



MANAGEMENT POLICY ON FOOD AID (FINAL VERSION)

August 25, 2008

The purpose of using food aid is to increase livelihood and food security within the context of World Vision's ministries of relief and development. World Vision uses food to alleviate hunger in the short-term and to promote livelihood security within the context of transformational development in the long-term.

Principles

1. World Vision makes no distinction between the use of food and the use of cash in terms of being professional and accountable.
2. Food is used as a resource in ways that are consistent with World Vision's Mission Statement, Core Values and the Ministry Policies on Emergency Relief and Transformational Development.
3. World Vision recognizes that cash resources allow more flexible programming than does food aid and uses food only when it is more appropriate, effective and efficient for alleviating hunger in the short-term and promoting livelihood security in the mid and long-term and when cash resources are not available
4. World Vision prefers to purchase food locally or regionally if demonstrated to do no harm or create disincentives, displacements or disruptions.
5. Ethical due diligence is done with regard to grant conditionalities to ensure the food aid benefits the poor in both the short and long term, and avoid coercing national governments.
6. World Vision provides professional food aid and/or programme management staff to provide technical assistance to the design, implementation and evaluation of programs that use food.
7. Use of food containing GMOs is consistent with WV's position on the Use of Food Grains Containing GMOs in Emergencies
8. Until the need for food aid is eliminated. WV will continue to advocate for and support appropriate uses of food aid such as in-kind, local purchase, cash transfers, and monetization.
9. World Vision will work to ensure that all food aid fits within developing country food security strategies, and advocate for an equitable trade environment that will reduce harmful agriculture subsidies and allow developing nations to become integrated into the global economy.
10. Food aid that is used as part of a disaster response will adhere to the Code of Conduct "for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes" and other relevant international standards

Preparedness

11. National offices are responsible to monitor the food security situation as part of their early warning work. The Food Programming and Management Group uses regional early warning information on food insecurity to alert national and regional offices to commence preparedness activities as defined in the Relief Preparedness and Response Standards.
12. National offices and Area Development Programs have current Initial Disaster Preparedness Plans (IDPP) that include risk assessments and response plans that include the provision of food aid if appropriate in the short and medium term for at-risk populations.

Food Aid Programming

13. World Vision uses food commodities only when and only as long as research/Assessments reveals that use of food will not depress demand for local food products nor discourage local agricultural production.
14. Food aid is used to address the needs of the most vulnerable or marginalized groups, such as women and children, disabled and ethnic minorities and is provided without regard to ethnicity, religion, gender or creed.
15. World Vision encourages participation by local communities in all aspects of food aid programming from design to evaluation. Communities and local institutions are trained in effective commodity management and logistics as a way to strengthen community capacity.
16. Each food aid program has a clearly defined area of operation, a targeted recipient group, a clear end-date and defined outcomes for the program. Program planning includes a transitional strategy to support food and livelihood security.
17. Semi-annual market analysis regarding the local agricultural production and consumption patterns are done for all programs of more than six months duration. Every effort is made to assess that point in time when food programming needs to wind down in order to avoid enduring negative consequences.
18. Food aid is integrated with cash and other resources based on sound relief and development principles.
19. Food aid resources used in World Vision programs meet nutrition and cultural acceptability standards.
20. A food aid program proposal includes a) a quality program design that is LEAP aligned, b) a business plan that shows all costs of the program including its technical oversight, c) a disincentive analysis, and d) a funding plan that covers all cost for life of project.
21. Food aid distributions are conducted in a way that is fair, equitable, transparent and appropriate to local conditions. Recipients are aware of a) their food aid entitlement, b) the rationale for the food aid levels being provided, c) contents of GMO (if known), and d) the identity of the donor(s) supporting the program, consistent with the approved branding and marketing plan.
22. World Vision programs complement the efforts of national governments, international and local food aid donors and other key stakeholders to achieve livelihood and food security.

23. World Vision works in concert with key stakeholders to encourage policy dialogue at national and international levels to constructively address food, hunger and agricultural policy issues.

Program quality

24. World Vision food aid programs meet or exceed both the World Vision Food Aid Policy and donor requirements.
25. World Vision's use of food meets international best practice humanitarian standards such as SPHERE.
26. National office food programs use the World Vision Commodity Tracking System if the program is six months or longer in duration.

Roles and responsibilities

27. The National Office, under the direction of the Regional Vice President or Area Director, is responsible for the decision to use food as a resource and for the effective and accountable operation of all food programming.
28. The Regional Vice President or Area Director is responsible for ensuring that partnership food policies are understood and complied with by the national offices.
29. The National Office will comply with the Global Operations Grant Approval process for authorization to proceed with a food aid proposal.
30. The Food Programming and Management Group and Partnership Office Legal Department formally review food aid contracts with the World Food Programme (WFP) before agreements are signed.
31. The National Office does not sign a food aid contract unless it has obtained guarantee of funding (secured commitments in PBAS) for the full cost of program delivery from either the donor or the support office(s) booking the value of the food.
32. All food aid proposals are submitted to the Food Programming and Management Group for review prior to finalizing negotiations with the donor. The criteria for this review includes a) quality of program design based on WV LEAP standards or donor standards where those exceed the WV standards, b) a "do no harm" or disincentive assessment, c) a strategy for transition or exit, d) budgets adequate to carry out a quality program, e) funding commitments for the full budget, and f) assurance that staff are competent and adequately trained to handle food.
33. The Food Programming and Management Group is responsible to determine that every food aid commodity program has adequate support costs funded by donors and/or World Vision sufficient to operate the program in a professional manner. Without such funding, contracts are not signed.
34. The Food Programming and Management Group ensures that food aid programs have a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreements between the booking support offices, national offices and the FPMG.
35. The Food Programming and Management Group is a required partner of any national office engaged in commodity monetization programs including food barter, exchanges or sales for local currency. The requirements of the Management Policy on Monetization apply.

36. Where food is planned as part of the humanitarian response, the Food Programming and Management Group is part of every Category III CHE Executive Team and is responsible to provide technical oversight and confirm programming decisions relating to the use of food.
37. The Food Programming and Management Group is responsible to assist national offices in the mobilization of food aid resources, both cash and food, and for the placement/training of competent technical staff to launch rapid programmatic responses.
38. The Food Programming and Management Group is responsible for the monthly collection of global food aid information from national offices for presentation to the Core.
39. For national offices with a food aid program, food audits are done prior to all audits planned by the World Vision International auditor.

Countries doing food programs for the first time

40. Countries embarking on food aid programming for the first time must consult with the Food Programming and Management Group for an orientation on the unique features of food programs, the policies and requirements for doing food programs within World Vision, the requirements for food aid staffing, available capacity building workshops, and a briefing on World Vision's experience with food aid donors.
41. The Food Aid Training Tool Kit is available in country and is being used.
42. The Food Programming and Management Group is consulted on staffing plans and senior food staff appointments.
43. The Food Programming and Management Group is approached for installation of World Vision's Commodity Tracking System, if the program is six months or longer in duration.
44. The Food Programming and Management Group carries out a food audit in the first six months.