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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME KENYA

INFOBRIEF [No. 29]

JANUARY 2019

MARSABIT COUNTY

WFP Support to Marsabit County's Emergency Preparedness and Response

November 2017– June 2018

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



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In brief...

- WFP and Marsabit 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.
- Marsabit 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.
- Marsabit County Government reviewed and approved the county policy on disaster risk management. The policy will enhance the government’s capacity to reduce vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response and recovery.
- Marsabit County Government improved its knowledge of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including effective strategies and mechanisms for integrating gender perspectives into county disaster risk reduction policies and legislation.
- Marsabit 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 Marsabit Director of Legal Services participated in training to increase his knowledge of adopting a gender-perspective in law and policymaking. The skills and knowledge will assist in mainstreaming gender in all the policies and related legislation developed in Marsabit County.
- WFP has supported Marsabit County Government technically in decentralizing county food and nutrition security assessments and specifically through building the capacity of county officers with skills and knowledge to conduct these assessments.
- Two county information officers 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.
- WFP continued to support 24,000 food-insecure beneficiaries to build their resilience to drought in Marsabit County through the development of community assets.
- As WFP transitions to the Country Strategic Plan, several consultative meetings were held with Marsabit County leadership and stakeholders to improve their knowledge and understanding of the new plan.
- Discussions to position resilience building within county structures were conducted with Marsabit County authorities focusing on institutional structures and relevant policy frameworks, and strengthening partnership, capacities and coordination structures.
- As Marsabit Department of Education takes responsibility for the management of the feeding and education programmes in the early childhood development education centres, WFP has continued to provide technical assistance in providing meals within the centres. The county government is developing its early childhood development education policy as proposed in the County Integrated Development Plan (2018–2022).
- As they finalize their food and nutrition policy, Marsabit County Government officers strengthened their understanding on implementing and managing 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. The county government participated in a workshop to validate crucial inputs required for the design and development of a county social protection management information system.

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 Marsabit 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 Marsabit 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 Marsabit 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’”

- Marsabit County Steering Group is an apex body responsible for coordinating disaster risk management and emergency preparedness and response, providing advisory support, setting the agenda and following up on actions.
- Marsabit County took the lead in developing the county disaster risk management policy and associated bill. UNDP and the Kenya Law Commission assisted in reviewing the bill. The opportunity was also taken to mainstream gender into the policy. The county government underscored the importance of having the policy framework to legitimize the role of the directorate.
- The Directorate of Disaster Management, Cohesion and Coordination of Non-State Actors was established in 2016 to coordinate disaster risk management and emergency preparedness and response activities in the county. It is establishing four main functions: i) emergency fund management; ii) early warning and assessment; iii) coordination; and iv) recovery.
- There are indications that Marsabit County Government is gaining an increasing capacity to lead drought and emergency response. All county respondents testified that the knowledge and skills relating to different aspects of disaster management imparted by the project enabled them to plan and handle bigger responsibilities.
- The asset-creation project in the county was targeting 48 communities in Moyale sub-county, reaching 24,000 beneficiaries. At the community level the asset-creation concept has evolved to i) address short-term food insecurity among critically vulnerable households, and ii) contribute to environmental and livelihood benefits that increase households’ resilience to climatic shocks and poverty over the longer term.

Marsabit County Integrated Development Plan 2018–2022

Marsabit County Government 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.

In March, the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Council of Governors, UNDP and WFP organized a forum 2018 where all Marsabit County, along with all other counties in Kenya, presented its draft CIDP for technical review. Feedback from this forum facilitated Marsabit County to finalize the CIDP, which was validated in May 2018.

Humanitarian supply chain management support for emergency preparedness and response

Following the successful transfer of technical skills on humanitarian supply chain management in 2017, in 2018 focus shifted to further developing the practical skills of officers to support emergency preparedness and response programmes through on-the-job training. The skills acquired assisted the county government in responding appropriately to the drought emergency in early 2018 and to flood emergencies in April and May.

The county government continues to explore supply chain collaboration with the national government Department of Special Programmes in the distribution of relief commodities for emergencies, with the county steering group playing a crucial role as a collaborating and decision-making platform.



