

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



World Food Programme: Humanitarian Development

The World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners are equipping vulnerable people with the resources and skills they need to protect themselves from shocks such as conflict or drought, as part of our goal of supporting sustainable development and achieving zero hunger.

WFP's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 aligns our work to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which prioritizes efforts to end poverty, hunger and inequality.

Responding to emergencies and saving lives and livelihoods remains at the heart of WFP's operations, especially as humanitarian needs become increasingly complex and challenging due to conflict, climate change and rising inequality.

At the same time, WFP's mandate and the nature of its programmes means that the potential contribution of the organization to humanitarian, development and peace objectives can be hugely significant.



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NUTRITION

There can be no sustainable development in communities where malnutrition prevails and threatens the potential of the next generation. Over recent years we have broadened our focus from emergency interventions to **addressing all forms of malnutrition** including vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and overweight and obesity, in all contexts. We address malnutrition from the earliest stages, with programmes targeting the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. We focus on providing access to healthy and adequate diets, targeting young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people living with HIV.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization implementing school feeding programmes. School meals improve children's nutrition and health, while also increasing access to a potentially **life-changing education**. They are also a strong incentive for parents to send their children to school, reducing risks such as child labour and early marriage in some countries. As part of our drive towards sustainability, WFP handed over school feeding programmes to governments in Kenya and Bhutan in 2018. WFP buys food locally where possible, with home-grown school feeding in turn increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and boosting local economies.

INNOVATION

Innovation is a critical element to achieving zero hunger by 2030, nowhere more so than in helping communities offset the impact of climate change. **Forecast-based Financing** uses improved early warning based on weather forecasts, so communities can be alerted to disasters 15 days in advance and provided with insurance to take preparatory measures. Index insurance uses remote sensing and hydrometeorological data to determine more precisely when crop losses occur, for the triggering of insurance payments. Our **H2Grow model** allows people threatened by hunger to grow their own food in harsh environments, with plants receiving their nutrients from solutions instead of soil under an approach known as hydroponics. In the Algerian desert, more than 200 hydroponic units are producing fodder which boosts the milk and meat yield of goats and improves families' food security. We use **drones** in remote parts of Colombia to monitor the impact of climate change, closely watching moisture, soil and crop health.

In Jordan, **blockchain technology** provides secure cash transfers that allow more than 100,000 Syrian refugees to buy groceries from local shops, while our newly launched **Hunger Map** uses the power of big data and predictive analytics to give us a complete picture of global food security in real-time. Our **EMPACT programme** provides

digital skills to young adults in Lebanon and Iraq that can improve their employment prospects, working with a network of leading organizations in the private sector.

ASSET CREATION

WFP's **Food Assistance for Assets** programme improves the prospects for long-term food security while also helping create the conditions for durable stability and peace. Under this approach, people receive food or cash-based transfers to meet immediate food needs, which frees up their time for working on community assets or livelihood resources. This could mean repairing a road, planting trees or restoring unproductive land, which can in turn increase crop yields, reduce the impact of climate change and enable people to access local, regional and national markets.

In the Central Sahel region, worsening conflict combined with recurrent drought and failed harvests threaten the food security of 20 million people. WFP activities to increase resilience in Burkina Faso have included restoring 1,424 hectares of degraded land for growing crops. These efforts are being severely tested by the need to address increasing humanitarian needs as conflict spreads across the region. In South Sudan, where conflict seriously impedes people's ability to secure food, WFP activities help communities build resilience while also meeting their immediate food needs. Activities under Food Assistance for Assets include building or redeveloping roads, crop farms, vegetable gardens and fish ponds.

SMALLHOLDER SUPPORT

Smallholder farmers produce most of the world's food and are critical in achieving a zero-hunger world. WFP's support to farmers spans a range of activities to help build sustainable food systems. We protect farmers from the worst effects of climate change by providing insurance in return for work in areas such as land development and road building, which increases both their crop production and access to markets. The private-sector focused **Farm to Market Alliance** also connects smallholders to markets and helps them diversify their crops and increase their business potential. In South Sudan we are helping communities develop their livelihoods despite ongoing civil conflict. WFP is supporting a project to repair a network of roads, assuring year-round access to more than 20 markets for 10,000 smallholder farmers. In Guatemala, farmers received our support in setting up producer organizations. They have also been introduced to innovative technologies such as the mobile laboratory 'Blue Box', which contains sampling equipment, a moisture metre and other supplies for detecting fungus in corn production.



