gender equality. Samburu 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;

Some key issues that the Samburu Department of Gender is currently supporting are:

- promoting the two-third gender rule² in all committees, including at the ward level; positioning of women's voices in such committees makes it practical to safeguard their priorities and needs in agricultural and entrepreneurial activities, including subsidizing the cost of agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilizers;
- sensitization on affirmative action for youth, women and persons with disability under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities initiative;
- enhancing the participation of women in public forums such as the CIDP preparation process;
- sensitizing against harmful cultural practices such as beading practices and early marriage;
- sharing of information on agribusiness, HIV/AIDS and nutrition to all members of the community;
- availing special funds for women and youth through the national government Uwezo Fund.³

² Article 81 (b) of the Constitution of Kenya states that not more than two thirds of the members of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender. Article 27 further obligates the Government to develop policies and laws to ensure that not more than two thirds of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender.

³ The *Uwezo* Fund provides individual loans to expand financial access through credits and grants to boost women, youth enterprises, and businesses at the constituency level.

⁴ WFP (2018). Gender Analysis in WFP: *Capacity Strengthening Interventions in Four Counties in Kenya*. Nairobi: Kenya.

- 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 to support Samburu 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 on gender mainstreaming. It is anticipated that the trained officers will support the county department of gender and social services to review and complete the pending gender bill, which has already been drafted.

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 rain season (March–May), commonly known as short rains and long rains assessments, respectively. The objective of these assessments is to assess the performance and impacts of the rainy seasons on food security across Kenya.

WFP in partnership with NDMA and other stakeholders continued supporting initiatives that enable Samburu County Government to generate evidence for decision-making on food security and nutrition through a pool of trained officers with capacity to conduct these assessments. Based on the previous support given by WFP, four officers were further trained on Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, where they achieved level one training certification as analysts. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification is the tool used for food security classification in informing decision makers on the number of affected people and the level of food insecurity. The trained officers are currently supporting the county in producing high quality food security assessments. One report was produced for Samburu County for the short rains assessment (February 2018) with support from the trained officers.



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Participants attending the gender responsive policy and legislation training.

Moreover, two county officials from Samburu County, who had been previously trained by WFP, coordinated the Short Rains Assessment in the county independently from the National Kenya Food Security Steering Group. The Short Rains Assessment offered the trained officers a practical opportunity to gain experience in the entire food and nutrition assessment process, including data collection, analysis and reporting. The officers also participated in the dissemination of assessment findings to the county stakeholders. Further, the training on food and nutrition security assessment and the hands-on experience served as a partial fulfilment of the officers' certification for Integrated Food Security Phase Classification level one. Samburu County now has enhanced capacity to support their own assessments and also have trained officers who can competently disseminate food and nutrition security assessment findings to the county stakeholders.

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), Samburu County produces monthly drought early warning bulletins using the Kenya Drought Early Warning System managed by NDMA, which are shared with county stakeholders.

To strengthen the dissemination of early warning emergency information in Samburu County, WFP facilitated one NDMA information officer from the county to undertake three days of technical training on early warning and food security in January. The workshop targeted 28 county NDMA drought information officers (25 men and three women) from 23 arid and semi-arid counties in Kenya as well as officers from NDMA in Nairobi. 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 Kenya's Meteorological Department 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 2017.⁵ As a result, five (monthly) early warning bulletin reports were produced and disseminated in Samburu County from January to June with improved quality in terms of the additional indicators (rainfall, food consumption score and coping strategy index).

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 assessments. Access to this tool is now being cascaded to county governments, and 11 technical officers (2 women and 9 men) from Samburu 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 to county decision makers (e.g., governors and executive members) and affected communities to take early action against droughts and other environmental hazards.

In addition, NDMA field monitors from Samburu 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 consequently 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.

5 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>).

Geographic information systems agro-climate data in food security analysis

As part of continued support to Samburu 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 Baringo, Marsabit, 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, Samburu 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

WFP provided technical support to the government nationally and specifically to the county governments of Baringo, Samburu and Wajir, on building the counties' capacity to conduct food and nutrition security assessments independently. During the previous assessments, several areas were identified that needed to be enhanced: the finalization of the sectoral data collection tools, further refinement of the assessment methodology and improvements on the analytical framework including estimation of the population in need. As a result, WFP organized a workshop to support the Kenya Food Security Steering Group as well as the county governments to improve the identified areas.

The workshop was attended by 32 participants from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group at the national level and representatives from Baringo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir counties. One officer from Samburu County participated. The methodology

and tools for conducting the long and short rains assessments were reviewed, including approaches used in the analysis.

These will be used during the 2018 Long Rains Assessment. A reporting guide was also produced and the methodology for classifying severity and the affected populations reviewed. With the improved quality of the process, the usability of these assessment at the county level will be more credible.

Safety net programmes

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 Country Strategic Plan will accelerate the shift in WFP's strategy from providing direct support to vulnerable people to strengthening capacities of county governments and communities to engage in emergency preparedness and response to ensure that targeted smallholder producers and food-insecure and vulnerable populations benefit from more sustainable, inclusive food systems and long-term resilience to climatic and other shocks. Within this strategy, WFP will continue transferring cash or food to families working on productive assets in food deficit areas to meet their food gaps and will partner with county governments to strengthen their capacity to deliver sustainable food systems.