To further understand the specific disaster risk and vulnerability of Marsabit County, a hazard analysis and mapping exercise was conducted with support from WFP, UNDP, RCMRD¹ and NDMA. The findings were disseminated to the county steering group with the anticipation that they will inform future investment in disaster risk management strategies.

Marsabit County Government continues to invest in improving food safety and quality. As a follow up to the humanitarian supply chain food safety and quality trainings conducted in 2017, the county government established seven food safety laboratories in Moyale, Sololo, Maikona, North Horr, Loiyangalani, Laisamis and Marsabit towns. Each laboratory is equipped with one blue box kit which analyses grain quality based on the East African Quality Standards. WFP supported the counties in procurement of these kits. Twenty-one public health officers, who were trained on food safety and quality qualification and certification on APTECA (Aflatoxin Proficiency Texting and Control in Africa, Asia, Americas and Europe), are carrying

out aflatoxin and fumonisin tests in maize grain for public schools and local markets.

The county governor has formed a task force to spearhead and coordinate activities on food safety and quality in the county. This task force comprises the directors of agriculture, education, trade, preventive health, public health, the sub-county public health officers, WFP, NDMA and members of county assembly health committee.

Disaster risk management policy for Marsabit County

Marsabit County Government reviewed and approved the finalized Disaster Risk Management Policy in May 2018, which will be followed by enactment of related legislation by the County Assembly.

Marsabit County Government recognizes that the approved policy will enhance the capacity of the county to identify, prevent and reduce exposure and vulnerability to disasters, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and guide the county in evaluating development programmes from the perspective of reducing disaster vulnerability. In addition, the approved policy and accompanying legislation will provide a legal basis for emergency preparedness and

¹ RCMRD – The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development was established in Nairobi – Kenya in 1975 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), today African Union (AU). RCMRD is an inter-governmental organization and currently has 20 Contracting Member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa Regions;



response activities by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of various actors as well as establishing an institutional framework for emergency preparedness and response.

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. Fifteen county executives (14 men and one women) and 23 (12 men and 11 women) county assembly members in Marsabit County improved their knowledge of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, 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.

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

Marsabit 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, Samburu and Wajir counties were also present.

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. In particular it aimed to:

- promote dialogue on the role of gender in improving nutrition and food security;
- promote cross-learning amongst the participants through showcasing women's contributions in county initiatives;
- enhance networks by bringing county government leaders and women's association leaders together with gender specialists from development partners, civil society, academia and non-governmental organizations;

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



- facilitate sustainable ties between county leadership and different actors, with the potential that such links will lead to knowledge building especially for women.

Marsabit County was represented by six participants (five women and one man), led by the Director of Gender. The county showcased livestock value chains ranging from milk processing to preservation of ready-to-eat meat (*Nyirnyiri*). The women noted that value addition elongates the shelf life of milk products as well as increases premiums. In addition, during the dry seasons and droughts, the community experiences a loss of livestock and the preservation of ready-to-eat meat can have a double benefit in terms of providing an income from de-stocking and a sustainable source of meat.

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."

During the meeting, Marsabit County acknowledged the changing gender roles in the society, and the county is currently focusing on the rights of women to promote their engagement in different areas of the community. The following achievements were noted:

- In the 2017 elections, the county witnessed lower barriers to participation of women as more were elected into the county assembly. Participation of women also increased during the formulation of the second-generation CIDP (2018-2022).
- The county budget allocation to gender increased significantly to KES 20 million, mainly to support women in business.
- In conjunction with SNV,³ the county actively undertakes initiatives to empower women in agri-business through the *Women Business Hub*. Support includes sensitization on financial management, public tender/procurement processes and marketing to surrounding counties.

³ A not-for-profit international development organization.

- Marsabit County Government is promoting entrepreneurship efforts by women, such as commercialization of *Nyirnyiri*, milk processing, honey packing and fodder production in conjunction with flagship projects supported by the national government, e.g. the *Uwezo* fund.
- Marsabit County Government is in the process of formulating a gender policy and a children's policy.

