



Update April 2015

The Complementarity Initiative

Bringing Hunger Solutions to Kenya's Safety Nets System

What is the Complementarity Initiative about?

The initiative is about *ensuring that safety net programmes work together efficiently* to protect poor, vulnerable, and food insecure households in Kenya from extreme poverty and hunger.

It is about supporting the Government of Kenya to achieve a coherent and robust safety net system that addresses food insecurity along side other vulnerabilities, through *long-term, sustainable solutions*. It is about working closely with safety net implementers and development partners through the coordination structures set up by the Government to implement Kenya's Social Protection Policy.

To do this, WFP has committed to contributing technical assistance over the next 4 years to the National Social Protection Secretariat to:

1. Develop a **Complementarity Strategy** that describes how hunger solutions are (or will be) integrated into Kenya's safety nets system.
2. Enhance the National Social Protection **Single Registry** to ensure government at all levels has access to and can use data about who is receiving what, where, and under which programme.
3. Improve accountability by establishing a strong **Complaints and Grievances Mechanism**, including a toll-free line that anyone can call for information about safety net programmes, or to report a problem or wrongdoing.
4. Establish a plan for a **Productive Safety Net Programme** for poor and food insecure households to work in dignity on projects that contribute to their own and their communities' resilience, rather than relying on hand outs.
5. Roll-out **National Guidelines for Food Assistance Programmes**, to guide programme designers and implementers at the national and county levels.

Quick Facts about the UNDAF 2014 - 2018

⇒ The UNDAF is an expression of the UN's commitment to support the Kenyan people in their self-articulated development aspirations.

⇒ It is a 4-year plan, developed jointly with the Government of Kenya, aligned with Vision 2030.

⇒ WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services jointly lead the UNDAF Social Protection Group.

⇒ The Complementarity Initiative is a key component of the Group's work-plan, and is synergized with activities supported by the other UN agencies in the sector.

⇒ You can find the full document at: <http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Kenya/Kenya-UNDAF-2014-2018.pdf>



Ron Sibanda, WFP Representative and Country Director, and Principle Secretary Mr Ali Noor sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Complementarity Initiative

Photo by WFP/Cheryl Harrison

Latest News

On 1 April 2015, the World Food Programme and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at integrating hunger solutions into Kenya's social safety nets system. The agreement marks an important turning point in Kenya's development, that brings to the fore strong national ownership and leadership of programmes that prevent hunger and build communities' resilience to drought in Kenya.

This event follows the Government of Kenya's road map for establishing and

sustaining effective safety nets in Kenya through Vision 2030 and the Social Protection Policy, and is a key component of the UN System's joint 4-year plan with the Government for strengthening Social Protection in Kenya under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2014-2018).

The Principle Secretary Mr Ali Noor confirmed that "This MOU commits WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services over the next 4 years to proactively overcome programme fragmentation and duplication, and will strengthen the Ministry's mandate to strategically coordinate social protection programmes in Kenya."

	Social Pillar A social and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment
	Human Capital By 2030 Kenya's development is led and driven by a healthy, highly skilled, innovative, resourceful and motivated human capital in an empowered, resilient, and inclusive society that is reconciled, peaceful, cohesive, gender responsive, and with integrity.
	Social Protection By 2018, social protection policy and strategies ensure Government's effective leadership role, sustainability of achievement, and promotion of innovation and learning; and the social protection systems are adequately resourced, devolved, well-coordinated, effective, efficient and sustainable.

Caught in the corridor...

Ron Sibanda, WFP Representative and Country Director

You signed the agreement between WFP and the Government for the Complementarity Initiative. How did that feel?

Momentous. Over the years I have spent in Kenya, I have seen the agenda on safety nets come a long way. Kenya is transitioning to a middle-income country and with the right support and expertise from development partners, we can achieve a truly strong Government-owned national safety net system.

Is this a big step for WFP in Kenya?

Yes. WFP is highly supportive of the strategic direction that the Government of Kenya has taken. This agreement strengthens the process of transforming the food assistance programmes that WFP has been implementing in Kenya for more than 30 years now, into Government safety net programmes. It is fundamental to the shared vision of achieving zero hunger within our lifetimes.

How does this agreement contribute to achieving zero hunger in Kenya?

