



Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in West Africa

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 also 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.

FFA Types of Activities

- Development and management of natural resources;
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential;
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure (schools, granaries, etc.);
- Skills development trainings related to the creation, management and maintenance of assets.

In each community, WFP aims to integrate multiple types of FFA activities with Government strategies and other WFP and partners' interventions (including UN partners FAO and IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

Since 2018, WFP together with Governments and partners has been scaling-up integrated interventions across the Sahel, investing in nutrition, health, education and livelihoods. To achieve transformative change, the same

vulnerable communities are targeted over a period of four to five years with an integrated package of activities (including FFA, school meals, nutrition, seasonal assistance, etc.), tailored to their livelihood context and meeting their particular needs.

2018 achievements in the region

In 2018, more than **1 million** people directly benefited from FFA programmes in **12 countries**.

Key 2018 achievements:

- **2,500 hectares** of land rehabilitated
- **190 water** ponds, shallow wells, and fish ponds built
- **110 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **450 hectares** of forest planted
- **6,100 social or community infrastructure assets** constructed or rebuilt.



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Niger

Government capacity strengthening and investing into local capacities are key pillars of WFP's resilience approach in Niger. In 2018, WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to promote better governance of natural resources; to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations; and to reinforce government capacities from national to municipal levels.

In the framework of this collaboration, WFP and the Ministries jointly organized four trainings in the field, allowing for hands-on demonstrations of different soil and water conservation techniques used in FFA, such as half-moons, trenches, and zais. In total, some 500

participants benefitted from the trainings, including technical services, cooperating partners, and WFP field staff. Traditional and technical know-how was shared between practitioners and local communities, and joint interdisciplinary approaches were discussed with the goal of building resilience.

During these trainings, the 'multi-functional' half-moon was demonstrated, which allows for simultaneous cultivation of several varieties. This technique enables for the retention of water and soil nutrients and allows for two harvests per year (one cycle of cereals and one cycle of vegetables and fruits), extending food production beyond the usual rain-fed cultivation cycle of only three months.



Chad

Guera, one of the regions in Chad's Sahel belt, experiences high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, and land degradation is rampant. However, with some 80% of the population dependent on rain-fed crop production, and livestock-rearing as a primary source of income, there is significant agricultural potential. In the community of Tabo, FFA activities in 2018 focused on water harvesting and land rehabilitation to boost productivity and build resilience against future shocks.

Trainings on the production and application of compost were given to local communities, who learned about using organic material including dung, plant residues,

and ashes. As a result, communities in Guera now produce more than 2,000m³ of compost, which is used in tree nurseries and vegetable gardens and for reforestation and the rehabilitation of degraded crop land and pastures.

To harvest rainwater for use during the dry season, FFA participants in Tabo irrigated a vegetable garden of two hectares that produces over 20 varieties, including nutritious kinds such as Swiss chard, kale and squash. The pond can also be used to water cattle, a key livelihood activity in an area where most households are agro-pastoralists.

