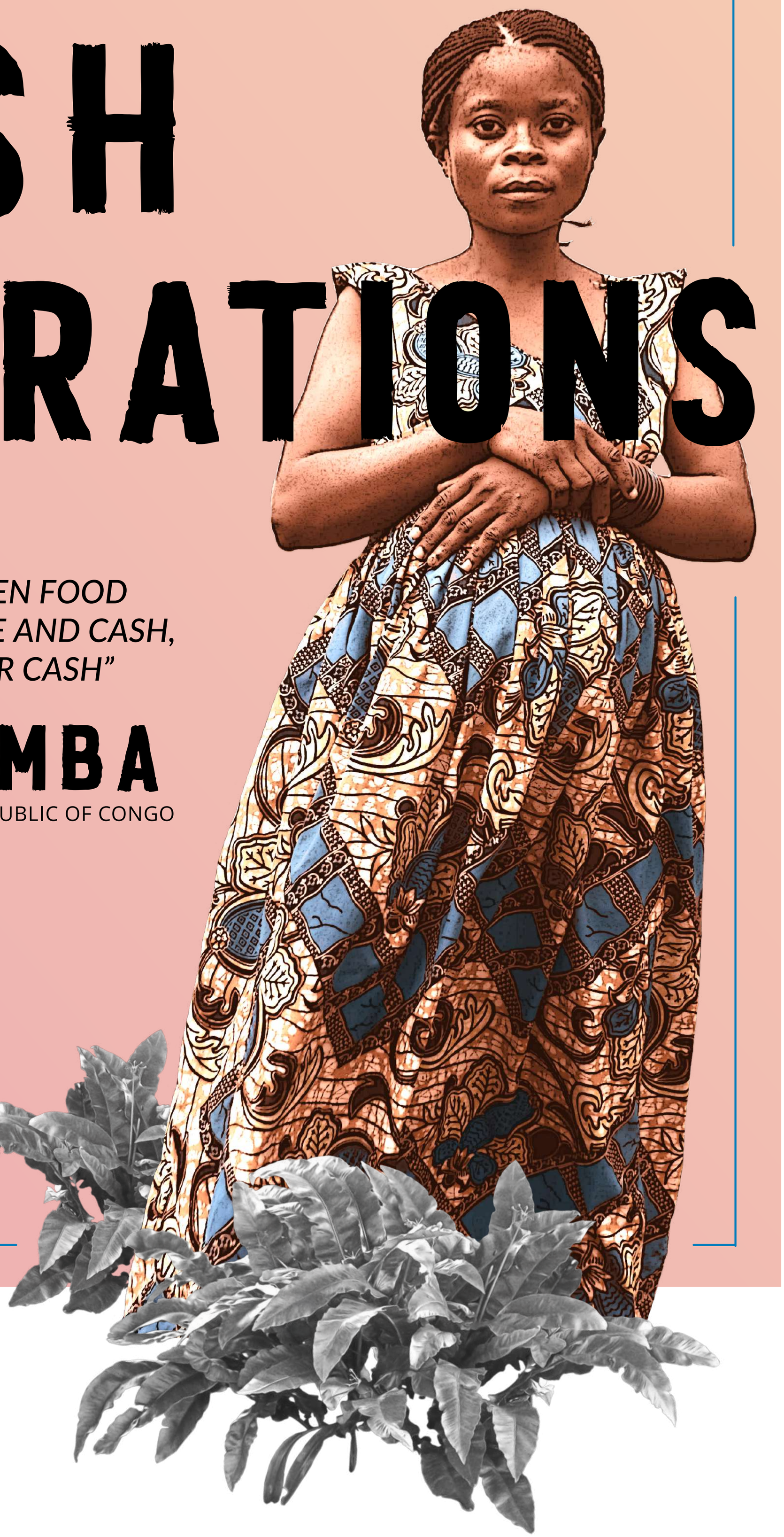
CASH OPERATIONS

"BETWEEN FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH, I PREFER CASH"

KISIMBA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



WFP World Food Programme

To help families eat adequately and live with dignity, WFP delivers food and, increasingly, cash. In 2020, we sent US$ 2.1 billion (37% of the assistance portfolio) to 38 million people in 64 countries, and we are planning to send more than US$3 billion to even more people in more countries this year.

