

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



WFP-EU 2017 Partnership Report



April 2018

FOREWORD



WFP/Alaa Kheir

Despite a decade of steady decline, in 2017 global hunger began to rise again. Consequently, **815 million people – one in nine – go to bed on an empty stomach each night**, according to [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report, and one in three suffers from some form of malnutrition. Of these, the latest **Global Report on Food Crises** reveals that **124 million people across 51 countries faced severe levels of hunger** and required urgent humanitarian action in 2017. A year of unprecedented crises resulted in a sharp increase of food assistance needs compared to 2015 figures.

Conflict, increasingly exacerbated by climate change, is a **key driver** behind the resurgence of hunger. As violence and protracted conflicts continue to ravage communities, upend families and destroy lives, reaching Zero Hunger for those we serve becomes more and more difficult.

In October 2017, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Christos Stylianides, spoke to WFP staff while in Sudan, one of WFP's most complex operations, where over 3 million people require food assistance.

Shared Values

Rising to meet these challenges, the **European Union and its Member States** showed their commitment to the world's most vulnerable once again in 2017. Together they contributed over €2.7 billion to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), remaining its largest donor. The **European Commission** alone was for the second year in a row WFP's second largest single donor, contributing a record €1 billion to our humanitarian and development operations in 49 countries.

Thanks to the EU's dedication, millions of people had better access to lifesaving and nutritious food, families received cash assistance to cover basic necessities, and school meals helped kids stay healthy and ready to learn.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) urges to transcend the humanitarian-development divide. The growing number of armed conflicts, the ever-apparent effects of climate change, and increasingly complex factors that lead to protracted humanitarian situations, mean longer-term solutions must underlie even our short-term responses.

To build on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals' vision of 'Leaving No One Behind', the EU and WFP continued to work more closely together in 2017 to save lives, reduce the risks of hunger-causing disasters, and invest in better futures.

Together Towards Zero Hunger

In the face of growing needs and increasingly complex challenges, WFP's partnership with the EU is more important than ever to achieve a Zero Hunger world.

A record single contribution of €650 million from the **European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO)** continues to help over one million refugees living

in Turkey cover the things they need – such as rent, groceries, or school books for their children. **The Emergency Social Safety Net** is the largest humanitarian programme ever funded by the EU. It helps families who have been torn from their homes gain some sense of stability and normalcy.

EU-funded WFP cash assistance is increasingly being used where markets exist to go beyond putting food on a family's table. Cash assistance can act as a social safety net for families in need while investing in local economies, alleviating strains on host communities and revitalising markets.

In places like Somalia, South Sudan and northeast Nigeria, where severe drought and conflict threatened millions of lives, early action and EU support was essential to prevent famine last year. In Yemen, where 18 million people continue to face the world's largest hunger crisis, EU funding provided vital food assistance and supported humanitarian access through the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and boat operations.

The **European Commission's Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation (DEVCO)** is an essential partner in finding ways to tackle the root causes of hunger. Its support enables WFP, FAO, and other partners to produce the annual **Global Report on Food Crises**, establishing a key platform to recognise and address food insecurity before crises occur.

In 2017, in countries such as Timor-Leste, Burundi and Bangladesh, nutrition education for mothers helped break the cycle of hunger, supporting a generation of strong and healthy children. Thanks to the EU, communities in Latin America's Dry Corridor received training and livelihood support, which were vital to ensure better crops and more resilient farming practices as well as combat the effects of climate change and reduce disaster-related risks.

Finally, EU-funded school meals, thanks to both DG DEVCO and the **European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)**, continued to help children in The Gambia, Syria and Egypt stay in school.

