Fighting Hunger Worldwide

Productive Asset Creation
Cash/Food for Asset Programme

World Food Programme
Productive Asset Creation (PAC) in Zimbabwe

The Government of Zimbabwe, WFP and other partners have expressed concern that the continuation of food assistance without conditions will encourage a mid-set of dependency and will not address the underlying causes of household food insecurity. The Cash/Food for Asset (C/FFA) programme forms part of WFP’s new strategic direction, which has transitioned from free food distributions to supporting resilience building activities. WFP’s C/FFA programme aims to empower vulnerable communities to move away from dependency on food assistance and create assets that increase their ability to handle future shocks, such as droughts or floods. The Cash/Food for Asset (C/FFA) programme is also known as Productive Asset Creation (PAC). Each month, able-bodied yet food insecure people receive food rations or cash transfer to buy food from local markets to cushion them while they work on community projects that promote self-reliance, reduce disaster risk and support climate change adaptation to directly address their food and nutrition security needs and food access.

What does PAC aim to achieve?

- To create, protect or rehabilitate productive assets that improve local food and nutrition security, income security, livelihoods opportunities, build resilience and adaptive capacity for vulnerable non labour constrained people including women and young people
- To create useful and sustainable assets so that communities are better prepared to handle future shocks that compromise their food security and livelihoods.

Examples of PAC projects

Creation or rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, dams, community dip tanks, community gardens, dead level contours, water harvesting, road and bridges repairs

PAC in 2013

- C/FFA was implemented in partnership with 15 national and international NGOs in 22 of the most food insecure districts of Zimbabwe covering 143 wards.
- 324 productive assets created in the 2013 C/FFA window
- 40,000 households participated in the works and 210,000 food beneficiaries were reached.
- 300,000 households benefitted from assets created
Principles of PAC Programming

WFP has identified six principles for the successful creation of productive assets:

1. Holistic approach:
WFP prioritises integrated projects that complement other development efforts, rather than acting as stand alone projects. For example, conservation farming initiatives are linked to agricultural inputs, good agronomic practices and complementary infield rainwater harvesting techniques. WFP also encourages partnerships in the resourcing and implementation of identified projects by all stakeholders, integrating nutrition, WASH and education.

2. Ownership:
Ownership is important as it relates to the identification, ability to maintain, control and decision making elements of the community asset created. WFP and partners promote a sense of ownership through a Community Level Participatory Planning Process (CLPP) that enables community members to actively identify projects and take responsibility in creating or repairing, maintaining and utilizing them. WFP ensures that the ownership and management of assets involves women and other vulnerable groups in the community.

3. Technically sound assets:
WFP ensures that all assets created or rehabilitated comply with Zimbabwean and regional technical standards of feasibility, design, training, construction, supervision, inspection and approval. Appropriate technology for differing community settings is being used to ensure the sustainability and easy maintenance of the assets created.

4. Maintenance of created assets:
Prior to commencing a rehabilitation project, WFP identifies the background reasons why the asset has been neglected or deteriorated. This helps to put in place mechanisms for addressing the root causes of deterioration and avoid a waste of resources, time and efforts. Good practice includes assisting the community to set up a maintenance strategy that includes mobilizing the required resources to meet subsequent operational costs and the acquisition of toolkits for repairs.

5. Utilization of assets:
The focus of the C/FFA programme is not only the number of assets created or rehabilitated but is to ensure that assets are functional and beneficial, that is increasing productivity, improving access to markets, preventing loss or deterioration of an asset, and generating sufficient income to cover basic needs. WFP prioritise assets that help more people move away from food assistance in the long term and ensuring gender equity. The thrust of PAC is to create or rehabilitate assets that benefit the community at large.

6. Management of assets:
To ensure a community continues deriving benefits from the assets, it needs to be well managed. WFP and partners set up or strengthen Asset Management Committees from the onset of an asset being worked on. Leadership trainings are conducted so that there is a clear utilisation, maintenance and management plan of the assets focusing on women empowerment

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**Seasonal calendar for PAC activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Rainy Season</th>
<th>Harvest season</th>
<th>Dry season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>Harvesting</td>
<td>Land preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Weeding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Very low</td>
<td>Readily available</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Peak</td>
<td>Lean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Lean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>C/FFA</td>
<td>C/FFA</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Supporting Government’s Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy, WFP’s C/FFA programme is implemented in accordance with Zimbabwe natural seasonal calendar. The peak hungry months occur during the agricultural rainy season, October – March until the next harvest. To avoid compromising household labour requirement for agriculture, PAC activities start soon after harvesting in April and end in November.