



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Cash and voucher programmes





Cash transfers increase the resilience of communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) **cash and voucher programmes benefit smallholder farmers** who are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards, market volatility, conflicts and protracted crises.

Cash and vouchers play a critical role in response to crises or shocks when farmers and pastoralists no longer have the ability to purchase food, agricultural inputs or livestock because their assets have been damaged or depleted.

Cash and voucher programmes such as cash-for-work, voucher schemes, input trade fairs and unconditional cash transfers enable people to identify for themselves what their most pressing needs are and decide which goods and services they wish to purchase in local markets.

FAO cash transfer interventions provide relief to farmers while also helping them to protect their livelihoods from future shocks (e.g. drought, illness, poor production), overcome cash shortages and improve their food security and nutrition.

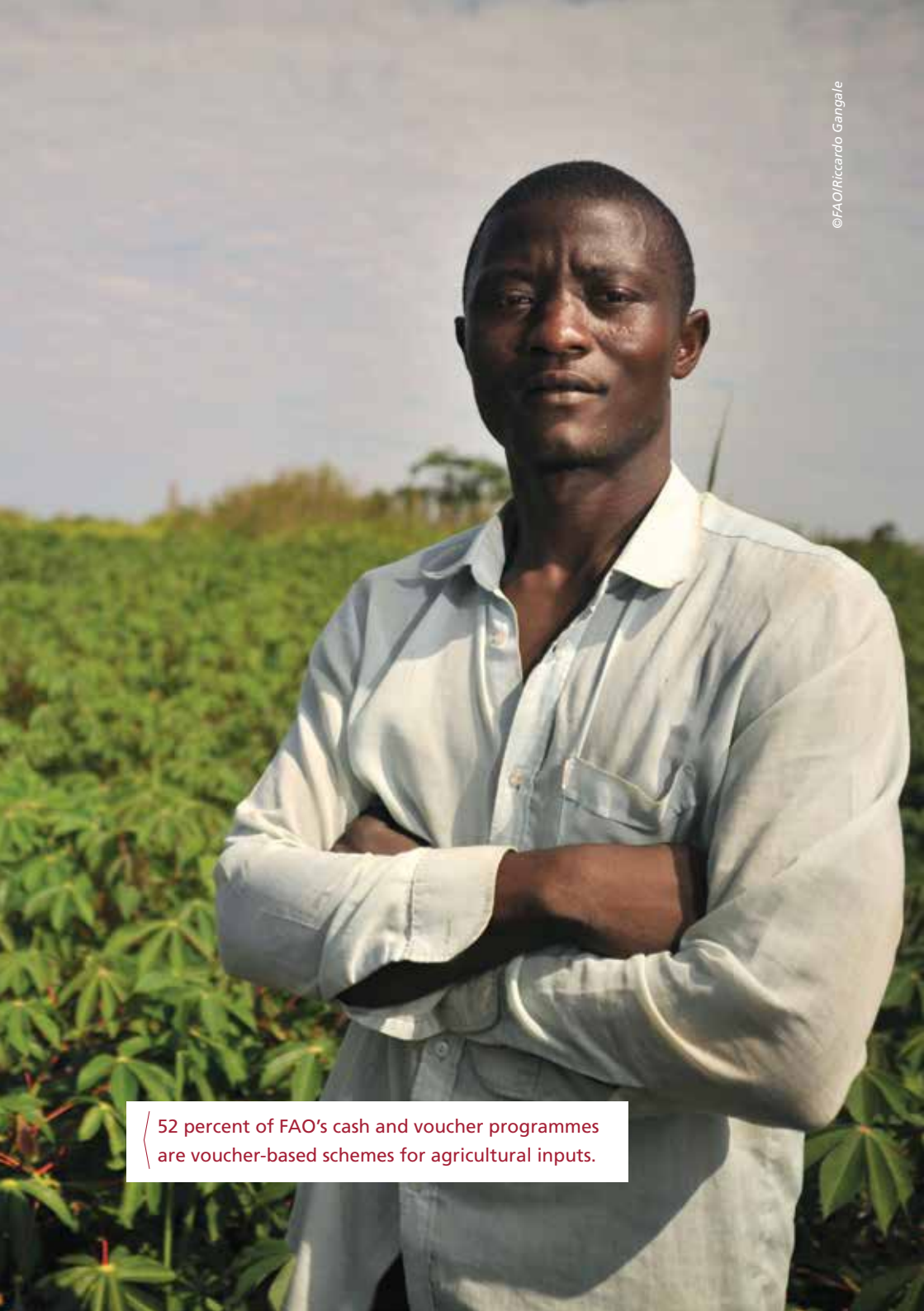
When local markets are functioning and quality goods are available, cash transfers are an important tool to develop more productive and resilient agricultural systems that enhance and maintain food security.

