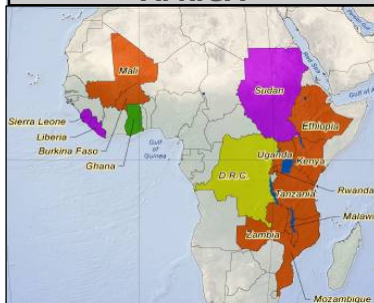


P4P Pilot Countries

AFRICA



CENTRAL AMERICA



ASIA



IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

21 P4P Pilots:

- **17 Approved Country Implementation Plans (CIP):** Afghanistan, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Guatemala, Kenya, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
- **2 CIPs under development:** DRC, Rwanda.
- **Laos & Ghana:** development of CIP planned for 2010.
- **Assessments:** 20 out of 21 completed; Ghana: 3-17 March 2010.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- The **Ghana P4P assessment mission** will take place on 3-17 March. The Government, AGRA, FAO, IFAD and other partners have been asked to participate.
- A **P4P side event at the IFAD Farmers' Forum** on 18 February on the topic "What is Purchase for Progress? Engaging with farmers' organizations at different levels" provided food for thought on how to engage with different levels of farmers' organizations.
- **Baseline data collection** completed for all surveys (farmers' organizations level; traders' level and participating farmers' household level) in El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia; ongoing for all or some surveys in Burkina Faso, DRC, Guatemala, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda; and planned for 2010 in Sierra Leone and Sudan.

GENDER—achievements and challenges to date

The importance of addressing the challenges facing women in agriculture has been explicitly acknowledged by P4P, and concrete gender targets have been set in most Country Implementation Plans (including gender quotas in farmer's organizations membership and in leadership positions), but identifying concrete actions to directly benefit women farmers through P4P has proven challenging. At the end of the first year of implementation, both achievements and challenges have been identified:

Achievements

- **P4P gender assessments** carried out in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Rwanda. Some key recommendations included:
 1. Capitalizing on women's specific expertise in post-harvest management activities such as grain selection, processing and packaging;
 2. Providing child care facilities to enable women's participation in trainings and FOs activities, and promote trainings in local language;
 3. Targeting both female only and mixed FOs, and requesting progress towards specific gender quotas in the latter as a condition for continuing P4P support;
- The P4P Coordination Unit, in collaboration with the Gender Unit, issued an **Occasional Paper** entitled "*Practical Actions to Enhance the Participation of Women in the Purchase for Progress Pilot Programme*", outlining WFP and partners' best practices in this area.
- All country implementation plans have set **gender targets** for the inclusion of women not only in the general membership of FOs, but also in the leadership of these organizations.

Challenges

- In **Guatemala**, participation of women in FOs remains a challenge, especially in **ageing communities** where **youngsters have migrated away**. Nevertheless, when specific measures were taken, such as providing child care facilities alongside training events, and conducting trainings in local language, the participation and attendance of women increased considerably, from 40% to 60%.
- In **Burkina Faso**, 57% of the trainees of the three rounds of Trainings of Trainers on quality and storage techniques conducted between September and December 2009 were women. However, women were less proactive due to their lower educational level and weak comprehension of French.
- In **Mali**, it was observed that women's groups have a lower level of organizational and negotiation capacity, hence often cannot supply a sufficient quantity of cereals of the required quality. By specifically targeting them for inclusion in P4P, it is possible to build their capacity to compete with mixed or men only organizations.
- In **Burkina Faso, Mali, Guatemala** and other countries, women's lack of confidence in their abilities has limited their participation in P4P.

GENDER— Lessons to date

Lesson 1: WFP should prioritize the purchase of those crops within the WFP food basket which are traditionally grown and marketed by women, such as **white beans, pigeon peas** and **processed foods** in Burkina Faso, Mali and Sierra Leone, and **lowland rice** in Liberia. To better benefit women, the emphasis on these “women’s crops” should be complemented with labour saving equipment.

More emphasis on “women’s crops” within the WFP Food Basket

Beans is a less labour intensive crop than maize, and can be cultivated on small plots around the homestead. In many countries around the world, beans are mostly farmed by women.

