

This is an excerpt from:

Carney, D; Drinkwater, M.; Rusinow, T.; Neefjes, K.; Wanmali, S. and Singh, N. (2000): Livelihoods approached compared. In: Forum on Operationalizing Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches. Proceedings. Annex 4. Pontignano (Siena). 7-11 March, 2000.

Designed in 1992 as a typical livelihood protection project, the Lusaka-based Project Urban Self-Help (PUSH) provided food - for - work (FFW) opportunities to vulnerable women who had been affected by the recent drought in southern Africa. The FFW activities focused on road rehabilitation, proper drainage and rubbish clearance, thus contributing to basic service delivery for the poor, and cholera control, which was a concern at the time. The second phase of PUSH continued to use FFW for community initiatives but combined it with a strong emphasis on personal empowerment (including livelihoods/empowerment training and encouragement of the use of part of the food ration to initiate savings and credit services) and social empowerment (the formation and strengthening of representative area-based organizations with an emphasis on the involvement of women). In addition to the FFW activities, the area-based organizations also addressed other service delivery needs identified by the communities (including water supply, solid waste management and police services). PUSH II included a strong element of livelihood protection, but also promotion. The follow-up project that has since been initiated, PRO S P E C T, no longer includes FFW but has greatly expanded the social and personal empowerment elements, thus promoting livelihood strategies.