

Kenya Development Portfolio (2014-2018)

Supporting National School Meals Programme

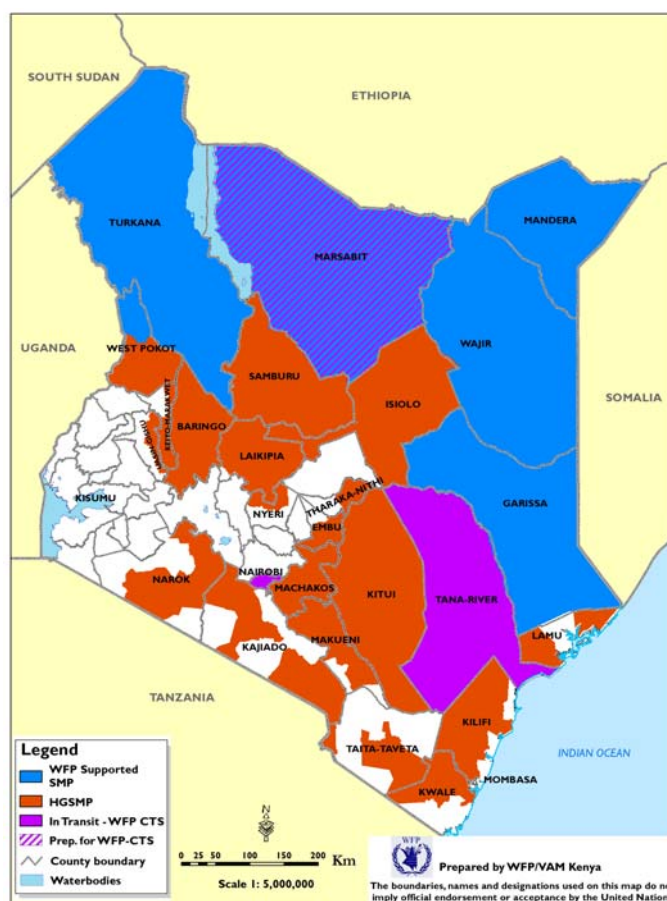
Overview

WFP and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) have successfully provided school meals to vulnerable school children in Kenya since 1980 as an incentive to enrol and attend school. Past evaluations have found that the meals have significant positive effect on enrolment, attendance and school completion rates in primary schools.

The national programme, implemented by WFP and MOEST comprises three different models of school feeding, guaranteeing daily meals to 1.6 million children across the country each day of the school term;

- ♦ **Homegrown school meals programme (HGSMP):** The Government's fully funded programme mostly in parts of the semi-arid counties that are largely inhabited by smallholder farmers. This programme is progressively expanding into arid counties as WFP continues to handover. Isiolo and Samburu Counties have already been handed over after successful transitional cash transfer for one year in each. The HGSMP supports access to education while also stimulating local agricultural production through procurement of food from local structured markets.
- ♦ **WFP/MOEST supported school meals programme:** This complements the Government run programme and is implemented until Government capacity to implement HGSMP is expanded. It is implemented in arid areas (inhabited primarily by pastoralists and agro-pastoralists) and the unplanned settlement of Nairobi and uses in-kind food to provide meals to children. The targeted areas have low enrolment and attendance rates compared to the rest of the country. The areas are also chronically food insecure with high prevalence of malnutrition; most children depend on the school meals. The in-kind programme continues to decrease in size as WFP transitions to the HGSMP.

Programme implementation areas



- ♦ **Transitional cash transfer to schools.** As part of the transition strategy to national ownership, WFP implements a transitional Cash Transfer to Schools (CTS) to prepare schools for one-year prior to the handover to the HGSMP. Implemented in arid counties scheduled for handover, WFP funded CTS aims to strengthen food procurement systems, accountability, transparency and local markets to support the programme. Beginning May 2016, Tana River County will be on transitional CTS in preparation for handover in 2017. Nairobi County switched from in-kind to cash beginning September 2015.



Strategic Focus

- ◆ Provide daily meals to school-going children in the vulnerable arid lands and Nairobi informal settlements, where there is accentuated need for these meals due to high levels of food insecurity and low school enrolment. The meals act as an incentive for poor families to send their children to school.
- ◆ Capacity strengthening of Government to manage a sustainable expansion of the school meals to a national programme
- ◆ Support County Government to take responsibility for school feeding in early childhood development centers in 2016, in line with devolution
- ◆ In close collaboration with the Government update the school health and nutrition strategy so as to further embed school feeding in the national policy and strategy framework
- ◆ Work with smallholder farmers and traders so as

to enable them to competitively supply food to the homegrown school meals market . This will play a role in stimulating agricultural production

- ◆ Strengthen accountability in management of resources meant for school meals programme through oversight and beneficiary feedback mechanism (helpline)
- ◆ Promote nutrition diversity and fortification to enrich meals provided to school children so as to enhance nutritional value .

Partnerships

Together with WFP, the MOEST is in charge of programme implementation. WFP is also collaborating with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Ministry of Health in provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in selected schools where lack of these facilities affects feeding. Also, WFP is engaging closely with county governments and are offering technical support after handing over ECDC school feeding to county governments in 2016.

Resourcing

The successes and gains realized in the programme have been through the generous support of donors to the school meals programme. However WFP is facing severe funding shortfalls and resources available can only provide food for 47 out of 70 days in Term 1 (January—April 2016). Adequate resources to maintain the school meals programme in the arid areas will ensure that the school meals safety net functions are well maintained.



Contact: Lara Fossi

Head, Country Capacity Strengthening

Tel: +254 20 762 2596

Email: lara.fossi@wfp.org

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