



South-South and Triangular Cooperation for food security and nutrition

Snapshot of WFP practices in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation to promote progress towards Zero Hunger (SDG 2)



World Food Programme

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial uses are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission. Applications for such permission should be addressed to the Director, Communications Division, e-mail: wfp.publications@wfp.org. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Food Programme. © WFP 2016.

For questions or comments, please contact the lead author (carola.kenngott@wfp.org) in the WFP Policy and Programme Division.

Contents

Foreword	3
1. Facilitating knowledge sharing on Brazil’s Zero Hunger Strategy	4
Partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and Bangladesh	
2. Fighting under-nutrition in Paraguay through policy advocacy	8
WFP’s partnership with the Chilean International Cooperation Agency	
3. Mobilizing in-kind support to end hunger during the 2011/12 Horn of Africa Food Crisis ...	12
Mitigating the effects of the 2011/12 Food Crisis at the Horn of Africa through twinning partnerships	
4. Technical cooperation through the “Purchase from Africans for Africa” programme	16
How South-South cooperation can become a driver for home grown school feeding approaches [supported jointly by Brazil, FAO, WFP and DFID]	
5. Partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium	22
Spurring regional collective action towards enhancing food and livelihood security in Africa	
6. The Cost of Hunger in Africa Study	27
A pan-African initiative to inform national and continental decisions on child nutrition	
7. Regional collective action on disaster risk reduction through African Risk Capacity	31
Supporting developing countries to better prepare for and respond to natural disasters	



WFP working to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition

Foreword

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, governments across the world made a commitment to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030, through the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.

In order to realize this ambitious agenda, it is crucial to form new and strengthen existing partnerships, and to acknowledge and build on the potential that different forms of cooperation have to offer.

Over the past decades, the face of poverty and hunger has changed, as has the context. Most of the world’s poor and undernourished live in middle income countries, and women continue to be disproportionately affected. The humanitarian and development environments have become more connected and more complex. New strategies and new and more innovative approaches are required from all actors to address these evolving challenges.

Supporting countries to tap into and share their own country-led solutions, in forms of technical expertise and skills, resources, technologies and local innovations, that have already been tested, is a tremendous opportunity to join forces with partners in developing countries to advance progress towards SDG 2 on the ground.

Driven by rising country demand and the changing operating environment, in the World Food Programme (WFP), we have been stepping up our approach towards facilitating South-South cooperation in the area of food security and nutrition. WFP’s [Policy on Supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#), approved in May 2015, guides WFP’s work at the country, regional and global level.

This publication has been developed to explore how we can further promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in practice in order to help countries advance their national objectives and build the capacities they need to fight against hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Seven case studies explore how different South-South modalities can be applied on the ground, including through knowledge sharing, facilitating technical cooperation, policy advocacy, mobilization of in-kind and cash-based support and regional collective action.

We recognize that South-South cooperation is a government-led agenda, which aligns with the principle of country ownership - a principle which is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Supporting South-South cooperation also offers a key opportunity for the wider UN system and international community to combine our strengths and capacities in facilitating horizontal cooperation and to complement each other’s efforts.

In order to leave no one behind in our efforts to advance zero hunger, a focus on the most vulnerable and food-insecure people needs to remain at the core of our approach towards facilitating South-South cooperation. This way, we can make a joint contribution that the call for zero hunger in our lifetimes is more than just powerful rhetoric, but can become truly an achievable goal.



Stanlake J.T.M. Samkange

Director, Policy and Programme Division (OSZ)

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

1. Facilitating knowledge sharing on Brazil's Zero Hunger strategy

Partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and Bangladesh

Background and Framework

Although 38 countries have achieved the MDG hunger target to date, over 805 million people remain undernourished around the world. Approximately two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, impeding human and socio-economic development. More than 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, governments across the world made a commitment to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition" by 2030, as per the adoption of the SDG 2. This includes ensuring that all people have dependable access to adequate food and nutrition; working to eliminate malnutrition; helping to ensure that food systems are sustainable and resilient; and supporting livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable food insecure populations.

Without tapping into the expertise, skills, capacities and solutions, existing in developing countries, it will not be possible to scale up impact and reach the remaining 805 million people who continue to suffer from hunger and under-nutrition. South-South cooperation is therefore an important means for achieving progress in food security. It is at the core of advancing nationally-owned efforts to realize a world without hunger.

Framework of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

Profile: The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil embodies a partnership between WFP and the Government of Brazil, combining both partners' strengths towards a world without hunger. It makes the Brazilian and other successful experiences in zero hunger strategies available for other developing

countries to learn, adapt and share within the framework of the South-South cooperation.

Vision: The Centre supports South-South and triangular cooperation on the basis of solidarity among developing countries. It promotes horizontal relations and a South-South methodology which can contribute to the joint achievements of specific targets, like the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of the Centre respects the limits and competencies of each country in an effort to provide an effective exchange of knowledge in a shared solutions platform.

Results: Over 28 developing countries are actively tapping into Brazil's expertise. The Centre is continuing its support in 13 countries currently. These countries are building the necessary political support, capacities and country systems, to develop their own home-grown school meals systems and to integrate them into broader social protection and Zero Hunger strategies.

Methodology: The Centre has developed its own methodology framework, adapted to the specific area of school meals in the context of social protection and zero hunger strategies. The Advanced Centre's Tools and Technologies (ACTT), are based on Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) five policy goals: 1) the legal and political framework, 2) institutional capacity and coordination, 3) ability to design and implement the program, 4) funding capacity and, 5) the extent of participation of the local community and civil society, which are used to discuss with the governments and support them to prepare an action plan.

A set of tools are used to facilitate policy dialogue, planning and capacity development processes. These tools include study visits, national workshops, technical and high level missions and the deployment of technical assistance and expertise. They are aimed at improving policy dialogue through the exchange of knowledge and expertise and mutual learning.

South-South opportunity with Bangladesh

While Bangladesh has made significant economic and social progress over the past decade, the rates of under-nutrition - despite overall impressive reductions - remain among the highest in the world and pose a serious economic and public health concern.

The number of people who are food insecure and live in poverty remains high: 47 million people are poor and 26 million people are extremely poor. Over 80 percent of the population live in rural areas with persistent food insecurity and have limited access to land, markets and basic services.

Bangladesh has made progress with regards to access to education and gender parity at the primary and lower secondary school levels, but a number of education challenges remain: an estimated 12 million children still go to school hungry and 4 million primary-aged children are hungry and out of school. Low school attendance rates prevail and only 70 percent of children complete the full five-year cycle of primary education.