WFP'S 5 STEPS TO ZERO HUNGER

1

Put the furthest behind first to save and change the lives of the poorest two billion people

2

Pave the road from farm to market to ensure everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food

3

Reduce food waste so that all the food produced reaches the plates of those who need it

4

Encourage a sustainable variety of crops to increase the nutrition value of diets and support farmers growing local varieties

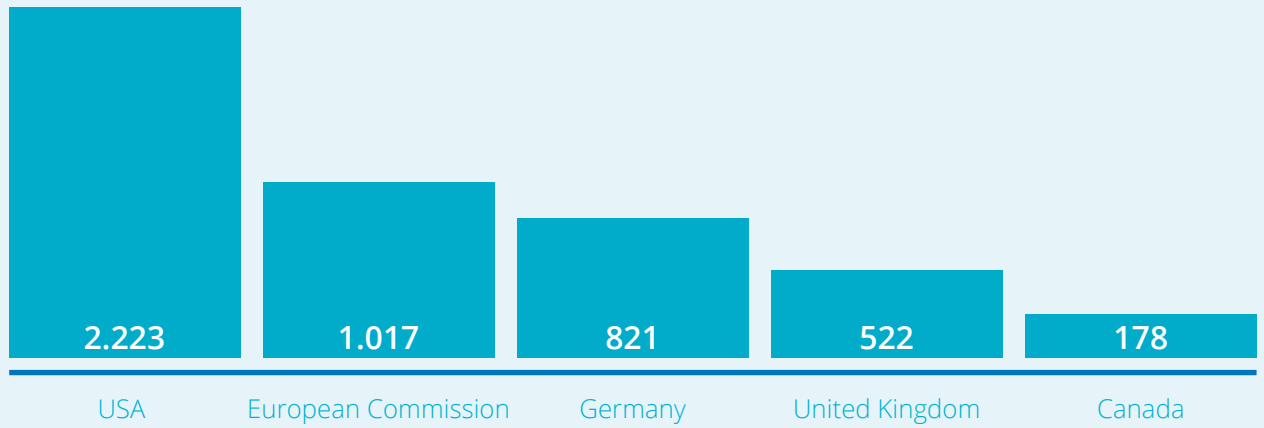
5

Make nutrition a priority, starting with the first 1,000 days of life, to combat stunting and promote a healthy development in all children

