

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



WFP-EU 2018 Partnership Report



December 2019



In 2018, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) assisted nearly 87 million people in 83 countries, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. The European Union (EU) was one of our key partners helping us achieve an impressive scale of intervention, which saved and changed millions of lives.

It was a year of unprecedented humanitarian needs. Wars and conflicts flared and dragged on while storms, floods and fires ravaged communities around the world. Support from donors like the EU was critical to cope with enormous funding demands faced by WFP as the number of hungry people in the world went back up to where it was nearly a decade ago.

According to [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report, over 820 million people – one in nine – do not have enough to eat.

Of these, the latest [Global Report on Food Crises](#) reveals that more than 113 million people across 53 countries face severe levels of hunger. At risk are not just the lives and health of millions but also the economic viability of fragile states.

Conflict and insecurity, exacerbated by natural disasters and economic shocks, are key drivers behind the growing number of hungry people. Two-thirds of our work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict.

In 2018, the UN Security Council unanimously approved a landmark resolution which highlighted the need to break the vicious cycle of hunger and conflict. This historic act strengthened WFP's determination to deliver solutions that will make the world a more peaceful and sustainable place – a vision we share and champion with the EU partners.

WFP-EU PARTNERSHIP

In 2018, as needs continued to grow, WFP and the European Union (EU) continued to work closely together to save lives, reduce the risks of disasters and build a better future for communities affected by conflict, climate change, economic shocks and extreme poverty.

Together the EU and its Member States were WFP's largest donor, contributing €2.5 billion to WFP and once again showing their commitment to the world's most vulnerable people. Thanks to that generous funding, WFP was able to address the most pressing food crises, providing a lifeline for millions around the world and helping them get back on their feet by addressing long-term development challenges.

Together for Zero Hunger

WFP is at the forefront of finding sustainable solutions to end hunger and our partnership with the EU is as vital as ever. In 2018, thanks to the outstanding commitment of the **European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)** WFP was able to help more than 1.5 million refugees in Turkey cover their essential needs such as groceries, rent or school books for their children. The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) is the biggest relief programme in EU history and helps refugee families regain a sense of stability and normalcy.

Early action and support from the EU enabled WFP to save lives in the most challenging humanitarian emergencies faced by the world in 2018, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Yemen, the world's worst hunger crises, EU funding was crucial to provide life-saving food assistance to 8 million people per month.

Conflict and climate change are pushing more people to the brink, meaning long-term solutions must underlie even our short-term responses. The **European Commission's Directorate General for International Development and Cooperation (DEVCO)** is an important partner in addressing the root causes of hunger. Its support enables WFP and other organisations to produce the [Global Report on Food Crises](#), a key platform to recognise and address food insecurity before it escalates into major emergencies.

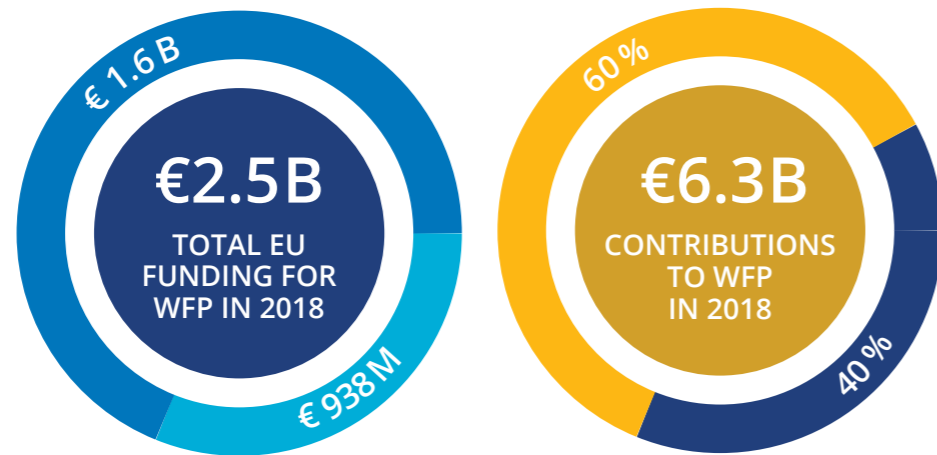
In 2018, EU support allowed WFP to help mothers and children in Mali, Chad and South Sudan break the cycle of hunger through nutrition education and school feeding programmes. In Nicaragua, EU-funding helped WFP promote sustainable food systems and boost the local economy.

