



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Fiscal Year 2023

International Food Assistance Report



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Cover Photographs: (Left Photo) Woman harvesting cabbage at a Food for Progress funded field in Laos. Photo by Winrock staff. (Center Photo) Students in Bangladesh enjoying fortified biscuits in tiffin box and water bottle funded by the McGovern-Dole Program. Photo by Mostofa Amir Foysal, World Food Program. (Right Photo) Vegetables purchased from Cambodian farmers through USDA’s Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program to complement U.S. donated rice and vegetable oil to make nutritious school meals. Photo by Bobbi Kraham/USDA.

List of Abbreviations

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CDSO	Crude Degummed Soybean Oil
CLEAN	Creating Linkages for Expanded Agricultural Networks
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
FFPr	Food for Progress
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
ITSH	Internal Transport, Storage and Handling
LEAPS	Learning and Engaging All in Primary School
McGovern-Dole	McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MT	Metric Tons
NCBA CLUSA	National Cooperative Business Association
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
SBM	Soybean Meal
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USC	United States Code
USDA LRP	United States Department of Agriculture USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program

I. Introduction

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to provide this report to the U.S. Congress as required by Section 407(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 USC 1736a(f)), as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. USDA awarded more than \$422 million for food assistance programming overseas in FY 2023. These contributions helped provide school meals and supported capacity building initiatives that improved agricultural production and economic expansion in developing nations. USDA's international food assistance programs align with the Feed the Future food security initiative, providing donated U.S. and locally or regionally procured commodities for direct school feeding and U.S. commodities for sale in countries to build food and market systems with the goal of expanding trade and promoting economic growth in participating countries.

Overview of Fiscal Year 2023 Active USDA Government Food Assistance and Capacity-Building Programs

USDA international food assistance and capacity building programs supported more than 5.2 million direct participants in 52 developing countries in FY 2023. Implementing organizations carried out a wide variety of activities around the world while monitoring their progress against established indicators and reporting back to USDA regularly. Independent third parties also evaluated food assistance projects that reached their baseline, midterm, or final stages during FY 2023. These evaluations support accountability and provide learning that is applied to program improvement.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole) (7 USC 1736o-1) funds school meals, education, and nutrition programs that are implemented by private-voluntary organizations (PVOs) and other international organizations for women, infants, and children in countries with high food insecurity. The program's statutory objectives are to reduce hunger, increase literacy, and improve the health and dietary practices of school-age children with an emphasis on girls. In FY 2023, McGovern-Dole reached more than 4.5 million participants with all active programming.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, provided \$243,331,000 in appropriated funds for McGovern-Dole in FY 2023, with the proviso that not more than 10 percent but not less than \$24.3 million of these funds shall be used for local and regional procurement of agricultural commodities within the program and remain available until expended. Congress did not provide FY 2023 funds for the separately authorized USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (USDA LRP). In FY 2023, USDA awarded six McGovern-Dole agreements valued at \$197 million, of which \$21.2 million will be used for local and regional procurement of agricultural commodities within McGovern-Dole awards.

In FY 2023, USDA had three continuing USDA LRP agreements in three countries. The total number of direct participants reached by all three active USDA LRP projects in FY 2023 was 117,516. USDA LRP supports the development of infrastructure to strengthen the ability of host governments to take ownership of school feeding programs. Details on USDA LRP will be reported in the separate FY 2023 USDA LRP Report to Congress.

The Food for Progress Program (FFPr), originally authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198), was re-authorized through FY 2023 in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The authorization for the FFPr has

been further extended through FY 2024 as part of congressional action taken in November 2023. The FFPr Program focuses on improving agricultural productivity and expanding agricultural trade in developing countries and emerging democracies. The FFPr statute directs USDA when awarding projects to consider a country's commitments to promote economic freedom and expand efficient domestic commodity markets.¹ Projects are funded primarily by proceeds from the sale of donated U.S. agricultural commodities, a process commonly referred to as monetization. The projects endeavor to strengthen the capacity of foreign countries to engage in international trade and enhance global food security. In FY 2023, FFPr reached more than 662,000 direct participants. Through FFPr assistance, more than 357,000 individuals applied improved technologies or management practices, and farmers increased sales of their agricultural products.

In FY 2023, USDA awarded a total of \$422 million in new funding, including administrative expenses, to support the procurement and transport of 371,350 metric tons (MT) of U.S. commodities. The following table summarizes the FY 2023 awards for FFPr and McGovern-Dole, including the types of commodities awarded.

Table 1: Overview of FY 2023 USDA Food Assistance Programs (FY 2023 Funding)

Program ²	Commodities (Volume/Value)	Total Funding Awarded
Food for Progress	340,000 MT / \$178,915,180	\$225,077,709
McGovern-Dole	31,350 MT/ \$33,184,630	\$197,000,000
Totals	371,350 MT / \$212,099,810	\$422,077,709

Table 2: FY 2023 USDA Commodity Mix for Food Assistance Programs (FY 2023 Funding)

Group	Commodity	Food for Progress MT	McGovern-Dole MT
Blends	Corn Soy Blend Plus	--	1,020
	Cornmeal	--	940
	Subtotal	--	1,960
Grains	Fortified Rice	--	20,240
	Wheat	130,000	--
	Bulgur	--	1,650
	Subtotal	130,000	21,890
Oilseeds	Soybean Meal	130,000	--
	Whole Soybeans	80,000	--
	Subtotal	210,000	--
Pulses	Black Beans	--	930
	Small Red Beans	--	740
	Peas	--	1,050

¹ 7 U.S.C. §1736o(c)-(d).

² USDA conducts its program solicitations and awards on a Fiscal Year cycle. USDA is reporting on costs and commodities for agreements signed in FY 2023.

Table 2 (Continued)

Group	Commodity	Food for Progress MT	McGovern-Dole MT
	Lentils	--	2,000
	Subtotal	--	4,720
Vegetable Oil	Crude Degummed Soybean Oil	--	--
	Fortified Vegetable Oil	--	2,360
	Vegetable Oil	--	--
	Subtotal	--	2,360
Other	Canned Pink Salmon	--	420
		--	420
Totals	All Commodities	340,000	31,350

II. Reporting on Program Activities

Food for Progress Program

Introduction

FFPr assists developing countries and emerging democracies by introducing and expanding private enterprise in the agricultural sector. FFPr has two principal objectives: improving agricultural productivity and expanding the trade of agricultural products. Recent FFPr projects have trained farmers in animal and plant health and climate smart agriculture farming methods, developed science-based sanitary and phytosanitary practices and regulatory systems, modernized port infrastructure to improve agricultural trade, established producer cooperatives, and increased trade of agricultural products in developing countries.

Including the newly awarded FY 2023 projects, there are 45 active projects in 37 countries valued at more than \$1.2 billion. Together, these projects reached more than 662,000 direct participants and facilitated access for farmers and producer groups to more than \$116 million in private credit and work capital loans. FFPr's agricultural programming in FY 2023 also resulted in more than 357,000 individuals applying improved management practices or technologies and more than 871,000 hectares under improved technologies or management practices.

