

FLEXIBLE FUNDING 2021

Report on Multilateral
and Immediate Response
Account Funding



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W FOR E R D

In 2021, a toxic cocktail of conflict, climate change, the economic ripple effects of COVID-19 and soaring global inflation combined to set millions more people marching toward starvation: 283 million by the end of the year.

Of this number, over 40 million children, women and men were knocking on the door of famine.

WFP's donors responded with record levels of funding last year, and I thank each and every one of our partners who helped us deliver life-saving assistance to the people in greatest need.

The tremendous support we received allowed WFP to rise to the challenge and reach over 128 million people last year.

But the gap between the rising number of hungry people and the funding available to feed them keeps widening, so we must find new ways of maximizing the resources we receive.

Flexible and predictable funding is a critical tool, giving WFP the agility to prioritize strategically, respond quickly and ensure operational continuity in neglected crises. Last year it played an essential role in some of our most urgent operations.

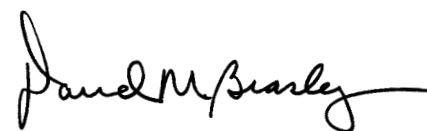
In Afghanistan, it enabled WFP to respond to skyrocketing needs by undertaking the largest scale-up in our 60-year history: within weeks we had tripled the number of people we reached to 15 million. While in Madagascar, where years

of back-to-back droughts have plunged some communities into famine-like conditions, flexible resources allowed WFP, the Government and other partners to run programmes designed to tackle the root causes of the hunger crisis.

Unfortunately, demand for our services is still growing in 2022 and flexible funding has therefore never been more essential to our work. WFP has the global capacity and in-depth expertise to support the world's hungry people but we need flexible and predictable funding to be able to get the job done.

Donors of flexible funds are true advocates of change, and I ask all our friends and partners in the donor community to maximize the level of flexibility and predictability in the funds you generously provide.

With your support we can ensure that, together, we continue to save lives and change lives in this time of unprecedented global need.



David M. Beasley
WFP Executive Director



What WFP Achieved in 2021

WFP Response to Unprecedented Needs

In a world of plenty, where enough food is produced to feed everyone on the planet, hunger should be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, it is not, and the situation is actually getting worse at an astonishing rate.

2021 was the year hunger reached new peaks. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres described ‘a hurricane of humanitarian crises’ raging around the world due to the combination of conflict, climate crises, COVID-19 and rising food prices, which delivered the hardest blow in decades to world hunger – **up to 811 million people are chronically hungry**. Of this, around 193 million people in 53 countries or territories experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels in 2021¹. This represents a dramatic increase of nearly 25 percent – 38 million people – compared with the already record numbers of 2020.

For millions of people worldwide, assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) is what makes the difference between life and death. WFP’s timely intervention at times of heightened crisis has helped pull people back from the brink of starvation. Our work to build resilience, adapt to a changing climate, promote good nutrition and improve food systems is helping lay the foundations for a more prosperous future for millions, and reduce humanitarian needs over time.

WFP’s operational requirements reached an all-time high in 2021 and donors generously responded to our call with contributions of **USD 9.6 billion**, 15 percent higher compared with 2020. A record level of these funds, **USD 563 million**, were provided as flexible funding.

To address the increasingly complex and entrenched crises we face today, flexibility in donor contributions and predictability of resources are critical to enable WFP to be strategic and agile as it responds to unprecedented needs in multiple humanitarian crises around the world. It is mutually beneficial to all parties: value for money for donors and improved efficiency and effectiveness for WFP that ultimately benefits the poorest people as WFP can use more resources to reach those in need.

Importantly, flexibility is an investment in reducing humanitarian needs over time as it helps WFP bridge between immediate needs and longer-term support for improved resilience. We must act on two fronts: saving those whose lives are at risk while providing a foundation for communities to meet their own food needs. Otherwise, it is clear that we will pay even a higher price in terms of supporting the displaced, rebuilding societies and recovering from everything we have lost as years of support for development is reversed.



WFP has a unique territorial presence and long-term engagement with communities, which allows for a strong understanding of patterns of vulnerability and mitigation mechanisms. This is key to designing programmes that are informed by, and thus can help tackle, the root causes of hunger in a given setting, enhancing stability and leading to sustainable results.

