

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Southern Africa

What is FFA?

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) are household- and community-based activities meant to create productive assets that have multiple benefits to the most food-insecure people living in degraded, fragile environments, with a low asset base and highly exposed to natural shocks and stressors.

The main objective of FFA is to enable recovery and enhance the long-term resilience of food-insecure households so that they can overcome, manage, and bounce back better from current and future shocks and stressors. Beneficiaries receive food or cash transfers to cover their immediate food needs, while they create or rehabilitate assets, which contribute to improving their long-term food security and resilience.

FFA Types of Activities

A Community-Based Participatory Planning process has informed the selection of five main categories of productive assets:

- Water source development (dams, weirs, and water points) for productive purposes;
- Natural resources development and management;
- Improving crop and livestock productivity;
- Improving market linkage and access to social services and infrastructure;
- Income generation (feedlots, market stalls).

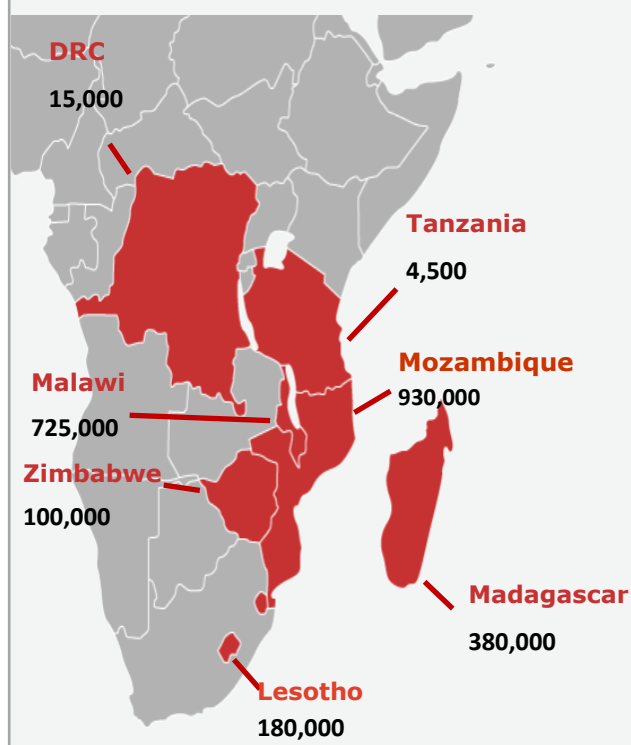
In each community, WFP, together with the government, partners, and other UN agencies (FAO, IFAD and UNDP), promotes asset creation in an integrated manner.

2017 achievements in the region

In 2017, more than **2.3 million people** directly benefited from FFA programmes in **7 countries**:

- **950 hectares** of degraded land rehabilitated
- **60** water ponds, shallow wells and fish ponds were built
- **3,500 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **670 hectares** of forest planted or restored
- **900 people** took part in trainings on environmental protection and livelihoods.

2017 FFA beneficiaries in the region



FFA as an Entry Point for Integrated Resilience Programming

Certain WFP Country Offices, with support from the Southern Africa Regional Bureau, are working on a range of multi-year resilience activities, using FFA as an initial platform for integrated resilience programming. This approach enables the most vulnerable to meet their seasonal food needs through the provision of transfers, while at the same time they build assets that reduce the risk of disasters, strengthen livelihoods, and strengthen resilience by increasing smallholder farmers' productivity through better natural resource management.

Building on FFA Initiatives, the **Rural Resilience Initiative (R4)** enables the poorest farmers to access crop insurance by participating in risk reduction activities. When a shock hits, compensation from the insurance prevents farmers from taking desperate measures such as selling productive assets. Combined with other measures, such as access to savings and credit and to reliable climate information, R4 allows farmers to manage climate-related risks and to invest in riskier but more remunerative enterprises.

In addition, WFP's **Purchase for Progress (P4P)** programme connects smallholder farmers to markets, giving them an opportunity to grow their businesses and improve their lives and those of their entire communities.

Zimbabwe

In 2017, nearly 100,000 people across 11 districts in Zimbabwe benefited directly from FFA activities, with 78 assets being created. WFP Zimbabwe is currently rolling out a multiyear approach for FFA implementation in 2018-2020, focusing on the same communities/beneficiaries for three years.

Some features of the new approach are:

- Consideration of household level resilience, including plans to improve soil and water conservation to increase productivity;
- Interventions focusing on the watershed approach;
- Greater depth in implementation, rather than larger breath of interventions;
- Inclusion of activities that will improve income, savings, and livelihood diversity.

The Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) launched in 2017, and five draft community action plans have so far been received for review. Additionally, the participating communities will be linked to markets through Purchase for Progress (P4P).

WFP Zimbabwe also provides support to smallholder farmers through distribution of production manuals to 4,400 farmers in four districts, and trainings for Post-Harvest Handling (PHH) to 256 supported farmers in two districts were completed.



Democratic Republic of Congo

Recovery activities supported the return of displaced people to their areas of origin essentially through FFA and school feeding. Informed by consultations with donors, partners and stakeholders, WFP decided to focus on addressing the acute needs of populations in conflict-affected areas in the East to improve the food and nutrition security of some of the country's most vulnerable populations.