In response and as part of its national poverty reduction plans, the Government's priorities are to strengthen both its education and social safety net systems. Capacity strengthening and technical assistance are at the heart of this effort.

In 2012, the Government of Bangladesh started with the establishment of a government-run national school meals programme. Bangladesh wanted to explore

various options in order to choose the best fit.

Partnership between Bangladesh and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

A partnership between the Government of Bangladesh and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, which started in 2012, provided the basis to explore a possible transfer of expertise from Brazil's *Zero Fome* strategy.

In 2012, approximately one year after the Government of Bangladesh launched its School Feeding in Poverty Prone Areas project, Brazil, via the Centre, received a request to organize a South-South learning visit.

The delegation from Bangladesh included the Minister of Primary and Mass Education. The overall objective of the visit was to explore options for the design and implementation of an innovative school meals approach.

Results

The outcome of the learning exchange was the Ministry's decision to develop a hot meal school meals initiative linked to local agriculture in Bangladesh. The programme should be linked to local agriculture and contribute to the improvement of the quality of education and the nutritional status of schoolchildren. It should benefit smallholders and marginalized cultivators, especially women.

Partnership between the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and Bangladesh

Description: Delegation from Bangladesh visiting the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

Photo: WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

Further information: For further information on this case, please contact isadora.ferreira@wfp.org.





School meals programme

An action plan was prepared by the visiting delegation which included:

- Piloting of a school meals initiative which was launched in 2013 and is now assisting 20,000 children in 100 schools. The pilot involves purchasing vegetables from community women growers and providing hot meals instead of fortified biscuits.
- Considerations for the formulation of a national school meals policy and strategy: The results of this initiative will inform Bangladesh's decision on whether school meals with linkages to local producers and larger benefits for the communities could form part of a longer term vision and transition.

Reflections

Four key messages have emerged from this partnership example.

1. Tailor the demand for South-South knowledge transfers to the specific food security challenge in the local context and build on win-win opportunities for all partners involved.

For Bangladesh, the partnership with the Centre was a vehicle to advance progress on various thematic issues and contribute to strengthening foreign relations with Brazil.

For Brazil, the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil has contributed to deepening relations with Bangladesh.

For WFP, this partnership offered room for learning how to best support countries to end hunger and promote food security and nutrition in line with global and national targets, through South-South and triangular cooperation.

For traditional donors, such as the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), who contributed to funding this partnership, the Centre was a mechanism to cooperate with multiple partners at the same time.



School meals in action, supported by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

2. Combine political momentum for transition, with knowledge sharing of effective implementation.

Political capital can be channelled through strong implementation mechanisms and “safe spaces” for testing out new approaches.

South-South initiatives can inspire the adoption of specific food security solutions. However, as in the case of Bangladesh, achievements can never be attributed to one single factor.

3. Ensure that South-South cooperation strengthens national implementation capacities.

By taking an approach which is focused on the early engagement of stakeholders throughout the different stages of the South-South learning process, national capacities can be developed on all sides. These can contribute to greater sustainability and scaling up of food security measures.

4. Advance progress towards multiple Sustainable Development Goals through a holistic approach and inter-sectoral linkages

To address hunger in all its facets, with a focus on the most vulnerable, it is necessary to capture cross-linkages to other thematic areas, such as health, education, agriculture

Background information:

This case study has been prepared as a basis for WFP’s participation at the [Global South-South Development Expo 2014](#). It has formed the basis for the intervention of Mr. Stanlake Samkange, Director of WFP’s Policy and Programme Division, in the [High-level Meeting of Directors General of International Cooperation Agencies](#).

Authors:

Cynthia Jones and Christiani Buani, WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil;
Carola Kenngott, WFP Policy and Programme Division.



UNOSSC. 2014 Global South-South Development Expo in Washington, DC.

2. Fighting under-nutrition in Paraguay through policy advocacy

WFP's partnership with the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI)

Background

Over the past 20 years, the Latin America and Caribbean region has witnessed significant reductions in the prevalence of undernourishment and the number of people affected.

However, despite overall growth in the region, marked differences continue to exist within countries, in terms of income distribution and access to social protection programmes. There are segments of the population that are still suffering from food insecurity and chronic under-nutrition.

Several Latin American countries are working together to overcome these challenges.

The role of Chile

Chile has one of the lowest child under-nutrition rates in Latin America, partly due to well-coordinated public health and social protection policies. Between 1960 and 2000, the prevalence of under-nutrition was reduced from 37 to 2.9 percent for children under six years. Today the country has achieved a virtual eradication of child under-nutrition (1.8).

Within the region, Chile is sharing its experiences and expertise in nutrition with other countries in Latin America.

The Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) created in 1990, contributes to the achievement of Chile's foreign policy goals by promoting "horizontal" and triangular cooperation with institutions and countries in the region. AGCI engages in triangular cooperation with various international partners in diverse areas, including food security and nutrition.

The South-South opportunity with Paraguay

The *National Assistance Programme on Food and Nutrition (PROAN)* of Paraguay expressed interest in implementing a series of public policies based on the experiences and lessons learned from Chile.

As a response, in 2010 and 2011, the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) and the Chilean Ministry of Health, supported by WFP, collaborated with Paraguay to help the country define measures to enhance food security and nutrition.



Fighting hunger and malnutrition in Latin America

South-South cooperation in action

The cooperation between Chile and Paraguay had on three objectives:

- **Formulation of an Integrated Nutrition Policy**, to articulate all nutrition-based programmes into one framework and to identify a central coordinating body for the monitoring of programmes.
- **Capacity strengthening** for technical and professional staff to implement the upcoming policy.
- **Development of an implementation strategy** to reach people suffering from under-nutrition at the community level. A specific focus of the strategy is the prevention of stunting and improved child nutrition.

On the process:

The South-South initiative was developed and implemented in four steps:

- **Step 1 - Expression of political will and demand:** In 2009, the Chilean President visited Paraguay. On this occasion, the President of Paraguay requested urgent assistance from Chile to address national priorities in child nutrition.
- **Step 2 - Defining the right actors:** Based on past cooperation between WFP and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI), a collaboration among Chile, Paraguay and WFP was established.

- **Step 3 – Joint project design:** A joint project was formulated with all partners involved. Deliverables included the formulation of an *Integrated Nutrition Policy*; training and capacity development of government staff on food security and nutrition, and a dissemination strategy to people benefitting from the project at community level.
- **Step 4 – Establishment of an Integral Food and Nutrition Programme (PANI) in Paraguay:** Paraguay's efforts to combat hunger and under-nutrition have been embedded into its *National Institute for Food and Nutrition*. The government's new vision focuses on the prevention of hunger and under-nutrition and a larger coverage of vulnerable groups. Trainings of experts have been rolled out in 103 districts of Paraguay.