Powered by the passion, dedication and professionalism of 20,000 staff in **some 120**

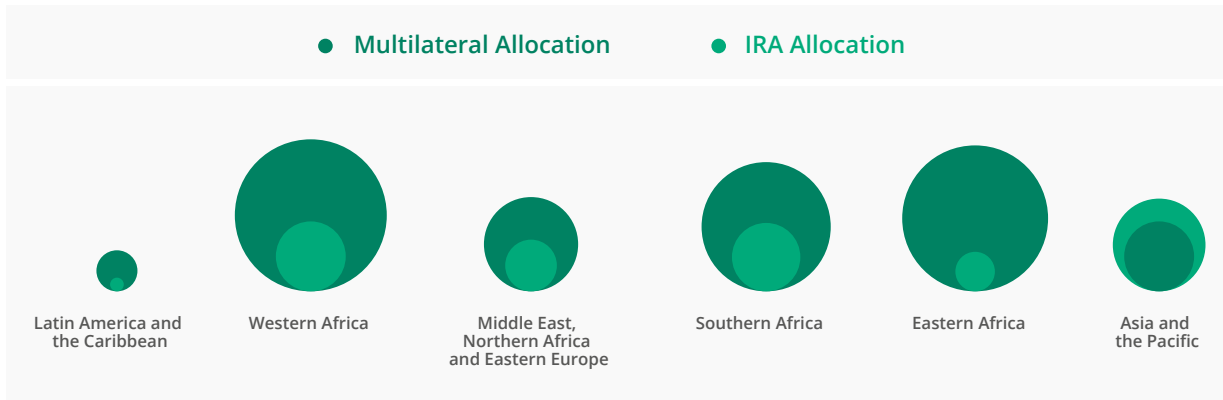
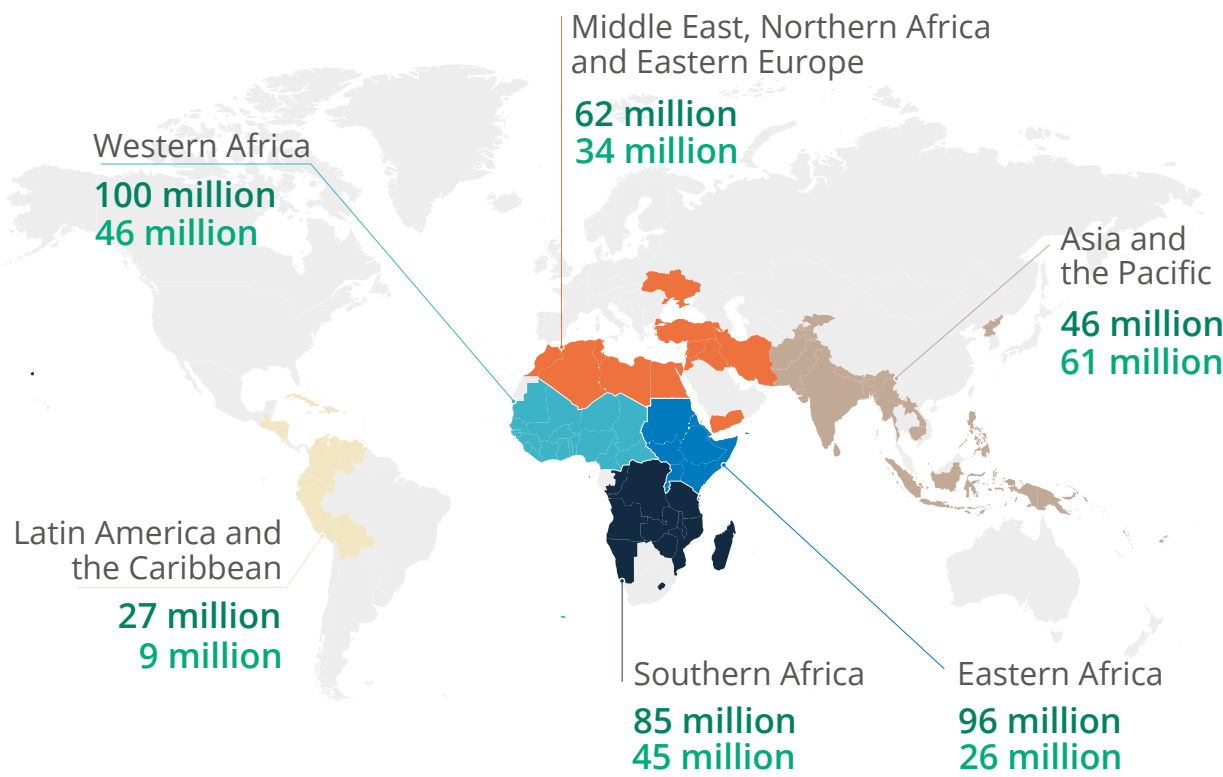
countries and territories, including a deep field presence in the majority, WFP brings together thousands of organizations, large and small, national and international, UN and non-UN, to address hunger and deliver the most urgent humanitarian aid around the world. We are the partner of choice for many national governments across the world.