Food for Progress released one Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in FY 2023. The program NOFO resulted in seven new cooperative agreements for projects to be implemented in Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nepal, and Togo valued at \$225 million. Food for Progress also addressed monetization shortfalls and funding gaps from prior year agreements by issuing amendments to provide supplemental commodities and administrative funds. The FY 2023 amendments allowed PVOs to conduct the full scope of activities under their awards and respond to market fluctuations, optimizing the return on pending monetizations. No additional freight funds were used to address shortfalls in FY 2023. A project in Honduras was given an additional \$200,000 in administrative funds. A project in Benin was given an additional \$97,571 in administrative funds. Food for Progress also gave a project in Thailand an additional \$500,000 in administrative funds and \$500,000 in commodities. The additional commodities allowed the Thailand project awardee to optimally fill its cargo space and maximize use of freight funding.

Figure 1: Value of USDA Food for Progress FY 2023 Awards by Region

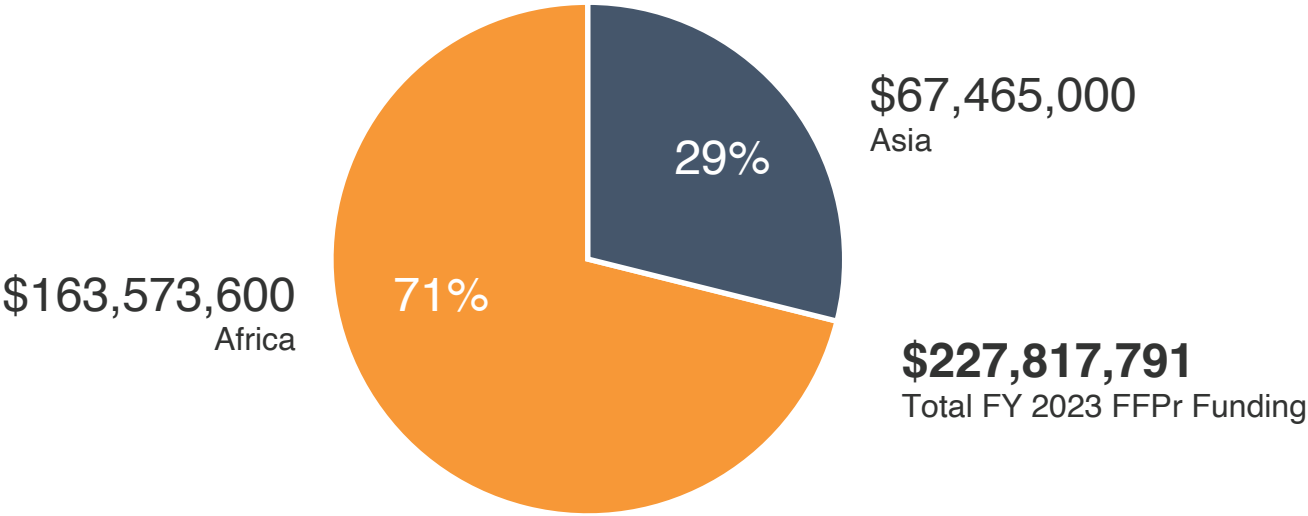
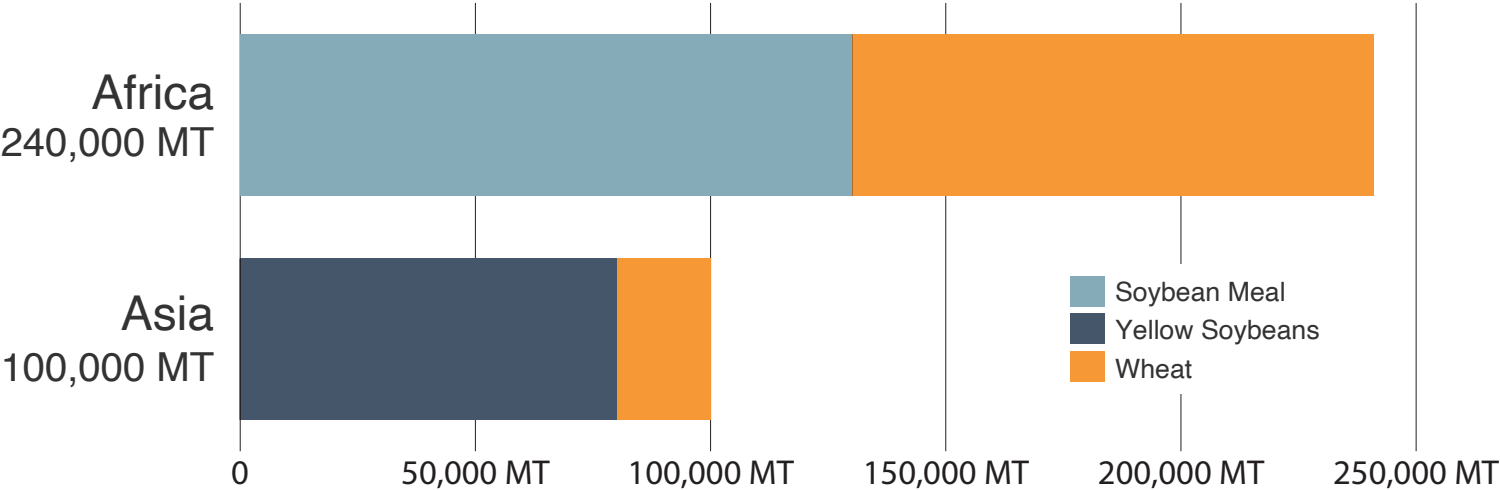


Figure 2: USDA Food for Progress FY 2023 Awarded Commodities by Region



	Africa	Asia
Soybean Meal	130,000 MT	0
Yellow Soybeans	0	80,000 MT
Wheat	110,000 MT	20,000 MT
Total	240,000 MT	100,000 MT

Table 3: Use of Funds Definitions Food for Progress Awards

Commodity Costs	Cost for purchase of commodities.
Freight Costs	Cost to ship from the United States to port of entry.
Admin. Costs	Percentage of award (5 to 7 percent) given in cash to each awardee to assist with initial start-up and ongoing administrative duties associated with project implementation.
Activity Costs	Cost of activities performed in direct support of project implementation. The proceeds from monetization go to support the implementer's activity costs.
Other Costs	These include both the direct and indirect costs of the organization implementing the project, including staffing, travel, office supplies, rent, consulting fees, and other related expenses.

Table 4: FY 2023 USDA Food for Progress Awards for New Projects (\$ Millions)*

Country	Organization	Allocated Commodity	Allocated Quantity (MT)	Obligated Commodity Cost (\$ millions)	Obligated Freight Cost (\$ millions)	Obligated Admin Cost (\$ millions)	Total Obligated Cost (\$ millions)
Bangladesh	ACDI/VOCA	Soybeans	50,000	\$27.00	\$6.00	\$1.20	\$34.2
Cote d'Ivoire	TechnoServe	Soybean meal	50,000	\$27.50	\$5.60	\$1.30	\$34.40
The Gambia	Shelter for Life	Soybean meal	40,000	\$22.50	\$4.20	\$1.00	\$27.70
Lesotho	Land O'Lakes Venture37	Wheat	50,000	\$23.90	\$5.67	\$1.09	\$30.66
Mauritania	Partners of the Americas	Wheat	60,000	\$28.25	\$5.90	\$1.40	\$35.55
Nepal	Lutheran World Relief	Soybeans/ Wheat	30,000/ 20,000	\$25.75	\$6.00	\$1.35	\$33.10
Togo	Lutheran World Relief	Soybean meal	40,000	\$24.01	\$4.35	\$1.10	\$29.46
Total			340,000	\$178.91	\$37.72	\$8.44	\$225.07**

* See Table 3: Use of Funds Definitions for category descriptions.

