

Community-led School Meals program in the Millennium Villages of Sauri Kenya and Ruhiira Uganda

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THE MILLENNIUM VILLAGES PROJECT

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Lay out of Presentation

- Description of Millennium Villages Project
- Food and nutritional security challenges in Sauri, Kenya and Ruhira, Uganda
- Purpose of the school meals program
- Implementation of the school meals program
- Impact of school meals program
- Challenges

Millennium Villages Project

Purpose:

- To empowering rural communities with basic necessities and resources to get out of poverty and achieve the MDGs

Goal:

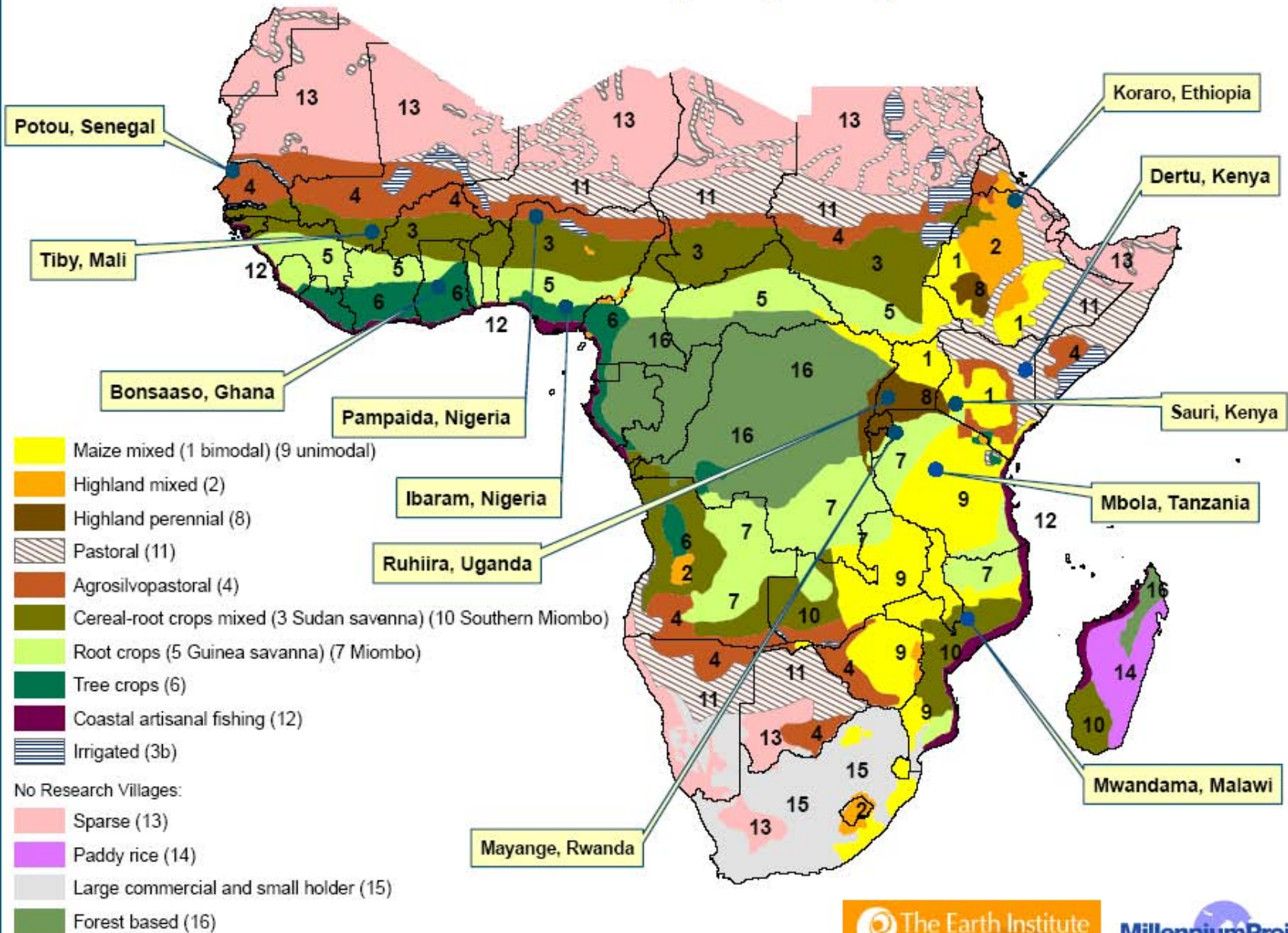
- To inform and support national growth and development strategies and to provide a model for sustainable investments leading to an economic transformation in rural areas



