



June/July 2015

# WFP Development Portfolio

## News

### WFP Pipeline:

School meals in the arid lands are covered for only 50 out of 70 school days (70 percent) during the second school term (May–August) and 22 out of 55 days (40 percent) for the third term (August–November).

WFP successfully handed over the school meals programme in Isiolo County to the Government in 2015. Schools in Samburu are now receiving cash from WFP before transitioning to Government-led Home-grown School Meals Programme in 2016.

## Supporting National School Meals Programmes

In 2015, WFP plans to provide daily nutritious lunches to 791,000 children in public nursery and primary schools in eight arid counties and in the poorest settlements of Nairobi. By 2016, county governments are expected to assume full responsibility of providing school meals to the young children in nursery schools. WFP is preparing to provide technical support and training to the counties to effectively plan and manage the programme.

Following the successful transitional cash to schools pilot in Isiolo County, WFP handed over

school feeding in that county to the Government-led Home Grown School Meals Programme (HGSMP) in January 2015. WFP will continue supporting the county with programme management and monitoring as required. The transfer is part of an effort to reinforce an efficient and effective transition to the national programme.

Samburu started to receive cash to schools from WFP, targeting 55,000 children in 146 primary schools. WFP will transfer cash for a year before transitioning to the HGSMP in 2016. Preparations are also underway to switch to cash transfers in the 94 schools in Nairobi, drawing from the experiences gained in the arid lands and tapping into Nairobi's food market dynamics.



**Isiolo Cash Transfer Pilot External Evaluation:** The external evaluation (2014) showed that the Isiolo pilot was largely successful in meeting its objectives: it significantly contributed to lessons for WFP to smoothly roll out cash transfers to schools in other arid counties. Homegrown school feeding empowers local stakeholders, boosts the local economy, and translates into cost savings. Local food purchase opens up possibilities for enriching the meals through a wider range of ingredients. WFP is supporting the Government to finalize Kenya's School Health, Nutrition, and Meals Strategy and Guidelines to incorporate lessons learned from the Isiolo pilot to strengthen procurement, monitoring and oversight of the HGSMP.

## Reinforcement and Integration of School Health and Nutrition Interventions

As school infrastructure, health and hygiene in the arid lands is generally poor, enhancing access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities, providing fuel-efficient stoves and improved kitchens with storage, together with accompanying sensitisation campaigns for nutrition education and hygiene promotion arise as priority areas for complementary investment. By ensuring that children have access to these facilities, the impact of school meals is maximised and quality of school health and learning is supported.

WFP leveraged a network of partners with complementary expertise in water, sanitation and development communication to reinforce and integrate school health and nutrition. In collaboration with this network of partners, WFP continues to support school health, nutrition and water and sanitation work in Turkana and Samburu through the construction and rehabilitation of school water and sanitation infrastructure and the establishment of model kitchens and storage facilities. The model kitchens will include the installation of energy-saving stoves. WFP will engage with County Governments and development partners to help expand the reach of the model facilities. Behaviour change materials used in sensitizing school

stakeholders on health, nutrition and hygiene were designed with the Centre for Behaviour Change and Communication, a Kenyan NGO specializing in community awareness campaigns. Nutrition and hygiene education will be rolled out initially in Samburu County.

## Supporting the National Nutrition Action Plan

WFP continued targeted supplementary feeding uninterrupted, with 60,000 women and children identified with moderate acute malnutrition receiving specialised nutrition food products.

WFP is providing micronutrient powders (MNPs) to children aged 6-23 months in Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana and Wajir. Thus far, 22,000 children have been reached, out of the planned 149,000. To increase acceptability and uptake, WFP has trained about 1,000 community health workers to support community sensitization and mobilization. Provision of MNPs to children is one of the Government's priorities in the National Nutrition Action Plan, to address high prevalence of the micronutrient deficiencies and poor quality of diet among young children.

WFP is also supporting the ministries of education and health to prepare policy and operational guidelines for use of MNPs in schools. This follows the successful piloting of MNPs in six schools in 2014. The pilot determined the best operational modalities for providing MNPs to schools and effective sensitization and behaviour change communication strategy. However, plans to scale-up and reach 500,000 school children have not been possible because of lack of funding. Scale-up is planned to start in Garissa county, reaching 41,000 children in 2016.

WFP provided technical expertise for the inclusion of nutrition education in the national primary and secondary schools curriculum. The next step is to sensitise policy makers and the curriculum review team as they finalise the decisions on what form of education system the country will

## Strengthening Capacity of National and County Governments

WFP began discussions with the Ministry of Health and selected county governments on the planned handover of the supplementary feeding starting in 2015.

Baringo, Machakos and West Pokot are the first counties in the transition plan because they have demonstrated the highest ability and willingness to handle nutrition activities. Agreements will be tailored to the strengths and needs of each county, with activities such as planning, purchasing, transporting, monitoring and reporting being handed over incrementally as the capacity increases.

WFP signed an agreement with the Government to provide technical assistance to the National Social Protection Secretariat to strengthen the coordination of safety net programmes and integrate hunger solutions into the national safety net system. The four-year agreement focusses on:

- enhancing the national social protection single registry for beneficiaries;
- establishing a complaints-and-grievances mechanism for Social Protection programmes;
- spearheading a dialogue about government ownership of Kenya's productive safety net programme, aimed at building resilience to drought across the ASALs;
- establishing a comprehensive strategy for complementarity between safety net programmes to fill gaps, and reduce fragmentation and overlap across the sector;
- and establishing national guidelines for delivering food assistance programmes.

WFP is preparing to assess the capacity of selected county governments in the ASAL to plan and respond to climate-induced disasters. The assessment will establish the baselines for existing capacity, which will be helpful in tracking progress on the investments in building capacity of the devolved structures. As a start, WFP held discussions with the County Government of Samburu to scope the capacity gaps and needs in emergency preparedness and response. Samburu has drafted a law on disaster management, which provides an opportunity for WFP to build capacity of the staff in relation to food security.

## Linking Smallholder Farmers to Markets

WFP started milling and providing maize-sorghum blend to schools in Kakuma refugee camps in February 2015. This is a pilot to test the feasibility of providing a part of the school meals in Kakuma with flour from cereals that are locally-grown, purchased and processed. It is envisaged that this will stimulate local farming and the economic empowerment of local communities. WFP plans to explore further how to link these farmer organisations to the market that will be created by the planned introduction of vouchers in the camp.

Twelve farmer organizations delivered 654 MT of maize to WFP. Purchasing from farmer organizations not only provides smallholder farmers a market for their surplus, but also builds their capacity to meet formal market demands.

WFP purchased 13 auto rickshaws (motorised three-wheeled carts) and three small-scale milling machines for farmer organizations. The auto rickshaws will support delivery of grains from individual farms to a central place for aggregation and collective marketing. The milling machines will help the farmer organizations to add value to their grains in order to increase income.

### Resource Update Country Programme 200680

Currently, WFP only has adequate resources to provide lunches for **50 out of 70 school days (70 percent) during the second school term (May–August) and 22 out of 55 days (40 percent)** for the third term (August–November).

The shortfall is USD 8.9 million. A further USD 851,000 is required to nutritionally enhance the basic school meal basket with micronutrient powders. A strong transition strategy is in place where WFP is responsibly and systematically handing over WFP-supported schools to the Government as national capacities increase. The benefits and trust established may be eroded if WFP is unable to maintain its commitments if resource shortfalls force WFP to cease school meals, particularly during the lean season.



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