In **Central America**, WFP is working with governments to link women to the government school feeding programmes which have significant demand for both maize and beans. Also, including **beans** (which is already in WFP’s food basket) into the P4P food basket in **Guatemala** increased women participation and benefit from P4P.

In **Liberia**, “upland rice” is mainly cultivated by men, while “**lowland rice**” is largely the domain of women. WFP in Liberia has therefore prioritized the purchase of lowland rice. Parboiling of rice improves the quality of the rice which sells for a higher price. The process however is highly labour intensive and mostly undertaken by women. WFP, FAO and the government of Liberia provided the targeted FOs with labour saving equipment, and trained women on how to use it.

In **Mali**, women are involved in **food processing** and in the production of **cowpeas** (niebe). This is an area that P4P is seeking to support in the second phase of the project.

Lesson 2: There is insufficient understanding of the differing roles of men and women in the agricultural value chain. WFP and partners should carry out a **gender analysis of the value chains** of staple commodities and seek to have a better understanding of the gender roles and opportunities within the value chains.

Lesson 3: Women are not always involved in the commercialization of their agricultural produce, sometimes for cultural reasons, other times for lack of confidence and/or knowledge on how to market their crops. Specific **integrated capacity building** activities that respond to women’s needs and specific mobility constraints (especially younger women with small children) have to be designed, including basic skills and literacy training, confidence building and leadership training, as well as training in technical skills. Providing creative childcare solutions during trainings has to be factored in and budgeted for, if attendance by young women farmers is to be enhanced.

Lesson 4: While strict **gender quotas** at the time of FOs selection may not be a compulsory requirement, progress through time towards meeting pre-established gender quotas in membership and leadership positions has to be demonstrated in order for mixed FOs to continue benefiting from P4P support.

Country level P4P Steering Committees engage with Gender Issues in Liberia & Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: according to the inter-agency P4P Programme Advisory Group (PAG), in Freetown singling out women in training and capacity development may not be an effective solution to ensure greater women participation and benefit from P4P. Instead, the PAG recommends focusing more on women’s crops (such as **pigeon peas**) during the second phase of the pilot.

Liberia:

- the P4P Steering Committee in Monrovia endorsed the inclusion of 4 new women associations for 2010.
- an Irish Aid grant of 250,000 euros will be utilized exclusively to build the capacities of selected women associations and enhance their participation in P4P.
- The WFP Country Office is exploring the possibility of introducing **beans** alongside **lowland parboiled rice** for the forthcoming procurement season. Beans are mainly grown and traded by women so their inclusion among the P4P commodities from the WFP food basket is perceived as a concrete way of enhancing women’s participation in and benefit from P4P.

Women representation in P4P FOs

Country	# Female Mem- bers	# Male Members	n. of FOs	% women
Burkina Faso	5,316	4,293	6	55%
El Salvador	904	1,372	14	40%
Ethiopia	75,087	448,437	8	14%
Guatemala	1,384	2,368	36	37%
Honduras	77	1,023	5	7%
Kenya	6,875	3,524	202	66%
Liberia	1,986	3,292	4	38%
Malawi	5,111	7,059	13	42%
Mali	2,854	7,851	13	27%
Mozambique	3,663	7,491	4	33%
Nicaragua	4,636	9,494	7	33%
Sierra Leone	4,064	1,510	10	73%
Tanzania	3,846	6,669	15	37%
Uganda	4,349	3,957	14	52%
Zambia	32	66	5	33%
Grand Total	120,184	508,406	356	19%

Source: P4P Country Quarterly Reports

Despite the focus on women in the P4P pilot project, as of 31 December 2009:

- Women represented on average only **20%** of total membership of the 356 FOs identified by P4P and partners in 15 of the 21 pilot countries—though important cross-countries differences exist;
- From the commencement of the project, on average only **26%** of the trainees were women farmers.

Towards a P4P Global and Regional Gender Strategy

At the P4P Annual Review meeting (December 2009), the need for **stronger partnerships** to identify concrete actions to address gender disparities was widely recognized.

Recommendations included the development of **regional gender strategies** based on commonalities in the cultural and religious environments. The strategies would outline how P4P could empower women in agricultural production and marketing, as well as appropriate actions to support women to realize meaningful economic and social benefit from their participation in P4P.

