

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Handling volatility
Tackling complexity
Building partnerships



World Food
Programme

2021 IN NUMBERS

Provided lifesaving and life-changing support to **128.2M** people

Over **120** countries and territories with WFP operations

53% of beneficiaries were women and girls

US\$9.6BN in contributions

US\$2.3BN in cash-based transfers

4.4M metric tonnes of food distributed

Strengthened national social protection systems in **83** countries

20,992 WFP employees worldwide

W FORE RD

In 2021, a perfect storm of growing global conflict, increasing climate shocks and the continued ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic combined to send rates of acute hunger to record highs – 283 million by the end of the year. In the World Food Programme’s 60th year of operation, our mission to save lives and change lives had never been more critical or urgent.

From the Sahel to South Sudan and Ethiopia, from Afghanistan to Yemen, millions of people around the world were poorer and hungrier than ever. But as always, the dedicated women and men of WFP stepped up and delivered on behalf of the people we serve.

The World Food Programme harnessed its unrivalled logistics expertise to keep the global humanitarian community moving during lockdowns, delivering for more than 100 partners in three dozen countries. Our partners relied on WFP’s unparalleled field presence to reach the most remote and dangerous regions. In 2021 alone, we flew more than 325,000 passengers to reach 23 operations.

Thanks to tireless fundraising efforts, The World Food Programme received record contributions of USD 9.6 billion, including a surge in private sector funding. But the widening gap between



humanitarian needs and funding forced some country teams to make painful decisions about which hungry children would be prioritized for assistance.

Nonetheless, we reached a record 128.2 million people with life-saving food. In doing so, we also responded to the particular needs of millions of the world’s most vulnerable women and girls, protecting their health and supporting them to access new educational and employment opportunities.

The World Food Programme’s new strategic plan recognizes the complex connections that underpin the social, economic, and political forces shaping our work, now and in the future. In response, we will continue to invest in the wellbeing of our employees, build and strengthen new partnerships that enable us to adapt and innovate, and put increased resilience against food insecurity at the heart of all our programmes. In doing so, we will redouble our commitment to laying the foundations for more peaceful and prosperous societies.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Beasley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David M. Beasley
WFP Executive Director

A WORLD OF

The new Delta variant of COVID-19 detected in India in November 2020 spread rapidly throughout 2021, sickening and killing tens of millions of people globally. Almost at years' end, an exhausted world braced for a renewed wave as the Omicron strain, first identified in South Africa,

MUTUALLY COMPOUNDING

looked set to repeat through 2022 the ravages of Delta. The World Food Programme's own staff and families were equally affected. Vaccines were rolled out from mid-2021, yet of 10 billion doses distributed, less than one percent were administered in low-income countries.

DISASTERS



While COVID-19 trapped much of the world in lockdowns, sealed borders, and stalled travel and commerce, the trajectory of much of the rest of the world continued in parallel, not least of which was the World Food Programme's work in more than 120 countries and territories.

For the poorest without household savings or reserves of food things mostly worsened. From 811 million people chronically hungry in January, the number rose unremittingly throughout the

year. Conflicts broke out anew within nations; existing ones degenerated. Global food, transport, and fuel prices soared.

To face a world of interlocked and cascading disasters, driven by the "three Cs" of COVID-19, conflict, and the climate crisis – with each manifestation compounding the other – the World Food Programme fused new ways of working, using new tools, new strategies, and new partnerships to better save and change lives.