Cash transfers: poor and vulnerable households receive conditional and unconditional cash transfers that help them to maintain a minimum standard of living.

Voucher schemes: beneficiaries exchange paper or electronic cards for goods and services at pre-selected shops.

Public works schemes (food-, voucher-, and cash-for-work): involve paying individuals in exchange for unskilled work on community infrastructure such as irrigation systems, gabion walls and water catchments, or for activities such as reforestation and soil and water conservation. Payments are made in the form of food, vouchers or cash.

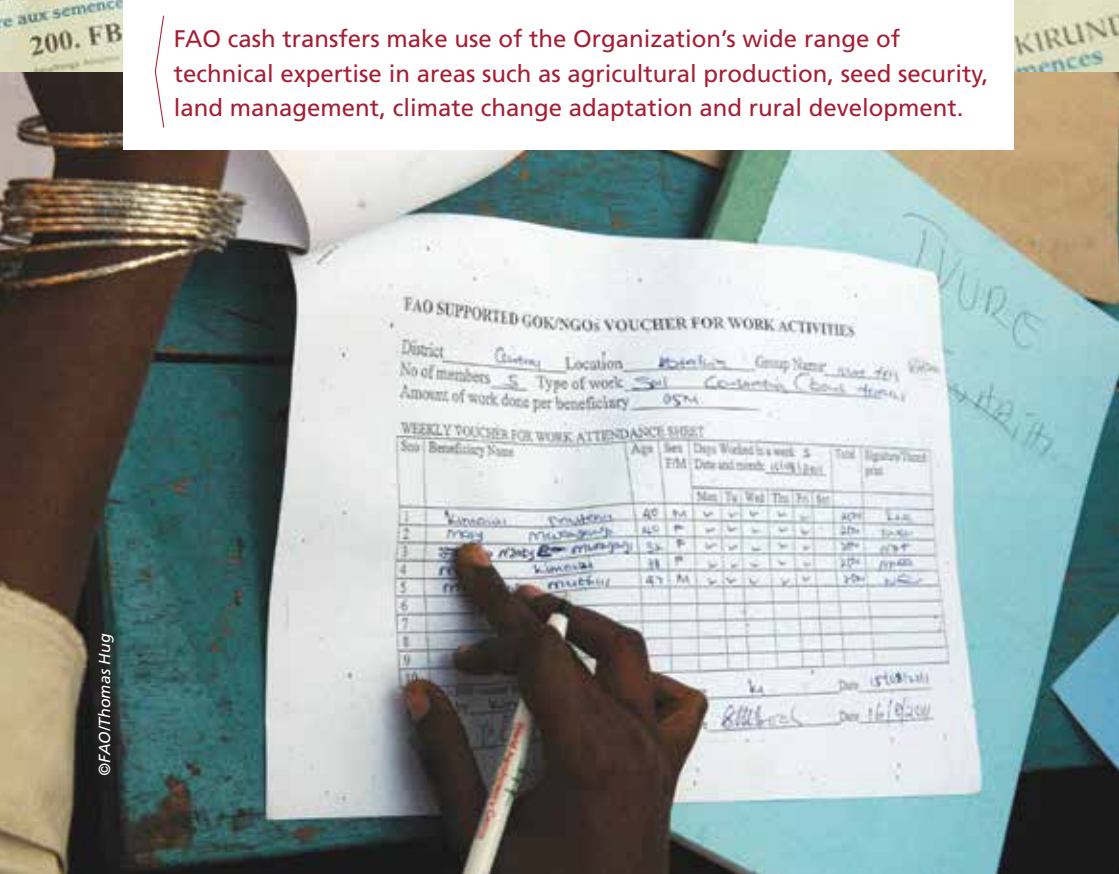
Input trade fairs: temporary one-day markets organized to give farmers, pastoralists and displaced persons who do not otherwise have access to markets the opportunity to buy agricultural inputs and services through the exchange of vouchers.