** These figures do not include federal award cost share contributions.

Table 5: Actual Rate of Return on Monetization by Commodity in FY 2023 (\$ millions)

Country	Commodity	Quantity (MT)	Commodity Cost (\$ millions)	Freight Cost (\$ millions)	Total Cost to USDA (\$ millions)	Actual Proceeds (\$ millions)	Rate of Return (%)
Cote d'Ivoire	SBM	20,700	\$12.30	\$1.20	\$13.60	\$11.20	82%
Dominican Republic	SBM	34,020	\$16.7	\$2.1	\$18.8	\$15.7	84%
Dominican Republic	CDSO	4,130	\$7.2	\$1.1	\$8.3	\$4.5	54%
Ghana	SBM	19,000	\$11.3	\$1.4	\$12.7	\$10.2	80%
Guatemala	CDSO	4,200	\$7.3	\$0.8	\$8.1	\$5.5	67%
Guyana	Wheat	8,800	\$3.1	\$0.7	\$3.6	\$2.9	81%
Honduras	SBM	26,450	\$13.1	\$1.9	\$15	\$12	80%
Indonesia	SBM	38,000	\$18.7	\$4	\$22.7	\$19.8	87%
Jamaica	Wheat	8,800	\$2.9	\$0.6	\$3.5	\$2.6	74%
Kenya	Wheat	50,360	\$18.8	\$5.4	\$24.2	\$17.9	74%
Peru	SBM	34,500	\$17	\$3.8	\$20.8	\$16.7	80%
Senegal	SBM	6,970	\$4.2	\$0.4	\$4.6	\$3.6	78%
Tanzania	Wheat	37,500	\$14	\$4.3	\$18.3	\$13	71%
Uganda	Wheat	6,760	\$2.5	\$0.4	\$3	\$2.3	77%
Total		300,190	\$149.10	\$28.10	\$177.20	\$137.90	78%
Rate of Return average on commodity sales in FY 2023							78%

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ³
2014	East Africa Regional (Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania)	Cooperative Housing Foundation / Global Communities	0
	Nicaragua	Catholic Relief Services	537
	Tanzania	Small Enterprise Assistance Funds	237
2015	Benin	TechnoServe	136,615
	Benin	Partners for Development	35,302
	Dominican Republic	National Cooperative Business Association	7,332

Table 6: Continued

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ³
2016	Burkina Faso	Lutheran World Relief	88,894
	Guatemala	Counterpart International	5,800
	Haiti	Catholic Relief Services	688
	Pakistan	Winrock International	34,514
2017	Honduras	TechnoServe	43,776
	Laos	Winrock International	13,673
	SeGaBe Regional (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau)	Shelter for Life	13,911
	Sri Lanka	International Executive Service Corps	35,002
2018	Andean and Central America Regional (Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru)	TechnoServe	52,731
	Cambodia	American Soybean Association	782
	Egypt	Land O'Lakes Venture 37	1,117
	Georgia	Land O'Lakes Venture 37	6,796
	Philippines	ACDI/VOCA	7,873
2019	East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)	Land O'Lakes Venture 37	4,567
	Ethiopia	TechnoServe	58,296
	Indonesia	National Cooperative Business Association	5,323
	Paraguay	International Executive Service Corps	535
	Philippines	Winrock International	7,450
	West Africa Regional (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria)	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture	68,059
2020	Bangladesh	Land O'Lakes Venture 37	1,137
	Colombia	Partners of the Americas	3,869
	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria	TechnoServe	2,081
	Dominican Republic	International Executive Service Corps	4,939
	Uganda	Catholic Relief Services	13,630

Table 6: Continued

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ³
2022 ⁴	Burundi	TechnoServe	0
	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras	International Executive Service Corps	24
	Jamaica	ACDI/VOCA	92
	Malawi	Winrock International	0
	Nigeria	Lutheran World Relief	6,573
	Peru	NCBA/CLUSA	0
	Thailand	Winrock International	0
2023 ⁵	Bangladesh	ACDI/VOCA	NA
	Cote d'Ivoire	TechnoServe	NA
	Lesotho	Land O'Lakes Venture 37	NA
	Mauritania	Partners of the Americas	NA
	The Gambia	Shelter for Life	NA
	Nepal	Lutheran World Relief	NA
	Togo	Lutheran World Relief	NA
	Countries	Active Projects	Participants
FY 2022 Totals	37	38	662,155

³ Direct participants reached during FY 2023 are reported by implementers against established standard indicators.

⁴ Implementation for FY 2022 projects typically remains in the start-up phase during FY 2023. This includes activities such as conducting baseline evaluations, establishing partnerships and agreements, preparing curricula, etc. These projects typically reach very few participants during their first year, FY 2023, and will reach more in FY 2024.

⁵ The seven projects funded in FY 2023, which are reflected in the total number of active projects in FY 2023 at 45, were negotiated and agreements signed in September 2023. Signing agreements late in the fiscal year is standard practice in the International Food Assistance Division and, therefore, these projects are not yet implementing or reporting on activities during FY 2023 by design.

Project Example

Food for Progress: Laos

The FY 2017 \$20.8 million Food for Progress project in Laos named Creating Linkages for Expanded Agricultural Networks (CLEAN) is implemented by Winrock International. The project facilitates private investment in supply chain infrastructure by increasing production, reducing post-harvest losses, improving quality compliance and certification systems, and developing linkages to increase demand for clean and safe horticulture in domestic, sub-regional and global markets. The project works to support market-ready farmers, agro-enterprises, entrepreneurs, and traders in the value chains of cabbage, cassava, coffee and sacha inchi in two regions: the Bolaven Plateau and the Vientiane Plain. Additionally, CLEAN supports innovations and innovative setup to smallholder farmers and farmer groups to help the farmers unlock missing inputs, finance, and technology to enhance their climate resilience, and reduce CO2 emissions and biodiversity loss.

Between 2018 to 2023, the Food for Progress project trained and coached 13,200 producers (of which 49 percent were women) and producer groups to increase yield and income. The project provided technical support to 9,530 producers and their organizations. It established relationships with buyers in local, regional, and international markets resulting in total cumulative sales throughout the length of the project of over \$270 million, representing over 1.5 million MT of commodity produced in the four value chains.

In FY 2023, the project achieved \$109.8 million value (a volume of 695,057 MT) of sales by project beneficiaries (farmers and firms). The number of individuals who have applied new techniques or technologies as a result of USDA assistance reached 9,530 individuals. The number of hectares under improved techniques or technologies as a result of USDA assistance reached 19,535 hectares.



Coffee Quality Institute Processing Training for Coffee Producers.
Photo credit: CLEAN project staff.

CLEAN's interventions reflect the unique requirements of each value chain. The project partnered with organizations across the targeted value chains to achieve its mission. CLEAN partnered with the Coffee Quality Institute — an international specialty coffee authority that implements key project activities to support the development of the coffee sector in Laos — and other implementing partners to provide technical training to support high-quality coffee production and processing. CLEAN has also worked with the Lao Cassava Association and private agribusinesses to establish cassava multiplication tunnels to produce new cassava stems that are free from pests and disease that threatens production.