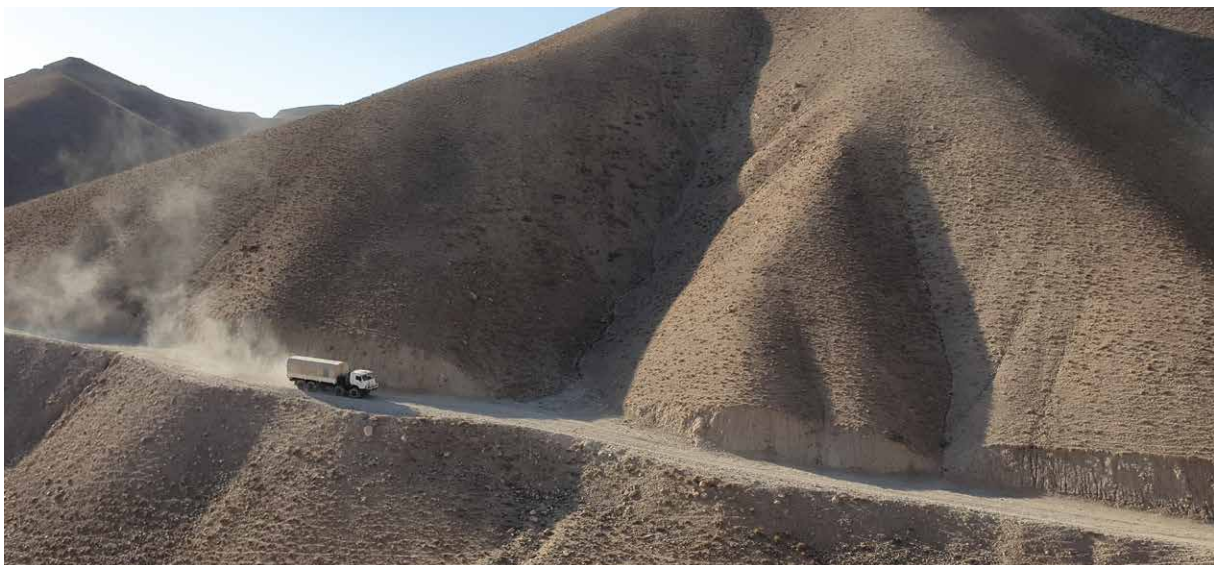
The global cost of conflict has risen to US\$15 trillion, and most people the World Food Programme assists are victims of conflicts that are new, renascent, or long-burning. WFP's renowned expertise as an organization working to prevent hunger and open humanitarian access, often across fighting lines, is increasingly backed by resource partners like the World Bank which trust our experience and reach in fragile settings.

Before the winter snows of 2021/2 cut access in mountainous Afghanistan, the World Food Programme delivered food, cash, and nutrition assistance to prevent the starvation of 15 million people. While Afghanistan settled into an uncertain future, Myanmar's long-standing political turbulence morphed into new more perilous fractures. In the midst of Ethiopia's latest conflict WFP delivered food and nutrition supplies across front lines to 6.1 million people.

In West and Central Africa, opportunistic armed groups continued to unsettle the Sahel, with implications for the security of Togo, Benin,



CONFLICT REMAINS MAJOR DRIVER OF HUNGER





and Cote d'Ivoire. To add fuel to the fire of uncertainty and insecurity, 2021 fielded coups in Mali, Burkino Faso, and Guinea. Despite the turmoil, the World Food Programme's integrated resilience activities in the Sahel boosted the resilience of 1.7 million people with orchards, market gardens, land rehabilitation, composting, and fuel-efficient stoves.

In Yemen, where the World Food Programme prevented the starvation of 15 million people; in Syria, where life-saving food reached 5.8 million people every month; in South Sudan and Sudan where almost 6 and 8.9 million people were fed throughout the year respectively; in northern

Mozambique where WFP's help reached towards a million people by year's end; and in Haiti where post-earthquake gang violence threatened food supplies, WFP breached the blocked access and insecurity that war and disaster breeds to reach civilian populations trapped by ferment and disorder.

The challenge of negotiating access in these environments using our reputation and moral authority, often across active or unsettled frontlines between fighting groups, remains at the cutting edge of the World Food Programme's efforts to prevent starvation and the use of hunger as a weapon of war or mass punishment.



Perhaps above all, the findings of climate science revealed a trajectory of planetary warming that is ending our capacity to tackle terrestrial crises

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