

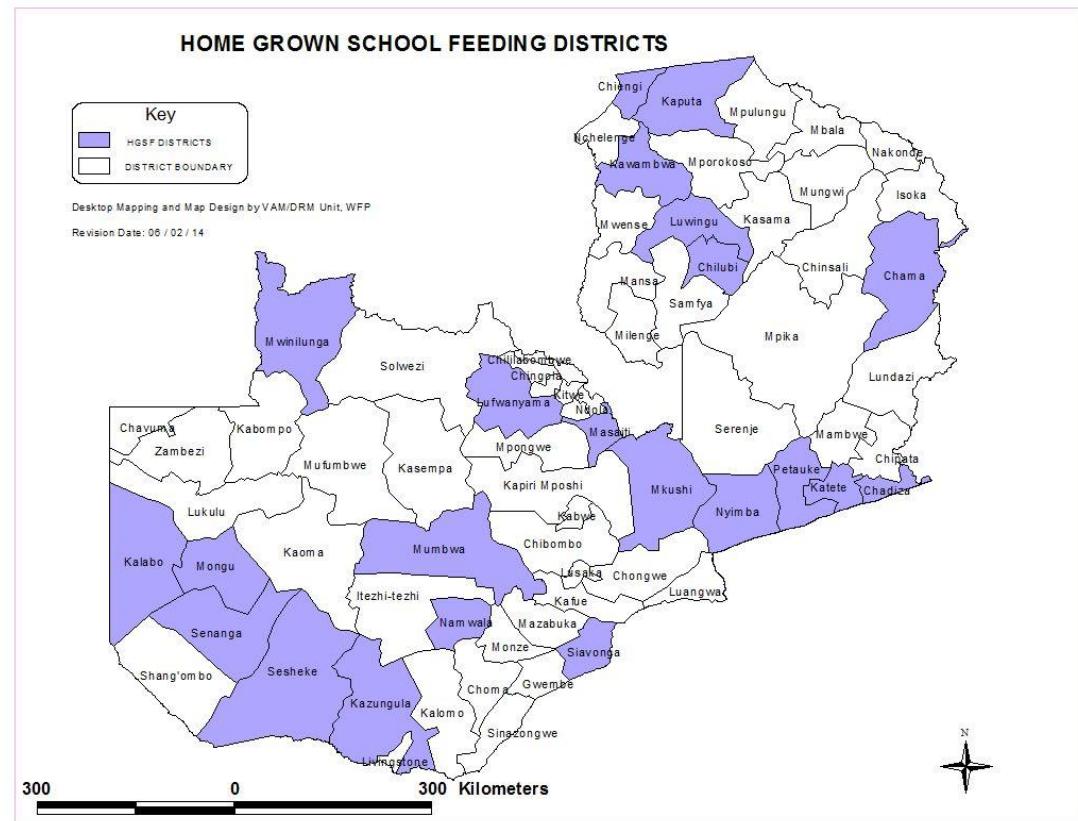
Supporting smallholder market participation through Zambia's Home Grown School Feeding programme

Presented at the Pro-Poor Agricultural development: Agricultural Interventions and the Complementary role of Social Protection Event

Edna Kalaluka- UNWFP

Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF)

- Schools → smallholder farmers
- Both social safety net and a productive safety net
- Schools act as a reliable market for the produce of the farmers
- Goal is to use the HGSF as platform to support increased productivity and production
- This in turn provides farmers with opportunity to increase incomes, food security and nutrition



Home Grown School Feeding Background

- In 2003, the **Comprehensive Africa Development Programme and the New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme** officially recognized the **role of HGSF in promoting food security and rural development**
- In January 2016 African ministers of Education, during the First African Union's Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Education, Science and Technology, endorsed the adoption of **HGSF as “A strategy to improve education, boost local economies and smallholder agriculture, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals”**
- Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 26th AU Summit to establish an African Day of School Feeding centred on **“Home Grown School Feeding: a Conduit for Africa’s Sustainable Development.” (1st March)**

Home Grown School Feeding background



- **The Malabo Declaration indicates as one of its goals “Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025” through among other strategies;**
 - encouraging and facilitating increased consumption of locally produced food items, including the promotion of innovative school feeding programs that use food items sourced from the local farming community.
 - Increasingly, HGSF is being adopted to not only Improve education outcomes but also farmers’ livelihoods through Increased production, market access and improved nutrition.