Historically, the production of cabbage during the Monsoon season was not possible. To overcome this issue, in July 2023, CLEAN provided greenhouses to three lead Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)-certified farmer groups to experiment with off-season cabbage production. GAP is a set of standards for the safe and sustainable production of crops and livestock. GAP aims to help farm owners maximize yields and optimize business operations while also minimizing production costs and environmental impact. Combined with the use of GAP production techniques, greenhouses can both increase yield and reduce growing time by up to half.



Hydroponic Farming set up in Vang Vieng, Laos.
Photo credit: CLEAN project staff.



Girls eating sachu inchi snack bars at a school in Laos.
Photo credit: CLEAN project staff.

As a result of CLEAN's processing equipment support to project subrecipients and production of the healthy seeds sachu inchi that are high in OMEGA-3 and protein, sachu inchi is now processed into protein powder and exported. Sachu Inchi powder and protein bars are further used now in Laos to supplement over 350 school meals through the McGovern-Dole projects in Laos.

Food for Progress: Benin Cashew



Apple and cashew nuts ready to be harvested in Bohicon, Benin.
Photo credit: TechnoServe staff.

The Food for Progress project in Benin titled "BeninCaju" is implemented by TechnoServe and began in late 2015 with the goal of strengthening Benin's cashew sector and assisting cashew farmers to become more productive and profitable. The project is building a sustainable and well-organized cashew sector with better yields and incomes for producers and a competitive local processing industry. The project's main interventions include technical training in production, strengthening of cooperators, improved cashew processing, access to financing, and sectoral policy. West Africa is the largest producer of cashew; however, the processing is mostly done by India and Vietnam. Sales of cashew in Benin were mostly of raw kernel, but now with improved processing, processing facilities in Benin are selling the final product.

From FY 2015 to FY 2023, the project trained and coached 101,630 producers to increase yields and incomes, and established relationships between 126 farmer organizations (cooperatives) and cashew nut buyers. As part of the extension of Good Agricultural Practices, 23 demonstration plots were set up for the benefit of producers and young cashew researchers. Through BeninCaju's intermediation and facilitation, 90,765 low-interest loans were disbursed to 37,911 people (60% of whom were women) for a total amount of \$17.8 million.

From FY 2016 to FY 2023, the project facilitated the sale of 280,802 MT of raw cashew nuts to processors (and foreign buyers) for a total of \$166.3 million. The project also contributed to creating and maintaining 8,289 jobs (66% are held by women) in 33 cashew nut and cashew apple processing units. The project trained these units' staff in various subjects related to processing techniques, quality norms and standards, financial and administrative management of enterprises, and marketing. The project also carried out 140 capacity-building activities which benefited 22 public agencies.



A nursery employee in Benin.
Photo credit: TechnoServe staff

In FY 2023, the project trained 6,835 producers and supported 10,585 farmers in organic certification. The project facilitated the creation of 95 new producer cooperatives and enabled 233 cashew nursery professionals to produce 891,906 improved cashew seedlings, which they sold for a total of \$882,468. To increase access to finance, 2,535 people received 1,852 credits through the project's facilitation for a total value of \$1.7 million. In FY 2023, the project supported installation of four new nut processing plants and trained the processing plants' technical and administrative staff. A total of 101 people in these new factories were trained in processing techniques.



Cashew worker at a processing plant in Bohicon, Benin.
Photo credit: TechnoServe staff.

CajuLab, the project's new initiative, uses drone-taken images and machine learning to map thousands of cashew nut plantations, which allows cashew actors to manage existing plantations better and to identify the best locations for new planting. CajuLab is also digitalizing information and knowledge sharing among cashew actors. The CajuLab dashboard can be found at <https://cajuboard.tnslabs.org/en/dashboard/public> and interested stakeholders can sign-up to this free dashboard to access the information.

The project had difficulty reaching gender parity due to a socio-cultural context whereby women have little access to land and financial assets. BeninCaju was, however, able to increase

the proportion of women beneficiaries from 20% in 2017 to more than 40% in 2023. This performance resulted from the project convincing men beneficiaries to share family assets with their spouses, and from strengthening the capacity of partner organizations to integrate a gender dimension into their activities. This strategy will in the future be expanded to make rapid progress towards gender parity.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Introduction

First authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, McGovern-Dole provides U.S. donated commodities for direct feeding projects and funds complementary activities to help communities in developing countries create sustainable school meals programs. McGovern-Dole is directed by statute to provide “financial and technical assistance to carry out- (1) preschool and school food for education programs in foreign countries to improve food security, reduce the incidence of hunger, and improve literacy and primary education, particularly with respect to girls; and (2) maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs for nursing mothers, infants, and children who are 5 years of age or younger” (7 USC 1736o-1(b)).

McGovern-Dole integrates improved education, health, and dietary practices into school meals projects and works to ensure that U.S. donated food is safely stored and properly prepared. Projects also work to develop local infrastructure intended to allow children access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities at school to prevent illness. The McGovern-Dole Program seeks to achieve sustainability by promoting school feeding programs, working with local partners and host governments on capacity building to establish school feeding laws and policies. In addition, technical assistance to host governments and communities is provided to support the eventual handover of school feeding activities to the host country. USDA prioritizes programming in countries committed to providing school meals, especially where host governments have already established school feeding laws and financial contributions to school feeding. In addition, prioritizing girls' education is a significant component of McGovern-Dole. The program is intended to promote gender equity in education in

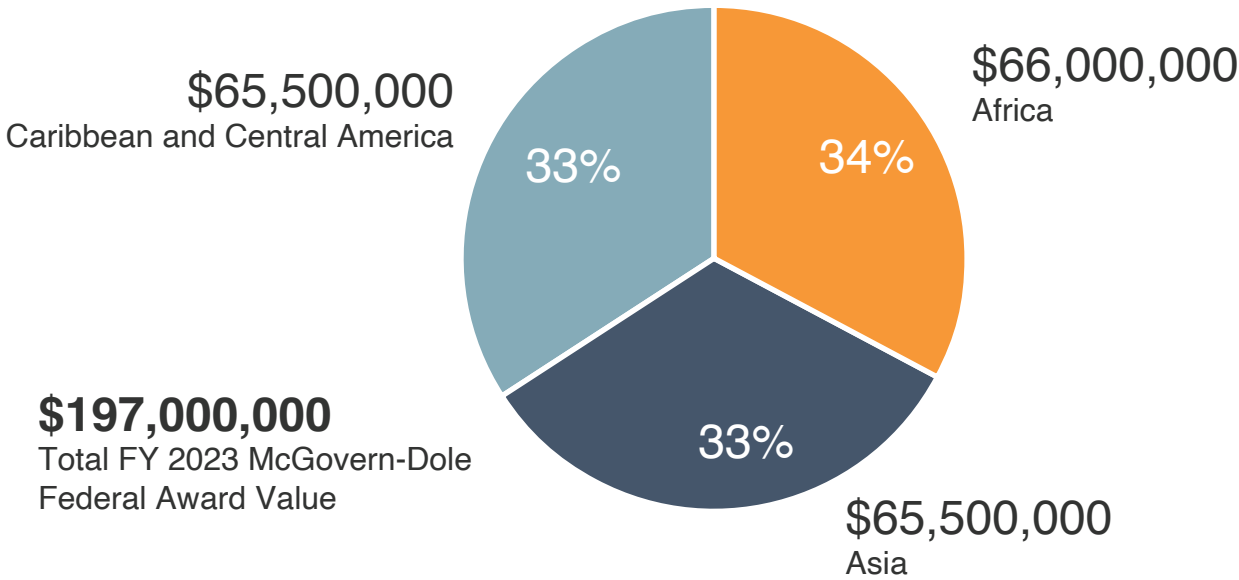
response to the reality that in many countries fewer girls attend school compared to boys. McGovern-Dole includes various strategies aimed at encouraging families to send their girls to school, such as providing take-home rations to families whose girls regularly attend school.