Thanks to both DEVCO and the **European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)**, our school feeding programmes continued to help children in countries like Egypt, where the EU was WFP's largest donor.

Finally, WFP worked together with the EU to empower women as key actors in improving food security of vulnerable communities, amplifying the vital impact that female farmers and heads of household have on good nutrition as well as economic growth and development. For WFP, pursuing gender equality and women's empowerment is central to ending hunger.



FUNDING FIGURES

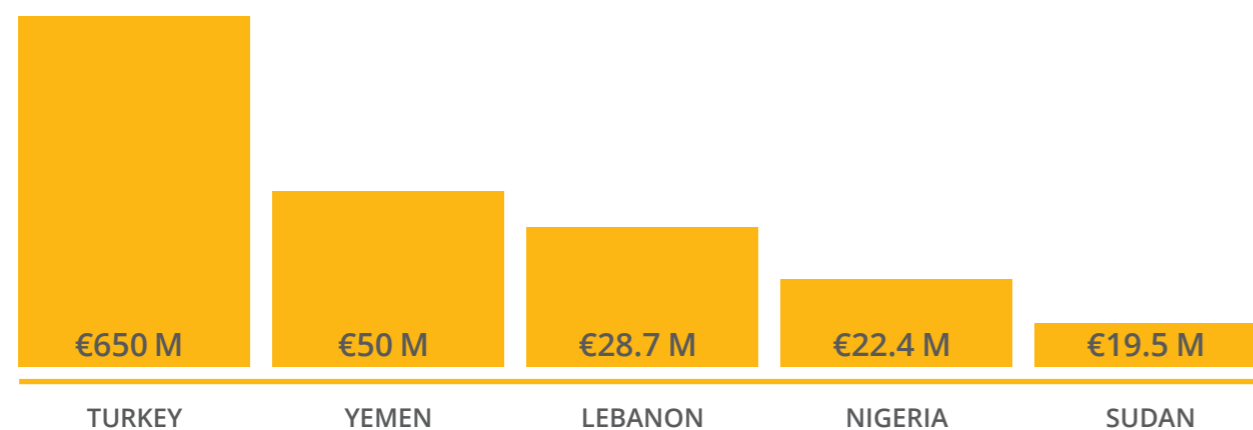


■ EU Member States ■ European Commission (EC) ■ EU Member States + EC ■ Other donors

European Commission funding for WFP



Largest EC contributions to WFP in 2018



*Funding records are in accordance to the eligibility date of funds

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) is a key WFP partner in finding long-term solutions to tackle the main drivers of hunger. Its support has enabled WFP and other partners, under the umbrella of the Food Security Information Network, to produce the Global Report on Food Crises, which provides the latest estimates of acute hunger in the world. The report is one of the key products of the Global Network against Food Crises composed of 15 major partners working together to find and implement solutions to food crises.

The latest [Global Report on Food Crises](#), which was presented together with DEVCO, FAO and WFP at a [two-day conference](#) in Brussels, found that around 113 million people in 53 countries experienced acute hunger in 2018.