With cash: ***people can buy food and other things that they need; local markets are boosted; and job opportunities increase.***

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

"GETTING MORE MONEY INTO MORE WOMEN'S HANDS IS MY MANTRA. AND THAT'S BEST DONE WHEN WOMEN HAVE THEIR OWN MONEY ACCOUNTS AND WE GO DIGITAL"

Cheryl Harrison,
Deputy Director, WFP Cash-Based Transfers Division

Over half of the cash in WFP programmes goes to women. Most of these are mothers and grandmothers who lack access to financial services. WFP programmes can be the first step on their path to digital financial inclusion so when we stop giving cash, these women have affordable financial products that suit their needs, and secure digital identities to access other services and benefit from an increasingly digital economy.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

"PEOPLE NEED TO EAT BUT THEY ALSO NEED MANY OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO LIVE. CASH GIVES PEOPLE THE FLEXIBILITY TO BUY WHAT THEY NEED MOST AND TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES."

Francesca de Ceglie,
Team Lead, Cash-Based Transfer Officer, WFP.

Food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare are examples of essential needs that every family has. Families with limited resources always have to prioritize, and may have to decide between spending money on healthcare or buying nutritious food. Because people shouldn't have to make these types of trade-offs, WFP cash operations prioritize a family's entire essential needs, including but not only food.

ASSURANCE

"WE HAVE A DUTY TO GOVERNMENT DONORS TO SAFEGUARD THEIR RESOURCES AND ENSURE THAT EACH DOLLAR, EURO OR YEN GOES TO THE FAMILY WE INTEND IT TO"

Kenn Crossley,
Director, WFP Cash-Based Transfers Division

Cash operations are accountable, and even in the very challenging places that we work, it is possible to ensure the right people receive the right money. Payments can be digitally traced so that donors see how their cash is spent, while respecting beneficiaries' personal data privacy. And, when there's a problem that beneficiaries encounter with their transfers, WFP is a phone call away.

GOVERNMENT-TO-PERSON PAYMENTS

"IMPACT AT SCALE, FOR WFP, MEANS SUPPORTING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHILE HELPING GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT BILLIONS."

Valerie Guarnieri,
WFP Assistant Executive Director

As the largest provider of humanitarian assistance, WFP knows how to do large-scale cash transfers to people who are hard-to-reach. When we support governments to develop their own national payments systems, we leave behind a legacy that increases financial inclusion and supports social protection.

"WE LOST EVERYTHING AND WITH CASH, WE ARE BETTER ABLE TO ADDRESS OUR NEEDS"

KISIMBA

AND HER DAUGHTER



HOT TOPICS

ANTICIPATORY CASH gets to families before a disaster strikes so that they can prepare. It reduces how badly affected they are by the disaster and how long it takes to get back to normal.

PERSONAL REMITTANCES make up more support than humanitarian and government assistance combined, but because the fees are high, it can limit the number of hard-earned dollars that reach the hands of people who rely on them to survive.

PARTNERSHIP underpins WFP policy and design, for example a collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is looking at how to use humanitarian cash transfers to increase digital financial inclusion and economically empower women.

IMPACT of cash is significant and there's a growing body of evidence attesting to the effectiveness of cash transfers, emphasizing the choice and flexibility it allows people to meet their essential needs, even during emergencies, and the multipliers it can bring to local economies.

CASH PAYMENTS FROM GOVERNMENTS to citizens were popularized during the pandemic, also helping keep economies running. Will that be the new normal?

FOR MORE INFO

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