52 percent of FAO's cash and voucher programmes are voucher-based schemes for agricultural inputs.



FAO cash transfers make use of the Organization's wide range of technical expertise in areas such as agricultural production, seed security, land management, climate change adaptation and rural development.



FAO SUPPORTED GOK/NGOs VOUCHER FOR WORK ACTIVITIES

District County Location Group Name
 No of members 5 Type of work Sel. Conservation (Cons. Areas)
 Amount of work done per beneficiary 05M

WEEKLY VOUCHER FOR WORK ATTENDANCE SHEET

Sno	Beneficiary Name	Age	Sex	FM	Days Worked in a week							Total	Signature (Hand print)
					Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
1	Mwambi	40	M		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21M	Em
2	Mwambi	40	F		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21M	Em
3	Mwambi	33	F		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21M	Em
4	Mwambi	31	F		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21M	Em
5	Mwambi	47	M		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21M	Em
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													

Signature Date 15/08/2011
 Date 16/08/2011

FAO cash transfer programmes:

- ⌋ Provide income-generating opportunities and increase the consumption of locally available goods;
- ⌋ Provide vulnerable farmers with access to quality agricultural inputs and tools;
- ⌋ Build or repair productive assets such as feeder roads and irrigation canals that are vital for sustaining rural communities' livelihoods;
- ⌋ Help overcome short-term food insecurity;
- ⌋ Minimize negative coping strategies (e.g. increasing household debt or migrating in search of job opportunities); and
- ⌋ Provide short-term poverty alleviation for vulnerable agricultural households while building resilience for the longer term.

FAO's cash transfer capacity building programme, launched in 2014, covers the following topics:

- ⌋ Cash transfer programming;
- ⌋ Unconditional cash transfers and public works schemes;
- ⌋ Voucher schemes and input trade fairs; and
- ⌋ Conditional cash transfers and cash transfers in social protection programmes.

To ensure the success and sustainability of its cash transfer interventions, FAO's training programme responds to the needs of its decentralized offices and implementing partners.

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Corporate Tools

The Guidelines for Public Works (food-, voucher- and cash-for-work) and the Guidelines for Input Trade Fairs and Voucher Schemes provide practical guidance to the design and implementation of selected cash and voucher modalities.

Cash and voucher programmes

THREE STORIES FROM THE FIELD:





©FAO Somalia

→ Zimbabwe

In 2013/14, in Zimbabwe nearly 48 000 households – of which 36 percent were female-headed – redeemed a variety of agricultural inputs and livestock through vouchers, improving their livelihoods as well as their food security and nutrition.



©FAO Somalia

→ Somalia

Since 2006, FAO has been implementing cash for-work activities in Somalia to provide immediate assistance to eligible households and enable communities to build or rehabilitate communal productive assets such as irrigation canals and water catchments. In response to the 2011 famine, such interventions were rapidly scaled up to reach more than 400 000 people in 2012 – at the time, FAO was the only UN agency with access to areas controlled by Al Shabaab.