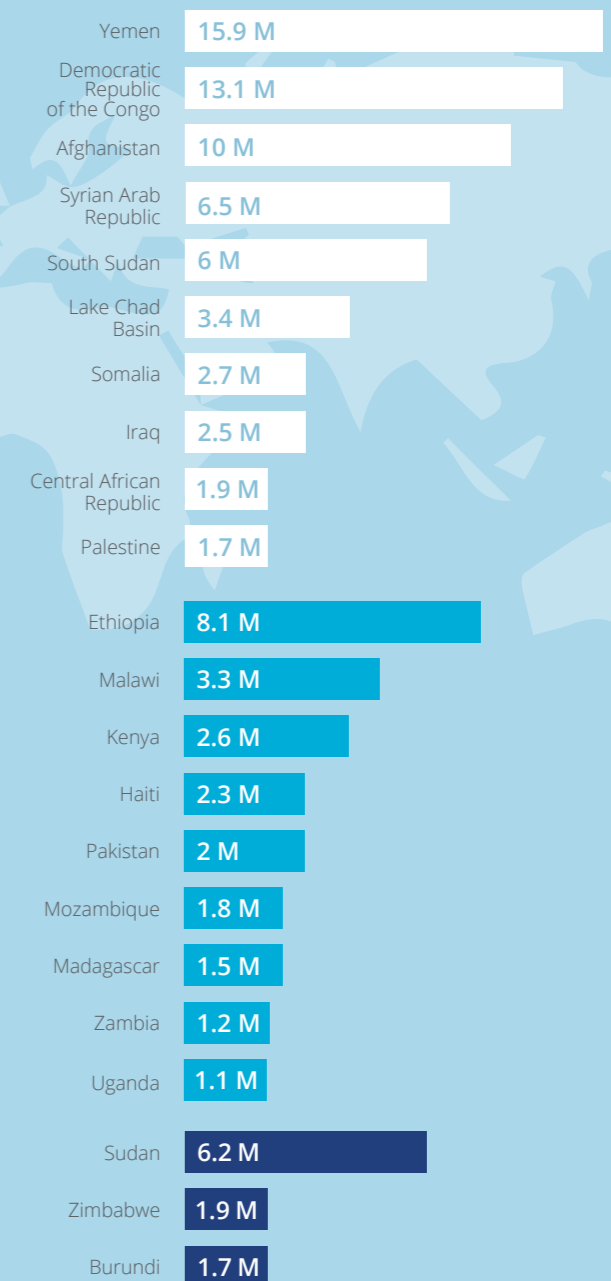
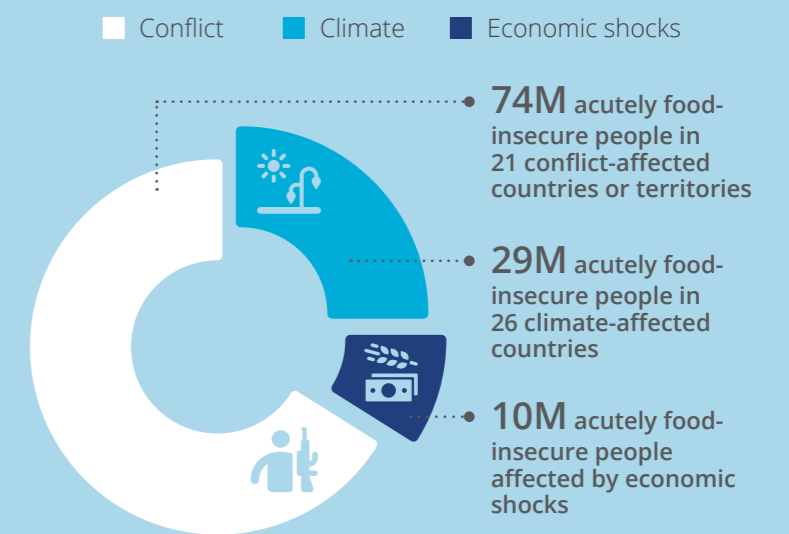
Despite the slight improvement over the number for 2017, when 124 million people experienced same levels of hunger, the report has consistently shown that, year on year, the number of people facing food crises has remained well over 100 million.

In 2018, the main drivers of food insecurity were conflict, climate shocks and economic turbulence, all of which continued to erode livelihoods and destroy lives. Conflict remained the key factor, with two-thirds of those facing acute hunger living in areas affected by violence and insecurity.

The report demonstrates that ending conflicts, empowering women, nourishing and educating children, improving rural infrastructure and reinforcing social safety nets are essential for a resilient, stable and hunger-free world. In the last 10 years, humanitarian assistance and spending needs have grown by around 127 percent. This surge in humanitarian needs highlights the importance of fostering new ways of responding to the food security challenges we face today.

These findings are a powerful call for strengthened cooperation that links together prevention, preparedness and response to address urgent humanitarian needs and root causes. WFP and the other authors behind this comprehensive analysis highlighted that actions transcending the humanitarian and development divide as well as smart investments in conflict mitigation and peacebuilding are crucial to reverse and prevent food crises.

DRIVERS OF HUNGER



SAVING LIVES

For more than 50 years, WFP has been at the forefront of the fight against hunger, providing emergency food assistance, often in conflict, post-conflict or disaster situations.

By the end of 2018, WFP was responding to urgent food needs in seven highest-level emergencies: Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Sahel, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Continuous EU support for these complex operations ensured a lifeline for millions of the world's most vulnerable people.