The WFP gender analysis study found gaps in the county in terms of i) limited ownership by women of resources and limited access to and control of resources at both household and institutional levels and ii) limited education opportunities for girls as well as limited enrolment and retention in school. However, Marsabit County has and continues to work towards improving gender mainstreaming within the county. Notable achievements by the Marsabit Directorate of Gender include:

- Training women to build their capacity in income-generating activities to enable them to be self-reliant;
- Campaigning against female genital mutilation and promoting education of girl children;
- Empowering persons with disabilities to understand their constitutional right and providing them with wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

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



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Participants attending the gender responsive policy and legislation training.

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 to support Marsabit County in the development of Gender Responsive Policies and Legislation, starting with review of existing model laws, and cascade similar training through the County Assemblies 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 Marsabit County Government in reviewing the disaster risk management policy and related legislation.

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. These assessments analyse the performance and impacts of the rainy seasons on food security across Kenya. WFP has supported Marsabit 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, four officers (all men) from Marsabit County were trained and certified on 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. 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 gained experience in improved food security analysis and are currently supporting Marsabit 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), Marsabit 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 Marsabit County's capacity to produce and analyse early warning data, WFP facilitated two county information officers (men) to undertake three days of technical training on early warning

and food security in January 2018. The officers 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 2017.⁴ As a result, five (monthly) bulletins were produced and disseminated in Marsabit County between November 2017 and June 2018 with improved quality in terms of the additional indicators (rainfall, food consumption score and coping strategy index), making them more useful for decision makers.

In addition, 10 NDMA field monitors from Marsabit 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.

Geographic information systems and agro-climate analysis

As part of continued support to Marsabit 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, 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, Marsabit 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 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 one representative from Marsabit 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.

4 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>).

Safety net programmes

Moving from relief towards investments in building resilience

WFP continued to support 24,000 food-insecure beneficiaries to build their resilience to drought through resilience-building activities in Marsabit and Moyale sub-counties to June 2018. Since August 2016, beneficiaries involved in resilience-building activities have been supported with 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.

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 benefit from more sustainable, inclusive food 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 Marsabit County Government and other 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.

WFP has continued to expand and deepen partnerships for resilience building, central to which has been developing the role of the county government. Discussions to position resilience building within county structures were held with Marsabit County authorities based on earlier and ongoing capacity strengthening initiatives. Marsabit County Government, with support from WFP, developed an asset-creation transition roadmap/work plan for transferring the programme leadership and implementation to county government.

To ensure that resilience building is embedded in the CIDP, an asset-creation project implementation committee actively participated in sector plans and CIDP development meetings. The county Department of Agriculture and Livestock Development has factored resilience-building activities into its 2018/19 work plans.

Capacity strengthening for county-led safety nets

Early childhood development education centres

Marsabit County has more than 300 early childhood development centres, educating 18,000 children. Responsibility for early childhood development centres was devolved to county governments through the 2010 constitution, and county governments are now responsible for providing both education and meals within the centres. The counties' mandates in this area include putting in place adequate institutions, mechanisms and capacities to support investment, policy and programming decisions. In the arid and semi-arid counties, provision of meals in schools is considered critical as an enabling investment in human capital as envisioned in the Ending Drought Emergencies Strategy, and this provides the linkage between safety nets and emergency preparedness and response.

WFP transition the school meals programme in the pre-primary schools and early childhood development and education centres in the arid counties, including Marsabit, in 2016 in line with the provision of the Kenya Constitution (2010) whereby early childhood development and education is a devolved function of county

governments. Subsequently, WFP has been supporting Marsabit Department of Education in taking on the role of providing education and meals within the county as part of its commitment to strengthen county-led safety nets.

The Marsabit Director of Early Childhood Development and Education and the early childhood development meals coordinator attended 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.

In addition, Marsabit County Government has requested technical support from WFP in developing its early childhood development centre feeding policy. Development of this policy will provide a framework within which the county government will be able to allocate adequate funds for the programme. WFP continues in its commitment to work closely with the directorate to strengthen its capacity in the management of early childhood development education centres in the county.

Social protection

WFP provided technical assistance to Marsabit County Government to develop a county social protection management information system that will be used to manage the operations of the county 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 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.

The process of developing this system brought together senior technical officers from Information Communications and Technology and gender and social services from eight county governments, including Marsabit, who 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.

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 Marsabit, will develop a social protection strategy, if not in place already, which will form the basis for establishing social protection interventions.



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