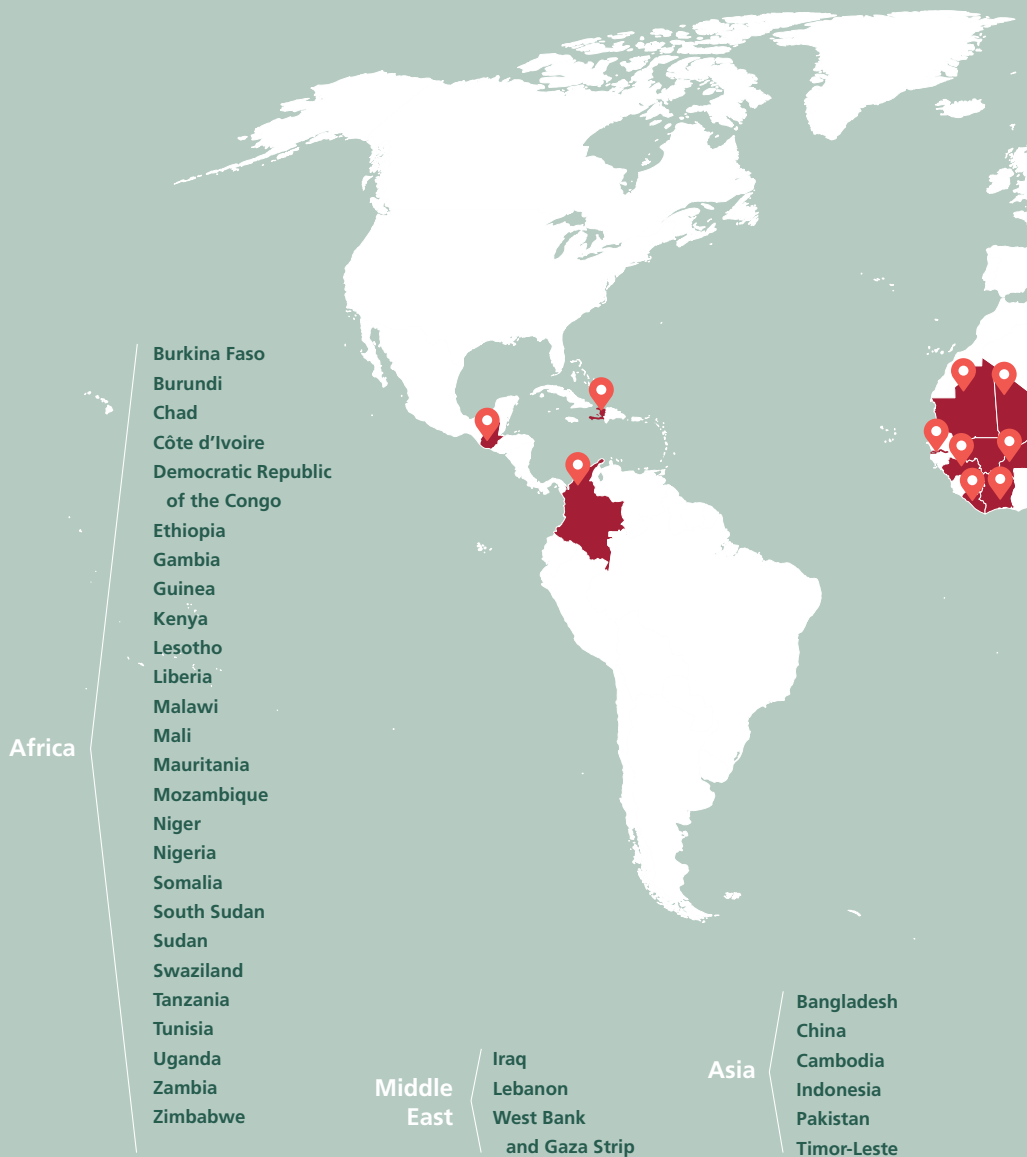
→ Cambodia:

In 2014, nine input trade fairs (temporary markets) provided farmers with access to quality agricultural inputs of their choice through the exchange of vouchers in Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear Provinces in northwest Cambodia. Nearly 4 000 households participated in the fairs, trading an average of USD 142 per household for a total volume of USD 535 080 in exchanges.

