



Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**

Food Safety and Quality

2022 Regional **Achievements and Outlook**



WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP/Mohamed Elamin

April 2023

“ IF IT IS NOT SAFE...IT IS NOT FOOD ”

Overview

Increasing humanitarian needs in the Eastern Africa region led to increased demand for humanitarian assistance in 2022. The global food crisis impacted the supply of humanitarian assistance. WFP demonstrated its agility and capacity to effectively respond to the growing regional needs by identifying alternate food suppliers while strengthening food safety and quality assurance strategies.

To provide timely lifesaving and life changing assistance, the Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) unit in the Regional Bureau of Eastern Africa worked alongside the 9 Country Offices (CO) to facilitate the acquisition and conveyance of the much-needed food assistance to the most vulnerable, ensuring that the food delivered to beneficiaries was safe and met the required quality standards

WFP's commitment to embedding food safety in all its operations was further demonstrated through increased investments in food safety. For example, the capacity of the FSQ unit was strengthened by the recruitment of 4 Food Safety Officers who are providing technical support to the COs and the Regional Bureau. In addition, each CO has a Food Technologist to support with the implementation of the food safety and quality guidelines. The corporate food safety and quality guidelines launched in 2022 provide guidance on how food safety and quality components are integrated across country operations, through upstream quality management such as food supplier development and management, food inspection, and quality assurance modelling, downstream quality management to the last mile, integration of FSQ into programmes such as school based programs, cash based transfers, nutrition and food fortification, as well as smallholder agriculture market support.

WFP also provided capacity strengthening to local suppliers to ensure that they meet WFP's minimum food safety and quality technical expectations, thereby increasing local and regional procurement of medium and high-risk foods. As a result, the Regional Bureau was able to expand its regional and local procurement base, with 341,196 metric tons (mt) of quality and safe food procured from local suppliers, including smallholder farmers, this represents an increase of 39 percent from 2021. Having a pool of local suppliers whose capacity has been strengthened has enabled WFP to source fortified blended flours, UHT milk, high energy biscuits, vegetable oil, and ready to use supplementary food (RUSF) from the region.



WFP/Arrete/Fredrik Lerneroyd

1,050 PEOPLE benefited from food safety and quality capacity strengthening activities – WFP staff and external value chain actors (farmers, small scale suppliers, government officials), and cooperating partners



869 CERTIFICATES of analysis of food reviewed

97 PERCENT utilisation of food safety IT tools/platforms (Food Safety Terrain- FOSTER)



21 SUPPLIER AUDITS AND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS

- to existing and potential suppliers

20 TECHNICAL SUPPORT MISSIONS - by the Regional Bureau and COs to the field



42 food incidents managed and resolved

1 Regional Aflatoxin Control Strategy developed



Establishment of strategic **PARTNERSHIP WITH USAID** -Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID-BHA)

Successful implementation of **QUALITY ASSURANCE MODEL PILOT**/proof of concept with Africa Improved Foods (Super Cereal Plus supplier) in Rwanda



Regional **Achievements**

1. **Strengthening Capacity of Suppliers**

WFP adopted new strategies to manage the limited supply of food and lack of adequate suppliers for food commodities such as specialised nutritious foods for the nutrition programmes. Local and regional food procurement strategies were strengthened in pursuit of alternate suppliers. To ensure new and existing suppliers met the food safety technical expectations for food manufacturing, WFP conducted technical assessments and provided capacity strengthening support to local suppliers to establish robust quality assurance and food safety management systems. The assessments and capacity strengthening empowered the local suppliers not only to meet WFP requirements but also the national standards to enable them access better markets locally and regionally.

2. Implementation of Pilot Quality Assurance Model

WFP annually procures Super Cereal Plus for its nutrition programmes from Africa Improved Foods (AIF) in Rwanda - a key supplier for WFP countries in the Eastern Africa region. The Africa Improved Foods company has been transitioned to 100 percent quality assurance model in which it has increased its capacity to be able to ensure and manage food safety and quality along the production value chain. This eliminates the need by WFP to test every lot but relies on the supplier's internal controls and Laboratory analysis contributing to cost saving of up to approximately USD 650,000 annually and reduced food inspection turnaround/lead time from 14 days to 6 days, hence improving supply chain efficiencies. This has been possible thanks to WFP technical support and capacity strengthening.

3. Enhanced Food Inspection

Food inspection services were strengthened at the major food entry points of Djibouti, Mombasa, and Somalia Ports. A total of 869 certificates of analysis were reviewed, out of which approximately 93 percent of food was accepted. This was also intensified by the onboarding of a second inspection company (Polucon limited), which increased WFP's inspection capacity resulting in improved efficiencies and quality of inspections. Food inspection carried out throughout WFP operations in the region was captured in digital systems (FOSTER and DOTs- a WFP data integration system), this has ensured real-time data tracking, analysis, and reporting.

4. Food Incidents Management

Beneficiary safety was at the centre of WFP response. Food that deviated from specification was promptly identified and reported, tracked, and managed, including investigating the root causes and recommending mitigation measures. WFP rapid response and last mile tracking of food commodities allowed timely detection, management, and withdrawal of affected food commodities before reaching the beneficiaries.

5. Regional Aflatoxin Control and Management Strategy

The first WFP Regional Aflatoxin Control Strategy for Eastern Africa was developed with the aim to reduce prevalence of aflatoxin and promote increased availability of aflatoxin-safe food on the market. The strategy provides guidance toward achieving synergy as well as leveraging available resources, partnerships, expertise, experiences, and lessons learned from past and existing interventions. In addition, the strategy will support the implementation of the local and regional food procurement policy (LRFPP) by integrating aflatoxin control and management interventions in food sourcing and handling within the WFP supply chain.