FFA was implemented to support returnees' efforts to rehabilitate community infrastructure and support the restoration of agricultural potential through partnerships with the Government, UN agencies, NGOs, such as Union Des Amis du Kivu pour le Developpement (UNAKID) and Association Abantanshi, and local communities.

FFA activities were implemented to rehabilitate basic community assets such as fish ponds and agricultural lands to support IDPs and refugees, as well as conflict-affected host populations. The FFA activities undertaken, such as fish ponds and field planting, allowed returnees to regain their agricultural activities and restore their main source of livelihood.

Furthermore, WFP is strengthening the capacity of the government and the communities to manage early warning systems that facilitate effective planning and preparatory measures that enable responsiveness to disasters and shocks that impede viable food security. FFA is also being used to support the existing social protection initiatives such as public works programmes.

Lesotho

Through FFA programmes, WFP is one of the key partners promoting resilience in Lesotho. WFP also implements capacity-building activities, with the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Forestry for a national public works programme.

FFA programming in Lesotho was informed by the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) and by Community-Based Participatory Planning. WFP Lesotho established eleven Community Action Plans to help vulnerable communities adversely affected by the El Nino drought.

In 2017 the FFA activities cumulatively assisted around 20,000 beneficiaries, with cash transfers to address their immediate food needs while participating in asset creation activities including water harvesting structures; mountain trails and gully rehabilitation; reforestation; and range management.

Malawi

Working at the watershed, group, and homestead levels, the Malawi FFA programme creates healthier natural environments; reduces the risks and impact of climate shocks; increases food productivity; and strengthens resilience to natural disasters. Using the watershed management approach, implementation has targeted the most shock-prone and food-insecure districts in the country, including 10 districts and reaching over 132,000 households. The focus of activities are on land resources management (gully control, river bank protection, swale construction); forestation (nursery establishment, tree planting and management); irrigation farming (construction of irrigation schemes, construction of canals); and infrastructure development (road construction, dykes for flood control).

Although FFA activities are mainly focused on community assets, the Malawi Country Office has also emphasized homestead development activities such as backyard gardens, fruit tree production, composting, use of energy-saving stoves, and WASH activities. The integrated climate risk management approach, inclusive of insurance, savings, credit, and climate services, is mainstreamed across the FFA districts, where linkages to Purchase for Progress (P4P) are also being established, to support the roll-out of a comprehensive resilience building approach.

In this context, the R4 initiative has grown to 3 districts covering 10,327 farmers; climate services to 6 districts covering 108,246 households; and closer alignment is being sought with P4P operations that span over 15 districts (targeting 60,000 farmers in 59 farmer organizations). Forecast-based financing is also included to support the expansion of programme assistance in advance of climate shocks.

The Malawi Country Office plans to scale-up the integrated resilience approach to additional districts. For the 2018/19 season, the objective is to consolidate the gains made and prepare for further expansion in 2019/20 to the additional locations. The FFA caseload is due to grow to 165,000 households by December 2018, and to 170,000 households in 2019/20.





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Madagascar

The island nation of Madagascar is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including cyclones, floods, and droughts. Since 2015, the Great South of Madagascar was affected by a drought linked to El Nino, while the southeast has been hit annually by floods and cyclones.

Given the recurrent exposure of these communities to natural shocks, WFP Madagascar is increasingly focused on resilience-building activities. A resilience strategy will be finalized soon to guide the design and implementation of programmes during the next lean season, from October 2018 to March 2019.

Resilience programming will build upon the lessons learned from previous FFA programmes, and will be informed by the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) process.

In the second half of 2018, FFA programmes will target 12,000 households, or 60,000 beneficiaries, in three communes, using a multisectoral and multiyear approach to strengthen the self-reliance of vulnerable populations.

Tanzania

WFP's FFA programmes in farming communities are aimed at strengthening farmers' resilience to climate shocks, improve productive potential of the farmland, link farmers to markets and increase household incomes.

Rice is the second most-consumed food and commercial crop in Tanzania after maize. Approximately half of the country's rice is grown by smallholder farmers in the Tabora, Shinyanga and Morogoro regions of the central corridor. But harvesting rice was a struggle for Mariam Ndege, a smallholder farmer living in the Ndzege district of Tabora. After continuous dry spells in her area, Mariam did not know how she would be able to continue making a living growing rice.

Under the FFA programme, WFP supported the building of a 60,000 cubic metre micro reservoir in Nzega to help farmers like Mariam to improve the productivity of their land. "The dam could not have come sooner as a drought hit Nzega. I was able to irrigate my rice field using water from the dam. This helped improve my production," says Mariam.

In one harvest season, she produced a yield of 25 bags, or 1.5 mt, of rice. "I have never harvested this much rice in my life," she said. Approximately 200 farmers are benefiting from the dam.

"Last year, WFP also connected my village to the main district road by rehabilitating the feeder road. Access to the market is now not a big issue for us. I keep my rice. And when the price goes up, I sell my rice to people from the Nzega market." Mariam said she expects to be able to keep enough food for her family, and still sell enough rice to earn some income.



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