Linking Nutrition to agriculture through school Feeding

CAADP Nutrition Workshop, SADC

GABORONE,

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EXPERIENCE FROM MOZAMBIQUE
TWO SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

School Feeding Transitional Programme

- **Responsible institution:** Government of Mozambique in partnership with WFP
- **Geographical Coverage:** Cahora Bassa and Changara, two food-insecure districts in Tete province (175 primary schools, 76,500 beneficiaries)
- **Duration:** 4 years
- **Start date:** 2012 **End date:** 2015
- **Ongoing:** yes
- **Contact person:** Jafar Aly (Jafar.Aly@mined.gov.mz)

Project “Supporting the set-up of a National School Feeding Programme of Mozambique” (tripartite agreement BRA/04/044)

- **Responsible institution:** Government of Mozambique in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and WFP.
- **Coverage:** 12 primary schools located in 4 different agro-ecological zones (13,600 beneficiaries). Nampula, Tete, Manica and Gaza provinces
- **Duration of initiative:** 4 1/2 years
- **Start date:** 2011 **End date:** 2014
- **Contact person:** Mr. Jafar Aly – Jafar.Aly@mined.gov.mz
Mozambique’s experience: setting up a national HGSF programme and phasing out WFP support gradually

2 complementary interventions from 2012 until 2015:

- **School feeding programme in food-insecure districts (100% geographical coverage)**
  - capacity building for management, logistics and monitoring at scale
  - progressive hand-over of responsibilities from WFP to the government
  - provision of locally produced staple food through central procurement by WFP
  - linkage with smallholder farmers’ associations through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) and Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA Africa) initiatives
  - local food fortification and de-worming ensured by the Ministry of Health

- **Testing of decentralized food procurement models**
  - 12 pilot schools located in different agro-economic zones
  - more diversified food basket based on local agricultural production and seasonality developed by a nutritionist
  - build the capacities of districts to carry out food procurement from smallholder farmers’ associations
  - train schools and community volunteers in handling of perishable food commodities, hygiene and food preparation
Mozambique’s experience: policy development for the set up of a national HGSF programme

On May 2013 Government, through the Council of Ministers anonimously approved a proposal for HGSF.

3 pillars of proposed programme;

- **Provision of nutritious and diversified meals** based on locally produced food commodities to pre-primary and primary school children, with gradual coverage starting from the most food-insecure districts

- **Nutrition Education** to promote healthy habits and mitigate malnutrition in the medium and long term

- **School gardens** to develop life skills
Mozambique’s experience: in transition towards a national HGSF programme

Capacity building activities

2012
MoE
Pilot preparation

2013
WFP
Data collection
Pilot roll-out in 4 schools

2014
MoE
Data collection
Pilot implemented in all 12 schools

2015
WFP
Data collection and lessons learned from the pilot incorporated

2016 onward
Full hand-over and progressive scaling-up
Mozambique’s experience: setting up a home-grown national school feeding programme

Operational challenges

• Ensure quantity and quality of food purchased from smallholder farmers’ associations to meet the stable demand created by the school feeding programme
• Capacity of government staff at all levels to manage, implement and monitor a home-grown school feeding programme
• Storage and handling of perishable products at school level

Opportunities

• Creation of a market for a broader variety of food commodities, increasing diversification of local production
• Promotion of synergies among different stakeholders and interventions on the supply side directed towards smallholder farmers’ associations
EXPERIENCE FROM BOTSWANA
Botswana National School Feeding programme

- **Responsible institution:** Ministry of Local Government and Rural Devt. –under FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

- **Geographical Coverage:** 331 000 beneficiaries in all government primary schools (752 p.schools). One Meal a day.

- A second meal is offered to Children in Remote Area Districts (RADs)

- **Start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 1966 following famine in 1965. and Ongoing.

- **Contact person:** Ms V.M.Mafule; vmafule@gov.bw
OBJECTIVES OF SF

• To combat malnutrition amongst children in primary schools.
• To improve school attendance among school going children
• To promote nutrition education in schools.
Menu changes: for diversification and livelihood support

- a new menu recommending more local foods was introduced and procurement was partly decentralized in 2003.
- The menu introduced in 2003 comprises of local staple cereal (sorghum), beef and some imported food items. No fruits and Veggies.
- Sorghum processed at school level to allow for community participation and economic empowerment.
Menu changes-cont

• 2008- A Presidential Directive to have schools purchase excess seasonal produce in order to support farmers.
• school menu shifted from providing only staples but also seasonal agricultural produce.
• From this directive, farming amongst small scale farmers improved from producing staple foods to other grains including, pulses/cowpeas, groundnuts, and sunflower.
Benefits of BFSP: school children, farmers, community

• Reduces hunger among school children, therefore better concentration

• Increases enrolment and school attendance.

• Schools procure commodities from their local small holder farmers - no need for storage of fresh produce

• Local farmers make a living by selling their crops to immediate local schools; less money on transport.

• Created jobs - i.e. Food preparation and hand stamping of sorghum in rural government schools has positively affected lives of women.
Challenges:

• With HGSF, means transitioning from a predominantly centralised procurement to decentralizing to Local authorities, but limited capacity at district level

• Botswana ‘s climate is mainly arid or semi-arid and unreliable rainfall- makes the linkage between SF and agriculture more difficult.

-Country not self sufficient in food production
Find out more at
www.hgsf-global.org

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