2017 FACTS AND FIGURES

WFP Top Donors in 2017

in millions of €

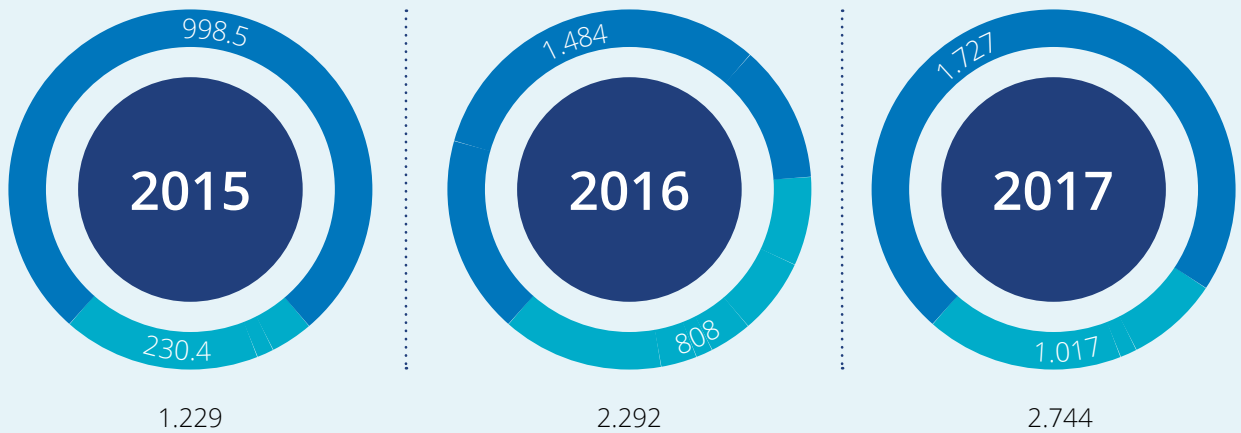


Total Contributions from the European Union

in millions of €

■ EU Member States total contribution

■ European Commission contributions



Countries of Collaboration

55

59

62

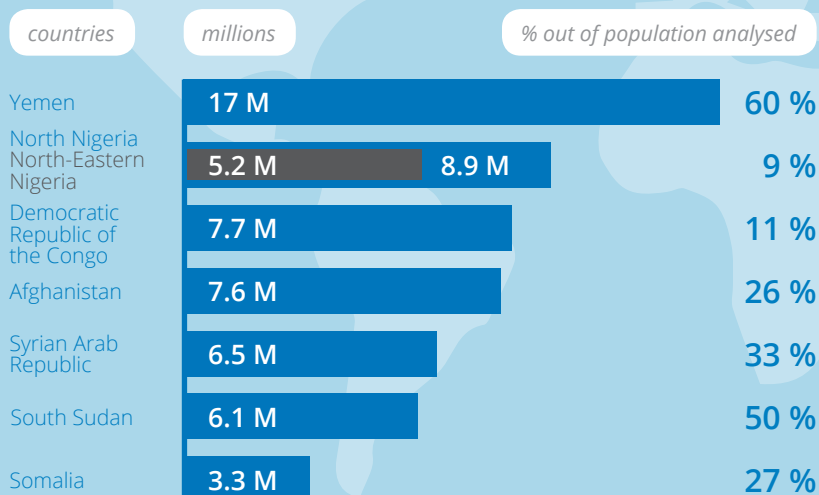


GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

■ ■ ■ Number and share of food-insecure people (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)

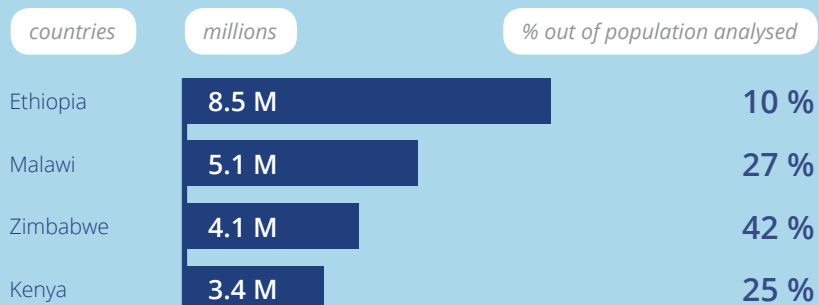
Conflict

Conflict spurred hunger for almost 74 million people in 18 countries and territories.



Climate Shocks

Climate shocks were the main drivers of acute food insecurity for over 39 million people in 23 countries and territories.