1] According to the global standard for measuring food insecurity – the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) as reported in the Global Report on Food Crises 2022: http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/fileadmin/user_upload/fightfoodcrises/doc/resources/GRFC_2022_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

Where Flexible Funding Served in 2021

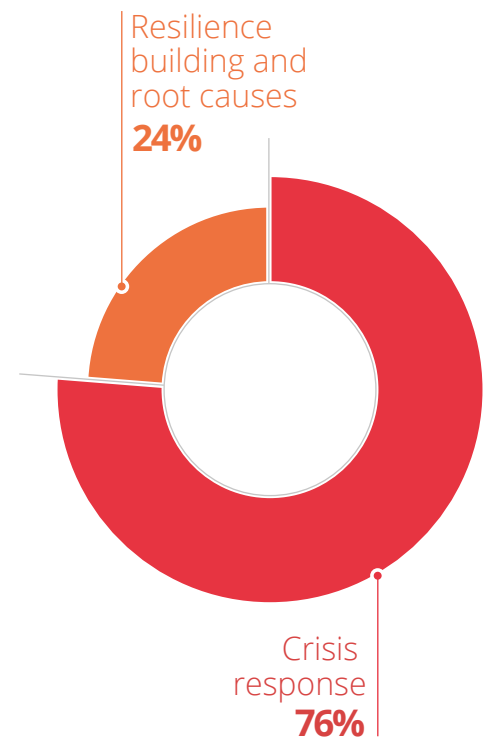
- Global View

Allocation of multilateral and IRA resources by region in 2021



For allocations by recipient country, please see Annex 1.

Allocation of multilateral resources by focus area in 2021



In 2021, **USD 480 million²** of multilateral funds was allocated to **72 operations** across all regions. Of these allocations, 76 percent targeted crisis response activities while 24 percent supported resilience building and addressing root causes.

The five largest recipients of multilateral allocations were **Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan** and **Burkina Faso**. Together, they accounted for 29 percent of all multilateral allocations to Country Strategic Plans (CSPs). The humanitarian crises in these countries all have one common factor – conflict.

² This includes multilateral allocations to Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) and to investment cases, excluding multilateral allocation to the Immediate Response Account (IRA).

In addition to the multilateral resources, the Immediate Response Account (IRA) disbursed a total of **USD 220 million to 49 operations** – and over 80 percent of WFP’s corporate emergencies received critical injections from the IRA. Thanks to this internal mechanism, WFP was able to immediately scale up operations in Afghanistan, sustain life-saving activities in Madagascar and provide first assistance to displaced people in Mozambique.

But it is not just in these countries with large humanitarian crises where flexible funding has really made a difference. Numerous smaller country programmes received funds that made a huge impact. The following pages will demonstrate how flexible funding made a difference through some of WFP’s key operations in 2021.



We Know It Works

The flexibility through multilateral contributions and through the IRA help maintain the continuity of support across regions and activities, allowing for a holistic, timely and strategic response. Travel through countries that benefited from WFP's flexible resources and hear from the people affected how this funding helped address critical needs in 2021.

