
A Bridge in the South Atlantic

The PAA Africa and the Human Right to Adequate Food



FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAMME – PAA



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Brazilian government effort and contribution via South-South Cooperation model which is based on the principles of non-conditionality and demand driven. The Brazilian government shared expertise with the African partners in food and nutrition security without impositions.

Introduction

The paper focusses on the concept of “leverage of strength” through the sharing of experiences in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) by the Brazilian government with five African countries – Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal. This case is related to the implementation of the Human Right to Adequate Food as a way to achieve food security in African countries. To present this discussion, the paper is divided into three sections. Firstly, it presents the institutional framework of the programme, such as the actors, the budget and the launching. The second part describes the policy-making process related to the programme, i.e. how the Brazilian government is transferring its social policies to African countries. In the last section, the paper illustrates the importance of the programme for the food and nutrition security of the five countries through the results of the first phase.

The Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA Africa) and the Human Right to Adequate Food Initiative

Hunger affects thousands and thousands of people in the world and it is one of the biggest challenges to governments. So, since 2003, the Brazilian government had been engaged with social policies as a way to mitigate the poverty, inequality and vulnerability of its population. As a result, 22 million Brazilians have escaped from the extreme poverty. For this reason, many countries have been seeking the Brazilian expertise as a solution

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for their national problems. Therefore, Brazil hosted, in 2010, the “Brazil-Africa Dialogue on Food Security, Fighting Hunger and Rural Development” in order to strengthen its partnership with African nations for agriculture and the fight against hunger. This Joint Initiative seeks to promote food and nutrition security and income generation for farmers and vulnerable communities in African countries.

As the main focus of South-South Cooperation is based on the principle of non-conditionality and of being demand-driven, the Brazilian PAA Africa Initiative to promote the Human Right to Adequate Food is a form of South-South Cooperation that has been designed to offer the country’s expertise to the demanding partners and the same can be adopted according to programmes or institutional arrangements in the local context. For this reason, each one of these five countries has focussed its own strategies within the PAA Africa. Despite that, there is a core foundation on which the PAA Africa is built on, which is the link between the supply of products from the smallholder farmers and the food security of children in schools.

Funding for the Programme The programme is inspired by the Food Purchase Programme, a Brazilian programme responsible for linking the production of smallholder farmers to the vulnerable communities with nutrition deficit; the PAA ÁFRICA initiative includes five small-scale projects in the five African countries. The initiative has received financial supports from the Brazilian Government and United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID). The PAA Africa also receives the technical support from

the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). In the first phase of the programme, from February 2012 to December 2013, the Brazilian government contributed US\$ 3.6 million to the FAO and WFP, while the DFID contributed US\$ 917 thousand.

Steps Adopted in the Programme

- In the first step there are three different practices to provide effectiveness to the programme. In the first place, the Brazilian government and the international organisation need to improve the productivity of the smallholder farmers. So, these actors shared know-how in agriculture that would help farmers to be able to produce enough quantity with good quality. The adoption of good agricultural practices facilitated the dissemination of the acquired knowledge by farmer-to-farmer exchanges. Besides the increased productivity, the programme also respected the agricultural tradition of each country in order to avoid any interference in the nutrition context.
- The second step is related to the organisation of the inputs, which is one of the most important stages of the programme. According to FAO, the Brazilian-PAA is the most effective model of food procurement. However, regarding the lack of conditionality and the idea of policy transfer, the food procured through Brazilian-PAA is not exported directly to the partners. Instead, the food procurement is adapted to local context, being in some occasions more similar to the WFP’s model – Purchase for Progress (P4P) and equally in some cases adopted the Brazilian model. In fact, the food

procurement is a tool to promote local production and value chains, linking what is produced by the smallholders to local students.

- The last phase is represented by the creation of institutional arrangements, policies, legal framework and laws for school feeding programmes. Similar to the previous phases, each country has led its own policies. For example, the PAA is in line with the recently adopted National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) in Mozambique, to be tested in 12 schools in the country. In Niger, the government put the 3N Initiative at the centre of its national priority, combining actions to overcome poverty and food insecurity.

Results

Table 1 reveals the operational results of Brazilian-PPA Africa initiative promoting the Human Right to Adequate Food in the five partnering countries of Africa. From Table 1, we can see that the programme has supported a total of 5,516 farmers,

420 schools, 128,456 students in the five partner countries.

Conclusion

This project indicates Brazilian government effort and contribution via South-South Cooperation model which is based on the principles of non-conditionality and demand driven. The Brazilian government shared expertise with the African partners in food and nutrition security without impositions. For these reasons, the PAA Africa has been used as an example to strengthen South-South Cooperation with regard to food and nutrition security in African countries. This success recorded is with the support and participation of some international organisations and the traditional donor, such as the United Kingdom.

Reference

PAA AFRICA. 2015. Phase 1: Learning and Results Report. Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA). Available at: <http://paa-africa.or>

Brazilian-PPA Africa initiative			
Country	Number of Farmers Supported	Number of Schools	Number of Students
Ethiopia	2,160	7	8,949
Malawi	1,248	10	10,385
Mozambique	497	175	74,520
Niger	611	60	11,603
Senegal	1,000	168	22,999
TOTAL	5,516	420	128,456