

Sh16m water projects to quench thirst in Baringo

Projects funded by World Food Programme and done by World Vision Kenya to save women from long distances, bolster livestock health

It will also provide adequate time for mothers to attend to their young children and perform other domestic chores-Conte

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As dusk beckoned, a caravan of goats rushed through thorny bushes to quench their thirst at Chepkoryande, a newly built water pan in the outskirts of Marigat town, Baringo county.

This area has for eons been plagued by drought which has contributed to massive water shortage for both domestic and livestock use.

Water-starved residents of Kimelel, a remote village in the heart of Marigat have had to brace sweltering heat, trekked long distances in search of the precious commodity. School children have been forced to shelve precious studying time to help their parents fetch water from the existing dilapidated reservoirs.

But residents can now heave a sigh of relief after World Food Programme (WFP) injected Sh16 million to a number of projects implemented by World Vision Kenya.

They include Chepkoryande Water Pan, Chepkoryande Community Water Pan with a capacity



AT A GLANCE

Baringo county is located in the former Rift Valley Province. Its headquarters and largest town is Kabarnet.

Hunger and acute water shortage remain a challenge in most parts of the county where locals are frequently forced to rely on relief food from the government and other well-wishers.

The county government is sinking five boreholes in Barwessa Ward in collaboration with Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA).

of 6,000 and 24, 600 cubic metres respectively.

WFP is upbeat the projects will bolster livestock health because of proximal and timely availability of water will as well help curtail girl-child absenteeism from school.

Baringo Deputy Governor Matthew Tuitoek (extreme right), World Vision Kenya Director Dickens Thunde (left) and National Drought Management Authority chairperson Agnes Ndeti (centre) at the launch of multiple water projects in Baringo county last week. PHOTO: SETH ONYANGO

"It will also provide adequate time for mothers to attend to their young children and perform other domestic chores," said WFP country director Annalisa Conte.

WFP, WVK and National Drought Management Authority have also set up the Embosso irrigation project located in Arabal location, Mochongoi division, Baringo South Sub county. The project is geared towards encouraging resettlement of the communities in their ancestral lands through en-

couraged irrigated crop farming — with reduced livestock keeping.

Arabal area is prone to ruthless cattle rustling, culminating in mass exodus and displacement of the residents who sought refuge townships like Lobo, Kimorock and Mbechot.

Speaking at the launch of the multi-million projects, Conte said the projects will enhance the resilience of remote communities and their capacity to farm and keep livestock.