



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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USAID FOOD ASSISTANCE

Striving for a world free of hunger and malnutrition, where all people have adequate, safe, and nutritious food for healthy and productive lives.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is the world leader in providing food assistance, helping more than 60 million hungry people in more than 50 countries every year. For 65 years, we have helped people in crisis because it is core to our American values of compassion and generosity. It also helps make Americans safer – where hunger persists instability grows. Providing help in a person's hour of need creates lasting friendship and, ultimately, partners.

Food for Peace provides emergency food and development assistance to help people build self-reliance, making it unique in USAID. Emergency and recovery activities comprise more than 80 percent of total spending, and the remainder supports chronically food-insecure communities through development activities.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

FFP responds to emergencies when there is an identified need for food assistance and local authorities do not have the capacity to respond. During a food crisis, we provide food assistance to save lives, reduce suffering and support the early recovery of people affected by conflict and natural disasters, including refugees. We also provide assistance to support food security in sectors like hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, or logistics that help food get to the people who need it.

DEVELOPMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE

FFP's multi-year development food security activities tackle the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity and poverty. The primary purposes of these activities are to: 1) Reduce chronic malnutrition among children under 2 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers, 2) Increase and diversify household income through agriculture and other livelihood initiatives; and 3) Strengthen and diversify agricultural production and productivity to build resilience and reduce the need for food assistance. By addressing the root causes of hunger, we help equip people with the knowledge and tools to feed themselves, reduce their vulnerability to shocks, and help them take crucial steps on the journey to self-reliance.

PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN



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U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE

USAID provides food to vulnerable and hungry people in four ways, based on local contexts.



LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PURCHASED FOOD

When there's no time to transport food, or when importing it would distort local prices, USAID purchases commodities close to those who need help, in local or regional markets. Locally or regionally purchased food reaches people within one to two months.



MARKET-BASED FOOD VOUCHERS

When food is available and importing more would distort local prices, USAID provides assistance as paper or electronic food vouchers. This helps people buy food locally, which in turn supports local vendors and farmers.



U.S. GROWN FOOD

When food supplies are limited or inaccessible, USAID provides food commodities grown by American farmers to meet the immediate nutrition needs of vulnerable people facing hunger. U.S. food takes an average of four to six months to arrive, but we can save time by pre-positioning food in warehouses in Texas, Djibouti, Malaysia, and the UAE.

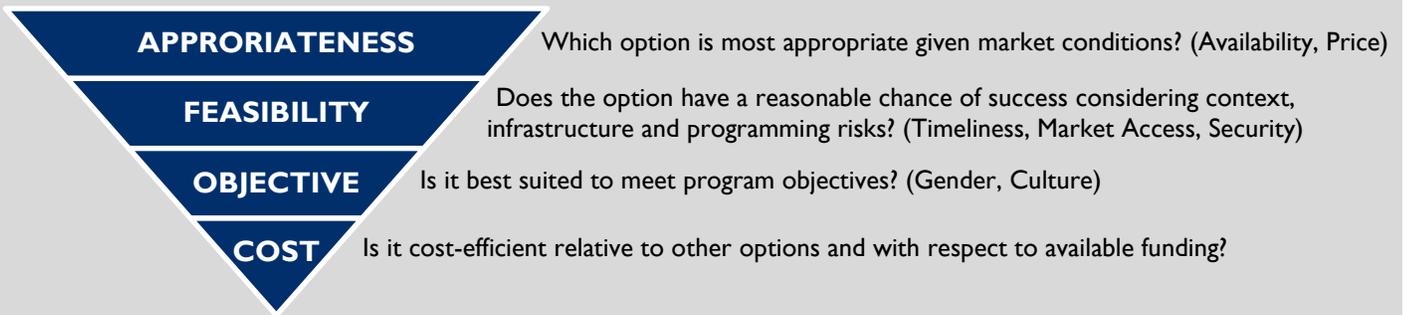


FLEXIBLE MARKET-BASED FOOD ASSISTANCE

In situations that call for maximum flexibility, USAID provides market-based assistance as cash, mobile or debit card transfers. This lets refugees buy exactly what they need – like fresh vegetables – and it supports local businesses and communities.

CHOOSING HOW TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE

When USAID's partners choose among the four food assistance options, they look at several criteria including:



MORE THAN JUST FOOD

Providing food is not the only way USAID tackles hunger. Food assistance is often complemented by other activities to holistically address hunger and its root causes.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY including agriculture-related training, and home gardens as well as inputs such as seeds, tools, fodder.



LIVELIHOODS including support for community-level savings and efforts to strengthen **GENDER EQUITY & EMPOWER YOUTH**.



MATERNAL & CHILD NUTRITION including community-led malnutrition services.



WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE including hygiene promotion, waste management, and safe drinking water.