In particular:

- Central American, West African, Eastern and Southern African pilots will seek partners to carry out **value chain gender analysis**.
- Pilot countries will promote **translation** of training materials into local languages.

A consultancy is being commissioned by WFP to design a P4P Gender Strategy that will outline:

1. **What** P4P can achieve for women,
2. **How** P4P aims to respond to the challenges and realities that women face, and
3. **What** intended and unintended **impacts** are anticipated in the given environment of each of the 21 pilot countries.

P4P is seeking qualified gender consultants or institutions. TORs can be obtained from Clare Mbizule (Clare.Mbizule@WFP.org).

Special Session of the Farmers' Forum on Promotion of Women's Leadership in Farmers' Organizations IFAD, Rome, 13 February 2010

"In many parts of the World, despite women being the main farmers or producers, their roles are largely unrecognized. This is largely caused by their weak presence in the leadership of rural organizations and, in some cases, the limited ability of the few women leaders at national level to effectively represent the interests of grassroots women. **Women's groups tend to remain confined to the local level.** In mixed organizations, while women may be well represented as members, there are generally few in leadership positions (...). This translates into a dramatic disproportion between rural women's voice and decision-making role and their enormous contribution to agricultural production and marketing", (from the Report to the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum in conjunction with the Thirty-third Session of the Governing Council of IFAD, 15-16 February 2010)

At IFAD's "special session of the Farmers' Forum on promotion of women's leadership in farmers' organizations", it was recognized that the economic empowerment of women and their increased knowledge and skills are essential preconditions to improve their status and livelihoods, and allow them to assume effective roles in producers' organizations. It was recognized that quotas were a useful first step, although not sufficient; that training and capacity building was key and had to include both literacy and basic skills training as well as specific skills training, and that young women farmers had very specific constraints and challenges related to their workload that need to be addressed if they are to participate in capacity building and in turning their farm into a profitable business.

Hence, some of the specific requests advanced by the Farmers' Forum were:

- To direct resources to **women's structures** in FOs and use grant funding for **women's capacity building**—including child care facilities where needed;
- In the design of projects and programmes with FOs, establish **quotas for women** (minimum 30% with a view to reaching 50% over time), provide **incentives** for FOs to reach the targets, and monitor their implementation;
- Give attention to the specific situation and needs of **young women**;
- In general, invest more resources in **increasing the capacity of FOs to address gender issues** and strengthen women's leadership.

WOMEN'S STORIES FROM KENYA... creating confidence and empowering women

Koptegei Widows Group, Transmara, Kenya

Though the Transmara district is usually considered Kenya's breadbasket for maize, with a vibrant maize market supported by a well-developed infrastructure, parts of Transmara near the border with Tanzania are not well-integrated, and lack the services and support available to farmers in the north of the district. These areas (like Angatta Barroikoi, Ramosha, and Keiyan) have bad roads, limited village-level storage, and the communities are plagued by ethnic violence.

As part of the P4P pilot, WFP began working with six farmer groups (224 farmers, 55 percent of whom are women) in the Transmara district in August 2009, and purchased a total of 200 MT of maize in November. Fifty metric tons were purchased through pro-smallholder tenders, while 150 mt were purchased directly from a Women's Group, the Koptegei Widows Group (KWG).

KWG is a group of 87 women farmers, widowed through HIV/AIDS and ethnic violence, and who had lost their status after the death of their husbands: most didn't inherit anything after their husbands died. The group decided to support themselves by growing their own maize, and were able to secure a loan from **Equity Bank** to buy seeds and fertilizers. Prior to the contract with WFP, the group had come together as a self-help group under the Ministry of Social Services, **but had no history of collectively marketing their grain.**

Although WFP was running pro-smallholder tenders in the area, the decision was made to offer a direct contract to the KWG, as they did not speak, read nor write English, and required additional capacity-building in order to be able to compete with the other FOs in the area. KWG did not have storage facilities, so WFP constructed and equipped a temporary collection point (including 4 wiikhalls, pallets, tarpaulins for drying, sieves, weigh scales, moisture meters, bag stitching machines, and a generator). WFP and the Cereal Growers Association—CGA (who had previously been trained by WFP on quality assurance themselves) engaged in intensive on-site training on how to measure moisture content of maize, how to clean the maize according to WFP standards, and co-supervised the bulking.

