Value for Money analysis

Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program – Cohort 1 schools

15/02/2024

Federico Ercolano & Clare Ondere

MERCY CORPS

About the FFE/USDA school feeding in Kyrgyzstan

› About

› Funded by: McGovern-Dole - Food for Education & Child Nutrition program

› When: 2021 - 2026

› Overall reach target: 100,000 children aged 7-10 years old in 415 schools

› Where: Implemented in rural and remote areas of Kyrgyzstan

› Objectives: Improving water and food security and nutritional outcomes for children aged 6-10 years old in 415 schools nationwide, divided into three cohorts (124, 133, and 158 schools), via school feeding and WASH interventions

› Intervention modality (school feeding): hybrid -> imported commodities + locally produced

› For the analysis

› Only cohort 1 schools -> 25,336 children (124 schools)

› Analysis of data collected on the first year of assistance (out of 2 for each cohort)

› Selected metrics (efficiency)

› cost to deliver a meal

› cost to serve a child
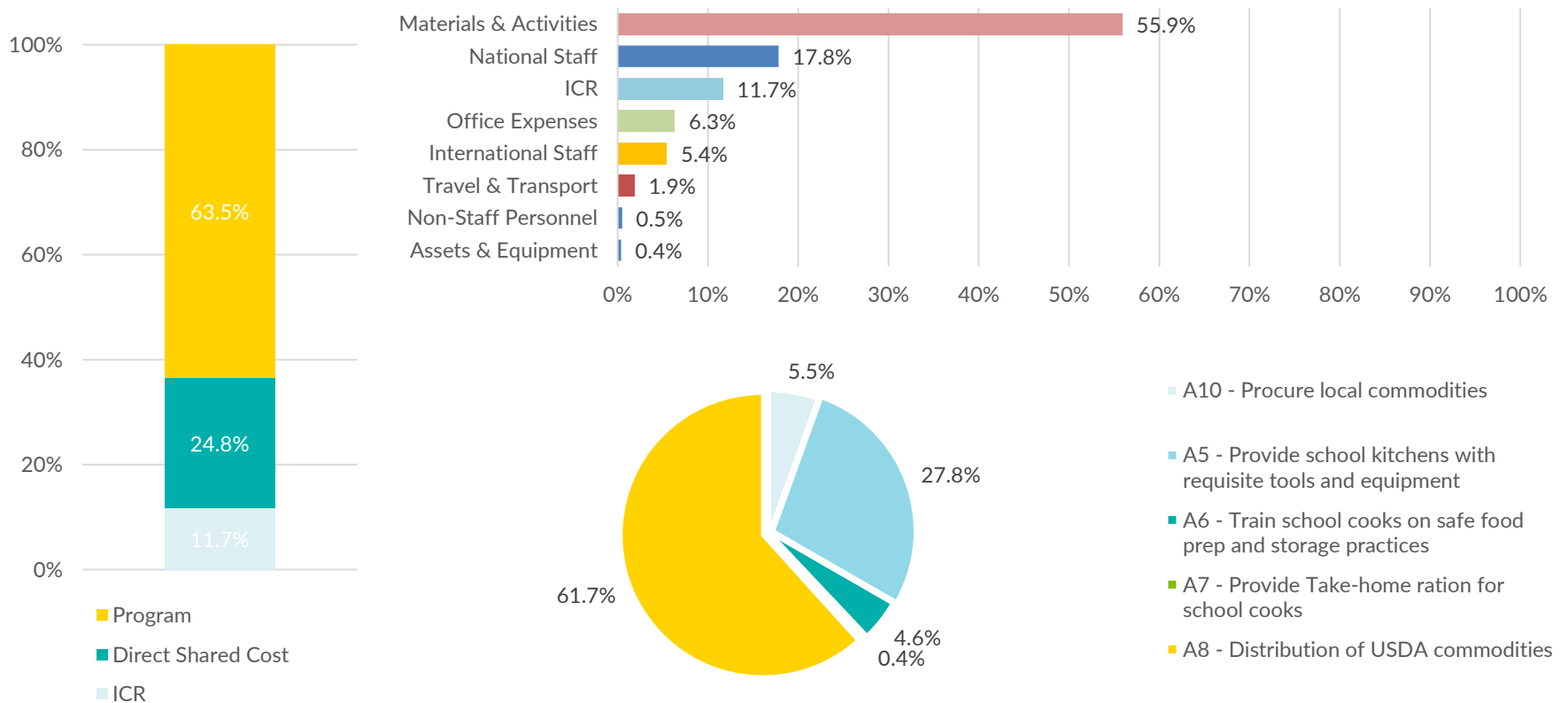
› cost per in-kind ($1 value) distribution

