Annual Performance Report Background Documents: 2018 Beneficiaries

In 2018, the total number of WFP beneficiaries decreased from 2017.

How many beneficiaries? WFP saw its total number of beneficiaries decrease by 4.8 million or 5 percent in 2018 compared with 2017. However, 2017 had been a record year, and the total 2018 figure is higher than in 2016 and previous years. Most operations did not experience drastic changes, but there were some significant changes in L2 and L3s compared with 2017 and during 2018. For example, the largest increases in number of beneficiaries were in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Yemen, which together accounted for an additional 7.4 million beneficiaries. However, these increases were more than offset by decreases in the southern Africa region, which had suffered from an El Niño emergency in 2017, and by a scale-down in the Horn of Africa and Iraq operations, which amounted for 10.4 million fewer beneficiaries.

• Afghanistan – Increase in needs due to drought
  WFP’s response in Afghanistan in 2018 was largely defined by the intensification of a drought during the first half of the year. As the adverse effects of the drought became clearer through assessments and data analyses, WFP prepared a budget revision to include 2.5 million drought-affected people. In 2018, WFP reached 5.3 million Afghan beneficiaries – almost double the 2.8 million reached in 2017.

• DRC – Deterioration of the humanitarian situation
  In 2018, the deterioration of the humanitarian situation saw the number of food insecure people increase to 13.1 million compared with 7.7 million in 2017, thus increasing the need for relief assistance. WFP in DRC received 84 percent of its USD 521 million needs-based plan in 2018, which allowed it to expand its operations significantly, reaching a record 5.2 million beneficiaries compared to 2.1 million in 2017.

• Yemen – Continuation of humanitarian crises and increased funding
  Due to the prevailing humanitarian crisis and the high level of needs in 2018, WFP pursued its advocacy and resource mobilization efforts at global, regional and local levels. WFP received unprecedented support from a significant number of donors, with the level of funding increasing 66 percent – from USD 747.6 million in 2017 to USD 1.13 billion in 2018. WFP was able to reach 9.8 million beneficiaries in 2018 compared with 8 million in 2017.

• Southern Africa – Reduced needs after 2017 El Niño assistance
  Following the large-scale humanitarian response to the 2017 El Niño-induced drought in southern Africa, which had rendered millions of people food insecure, the 2018 season saw a significant decline in the number of rural people in need of emergency food assistance. Thus, in 2018, WFP focused mainly on providing lean season assistance and on broadening its resilience-building activities. The southern Africa region as a whole saw a 7.3 million decrease in beneficiaries in 2018 compared with 2017.

• Iraq – Decrease in needs
The overall security situation in Iraq has improved gradually since 2017 and the retaking of Mosul and the subsequent return of IDPs. As such, 2018 WFP planning figures were substantially lower than in 2017 and, in turn, WFP reached 780,000 beneficiaries in 2018 compared with 2 million in 2017.

- **Ethiopia – Severe funding constraints**
  The funding situation for WFP Ethiopia in 2018 showed a varied picture between projects and different periods of the year and WFP only received 54 percent of the needs-based plan. As a result, WFP reached 5.5 million beneficiaries out of the 7.3 million planned beneficiaries, while in 2017, it had reached 6.9 million beneficiaries.

- **Somalia – Severe funding constraints**
  Following a strong response from the donor and humanitarian communities to avert famine in 2017, WFP maintained a high emergency response in the country. However, operations were only 50 percent resourced in 2018, which forced WFP to prioritize life-saving activities. WFP assisted 2.3 million beneficiaries in 2018, or 80 percent of the target, compared with 3.1 million in 2017.

- **Bangladesh – Lower implementation rate**
  WFP’s needs-based plan for the CSP was 94 percent resourced. Given the rapidly evolving situation in Cox’s Bazar, the humanitarian needs proved higher than anticipated. As some activities required more time for implementation than initially planned, WFP used only 73 percent of the resources allocated to its CSP for 2018, which resulted in lower utilization of funds. In 2018, WFP assisted 1.5 million beneficiaries compared with 1.9 million in 2017.

Beneficiary details per operation are available in Annex 1.

Who are WFP beneficiaries? WFP defines a beneficiary as a person who has received some sort of direct assistance at least once during the year, regardless of the duration of the assistance or the entitlement itself. Because of this, comparing total beneficiary figures and total contribution revenue or total expenditures can be misleading. Understanding the relation between beneficiaries and funding calls for understanding the size and cost of transfers provided to beneficiaries, as well as the nature of the activities implemented across WFP.

What does WFP transfer to beneficiaries? Use of CBT increased, growing from USD 1.4 billion in 2017 to USD 1.8 billion in 2018. Assistance through the CBT modality grew from 19.2 million beneficiaries in 2017 to 24.5 million beneficiaries in 2018, with some also receiving other forms of assistance. In-kind food assistance totaled 3.9 million metric tons, roughly the same level as in 2017. This indicates that each beneficiary received longer duration of assistance and/or a larger ration in 2018, which translates into better quality of assistance and increased likelihood of better results in terms of our beneficiaries’ food security.
Why did the number of school feeding children go down compared to 2017?

The handover to national governments progressed in 27 countries during 2018, and two countries (Kenya and Bhutan) fully handed over direct implementation of school feeding activities in 2018. In Zambia 600,000 pupils and in Laos 220,000 pupils were transferred to government led programmes. The following countries each transferred more than 100,000 pupils to the government led programmes in 2018: Nicaragua, Kenya, Mozambique and Egypt. Many other countries transferred smaller numbers to national school meals programme- with the total globally reaching 2.5 million.

Funding shortfalls and operational constraints also led to reductions in school feeding activities in 2018 (1.1 million children). In Niger, Chad, and DRC, for example, funding shortfalls have led to a reduction of 100,000 children per country. Regarding operational constraints, in Chad, social strife led to school closure for a large part of the school year. This was compounded by limited resources leading to a reduction in numbers of children reached.

Expenditures WFP total expenditures increased by USD 421 million in 2018, or 7 percent, compared with 2017. Out of this increase, USD 314 million can be attributed to the expansion of CBTs.

In addition, Capacity Strengthening expenditures in the CSPs and Capacity Development\(^1\) expenditures in the projects increased approximately by USD 100 million from 2017. Of the total expenditures, USD 338 million was spent on transfer modalities, capacity strengthening and service delivery. The individuals receiving capacity strengthening have been considered ‘indirect beneficiaries’, and are thus not taken into account in the overall number of beneficiaries in 2018. WFP is in the last stages of finalizing the methodology and guidance to include these individuals as direct beneficiaries in 2019, as per the revised CRF.

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\(^1\) Capacity development and augmentation was a cost category in the project environment, whereas capacity strengthening is a transfer modality in the CSP environment. This makes them similar but not equivalent.
Map 1: Increase and decrease in number of beneficiaries
## Annex 1 – Total beneficiary figures 2017-2018 per country

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<td>2,661,484</td>
<td>1,565,067</td>
<td>2,129,639</td>
<td>(564,572)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>41,250</td>
<td>19,598</td>
<td>216,358</td>
<td>(196,760)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>9,100,000</td>
<td>4,242,979</td>
<td>9,815,508</td>
<td>8,033,132</td>
<td>1,782,376</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>213,335</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>235,977</td>
<td>984,770</td>
<td>(748,793)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1,052,475</td>
<td>1,040,766</td>
<td>655,353</td>
<td>1,311,384</td>
<td>(656,031)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>87,460,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>68,753,992</strong></td>
<td><strong>86,662,754</strong></td>
<td><strong>91,428,775</strong></td>
<td><strong>(4,766,021)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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