Where Millennium Villages are located

- 79 Millennium Villages located in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa covering 400,000 villagers
- MVs are in sites which are: (i) hunger hotspots, (ii) in countries committed to achieving MDGs, and (iii) representing a major agro-ecological zone
- Jointly implemented by UNDP, Earth Institute at Columbia University and Millennium Promise

Millennium Research Villages & Agro-Ecological Zones



Adapted from Dixon et al. 2001. Farming Systems and Poverty. FAO

Defining Elements of the MV Approach

- Integrated multi-sectoral approach
- Best science, knowledge and experience
- Community participation, ownership and leadership
- Partnerships of communities, Government, UN, and other development partners
- Driven by a rural economic transformation, backed by capacity building

Food and nutritional security challenges

Ruhiira Uganda

- Bananas major food and income source, limited diversity of meals
- 58% of children stunted
- Inadequate firewood limits number and quality of meals
- Degraded hilly terrain causing decline in per capita food production



Sauri Kenya

- Maize major staple food
- Poor soils limit corn production to $<2 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$
- 20% of $< 5\text{yr}$ children Underweight
- There is food shortage for 3 to 7 months in a year.
- 67% below poverty line (\$1/day)



Why the school meals program

- To increase food and nutrition security by providing a daily nutritious meal for children.
 - The school meal program is targeting to meet 30% of energy and protein and 75 % of Vitamin A and Iron RDAs.
- Encourage increased attendance and academic concentration in primary schools



Initiation and Implementation of school meals program

- Participatory community diagnosis and assessment exercise identified the need for school feeding.
- Participatory action plans were developed and the roles and responsibility of community and project defined.
- Type and source of food agreed by the communities depending on local availability and nutritional value.
- At the school level the program is run by the school management committees, parents teacher's association and the community education sector committee

Roles and responsibilities

MV Project	Community/school
Provision of subsidized crop seeds and fertilizers to communities.	Communities grow food and bring back 10% of harvest for school meals
Construction of improved cook stoves and pans	Provision of firewood and labor for cooking
Construction of water tanks	Fetching additional water
Provision of vegetable seeds	Provision of green leafy vegetables
Contributes to kitchen construction	Contributes to kitchen construction
Monitoring	Implementation and monitoring



Old



New



*Paper presented at the 35th
M*

School meals with diversity of locally produced foods

	Breakfast	Lunch	Total nutrient value (Average for ages 5-15 years)			
			Energy (kcal)	Protein (gms)	Iron (mg)	Vit A (μ g)
Ruhiira Uganda	Maize porridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize bread (posho/ugali) • Kidney beans • Vegetables 	1770	13.0	7.5	
Sauri Kenya	Maize porridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize bread • Fruit • Vegetables • Beans • Meat/fish 	721.5	25.6	11.8	306.3

Cost implications

Site	Total Cost Per Child per yr [USD]	Recurrent cost per meal [USD]	Project contribution (%)	Community contribution (%)
Ruhiira, Uganda	29.9	0.08	60%	40%
Sauri, Kenya	32.0	0.10	60%	40%

Monitoring, evaluation and capacity building

- Periodical anthropometric measurements
- Regular inspection of quality and quantity of food served by project staff
- Training of cooks on food preparation by a nutritionist
- Quarterly review meetings with implementing community committees
- Establishment of school gardens to produce food