MERCY CORPS

Analytical pills

Value for Money (cost analysis) at Mercy Corps
Cost data from school feeding
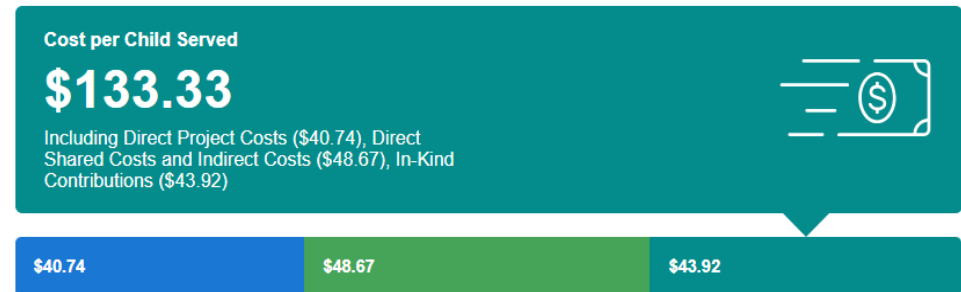
Cost drivers, categorisation, intervention modelling

Stacked bar chart:
- Program: 63.5%
- Direct Shared Cost: 24.8%
- ICR: 11.7%

Horizontal bar chart:
- Materials & Activities: 55.9%
- National Staff: 17.8%
- ICR: 11.7%
- Office Expenses: 6.3%
- International Staff: 5.4%
- Travel & Transport: 1.9%
- Non-Staff Personnel: 0.5%
- Assets & Equipment: 0.4%

Pie chart:
- 5.5%
- 27.8%
- 61.7%
- 4.6%
- 0.4%

Legend:
- A10 - Procure local commodities
- A5 - Provide school kitchens with requisite tools and equipment
- A6 - Train school cooks on safe food prep and storage practices
- A7 - Provide Take-home ration for school cooks
- A8 - Distribution of USDA commodities

MERCY CORPS

Cost data from school feeding

Cost efficiency

› Cost to serve a child (160 schooling days)*

Cost per Child Served

$133.33

Including Direct Project Costs ($40.74), Direct Shared Costs and Indirect Costs ($48.67), In-Kind Contributions ($43.92)

| $40.74 | $48.67 | $43.92 |

› Cost per in-kind ($1 value) distribution

› **The cost to deliver $1 of in-kind contribution was $1.33** Only for commodities imported from the US