THE HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING IN ZAMBIA

- 912,753 school children in 35 districts (new)
- 21,979mt/pa (cereals + pulses)
- 180 feeding days a year- meaning that food has to be there!
- Food basket currently limited to Cereals and pulses- but a consultancy to develop diversified menus for the children has commenced
- The food basket is being revised to integrate nutrition through use of local fresh foods.
- Farmers are advised on the crops based on the school requirements
- Two pilots are set to start in Senanga and Mumbwa



How It Happens



- Through FRA, government provides cereals from the districts within which the programme exists (as against previous arrangement)
- A School-FRA satellite pilot has been implemented where maize is collected by schools from nearest satellites significantly cutting down on transport costs
- Pulses are purchased from smallholder farmers, although currently is inter-district (WFP)
- The oil comes from middle-east- this is costly (efforts to identify local suppliers of fortified cooking oil have been ongoing- WFP)

Purchase For Progress and Chimpili Farmers' Group

- WFP implemented a pilot P4P which ended in 2015, with key lessons integrated in the new CP
- Chimpili Coop- 1996 with only 40 members (fertilizer)
- In 2012- WFP went into partnership with them- providing training in marketing, aggregation, farming as a business, quality and quantity plus PHH
- In 2012, the group only sold 23mt of beans to WFP for the HGSF programme
- By 2014, the group's production had exponentially grown, supplying 358mt of pulses worthy USD221,000.
- Although this is only 11% of the HGSF programme requirements, it is a significant improvement in farmers incomes
- Membership has grown to 276 farmers
- Project transformed many households (improved incomes, housing, assets etc)



Bridging the gap Linking CASU TO HGSF



- The FAO/WFP partnership takes cognizant of challenges farmers in the value chain
- In rural communities, lack of markets is among chief reasons for low production levels
- RBA- In 2015/16 season, CASU (FAO) + HGSF (WFP)
- Collaboration has created opportunity to address the entire agricultural value chain (from organization of farmers to consumption in the schools- Farm to Fork)
- Over 300,000 SHFs targeted through lead farmers
- Agronomic trainings promoting CA, extension support, farm inputs, PHH, aggregation, mobilization of private sector and linkages to the markets were provided
- Expect to purchase over 3,600 mt of pulses in this season

HOW THE PARTNERSHIP WORKED

- An RBA team was constituted comprising WFP and FAO
- The 300,000 plus farmers were provided with extension support and inputs
- An SMS based communication system was introduced for market information to all farmers ensuring consistency in the message
- A Price Determination Committee which monitored and reviewed process weekly was set up
- Over 66 agro-dealers mobilized and facilitated to access 19,700 farmers (package of inputs)
- 90 small private sector operators mobilized for aggregation and marketing to WFP HGSF and commercial markets

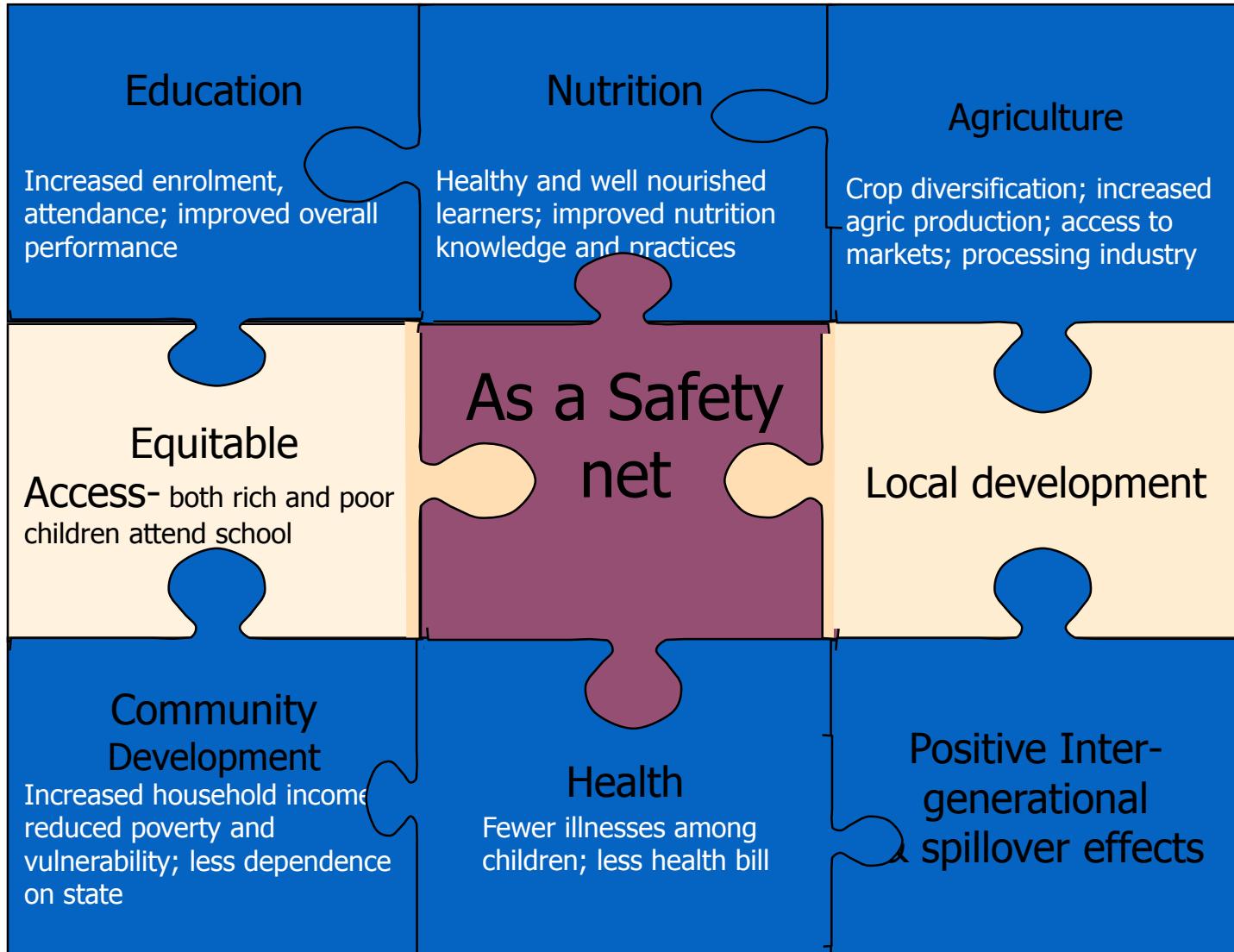
Factors stimulating agricultural production

