

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## World Food Programme: Overview

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization working towards zero hunger by 2030.

WFP is the first on the scene in an emergency, providing food and other assistance to the victims of conflict, drought, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, crop failures and pandemics.

At the same time, we focus on sustainable development, promoting long-term change by working in partnership with national governments.



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## Saving lives

WFP manages complex emergencies where communities are hungry, homeless or without any source of income. We coordinate responses to large-scale emergencies on behalf of the wider humanitarian community, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster and the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, and we co-lead the Food Security Cluster.

Two-thirds of WFP's work is in conflict-affected countries, where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than elsewhere.

Our largest emergency response is currently in Yemen, with ongoing conflict causing one of the world's worst hunger crises, while in Syria we are **assisting millions of people** displaced by the ongoing civil war. Northeastern Nigeria and South Sudan are among other countries where WFP is assisting those affected by violence and insecurity. Our response can include a combination of food, cash, nutrition supplements and school feeding. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, another country where conflict and hunger fuel one another, WFP is also helping to contain an Ebola outbreak by providing food and logistical services.

Our engineers are critically important in emergency response. In addition to food assistance for thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar into Bangladesh, our engineers created safe, level land at Kutupalong camp to lessen the threat posed by monsoons.

A rapidly increasing number of **climate shocks** also demand swift and decisive responses. When Cyclone Idai struck Mozambique and floods washed away an estimated 400,000 hectares of crops in early 2019, WFP deployed quickly to provide food and vouchers, while also planning recovery, reconstruction and resilience-building activities. We also restored vital communications networks to accelerate the response by government and humanitarian partners.

Our emergency work is also pre-emptive, in seeking to offset the potential impact of disaster. In the Sahel region of Africa, where economic challenges, climate variability and armed militants combine to create a highly unstable environment, WFP worked with local communities to harvest water for irrigation and restore degraded land, while also promoting improved health and education services and improved livelihoods.

# Changing lives

WFP also has a sharp focus on long-term solutions to hunger and undernutrition. We further aim to prevent future emergencies rather than simply responding to them.

By working to change lives we are providing a cornerstone for sustainable development, seeking to build resilience and make the world a stable, more peaceful place. These pre-emptive actions can also be highly cost-effective. For example, US\$1 invested in climate risk management and disaster risk reduction can save around US\$3 in humanitarian response.

## INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

WFP, with a track record of innovation, is building practical, needs-based digital solutions to help achieve zero hunger. We partner with leading tech companies, entrepreneurs, NGOs and others to develop cutting-edge approaches at scale. In Jordan we deploy blockchain technology that allows over 100,000 Syrian refugees to buy groceries through iris scans rather than vouchers. In drought-hit Chad, WFP is scaling up a **hydroponics cultivation system** which allows refugees to grow fresh fodder with no soil and little water. We use mobile technology and artificial intelligence to conduct and analyze data about household food needs in remote and hard-to-reach regions, from Yemen to Papua New Guinea. We have deployed drones for rapid and detailed assessments within minutes of a disaster striking, for example after Mozambique's Cyclone Desmond.

## CLIMATE ACTION

Climate shocks such as droughts and floods can wipe out crops, disrupt markets and destroy roads and bridges. WFP is working with governments and humanitarian partners on the frontlines of the global climate crisis, responding to an increasing number of **climate-related disasters**. At the same time, we take pre-emptive action to prepare communities and limit damage. This also reduces the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance.

We help restore land by giving food assistance to communities in return for them working on activities such as tree-planting and irrigation. We protect by providing climate-risk insurance to vulnerable people, and we anticipate through more advanced weather forecasting and resulting actions that help families prepare for disasters through measures such as delayed planting of crops or stockpiling of food.

## NUTRITION

While our priority has long been addressing undernutrition in emergencies, over recent years we have broadened our

focus to all forms of malnutrition including vitamin and mineral deficiencies and overweight and obesity. **We address malnutrition** from the earliest stages through programmes targeting the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. We focus on providing access to healthy and adequate diets, targeting young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and people living with HIV.

## SCHOOL FEEDING

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization implementing school feeding programmes. As part of our drive towards sustainability, WFP handed over school feeding programmes to governments in Kenya and Bhutan in 2018. School meals improve children's nutrition and health, while also increasing access to a potentially **life-changing education**. They are also a strong incentive for parents to send their children to school, reducing risks such as child labour and early marriage in some countries. WFP buys food locally where possible, with home-grown school feeding in turn increasing incomes for smallholder farmers.

## SMALLHOLDER SUPPORT

In addition to home-grown school feeding, our smallholder programmes include the private-sector focused Farm to Market Alliance, which connects smallholders to markets and helps them diversify their crops and increase their business potential. These programmes complement established support including food assistance, training and, under the approach known as **Food Assistance for Assets**, taking part in projects such as restoring land and repairing roads.

## CASH ASSISTANCE

WFP is the largest cash provider in the humanitarian community. Cash empowers families to choose food and other items they really need through local markets. It can also help strengthen local markets and economies, encouraging smallholders to be more productive.

## UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)

This WFP-led service provides access for humanitarian workers and cargo to the world's most remote and challenging locations, allowing life-saving work that would otherwise be impossible. As a prime example, the closure of Sana'a airspace made UNHAS the only common air service for humanitarian organizations in Yemen. With over 60 aircraft, UNHAS also provides medical and security evacuations.

# WFP in numbers



**17,000** staff worldwide



**5,600 trucks, 20 ships and 92 planes** on the move each day



**US\$7.2 billion** raised in 2018 through 100% voluntary funding



**86.7 million beneficiaries** and operations in **83 countries**



**16.4 million children** receiving school meals in **60 countries**



**40 countries** where WFP **connects smallholders to markets**



**US\$1.76 billion** paid in cash transfers



**52%** of those receiving food assistance are **women and girls**