The original contract with KWG was for 250MT, but the group soon realized that their members would not be able to bulk this amount; finally, in November 2009, WFP uplifted 150 MT. Despite not being able to honour the entire contract, the group reported that **WFP's contract and support gave them a new status in their community as business people.** The Koptegei Widows Group says that they are now confident that they can compete with the other groups in P4P tenders that WFP plans to run in February-March 2010. The training received from P4P on quality improvement will be useful when selling to buyers other than WFP. "We've learnt that we can buy and sell like traders. Previously, we only got 2,000 Kenyan Shillings per bag when we were selling to traders. Because our maize is clean and dry, now we can get a better price", says Christine Nyongi, the chair-lady of the group.

CGA is building a community storage facility in Angatta Barroikoi with a grant from USAID COMPETE. WFP has provided training on basic warehouse management, food storage and handling, and quality control to the CGA staff and village leaders who will be operating the warehouse. The warehouse won't be ready until the September harvest, so in the meantime, WFP has loaned its wiikhalls to CGA, for use by any group in the area that is awarded a WFP contract.



Koptegei Widows Group women sitting on pallets loaned to them by WFP Transmara, Kenya

A Place to Grow: Gender in CARE's Agricultural Programming

A Place to Grow was an 18-month effort to establish a strong understanding of the ways in which CARE includes or fails to include women and girls in agriculture and agribusiness initiatives. The project incorporated the development of a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Framework, a portfolio review and a series of Circles of Learning and informational interviews to validate initial findings. The results include a series of case studies on specific country projects, an aggregated toolkit for women's empowerment through agriculture programming, a synthesis paper highlighting the overall strengths and weaknesses of CARE's work in this area and a series of related input documents with additional information on particular country or project activities. Countries covered: Mozambique; Uganda; Ghana. <http://pqdl.care.org/Lists/Gender/DispForm.aspx?ID=3>

Miles Murray, Snr. Adviser Emergency Programming, CARE had the following recommendations for P4P at the Annual Review in December:

- Consider gender from the beginning and don't treat it as an "add-on"
- Define what you mean by empowerment and communicate this clearly to stakeholders
- Ensure that there is knowledge sharing amongst the pilots
- Budget for gender, it costs money to address it with seriousness

WOMEN'S STORIES FROM BURKINA FASO... improving quality opens new markets beyond WFP

LAAFI women's association, Boulgou, Burkina Faso

Laafi means "health and well-being" in the Mooré dialect. It is also the name of a women's association in the village of Tenkodogo, in the South-Eastern province of Boulgou, Burkina Faso. With 167 permanent members, but over 2,000 women participating in the collection and processing of shea butter transformed into soaps and beauty creams, the association, which benefited since 2001 from Danish and Canadian support, is today quite successful and manages to export its high quality shea butter products to Canada and Europe.

The women of the association also grow maize and "niebe", a local variety of white beans. Since 2002, they are trying to commercialize their cereals. In December 2008, Laafi approached WFP, but did not meet the minimum quality and quantity standards to participate in WFP regular tenders.



Ms Marie Zeba, President of the Association LAAFI and Ms Fanny Kaboré, External Relations attending the P4P training on improved quality & storage techniques, 28 Sept-2 Oct 2009

In 2009, thanks to the P4P pilot project, Laafi was offered the possibility to sell its cereals to WFP: negotiations started in November 2009 to sell directly **56 mt of beans and 50 mt of maize** under the P4P project. In early October 2009, they attended a P4P training on improved storage and quality techniques, cereal commercialization and WFP food procurement modalities, and as a result managed to greatly enhance the quality of their cereals thanks also to their investment in "triple bagging".

In the end, **no contract was signed with WFP as no agreement was reached on the price** - the association argued that prevailing market prices increased between the start of the negotiations and the time the contract was ready (two weeks later), so that the negotiated price was not attractive anymore at the time of the contract signature. According to the P4P Coordinator, the prices they offered to sell were higher than what was observed on the main cereal markets at the same period, probably because they might have had in mind to recover the costs incurred in the triple bagging in one go.