In FY 2023, USDA awarded six McGovern-Dole agreements valued at \$197 million, of which approximately \$21.2 million⁶ will be used for the local and regional procurement of agricultural commodities within McGovern-Dole awards. In December 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, provided that of the \$243,331,000 made available for McGovern-Dole, “not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$24,300,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities” through local and regional procurement. A total of 31,350 MT of U.S. donated commodities were awarded under these agreements. Countries where McGovern-Dole agreements were awarded include Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, and Togo.

Including the projects awarded in FY 2023, there were 56 active projects in 34 countries during FY 2023, valued at a total of more than \$1.2 billion across the life of the projects. Together, these McGovern-Dole projects reached more than 4.5 million children and community members directly in FY 2023. In FY 2023, McGovern-Dole projects provided school meals to more than 2.5 million food-insecure children, trained more than 11,000 parent-teacher associations (PTAs) in how to advocate for education and school feeding in their communities, and trained more than 24,850 teachers in how to improve literacy. McGovern-Dole projects also supported the creation and rehabilitation of more than 4,400 facilities, including latrines, kitchens, handwashing stations, and classrooms, and provided deworming medication to more than 1.3 million children this year. In FY 2023, active McGovern-Dole projects continued to adjust to different local contexts as some schools remained closed following the global COVID-19 pandemic, some schools reopened fully, and some schools moved to a hybrid in-person school meals system, distributing take-home rations to over 1.5 million children and community members. McGovern-Dole projects worked in more than 14,400 schools globally during FY 2023. USDA will provide additional information on McGovern-Dole in this year’s annual report to Congress on the Global Effort to Reduce Child Hunger and Increase School Attendance.

Commodities Provided

Figure 3: FY 2023 Value of USDA McGovern-Dole Awards by Region



⁶ This \$21,200,000 for the local and regional procurement component of the six active McGovern-Dole projects includes approximately \$15.44 million for the cost of the procured commodities, plus associated costs specific to the procured commodities, including internal transportation, storage and handling (ITSH), administrative and indirect costs.

Figure 4: FY 2023 USDA McGovern-Dole Food Assistance Metric Tons per Region

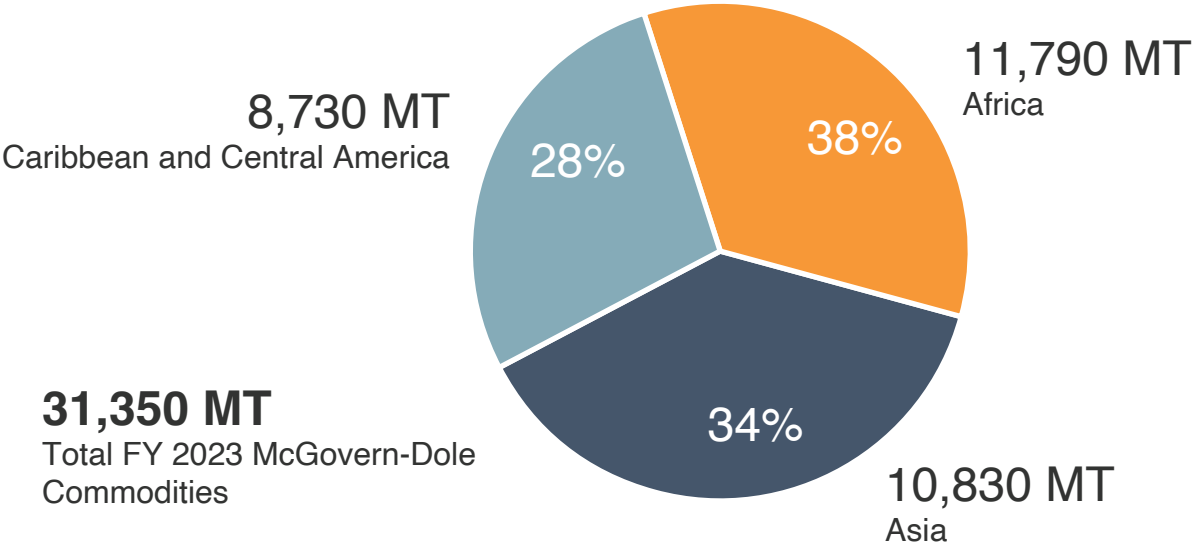
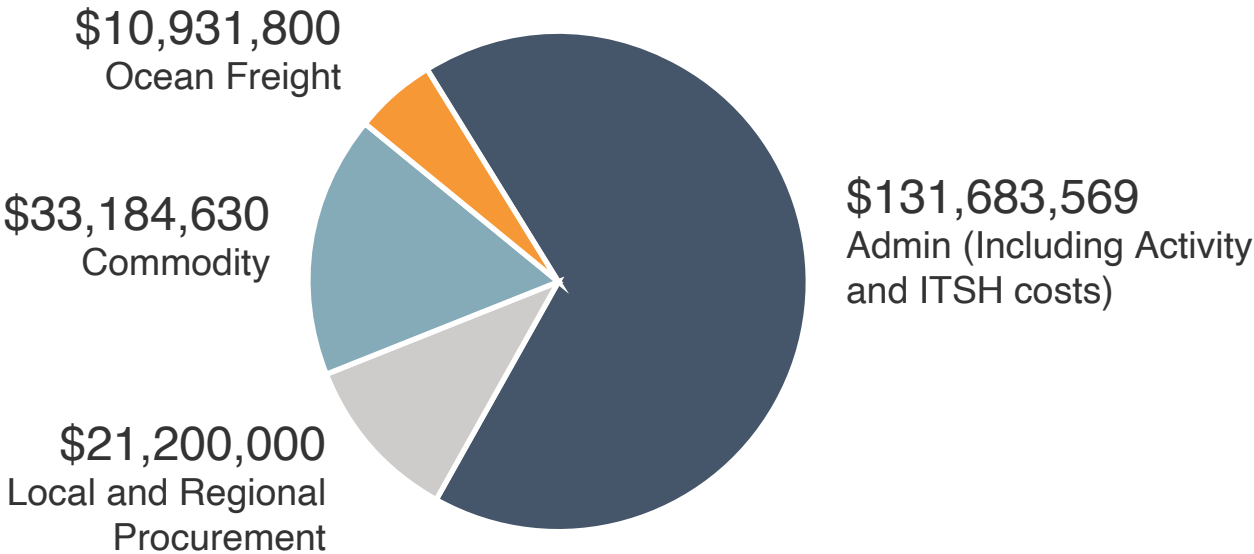


Table 7: Use of Funds Definitions McGovern-Dole Awards

Commodity Costs	Cost for purchase of commodities.
Ocean Freight Costs	Cost to ship from the United States to port of entry.
Admin. Costs	Funds for meeting the specific administrative, management, personnel, storage, and distribution costs of projects.
Activity Costs	Cost of activities performed in direct support of project implementation.
ITSH Costs	(Internal Transportation, Storage, and Handling) The costs of transporting commodities from the port, to the implementer’s warehouse, and eventually to each school.