› **Every $1 invested in the program, $0.57 was used to run Mercy Corps' implementation and $0.43 was transferred to school participants**
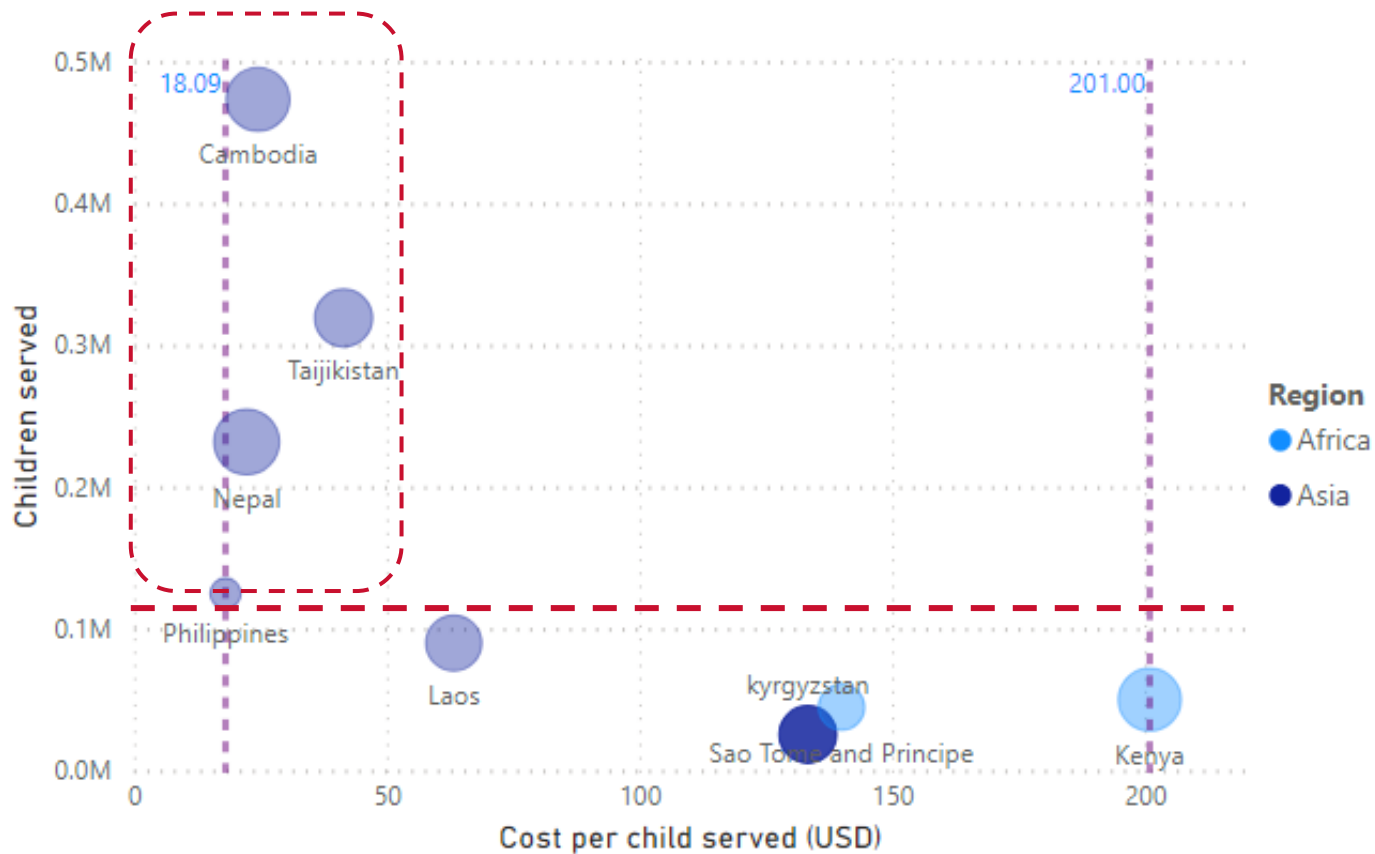
› Cost to deliver a meal at school

› **The average cost to deliver a meal at school was $0.83**

Is it good or bad? What do these values tell us?

MERCY CORPS

Cost data from school feeding interventions – Cost efficiency

Cost to reach a participant (child) - Cost comparison

# Cost data from school feeding

Key takeaways for the implementation

› Orienting more on locally produced food, instead of imported, might reduce cost of food (custom, transport, storage), allow better management of food resources (food saving management) and reduce the collateral risk linked to storing and delivering food

› THR to school cooks reduced turnover, potentially improved people livelihood as well as indirectly wider communities' livelihoods

› Interesting to conduct multiple VfM analyse during implementation – learning by delivering

    › The intervention seems to have good cost-efficient levels

    › Possibility to report to donors on a regular basis

    › Built expectations and set up condition to improve cost efficiency and effectiveness (equity cross cutting)

Key takeaways for the analytical process

› High quality Activity Based financial coding

› Lack of data disaggregation

    › It was not possible to analyze the cost for equity i.e., the cost to reach hard to reach schools vis a vis other and the differentiated support provided per school

    › The financial tracking system did not account for school support by cohort and improved coding systems are required to track support over time -> the team started to add additional coding to separate costing related to different cohorts

MERCY CORPS

〉Ideas?

