



Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) for Resilient Communities in Latin America & the Caribbean

What is FFA?

The most food insecure people often live in degraded landscapes prone to recurrent natural shocks.

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 and improving their long-term food security and resilience.

The concept is simple: women and men receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs, while they build or boost assets 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.

Gender is central to the purpose, delivery and results of FFA programming, and has the potential to promote shared power, control of resources, and decision-making between women and men. FFA as part of the regional resilience focus is linked with social protection programmes, disaster risk reduction and nutrition.

FFA Types of Activities

- Development and management of natural resources;
- Restoration and diversification of agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential;
- Community access to markets, social services, and infrastructure (schools, granaries, etc.);
- Capacity strengthening related to the creation, management, and maintenance of assets by communities and the government;
- Asset Impact Monitoring System (AIMS) project for Central America's Dry Corridor: Using satellite imagery and landscape monitoring techniques to monitor the positive changes from FFA activities.

Using participatory needs and context analysis, WFP aims to integrate various types of FFA activities identified with communities and aligned with the government and partners' interventions, fortifying each other's impact.

2018 achievements in the region

In 2018, more than **230,000 people** directly benefited from FFA programmes in **7 countries**.

Key 2018 achievements include:

- **5,500 hectares** of land rehabilitated
- **290 water** ponds, shallow wells, and fish ponds built
- **155 kilometers** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **5,800 social or community infrastructure assets** constructed or rebuilt.

2018 FFA beneficiaries in the region



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Central America's Dry Corridor

Four years of drought and below-average rainfall in the dry corridor of Central America have generated significant losses in income and agricultural production, particularly affecting subsistence farmers and day laborers in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Deforestation, erosion, and poor agricultural practices continue to reduce agricultural production and increase rural poverty.

Funded by the European Union, WFP, together with governments and partners, supported nearly 6,500 affected and vulnerable households with FFA activities between 2016 and 2018. The project provided cash-based transfers to cover the food gap during the lean season, while communities participated in the creation and maintenance of productive assets and in trainings supported by technical expertise from the governments.

FFA activities were aimed at creating and rehabilitating natural and physical assets such as soil conservation and nurseries, reforestation activities, and crop-diversification trainings. Trainings in

improving nutrition, and specifically directed at empowering women, were also provided.

To ensure local ownership and sustainability of the assets, community involvement from the planning phases was prioritized through the Seasonal Livelihood Programming workshops at the departmental and municipal level, and through Community-Based Participatory Planning at the community level.

Evaluation of the project highlights the positive impact on beneficiaries' food security; the participatory nature of the project, which was also aligned with government priorities; new and rehabilitated community assets of high quality; strengthened community organizations; and a solid gender focus.



Ecuador

Communities in Pichincha province and the Jubones river basin of Ecuador have experienced chronic hunger and malnutrition; land and ecosystem degradation; and intense climate change-related disasters that severely impacted food production. WFP and the Ministry of Environment are implementing a project that aims to strengthen resilience to climate change and to increase the food security of 120 food-insecure and vulnerable communities.

The project includes integrated FFA activities to increase adaptive capacity to climate change and variability, as well as trainings to increase community-level knowledge on climate change and food insecurity-related risks. Identified through community consultations, activities focus on securing access to water and protecting livelihoods from weather-related shocks.

FFA interventions have helped to stabilize slopes at the risk of landslides; restore forest and vegetative cover; to conserve water and reduce erosion in

moorlands and forest areas; and to improve agricultural practices to maintain or increase crop yields. At the community level, the project has contributed to women's empowerment through access to market and increased income.



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