Figure 5: FY 2023 Composition of Funding for USDA McGovern-Dole Awards*



*All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 dollars. As such the regional totals do not represent the sum of the individual columns. The regional and worldwide totals reflect the actual figures rounded to the nearest 10,000 dollars.

Table 8: FY 2023 USDA McGovern-Dole Use of Funds (Costs in millions of dollars) *

Country	U.S. Commodity	Metric Tons (MT)	U.S. Commodity Cost	Freight Cost	Admin**	LRP Component***	Total FAS Award Amount
Haiti, World Food Program	Fortified Vegetable Oil, Pinto Beans, Lentils, Bulgur, Fortified Rice	5,610 MT	\$5,751,774	\$2,019,600	\$25,228,625.55	\$4,200,000	\$33,000,000
Mozambique, World Vision	Fortified Vegetable Oil, Lentils, Fortified Rice	6,730 MT	\$6,533,754	\$2,713,250	\$23,752,996	\$3,800,000	\$33,000,000
Nepal, World Food Program	Fortified Vegetable Oil, Fortified Rice	6,690 MT	\$6,464,517	\$2,174,250	\$24,361,233	\$3,500,000	\$33,000,000
Nicaragua, Project Concern International	Fortified Vegetable Oil, Small Red Beans, Fortified Rice, Corn-Soy Blend Plus	3,120 MT	\$3,673,415	\$1,014,000	\$27,812,584.69	\$3,300,000	\$32,500,000
Sri Lanka, Save the Children	Canned Pink Salmon, Fortified Rice	4,140 MT	\$5,651,829	\$1,366,200	\$25,481,971	\$3,200,000	\$32,500,000
Togo, Catholic Relief Services	Fortified Vegetable Oil, Green Split Peas, Fortified Rice, Cornmeal	5,060 MT	\$5,109,341	\$1,644,500	\$26,246,159	\$3,200,000	\$33,000,000
Total		31,350	\$33,184,630	\$10,931,800	\$152,883,569	\$21,200,000	\$197,000,000

* All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 dollars. As such the regional totals do not represent the sum of the individual columns. The regional and worldwide totals reflect the actual figures rounded to the nearest 10,000 dollars.

** Administration costs include indirect costs, as well as funds for critical monitoring and evaluation activities of projects.

*** LRP Component Cost represents the cost of the locally- and regionally- procured commodities allowable under McGovern-Dole awards. The indirect, ITSH, and admin costs associated with procured commodities are included in the admin totals.

Total Participants Reached in FY 2023

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ⁷
2016 ⁸	Guatemala	Project Concern International	0
	Kenya	World Food Program	0

⁷ Direct participants reached during FY 2023 are reported by implementers against established standard indicators.

⁸ For these two FY2016-funded projects, activities with participants ended during FY22, though the projects remained administratively open into FY 2023.

Table 9: Continued

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ⁷
2017	Benin	Catholic Relief Services	51,806
	Laos	World Food Program	87,038
	Liberia	Save the Children	232,935
	Nicaragua	Project Concern International	93,178
	Republic of Congo	World Food Program	93,336
2018	Burkina Faso	Catholic Relief Services	23,841
	Cameroon	Nascent Solutions	198,618
	Ethiopia	World Food Program	705,300
	Guatemala	Save the Children	72,060
	Senegal	Counterpart International	62,250
	Sierra Leone	Catholic Relief Services	59,408
	Sri Lanka	Save the Children	113,121
	Timor Leste	CARE	TBD
2019	Cambodia	World Food Program	124,031
	Guinea-Bissau	Catholic Relief Services	135,411
	Haiti	World Food Program	118,092
	Malawi	Nascent Solutions	382,902
	Mauritania	Counterpart International	75,487
	Mozambique	World Vision	169,367
	Togo	Catholic Relief Services	79,170
	Uzbekistan	Mercy Corps	67,243
2020	Bangladesh	World Food Program	49,271
	Cote d'Ivoire	World Food Program	134,802
	Guatemala	Catholic Relief Services	92,527
	Honduras	Catholic Relief Services	113,699
	Laos	World Food Program	95,456
	Mali	Catholic Relief Services	107,010
	Mozambique	Counterpart International	71,761
	Nepal	World Food Program	309,982
	Rwanda	World Food Program	146,440

Table 9: Continued

Agreement Year	Country	Implementer	Participants in FY 2023 ⁷
2021	Benin	Catholic Relief Services	52,636
	Burkina Faso	Catholic Relief Services	82,945
	Guatemala	Global Communities	82,348
	Kyrgyz Republic	Mercy Corps	30,622
	Laos	Catholic Relief Services	37,289
	Liberia	Save the Children	103,079
	Madagascar	Global Communities	43,401
	Republic of Congo	World Food Program	0
	Senegal	Counterpart International	77,653
	Sierra Leone	Catholic Relief Services	73,317
2022 ¹⁰	Burundi	Catholic Relief Services	330
	Cambodia	World Food Program	0
	The Gambia	Catholic Relief Services	0
	Lesotho	Catholic Relief Services	0
	Madagascar	Catholic Relief Services	0
	Mauritania	Counterpart International	0
	Tanzania	Global Communities	0
	Timor Leste	CARE	TBD
2023 ¹¹	Haiti	World Food Program	NA
	Mozambique	World Vision	NA
	Nepal	World Food Program	NA
	Nicaragua	Global Communities	NA
	Sri Lanka	Save the Children	NA
	Togo	Catholic Relief Services	NA
	Countries	Active Projects	Participants
FY 2023 Totals	34	56	4,582,401

⁹ The FY 2017-funded project in the Republic of Congo overlaps geographically with the FY 2021-funded project, so the participants are reported under the ongoing FY 2017 project only to avoid duplicative counting.

¹⁰ Implementation for FY 2022 projects typically remains in the start-up phase during FY 2023. This includes activities such as conducting baseline evaluations, establishing partnerships and agreements, preparing curricula, etc. These projects typically reach very few participants during their first year, FY 2023, and will reach more in FY 2024.

¹¹ The six projects funded in FY 2023, which are reflected in the total number of active projects in FY 2023 at 56, were negotiated and agreements signed in September 2023. Signing agreements late in the fiscal year is standard practice in the International Food Assistance Division, and therefore these projects are not yet implementing or reporting on activities during FY 2023 by design.

Project Examples

McGovern-Dole: Laos



Student in Laos receiving a school meal provided through the McGovern-Dole program. Photo credit: WFP Staff.

In Laos, USDA provides funding to two organizations to implement McGovern-Dole projects: the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). These two projects, both in partnership with Laos's Ministry of Education and Sports, complement each other to maximize reach and effectiveness. The WFP FY 2020 project supports school meals for approximately 63,500 pre-primary and primary level students across 705 schools in 11 provinces. The FY 2021 CRS project operates in 302 schools in Savannakhet province, providing school meals to 36,619 students. In addition, CRS plays a crucial role as an implementing partner to WFP in the FY 2020 project, providing assistance to schools supported in the province of Khammuane. This collaboration between WFP and CRS ensures comprehensive support and coordination in addressing food insecurity and promoting quality education in Laos.