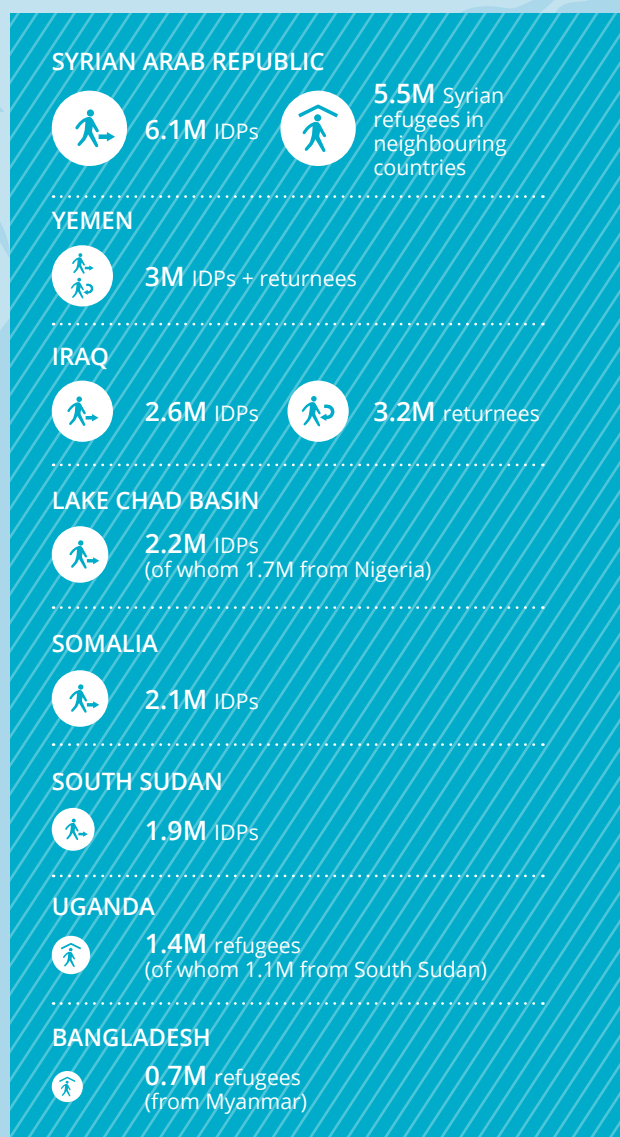
The latest [Global Report on Food Crises](#) published by WFP, FAO and the European Commission, with support of nine other partners*, estimates **124 million people faced crisis levels of food insecurity or worse** (the equivalent of IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2017 – 55 percent more than in 2015.

Conflict continues to be the main cause of food insecurity, affecting nearly 74 million people in 18 countries, according to the report. Climate disasters, particularly prolonged drought, were also major triggers of hunger in 23 countries.

The worst food crises in 2017 were in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan, where famine posed a major threat to 20 million people. The previous edition of the Global Report helped flag these crises early and enabled agencies and donors alike to act quickly and avert famine.

*Partners include the Permanent Interstate Committee for drought (CILSS), the Global Food Security Cluster, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Central American Integration System (SICA), UNICEF, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Displacement



In 2018, conflict in places like Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan is expected to continue driving hunger for millions. Meanwhile, severe dry weather will threaten crop production and, consequently, millions of lives in regions of the Horn of Africa and in West Africa and the Sahel countries, including Senegal, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

The Global Report is an annual in-depth assessment of global food security, aiming to improve coordination for both humanitarian and development actions among donors, governments and organisations providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

The report is made possible through the [Global Network against Food Crises \(GNFC\)](#), funded by the European Commission.

SAVING LIVES



Yemen

Two and a half years of conflict have pushed Yemen to the brink of famine. Nearly **18 million people – over 60 percent of the population – do not know where their next meal will come from** and over 8 million people rely entirely on external food assistance. In 2017, the EU contributed a total of €53 million to WFP operations in Yemen. That support helped ensure **people received critical food assistance, rural communities could rebuild and reconnect, and humanitarian actors continued to have access to the country.**

Bangladesh

Coastal Cox's Bazar is one of the most impoverished and food-insecure parts of Bangladesh. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees have sought safety in the region – often malnourished and in need of urgent assistance – since August 2017. The influx has put additional strains on local communities, where WFP, with EU support, was providing **nutritional training and support to more than 35,000 mothers and their children** before the crisis. Thanks to additional EU funding, WFP scaled up its response to reach newly arrived refugees with vital food and nutrition assistance.



Syria

Seven long years of conflict in Syria have trapped people in a cycle of poverty and hunger. Despite support from the EU and other donors, **6.5 million people continue to face food insecurity.** Another **4 million are at risk** – twice as many as a year ago. More than €20.5 million from the EU in 2017 helped WFP continue **to reach around 4 million people inside Syria each month** with food assistance. An EU-funded date bar factory additionally employed hundreds of local workers, mostly women, and helped keep more than 500,000 children full, focused and in school.