AFGHANISTAN

USD 71.5 million of flexible funding:
48.8 million from the IRA and 22.7 million as multilateral funds



Even before the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on 15 August, the country was facing the worst drought in decades, with 80 percent of the country suffering from severe or serious drought. WFP used flexible multilateral funds to improve nutrition through fortified nutritious food products. WFP assisted partners in developing, strengthening and expanding nutritional value chains through a combination of activities that support smallholder farmers; increase linkages between producers, processors, and markets; support wheat flour fortification; and build on efforts to make soya a viable crop in Afghanistan.

Through the flour fortification programme, WFP supported 38 wheat flour mills. Five new mills were supported to improve their food safety and quality standards. They were onboarded in

2021. A total of 205,000 metric tons of fortified wheat flour was produced by the millers, of which 78 percent was procured by WFP for its humanitarian assistance. This is a 38 percent increase compared to 2020.

On 15 August, however, a new depth and scale of food insecurity emerged as the economic crisis collided with the impact of the drought. The skyrocketing needs prompted WFP to undertake the largest scale-up in its 60-year history in the country. **Flexible funds, the majority of which came from the IRA, were the only way WFP enabled a scale-up to get food into the supply chain very quickly so that we were able to treble in September, October, November and again in December – reaching 15 million people across all 34 provinces.**

45-year-old Basira is a mother of six living in Ali Chopan District of Mazar-e Sharif, and had been working as a tailor but could no longer earn enough to provide food for them all.

“Most of the heavy expenses are removed because of the food assistance by the WFP since high expenses for families are buying wheat flour, oil, and these sorts of things, but people don’t have enough money to afford them nowadays,” says Basira. “I just want to say that they (the donors) are holding the hands of needy people in Afghanistan, and they are serving these people and doing a great job.”



MADAGASCAR

USD 33.2 million of flexible funding:
USD 16.2 million from the IRA and USD 17.1 million as multilateral funds

Madagascar continued to confront an unprecedented food crisis in 2021, driven by persistent drought and the combination of multiple shocks including sandstorms, locust invasions, Rift Valley Fever outbreaks, logistics challenges and the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time in the country, pockets of Phase 5 or ‘Catastrophe’ food insecurity on the IPC scale were recorded.

Funding from the IRA enabled WFP to scale up its response quickly and reach around 700,000 people per month through general food distributions and supplementary feeding

programmes. WFP pre-positioned food and ensured continuity of assistance for families like Tema’s. Tema lives in Toby Mahavelo and receives WFP’s emergency food distribution.

“Without WFP’s assistance, since we’re left with nothing to eat, I think we would have died,” she said. “I don’t know who to turn to. I pray day and night to see light at the end of the tunnel. We save this food to ensure we have something in our tummy. We don’t need to be full, just to eat something and to avoid being left with nothing to eat. Before getting WFP’s support, I used to walk several kilometres to go to Ambovombe where I begged. Sometimes, I got 3,000 Malagasy ariary (less than US\$1) that I had to make last for a few days. It enabled me to buy edible leaves for my family.”

BURUNDI

**USD 11.2 million of flexible funding:
USD 9.8 million as multilateral funds and
USD 1.4 million from the IRA**

With a 65 percent poverty rate, Burundi is one of the countries most affected by chronic malnutrition and 52.2 percent of children under 5 are stunted. Drivers of malnutrition include poor dietary diversity, poor care and feeding practices coupled with repeated illness, in particular infections that cause diarrhoea and malaria.

Fighting malnutrition is Burundi's number one humanitarian challenge. That is why **WFP used multilateral flexible funding in 2021 to support the treatment of moderately acute malnourished pregnant and lactating women, and girls and children under 5, in four provinces.**

In Kirundo province, Nathalie and her daughter Belyse are two of over 6,500 mothers and 14,500 children under 5 years of age treated for acute malnutrition by WFP. A further 45,000 children under 2 years of age and almost 22,000 mothers were provided with specialized nutritional products for the prevention of undernutrition.

