



# Vouchers and Cash Transfers as Food Assistance Instruments Opportunities and Challenges

Informal consultation with the Executive Board

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17 July 2008



# Definitions

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- Cash transfers: providing people with money
- Vouchers: exchanged for food in selected shops
  - Value-based, commodity-based
- Market-based, but different objectives & design



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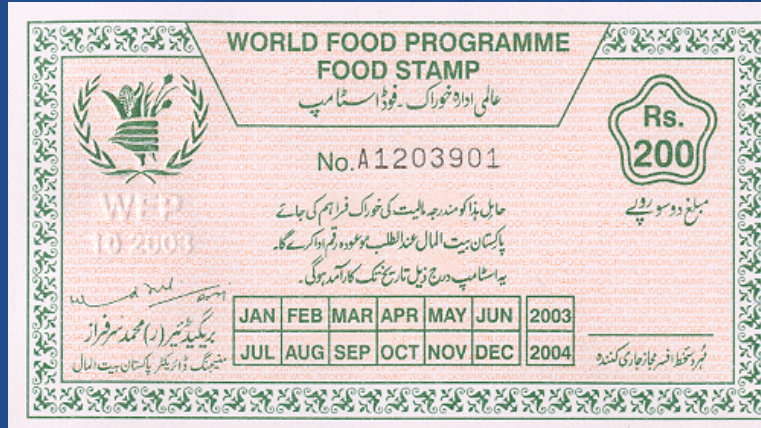
Post-tsunami Sri Lanka

Rural Malawi





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Sindh region, Pakistan

### Vouchers in Pakistan:

- Since 1994
- 47,500 people/year
- 68 small retailers
- Assets created
  - 15m trees
  - 17,300 water tanks
  - 15,300 latrines





# WFP's experience

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- Piloting & learning process
  - Recent projects of 3 months-1 year duration
- Outreach
  - Sharing lessons, publications, partnerships



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Occasional Papers No. 18



## Cash and Food Transfers: A Primer

Ugo Gentilini



... downloaded from  
WFP's website  
about 250,000 times  
in one year



# Why WFP?

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- Unparalleled field presence
- Partnership network
- Vulnerability, needs & market analysis capacity
- Synergies with food-based programming
- Implementation experience



# Appropriateness & feasibility

- Programme objectives
- Markets
- Implementation capacity
- Cost efficiency
- Beneficiaries' preference





# Opportunities

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- Complementarities with food-based programs
- Reinvigorate urban programming
- Costs
- High food prices
- Making markets work better for the poor



# Limitations

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- Short-term, small-scale experience
- Limited capacities
- Risks (e.g. markets, security, fraud)
- Emergency response
- Funding mechanisms



# Implications

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- Strengthening programming
  - Guidance materials
  - Assessment-programming-evaluation linkages
- Develop capacities
  - Market analysis
  - Trainings
- Partnerships
- Funding framework



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Thank you