



July/August 2015

Development Portfolio

News

- In term 2 (May – August) children attending school in the arid lands received meals for 50 out of 70 days due to funding shortfalls. In term 3 (Sept– Nov), resources are available to feed children for 40 out of 55 school days.
- With support from WFP's Centre of Excellence in Brazil, WFP is working with the Government to finalise Kenya's School Health, Nutrition and Meals Strategy.
- WFP will expand cash transfer model to the 92 schools it supports in the unplanned settlements of Nairobi in September.
- Preparations to start transitional cash transfers to schools in Tana River County have been launched.
- A mid-term evaluation of the school meals programme found the programme relevant and sustainable.
- Four schools in Turkana County connected to safe water supply, improved kitchen and storage facility

Supporting the National School Meals Programme

Switching to Cash in Nairobi County

Starting September 2015, WFP will switch from in-kind school meals to the cash-based model in Nairobi County. WFP is intervening in 92 primary schools in Nairobi's informal settlements with a population of 82,000 children drawn from some of the poorest neighbourhoods of Nairobi. In the unplanned settlements, education and food security indicators are considerably below the national average and only comparable to the arid lands.

In readiness for the switch, WFP trained school management committees and other education stakeholders (53 percent female) on the guidelines and roles and responsibilities of each player. WFP also trained 67 traders (34 percent female) on government procurement procedures, food quality requirements and stores management. This is an opportunity to learn how the model works in an urban context, and launch dialogue to gradually integrate the programme into the county and national government budgets and policies.

Transitional Cash Transfer to Schools

In the arid Samburu county, WFP introduced cash transfers to schools in January 2015, in preparation for the hand-over to the government-led home-grown school meals programme. The government will take over the feeding programme in Samburu in January 2016. Tana River County will be next to switch to transitional cash transfers. Preparatory activities such as market assessments and training have already begun.

School Health, Nutrition and Meals Strategy and Results Framework

WFP is supporting the Government of Kenya in finalizing the School Health, Nutrition and Meals Strategy and Results



Framework. The draft strategy, formulated by the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology, Health and Agriculture with support from WFP and other partners, was a first attempt to anchor school health, nutrition and meals into a single policy document with clear implementation guidelines. The Government has requested for support to finalise this strategy, ensuring it is aligned to the Constitution and that it will provide a strong implementation framework for the growing national school feeding programme.

Funding shortfall

Due to a funding shortfall, in the second term of the academic year (4 May to 7 August), WFP provided meals for 50 out of 70 days in schools receiving in-kind food. In Samburu, the cash transferred to the schools was adequate to cover meals for the entire term.

Findings from the external mid-term evaluation of the school meals programme

- Programme is relevant, complements the work of partners and is coherent with government policies.
- Right beneficiaries were targeted and food delivered in timely manner.
- School meals have a positive effect on enrolment and attendance
- Sustainability considerations have been put in place. The design is robust but there is a need for the Government to ring-fence funds meant for school meals programme.

Supporting the National Nutrition Action Plan

WFP is supporting the Government of Kenya in improving the nutrition status of vulnerable groups through increased support to the National Nutrition Action Plan. In fighting chronic malnutrition, WFP is contributing to the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies and strengthening nutrition education, WASH and policy frameworks.

Integrating Health and Nutrition Interventions in Schools

Model Schools in sub-counties

Model schools are being established in sub-counties to showcase an integrated approach to improving school environments to support better learning.

In Turkana, four schools were connected to safe water supply, improved kitchens and storage facilities, and gender sensitive sanitation facilities constructed. An additional 400 schools in six counties are scheduled to receive fuel-efficient stoves.

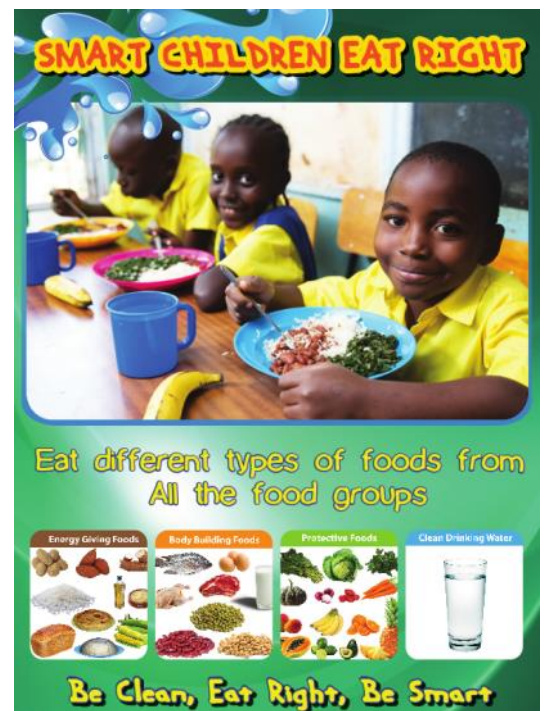
Behaviour Change Communication

In July 2015, WFP rolled out the nutrition education and hygiene promotion project in Samburu County. The aim of the project is to disseminate nutrition information and hygiene promotion messages in schools and surrounding communities and urge them adopt positive nutrition and hygiene behaviour.

A baseline survey focusing on the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards hygiene and nutrition was carried out in six schools. Preliminary results show massive gaps between the knowledge and the actual practices regarding handwashing with soap, proper use of latrines and the consumption of a variety of food.

Education and Communication (IEC) materials to pass hygiene and nutrition messages were developed, pretested and reviewed. These materials will be distributed to 157 schools in Samburu County, reaching 57,000 pupils and teachers in the county. The success of this project will inform the scale up of similar projects in other WFP supported counties.

