



Pushing the Boundaries

With Your Collaboration

Thank you for your support



School Meals



Asset Creation



Refugees



Cash Transfers



Food and Nutrition

UN World Food Programme Kenya



Every day, the World Food Programme is pushing the boundaries to deliver its assistance better. Through a combination of food, cash and technical support, WFP is supporting the Government of Kenya in addressing the root causes of hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability, in line with the country's development blueprint, Vision 2030. In recent years, WFP Kenya has reached some remarkable milestones.





We couldn't have done it without your support!

Since 2010, WFP has accelerated efforts to find effective, innovative and cost-efficient ways to assist food-insecure people. This has brought the gradual shift from in-kind food to cash-based support. WFP is using different modes of cash transfers across its activities. Using cash, WFP has delivered assistance in emergencies, supported families participating in resilience activities, given children in schools a hot lunch, and provided diverse foods to refugees.

The shift to cash can bring greater cost-efficiency and effectiveness. It also has a positive effect on the local economies: WFP's cash-based activities are increasing the market demand for agricultural produce and thus spurring trade in local markets.

Adopting cash models is also a crucial step in preparing for the eventual handover of the WFP-supported activities to the Government. WFP is systematically handing-over mature school meals activities to the national homegrown school meals pro-

gramme. WFP is preparing families that are now accessing sufficient food as a result of the asset-creation activities to transition away from food and cash transfers. WFP has integrated supplementary feeding into local health systems: county governments are taking-on increasing roles in these activities and will assume full control in due course.

WFP is providing technical assistance within all its food assistance activities, incorporating avant-garde solutions when appropriate. For seamless handovers and sustainability, WFP is seeking to boost the capacity of the national and county officials, farmer organizations, traders, school committees, and other key stakeholders invested in improving the food and nutrition security of the poor and vulnerable in Kenya.

Effective Ways to Deliver Assistance

WFP is exploring innovative technologies with the aim of increasing the tools available to better serve the people receiving its assistance.

In 2011, WFP tested the use of bank cards for cash transfers: beneficiary families opened bank accounts and started withdrawing cash using ATM cards or through agents of the bank. During the 2011/12 drought emergency, WFP start-

ed using mobile money services to transfer cash to three counties in Kenya's arid lands. In 2013, WFP rolled-out an account / agent model dubbed 'cash-lite'. With this system, families received and spent their money electronically: retailers were equipped with point of sale machines allowing people to buy food items using their magnetic stripe cards. In 2013, WFP launched a fresh food voucher (FFV) pilot, WFP's first market-based intervention in Kenya's refugee camps. The pilot provided families of pregnant and lactating mothers with access to fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat. The pilot indicated that the camp markets could provide diverse foods and cost-efficient substitutes for at least part of the food basket.

'Bamba Chakula'

In 2015, WFP introduced electronic cash transfers in the Kakuma refugee camps. The cash transfers – dubbed bamba chakula, or “get your food” in Swahili-based slang – replaces part of the monthly food ration for refugees. The system delivers cash through mobile phones and refugees can buy food from authorized vendors in the local markets. The cash offers the refugees more choice and control over what they eat. Since August, WFP has injected over 77 million Kenyan shillings (close to USD755,000) into the Kakuma economy, helping to spur local trade.

Expanding the use of Biometrics

Introduced in 2013, the biometrics system checks the fingerprints of every refugee collecting food against fingerprint records held in the United Nations Refugee Agency's registration database. The system ensures that only legitimate refugees residing in the camps collect food. The biometrics system has helped reduce fraud and results in monthly savings of about USD 1.5 million. The cash transfers to refugees ('Bamba Chakula') is linked to the biometrics system. This infrastructure and its robust controls are available for other agencies delivering assistance to the refugees.





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Technical Assistance and Transitions

Over the past decade, WFP has been providing extensive capacity development support to national institutions. This, for example, has strengthened the role of the Government in national food security assessments and analysis. Kenya's 2010 Constitution has now transferred some of the food security roles to the county governments and counties require technical support. WFP wants to build on its successes at the national level by strengthening the capacity to analyse, prepare, respond and prioritise food security-related functions at the county level. As a start, WFP is assessing the existing county capacities and will roll out training exercises in 2016.

Handover of schools to the Home

Grown School Meals Programme

WFP is introducing cash transfers for school meals in the arid counties, having shifted from food to cash in Isiolo in 2014 and Samburu in 2015. In Nairobi's informal settlements, WFP switched to the cash-based model in September 2015.

The cash transfers are creating opportunities for smallholder farmers to supply commodities to schools within their localities, stimulating production amongst small-scale farmers and promoting sustainability and community ownership.

Injecting cash into the local economies is invigorating trade and creating predictable demand in markets that would otherwise remain sluggish. WFP has trained local farmer organizations to help them



respond effectively to this new and rising demand. The training and the transition to cash is also facilitating the gradual handover of schools to the national home-grown school meals programme.

Harmony in Safety Nets

The Complementarity Initiative's objective is to ensure that safety net programmes work together efficiently to protect poor, vulnerable, and food-insecure families from extreme poverty and hunger. The Initiative aims to integrate food assistance in the arid and semi-arid lands into Kenya's safety nets system and aligned with the National Social Protection Policy.

The Single Registry is a part of the Complementarity Initiative and the Social Protection outcome of the United Nations Development Action Framework. WFP and the Government of Kenya will launch the Single Registry in early-2016.

Changing Lives through Assets

The asset-creation activities using cash and food transfers are a key element of support for the Government's Ending Drought Emergency plan and a valued tool for counties and communities for enhancing livelihoods in the arid and semi-arid lands. WFP aims not simply to fulfill immediate food needs and protect food-insecure people from shocks, after which they may fall into food insecurity again, but to transform their livelihoods through the assets created, financial inclusion and skills development, to escape vulnerability altogether.

Asset-creation is being embedded in county development plans and serves increasingly to provide a platform for coordination and layering by other partners, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supported by USAID's Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth. These partnerships will allow an unprecedented number of households and communities to transition from WFP assistance and into sustainable commercial agriculture and other livelihoods in 2016. Furthermore, with continuing donor support, WFP aims to shift as many as possible of the current beneficiaries of general food distributions over to asset-creation



activities, while enhancing the role of counties to assume greater ownership. WFP is consolidating key partnerships with the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres to scale-up rainwater harvesting technologies, and with NGO partners to train youth to add value to production, enhancing employment and the ability of communities to invest in their asset base. Donors' support for an independent evaluation and technical assessments in 2016 will allow WFP and its partners to measure the impact of food assistance to build productive assets, enhance food security and transform livelihoods.

Nutrition-Sensitive Programming

WFP is incorporating nutrition education in all its activities. Families benefiting from asset-creation activities are also re-

ceiving tips on hygiene and health practices to improve nutrition at the household level. Lessons include food production, preparation, storage, and preservation. WFP is also working with the Government to strengthen the nutrition module in the school curriculum and has developed information, education and communication material with hygiene and nutrition messages for the whole community.

In Kakuma refugee camp, WFP is piloting the fortification of flour in small-scale posho mills. WFP purchases maize and sorghum locally for community groups to mill and add micronutrients. Fortified flour is supplied to schools for the mid-morning snack. Micronutrient deficiencies in children cause anemia, poor cognitive development, and high morbidity.

Several governments in the arid and semi-arid counties are taking on more re-

sponsibilities in supplementary feeding activities since 2013, following improvements in the prevalence of acute malnutrition. Nutrition experts seconded to the counties boosted the hands-on skills of the county nutrition officers and some counties are expected to commit to budgeting for these activities.

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