

BRACED

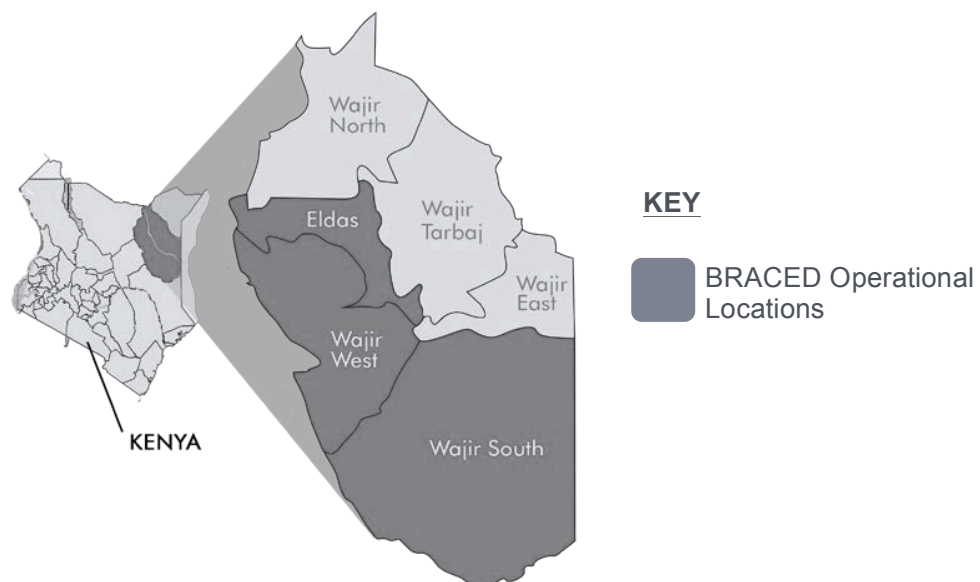
Supporting policy and practice in pastoralist areas

APRIL, 2017

Overview

Mercy Corps has been working in Wajir County situated in Kenya's northern arid lands to build the resilience capacities of vulnerable people to prepare for, cope with and recover from drought.

Transhumant pastoralism is the predominant livelihoods strategy in the county with livestock production being the main source of income for the majority of households as well as the backbone of the local economy. At present, this production system represents enormous untapped potential and recurring drought frequently results in high livestock mortality with associated impacts on livelihoods and income.



BRACED Wajir –area of implementation

Under the DFID funded Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) program Mercy Corps has been working closely with the County Government of Wajir to improve policy and practice around drought resilience. This has included supporting the development of a number of policy documents including the first County Gender strategy in Kenya, the second County Climate Information Services (CIS) Plan, and a County Livestock Feed Policy document. The first two of these policy documents were officially launched by the Governor of Wajir at a ceremony to mark this milestone on 22nd March, 2017. During the ceremony the draft livestock feed policy was also presented to the Governor. The event was attended by a number of dignitaries including the deputy director of the Kenya Meteorological Department, the chief officer for Environment and Natural Resources and the CECs for Youth and Gender and Agriculture and Livestock. These documents are aimed at informing decision-making, planning and implementation around key areas relevant to climate resilience.

“We will continue mainstreaming climate adaptation into our planning, as ours is a very fragile ecology. When we have rain, we are fine by and large, when the season fails we are in serious problems.”

— H.E. Ahmed Abdullahi, Governor Wajir County

Background



The development of the Wajir County Climate Information Service Plan (WCCISP) started with support from the DFID funded Adaptation consortium and was finalized with support from BRACED. The WCCISP provides an opportunity for climate services to be moved closer to the community where the most severe impacts of climate variability and climate change are experienced. The cascading down of weather and climate information will help improve the safety and well-being of people, reduce poverty, increase prosperity and protect the environment for future generations.

THE LAUNCH

The Hon Ahmed Abdullahi Governor Wajir, CEC Mrs Habiba Hussein and John Burns the Programme Director officiating the handing over and launch of the three policy documents.



Wajir County Climate Information Services Plan, 2017
[CIS Document. Click Here](#)

It will also provide timely and relevant climate information services specifically tailored to pastoralist communities. The plan will transform how climate information is delivered, as it will support short, medium and long term decision making at various points in time at the sub-county and county-level. The WCCISP also aligns with the County, national and international development frameworks including the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), Constitution of Kenya 2010, Kenya Vision 2030 and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) as well as the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

The launch of the Wajir County Gender and Resilience Strategy (WCGRS) represents a significant policy contribution being the first County gender strategy in Kenya.

This document was developed with considerable support from BRACED and it lays out a vision “To create a gender responsive, resilient County where human rights are upheld and women, men, boys and girls have equal opportunities to participate in the development process” (WCGS, 2017).



Wajir County Gender and Resilience Strategy, 2017
[CIS Document. Click Here](#)

The Gender and Resilience strategy also recognizes the vulnerability of communities to the changing climate. People’s ability to cope is influenced by gender dynamics and the systems of power that underlie the social, political and economic systems governing their way of life. The WCGRS aims to address inequities and harmful socio-cultural norms and practices that obstruct development and promote a more inclusive system of governance.

The draft Wajir County Livestock Feed Policy document was developed with support from BRACED at the request of the County Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Department. The first complete draft of the document was finalized and validated in consultation with various stakeholders in the days preceding the launch of the Gender and CIS policy documents.

This process was led by Professor Charles Gachui and Dr. Oscar K. Koech representing BRACED partner University of Nairobi. This process involved the public, private, development partners, civil society and community representatives. The document aims to address many of the livestock production challenges faced by the pastoralist communities in Wajir. The document presents key issues in pasture marketing, feed manufacturing and quality control, feed conservation and preservation technologies, capacity development in feed production, research on pasture and important browse species as well as the management and utilization of invasive plant species.

The resulting Livestock feeds policy working document was presented to the County government represented by the Governor and the CEC Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries together with all the other senior county officials on the day of the Gender and CIS strategy launch.



Wajir County Gender and Resilience Strategy, 2017
[CIS Document. Click Here](#)

During his address, H. E. the Governor noted that pastoralism is the main livelihoods activity in the County but that people are struggling to keep livestock alive due to the ongoing drought. He expressed the view that the livestock feed policy paper would go a long way towards addressing many of the livestock production challenges facing the pastoral and agro pastoral communities in the County.

The document is designed to address challenges around livestock feed production, preservation, conservation, quality and marketing and the strategy and recommendations provide a roadmap that could significantly contribute to livestock production and marketing in the County with associated livelihoods and resilience building benefits.

This support to policy development is one of several strategies Mercy Corps is employing under the BRACED program to effect systemic and transformative change with a view to building prosperous and resilient communities.

Further commentary on the launch can be viewed at the following link aired on Kenya National Television (NTV) [NTV News -Wajir County Triple Launch](#)

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About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.



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