While these operations drew global attention, we continued our work in other countries facing forgotten crises, using EU funding to respond to massive needs in places such as Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia.



Bangladesh

In Bangladesh WFP reached **880,000 people** with food assistance every month in 2018, providing a lifeline to the Rohingya refugees that fled across the border from neighbouring Myanmar. While conditions remain harsh, child malnutrition almost halved year on year and a measure of stability was achieved in 2018. With support from donors like the EU, WFP continues to provide electronic vouchers to refugees – giving them the choice and autonomy to buy the food they want while increasing dietary diversity and improving nutrition.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is afflicted by multiple crises, from inter-ethnic conflict to large-scale internal displacement and a protracted Ebola epidemic. The number of people suffering from severe hunger doubled in 2018, with some 13 million people facing acute food insecurity. Thanks to donors like the EU, WFP was able to respond with a massive operational scale-up and reached a **record 5.2 million people** with life-saving assistance.



Nigeria

In northeast Nigeria, conflict is affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Although security and the hunger situation improved in the first half of 2018, renewed clashes in late 2018 caused an increase in the number of displaced people while jeopardising the provision of aid. With contributions amounting to more than €22 million, the EU's support was critical in helping WFP reach **1.3 million people** in need every month in 2018.



Sahel

Economic challenges, climate variability and conflict combine to make the Sahel one of the world's least stable regions. Its food-insecure population jumped to 5 million as the lean season struck early in 2018. With the help of donors such as the European Commission, which contributed nearly €51 million to WFP's operations in the Sahel, we were able to reach **3 million people** with emergency food and nutrition assistance. EU funding also helped WFP support 1.1 million people through resilience projects across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.



South Sudan

With more than half of South Sudan's population of 11 million relying on international aid for survival, food insecurity remains all-pervasive. In 2018, WFP was able to reach **5 million** of them – but we also made sure to use some of this assistance to help people shore up their resilience for the future. Thanks to €18 million in contributions from the European Commission, WFP provided food and nutrition support to women and children across the most vulnerable communities as well as delivered nutritious school meals to keep Sudanese kids healthy and improve their access to and achievement in education.