Belyse was born a happy healthy baby until she was 6 months old. Her mother Nathalie is a farm labourer who on some days doesn't have a job. Worsened by the droughts, access to basic nutritious food became a big problem. Some days the family would go to bed hungry, other days they would ration the available food. By the time Belyse was 6 months old, Nathalie was no longer able to breastfeed her daughter as she no longer was able to produce breast milk – an inevitable outcome in undernourished lactating mothers.

"I was worried and wondered how I will be able to help my child to get better as a poor person, but when I saw at the clinic that they were able

to treat her, I was relieved and less worried," explained Nathalie. "If it was not for the help that WFP gave us, my child would be dead by now. Now my child is getting better, the medicines that they gave her are working properly."



MYANMAR

**USD 25.6 million of flexible funding:
USD 17.3 million as multilateral funds and
USD 8.4 million from the IRA**

The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty and the ongoing political crisis following February's military takeover placed huge pressures on Myanmar's economy. Amid rising unemployment, high food prices and conflict, needs were mounting from border regions to big cities.

Joint assessments by WFP and other UN agencies estimated that 13.2 million people, or 24 percent of the population, were acutely food insecure. Out of which, 1.2 million people were severely food insecure and 3.5 million people were moderately food insecure and at high risk of falling into severe food insecurity.

Using multilateral funds, WFP progressively expanded its food assistance in peri-urban areas of major cities, while maintaining its agility to respond to increasing population displacements.

WFP was able to assist 2.9 million people across the country with food and cash-based transfers – almost three times more than the previous year. This represented an unprecedented scale-up of WFP's emergency response, including to peri-urban areas of Yangon and Mandalay, the two largest cities.

WFP complemented the scale-up of emergency food assistance with school feeding, asset creation and nutrition programmes throughout the year, extending a lifeline to the most vulnerable as the situation deteriorated. Even amid school disruptions, WFP ensured that schoolchildren and their families could continue to receive support often through adjusted modalities like take-home rations and cash-based transfers.



MOZAMBIQUE

USD 43.6 million of flexible funding:
USD 16.3 million as multilateral funds and
USD 27.3 million from the IRA



“Northern Mozambique experienced one of the fastest-growing displacement crises driven by increasing conflict and insecurity. 71 percent of the most food-insecure Mozambicans reside in the northern region. In 2021, WFP managed to reach 935,000 people who could not access food and saw their livelihoods depleted because of insecurity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors who contributed to the Immediate Response Account that allowed WFP Mozambique to save lives and deliver the proper assistance on time.”

- Antonella d’Aprile, WFP Mozambique Country Director

WFP worked with both internally displaced people people who arrived by air, sea and even on foot.

SYRIA

USD 27.4 million of flexible funding:
all of which as multilateral funds

In 2021, 60 percent of Syria’s population – approximately 12.4 million people – were food insecure. This is the highest number ever recorded and was a result of inflation, soaring food prices and the impacts of COVID-19. During this year, fewer people had access to nutritious food than at any point in the last ten years.

In response, WFP provided life-saving food to 6.7 million people across all governates of the country. **Flexible funds allowed WFP to maintain its current case-load and scale up to reach an additional 1 million people who were in urgent need of assistance.**

Aisha’s family in Aleppo have been pushed deeper into poverty and food insecurity as a result of years of conflict and unprecedented economic pressures.

She works as a greengrocer and is a single mother to four children. Her income was just enough for the family to get by, but as food prices rose throughout 2021, her business declined and she was no longer able to afford to buy food for her family. Aisha says that one urgent doctor visit for her daughter can now cost all her monthly income. Food assistance is vital to help meet her family’s basic needs.

She often needs to borrow money to buy food, but “people are no longer willing to lend me any money,” she says. “My heart is breaking to see all my children suffer, but I don’t know what to do.”

Amid this dire situation, WFP’s monthly food assistance is a lifeline for Aisha’s family. As a result of flexible funding, WFP can provide food to families who can no longer afford to buy it themselves. “One bottle of vegetable oil now costs



15,000 Liras (USD 4). There is no way I can buy it myself,” she says.

“Life is not all about food. We want to raise a good, well-educated generation, but if they don’t eat, how would they learn? We just need someone to stand by us and lend us a helping hand,” she says.

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