

# CHAKULA CHETU

USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program



PROJECT BRIEF

TANZANIA



Chakula Chetu benefits 16 primary schools in Butiama District in the Mara Region (highlighted in blue above).

## BY THE NUMBERS\*



**16**

Targeted schools



**18,291**

Students receiving daily meals



**19,260**

Direct beneficiaries



**399**

MT of locally procured food  
(maize, beans, cooking oil)



**799**

Local producers strengthened

*\*Life of project targets from project agreement*

## Overview

In 2017, USDA funded a Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (LRP) program, called Chakula Chetu, meaning Our Food in Swahili. Chakula Chetu complements Project Concern International (PCI), a Global Communities Partner's McGovern-Dole program in Tanzania, FFE III. Emphasizing local capacity strengthening to promote long-term ownership and sustainability, Chakula Chetu delivers a cost-effective and timely school feeding program through local procurement of maize, beans, and sunflower cooking oil and enhanced market linkages for local suppliers to supply food for school meals. Over the life of the project, Chakula Chetu will use USDA-provided funds to procure 399 metric tons (MT) of locally grown and purchased foods to complement daily school meals for 18,291 preschool and primary students from 16 schools within Butiama District in the Mara Region.

**“Since I started applying the techniques I learned from the program to my farming, I have been able to increase my production. Before, I used to harvest about seven bags weighing 100kg each per acre, but this time I have been able to harvest 23 bags, each weighing 100kg.”**

—Zawadi Matongo, Farmer Group Member, Busegwe Village

## Objectives & Key Activities

- **Improved capacity of schools to procure commodities for school meals** by accompanying schools to conduct open and competitive bidding processes with local suppliers; strengthening School Committees' capacity to assess product quality, guarantee safe food handling and storage, and ensure proper and transparent recordkeeping; conducting routine price monitoring; and promoting the development of school feeding sustainability action plans.
- **Strengthened market linkages between schools, Farmer Groups, local suppliers, and agribusinesses** by conducting roundtable meetings with Farmer Groups, private sector seed companies, and other input suppliers to promote the use of improved seeds; facilitating exchanges between Farmer Groups and financial institutions to increase financial access; and hosting roundtable forums between farmers and food suppliers to increase smallholder farmers' access to markets and fair prices for their product.
- **Enhanced agricultural production and technical expertise of farmers** by establishing demonstration gardens at project schools for Farmer Groups, school agricultural teachers, and students to learn improved agricultural practices; providing training to Farmer Groups on integrated crop management practices and drought and risk management; improving Farmer Groups basic business and farm management skills; promoting Community Harvest Days to share best practices in post-harvest handling and storage practices; and partnering with Government of Tanzania agricultural extension officers to provide technical assistance to farmer groups and schools.