Syria Crisis

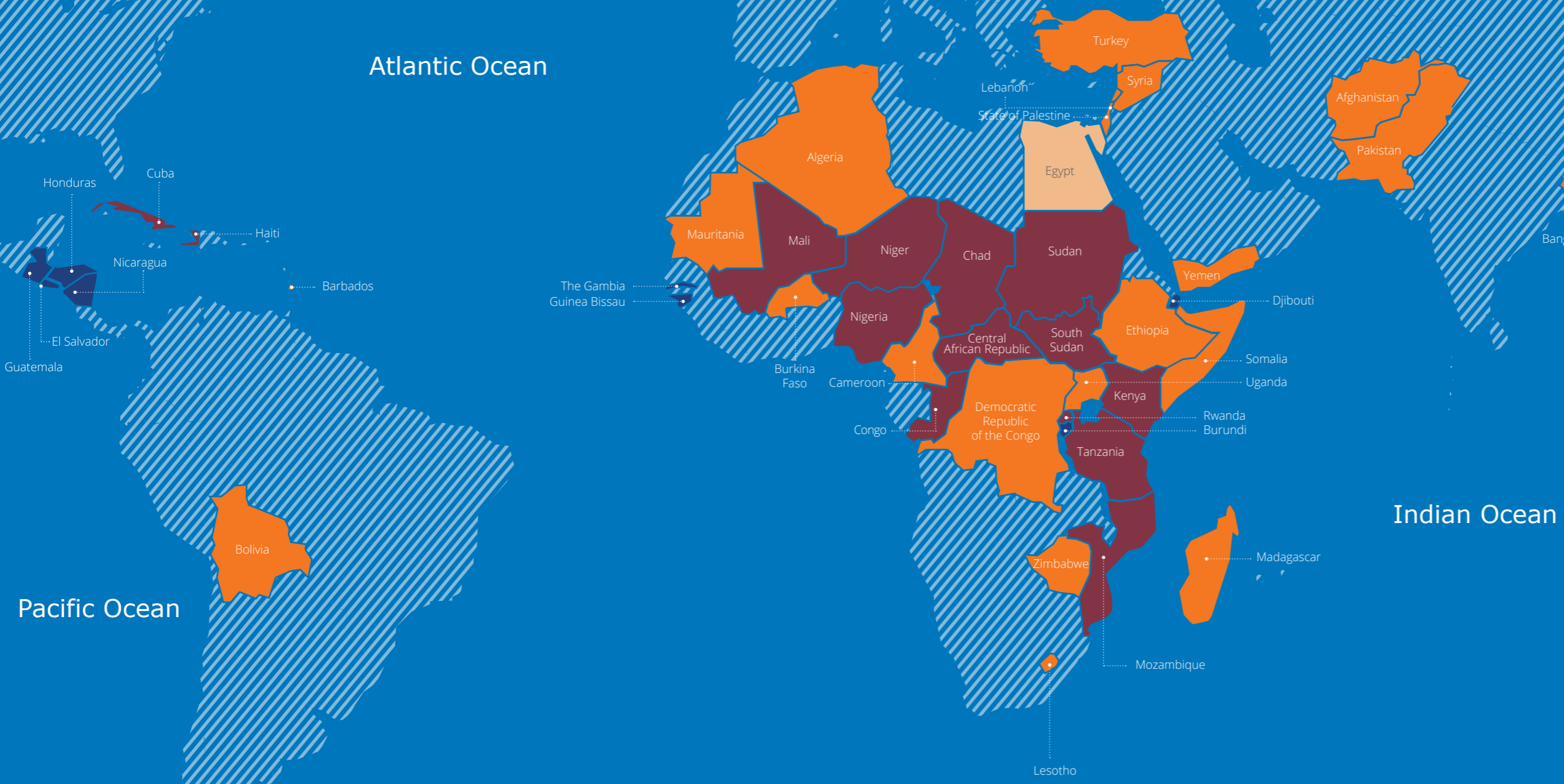
After eight years of civil conflict, an estimated 12 million people have been displaced – scattered within and beyond the country's borders. For most Syrians, life remains precarious at best. In 2018, the European Commission contributed €10 million to WFP operations within Syria, and a total of €678 million to WFP's response in the region. This support was crucial in helping WFP assist **4.8 million women and men, girls and boys** in Syria, and another **3.3 million people** affected by the Syria crisis in neighbouring countries.



Yemen

In 2018, Yemen continued to be the world's worst food crisis, which was further exacerbated by a major currency devaluation and spiraling prices as well as intensified fighting in Hudaydah governorate and the ensuing displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Some 17 million people – about 70 percent of the population – were hungry in 2018, reaching 20 million by the end of the year. WFP's emergency response in Yemen was our largest anywhere in the world. Thanks to donors such as the European Commission, which contributed a total of €50 million to WFP's operations in the country, we were able to reach **8 million people** every month in 2018 with critical food assistance.

2018 WFP OPERATIONS FUNDED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

■ ECHO
 ■ DEVCO
 ■ DEVCO + ECHO
 ■ DG NEAR

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

CHANGING LIVES

In the drive towards Zero Hunger by 2030, WFP's work is as much about responding to the current emergencies as it is about preventing future crises. The European Commission remains WFP's vital partner, helping us address the root causes of hunger and build resilience of vulnerable communities around the world.

In 2018, WFP emphasised climate preparedness to safeguard development progress and prevent climate-driven emergencies. We also advanced exploratory research connecting food assistance to peacebuilding efforts, recognising that food security is an essential factor in bringing about peace, security and socio-economic development.

Building resilience to climate change

Aside from conflict, nothing erodes food security as much as climate extremes. Droughts and floods,

tropical storms, heatwaves: they wipe out crops, disrupt markets, destroy roads and bridges, and leave millions destitute. In 2018, WFP supported communities affected by climate change by helping them analyse and predict weather patterns to protect themselves from shocks.

In [Bolivia](#), WFP helped local governments and populations access up-to-date weather information and early warning systems thanks to EU support. This allowed them to predict and prepare for disasters, enabling farmers to make informed decisions on what and when to plant to maximise their crops.

In [Madagascar](#), years of prolonged drought have led to poor harvests. With support from the EU, WFP could address immediate food needs while helping local populations rehabilitate sand dunes by planting trees and plants that require little water. In doing so, WFP created healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impacts of climate shocks and increasing food productivity.



