



World Food Programme



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME KENYA

INFOBRIEF [No. 28]

JANUARY 2019

Finding Lasting Solutions to Hunger through Devolution

A Meeting of WFP and Governors from 14 Arid and Semi-Arid Counties

Introduction

As part of its capacity strengthening activities, WFP Kenya hosted governors and county government representatives from 14 arid and semi-arid counties to present the finalized WFP Country Strategic Plan along with deliberating on modalities for its implementation at the county level. Consultation with multiple stakeholders was undertaken during the formulation of the Country Strategic Plan ensuring its alignment with *Kenya Vision 2030*, Kenya's Medium-Term Plan III, the *Zero Hunger Strategic Review*, the big four agenda and the county integrated development plans.¹ The Country Strategic Plan was approved in June 2018 and will run until 2023.

WFP, through its new framework, will accelerate its shift from direct relief efforts to scaling up actions to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods. Moreover, WFP will increase attention on building the capacities of national and county governments in technical areas of disaster risk reduction, including emergency mitigation, preparedness and response.

¹ Available on the Kenya Council of Governors website: <https://cog.go.ke/reportss/category/106-county-integrated-development-plans-2018-2022>

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Workshop Objectives

The three key objectives of the meeting were to ensure that:

- WFP and county government representatives have a common understanding of WFP's Country Strategic Plan;
- WFP and county governments develop commitments to supporting the plan;
- WFP and county governments define broad action plans for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan.

Participants

The meeting was organized by WFP with support from the Council of Governors. It was attended by representatives from the national government, county governors, deputy governors, county representatives and WFP staff. County governments represented at the meeting were Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir.

Methodology

The engagement with the county governments commenced with a dinner on the day prior to the official meeting to allow for informal engagement between the county representatives and WFP staff. The half-day session on 28 September included a presentation of the WFP Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023) and sharing of practical experiences by two county governments – Samburu and Wajir. The meeting also included plenary sessions to facilitate deliberation of issues and sharing of experiences between WFP and all the county governments.

Key Overarching Issues

1. Policy formulation and implementation

During the meeting, it emerged that county governments need support in either developing policies for food security and nutrition or implementing existing policies in their communities. Strong policies are key to ensuring

the counties that are susceptible to shocks and slow-onset disasters can respond to them effectively and efficiently. It was agreed that WFP and the county governments need to work together to develop and implement relevant policies and plans that address the impact of disasters on food security and nutrition and address various vulnerabilities and bottlenecks that curtail access to food.

2. Partnerships

Partnership is central to the achievement of food security and nutrition in Kenya. WFP and the county governments will partner with communities, the private sector, research institutions, development partners, NGOs, United Nations agencies and faith-based organizations. This will ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to be part of and contribute to the development of initiatives in their counties. Additionally, partnerships will facilitate the development of innovative solutions to food insecurity. Partnerships must note that inclusivity of youth and women is critical in fighting hunger.

3. Early warning and preparedness

Emergency preparedness not only prevents loss of lives, property and destruction of infrastructure, it also saves money. County governments are increasingly taking the lead in disaster response, including allocation of resources to address the impact of disasters. During the meeting, it was agreed that WFP needs to support county governments to improve their early warning mechanisms. WFP is supporting some county governments to enhance their capacity to undertake their own food security assessments and disseminate their findings to stakeholders for utilization in decision making. It was agreed that this support would be continued and be extended to other arid and semi-arid counties.

Development of data analysis tools to facilitate collection and analysis of agricultural data for decision making will be crucial to strengthening the capacity of county governments. The county governments also proposed the use of comparative studies to harness lessons learnt from similar countries to improve food systems in the arid and semi-arid counties.

4. Gender

As part of its strategy, WFP is keen to ensure that challenges related to gender and food security and nutrition are addressed. WFP is committed to ensuring that women have greater access to food given their role as caregivers for children and the family. In light of the strategy presented at the workshop, WFP was requested to consider supporting county governments to carry out a thorough gender analysis to address the needs of women, youth and children from a food security and nutrition perspective. This analysis would be targeted at counties that were not covered by WFP's gender analysis carried out in Baringo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir in 2016.

5. Diversification of livelihoods

Climate change is severely impacting agriculture in Kenya and the county governments of the arid and semi-arid lands are among the worst affected. As part of climate change adaptation, communities in the arid and semi-arid counties need increased livelihood options. Traditionally, crop production has been the most popular alternative presented to pastoralist communities. However, due to limited access to water, crop production is not always a feasible option. Consequently, during the meeting, it was agreed that WFP in collaboration with the county governments would consider new and innovative approaches to livelihood diversification that go beyond crop and livestock production, to facilitate development of sustainable food systems.

Joint county government and WFP commitments:

- County governments commit to taking the lead and coordinating implementation of sustainable food systems. Each office of the governor will drive the partnership memorandum of understanding, but specific departments will be responsible for implementation and accountability for funding within agreed timelines.
- Resources from WFP will be channelled as conditional grants as provided for in the Public Finance Management Act. The memorandum of understanding will include a performance monitoring, reporting and accountability framework.
- County governments and WFP will work with all national and county partners including the private sector to improve the infrastructure for establishing sustainable food systems and access to water for communities.
- WFP and county governments will work together to develop and implement relevant policies and plans that address the impact of disasters on food security and nutrition and address various vulnerabilities and bottlenecks that curtail access to food.
- WFP commits to providing technical support and strengthening the capacity of county governments in emergency preparedness and response to food-security-related emergencies, subject to availability of funds.
- WFP has supported some county governments to enhance their capacity to undertake their own food security assessments and disseminate their findings to stakeholders for utilization in decision making. This shall be sustained and extended to other arid and semi-arid counties.
- WFP and county governments will allocate, advocate and mobilize resources jointly.
- The governments from the 14 arid and semi-arid counties commit to meet as partners annually on a rotating basis in the counties.

Principles for the Action Plan

- Identify critical areas of work where county governments and WFP can undertake joint fundraising to mobilize resources to support sustainable food systems and capacity strengthening, to address the root causes of hunger.
- Consider developing/including a data analysis tool for agriculture to facilitate collection and analysis of data for decision making.
- WFP to consider supporting county governments to carry out a thorough gender analysis within each county not yet reached to ensure that the needs of women, youth and children are addressed equally in terms of food security and nutrition.
- The county governments in collaboration with WFP will consider new and innovative approaches to livelihood diversification that go beyond crop and livestock production to facilitate development of sustainable food systems.
- WFP will endeavour to establish strong partnerships to support county governments to address challenges of accessing clean water for drinking and domestic and agricultural use as key to developing sustainable food systems.
- There is need to undertake comparative studies to harness lessons learnt from other countries that have similar conditions to improve food systems in the arid and semi-arid counties.
- The county governments and WFP will refer to the *Zero Hunger Strategic Review* recommendations.
- Take advantage of regional blocks and transport corridors to spur regional integration and trade.
- WFP to embed staff within the county governments to provide technical expertise for implementation of joint programmes at the county level.
- Memoranda of understanding will have clear milestones with timeframes for implementation of programmes.



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

Simon Guama

*(Head of Marsabit Satellite Office)
Programme Policy Officer,
WFP Kenya*
simon.guama@wfp.org