



WFP Food and Non Food Responses

Current Status

EC Regional Seminar on Food Security – Africa

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Scott Ronchini

WFP VAM Advisor – Eastern and Central Africa Region

Presentation outline – Non Food Item (NFI) Responses

Updates on:

- Policy
- Assessment
- Programming
- Programming challenges & Information gaps
- Emerging lessons
- WFP's next steps

Where are we on NFI Response Policy?

- WFP has no official policy on cash transfers yet
- WFP is actively participating to key gatherings and consultations...
 - ODI "Cash and Vouchers in Emergency Conference"
 - OECD-DAC PovNet Team work on "Social Protection and Cash Transfers"
 - World Bank "Third Conference on Conditional Cash Transfers"
 - Oxfam-RHVP-SARPN "Regional Cash Transfers Workshop"
 - "Cash in emergencies and Transition" (Ethiopia Oct 2006)
 - "Food Security and Markets" (Italy January 2007)
- ... as well as researching on cash transfers:
 - WFP Occasional Paper (March 2007) "Cash and Food Transfers: A Primer"

Where are we on NFI Response Policy?

- WFP is piloting cash for research/learning purposes
- Interim Directive to guide and discipline the piloting process
- Findings from pilots will inform the development of the policy (expected in 2008)

Where are we on NFI Assessments?

- WFP needs assessments have identified cases where cash was an appropriate response (e.g. Sri Lanka)
- SENAC 2005 - Technical development / Guidance / RAO's
- Integrating markets –Subiaco Workshop, Italy, January 2007
- 4 key assessments types:
 - Baselines – CFSVA's
 - Emergency – EFSA's
 - National – CFSAM's
 - Monitoring – FSMS's
- Approaches under continuous refinement

Where are we on NFI Response Programming?

Type of engagement

- **Indirect.** implementation and/or evaluation of responses including food (provided by WFP) and cash (by others)
 -  Evaluating four cash/food programs in Bangladesh (2006-2007)
 -  Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia (2005-2009)
 -  Real-Time Self-Evaluation in Zambia (2006)
- **Direct.** WFP, together with partners, is directly involved on a pilot basis in the implementation of cash-based responses
 -  Combined Cash and Food-for-Work in Georgia (2006)
 -  Cash-for-Work in Malawi (2005)
 -  Food Stamps Programme in Pakistan (1994-2006)
 -  Cash Transfer Pilot Project in Sri Lanka (2005-2006)

Programming challenges & Information gaps

- International experience suggests that appropriateness depends upon:
 - Programme objectives
 - Markets
 - Implementation capacities
 - Beneficiary preferences (which vary by location, season and gender)
- Gaps in cash transfer programming
 - Cash pilots of relatively small scale and limited duration
 - Unclear impact on nutrition (longer-term pilots need)
 - Robustness of the evidence (most pilots are self-evaluated with limited use of baselines)
 - Application in different types of emergencies

Emerging Lessons

- More balanced, context-specific and evidence-based approach needed
- Cash and food can be complementary instruments (from “cash versus food” to “cash and food”)
- Cash/food only instruments, not strategy per se. They can be productively combined under social protection strategies (e.g. PSNP)
- Cross-cutting issues: both cash and food transfers require a whole set of common processes
 - (sound needs assessments, monitoring of markets, emergency preparedness mechanisms, contingency plans)

WFP's Next Steps

- Interim Directive on Cash Transfers - 2007
 - Ensure quality of pilots
 - Promote learning
 - Inform policy
- Evidence-based consultation and consensus building process
 - Additional pilots
 - Further assessment/analysis of WFP and partner experiences
 - Research to fill key knowledge gaps
 - Workshops/seminars/conferences to debate and build consensus
- Formal policy on cash transfers in 2008



Thank You

For more information on research, policy, and programming activities on alternative food assistance transfers and social protection please contact:

Mr. Steven Were Omamo: StevenWere.Omamo@wfp.org

Mr. Ugo Gentilini: Ugo.Gentilini@wfp.org