



Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Eastern and Central 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 the WFP's initiatives aimed at addressing 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: 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 such as FAO and IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

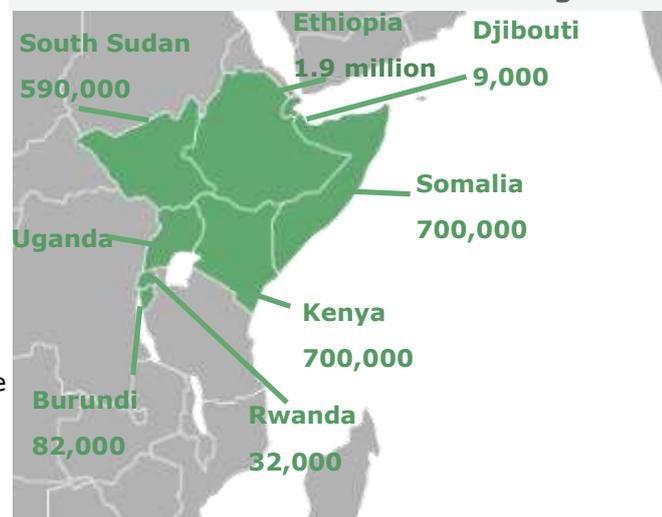
2018 Achievements in the Region

In 2018, more than **4 million** people directly benefited from FFA programmes in **8 countries**.

Key 2018 achievements include:

- **67,000 hectares** of land rehabilitated
- **1,000 water** ponds, shallow wells, and fish ponds built
- **2,500 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **149 hectares** of forest planted or restored
- **35,000 social or community infrastructure assets** constructed or rebuilt.

2018 FFA beneficiaries in the region



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South Sudan

Although many parts of South Sudan remain insecure, there are areas of stability where resilience-building and livelihoods activities strengthen the capacities of local communities, including smallholder farmers. In these areas, WFP is implementing FFA activities to meet immediate food needs while helping households develop resilience against future shocks and stresses. The combination of conditional food assistance and asset creation work helps food-insecure communities to shift away from reliance on humanitarian assistance to achieve more sustainable food security.

In 2018, FFA programmes expanded geographically to cover all regions of South Sudan, and achieved a 40 percent increase in beneficiaries when compared to 2017. Through FFA, WFP supported the creation of assets that helped increase household and community-level food availability and access to food and basic services.

Assets are built or rehabilitated across three different pillars: (1) restoration of productive capacity of arable land; (2) construction of community infrastructure; and (3) environment, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation.

Kenya

WFP supports the national government's social strategies and commitment to ending drought emergencies, with the latter representing a shift in policy from reacting to the effects of droughts as they arise, to actively reducing vulnerability and risk through sustainable development.

Implemented in the drought-prone arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya, FFA projects help to improve the lives of families, for example by enhancing access to water; increasing crop production and diversification of food sources; and boosting pasture production for livestock. Most of the FFA projects aim to address the challenges to food security in sub-Saharan Africa – land and water – and involve harnessing runoff water; building or rehabilitating shallow wells, water pans, and dams; constructing or repairing small irrigation schemes; building terraces to stop soil erosion; repairing feeder roads; and planting trees and establishing tree nurseries.

More than 590,000 people benefited from FFA activities in 2018, through building or restoring assets to increase agricultural productivity and to enable access to water, markets, schools, healthcare centres, and other facilities.

Combined with Purchase for Progress (P4P) and Food for Education programmes, FFA activities form part of WFP's resilience strategy for South Sudan. This broad range of support, including asset creation, safety nets, and sustainable livelihoods programmes, helps to assist communities with recovery and increase their resilience to future shocks.

As part of this resilience approach, WFP is working with other UN agencies including UNICEF, FAO and UNDP on a joint recovery and stabilization pilot in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, through which a more comprehensive package of assistance will be provided to vulnerable communities. By implementing complementary activities in the same locations, the joint programme seeks to build community resilience by combining the delivery of life-sustaining services with activities to strengthen food production, delivery of basic services, and improved livelihoods.

To enhance sustainability of assets, WFP developed, in collaboration with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, technical manuals and guidelines to guide extension workers in ensuring the technical quality of livelihood projects in the drylands. Training on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation also increased government knowledge of how to promote risk-informed development planning and to use asset creation as a way to improve the resilience of at-risk and disaster-affected communities.

Training on new farming and water conservation technologies was provided to FFA participants, the majority of which are women. To boost self-sufficiency in refugee and host community settings, WFP has also piloted a programme on hydroponics; introduced kitchen gardens; and invested in large-scale water harvesting structures.



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