The results

With the support from Chile, Paraguay successfully developed an *Integrated Nutrition Policy* with a purpose to end child under-nutrition.

The cooperation between the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) and Paraguay led to the restructuring of Paraguay's *National Assistance Programme on Food and Nutrition* and its integration into the *National Institute for Food and Nutrition (INAN)*, at the Ministry of Health.

Partnership between Chile and Paraguay on nutrition, supported by the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama

Description: Study visit with delegates from Paraguay and Chile.

Photo: WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama.

Further information: For further information on this case, please contact isadora.ferreira@wfp.org.



How many people have benefitted from this initiative in practice?

Starting in 2009, the number of beneficiaries covered by the Integral Food and Nutrition Programme (PANI) progressively increased from 35,610 to 59,362 children and pregnant women in 2013.

What is the scale of this South-South initiative?

In 2009, the programme was extended to 47 districts in 7 departments of the country. By the end of 2013, the programme was further scaled up to reach 178 districts of 13 departments. Only 4 departments and the capital (Asunción) are missing to achieve national coverage.

Have national capacities been strengthened along the process?

Paraguay's government institutions are better equipped today to stop hunger and under-nutrition, with a specific focus on children. This not only relates to the capacity of the institutions to implement measures to end child nutrition and reach the targeted populations, but also to a functional Monitoring and Evaluation System which tracks changes, successes, challenges and lessons from the implementation of child nutrition activities.

Reflections

Lessons learnt from this collaboration include:

- **Political will** of all actors is indispensable for South-South and triangular cooperation in food and nutrition security. At the same time, political support needs to go hand in hand with options for practical implementation of food security and nutrition strategies.
- The **experience and solutions of Southern providers** in how to deal with specific food and nutrition challenges (stunting, child nutrition, school feeding, policy formulation, etc.) **can complement** other ongoing programmes and approaches.
- Southern providers often have their **own networks on the ground** that can strengthen international efforts in food and nutrition security.
- **There is no "blueprint" for adapting a solution** which worked in one country to another one. Rather, it requires careful assessment of the national food and nutrition context and the political and socio-economic situation, in order to make sure that the South-South exchange can **strengthen the impact** on the ground.
- South-South and triangular initiatives can lead to **tangible changes** in the lives of food insecure people if appropriate **funding** for this type of collaboration is secured. A readiness to try out new approaches, and also to display a certain tolerance for failure and learning are paramount for developing effective innovative partnership models.
- **Collaboration and coordination across different ministries and sectors** – within and beyond national boundaries – is key to success. Also, coordination with local authorities is essential for implementing South-South initiatives, and for reaching the right people to benefit from the support measures. Local collaboration can also contribute to the collection of data and evidence.
- Setting up and implementing a new South-South initiative requires **time** as it needs to allow for a **preparatory phase** and a **testing period**.

Authors:

Lorena Rodriguez (AGCI), Laura Mendoza (Paraguay); Maria Pino and Carol Montenegro, WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean; Carola Kennigott, WFP Policy and Programme Division.



Improving food security and nutrition through support to small-holder farmers

3. Mobilizing in-kind support to end hunger during the 2011/12 Horn of Africa Food Crisis

Mitigating the effects of the 2011/12 Food Crisis at the Horn of Africa through twinning partnerships

Overview

During the 2011/12 hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia received in-kind contributions (rice, sugar, fish, beans, meat, etc.), worth over US\$ 13.9 million from countries of the Southern African Development Community (Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) as well as from Cuba, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

In Ethiopia alone, 1.4 million food-insecure people were reached through these contributions.

This case study explores how in-kind support and twinning partnerships can be an effective modality for South-South cooperation in the field of food assistance.

Background

Due to insufficient food production and recurrent food shortages, drought and famine, the Horn of Africa region has been dependent on food assistance for decades.

In 2011/12, failed rains, high food and fuel prices and conflict have resulted in a large-scale food crisis stretching over four countries and affecting over 10 million people.

The opportunity

Beyond mobilizing food assistance from Northern donors, contributions to Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia were also received from other developing countries on the continent and beyond, in order to mitigate the effects of the crisis at the Horn of Africa.

These contributions were received in-kind in the form of food (including rice, sugar, fish, beans, meat, sorghum, rice oil, peas, coarse salt, soya and maize) and in the form of cash

to cover the costs associated with the transport, distribution, etc.

WFP supported this cooperation by facilitating *twinning partnerships* to ensure the transfer of the in-kind contributions to the countries affected by the crisis. Twinning is the matching of an in-kind contribution from one government with the cash commitment from another donor to ensure full coverage of delivery, distribution and monitoring costs.

Not only Northern donors provided the required cash for the recovery of cost associated with the delivery and distribution of the in-kind contributions, but also countries like Mexico and Namibia contributed. In cases where no matching cash-donor could be found, it was possible to bridge cash gaps through an *Emerging Donors Matching Fund (EDMF)*.

Results

How much was distributed?

In-kind contributions (including rice, sugar, fish, beans, meat, sorghum, rice oil, peas, coarse salt, soya and maize), worth over US\$ 13.9 million were received from developing countries.

Which developing countries provided in-kind contributions?

Among the contributors were the Southern African Development Community (Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) as well as Cuba, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

What other positive effects were achieved through the twinning partnerships?

The contributions received during the crisis increased the resource base to help assist the affected populations for a longer period of time.

In addition, countries like Ethiopia and Kenya were able to provide in-kind support (wheat,

beans and rice) to their own populations, equivalent to over UD\$ 14 million.

Since most of the in-kind support consisted of rice, WFP supported the distribution of the rice in refugee camps where it was the preferred commodity. Other foods (e.g. wheat and maize) were allocated to different refugee camps in which the refugee population preferred these commodities.

Challenges

- **Timing:** The timing of the contributions (in-kind and cash for cost recovery) are not always synchronized. It can become challenging when a Southern partner – after a phase of preparations – is willing to contribute rice, corn or other foods and no immediate cash donor can be found for the cost-recovery. This is especially critical in the case of food emergencies when response is time-bound and critical to save lives.
- **Financial Security:** Lack of security for the replenishment of the “Emerging Donors Matching Fund” to bridge short-falls in cash contributions for cost recovery can become a major challenge. It becomes even more critical once in-kind contributions from developing country partners are actually being announced or received.
- **Challenges in the matching:** The matching of supply and demand of in-kind contributions can be challenging. In-kind donations can be unpredictable, and it is not always certain when/how much/what kind of commodities will become available.
- **Quality Assurance:** It is important to place emphasis on making sure the quality standards of the food provided are met. This requires additional capacities and resources, and will need to be embedded into planning and monitoring cycles.