〉Questions?
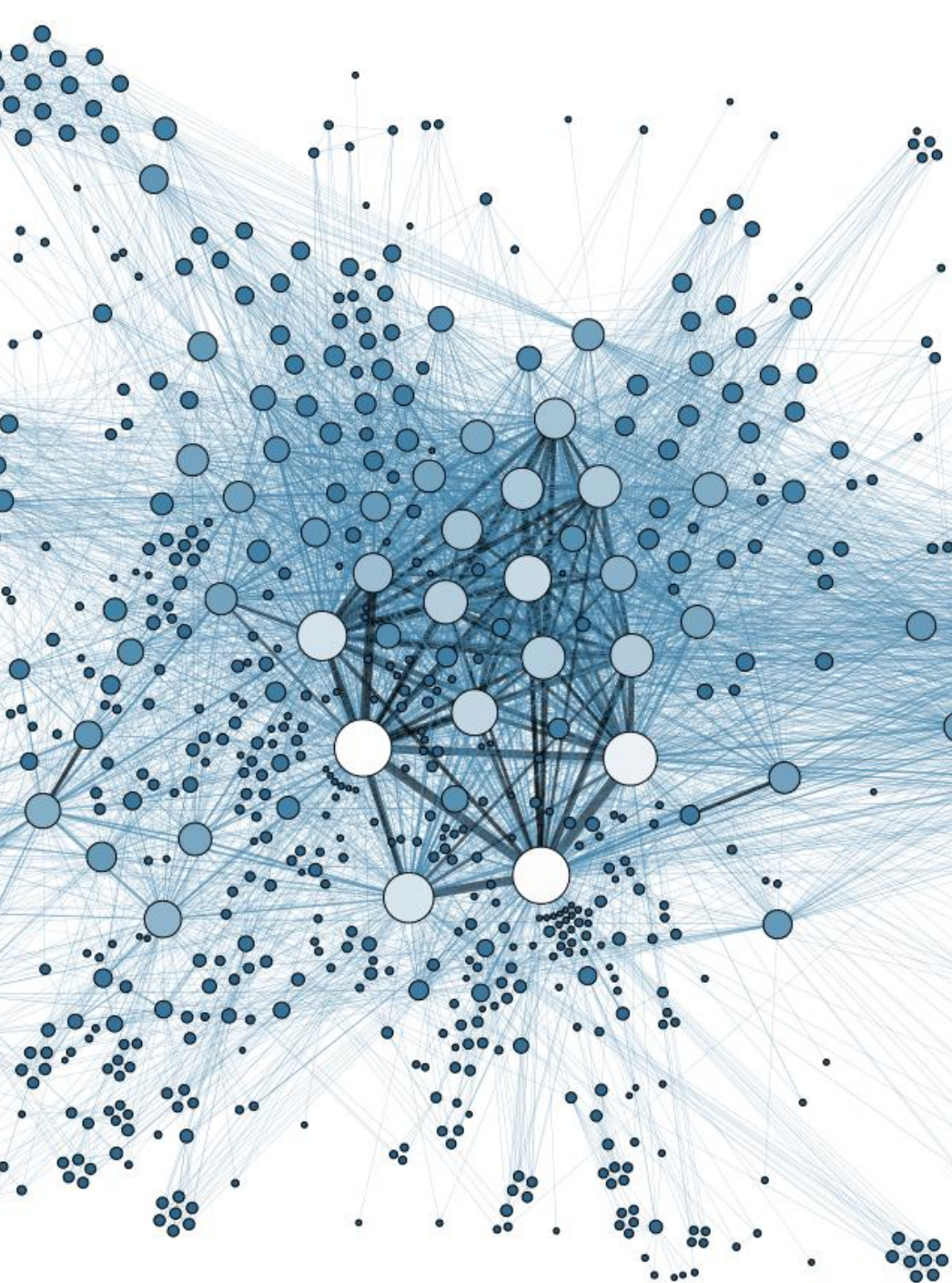
MERCY CORPS

VALUE FOR MONEY AT MERCY CORPS