Helping smallholder farmers feed the world

Smallholder farmers produce most of the world's food, yet their livelihoods can only support meagre and unhealthy diets. Thanks to support from donors like the EU, WFP was able to connect farmers in 40 countries to markets to build sustainable food systems and create a Zero Hunger world.

WFP's range of activities span the entire food system: they provide smallholders with an entry point to formal markets, enhance their food production and reduce losses, and improve the environment in which smallholders operate.

In the [Republic of Congo](#), WFP has been providing seeds, new knowledge of agricultural practices and a market for farmers since 2017 thanks to donors such as the EU. By buying beans from local farmers and helping them set up bank accounts in 2018, we opened up new economic opportunities for smallholders.

EU funding was also vital to enable WFP to support farmers in the [Central African Republic](#) with its Purchase for Progress activities. This initiative promoted entrepreneurship among smallholder farmers and helped them gain access to markets. As part of this project, WFP bought food directly from farmers for its operations, not only providing people with income but also helping them find employment and alternatives to joining armed or criminal groups.

Building better futures for children

Education is one of the most powerful vehicles for sustainable development. Yet every day, countless children across the globe turn up for school on an empty stomach or simply do not go, as their families need them to help in the fields or around the house.

A [landmark World Bank study](#), which WFP contributed to, underscored the importance of the health and nutrition of school children in developing a nation's human capital and creating long-term economic growth and progress.

Thanks to donors like the EU, 16.4 million school children around the world benefitted from nutritious WFP meals in 2018. In [Egypt](#), almost three out of four students in community schools were girls. The EU's support to WFP's local school feeding programme was crucial to provide kids with meals that kept them strong and focused while helping them stay in school longer.

In [Kenya](#) school feeding also reached refugee populations. In the Kalobeyei settlement, EU funding enabled WFP to provide daily school meals and access to education to both refugee and local children. The programme increased food security, supported sustainable livelihoods, and ultimately strengthened ties between refugees and the local community.



Central America's Dry Corridor

For years, drought has afflicted the people of Central America's Dry Corridor, which extends through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Delayed rains and drought have pushed many into food-insecurity and poverty as they face reduced food production and income.

The EU was a key partner to WFP's work in the Dry Corridor in 2018. With support from DEVCO, WFP's Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) programme, which was launched in 2016, helped more than 70,000 people in the region.

In 2018, WFP's cash-based assistance continued to provide a safety net for families, allowing them to meet their immediate needs. In addition, trainings to better harvest and store water, combat soil erosion and grow more diverse and nutritious crops helped communities adapt to the negative effects of climate change and reduce risks of future drought-related food crises.

In order to spread awareness about the challenges faced by the people living in the Dry Corridor, WFP sent popular Spanish chef Clara Villalón to

Guatemala to meet the communities that were receiving EU-funded assistance, hear their stories and find out why the programme was so important for them.



FOOD SECURITY, MIGRATION AND CONFLICT

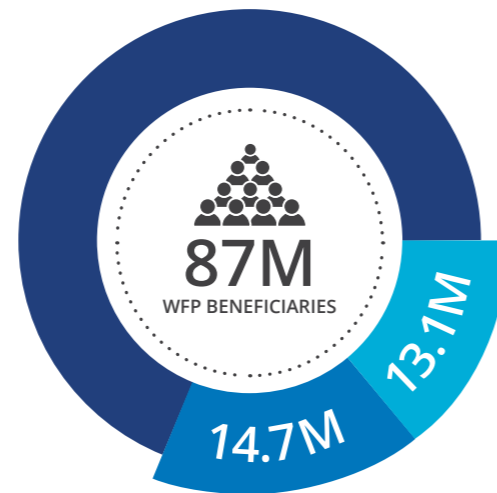
Today, more than 70 million people have been forcibly displaced around the world, mainly as a result of conflict and insecurity. This is twice as many as 20 years ago.

With forced displacement at a record high, WFP is assisting more refugees than ever – on average, one in six of the people we serve is a refugee. In 2018, thanks to EU support, WFP helped millions of displaced persons across the globe, including refugees who found shelter in Lebanon, Uganda, Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

WFP has been working closely with the EU since the beginning of the refugee crises, helping the most vulnerable people forced out of their homes by the Syria conflict to feed their families in neighbouring countries.

