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World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

FITTEST DIGITAL ASSISTANCE SURGE IN ETHIOPIA

Building on existing systems to reach the most vulnerable

In 2020, WFP in Ethiopia called on WFP's Fast IT Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) Digital Assistance Surge (DAS) services to support biometric registration activities to beneficiaries in deep field locations. Then COVID-19 hit the world and DAS remained to expand cash assistance and alleviate the impact of the pandemic on the country's most vulnerable. Here's how they did it.

COVID-19 disrupted the world in profound ways, including inflating the price of food in Ethiopia. FITTEST worked hand-in-hand with WFP's country office multi-functional team to evaluate and contract local financial service providers. This allowed the Country Office to expand its digital cash delivery options when they were most needed. FITTEST also worked with the government of Ethiopia to expand its Urban Productive Safety Net Programme and increase the purchasing power for **17,460 pregnant and lactating women** in **11 cities**.

This safety net may be expanded to additional **16** urban areas around the country in the future. With the support of the Ethiopian regional government in the Somali region, FITTEST also assessed **37 sites** as part of the second phase for the planned SCOPE registration activities in 2020. Site safety and accessibility were key priorities as well as bolstering local registration teams' capacity through training. It paid off. Over the course of 15 days:

21,569 beneficiaries were registered

Data quality shot up to **98%** flanked by astute project monitoring

FITTEST DAS is designed to work with and expand existing programmes, offering robust technology solutions that are context-driven and results-oriented.

"If you want to create a shock-responsive approach, you need a digital backbone. FITTEST has both the IT and project management expertise to deliver this in the toughest of environments."

– Christine Wright, programme policy officer, WFP Ethiopia

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