WFP’s role in facilitating twinning partnerships

Beyond WFP’s support in the matching of in-kind and cash contributions, WFP has accompanied countries, upon their demand, in

Authors:

Caterina Galluzi, Kiyori Ueno, WFP Government Partnerships Division;
Carola Kennigott, WFP Policy and Programme Division.

the preparation of the twinning arrangements, for example, through a careful security analysis in affected countries, and in some cases also in programming and resource management for the received contributions.

WFP was drawing on its existing experience, tools and methodologies in food security analysis, programming and resource management, its institutional memory in the handling of food crisis with other countries, and on the existing relations with the governments in the Horn of Africa region.

Reflections

- **Strengthening the role of Southern providers:** This case demonstrates that all countries – independent of their stage of development or income level – can make contributions in times of crisis, and have the potential to become « providers».
- **Quality assurance:** Twinning works if quality assurance and predictable cash flows are in place.
- **Strengthening response mechanisms:** Twinning arrangements can strengthen the receiving country’s economy and ability to respond to food and nutrition challenges, when the country experiences a food crisis.
- **Synchronization:** The timing and coordination of the contributions (in-kind and cash for cost recovery) play an important role in a successful twinning partnership.
- **Cost effectiveness:** Twinning can be a cost effective way of addressing challenges in food security and nutrition, building on Southern contributions, which do not always have to come in monetary form. For any cash-dollar invested, the US dollar value of in-kind contributions is usually higher.



Food assistance during the 2011/12 Food Crisis at the Horn of Africa.



School meals programme in Ethiopia



Australian-Brazilian cooperation through "twinning" whereby Brazil donated the food stocks and Australia covered the transportation cost.



4. Technical cooperation through the “Purchase from Africans for Africa” programme

How South-South cooperation can become a driver for home grown school meals approaches [supported jointly by Brazil, FAO, WFP and DFID]

Overview

The Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) Programme is a joint initiative to promote food and nutrition security and access to institutional markets in Africa. With funding of US\$ 11.5 million provided by Brazil and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), school children and smallholder farmers are supported through local food purchase initiatives jointly designed and implemented by governments, UN agencies and civil society.

The programme is implementing adapted operational models of home grown school meals (HGSM) in order to inform national policies on food assistance and small-scale family farming. It provides technical support to design and implement national policies and to scale up programmes on local food purchase.

The strategy is innovative as it combines food assistance interventions such as school meals and local food procurement, which can create benefits for the entire community.

South-South cooperation is a pillar of the programme and offers a cycle of continuous exchange and learning among developing countries participating in the PAA Programme.

It also offers opportunities for triangular cooperation with donors and multilateral UN agencies. The programme is supported by FAO and WFP’s technical expertise.

The example from Malawi demonstrates how the innovative approach of the programme can promote the link between school meals and small scale family farmers through local food procurement, which can lead to broader benefits for the entire community.

Background and Description of the Programme

The Brazilian Food Purchase Programme was created 11 years ago as part of Brazil’s Zero Hunger Strategy. As a high level political priority for Brazil and with inter-sectorial government involvement, the programme is also the result of the active engagement of civil society through the Brazilian National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA).

The strategy builds on three complementary pillars (implementing, programming and policy) which are based on two main components:

(i) Operations which combine school meals with support to small-scale family farmers and local food procurement: The operational component of the programme aims to support smallholder farmers and their organizations to produce and market food. It seeks to ensure access to food and diversified diets through school meals. In collaboration with governments, FAO supports production while WFP supports local procurement from farmers’ organizations and distribution of the procured items in school feeding programmes;

(ii) Knowledge: The knowledge component includes strategic dialogue and technical support in order to shape national policies on food assistance and family farming. It seeks to provide support for local stakeholders and policy makers to implement these policies and expand local purchase schemes. WFP, FAO and Brazil enable capacity-building among the five partner countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal) with Brazil, and with regional stakeholders.

In the knowledge component, international experts facilitate the assessment, planning and development of local institutional procurement in each country and provide technical assistance for policy and programming. Exchange visits, trainings and international workshops for experience sharing foster the learning process. The South-South exchanges are a tool to assess and support national capacities to promote local food purchases from smallholder farmers. They also support the sharing of lessons learned among African countries.

The “Purchase from Africans for Africa” Programme in Malawi

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Malawian economy, employing about 80 percent of the workforce. Smallholders in Malawi, who represent more than 70 percent of the agricultural sector, rely on rain-fed agriculture, with limited crop diversification.

Despite the achievements in terms of food supply at national level, a large share of the population still suffers from insufficient access to nutritious food due to extreme poverty. Limited diversification of income sources, poor market integration and exposure to natural hazards are also contributing to the problem.

While Malawi has achieved nearly universal access to primary education, school attendance and completion rates are low, partly because of the high food insecurity and challenges in nutrition. 70 percent of eight- to ten-year-old school children do not regularly eat breakfast before going to school, and in 76 percent of the cases this is because of inadequate access to food at the household level.

In Malawi, this situation perpetuates an intergenerational cycle of poverty, malnutrition and vulnerability that has significant consequences for human capital, productivity and economic development. Therefore, providing school health and nutrition services, including school meals, for all children in public primary school is imperative for improving educational quality, equity, access and efficiency.

School meals are the largest and most widespread food assistance intervention in Malawi. They are being implemented by the government in collaboration with development partners, including WFP. School

meal interventions provide daily meals to over 1.5 million pupils from about 1,300 schools in 22 districts, representing about 30 percent of the total number of pupils. A large share of the products used for school meals in Malawi come from in-kind donations from international donors.

However, considering the government’s priority to reduce imported food and to increase the internal production and the current positive food supply demand balance, models that prioritize the use of locally-produced products in school meals such as home grown school meals become essential for sustainable school meals programmes. This is where the PAA programme, with its focus on locally-procured food, can make a practical contribution.

Brazil’s learning and successes in school meals programmes has been inspiring for Malawi, where a positive scenario unfolds with the increasing potential of the agricultural sector to promote local purchases from Malawi’s smallholder farmers.

The country is planning to scale up school meals. Embedded into Malawi’s School Health and Nutrition strategy, the government is taking steps towards promoting local food procurement from small family farmers on a larger scale, to benefit the entire community.



Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme

Results

- **Infrastructure development:** PAA Africa has supported infrastructure development in seven schools in Malawi to enhance the handling of locally-procured items. Seven kitchens, seven storerooms and six feeding shelters were established.
- **Training:** Through FAO, PAA Africa provided support to farmers and their organizations to improve productivity, diversity and marketing skills, post-harvest loss management and processing. 74 local technicians and community members were trained.
- **Increase in agricultural production:** WFP has been linking efforts to increase agricultural production and increase access to markets through its Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, which supported the Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa and warehouse receipt system. P4P supported purchases from small and medium traders at national level and from farmers organizations directly. Part of the commodities purchased in the country are being distributed through Malawi's school meals programme which between 1999 and 2008 has registered a 40 percent increase in enrolment in supported primary schools.
- **Capacity Development:** Capacities of 133 local government and community members were strengthened in related areas, including fund management, record keeping, nutrition, safe food preparation, hygiene and sanitation, among others. Positive results led to leveraging the pilot and engaging with other partners to scale up the home grown school meals initiative to 79 new schools.
- **Local food purchases:** Over 106 metric tons of diversified food items (pulses, cereals, vegetables, fruit and animal products) were purchased directly by the schools from smallholder farmers' organizations.
- **Linking strategic and technical discussions:** On the one hand, strategic and technical dialogue was facilitated among the PAA Africa countries on the local food procurement agenda, through international consultancy and knowledge sharing events. On the other hand, models were tested and the capacity of

the government was strengthened in the implementation of Malawi's home grown school meals approach.

- **South-South Cooperation:** The regular exchange among Malawi and other developing countries has facilitated the sharing of experiences and solutions which form part of the PAA approach, and which fit into Malawi's food security and nutrition context. These solutions are being adapted through joint design, planning and implementation of activities with the support of Brazilian experts, WFP and FAO. These solutions include support to production, procurement and use of diversified local products through government support to small-scale family farmers and food procurement from them for school meals.

Snapshot of partners involved

- **Brazil:** Funding is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its General Coordination of International Actions against Hunger (CGFOME). The Brazilian Government and the Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), which consists of representatives from government and civil society, follows the programme implementation, providing technical and political input. They also take part in strategic and technical dialogue with the programme countries.
- **Malawi:** The implementation of PAA in Malawi is carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Water and Development (MoAIWD) in partnership with WFP and FAO. The District Councils facilitate capacity building and food procurement at school level. MoAIWD and civil society play the role of strengthening the productive capacity of smallholder farmer organizations that are linked to the schools for adequate supply of diversified food commodities.
- **UN agencies:** FAO and WFP are working hand in hand to complement their mandates. PAA Africa has built on WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) and school meals initiatives, and on FAO's long standing expertise in support to small-scale family farmers' production and market integration. In Malawi, WFP and

FAO have acted as partners at strategic, technical and implementation levels. Both agencies work together on strengthening the Government's capacity on programming and designing of policies on local food procurement and on supporting strategic and technical dialogue with Brazil and the other PAA countries.

- WFP (School Meals and P4P initiatives) contributes to the development of home grown school meals, supporting local procurement distribution and diversification of school meals. Leveraging its experience under the P4P initiative, WFP has utilized its lessons learned to partner with the Malawian government providing a guaranteed market for smallholder farmers' produce, through the Brazilian funds.
- FAO contributes to the design and implementation of tailored agricultural support for small-scale family farmers, which are linked to the HGSM procurement, providing support to governments for the design and implementation of agricultural programmes and policies, in order to stimulate productive and sustainable impacts in the agricultural sector and in order to allow diversified smallholder farmers' food supply for the targeted demand of school meals purchases.
- **United Kingdom:** Funding and technical inputs are provided by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).
- **A consortium of local NGOs** (Malawi Lake Basin Programme) supported by P4P also provided direct support to farmers' organizations to address their capacity needs through relevant training, oversight and infrastructure development.

Main successes and opportunities

- **For Malawi:**
 - ⇒ Implementation of Malawi's National Priorities (e.g. School Health and Nutrition strategy), while testing what works on the ground.
 - ⇒ Strengthening Malawi's local procurement systems.

⇒ Benefits for the whole community: School children have diversified meals at school. The schools' staff and the parents of school children are trained on planning and management of funds and on new agricultural techniques. The farmers who are selling to the school have a stable market and can plan their production in advance, while they receive training in production and commercialization. And the farmers who participate in the food preparation as volunteers, learn new recipes which they can also use at home.

⇒ Opening dialogue with the civil society on school meals, support to smallholder farmers and local procurement.

- **For Brazil:**

⇒ Strengthening cooperation with Malawi. Brazil is strengthening its political and socio-economic ties with Malawi and promoting shared goals in food security and nutrition through South-South and triangular cooperation.

⇒ Complementing Brazil's approach, capacity and reach in home grown school meals and support to small-scale family farmers through the tripartite partnership with WFP and FAO.

- **For WFP and FAO:**

⇒ PAA has demonstrated how RBA collaboration can strengthen each other's efforts in a specific sector (agricultural production, procurement, school feeding), and promote a joint effort in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

⇒ Testing innovative models of local food procurement from small-scale family farmers for school feeding in the context of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

⇒ Strengthening WFP's and FAO's existing relations with Malawi.

Main Challenges

For Malawi:

- Applying the correct criteria to select beneficiary schools.
- Need to invest in short- and medium-term learning activities, training and incentives to increase human resources capacities in local food production and purchases. It is essential to reinforce national government capacities as well as multi-sectorial mechanisms.
- In certain cases, hesitations on the part of the school management to procure food from farmer organizations. The signing of contracts has helped to bind the two parties together and improve cooperation.
- Limited understanding of the programme by some community members and schools can undermine full participation during the introduction of the programme. In this regard, WFP facilitated capacity development for local communities.
- Funding schools through central structures can require more time than foreseen. Now the funds are disbursed to district council accounts that transfer the funds to schools within two days.

For Brazil:

- Implementation reality: Even when carefully elaborated, South-South initiatives such as PAA encounter challenges in the implementation, because every country context is different. Guaranteeing political and technical support throughout this entire process is considered by Brazil a challenge and a condition for success of the initiative.



Support to smallholder farmers

For WFP and FAO:

- Good coordination among both agencies is a must for the successful implementation of PAA.
- Finding an effective working mechanism with the host governments can take some time, as it is related to building implementation capacity, processes, operating procedures, and making sure that necessary resources are available.
- It is important to identify a sustainable funding mechanism, especially one which enables harnessing the practices, solutions and experiences of a country like Brazil.