In 2017, WFP categorised six countries as Level-3 emergencies, which is reserved for the **most severe crises**. Most of them stemmed from conflict – both new eruptions, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s Kasai region, and protracted crisis situations. **Famine-like conditions**, driven largely by extreme drought and conflict, threatened the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, and north-eastern Nigeria. Early and significant support from the European Commission was critical to WFP’s life-saving operations in these countries and more.



South Sudan

Conflict in South Sudan has claimed thousands of lives and driven 3.3 million people from their homes. More than 1.4 million have fled to neighbouring countries while **an estimated 1.9 million people remain displaced inside the country and are dependent on humanitarian assistance**. With support from donors like the EU, WFP and its partners provided **monthly rations of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt**. The EU funding also enabled **supplementary nutrition** to children under five years as well as pregnant and lactating women to prevent malnutrition amongst the youngest generation.

Somalia

Extreme drought hit Somalia in 2017, **threatening over 3 million lives with potential famine**. Harvests and livestock were lost and over a million people were forced to leave their homes in search of food, water and assistance. The EU provided vital funding for Somalia last year, **with nearly €18 million contributed to WFP’s emergency cash-based assistance operation**. Thanks to that generous support, WFP helped over 40,000 families buy the things they needed each month while boosting the local economy.



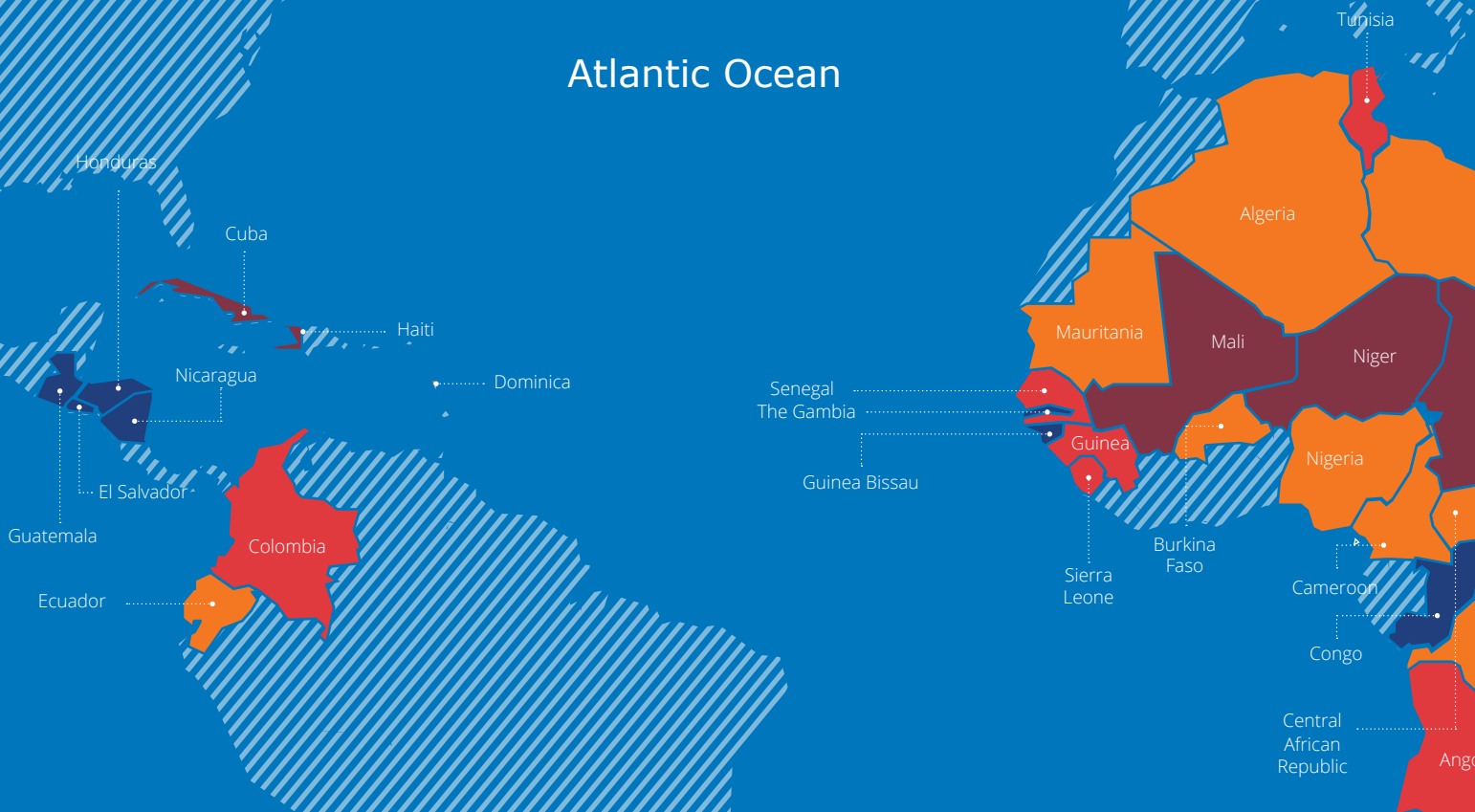
Democratic Republic of the Congo

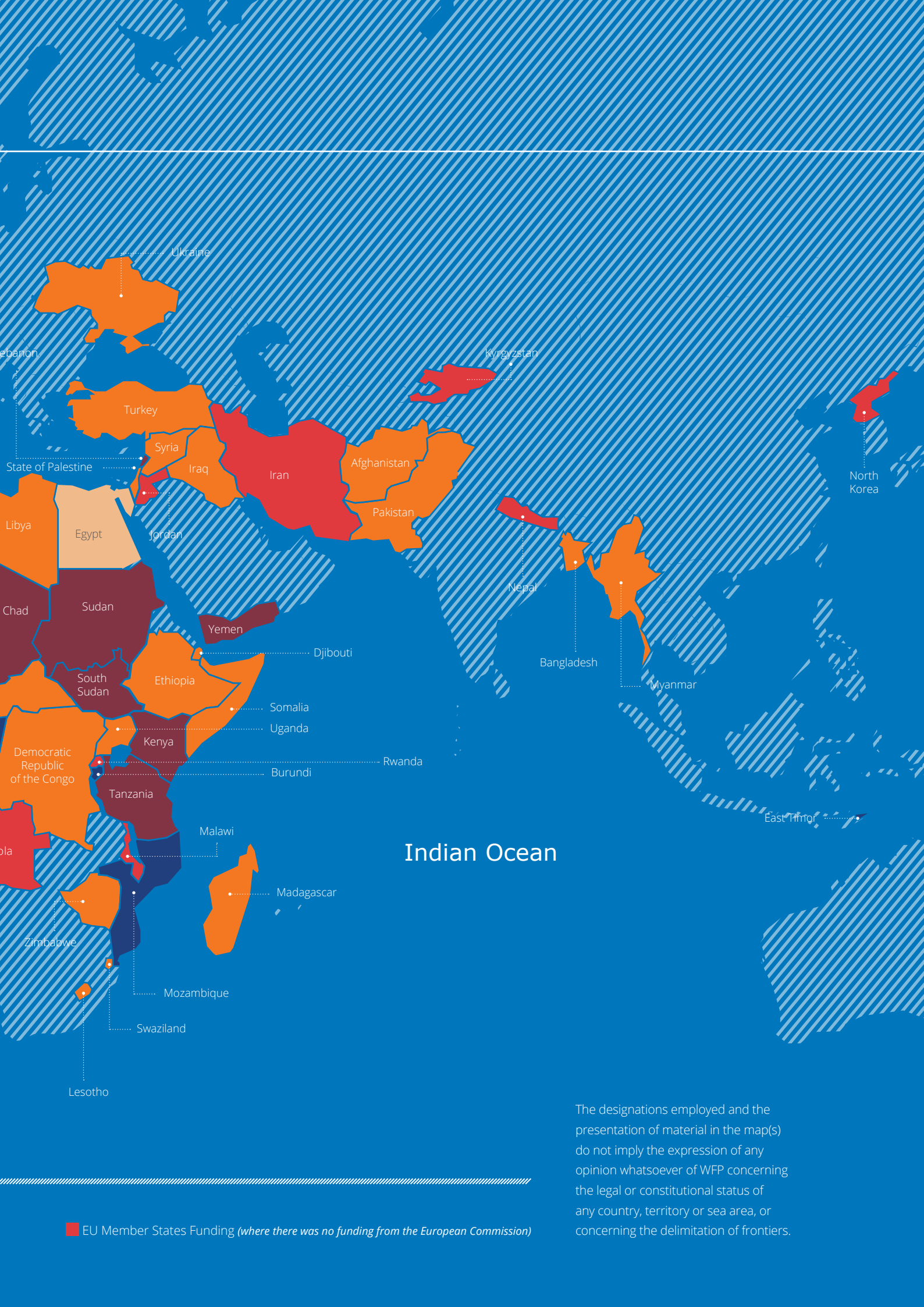
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has seen **the highest volume of internal displacement globally** over the past year and **7.7 million people face hunger**. With support from donors like the EU, WFP reached over 600,000 people with much-needed food assistance last year in the provinces formerly making up the Katanga region. Mass displacement and a dramatic increase in hunger in the nearby Kasai region caused WFP to declare a Level-3 emergency – its highest crisis category – in October 2017.

