

Asset Creation

Early Recovery and Transition

An Overview

WFP's resilience programme focuses on re-establishing livelihoods, food security and nutrition, following shocks for the most food-insecure communities in the arid and semi-arid lands. The programme is transferring knowledge and technical skills to communities in water conservation, land rehabilitation, agricultural production and diversification, and marketing.

Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands face high exposure to drought with severe impacts because of low adaptive capacity. Livelihoods, nutrition and health in the arid lands remain precarious.

WFP has been shifting from direct food relief to resilience building or asset creation since 2010, with the food assistance-for-assets projects in the semi-arid areas having turned from food transfers to cash transfers. Assets aim to give families the ability to not only withstand shocks, but also become independent of food assistance, producing surplus food and achieving diversified, sustainable livelihoods.

About 1 million people are receiving WFP's help in 19 arid and semi-arid counties. Of these, 13 counties are implementing resilience-building asset-creation projects which improve food access, productivity and diversification and reduce exposure to hunger. The cash and food transfers for asset creation support about 700,000 people. Cash is becoming the dominant modality in WFP's resilience programme.

WFP is supporting the national government's social

protection strategy and commitment to ending drought emergencies, with the latter representing a shift in policy from reacting to the effects of droughts as they arise to actively reducing vulnerability and risk through sustainable development. 'Ending drought emergencies' aims to promote investments in climate-proofed infrastructure, peace and security, livelihoods, and human capital, and strengthen the institutional and financing framework for disaster risk management.

In asset creation, WFP is:

- Shifting its unconditional support (general food distributions) to the Government's cash-based safety net programme and to conditional transfers: cash and food for assets;
- Strengthening the quality and sustainability of asset-creation activities; and
- Preparing the Government to eventually assume full ownership of the programme.



Activities and Approach

Shifting to Cash

The Activities

WFP in Kenya supports the Government in addressing the root causes of hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability, in line with the country's development blueprint, the Vision 2030.

Asset-creation projects vary from one location to the other. The projects are identified and implemented by communities with the technical support of the government and partnering agencies. These projects are assimilated into the county development plans and budgets. In the devolved government structure, county governments have a prominent role in ensuring their constituents are food secure.

The asset-creation projects contribute to improving the lives of families, for example: increasing access to water for human and livestock use; increasing crop production and diversification of food sources; and increasing pasture production for livestock. The communities own and maintain the assets.

In order to boost sustainability, WFP is working to link the asset-creation projects with steady, institutionalized support through government and other development partners for a sustained, integrated set of development efforts – linking support for livelihoods, drought-risk management, human capital, infrastructure, peace and security, and institutional development.

The success of this resilience programme will depend on integrating and layering WFP-supported projects with those of other donors and agencies. This will allow bringing projects to scale and achieve a more sustainable, transformative impact.

Some of the asset-creation projects involve: harnessing runoff water; building or rehabilitating shallow wells, water pans, and dams; constructing or repairing small irrigation schemes; building terraces to stop soil erosion; repairing feeder

roads; planting trees and tree nurseries; and destroying invasive plants.

Communities work for food or cash, while building sturdy and well-placed assets that boost their chances to withstand future shocks.

Approach in Programming

Scaling down relief in favour of resilience

WFP is scaling down short-term interventions in favour of recovery activities such as the asset creation. For development to be achieved, WFP needs to invest in resilience-building that leads to more sustainable hunger solutions and contributes to ending drought emergencies in Kenya.

WFP continues to support and build the capacity of county governments to respond to the relief needs.

Scaling down in semi-arid areas

WFP has supported resilience-building activities in semi-arid areas since 2010. Assessments have shown that some communities have recovered from the effects of drought and ready to graduate to commercial agriculture. WFP is accelerating the graduation of these communities to allow WFP to focus more on the arid counties.

Scaling-up cash interventions

WFP is increasing the use of cash and electronic payments as transfer modalities in response to demand, growing financial infrastructure, and market conditions.

Preparing national and county governments

WFP is equipping county governments with skills to enable them take up more responsibilities in resilience, food security and nutrition. Eventually, the Government will assume the responsibility for supporting the families in the asset-creation projects. WFP is also supporting the national and county governments to prioritize support for resilience and coordinate for better results.



Handover and Graduation

Lasting Results

Partnerships

WFP, partner agencies and the Government collaborate to provide support to asset-creation activities. WFP is working to achieve definitive solutions to food and nutrition security - solutions that are transformational. To achieve this, asset creation must link across three "landscapes":

1. Natural landscapes, such as river basins, which promote sustainable use of natural resources;
2. Administrative landscapes, such as counties governments, which lend coherence to the administration of the programme; and
3. Economic landscapes of the market, which provide efficient entry for buying and selling.

WFPs envisages that communities showing consistent improvements in food security over several years will be handed-over to the Government. The 'graduates', with support, will continue to transform to surplus-producing, sustainable, market-oriented food producers.

WFP is partnering especially closely with the other Rome-based food United Nations agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – to complement each other's efforts. With the skills gained from this partnership, WFP expects about 22,000 food assistance-for-assets households to graduate over a three-year duration.

In the arid areas, WFP is partnering with USAID's Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands (REGALs) to help the supported families move their livelihoods up the value chain by preparing them for graduation from food assistance in the future.

WFP-supported cash-for-assets activities will eventually join the Government's national safety-net programme.

Achievements in 2014

Achievements of the food assistance-for-assets (cash and food transfers) programme in 2014 include:

- 1,224 hectares of land (70 percent of target) benefiting from new irrigation schemes
- 1,185 hectares of land (75 percent of target) benefiting from rehabilitated irrigation schemes
- 17,282 hectares of cultivated land (108 percent of target) benefitting from physical soil and water conservation measures
- 179 hectares of gully land reclaimed as a result of check dams and gully rehabilitation structures (109 percent of target)
- 147 kilometres of feeder roads built and maintained and 105 kilometres rehabilitated through self-help (55 and 64percent of target respectively)
- 188 community water ponds excavated for domestic use (87 percent of target)
- 66 community water ponds excavated for livestock use 105 percent
- 23 shallow wells constructed (55 percent of target)
- 393,600 tree seedlings produced (94 percent of target) with 69 percent used for afforestation, reforestation and vegetation stabilization

County coverage

In the arid counties of Mandera, Garissa, Turkana, Tana River, Isiolo, Baringo and Moyale, the cash and food for assets projects will be in 243 locations, targeting to reach 271,200 people.

The projects will also be implemented in 686 sites in the semi-arid counties of Kitui, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi and Tharaka targeting to reach 431,000 people.