Reflections

Learning from this experience, there are a number of key messages which are important to consider:

- **Political will:** Sharing strong political will is a basic requirement for triangular partnerships like the one described here between the United Kingdom, Brazil, Malawi and the UN.
- **Learning and flexibility to adapt:** Pilot projects should build on existing initiatives and working structures. They should be supported through monitoring and be flexible for adjustments in implementation, building on practical experiences. This requires dedicated capacities, time and commitment from all partners involved, with strong participation of the developing country that is adopting the solution.
- **Room for experimentation:** Innovation is at the heart of South-South initiatives. It can be fostered through the sharing of Southern expertise, joint design, planning and implementation of initiatives or technology transfer. Because development cannot be considered a linear process, it requires room for testing new approaches, evaluation and re-design, as required. For the UN and national development agencies this is an important aspect to keep in mind when scaling up support to South-South and triangular cooperation.



PAA Africa, support to smallholder farmers.

- Joint planning and implementation of initiatives:** Cooperation initiatives require joint design, planning, implementation, monitoring and adaptation. The developing country partner needs to play a leading role from the beginning to make sure the country's priorities are well reflected and the right group of people are targeted.
- Support for South-South learning through tangible results:** The most effective way to bolster South-South cooperation in the context of school feeding and local procurement is to demonstrate concrete results and to highlight the changes for the people involved (school children, local producers and community members). Capturing these results and changes requires dedicated capacities and resources. The return on this "investment" is high and helps build "political capital" with governments and civil society organizations.
- Clear definition of roles:** Different types of roles – financial, strategic, and technical – can be played by Governments and UN partners in support to South-South and Triangular cooperation. These roles must be discussed and clearly defined in partnership arrangements.

Opportunities to engage and receive further information:

Website: www.paa-africa.org

FAO: esn-director@fao.org

WFP: wfp.paa.africa@wfp.org

Authors:

This paper has been jointly prepared by Carola Kenngott and Darana Souza, WFP Policy and Programme Division; Israel Klug, Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme, FAO; with thanks for inputs from Valeria Marua, WFP Malawi; Rosana Miranda, Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme, FAO; the Government of Malawi and the Government of Brazil.

5. Partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium

Spurring regional collective action towards enhancing food and livelihood security in Africa

Background

Established in 1988, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) [*Consortium pour la Recherche Economique en Afrique*] is an independent regional think tank headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Its core mission is to strengthen the capacity of African countries to manage economic challenges at the regional and national levels, and also to enhance the indigenous voice in development politics.

This is achieved through a network of locally-based professionals and experts to support evidence-based policies design and implementation. At present it engages 42 universities and research institutions across 35 countries in Africa.

AERC's rigorous action-oriented research and technical expertise has enabled it to provide effective assistance to decision makers through evidence-based policy support, and through enhancing capacity development for the African region to ensure food and nutrition security at the continental level.

The Framework

AERC consolidates its network of professional economists and experts through:

- The facilitation of postgraduate studies in Economics, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Institutional strengthening and support is also made available to local public universities;
- Commissioning policy-relevant research on poverty, food security, trade and regional integration, natural resources management and agricultural policy by professionals in academic, policy institutions and government; and
- Promoting the incorporation of indigenous research in development politics through the convening of policy outreach meetings throughout the year.

AERC's convening power is demonstrated through the participation of high-level national representatives in regional events to support policy-making dialogue.



African Economic Research Consortium.

Support has come from the highest levels of government, including the presidency, ministers, governors of central banks, heads of civil services, permanent secretaries and heads of government agencies and parastatal firms.

AERC's Board of Directors includes members from the African Development Bank, national governments and banks, as well as international partners such as USAID, World Bank, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Department for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

AERC is supported by several donors including international organizations, governments, multilateral organizations (e.g. UNU-Wider, Global Development Network, German Academic Exchange Service, IrishAid) and private foundations such as Alliance of a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the MacArthur Foundation.

Partnership with AERC

WFP has been increasing its support to Southern academic networks and research institutes to address food security and nutrition challenges. This expands the range of innovative solutions to promote food security and nutrition, which are often better tailored when generated and tested in developing countries themselves.

Between 2011 and 2016, AERC had been working closely with WFP in the context of projects related to the *Purchase for Progress Initiative (P4P)* which links smallholder farmers to market opportunities through data collection and analysis.

AERC's efforts to promote evidence-based policy-making and boost the African continent's capacity to address food security and nutrition challenges, well complemented and strengthened other ongoing efforts to support national governments to advance food and nutrition security in their countries.



P4P support to African small-holder farmers



African Economic Research Consortium.

Accomplishments

In the 25 years of its existence, AERC has made important achievements in the following areas:

- Expansion of available economic expertise in Africa:** The AERC training programmes have produced competent Masters and PhD economics graduates. AERC Alumni are widespread across national, regional and international organizations focused on economic growth and poverty reduction on the African continent. There is also a steady increase in the number of AERC alumni occupying key policy positions in government institutions.
- AERC is demonstrating its value to indigenous stakeholders:** In August 2014, ten Bank Governors (from Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Burundi, Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Mauritius and Rwanda) met and pledged to contribute to the financial support for AERC going forward, in a bid to ensure sustainability of an organization they consider crucial in generating economic policy research on the continent. The Governors resolved to include a line-item for AERC in their Central Bank budgets, and in line with other AERC funders, have also assumed a single seat on the AERC Board through a group directorship.
- Fostering a community of researchers:** In addition to the annual Senior Policy Seminar (SPS) events, AERC hosts bi-annual research workshops, attended by up to 200 people. The event has become the largest gathering of professional economists in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Promoting collaboration among African universities:** Since 2002, 21 universities have been participating in collaborative programmes that provide Masters and PhD training for economists. The collaboration features a joint facility for electives, enforcement of standards through internationally recruited external examiners, a common curriculum and a joint development of teaching materials. AERC also draws on the support of experts from academic institutions outside the African continent for the planning and delivery of the training.
- Facilitating South-South learning:** AERC's regional networking framework has positioned it as an effective channel for cross-learning and sharing of development solutions among countries of the Global South. AERC serves as a "convener" for the sharing of empirical evidence for informed policy-making. It provides new opportunities for decision makers and academic institutions to discuss key policy research issues in Sub-Saharan Africa and to identify further areas of policy-oriented research.

Reflections

The partnership with AERC had yielded important insights on effective modalities to design and implement pro-smallholder market development initiatives, and on innovative ways to support South-South collaboration and regional collective action.

- **Importance of evidence-building for achieving zero hunger:**

Evidence-based research, supported by organizations like AERC, can help to scale up poverty reduction strategies as well as innovative initiatives in food security and nutrition. They can encourage and build effective partnerships between researchers and policy makers to promote zero hunger in the political agenda of African governments.

