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# Resilience Activity Sheets

WFP Regional Resilience Framework

*North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe  
Region*



World Food  
Programme

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# Food Voucher Programme to support Syrian refugees in Basirma Camp

A partnership between United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and INTERSOS

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This set of activity sheets was developed using region-specific examples. Its objective is to help build a common narrative around & illustrate potential contributions of WFP's work to **building resilience**

of individuals, households, communities & systems across the 12 corporate activity areas.

These sheets are associated with the

**WFP Regional Resilience Framework and Marker**

developed by the WFP Regional Bureau Cairo in 2019.

# Analysis, assessment and monitoring

Food security analysis forms the basis of design for WFP's operations. Prior to the design of operations in any country, WFP undertakes analyses of the food security situation, which informs governments' policies and programmes and the wider humanitarian community's planning, programming and fundraising.

WFP may also work directly with government statistical divisions in planning ministries to design and undertake national household surveys and other types of analysis which then serve as food security baselines to inform strategic priorities in the country.

To collect data, WFP and its partners complement traditional face-to-face assessments with the use of technologies such as satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems and mobile data collection platforms where suitable, to identify food insecure populations, establish underlying causes of food insecurity and track food security trends and related risk factors in real-time.

Food security analysis, assessment and monitoring can strengthen the resilience of vulnerable individuals, households, communities and systems through multiple pathways:

- Identify and profile vulnerable, food insecure individuals, households and communities necessary for identifying, targeting and reaching the most vulnerable in different types of policies and programmes
- Analyse and monitor risks and vulnerabilities to shocks and stresses such as market price fluctuations or climate events that are necessary for designing and informing risk-sensitive programmes, including strengthening capacities of vulnerable individuals and communities to anticipate, absorb, adapt to shock and stresses and transform systems and structures
- Strengthen local and national ownership and

leadership of poverty, food security, climate, risk and other analysis used to inform strategic priorities and planning in the country such as national poverty reduction strategies and social protection programmes, including building system resilience through enhanced governmental capacities, alignment with national priorities and promotion of integration and partnership.

*Analysis, assessment & monitoring activities can reliably contribute to building resilience at individual, household, community and systems levels.*

## **Iraq Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment**

The 2016 CFSVA of Iraq is a national household survey that WFP undertook as a partnership with the Central Statistics Office, the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office, the Iraqi Ministry of Health centred in Baghdad, the Kurdistan region Ministry of Health and the Nutrition Research Institute. The survey was conducted during a period of socio-economic uncertainty in Iraq.

In addition to providing updated baseline documentation of Iraqi food security, it served other important purposes, providing primary data for assessing the impact of the recent macro-economic slowdown on household food security, and calling attention to impacts on food available through Iraq's Public Distribution System.

It also highlighted the population's food security needs given the recent sectarian-driven conflicts. Results were used to inform WFP programme, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Zero Hunger Strategic Review and ongoing discussions of Public Distribution System reform.

# Asset creation and livelihood support

Asset Creation and Livelihood Support provide access to food while building or rehabilitating natural or physical assets that reduce the risk of disaster, promote livelihood recovery and build resilience; and deliver trainings necessary for households and communities to build, manage and sustainably use the constructed natural and physical assets.

Asset Creation and Livelihood Support, including short term income support delivered through labour-based transfers, income generating activities and human capital development, represent one of WFP's core contributions to the resilience of individuals, households and communities. Asset Creation and Livelihood Support can strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households and systems through multiple pathways:

- Develop individual resilience capacities in the form of livelihood productive assets, knowledge and skills, helping to raise incomes and contributing to sustainable benefits for participating households and communities.
- Boost social cohesion and improve social standing and dignity, including of women and marginalized groups, where different social groups are brought together to engage in community decision making and action and find collective opportunities to make their lives safer and more dignified.
- Invest in local productive and social infrastructure such as water catchment infrastructure, roads and schools, that boost resilience of local communities, markets and

food systems and restore essential assets required to transition to stability after a crisis.

- Strengthen local and national ownership and leadership of productive safety nets and public work programs, building system resilience through enhanced system capacity, alignment with national priorities and promotion of integration and partnership.

*Asset creation and livelihood support activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at household and community levels.*

## Tajikistan Food Assistance for Assets

In Tajikistan WFP's FFA programme is contributing to building resilience to recurrent natural disasters (drought, floods and landslide) through building community infrastructure, natural resource management and restoration and building local knowledge and capacities.