6. Capacity Strengthening

Creating food safety and quality awareness was prioritized in the region to equip internal and external stakeholders with the required information to ensure safe food at all times and at every stage within the food value chain. Over 1,050 people, including WFP staff, food suppliers, smallholder farmers, public health officers, and cooperating partners benefited from the different capacity strengthening activities regarding food safety and quality.

7. Strengthened Partnerships in Food Safety

WFP strengthened its partnership with USAID BHA to support food safety activities. The focus was on aflatoxin control and management in the Eastern Africa region, particularly on aflatoxin detection, prevention, decontamination, and support to government systems.

Country Office Highlights



Burundi: Three local small-scale millers were supported with capacity strengthening on food safety and quality for maize under a Rockefeller Foundation funded project. The support enabled the suppliers to supply fortified maize flour for WFP's School Feeding Programme.



Kenya: WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Health to pilot an aflatoxin control and management project including for nixtamalization (grain processing in which the grain is soaked and cooked in an alkaline solution) pilot for aspergillus resistant peanut. WFP also provided 17 mini-labs, worth USD 170,000 million, to the Ministry of Health in Counties to support food safety and quality surveillance in markets and schools, with focus on aflatoxins testing to ensure safe food in the population.

WFP piloted bulk oil and oil ATMs in the refugee camps. This contributed to minimized risk of contamination brought by hand scooping. FSQ RBN contributed greatly to the risk assessment that led to this improvement and to monitoring and evaluation activities.



Ethiopia: WFP provided technical support and capacity strengthening to a local supplier, Quarit, on the implementation of WFP's food safety and quality technical expectations for manufacture of fortified blended flour such as the Corn Soya Blend. Quarit has been able to produce over 3,174 mt of Corn Soya Blend (Super cereal) to WFP Ethiopia for use in the Tigray crisis for the nutrition programmes, helping avert major pipeline breaks and ensure continuity of assistance.



Somalia: WFP collaborated with Trademark East Africa to establish food quality infrastructure- a modern food laboratory for the Somaliland Quality Control Commission, bringing food quality testing solutions closer. This aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Government in enforcement of standards through testing and will also contribute to cost savings and reduced lead times. Currently, samples are shipped to Mombasa for testing before commodities leave the port.



Rwanda: WFP supported the capacity strengthening of local millers on food safety and quality for production of whole maize meal for School Feeding Program under the Rockefeller Foundation funded project.

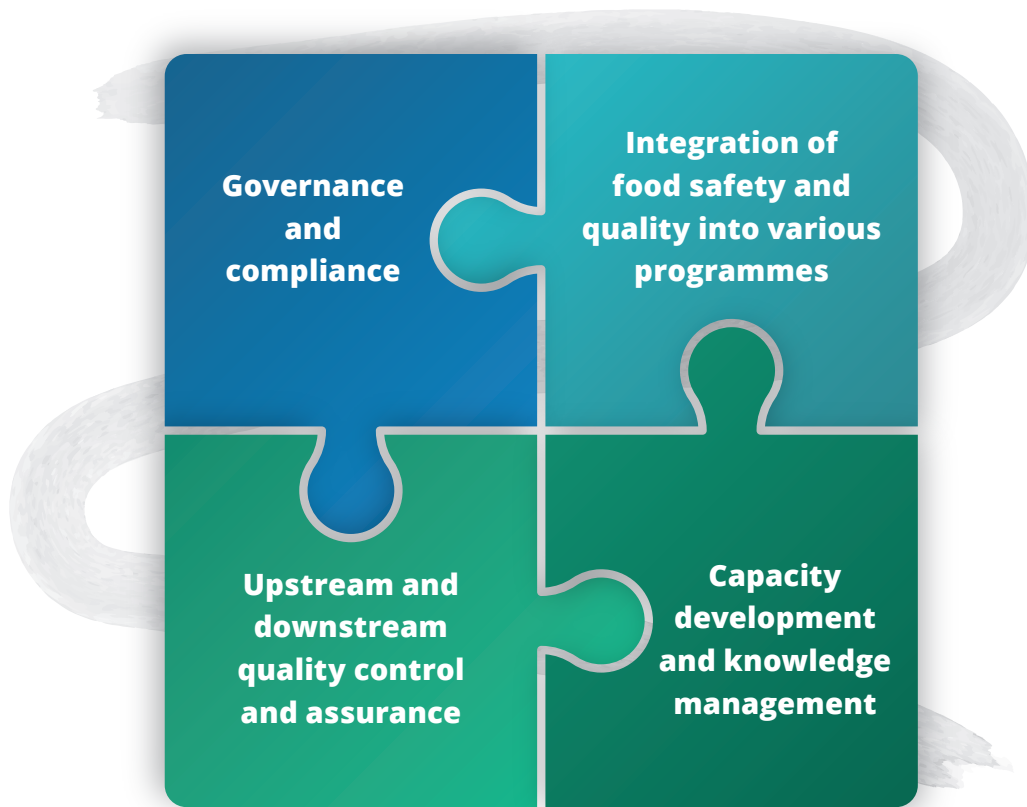


Sudan: WFP worked with a local supplier (Samil) for ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) to provide technical support on food safety and quality standards. This contributed to improvements in primary packaging and product integrity along the value chain from production to consumption. WFP supported the Government of Sudan through Agricultural Bank of Sudan to rehabilitate warehouses resulting in increased storage capacity, prepositioning food supplies for timely response, and effective grain (sorghum) cleaning to eliminate defective grains and toxics seeds.



Uganda: Investments in local suppliers has contributed to increased local sourcing capacity for maize, maize meal, salt, vegetable oil, and fortified flours.

Priorities for 2023



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