- **Organizations like AERC can spur collective action** among decision-makers on the African continent and ensure that food security and nutrition remain on top of regional agendas and priorities.
- **Developing local capacities:** Regional academic institutions can also play a role to enhance capacities of practitioners in developing countries and promote learning to manage hunger and malnutrition challenges.
- **Improving programme outcomes:** Partnerships with organizations with proven expertise such as AERC, can make an important contribution to better programme outcomes, by providing effective platforms for sharing good practices and innovations.

Opportunities to engage and receive further information:

AERC has developed a data portal to share the learning emerging from P4P as well as other information related to research on Local Procurement. For more information, please see: <https://www.aercdevdata.org/>, <http://aercafrica.org/> or contact damian.fontaine@wfp.org.

Authors:

Clare Mbizule, Purchase for Progress, WFP Policy and Programme Division.
Damien Fontaine, Purchase for Progress, WFP Policy and Programme Division.
Carola Kenngott and Igor Bazemo, WFP Policy and Programme Division.



African Economic Research Consortium.





6. The Cost of Hunger in Africa Study

A pan-African initiative to inform national and continental decisions on child nutrition

Overview

The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study is a pan-African initiative, launched by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The study seeks to estimate the economic and social costs of under-nutrition at national and regional level.

The COHA study demonstrates that child nutrition can be a determinant factor in achieving Africa's transformation agenda. The report also highlights that undernourished children are more likely to experience repeated episodes of disease, more likely to repeat school grades and will be less productive in adult age. It also includes discussions on the broader social and economic consequences of under-nutrition.

The COHA study is aligned with the framework of the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2005-2025, and has the endorsement of the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND). Specifically, COHA aims to provide African governments and development stakeholders with evidence-based information on the economic consequences of child under-nutrition, in order to inform national and continental decisions.

The original Cost of Hunger Study and methodology was developed in Latin America and the Caribbean, and later piloted in 2004, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for Latin America. Based on the success from Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) collaborated with the African Union Commission (AUC) to adapt the study to the African context.

Background

Despite the economic growth, social transformations across the African continent and significant progress in fighting poverty and hunger, food security and nutrition challenges, in particular child stunting, persists. Malnutrition continues to be among the leading barrier that prevents children and whole societies from realizing their full potential.

Indeed, the COHA study reveals that children who are malnourished go on to earn 20 percent less as adults than the children who are well nourished. This is partly as a result of its impacts on educational development—as well as on physical productivity and health. Estimates suggest that in low- and middle-income countries, the impact of malnutrition decreases GDP by between 1.9 and 16.5 percent. This in turn signifies that malnutrition greatly impedes economic growth.

To address these problems, efforts have been made at the regional level to endorse and support strategies directed towards eradicating hunger and food insecurity. The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study is one of such efforts, which specifically helps to guide informed response to these challenges.

So far, the COHA study has been carried out in 10 African countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, and Madagascar. Ongoing studies include Mauritania, Lesotho, Mozambique, Mali, DRC, and Zimbabwe. Plans continue to pursue studies in Botswana, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as these countries have expressed interest to conduct the COHA studies as well.

Approach

The COHA study's methodology and approach is derived from the original model developed by the ECLAC, with support from the WFP Regional Bureau in Latin America.

In collaboration with UNECA the methodology was adapted to the African continent.

The COHA study analyses three sectors, health, education and labour productivity through the lense of a person's life cycle and is conducted through different modalities:

- **Analysis of child under-nutrition's social and economic impact.** Analysis comprises mainly secondary data from national datasets such as demographic household surveys (DHS), household budget surveys, etc. COHA's analysis quantifies costs using two approaches. The retrospective dimension evaluates how child under-nutrition is rooted in each country. The prospective dimension calculates the potential socio-economic losses due to under-nutrition.
- **Generating comparative data and statistics based on the estimated costs of stunting in each participating country.** COHA's methods of estimating under-nutrition's impact is not only a valuable tool to compare the state of under-nutrition in each participating country but serves also as a platform for showcasing country specific challenges and achievements. As such, the model studies how inadequate nutrition may affect livelihoods, economic performance, child mortality, access to education, health services (high costs of accessing treatment), and gender equality.
- **Developing scenarios aimed to anticipate and respond to challenges in the future.** The COHA studies provide countries with long-term strategies to assess and address child stunting and food-insecurity issues. This includes the elaboration of scenarios and the design and development of adequate

action plans to tackle food deprivation issues.

- **Exploring modalities to facilitate knowledge transfer, technical assistance, capacity building and scaling up of successful food policies.** The COHA model provides an opportunity for the participating countries to access reliable information and relevant best practices in each participating country. South-South and triangular cooperation can support these countries to tap into each other's experiences.
- **Facilitating policy dialogue at the continental level.** The COHA studies aim at raising awareness of child stunting among development stakeholders, including governments and various local actors, UN agencies, international financial institutions and others. They are a powerful tool to advocate for effective food security and nutrition policies. COHA results inform policy and decisions while promoting effective partnerships between African member states and development agencies to develop national nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes.

As a partner, WFP has been supporting countries through technical backstopping through its expanded presence in Africa. WFP also fosters advocacy efforts by supporting the launches of the COHA reports, using national, continental and global platforms to raise awareness and influence or trigger nutrition-sensitive policies.

Challenges

Despite the COHA studies' importance in terms of advocating for increased investment in nutrition, challenges still remain:

- Food price instability combined with the problem of food supplies and transport may affect the design and implementation of food policies in the different participating countries.

- Additional funding will be necessary to remove poverty traps and eradicate under-nutrition challenges as well as to promote investment in human capital building.
- Policy coherence and coordinated action among the different partners are required to mitigate the impact of food insecurity on the most vulnerable populations.



COHA studies

Results and Achievements

The COHA initiative's approach has yielded results in the following areas:

- **Enhanced capacity in data collection, analysis and reporting:** The COHA initiative has contributed to strengthen African government's capacity to collect and analyze data as well as report on estimated social and economic impact of nutrition deficiencies. Stakeholders who benefit from the capacity development include national experts from Ministries of Health, Education, Labour,

Agriculture, Planning and Social Development, Finance and Statistics institutions.

- **Enhanced awareness, advocacy and collective action to address nutrition challenges:** Through the publication of country reports and surveys, the COHA initiative is an effective platform for raising awareness on nutrition and food systems challenges to a wide range of partners such as regional institutions, international development partners, governments, private sector and civil society.

⇒ In 2012, the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and recognized the importance of the COHA studies as a relevant step to strengthen food security and build self-reliance in Africa.

⇒ They adopted Resolution 898 to enhance its initial achievements.