The programme also provide a short term social safety net by addressing immediate food needs of households affected by sudden shocks, or of those who urgently require augmented access to food.

The programme also builds systems level resilience through building central government, local authorities and community-based organization capacities and skills.

# Climate adaptation and risk management

Climate-related disasters and shocks pose a significant threat to food security and livelihoods, especially for vulnerable and food insecure communities who live in marginal, shock-prone areas and lack adequate resources and capacities to manage climate risks.

Programmatic options that support climate adaptation and enhance risk management can be implemented at various levels and aligned with country priorities set out in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, among others.

Climate adaptation and risk management activities contribute to resilience-building of households, communities and institutions through:

- Reducing disaster risk – community level asset creation activities can support a range of efforts that build resilience to shocks and stresses, such as soil and water conservation, development and rehabilitation of degraded lands, repair of irrigation systems and rehabilitation of flood protection infrastructure. Institutional capacity strengthening, such as linking strategic food reserves to scalable and flexible social safety nets are also important for supporting early action in the event of a disaster. Initiatives that limit intracommunal tensions and promote social cohesion can enhance resilience to conflict.
- Adapting to the impacts of shocks and stressors, including those related to climate –actions that prepare households and communities to effectively reduce risks on their livelihoods, and that mitigate impacts of shocks can help support improved

absorption and adaptation capacity. Longer range actions to strengthen resilience to climate shocks can help support transformative capacities through integrated risk management approaches incorporating, for example, index-based insurance, microcredit, savings, livelihoods diversification, climate services providing actionable climate information to decision-makers, or innovative response mechanisms with early warning and contingent financing elements.

*Climate adaptation and risk management activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at household, community and systems levels.*

## Egypt Adaptation Fund Project

Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region – funded by Adaptation Fund. Aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in Southern Egypt, by strengthening adaptive capacities of farming communities; and build institutional capacities on national, regional and local levels to mainstream adaptation approaches.

Led by Government of Egypt and WFP, this intervention is now reflected in Egypt's National Adaptation Strategy.

# Emergency preparedness

Emergency preparedness is related to supporting national, regional and global early-warning and preparedness systems that enable and support governments and the international community to respond to crises effectively and in a timely manner. Risk monitoring, early warning assessments and analysis of contextual risks in likely deteriorating situations enable timely and adequate preparedness and early actions before a crisis.

Capacity development for local authorities in the form of emergency response simulation exercises for National Disaster Management Authorities and other national response actors can improve disaster management coherence and enhance emergency preparedness and response capacity, while use of geospatial data and maps provide important context.

Emergency preparedness contributes to building and enhancing resilience to shocks of national and local authorities, communities and households via:

- Identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks and enhancing early warning – developing and disseminating information about risks and hazards and their likely impact on communities and households, and supporting local and national actors to play this role, enhances resilience capacities at local and national level through enabling early actions in the face of shocks.
- Reducing disaster risk – community level asset creation activities can support a range of efforts that build resilience to shocks and stresses, such as soil and water conservation, development and rehabilitation of degraded lands, repair of irrigation systems and rehabilitation of flood protection infrastructure. Subnational and national level initiatives like strategic food reserves and scalable and flexible social safety nets are also important for reducing exposure to risks. Initiatives that limit intracommunal tensions and promote social cohesion can enhance resilience to conflict.
- Mitigating the effects of shocks and stressors –

early actions that prepare households and communities to effectively reduce risks and mitigate impacts of shocks support improved absorption and adaptation capacity. Longer range actions to strengthen resilience to climate shocks can help support transformative capacities through integrated climate risk management approaches that might incorporate micro-insurance, microcredit, savings, livelihoods diversification and community disaster risk reduction.

- Strengthening country capacities – WFP's strong food security analysis capacity also helps governments, communities, and partners better understand the links between food security, nutrition and a variety of risks, and to develop better national policies and programmes.

*Emergency preparedness activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at community and systems levels.*

## Emergency Prep in Kyrgyz

In the Kyrgyz Republic, WFP supports countrywide emergency preparedness through policy advice and training such as cross-border disaster response simulation exercises. It works with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations to establish an information analysis and management system for its Crisis Management Centre to facilitate real-time management of disaster mitigation operations.