2017 WFP OPERATIONS FUNDED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION & EU MEMBER STATES

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean





Indian Ocean

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

■ EU Member States Funding (where there was no funding from the European Commission)

CHANGING LIVES

Innovative Support for Refugees in Turkey

In supermarkets across Turkey, families browse, shop, choose and purchase foods, household cleaning supplies and other every-day essentials. The families, torn from their homes, forced across borders, and left with dwindling personal resources, are refugees – mostly from Syria, but also other countries suffering from conflict and insecurity.

Thanks to a remarkable partnership between WFP, the EU, Turkish Red Crescent and the government, **over one million refugees in Turkey received cash assistance in 2017** to purchase the items they need the most through the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)** programme. It is a lifeline for families who, after years away from home, are seeing the last of their savings dry up and have lost most, if not all, of their personal possessions.

Those receiving ESSN assistance decide for themselves what's best for their family – from covering the rent, to buying food and medicine, or purchasing school books for their children. Each family receives 120 Turkish liras (about €25) per person per month on a debit card, which they can use to withdraw funds at ATMs or use directly at shops.

The ESSN is an efficient and effective form of assistance. At least **85 percent of the programme costs go directly into the pockets of refugees**, embodying the commitments set forth in the **World Humanitarian Summit's Grand Bargain**, a global agreement signed by more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers in 2016.

The ESSN payment infrastructure uses national systems and can additionally be used to deliver other much-needed assistance for refugees. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), for example, uses the ESSN card for conditional cash transfers for education, helping vulnerable families keep their children in school.

The ESSN is the **EU's largest ever humanitarian programme**. To help EU citizens better understand the impact of this innovative project, famous Europeans, like **French actress Annelise Hesme** and **Hungarian journalist Hesna Al Ghaoui**, travelled to Turkey to meet refugees, hear

their stories, and find out why ESSN assistance is so important.

Thanks to the **powerful partnership between WFP, the European Commission and the Turkish government**, families that continue to dream of the day they can return home and rebuild their lives can at least cover some of their most basic needs and find a sense of normalcy and stability once again.

Actress Annelise Hesme visits with the family of Kalistan, a Syrian refugee and mother who fled to Turkey three years ago. Kalistan receives ESSN cash assistance, helping her buy the things her family really needs.



