

Local and regional food procurement (LRFP) policy

Sharing an update on the implementation of the LRFP focusing on achievements, lessons learned and presenting the way forward

Monday, 12 June, 14:00–17:00

Auditorium, WFP headquarters

Context

Leveraging local and regional food procurement is key to achieving food security and nutrition and building more resilient food systems. The local and regional food procurement (LRFP) policy, approved in 2019, is a milestone for WFP. The policy recognizes that WFP's demand for food and food system services can, directly and indirectly, drive achieving zero hunger, contributing to inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable social and economic transformation.¹ By combining supply chain expertise and the innovative procurement elements introduced by the policy with programmatic activities, the LRFP policy contributes to supporting smallholder farmers, develops stronger value chains, shortens supply chains and provides livelihood and economic opportunities while ensuring a reliable pipeline for WFP's operations. WFP scaled up local and regional food procurement to USD 1.6 billion in 2022, up from USD 787 million in 2020, with 51 percent of global WFP tonnage sourced locally and regionally and a 103 percent increase in value injected into local economies during this period. Deliberate efforts are made to better connect this to improving smallholder farmers (SHF) livelihoods, and traced pro-SHF purchases increased from a value of USD 42.2 million in 2020 to 71.4 million in 2022, representing a rise of 68 percent of value transferred to SHFs and seven percent of total volume from local/regional purchases.

The policy framework is so far implemented in 11 selected countries² in three regions (RBJ, RBN, RBP) where WFP, since 2020, has tested and developed innovative programmatic and procurement approaches and solutions to support the policy implementation and inform the scale-up and mainstreaming into WFP's operations. In addition, tools and systems developed within the policy framework have been applied in other regions (RBD, RBC, RBB) beyond the core LRFP policy countries.

Since the LRFP policy approval, the world has changed dramatically. COVID-19, the global food crisis and the long-lasting impact of the conflict in Ukraine resulted in an unprecedented increase in humanitarian needs determining a staggering rise in global food insecurity and malnutrition, deepening poverty and inequity, reduced stability and peace, and threatening to reverse major development gains. Despite the challenges, contextual and in terms of limited resources, WFP managed to achieve great results in the implementation of the policy in the LRFP policy countries, developing systems and tools (e.g., value chain analysis, new contracts), building capacity at different levels and started generating evidence that will inform the way forward. As part of this effort, and in the context of the global crisis, WFP scaled up and included elements of the LRFP policy into its global food crisis response as part of the support to protect and maintain food systems functioning during the crisis while contributing to promoting changes to develop

¹ "Local and regional food procurement policy" (WFP/EB.2/2019/4-C).

² LRFP policy countries: Ethiopia, the Sudan, Uganda (RBN); Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras (RBP); Mozambique, Zambia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe (RBJ)

and strengthen local food value chains and the local private sector as well as used by governments to connect their institutional demand to SHFs better.

Objectives

The Executive Board will be provided with an extensive update on the LRFP policy implementation since the last update in December 2021, focusing on achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and an overview of the needs towards full mainstreaming. Executive Board members will hear concrete examples from the regional bureaux where the LRFP policy is currently implemented, and together we will explore how we can leverage this work to achieve greater impact and unleash the power of local and regional food procurement at scale.

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks

- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP

2. Presentation on LRFP policy implementation

- Mr David Kaatrud, Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division
- Ms Betty Ka, Deputy Director, Supply Chain Operations Division

3. Regional bureau presentation (RBP)

- TBC
- TBC

4. Q&A session and remarks from the floor

5. Regional bureau presentations (RBN, RBJ)

- TBC
- TBC

6. Presentation of next steps of LRFP policy implementation

- Mr David Kaatrud, Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division
- Ms Betty Ka, Deputy Director, Supply Chain Operations Division

7. Q&A session and remarks from the floor

8. Closing remarks

- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP