



FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA

PROFILE

KENYA



Background and context

WASDA was established as a non-governmental organisation under the Kenyan Law in 1995. The organisation strives to complement the efforts of governments and other actors in addressing developmental challenges in the Horn of Africa. WASDA is currently implementing development initiatives in North-Eastern Kenya and parts of southern Somalia. The organisation has been working with pastoralist communities in North-Eastern Kenya and southern Somalia for 25 years. As a result, it has gained and built a wealth of experience and knowledge that informs its programming. The NGO utilises limited resources to transform the lives of millions of people in its geographical areas of operation. In the last 25 years, WASDA has reached over 1.8 million people with livelihood, food security; water; sanitation and hygiene (WASH); health and nutrition; education and emergency humanitarian support.

WASDA is adept at designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating emergency and development programmes in its key thematic areas and has an internal mechanism that guides the efficiency and effectiveness of service provision throughout the project cycle. Currently, WASDA is the lead WASH partner in Wajir County and is the secretariat of the Water and Environmental Sanitation Coordination mechanism (WESCOORD). The organisation is a member of USAID Kenya's Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG). PREG brings together humanitarian and development partners to build resilience among vulnerable pastoralist communities in northern Kenya.

WASDA has undertaken advocacy to raise the profile of sanitation with the objective of inducing government and other stakeholders to prioritise sanitation and hygiene in Wajir County.

Organisational strategy

Purpose: To work alongside governments, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders to address Horn of Africa's developmental challenges.

Vision: Empowered Horn of Africa communities that are resilient, innovative and peaceful.

Mission statement: To mobilise and engage communities and other stakeholders in creating strategic partnerships for sustainable management of the environment, water resources, livelihoods, education and public health services in the Horn of Africa.

Core values

- Commitment to community service and social responsibility.
- Responsiveness to community needs.
- Neutrality, impartiality (non-alignment) and independence.
- Cooperation, coordination and working in partnership to avoid duplication.
- Quality services.
- Accountability to stakeholders.

Strategic priorities

WASDA's current strategic plan (2016–2020) sets out to address four goals that will guide the organisation for five years. The organisation's approach has shifted to a more enabling and facilitating role, supporting innovation and providing technical support. This is aimed at providing the acute needs of disaster-affected populations, and strengthening the capacities of WASDA's constituents to use existing resources to find solutions to their challenges and improve their lives.

GOAL 1: To address multi-dimensional aspects of food and nutrition insecurity: WASDA will work towards seeking solutions to challenges around food and nutrition security and build local adaptation to climate change.

GOAL 2: To support communities to access resources: Access to clean water and sanitation are essential for improved nutrition and health, while education enhances peoples' ability to adapt their behaviour and better their lives, and to demand appropriate services. Education is an investment for the future, vital for economic growth, and a priority for communities in WASDA's programme areas.

GOAL 3: To strengthen local capacities and partnerships to enable our communities' participation in development and decision making: With the new constitution and devolved governance structure in Kenya, the citizenry is getting more involved in development initiatives. WASDA engages its constituencies to harness their strengths and capacities in addressing their prioritised development needs. This entails linking the NGO's target populations to devolved systems and working with local groups in demanding change from their government and local actors.

GOAL 4: To increase WASDA's capacity and fortify accountability through strengthening local capacities and partnerships: This will lead to adequately addressing multi-dimensional aspects of food and nutrition insecurity and adaptation to climate change.

Cross-cutting thematic areas

- Emergency response.
- Peace building and conflict management.
- Advocacy and governance.
- Protection.

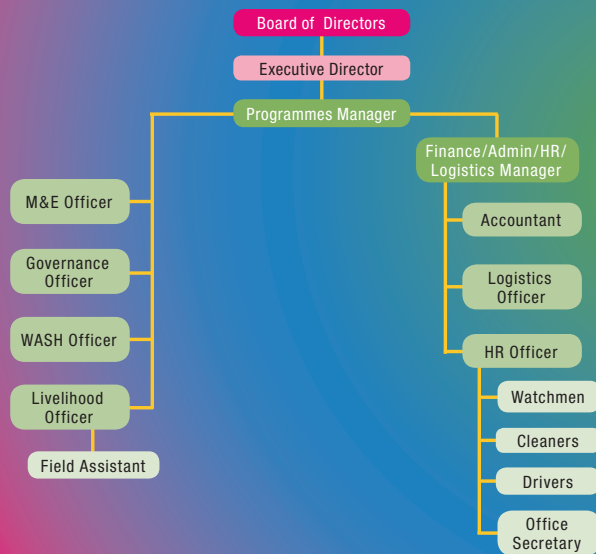
Strategic partners

WASDA employs its comparative advantage as an indigenous and community-driven organisation to garner the support of the targeted marginalised populations to help improve their livelihoods. These are its key partners and stakeholders. WASDA undertakes direct project implementation and also works with like-minded entities including government institutions, local communities, local leadership, networks and coalitions and non-governmental partners.



Small water projects can enhance the hygiene of pastoralists.

Organisational and governance structure



Funding partners

WASDA's key funding partners include Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)/USAID; German Development Agency (GIZ); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); OXFAM – with funding from European Commission Humanitarian AID (ECHO), UK Department for International Development (DFID); One Foundation; Care International; International Organisation for Migration (IOM); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Amref Health Africa and Mercy Corps - with funding from DFID.

Financial footing

WASDA has achieved significant milestones in partnership with targeted communities due to the benevolence of its funding partners. The organisation is in the process of exploring a diversified funding base as it also seeks to invest in core-funding opportunities to support capacity building and strategic projects. Additionally, WASDA will establish a sustainability fund with clear financial, transparency and legal guidelines as it strives to be accountable to its target communities and well as its benefactors.

Future outlook

As a learning and dynamic organisation, WASDA plans to position itself strategically in order to continue delivering on its mandate effectively. To achieve this goal, the organisation is undertaking a restructuring process to align itself with the emerging operational realities as elucidated its 2016-2020 strategic plan. WASDA has also invested in a research and communication unit and is already venturing into new areas of programming. The organisation is seeking to extend its frontiers by taking its development work to Eritrea, Somaliland and Djibouti. WASDA is already active in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.



A community training session in Wajir County.

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