There is enough food to feed everyone on the planet, but unequal access and inefficient handling leaves millions of people without. To achieve a world free from hunger by 2030, governments, citizens, civil society organisations and the private sector must work together to create lasting solutions. The European Commission remains WFP's vital partner in addressing the root causes of hunger and build resilience of communities to future crises.

Creating Stability for Refugees in Lebanon

Lebanon hosts the world's highest number of refugees per capita. **Most of the nearly 1 million Syrian refugees living in the country depend entirely on humanitarian assistance** – after so many years away from home, their savings, if any, have dramatically depleted. With support from the EU, WFP began providing **multi-purpose cash transfers** for the most vulnerable refugee families in late 2017, empowering them to make their own choices about the things their families need. A WFP survey found that **71 percent of households could purchase items they were unable to before** receiving the cash assistance, **such as more food, medicines, household items, or school uniforms for their children.** For Syrian refugee families in Lebanon, multi-purpose cash assistance brings an element of stability in an otherwise turbulent time.



Building Resilience in Latin America's Dry Corridor




Since 2014, terrible drought has afflicted residents of Central America's Dry Corridor, which extends through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. **Drought has reduced food production and income among subsistence farmers, day-labourers, and their families**, pushing many further into food insecurity and poverty. **With support from the EU, WFP's Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) programme is helping more than 70,000 people in the region.** Cash-based assistance provides a safety net for families so they can meet their immediate needs, while crop management and soil conservation training, asset rehabilitation and nutrition education help communities adapt to climate change and reduce risk of future drought-related disasters.

Fuelling Better Futures for Children in Egypt, The Gambia, and Kenya

Education is one of the most powerful vehicles for sustainable development. **Daily school meals keep kids in school longer, empower girls and provide the nutrition to help kids stay focused.** WFP home-grown school meals also **boost local economies** by directly connecting schools with parents, smallholder farmers and local markets. In 2017, EU-funded WFP school meals fuelled young bodies and minds as well as invested in local economies in Kenya, Egypt and The Gambia. In Kenya's Kalobeyei refugee settlement and surrounding areas alone, **over 30,000 students in 114 primary schools received daily school meals**, ensuring equal access to education for both refugee and local children. The programme has increased food security, supported sustainable livelihoods, and ultimately strengthened ties between refugees and the local community. The Kalobeyei scheme is part of a larger development programme funded by the EU, in partnership with WFP, UNHCR and the World Bank






“Conflict and instability is increasing hunger around the world. We must find lasting solutions to break this conflict-hunger cycle, and to get them, WFP must work closely with governments, partners, and donors. The European Union is vital to this effort. Our partnership helps us save lives in emergencies, reduce the risks of hunger-causing disasters in rural and developing communities and improve education for children through school meals initiatives. Together with the EU, we’re working towards a world with Zero Hunger by saving lives and changing lives every day.”

David Beasley

Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme



“Conflict and climate change have triggered severe food crises in countries all over the world—crises which we have successfully tackled by working closely with WFP while also looking for the most efficient way to deliver assistance directly to those most in need. From food distributions in conflict-torn Yemen, to cash-based assistance against the drought scorching Somalia, to food assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and to the Emergency Social Safety Net, a true lifeline for over 1 million refugees in Turkey: together, the EU and WFP have taken important steps towards a zero-hunger world. I am proud of our common achievements. But our fight against global hunger does not stop here. We need to be even more innovative, fast and effective to respond to the more complex challenges looming ahead of us. Our common dedication will be crucial to rise to these challenges.”

Christos Stylianides

European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management



World Food Programme

Office to the EU and Belgium
Avenue des Arts 41
1040 Brussels
T +32 (0)2 500 09 10
wfp.org

Cover Photo: WFP/Karel Prinsloo / Graphic Design by: Suzy Defaux