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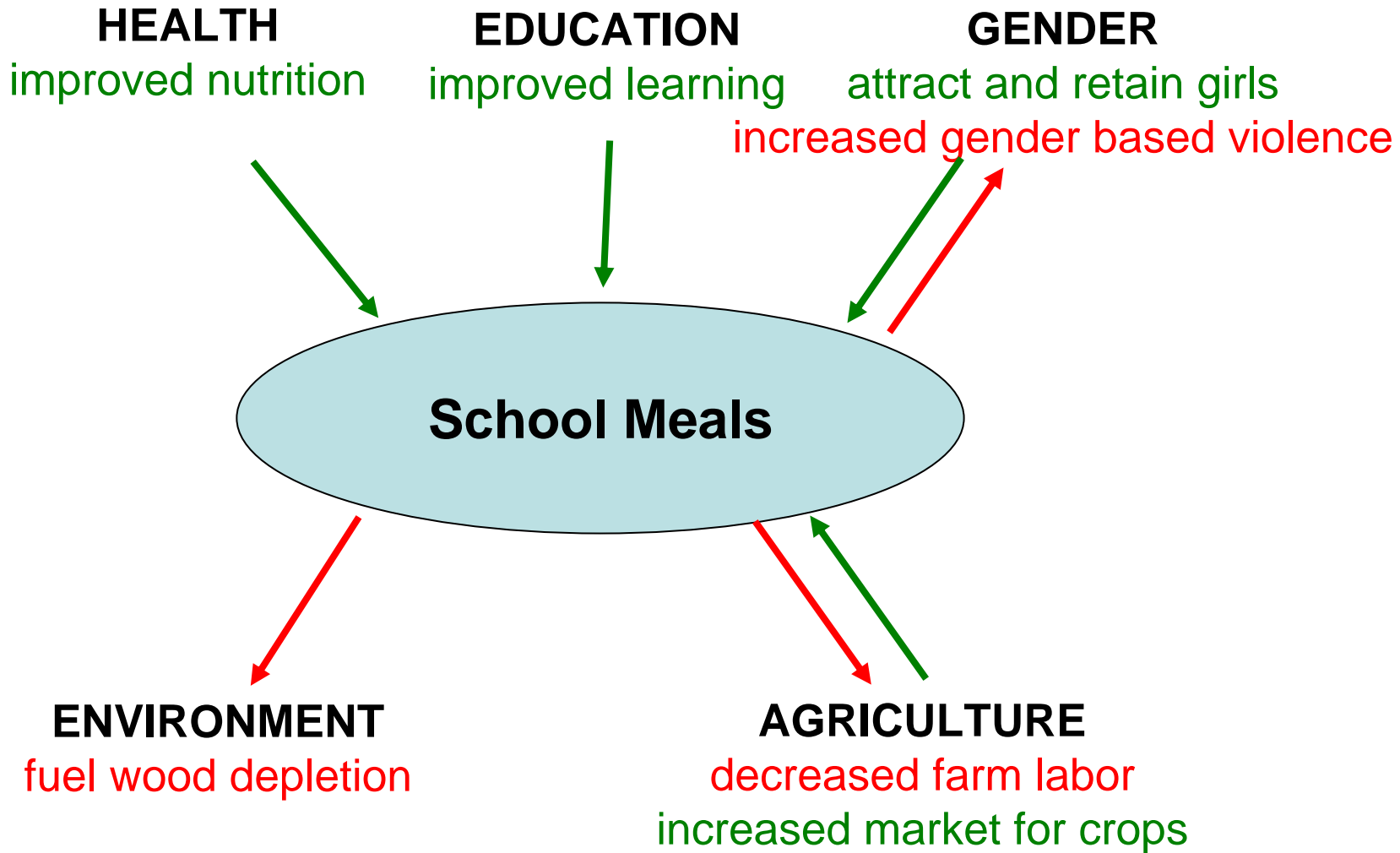
Impact of school meals program

- 17,514 and 9,201 respectively from Sauri and Ruhiira have benefited
- School enrollment has increased by a minimum of 13% and 20% in Sauri and Ruhiira, respectively
- Reduced absenteeism and late coming of both teachers and pupils.
- Academic improvement.
 - Sauri primary school improved ranking from 195th out of 358 to 10th.
 - Ruhiira village schools increased grade 1 passes from 0 to 6
- Preliminary results from anthropometric measurement indicate improving ‘weight for age’ levels.

Some preliminary data

		July 06	Mar 07
Anaemia	Severe (<7 g/dl)	5.5%	0%
	Mid & moderate (7-11 g/dl)	75.1%	8.5%
	Normal (>11 g/dl)	19.4%	91.5%
Wasting	Percentage	2.4%	0%

School meals tradeoffs



Challenges

- Increased school attendance is not paralleled with increased teachers and school facilities.
- Teacher student ratio increase
 - Ruhiira Uganda from 1:65 to 1:90
 - Sauri Kenya from 1:48 to 1:55.
- Serving meals can be time consuming and may result in late start of afternoon classes
- The program is constrained by high costs of firewood and water.
- Parents contribution is limited during drought months.