Discussions to position resilience building within county structures were conducted with Samburu County authorities based on earlier and ongoing work in capacity strengthening initiatives. Consultations in Samburu County focused on institutional structures and relevant policy frameworks, strengthening partnerships (with county governments, NDMA and other partners) as well as coordination structures and capacities of the key technical departments.

WFP has continued to expand and deepen partnerships for resilience building, central to which has been developing the role of the county governments in this area. In Samburu County, resilience-building projects are reflected in the CIDPs, with the technical departments directly coordinating and supervising the implementation of asset creation activities. Between November

2017 and June 2018, Samburu County Government formalized the secondment of five technical officers from key sectors, i.e. agricultural, livestock, environment and water to the resilience-building programme. The seconded staff from the county government improved their understanding of asset-creation projects and activity implementation such as rainwater harvesting techniques for sustainable land management, soil and water conservation, poultry and bee keeping value chains, pasture/fodder value chains, crop production and village saving schemes, facilitated by WFP and NDMA. Samburu County Government, in partnership with WFP and NDMA, has also been able to establish one community demonstration site to demonstrate appropriate dryland water-harvesting and farming techniques.

In a clear demonstration of commitment to the programme, the county government also supported resilience-building activities with the disbursement of KES 4 million by the Department of Agriculture, with the departments of water and environment expected to contribute a similar amount as part of the larger approved county contribution.

To strengthen the pasture value chain, NDMA through WFP support provided 400 kg of pasture seeds to households for hay or further seed production. Following this, the county Department of Livestock provided 400 additional kg of pasture seeds to other households who had developed an interest after sensitization meetings and learning from others. Several farmers successfully established a pasture farming enterprise, selling both hay and pasture seeds, and earning up to KES 100,000 through the sale of hay.

To further support livelihood diversification, WFP provided 100 beehives to community groups and the county government supported the establishment of five beekeeping groups. Consequently, following community training and sensitization from WFP and the county government, a number of people are replicating beekeeping in Lodekejek Ward.

In terms of implementing the strategy for the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, several consultative meetings were held with Samburu 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.

Capacity strengthening for county-led safety nets

Early childhood development education centres

Samburu County has 586 early childhood development and education centres, comprising 530 public, 49 private and seven educating a mixture of orphans and disabled children. This is an almost two-fold increase on the number of centres since 2017 thanks to investment by the county government, and clearly shows that the government recognizes the importance of safety nets to help meet the needs of food insecure and vulnerable households efficiently and effectively.

WFP transitioned the school meals programme in the pre-primary schools and early childhood development and education centres in the arid counties, including Samburu, in 2016 to the county government.

In the reporting period, Samburu County Government continued to provide a daily meal of rice and beans to 38,198 children.

WFP further supported the Samburu Director of Early Childhood Development and Education and the County Executive Committee Member for Education 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

WFP provided technical assistance to Samburu County Government to develop a management information system to manage county-level 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 both the Single Registry and the county social protection systems. 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.

In February 2018, an assessment considering operational processes, information requirements and the county's governance and institutional arrangements was carried out in Samburu to ascertain the readiness of the current county social protection management information system to link with and utilize the Single Registry. The assessment highlighted the fragmented and limited scope of most of the social protection programmes which were characterized by poor targeting due to lack of a single beneficiary registry. The programmes also tended to infer low transfer values, lack of adequate staff to address case management issues especially for national government schemes and lack of a county-specific policy on cash transfers.

In response, the county government has established a disaster coordination unit and also plans to establish a contingency fund to address gaps in social protection as a disaster response initiative, complementing national government and development partner contributions. The county has also established a county steering group that meets regularly to coordinate social protection and disaster interventions. There is also a specific working group within the county steering group focusing on accurate targeting of cash transfer beneficiaries.

Key recommendations for improving the social protection system in Samburu County include:

- i. Coordinating county social protection interventions with the national government;
- ii. Including social protection in the second-generation county integrated development plan so that new interventions can be budgeted for in the 2018/2019 fiscal year;
- iii. Building capacities of the county department of social services to effectively design and implement social protection programmes;
- iv. Clarifying roles of national and county governments in implementation of social protection interventions;

- v. Building a county Single Registry, which should be supplemented with an operations manual detailing procedures for registration, criteria for vulnerability, monitoring and evaluation etc.;
- vi. Building capacity of national officers and the county steering group on the use of the Single Registry;
- vii. Reviewing the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics poverty framework and ensuring that it addresses social protection: there may be inaccuracies on the classification of poverty by location;
- viii. Establishing a county social protection desk complete with the county registry; and
- ix. Establishing integrated social protection complaints and grievance mechanisms with linkages to county and national social protection schemes.

In May, senior technical officers from the departments of information and communications technology, gender and social services participated in a workshop to validate crucial inputs required for the development of the county social protection management information system. The participants provided clear and concise feedback on their current social protection processes, their expectations for a county system, prioritization of functionality to be developed and the comprehensive support framework they would require from WFP to effectively deploy a county social protection management information system. The outputs of the workshop are guiding the design of the county social protection management information system. After its development, the same team will undertake user acceptance testing and validation before the system is piloted.

The county government is interested in further expanding information and communications technology within the county and has developed a draft strategy to guide this expansion. The strategy focuses on establishing an electronic and integrated system through digitization of key registries such as land, education, birth and death and the county government is prioritizing establishing the necessary county infrastructure such as local area networks. The server room is under construction and plans are underway to install a fibre optic connection.



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