⇒ A direct outcome of the COHA study is the Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE 2025), an initiative led by the African Union Commission (AUC), aimed at bringing together regional efforts on the reduction of child under-nutrition in Africa.

⇒ The AU Assembly met in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014. The theme that was discussed was *Transforming Africa's Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*. The meeting further underlined the importance of COHA, and called for its scaling up at continental level. The African Heads of State and Government during this summit, committed to bringing down stunting to 10 percent and underweight to 5 percent by 2025, while also affirming their commitment to position this goal as a high-level objective in national development plans and strategies.

- **Successful inter-continental collaboration:** COHA is a good example of regional collective action for nutrition. ECLAC and ECA worked together through joint technical learning and consultations to facilitate knowledge sharing and adaption of the model to Africa.

- **Cross-fertilization:** Efforts have been made to link the COHA studies with relevant initiatives that contribute to reducing child under-nutrition.

⇒ One such initiative is the *Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement*. COHA studies present strong arguments for investing in child nutrition in specific country contexts. The studies have therefore helped to prompt countries to join the SUN movement.

⇒ Similarly, there is a strong synergy between the COHA studies and the *Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger” (REACH)* initiative, a global initiative proposed by UN agencies (WFP, WHO, FAO and UNICEF), which provides technical assistance to national governments in developing plans and strategies to scale up nutrition investments.

- **Successful inter-agency collaboration:** A number of UN partners, namely WFP, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO) were part of the group that helped to develop the approach of the COHA initiative.

Authors:

Wanja Kaaria, WFP Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa;
Carola Kennigott and Igor Bazemo, WFP Policy and Programme Division.



7. Regional collective action on disaster risk reduction through African Risk Capacity

Supporting developing countries to better prepare for and respond to natural disasters

Challenge

Over the last four decades, Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced more than 1,000 disasters. They are a major threat to development, putting recent economic development gains at risk. Africa's disaster profile is characterized by extreme hydro-meteorological events that will likely increase in frequency and magnitude as a result of climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa's disaster profile is closely linked to the vulnerability of its population and economy and their often low capacities to cope with natural hazards.

Towards a Solution

The African Risk Capacity initiative offers an African solution to one of the continent's most pressing challenges. It was established by African states as a specialized agency of the African Union in November 2012.

The overarching aim is to give member states the financial tools and infrastructure that they need to help to break the negative cycle of drought, low resilience and food insecurity by incentivizing and empowering countries to improve their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, thereby protecting the food security of their vulnerable populations.

African Risk Capacity is an innovative initiative for pan-African risk management, offering sovereign-level risk insurance against droughts, floods, cyclones and pandemics through its financial affiliate, African Risk Capacity Ltd, which is capitalized at US\$ 200 million. Through African Risk Capacity, African Union members pool their natural disaster risk, shifting the risk burden away from vulnerable populations and their governments to the international markets, which are better equipped to handle them.

Thirty-two African states have signed the African Risk Capacity Establishment

Agreement to form the Conference of the Parties, representing a transformative moment in African ownership to manage natural disaster risk more effectively.

Contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Specifically, African Risk Capacity addresses the following SDGs:

- SDG 1, by protecting the poor from natural disasters, thereby helping to impede the poverty cycle, and contributing to policy dialogue and transformation by encouraging better risk management and supporting poverty alleviation efforts;
- SDG 2, by enabling a timely response following an extreme natural disaster to protect people against food insecurity before it reaches a critical level;
- SDG 13, by providing an objective measure of climate change and channeling financing from the private sector to member states for climate adaptation; and
- SDG 17, by building strategic partnerships with international institutions, government actors and the private sector and by recognizing that sustainable solutions are dependent on such partnerships.

African Risk Capacity has an innovative public-private partnership structure made up of an international organization that provides government services and a nationally regulated company that conducts financial operations. African Risk Capacity operationalizes pan-Africanism through a ground-breaking financial instrument, taking a major step towards transforming the disaster-response paradigm on the continent and pioneering a move towards African ownership.

Results and achievements to date

In the first year of operation of African Risk Capacity, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal purchased US\$ 129 million in drought insurance coverage from African Risk Capacity Ltd at a total of US\$ 17 million in premium costs paid by those Governments. Following a poor agricultural season in the Sahel, by February 2015, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal had received payouts from African Risk Capacity Ltd totaling over US\$ 26 million, which enabled them to deliver timely assistance to 1.3 million people and over half a million livestock. This intervention averted a situation that could have forced millions of families to sell off hard-won household assets, take children out of school, migrate, or simply accept that their herds had perished, pushing them further into chronic food insecurity.

In May 2015, African Risk Capacity added Gambia, Malawi and Mali. Each secured drought coverage for the 2015/2016 policy year, making the total insurance coverage for 2015/2016 US\$ 178 million, with a corresponding premium of US\$ 24.7 million.

Support in the form of returnable risk capital to African Risk Capacity Ltd of approximately

US\$ 90 million – provided equally by the KfW Development Bank on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) – demonstrated proof of concept. With requests from African governments to access coverage for additional perils through African Risk Capacity Ltd, the agency is now expanding its products from drought to cover flood and tropical cyclone risks across the continent.

African Risk Capacity provides member states with a package of support that guarantees a holistic approach to capacity-building, addressing areas that require development. In addition, it is developing a strategy to become a self-financing group. Through the growth of African Risk Capacity Ltd, the agency, as broker and client manager of the company, can develop a financial strategy together with the company to support its operational costs through an allocation of a percentage of the company's capital.

The agency model is replicable in other parts of the world, particularly in areas where there is already a functioning entity for regional cooperation.

Authors:

Ms. Ekhosuehi Iyahun, Director of Policy and Technical Services; ARC
Ms. Erica Hovanibue, Legal Officer, WFP.





Photo Credits:

Front Cover: WFP/Janaina Ferraz Plessman; Page 2: WFP/Photo Library; Page 5: WFP/Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil; Page 6: WFP/Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil; Page 7: UNOSSC/[UNOSSC website](#); Page 8: WFP/Photo Library; Page 9: WFP/Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP); Page 11: WFP/Photo library; Page 13: WFP/Photo Library; Page 14: WFP/PAA programme; Page 15: WFP/Photo Library; Page 17: WFP/PAA programme; Page 20: WFP/PAA programme; Page 21: WFP/PAA programme; Page 22: AERC/[AERC website](#); Page 23: WFP/P4P programme; Page 24: AERC/[AERC website](#); Page 25: AERC/[AERC website](#); Page 26: WFP/Nida Tariq; Page 29: WFP/[WFP website](#); Page 33: WFP/Riccardo Gangele; Back Cover: WFP/Samir Jung Thapa.

