

School feeding Programmes in Kenya

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Leveraging Agriculture for improved nutrition & health

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School feeding Programmes in Kenya

- Kenya has over 30 years history of primary school feeding programme. It began in 1979 with a government led school milk program.
- The WFP-assisted programme started with 220,000 pupils at the pre-school and primary school level.
- It has expanded to reach 1.2 children in primary schools.

Regular School Feeding Programme (WFP supported)

- Implemented by the Government with support from WFP in the Arid and semi-arid areas (ASALS) and some schools in the slums of major towns.
- The programme entails the provision of mid day meal to pre-primary and primary school children
- Other partners include NGOs operating in the unplanned settlements and the beneficiary communities .
- The programme is now feeding 720,000 pupils in primary schools.

Expanded School Feeding programme (WFP supported)

- Targets school children in food insecure regions not covered by either the Regular School Feeding Programme or the Home Grown School Feeding Programme.
- It is an emergency measure taken to mitigate against severe drought often experienced.
- The objective is to reduce vulnerability arising from food insecurity and malnutrition occasioned by food crisis.
- Government is targeting 1.3M children this year

Home Grown School Meals programme

- Concept of Home Grown School Feeding Programme is a concept promoted by Kenya Government, NEPAD and the Millennium Development Project Hunger Task Force.
- Initiative attempts to achieve the dual objectives of increasing national food production and ensuring children go to school
- HGSFP is currently targeting 590,000 children funded by GOK Ksh. 400million (\$5million) and occasional other well wishers
- Grants are sent to schools directly

Njaa Marufuku Kenya (Eradicate hunger in Kenya)

- A Collaborative initiative by Agriculture sector Ministries together with Ministry of education and Ministry of public health
- Started in 2006 and targets areas of high poverty with potential to grow to grow food
 - High levels of school drop out
 - Poor primary school performance
 - High level of malnutrition

Current status: Njaa Marufuku Kenya

- Benefited 37,222 children in 56 schools since inception 2006
- Aim to improve health/nutrition of vulnerable people & school children by integrating school meals with nutrition education & Mother/Child health and nutrition programs
- Cash grant to school for food procurement alongside transfers to support small-holder farmer production
 - Grant for food purchase scaled down yearly as program is “handed over” to community by year 3
 - Farmers can repay transfer in form of food for schools

Approach

- Initiating School Meals Programme
- Capacity building on:
 - Community Nutrition Education.
 - Mother/Child Health including growth monitoring
 - Adoption of improved agricultural technologies for increased productivity through demonstration school gardens
- Sensitizing school committees to participate in the programme and ensure enhanced ownership.

Nutritious Porridge served to ECDs



Community Growth Monitoring Centers 41 set up in communities with SMP



Model Kitchen Gardens



4-K Clubs Revitalized

Activities on school farms complement SMP



Pupils taking home the little they get to share with siblings at home

- Ensure household food security to avoid this



Multisectoral Coordination

- School feeding models embrace multisectoral coordination since school feeding starts from production to utilization.
- Mandate cuts across various programmes of the ministries of the government and non governmental organisations
- The government has come up with the National School Health Policy with participation of the key ministries i.e Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation taking the lead role

Challenges

- Harsh climatic conditions that include frequent droughts
- High poverty levels
- Limited resources due to high numbers of children in need of food aid. There are 8.6M children in primary schools and only 1.2 M (15.%) are reached by the feeding programmes.
- Difficult terrain in the operational areas particularly for regular SFP.
- High logistical cost and the process of delivery is cumbersome and time consuming for regular SFP.
- The sustainability of home-grown school feeding approach due to high cost.

Lessons learnt from NMK implementation

- Beneficiary Contribution: Once the parents attain house hold food security they are willing to contribute food to sustain the SMP
- Ownership of SMP: Adequate sensitization and involvement of all stakeholders at all levels is important for ownership of the Programme.
- All Parents, key stakeholders/ministries need to be involved at all levels.
- Institutionalise coordination structure across relevant ministries is important

Why transition to HGSF?



- Reduced costs, more sustainable
- Provides predictable market for local farmers
- Boosts local development
- Enhances local ownership of school meals programme

HGSM : impacts

- School children:
 - Increase enrolment, attendance, retention.
 - Improved learning and cognition
 - Nutrition (micronutrients)
- Famers/community groups: improve food security
 - Food availability
 - Food access
 - Food utilisation
 - Schools as local institutions are strong entry point into the community

THANK YOU