- Information- access to accurate and transparent
- Reliable markets and market systems
- Access to varied market opportunities (HGSF plus private sector)
- Price determination must be transparently done
- Support towards aggregation
- Capacity building of farmers in the whole value chain (farming, marketing, aggregation etc)
- Looking at a farmer's needs in a comprehensive manner

Benefits of a well interlinked agricultural social protection in a HGSF programme

- Increased market access by rural farmers
- Reduced transactional cost for traders
- Farmers acquire negotiations skills-better value for their crop
- Predictable markets, enabling farmers to plan for commodity marketing prior to planting
- Better commodity prices, more money for the farmers
- More farmer investment in the value chains (otherwise known as small crops)
- May lead to investment in the rural areas
- Overall, stimulating agricultural production and rural economies
- Schoolchildren eat locally grown nutritious foods

The Benefits of A Home Grown School Feeding



However.....Challenges

- Assuring Quality and Quantity of produce at the right time
- Farmers' reliability- HGSF requires predetermined quantities at the right time in the right quantities and quality. Our experiences are that often farmers fail to meet the required quantities
- While HGSF creates demand, there is need for organisations that stimulate production (e.g. FAO), to impact positively on farmers.
- *Limited cash flow* by the Aggregators affecting commodity financing, equipment for both production and post-harvest
- *The use of non- conversional unit of measure* in marketing. E.g medas breeds mistrust between farmers and traders due to different sizes and weights of medas.
- *Limited trust in some Traders*- there is need for confidence and mutual trust. In some cases, some farmers did not trust the aggregators due to perceptions in the communities

Scaling Up a Nationally owned HGSF: What is Needed

- A sustainable HGSF programme, owned and managed by government requires to be multisectoral (community development, agriculture, education, health)
- Effective coordination is key if all the sectors are to meaningfully contribute and benefit from the sector
- Predictable and adequate financing from all sectors is crucial to allow implementation
- Communication mechanisms across sectors and intra sector is important
- Investments into farmers support services is key
- Adequate capacities across all sectors involved and levels is priority
- HGSF policy would help streamline activities and give programme legitimacy



Conclusion



- A well-designed, coordinated and funded HGSF is a sure pathway to improving agricultural production for SHFs, improve nutrition outcomes among households and school children, improve health and incomes and overall the rural economy
- A healthier well fed child learns better- so it is an investment into the current and the future
- There are opportunities for other SP interventions like FSP, FISP and SCTs to link into the HGSF programme for markets but also as a graduation platform for HHs with labour capacity
- Overall, collaboration with agricultural institutions like FAO, IFAD and MAL key for the concept of HGSF to succeed