SOCIAL PROTECTION THROUGH CASH AND RETAIL

WFP is the largest cash provider in the humanitarian community. Cash transfers have multiplier effects on the local economy – people can choose their own food and other items locally, which helps strengthen local markets and encourages smallholders to be more productive. One of WFP's priorities is to work with national governments to strengthen their own social-protection systems. WFP set up the single largest humanitarian cash programme: the **Emergency Social Safety Net** programme in Turkey. The EU-funded initiative has supported 1.7 million refugees living in host communities, in partnership with the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Red Crescent. Over 90 percent are Syrian while others are from countries such as Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. In Ecuador, WFP contributed to the building up of the national safety net system, when it transferred cash assistance through an existing mechanism in response to the 2016 earthquake.

Our emphasis on cash is complemented by support to countries in **strengthening local markets and developing retail sectors**. We work with more than 4,200 retailers in 35 countries, providing training in business management, from the supply chain to providing best-priced nutritious food. In this way we help reduce the price of the food basket and in turn increase the purchasing power of all customers, while maintaining or even increasing the profitability of retailers. Moreover, developing retail sectors can lead to a gradual reduction in humanitarian needs in many countries. In Lebanon for example, following an influx of Syrian refugees, smaller retailers were taught how to set up 'buying clubs' to gain more negotiating power with main suppliers and distributors. We also helped to improve retailers' working capital. As a result, prices were reduced by up to 4.5 percent, increasing the buying power of both refugees and the host community. In Kenya, we increased the availability of nutritious food at more affordable prices by creating links between retailers and farmers.

CAPACITY BUILDING

WFP has supported governments and other partners, such as NGOs, in building their capacity to **manage disaster risk and improve food security**, while investing in early warning and preparedness systems for climate and other threats. We worked with the Government of Nepal, for example, to expand early-warning systems, develop communal contingency and evacuation plans, and establish early actions to protect farming assets and infrastructure from recurrent floods. We also help countries mobilize money from donor governments and other sources, such as the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund, to fund climate-resilience work. In Ethiopia, we trained government partners on using drones to capture data that will inform the design of emergency projects. Our **Fast IT** and **Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team**, or **FITTEST**, delivers courses for technicians, managers and emergency responders, as well as government staff, in areas ranging from cash transfers to deploying mobile radio in emergencies. In Bangladesh, we provided training to staff from the NGO Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable, so they could implement a community-based nutrition project. We also provided training on the management of malnutrition to staff from Alliance Côte D'Ivoire, including assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. In Sudan we worked with the NGO ARIBO to implement school feeding in 34 schools.

PARTNERSHIPS

The 2030 Agenda makes clear that sustainable development hinges on effective partnerships. WFP embraces this approach, working with governments, other UN agencies, the private sector and civil society. WFP's Country Strategic Plans are closely aligned to national priorities and emphasize supporting governments' efforts towards eliminating hunger, while we combine our individual strengths with other UN agencies too. In Guatemala, WFP worked with FAO and IFAD on an interagency approach to sustainable development, covering areas including nutrition, school feeding and

investment in new technologies. In Uganda we launched an initiative with UNHCR whereby refugees, having received land from the host government, were given training in post-harvest handling and storage. Another strong partner is UNICEF, in promoting nutrition activities that create the foundations for healthy, productive populations.

WFP also supports partnerships between governments that can increase resilience. We promoted South-South cooperation between the governments of the Dominican Republic and Cuba for example, to improve the Dominican meteorological service and the accuracy of forecast models, and through this help to reduce the impact of climate change on communities. NGO partners allow us to deliver quickly and to access areas we would be unable to reach alone. This is reflected in three-quarters of our food and cash-transfer activities being delivered with NGOs. WFP has partnered with the private sector for over a decade. Our work with Unilever and its subsidiary, the food brand Knorr, includes building nutrition education into WFP's Home-Grown School Meals initiative. A team of packaging experts from the company Amcor lent us its expertise and use of laboratories to test and improve the way our foodstuffs are packaged – this has extended shelf-lives and reduced food losses.

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Conflict drives about 60 percent of the world's hunger and severely undermines the efforts of WFP and other humanitarian organizations to carry out their work and implement long-term solutions. Despite these challenges, WFP's development work can in turn help contribute to creating peaceful conditions. Research by WFP and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, initially focused on El Salvador, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Mali, highlighted areas where WFP's climate-related activities can have an impact. Our work in increasing the supply of, and access to, contested resources, water and land can help prevent or reduce tensions between communities. This includes through livelihoods programming which targets the inclusion and participation of marginalized and/or rival groups. Our Gastronomiva project in El Salvador promotes livelihood incentives for vulnerable youth, victims of gang violence and deported migrants, while we have worked also with smallholder farmers on land-use agreements. WFP's support to state-provided services, such as school meals in Kyrgyzstan, can help improve trust between communities and their government.

Humanitarian development in numbers



1.4 million hectares of land rehabilitated or forested since 2014 to develop livelihoods and offset effects of climate change



5 million people in **42 countries** involved in nutrition education in 2018



90 organizations benefiting from training on use of **drones** in humanitarian settings in the past year

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