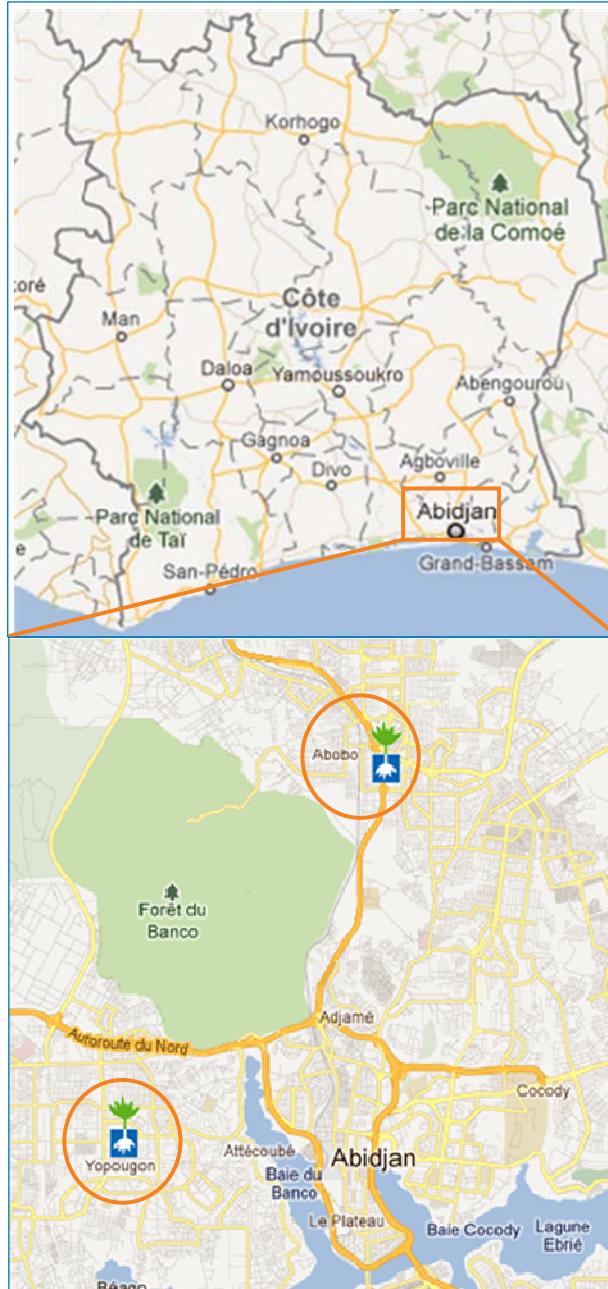


Donors	Transfer Mechanism	Project Duration	Objectives
United Nations World Food Program (WFP)	Unconditional cash grant – mobile phone	July-August 2011	Provide emergency assistance aimed at improving food consumption by increasing beneficiaries' ability to access staple foods.
Budget	Beneficiaries	Areas of Intervention	
€167,694	10,800 households	Abobo and Yopougon, Abidjan, Lagunes, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	

Situation

After the election on 28 November 2010, two presidential candidates, Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, claimed they had won. Both Ouattara and Gbagbo swore themselves into office in December 2010. People were displaced internally due to the post-electoral violence, and many refugees fled the country. The turmoil caused the economy to suffer and made it difficult to transport commodities. Insecurity and violence led to an increase in staple food prices and worsened already high food insecurity levels. Combined with the reduced availability of health services, the people of Côte d'Ivoire were facing a rapid decline in nutritional status.

Below: MTN SIM card. Copyright: WFP / Jonas Soubiega.



Rationale

WFP pursued a CBI because civil security had improved in Abobo and Yopougon but food distribution channels had been seriously interrupted. In May 2011, markets in these towns had adequate supplies of basic commodities and stable prices but many people had lost their source of income and lacked purchasing power.

WFP selected ACF as its operational partner for the program because ACF:

- Had the most experience with cash transfers of the NGOs in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Understood the implementation area;
- Focuses on objectives which overlap with those of WFP.

Below: Beneficiary with money from her cash transfer.
Copyright: WFP / Meh Nzue.



Beneficiaries

10,800 households (about 54,000 individuals) received assistance via mobile phone SIM cards. Households headed by women, with children under 5, dependent on community assistance, with a nursing and/or pregnant woman, with disabled and/or elderly person(s), or affected by HIV/AIDS were prioritized in targeting. Each household received 33,000 FCFA once a month for both months of the program.

Transfers via Mobile Phone – SIM Card

WFP selected the mobile phone service provider MTN as a partner for distributing the cash grants.

Advantages of Transfer via SIM Card

- Rapid and secure transfers;
- Capacity for multiple withdrawals in varying amounts;
- Mobile phones can be used directly to pay for commodities and services;
- Aid agency can send SMS messages to beneficiaries to spread information and increase awareness about the program and other initiatives (e.g. health/nutrition information).

Disadvantages of Transfer via SIM Card

- Beneficiaries must be literate to understand SMS messages;
- Beneficiaries may not be familiar with the technology;
- Beneficiaries need to remember a PIN to make a withdrawal.

Conclusions

This was WFP's first CBI in Côte d'Ivoire. This CBI demonstrated that a well-designed program using a secure transfer mechanism can support the delivery of cash in less stable political and economic situations. Taking advantage of locally understood technology can facilitate program implementation. Increasing beneficiaries' access to locally available commodities as a means of addressing food security can curtail a rise in malnutrition rates.