WFP also supports the implementation of structural disaster mitigation measures and development of mitigation infrastructure at community level to boost rural coping capacities, including riverbank reinforcement with gabions, construction and rehabilitation of mudflow canals and reforestation of landslide-prone areas. WFP also collaborates with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science to develop community-based disaster preparedness and awareness raising through training for local civil protection specialists and community leaders in pilot districts.

# Individual capacity strengthening

Individual and household capacity strengthening provides investments in a set of skills, knowledge, capacities to undertake work and achieve the good health needed to sustainably engage in productive activities.

Training and coaching can build the resilience of individuals by developing resilience capacities in human knowledge and health, including through development of technical and vocational skills, business and life skills, financial literacy, nutrition awareness and more.

With the rise of urban food insecurity and the double burden of malnutrition, WFP is increasingly being called to focus on human capacity development in urban as well as rural settings across a range of activities and modalities in livelihoods, nutrition, market-based interventions and more, to complement ongoing work and deliver more sustainable benefits to the vulnerable populations it serves.

*Individual capacity strengthening activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at individual and household levels.*

## Syria Human Capital Development in Urban Areas

In Syria, WFP aims to enhance human capital and skills development with a focus on urban women and youth. Individual capacity strengthening activities provide participants with technical and vocational skills (VST) training based on local labour market needs and post-training support to enter the labour market or establish small businesses.

To this end, WFP is working with UNDP and the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector on a strategic review of the technical and vocational education and training sector, with the objective to develop a harmonized sector-wide approach to VST activities in Syria, covering institute accreditation, standardized curricula and certification criteria, and an increased focus on post-training labour-market facilitation.

The sector-driven response will coordinate with Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and private sector/local business associations to ensure that prioritized skills respond to local labour market needs.



# Institutional capacity strengthening

Institutional capacity strengthening refers to capacity strengthening activities at the level of national and subnational systems and institutions.

National and Local Capacity Strengthening is a cross-cutting approach that when applied across different programme modalities, including those traditionally considered to be relief-oriented, can improve systems level resilience and shock responsiveness of national service delivery and public infrastructure.

A significant portion of WFP's work in crisis settings includes country capacity strengthening elements that deliver co-benefits for governments, institutions and markets such as the strengthening of commercial supply chains, physical infrastructure, and local procurement activities that enhance market competition and capacity.

*Institutional capacity strengthening activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at a systems level.*

## Turkey ESSN

The Emergency Social Safety Net programme delivers unconditional, multipurpose cash assistance to some 1.6m

registered refugees across Turkey through the Turkish social protection system.

Implemented by WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent in partnership with the Turkish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and local social assistance offices, the application and assessment processes, verification method, transfer value and delivery mechanism are all aligned with the national system.

Implementation of the ESSN through the Turkish SP system leverages existing safety net infrastructure already in place for vulnerable Turkish citizens, enhancing efficiency of the humanitarian response as well as national ownership and social cohesion.

The capacity-strengthening components are an investment in the resilience of national social protection and emergency response systems, and the stakeholders that contribute to both. This integrated approach further ensures refugees build a profile on national systems and are better equipped to access assistance in the future, thus mitigating future exposure to shocks.



Photo credits: WFP/Berna Cetin

# Nutrition treatment and malnutrition prevention

Nutrition treatment refers to treating moderate acute malnutrition – wasting – with a focus on children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating women and malnourished people in treatment for HIV and tuberculosis. Malnutrition prevention refers to preventing acute malnutrition in children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women, preventing chronic malnutrition (stunting and micronutrient deficiencies) in children under 2 years and in pregnant and lactating women; and addressing micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable people.

Reducing and preventing malnutrition builds resilience of vulnerable individuals to shocks and stresses, as well-nourished individuals are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Households that are nutrition secure are thus better able to withstand external shocks. Conversely, households that are most affected by shocks and stresses face the greatest risk of malnutrition, thus strengthening their resilience is essential to efforts to reduce malnutrition.

Investing in good nutrition has large pay-offs in terms of building term human capital – increasing individuals' educational achievement and earning potential and boosting economies in the long term. The persistence of high levels of malnutrition in many parts of the world underlines the need for sustainable prevention and reduction of malnutrition through complementary multisectoral nutrition-sensitive strategies that build resilience at individual, household and community levels.