In addition, a comic book series named *Sungura Sam* was developed to further



spread messages on nutrition education and hygiene. *Sungura Sam* is a cartoon character who teaches good hygiene. The comic was adapted to the Samburu context, previewed and validated by relevant stakeholders including the Ministries of Education, Health and Water both at national and county level. The final copies will be distributed to all the 157 schools in Samburu County. The longer-term goal is to scale up the dissemination of the comic book to all counties implementing school feeding activities.

In addition to the IEC materials, WFP has developed a radio spot and a children's radio jingle with hygiene and nutrition messages. The messages are intended to link the activities in school with the wider community where these children come from. These messages will be aired in Samburu and Kiswahili languages. The radio spots target both the school going children, parents and the larger Samburu community. The radio spots reinforce the messages and behaviors at the family level.

Teachers Guide

A draft guide for teachers focusing on nutrition education and hygiene promotion was also developed and pretested in Samburu County. The guide will facilitate the teachers responsible for hygiene and nutrition in the schools on how to establish and maintain activities that reinforce positive hygiene and nutrition behaviors at school level.

Nutrition Sensitive Programming in Cash for Assets

WFP, in collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi and other partners, has started a nutrition sensitive cash for assets project in Kilifi County. The project aims to train families participating in Cash For Assets (CFA) activities on ways to improve their diets. Families will learn how to grow and prepare food that has high nutritional value. Nutrition education sessions will be held to enable families to plan their meals and make healthier meal choices. The Project is being piloted in Kilifi and will be replicated elsewhere based on the lessons learnt.

Boosting nutrients in foods

WFP continues to support the Ministry of Health in developing a schools' micro-nutrients powders (MNPs) policy and operational guideline. Draft copies of both the policy and the operational guideline are currently under development. These will be presented to the nutrition working group for review and adoption. Resources have been mobilized to scale up MNPs in school meals in all schools in Garissa County in 2016.

Meanwhile WFP is supporting the ministry of Health in giving micro-nutrient powders to all children under 2 years of age in eight arid counties. To date, over 80,000 children have been reached. Radio messaging, door to door visits are some approaches in use to increase the monthly uptake.

In Kakuma refugee camps, WFP is piloting a small-scale fortification project. WFP supports groups to locally mill and blend sorghum and maize flour. The flour is distributed to schools in the refugee camp who prepare mid-morning porridge for the children.

In Samburu, WFP is piloting the inclusion of malnourished and HIV positive people into the supplementary feeding programme. The treatment of malnourished children and pregnant and breast feeding mothers continues.



Strengthening Capacity of National and County Governments

WFP will gradually handover supplementary feeding programmes to the government

WFP held initial workshops to identify capacity gaps and needs in disaster risk management and resilience building in Baringo and Samburu. The results will inform the capacity development strategies and act as a reference point for measuring progress in the envisaged investments in capacity strengthening.

The adopted approach ensures enhanced knowledge management and engagement processes, with a desired outcome of enhanced dialogue and working relations with relevant national stakeholders.

WFP held discussions with county governments of Baringo, and West Pokot about the planned gradual handover of the supplementary feeding programmes. The counties acknowledged that they had the capacity to transport the nutrition products through the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority. However, they needed capacity in infrastructure (stores), and in supply chain processes such as procurement of good quality products, stores management and reporting.

Similar discussions will be held with Machakos and agreements signed by end of 2015. Six semi-arid counties with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of below 5 percent and relatively small numbers of malnourished people will be handed over to the Government during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Discussions have already taken place with Kaijado and an agreement is to be signed before the end of the year.



Resource Update: Country Programme

Currently, WFP has resources to provide lunches for 40 out of 55 days (70 percent) for the third term (August–November). The shortfall is US\$ 5.7 million.

The situation will become even worse in 2016 unless more contributions are received. Children receive a hot meal every school day. This meal serves to not only alleviate short term hunger but also as an incentive for children to attend school.

Under the nutrition component, WFP has been forced to undertake a budget revision to reduce plans to scale-up the provision of micro-nutrient powders in 2015 and 2016 because of lack of funding.

Meanwhile, the capacity development activities require about US\$ 1 million.

Contacts:

Lara FOSSI,
Programme Advisor,
Development Unit
lara.fossi@wfp.org

Charisse TILLMAN
Donor and Private Sector
Relations Officer,
charisse.tillman@wfp.org
UN Complex Giri, Nairobi
Kenya, P.O. Box 44482-
100100



Linking Smallholder Farmers to Markets

Training traders for school meals programme market

Following the switch from in-kind food to cash assistance in Nairobi County, WFP has trained 67 traders, among them 23 women, to give them the necessary skills to tap into the school meals programme market.

The training covered modules including school procurement procedures, food quality and warehouse management. In Tana River County, additional 39 traders were trained in preparation for planned transitional cash transfer to schools beginning January 2016.

Strong farmer organisations

WFP trained close to 7,000 farmers (56 percent women) on good agronomic practices, leadership, financial literacy and gender. Over the next financial year (2015/2016), WFP and the State Department of Agriculture will focus on group governance and improved access to finance by farmer organizations. WFP will lay emphasis on policy and legislation issues to enhance participation by smallholder farmers in public procurement.

Continued capacity building pays

In Narok County, one of the farmer organisations working with WFP has grown into a cooperative society. WFP has invested skills, supported construction of a store; and later purchased grain from Romosha Farmers Association. WFP started working with this group during the Purchase for Progress (P4P) pilot.



In 2015, the group merged with 21 other farmer organisations to form Meguarra Farmer Organization. The cooperative society has 357 members (201 women). As a registered cooperative, the farmer organisation will be able to better engage in marketing activities and increase the services offered to its members. This is a good step towards sustaining the group's activities after WFP pulls out.



Russia



SWEDEN



Private Partners:
DSM, International
Paper, UNILEVER and
others