

Phase II of the PAA Africa programme: results and lessons learned

Ana Carla Miranda, Mario Gyori and Fábio Veras Soares, International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)

The Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA Africa) programme is an innovative development cooperation initiative that seeks to promote food security and income generation among vulnerable populations through institutional purchases from smallholder farmers for school feeding programmes. A key innovation of PAA Africa is the combination of providing access to institutional markets and support to agricultural production, such as access to inputs, training and machinery.

PAA Africa was inspired by two Brazilian institutional procurement programmes: the Food Acquisition Programme (*Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos*—PAA) and the National School Feeding Programme (*Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar*—PNAE). PAA Africa began in 2012 as a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government of Brazil and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The programme has been piloted in five African countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal. This One Pager summarises the monitoring results for the programme's Phase II ('improved pilot phase') implemented between 2014 and 2016.

During the programme's Phase II, a total of 2,697.82 tonnes of food (including cereals, legumes, fruits and vegetables) has been purchased from PAA Africa beneficiary farmers and used in school feeding programmes. PAA Africa benefited 15,998 smallholder farmers and over 37,110 schoolchildren.

PAA Africa Phase II monitoring results

Country	Number of farmers	Percentage of women	Quantity of food (MT)	Commodities	Number of pupils
Ethiopia	2,815	30.2%	333.45	Wheat, maize, fava and haricot beans	9,700
Malawi	3,773	57.9%	361	Cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits and meat	10,065
Mozambique	672	38.7%	40.57	Vegetables ¹	8,557
Niger	7,738	40.5%	1776.8	Millet and black eyed beans	N/A ²
Senegal	1,000	47.7%	186	Rice	8,788 ³ - 21,605
Total	15,998	-	2,697.82	-	

Source: Authors' elaboration.

Four good practices should be highlighted:

- The production support to smallholder farmers ensured that they would be able to provide a regular supply of food to schools while helping to strengthen smallholder agriculture production systems.
- PAA Africa food purchases contributed to dietary diversification among schoolchildren and communities in most of the participating countries by introducing high-protein foods such as legumes, fresh vegetables and fruits to school menus.
- The programme has been built on strong partnerships between national governments and civil society, which were actively involved in its implementation and coordination, promoting national ownership and capacity development in institutional procurement.
- The programme made direct food purchases from targeted farmer organisations, thus strengthening the access to markets and collective capacities of family farmers.

However, the monitoring of PAA Africa revealed the need to further adapt the programme's procurement procedures to the specific needs of vulnerable smallholders and schools to avoid delays in farmer payments and transfer of school feeding resources. In addition, in most countries, there was no clear strategy to ensure that the same beneficiary farmers received both production support and access to institutional markets through the programme.

Overall, the monitoring results show that PAA Africa has been successfully implemented in five African countries and adapted to a wide range of national and regional contexts. This illustrates that the PAA model is a viable foundation for combining productive support to smallholder farmers with access to institutional markets and school feeding programmes, representing a promising option for other governments in the future.

Reference:

Gyori, Mario, Ana Carla Miranda, and Fábio Veras Soares. 2016. "Linking Vulnerable Smallholder Farmers to School Feeding programmes: The PAA Africa Experience." *Policy in Focus: Food and nutrition security: towards the full realisation of human rights* 13(2): 12–14. Brasília: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

Notes:

1. In Mozambique PAA Africa aimed to procure maize from farmer organisations in the Angonia district; however, no maize purchases were carried out during Phase II due to challenges in the procurement process.
2. PAA purchases are used to supplement the WFP school feeding programme and are not distributed to specific schools.
3. The number of beneficiary schools fluctuated during Phase II due to budget constraints in the WFP school feeding programme.