Nevertheless, thanks to the improved quality standards achieved, in January 2010 **Laafi managed to sell for the first time approximately 10 mt of beans and maize to SONAGESS** (Société Nationale de Gestion du Stock de Sécurité Alimentaire), the National Food Reserve Agency.

During 2010, Laafi wants to continue benefiting from the possibility of selling to WFP. A big constraint, nevertheless, is women **time management**, especially for younger women with husbands and small children. Given their multiple tasks and responsibilities both at home and in the fields of their husbands, they have little time to dedicate to their own patch of land : *"in the area, women are traditionally allowed to work on their land only two days per week, while they have to work at least three days a week in their husband's lot. Also the availability of agricultural equipments such as ploughs and carts are limited for women, as they are allowed to use them on their plot only when they are not needed in their husband's lots"*, says Marie Zeba, President of the LAAFI Women Association.

RESOURCES ON GENDER

WFP Gender Policy 2009, Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Addressing Food and Nutrition Challenges [<http://www.wfp.org/content/wfp-gender-policy>]

IFAD: Closing the Gap: Handbook to guide rural organizations towards Gender Equity (Latin America Focus) [<http://www.fidafrique.net/article757.html>]

Presents a methodology and tools implemented by IFAD in Latin America, allowing the objective measuring of the degree of gender equity achieved by a rural organization (committees, cooperatives, producers' associations). The tools are used to obtain data, both from the board of directors and from the male and female members, regarding the level of gender equity, as well as the reasons why gender equity has not been achieved, and the possible **affirmative actions that might help to reduce the existing gender gaps**. It is a methodology to be used by the technical and operative personnel as well as directly by members of rural organizations. Has been tested in El Salvador and Guatemala.

World Bank, IFAD & FAO: Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook [<http://worldbank.org/genderinag>]

This joint project by World Bank, IFAD and FAO is an up-to-date reference guide for practitioners and technical staff which compiles information on integrating gender into projects and includes case studies, lessons learned and best practices.

FAO Dimitra Project (Africa focus) [<http://www.fao.org/dimitra/en/>]

online database that contains profiles on African organisations which have projects or programmes involved in rural women empowerment and/adopting a gender approach. Dimitra has partner organisation contact information for DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania and Uganda in their May 2009 newsletter.

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CALENDAR

- **2-4 March:** Workshop on *Home Grown School Feeding in Sub-Saharan Africa*, organized by Partnership for Child Development (PCD), Nairobi, Kenya. PCD was recently awarded a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support local smallholder farmers in accessing the market for their produce created by school feeding programs. P4P is participating by sharing experiences and lessons emerging in procuring from smallholder farmers' organizations.
- **8-12 March:** P4P Retreat on refinement of country level P4P goals and identification of 2010 priority actions, for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded countries, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **18-19 March:** FAO hosting an inter-agency meeting in Rome: Lessons Learned and Practical Guidelines for achieving Post Harvest Improvements in Grain-Supply Chains in Africa
- **22-24 March:** P4P Meetings in Brussels with Belgian NGOs and civil society and the EU (ECHO, DGDEV etc).
- **26-27 March:** Workshop on "Exploring linkages between sustainability of smallholder food value chains and poverty alleviation in low income countries", Cornell University, New York

RESOURCES ON GENDER**The Hunger Project—AWFFI: African Woman Food Farmer Initiative: Microfinance for African Women Food Farmers** [<http://www.thp.org/node/572>]

Designed to empower Africa's most important - yet least supported producers through a systematic program of training and microfinance, AWFFI empowers women food farmers to be real economic players in their villages. Since its inception, the AWFFI microfinance program has disbursed over US\$5.7 million to 95,326 women in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda.

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

Find a wide range of training materials published by NGOs and UN organisations on women empowerment and gender equality including modules on technological training, gender and development, M&E, vocational skills and health. Resources are available in English, French and Spanish on their website. http://un-instraw.org/wiki/training/index.php/Training_Materials.

International Center for Research on Women [<http://www.icrw.org/>]