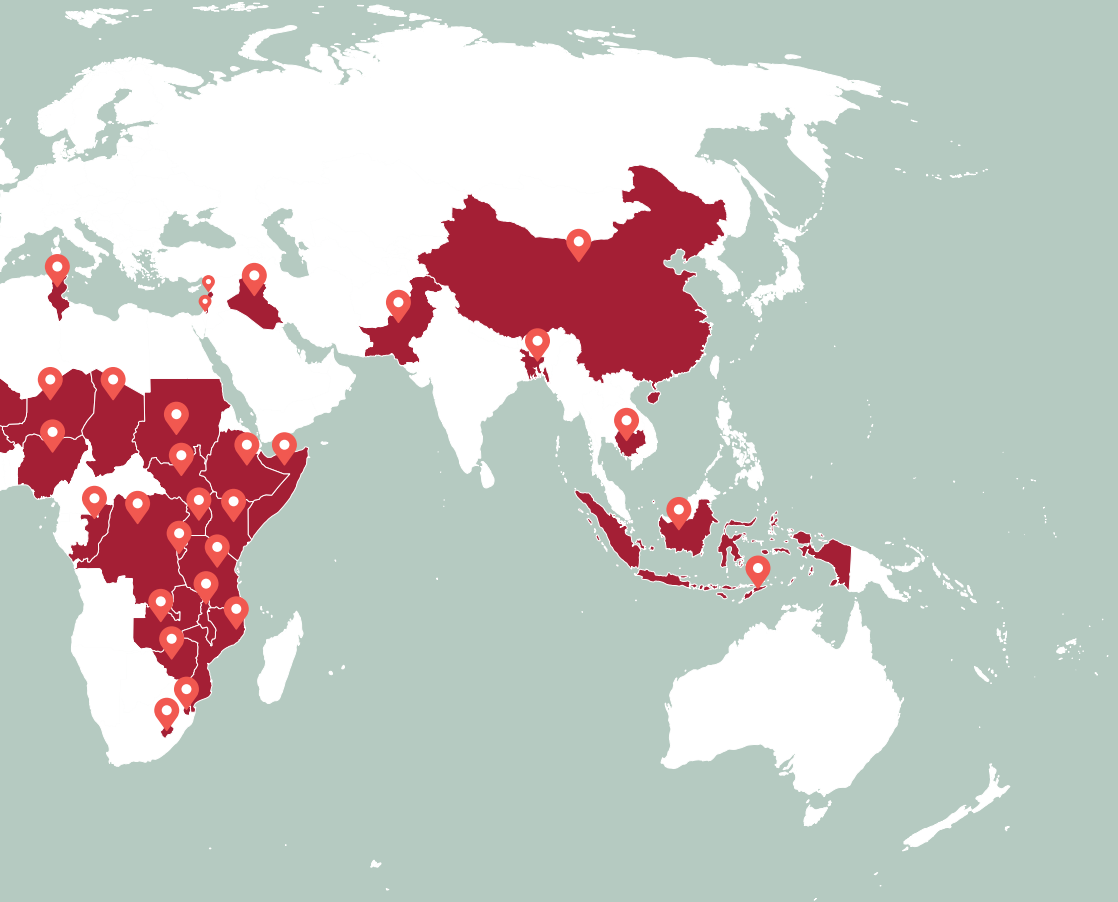


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The first FAO voucher-based project was implemented in Mozambique in 2001.



Since 2001, FAO has reached over 2.5 million households with cash and voucher programmes in 38 countries:



Latin America
Colombia
Guatemala
Haiti

Find out more:

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www.fao.org/emergencies

www.fao.org/resilience