This can be done through nutrition education, formative research and social and behaviour change communication, improved infant and young child feeding practices, as well as infant and maternal care practices; access to diversified diets

and fortified foods; access to health services; access to WASH services and good hygiene practices; livelihood support; and the empowerment of women and girls.

*Nutrition treatment and malnutrition prevention activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at individual level.*

## Sudan Joint Resilience Project

In Eastern Sudan, WFP worked with UNICEF and FAO to strengthen resilience in communities regularly impacted by shocks that result in food and nutrition insecurity, delivering a package of nutrition, health and livelihood interventions through a life-cycle approach. Safety net and livelihood support was complemented by a focus on nutrition promotion under this Joint Resilience Project (JRP).

The JRP defined a resilient household as one having access to good nutrition and aimed to address the effects of droughts and floods on the health and nutrition status of women and children through community ownership of the project and actions to improve nutrition status of women and children, sanitation and hygiene practices, and food availability, diet diversity and new opportunities for income and asset generation among women.

The project resulted in significant reduction in stunting in children 6-23 months, as well as gender transformative change in social norms governing women's movement and participation.

# School meals

School Meals activities refer to WFP school meal programmes such as provision of meals, snacks and take-home food, and capacity strengthening support related to improving design and implementation of national school meal programmes and supporting transition of WFP school meal programmes to national school meal programmes.

School meal programmes, also referred to as school feeding, contribute to the resilience of vulnerable school age children by investing in human capital: they provide a regular contribution to food and nutritional needs, incentivize attendance and enrolment, and support cognition and performance.

Resilience approaches using schools and school feeding are further strengthened through complementary school health and nutrition interventions that synergize and integrate with school feeding programmes, and by supporting institutional capacity strengthening. Institutional support may be provided through WFP's technical assistance to governments' national school feeding programmes, thereby scaling up the human capital investment and building systems level resilience through strengthened national ownership and capacity.

Local and regional procurement of school feeding programmes also contribute to the development of local markets and food systems, benefiting local producers, smallholder farmers and traders through an increased demand generated by the programme.

*School meals activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at individual and systems levels.*

## Jordan Healthy Kitchens

WFP's Healthy Kitchen Project in Jordan, implemented in partnership with the Royal Health Awareness Society and UN Women, provides a healthy snack that is sourced, prepared and delivered in 11 kitchens in 7 governorates to 58,000 schoolchildren attending public schools and 30,000 Syrian schoolchildren in Azraq and Za'atri camps. The project aims to create economic opportunities for refugees and host communities, with the employment of vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian women to bake and pack the meals using ingredients sourced from local suppliers and producers.



# Service provision and platforms

Service provision and platforms refer to the logistics, engineering and ICT services provided to partners and governments by WFP to enable them to respond quickly and effectively to crises; as well as to activities related to establishing and maintain common delivery platforms that improve the cost-efficiency of CBT initiatives targeting the same beneficiaries and that provide access to essential non-food items.

Service provision and support to interagency coordination platforms such as the Cluster System and the UN humanitarian air service (UNHAS) leverage a partnerships approach to build humanitarian system capacity and strengthen national capacity. The Cluster approach, for example, aims to strengthen system-wide preparedness, ensure that critical materials and expertise are immediately available, and focus technical capacity.

WFP's role as host or co-host of the Logistics, ETC and Food Security Clusters, in partnership with national actors and the RC, helps to ensure that the contribution of international actors to an emergency response is coherent, supports national priorities and contributes to long-term improvements by involving national and local actors in planning and coordination of assistance.

WFP Special Operations involving logistics and infrastructure work such as repairs to roads, bridges and railways, airport and port

infrastructure, and provision of common logistics services, are designed to overcome operational bottlenecks in the delivery of food assistance.

These interventions also deliver substantial, often unrecorded multiplier impacts for private sector actors and the wider markets and food systems on which people depend, benefiting from the improved infrastructure to help maintain, restore and drive local economic activity even in a crisis context.

*Service provision and platform activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at a systems level.*

## Pakistan Humanitarian Response Facilities

In Pakistan, WFP is working to enhance the emergency and disaster response capacity of the Government of Pakistan and the humanitarian community through the development of a network of Humanitarian Response Facilities (HRF) at eight strategic locations across the country.

These HRF augment government capacity to pre-position non-food and food items for emergency response and relief, enhancing the resilience of the national emergency preparedness system.

# Smallholder agricultural market support

Smallholder Agriculture Market Support or SAMs is an integrated approach that aims at creating a pro-smallholder market by strengthening four key pathways: increase household production surplus, support inclusive smallholder aggregation, support steady demand, and improve market access for smallholders.

- Increase sustainable agriculture production – through supporting both forward and backward linkages, including improved access to productive agriculture assets and inputs, post-harvest management and comprehensive risk management featuring update of new technologies linked to access to crop insurance, savings and credit.
- Stimulate local economies and markets – through building the capacity of venders in output marketing, increasing competition, improving market access and marketing opportunities for smallholder producers.
- Improve food security at household level and sustainable access to nutritious food – through increasing agriculture production, hence availability of food, at the same time, positive effects on the other aspect of food security and nutrition, i.e. access, stability and utilization. Increased income from the surplus production also increases the smallholder's resilience to shock, as well as enable them to maintain a more diversified and balanced diet over the year. Such multiple effects on different aspects of food security generally benefits the smallholders to enhance their resilience and coping mechanism.
- Build national and local capacity – through

supporting local and national structures and participation of communities in decision making process

*Smallholder agricultural market support activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at household, community and systems levels.*

## Sudan and Egypt Post Harvest Loss Reduction

In Sudan, WFP is supporting smallholder to reduce post-harvest losses, safely and quality of produce through training and providing tools and equipment for proper handling and storage. WFP support has enabled smallholders to save up to 70 percent of the average post-harvest losses, thus improving their food security and income which allows them to invest in productive assets and cover their other basic needs.

In Egypt, with the support of WFP, smallholders' farmers are combing local and traditional practices with innovation to increase productivity and reduce the risk of losing their harvest to natural hazards. They are practicing land consolidation with cultivating new crop varieties that are adapted to their local environment to increase production. They have also formed committees, which plays a major role in disseminating information, and early warnings on climatic hazards and educating smallholders on agriculture practices that reduces risk from climate hazards.

# Unconditional resource transfers

Unconditional Resource Transfers to support access to food can be delivered as in-kind or cash-based transfers (cash, value or commodity vouchers) and are one of WFP's primary, measurable and cost-efficient contribution to resilience-building in the region.

This is especially true when delivered as cash-based transfers – such as multipurpose cash assistance or e-vouchers, designed in ways that support local markets, and when channelled through or aligned with national systems.

Unconditional transfers using CBT can strengthen the resilience of affected households and systems through multiple pathways:

- Help meet basic food security needs, a precondition for protecting assets and building longer term resilience of vulnerable people including displaced persons and host communities.
- Generate multiplier effects for local economies and market systems, including for economies and livelihoods that are fragile, under stress or in recovery. When market systems are leveraged to source and deliver unconditional transfers, commercial supply chains and infrastructure are strengthened, cash liquidity increased, market competition and capacity built, gaps in commercial demand bridged, capital flight reduced, and private sector jobs safeguarded. In addition, regional economies may be stimulated through their role as supply corridors. Recent VAM studies on economic impacts of WFP food assistance in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine using cash-based transfers have documented these positive benefits.
- Strengthen national ownership and system capacity when aligned with or working through these systems, including national social protection systems such as the national Social Safety Net in Palestine, the National Poverty Targeting Programme in

Lebanon, and national social assistance programmes in Turkey.

*Service provision and platform activities can most reliably contribute to building resilience at household and systems levels.*

## Indirect economic impacts of unconditional cash-based transfers in Palestine

WFP's unconditional food assistance via e-vouchers in Palestine is designed to maximize multiplier effects on local economic actors. Food vouchers help poor urban families purchase 15 different types of nutritious foods in local shops including bread, cereals, dairy products, eggs, olive oil, fresh vegetables and tahini: more than 99 percent of these are produced and/or processed locally.

In 2016, every voucher dollar generated 40 cents of additional sales at participating shops, stimulating the local economy through US\$772,000 of investments.

Over US\$64,000 of VAT revenue was generated every month and 65% of participating processors attributed increased sales to greater distribution through the programme.

Since 2011 WFP has invested more than US\$200 million in the Palestinian economy, including US\$125 million with CBTs.



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