

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia

What is FFA?

The most food-insecure people often live in fragile and degraded landscapes and areas prone to recurrent natural shocks and other risks. Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) is one of WFP's initiatives aimed at addressing the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, voucher or food transfers while helping improve their long-term food security and resilience.

The concept is simple: people receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs while they build or boost assets, such as constructing a road or rehabilitating degraded land, that will improve their livelihoods by creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impact of shocks, increasing food productivity, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.

The integration of FFA into wider Productive Safety Net approaches – as in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan or Sudan – supports productive asset creation for food-insecure communities during the lean season, and has the potential to play a key role in longer-term social protection strategies in countries affected by chronic food insecurity and protracted crisis.

FFA Types of Activities

- Household-level assets, such as fuel-efficient stoves;
- Natural resources development and management, including dams and community forests;
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential through terraces, irrigation canals, etc.;
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure, such as granaries;
- Skills development trainings related to asset creation, management, and maintenance.

In each community, WFP aims to integrate multiple types of FFA activities with local government development plans and other WFP and partner interventions (including UN partners such as FAO and IFAD) to re-inforce each other's impact.

2018 achievements in the region

In 2018, more than **850,000** people directly benefited from FFA programmes in **8 countries**. Key achievements include:

- **26,000** hectares of land rehabilitated
- **34** water ponds, shallow wells and fish ponds built
- **1,000 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed
- **1,600 hectares** of forest planted/rehabilitated
- **681 social or community infrastructure assets** constructed or rebuilt.

2018 FFA beneficiaries in the region



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WFP in Iraq

Years of protracted conflict, coupled with the effects of climate change, have negatively impacted Iraq's agriculture sector. Key assets have been destroyed and recurrent droughts and floods have led to the loss of arable land and reduced agricultural productivity, affecting local employment and income. As people affected by conflict begin to rebuild their livelihoods, WFP in Iraq has scaled up its FFA programmes to enable vulnerable households' access to food while building or rehabilitating productive assets.

In 2018, in close coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture, WFP worked with nine cooperating partners across 70 villages in 18 districts to reach more than 33,000 people from vulnerable returnee households with FFA interventions. More than 5,500 participants were directly engaged in different FFA activities, including:

- Cleaning and rehabilitation of 629 km of concrete and soil irrigation canals;
- Rehabilitation of 12 water-pumping stations;
- Rehabilitation of 125 hectares of olive groves, including 17,000 olive trees;
- Restoration of 266 greenhouses and construction of 151 new greenhouses;
- Construction and restoration of 103 livestock shelters; and
- Establishment of 90 kitchen gardens.

In Bashiqa and Bazhani, where the local population is largely from the Yazidi minority, FFA programmes helped to restore olive orchards, including 17,000 trees, or approximately 84 hectares; rehabilitate agricultural assets, including 6.3 km of irrigation canals, trenches and dripping irrigation systems; and drill two boreholes to access water for domestic and agricultural uses. More than 200 local people participated directly in FFA activities, reaching a total of 1,250 beneficiaries, and monitoring suggests that the newly created or restored assets continue to improve the livelihoods of the Yazidi community.

In Anbar governorate, in coordination with the Directorate of Water Resources, WFP Iraq and key stakeholders, including local government, fellow UN agencies, and NGOs, led FFA efforts to rehabilitate damaged canals and irrigation systems and to restore large portions of agricultural land. By the end of 2018, WFP and its partners had rehabilitated 629 km of irrigation canals, allowing access to water for farming and livestock for 11,000 households and over 20,000 hectares of land.



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