Part of the Complementarity Initiative is about developing a strategy for productive safety nets. This means that poor and food-insecure households who can and want to work, are given the opportunity to contribute in dignity to their own and their community's resilience rather than relying indefinitely on government assistance. This is a sustainable hunger solution for Kenya.

In focus this month – the Single Registry

WFP has contracted Development Pathways to continue their work with the Social Protection Secretariat on the Single Registry. In addition to a number of enhancements and support, the contract includes:

1. Decentralizing access to the information in the Single Registry, so that counties and sub-counties can use it.
2. Meeting the short-term training needs of the Safety Nets MIS team, and developing a longer-term capacity-building strategy for users, developers, and system administrators.
3. Developing an electronic registration package for the pro-

grammes.

4. Establishing data protection and data sharing protocols.

5. Integrating the Single Registry with the Complaints and Grievances system. And

6. Working with WFP to bring food assistance programmes into the Single Registry.

The team sits part-time at the Secretariat, and part-time at WFP. Call WFP's Helpline (0707722446) if you'd like to meet the team and have a tour of the Single Registry!

Photo: WFP/ Diego Fernandez

COMING UP
In the next update

Next update:

⇒ Registration of WFP's beneficiaries in Turkana, Wajir, and Marsabit kicked off in the second half of April. We'll present the preliminary results in the next update.

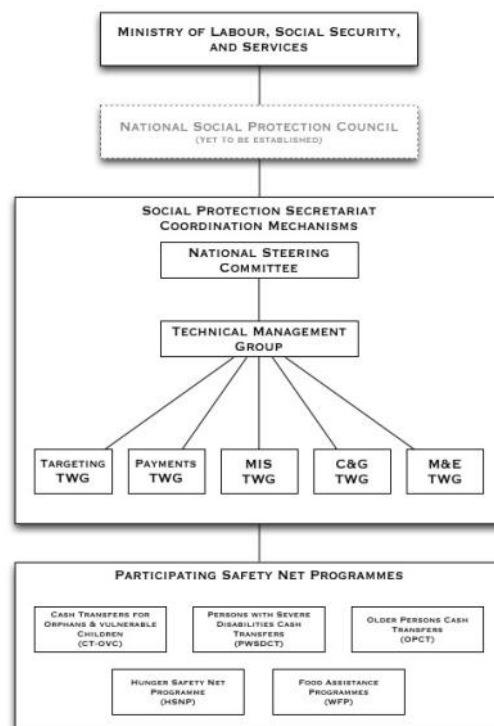
⇒ The UNDAF Social Protection group will have a retreat 20-21 April, to review progress in the first year, and refine plans for the year to come. You'll find the highlights in our next issue.

⇒ 30 seconds with WFP Kenya's first Safety Nets Officer, David Kamau. Hear what he thinks about his new job, and what his plans are to move the safety nets agenda forward in WFP.

How are safety net programmes coordinated at the national level in Kenya?

The Social Protection Secretariat manages the technical coordination of the safety net programmes through a set of thematic working groups, in which each of the safety net programmes are represented. The TWGs meet often (sometimes weekly) to share information, work towards harmonization, and respond to requests from the Technical Management Group which is made up of the heads of programmes. The Technical Management Group informs and escalates decisions to the National Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by the PS of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, and the PS of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, and draws its membership from the Director levels of the Ministries within which the safety net programmes are housed, and development

partners. WFP is represented in all of these groups and committees, and the Complementarity Initiative is coordinated through these mechanisms and through the UNDAF.



Events

24-26 March—Getting Up To Speed on Safety Nets—2nd National Officers Meeting

This was the second meeting of all WFP Kenya's National Officers to learn about safety net programmes, and discuss related issues they are facing in their work with counties. (The first one was held in November last year.)

Officers from all function areas and field offices spent 3 days in Nairobi, with programme implementers from the Social Protection Secretariat, the Directorate of Children's Services, and the Hunger Safety Net Programme.

The focus of the meeting was on targeting and registration. WFP is rolling out its revised Community Based Targeting Guide, and CT-OVC and HSNP also presented their targeting methodologies.

The goal was to deepen understanding of the various methodologies in use, share information about what works and what doesn't, and begin considering how targeting could eventually be harmonized.

For a copy of WFP's Community Based Targeting Guide, call WFP's Helpline (0707722446).

Comments? Questions?
For more information write to
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