Design of an Impact Study to Evaluate the Scaling up of the WFP Voucher Programme in Kakuma and Dadaab

AT A GLANCE

Purpose of the Research

The research aimed at developing a set of analytical tools that will inform on the scale up of vouchers in favor of in-kind food assistance, in particular the most effective mix given available resources.

Model outcomes

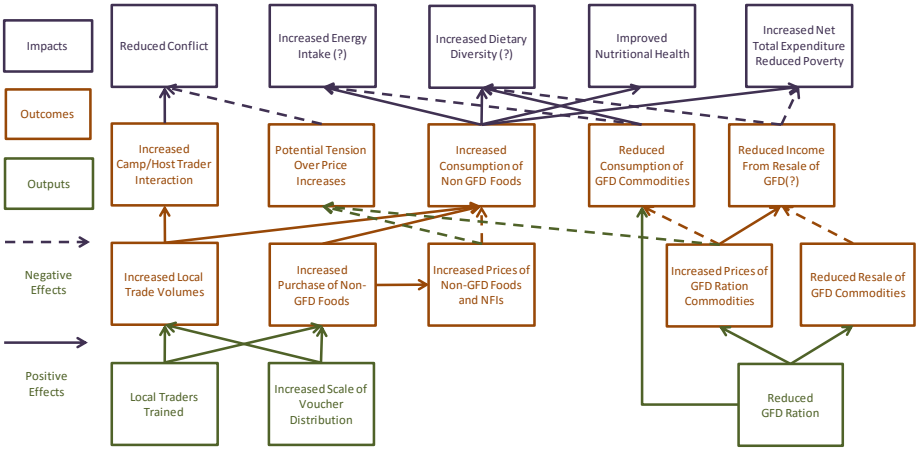
The main model outcome is the percentage change in welfare (utility) or its monetized equivalent for different household types.

Using the model, estimates of the costs of both the food and voucher distribution, and the key parameters related to consumption and production, can be used to compute and maximize net welfare.

Rationale

A voucher scheme is planned for Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps to replace part of the general food distribution (GFD) enabling refugees to purchase a more diverse diet. The impact of up-scaling was to be evaluated.

Theory of Change



A general equilibrium economic simulation model was formulated that computes the market (price) response to the injection of vouchers and compares it to in-kind food aid.

Key Considerations

- Benefits and risks may be unevenly distributed whereby voucher scheme may marginalize vulnerable groups such as traders not in the camps or households without mobile phones.
- Cereal component of the ration may affect resale behavior, demand and prices for different cereal types in the market.
- Exogenous factors, such as ration cuts or security restrictions may influence costs, benefits and risks and need monitoring.
- Conflicts, particularly related to intra-household decision-making, may increase.
- Commodity prices can change with season.

To parameterize the model, tools were developed to collect relevant data from 2000 refugee households, 400 traders in the camp and 50 traders in the main town

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