The USDA projects in the country align with the Ministry of Education and Sports' (MoES) Education Sector Development and Diversification Plan for 2021-2025. This plan identifies the need to reach disadvantaged students, including those residing in remote and rural areas, belonging to ethnicities other than Lao Thai, and speaking languages different from Lao. The USDA-funded projects target these marginalized students, aiming to improve their access to education and nutrition support. Furthermore, the USDA projects are designed to

complement other significant education initiatives in the country that aim to improve learning outcomes. Among these initiatives are: USAID – Learn to Read¹², DFAT – BEQUAL¹³, World Bank – GPE III¹⁴, Republic of Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Scaling Up Homegrown School Feeding Programme, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Accelerating School Meals Programs, and the European Union's Education budget support program.

The previous FY 2017 award concluded in September 2023, resulting in the successful handover of the 1,423 schools under the FY 2017 project into the Lao Government's National School Meals Program. Under the FY 2020 award, WFP and CRS continue to provide food for school meals in schools not previously assisted. The food support is complemented by WASH, literacy, school gardening, government capacity strengthening, communities' capacity strengthening and other initiatives as part of a comprehensive program, which will lead to the eventual handover of the programs in the 705 WFP-supported schools to the government.



Students washing their hands using hand-washing stations supported by McGovern-Dole. Photo credit: WFP staff.

Since the start of the FY 2020 award, WFP has received over 3,500 metric tons of U.S. donated and regionally procured rice, oil, lentils, and canned fish, 1,633 metric tons of which was received in 2023. The commodities were distributed to the 705 schools to ensure that 63,500 students receive a nutritious school lunch each day.

¹² TUSAID Learn To Read | Laos | Fact Sheet | U.S. Agency for International Development

¹³ BEQUAL | Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR (bequal-laos.org)

¹⁴ Development Projects : Lao PDR Global Partnership for Education III: Learning and Equity Acceleration Project - P173407 (worldbank.org)

With this award, WFP supported the rehabilitation and construction of over 3,000 water sources, handwashing stations, kitchens, dining rooms, and food storage facilities, and provided trainings to nearly 500 teachers and administrators and over 2,900 school cooks. Additionally, WFP worked with MoES to distribute learning materials that were created in collaboration with the Ministry called the Green Box, which provided students in the supported schools with an array of interactive teaching and learning materials, covering topics such as nutrition, school gardening, and WASH through books, posters, games, cookbooks, and various other engaging teaching and learning materials.

A key component of the project is the focus on national-level assistance and capacity building. WFP has facilitated the formulation and issuance of multiple pieces of government legislation through USDA's support, including, under the FY 2017 award, the School Feeding Handover Plan (2018) with MoES. More recently, through the McGovern-Dole FY 2020 support, the Lao government has shown continued commitment to reinforce the National School Meals Program legal framework with the endorsement of the Prime Minister's Decree for School Lunch Promotion in August 2022, which integrated school feeding into the national budget.. Additionally, guidelines on school meals implementation at the national, provincial, district, and community levels have been put in place. Despite the current severe economic challenges ongoing in Laos, the government has pledged to increase the daily allocation for school meals from 800 LAK per child/day to 1,000 LAK per child/day. It has simultaneously taken steps to streamline the disbursement of these funds. Lastly, to ensure continued monitoring after handover to the government, WFP has prioritized enhancing the Lao School Meals App, which allows monitors to efficiently collect school meals data both on- and offline.

CRS launched the third phase of the Learning and Engaging All in Primary School (LEAPS) project in September 2021, building upon the successes of its predecessors. The project provides school meals to over 36,000 children across 302 schools located in Savannakhet province.



Student in Laos receiving assistance through the McGovern-Dole Program. Photo credit CRS staff.

According to baseline assessments, literacy rates in target schools averaged 7 percent among Grade 2 students at the start of the project.¹⁵ LEAPS III focuses on enhancing these rates by supporting teachers, providing learning materials, and aligning instruction with the national curriculum set by the Ministry of Education and Sports. The project also expanded early childhood education through the Community-Based School Readiness curriculum, which was introduced to 35 villages and helped prepare children for Grade 1 in 2022. A key objective of the project is improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. By July 2023, LEAPS III had constructed 103 new latrines, increasing the proportion of schools meeting the national WASH standards. This progress supports the Lao

Government's goal of achieving open defecation-free status nationally by 2025.

Community mobilization and eventual handover of schools to government operation are also priorities. To prepare, LEAPS III is training over 1,642 community leaders, cooks and storekeepers in effective school meal management using a curriculum endorsed by MoES. CRS completed the Community Capacity Assessment to determine the readiness and capacity of the schools to be handed over to the government by looking at village susceptibility to shocks, school meals infrastructure, community contributions, and the functionality of the Village Education Development Councils. As of 2023, 103 schools from Atsaphone and Phalanxay districts transitioned successfully. By involving community members in the process, LEAPS III fosters a sense of ownership and sustainability. Moreover, LEAPS III supports the development of village education development committees through small grants, enabling them to support school development plans.

¹⁵ Percent of students who, by the end of two grades of primary schooling, demonstrate that they can read and understand the meaning of phrase and sentence. Baseline 7% LEAPS III

Research shows that providing daily school meals allows student to focus on schoolwork, helps increase enrollment and attendance, decreases drop-out rates, and improves students' cognitive abilities.¹⁶ USDA's support is key to ensuring that students have access to and continue to go to school in Laos.

McGovern-Dole: Kyrgyzstan



Children enjoying lentil soup prepared from USDA-donated commodities. Karool village, Kyrgyzstan. Photo credit: Mercy Corps staff.

In FY 2021, USDA awarded Mercy Corps \$25 million to implement a five-year McGovern-Dole project to build on the successes of previous awards. The project improves access to, and the quality of, education for 80,000 students in over 400 primary schools. USDA has been providing school feeding assistance to Kyrgyzstan since 2012 for a total value of \$52 million to date. The project has been successful in the transition from USDA support to local support for 510 schools and around 120,000 school age children.

Program objectives in Kyrgyzstan are to improve the literacy of school-age children by supplying literacy materials and school supplies and increase the skills and knowledge of teachers and school administrators

through professional training and mentoring. The project also aims to increase knowledge of health, nutrition, and hygiene practices through safe food preparation, better commodity storage practices, and increased access to clean water and sanitation facilities in schools through infrastructure improvement. Due to the various efforts, the project increases student attendance and reduces short term hunger by providing daily school meals and increasing dietary diversity through establishing school gardens and procuring locally produced commodities. The project is also able to strengthen local market systems through procurement of locally produced commodities and linking program schools to local producers. The project supports studies related to child nutrition and school feeding and contributes to regulatory framework revisions and development in the country. Lastly, the project improves policy and regulatory framework through the training of government officials and school administrators on key issues of nutrition, school feeding, literacy, and health.

