



AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS VISITS WFP SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME IN KIBERA

Nairobi, 27th August 2015

School feeding programs are a significant safety net in Kenya, often providing children with their only meal for the day. In the last year, Australia has contributed AUD \$1.5 million (KES 114 million) to the World Food Programme (WFP)'s school feeding program in Kenya. Today, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja, visited the Stara Rescue Center and Primary school in the Kibera area of Nairobi to see the program in action. She talked with students, parents, teachers and WFP representatives about how this program was helping children, especially girls.

"I am delighted to be able to visit this school, and meet with teachers and parents who have witnessed the positive effects of the WFP school feeding program. WFP is one of Australia's most valued and trusted humanitarian partners, and it's wonderful to see one of its flagship projects in action here today." she said.

School feeding programs provide incentives for children to attend and stay in school. They also contribute to increased school attendance, particularly among girls, and can improve nutrition and school performance. In Nairobi's informal settlements 90,000 children benefit from these programmes, and another 560,000 benefit across the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya. Later this year, WFP's program will become cash-based, which will enable schools to procure food on the local market, providing opportunities for a more sustainable and effective scheme.

Background:

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger. WFP is a key partner in the delivery of Australia's food and humanitarian assistance globally and a strategic partner for Australia in the East African region. In December 2014 Australia made an annual contribution of AUD \$50 million to WFP's global operations. This contribution includes AUD\$10 million in support of WFP's school feeding programs, of which Kenya is one of the seven beneficiary countries. From 2010-11 to 2014-15, Australia has provided AUD \$13.5 million towards the school feeding program in Kenya.

Traditionally, WFP's school feeding program would have provided the commodity (various foods) to schools. In recent changes to the program, WFP is now taking a market-based approach by transferring KES 9 per child per day into school accounts. Schools will take charge of food procurement. USD 400,000 per school term will be directly injected into the local economy through local purchases. Australia's contribution is assisting with the roll-out of this cash-based program.

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