Program activities focus on literacy, attentiveness, and attendance by providing a daily school meal, training teachers and librarians in skills for promoting literacy and reading, providing school and public libraries with quality reading materials, promoting age-appropriate reading materials, and training school administrators through a mentoring app to support teachers. The project also focuses on health and dietary practices by increasing knowledge of nutrition, health, and hygiene practices, providing kitchens with requisite equipment, providing access to clean water and sanitation service, establishing school gardens and training community members in gardening and nutrition, certifying cooks with state certifications for safe, healthy food preparation and storage, and procuring kefir from local producers.

The McGovern-Dole project provides complex assistance to schools and local governments in launching school feeding programs while ensuring sustainability and transition. During FY 2021 to FY 2023, Mercy Corps collaborated with the Ministries of Education and Science and Health and other government agencies to support over 44,000 students with daily school meals, books, school orchards and improved water and sanitation infrastructure. Research Triangle Institute, the program's subgrantee in literacy activities, trained 522 teachers and librarians on students' five basic reading skills and 313 school administrators on lesson monitoring and quality control using



Teacher reading a book about healthy nutrition to school children. Uchkun village, Kyrgyzstan. Photo credit: Mercy Corps staff.

¹⁶ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/8418b27336ba4a419fa625b178b8697f/download/>

a special SabakApp application. The Research Triangle Institute has also distributed over 69,000 books to target schools and public libraries and held several summer camps to promote reading habits at home among communities.

To ensure successful and sustainable school feeding implementation, Mercy Corps supported 257 schools in kitchen rehabilitation and delivered kitchen equipment amounting to \$950,000. Since financial conditions remain challenging in rural areas, the project has worked individually with local governments and schools to increase the fundraising capacity of school administrations. Additionally, 117 projects on the improvement of water access and sanitary conditions were implemented within the McGovern-Dole project; some projects allowed access to water for the whole village or area.

This funding brought more innovations into school feeding implementation. In 2021-2023, 222 school cooks were trained in safe, healthy food preparation and storage topics. To improve training processes and to address cook turnover, the project has developed the first Digital Cooking course in Kyrgyzstan. School cooks also receive 50 kg of fortified flour, 50 kg of fortified rice, 25 kg of lentils, 25 kg of green split peas, and four liters of sunflower seed oil in take-home rations twice a year. Additionally, 31 schools established school orchards. The program's second subgrantee, AgriLife, has adapted the existing Junior Master Gardener curriculum for the Kyrgyz context, ensuring the lessons include food that is relevant to the region, gardening techniques relevant to the climate and environment, culturally relevant graphics, and accurate translations. The curriculum will focus on gardening, plant science, and nutrition-related topics and will be approved by Kyrgyz Education Academy. Based on this curriculum, 40 master trainers will be trained, 31 schools' initiative groups will attend training sessions, and 1,600 primary grade students will be trained in summer camps. This curriculum will be transferred to Kyrgyz Teacher Training Institute for sustainability.



A girl from Strelnikova School washing her hands before lunch. Arashan village, Kyrgyzstan. Photo credit: Mercy Corps staff.

To support all the described activities, spread key program messages and increase knowledge about nutrition, health, and sanitation topics among program communities, the Social Behavior Change component started implementation in FY 2022. Based on the formative assessment results, the main topics of trainings were determined. The activities include direct work with communities through change agents and health workers. In 2023, the project developed a mobile application for community mobilization to share materials and measure progress effectively.

To advocate for school feeding on a governmental level, Mercy Corps cooperates with ministries, parliament members, WFP school feeding programs and other stakeholders. Together with the Ministry of Education and

Science and the Coalition for School Feeding Programs by development partners, Mercy Corps has contributed to the National Integration Micronutrient Anthropometric Study, the National Food Security and Nutrition Program for 2023 – 2026, and new Education law. The project has been supporting the development of the by-law on school feeding organization processes under the new Education Law. In 2023, the project started School Feeding Programs Sustainability research, which will be used in the National Sustainable School Feeding Strategy.

Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement

Under the authority of Section 3206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, as amended, the USDA LRP program provides a complementary mechanism for delivering international food assistance. The objectives of USDA LRP include strengthening the ability of local and regional farmers, community farmer groups, farmer cooperatives and associations, processors, and agribusinesses to provide high-quality

commodities, and enhancing the ability of organizations and governments to procure such commodities in support of school feeding programs. The funding authorization allows field-based development projects to procure eligible commodities produced within a target region. At the time of award, preference for funding has been given to active McGovern-Dole projects to leverage opportunities within existing projects and open new school feeding markets to local and regional producers. USDA LRP has not received appropriated funds the last four fiscal years. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, did not appropriate funds for the USDA LRP program.

In FY 2023, USDA had three continuing USDA LRP agreements in three countries. These agreements are scheduled to end by September 30, 2024. Across the three active agreements, USDA LRP projects reached 117,516 direct participants. See table 10 for active programming in FY 2023.

Table 10: Active Prior-Year-Funded USDA LRP Projects in FY 2023

Implementer	Country – FY	Award (Value)	Procured Commodities
Catholic Relief Services	Burkina Faso – FY 2019	\$4,800,000	Cottonseed Oil, Millet, Rice, Cowpeas
World Food Program	Cambodia – FY 2019	\$4,700,000	Animal Protein, Fresh Vegetables, Iodized Salt
Project Concern International	Nicaragua – FY 2019	\$5,500,000	Dry Beans, Vegetables, Animal Based Proteins

Project Example

Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement: Cambodia



Prak Sokhom, a vegetable farmer supplying Botum Sprang Sreley School in Kampong Thom province. Credit: WFP Staff.

In FY 2019, USDA awarded \$4.7 million to WFP to implement a four-year LRP project in Cambodia. Since the beginning of the USDA LRP project, it has reached 54,000 students in 189 schools in six districts across three provinces. The project provides cash-based transfers for each school to procure animal protein, fresh vegetables, and iodized salt to supplement the FY 2019 McGovern-Dole project that includes U.S. donated fortified rice and vegetable oil. The project also provides technical support to 664 producers and suppliers to strengthen their production capacities and market engagement, including selling to supported schools. In addition, the project works with school feeding stakeholders in Cambodia to strengthen capacity on procurement mechanisms and at the national level to institutionalize these capacities and systems for local procurement in school feeding.

From the beginning of the project, implementers had to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting disruptions in education. In Cambodia, schools closed in March 2020 and learning was interrupted for almost 300 days. While schools were closed, school meals from WFP and the Government of Cambodia shifted to take-home rations. Through the USDA LRP project, 92 MT of locally purchased rice and canned fish were

distributed as take-home food assistance for the poorest households supported by the project during the pandemic. As the country emerged from school closures, the distribution of home-grown school meals resumed in November 2021, and through the project in FY 2023 schools procured 990 MT of fresh vegetables and animal-source protein from local suppliers, overcoming challenges in school food commodity contracts brought on by food cost increases. At the same time, supply-side actors received support to be able to supply safe and nutritious food for schools, meeting the quantity and specifications required. In FY 2023, 664 farmers and 46 suppliers were mobilized and trained in Good Agricultural Practices, vegetable production techniques, and post-harvest management (focusing on climate-smart agriculture).

III. Appendices

FY 2023 New Awards by Program

CCC-Funded Food for Progress	McGovern-Dole	Local Regional Procurement
Bangladesh	Haiti	None
Cote d'Ivoire	Mozambique	
The Gambia	Nepal	
Lesotho	Nicaragua	
Mauritania	Sri Lanka	
Nepal	Togo	
Togo		