As a key international actor addressing food insecurity among refugees and other migrants, the World Food Programme (WFP) has gathered strong evidence that food insecurity not only leads to higher levels of migration across borders but is also a significant cause for the incidence – and intensity – of armed conflict.

In May 2018, the [United Nations Security Council](#) passed resolution 2417, recognising the clear links



- 17% Refugees
- 15% Internally displaced persons

between food insecurity and conflict. That historic vote – which followed tireless advocacy by WFP, some EU Member States and many other partners – demonstrated a fast-emerging global consensus on the importance of addressing conflict-driven hunger around the world.

Lebanon

Lebanon hosts the world's highest number of refugees per capita, with some 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in the country. WFP's vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees revealed that 96 percent of refugees adopted some sort of livelihood coping strategy – such as begging, early marriage or withdrawing children from school – in order to survive.

In 2018, WFP worked to support vulnerable Lebanese and Syrians to ensure they have sufficient, nutritious food throughout the year. Contributing a total of nearly €29 million, funding from the EU helped WFP provide cash transfers to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. This assistance allowed families in need to pay for whatever they decide is their most pressing need – be it food, rent or healthcare.

Uganda

Uganda hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa, including people who have fled from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. The government gives refugees plots of land to cultivate in order to encourage their self-sufficiency. However, as the number of refugees grows, these plots become gradually smaller.

Thanks to a total of more than €18 million in funding from the EU, WFP provided unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance to refugees in Uganda in 2018, allowing them to provide for their families. The cash, in combination with in-kind food assistance, led to more diversified diets and improved nutrition while also fuelling the local economy around the refugee settlements.

Innovative support for refugees in Turkey

Turkey has the largest refugee population in the world, with a total of around 4 million registered refugees – mostly from Syria but also other countries suffering from conflict and insecurity.

In 2018, the EU contributed €650 million to the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which aims to help the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey and has been implemented by WFP from its launch in 2016. So far, the European Union and its Member States have contributed more than €1.1 billion to the ESSN, making it the biggest relief programme in EU history.

Thanks to a powerful ESSN partnership between WFP, the EU, the Turkish government and the Turkish Red Crescent, over 1.5 million refugees living in Turkey were provided with cash assistance in 2018 to purchase the things they needed most.

Families receiving financial support through the ESSN can decide for themselves what's best for their them – from buying food and medicine to covering rent. Each family receives 120 Turkish Liras (about €18) per person per month on a debit card, which they can use to withdraw funds or use directly at shops.



WFP research conducted in 2018 showcased that the overall economic situation of families benefitting from the programme had improved greatly as families were less likely to take children out of school, get into more debt or sell valuable assets to cover bills.

The Incredible Ordinary

On an average day, we make thousands of seemingly insignificant decisions. What shall I cook for lunch? What present should we buy our child for their birthday? We take these ordinary decisions for granted. Yet refugee families are often unable to make these kinds of decisions for themselves.

To help EU citizens understand the impact of the ESSN programme, WFP and the EU launched the Incredible Ordinary campaign, which showcased how ESSN cash assistance gives refugees the freedom to make ordinary, everyday decisions that seem incredible to them.

As part of the campaign, an experiential pop-up shop travelled to Paris, Milan, Warsaw, Berlin, Amsterdam and Brussels to connect people across Europe with refugee families living in Turkey. Through this shop people could discover the stories of eight refugee families who endured extreme hardship and came out the other end with the help of the ESSN card.



Since the ESSN programme started in 2016

THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY PARENTS WITHDRAWING THEIR CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL DROPPED BY MORE THAN

50%

THE NUMBER OF PARENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE TO EAT LESS THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN EAT ENOUGH DECREASED BY

45%

THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO SAID THEY WERE FORCED TO MOVE IN ORDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET FELL BY

48%

INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

Cash transfers

Where markets and financial sector are functioning, cash transfers – distributed as physical bank notes, e-money, mobile money, through debit cards or value vouchers – can be an effective path to achieve food security and positive nutrition outcomes.

EU-funded cash assistance has been a lifeline for millions of people across the world – from Syrian refugees living in Turkey and Lebanon, to families in South Sudan and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

WFP uses cash transfers to empower people with choice, aiming to address their essential needs and respect their preferences while also boosting local economies. In Kenya for example, WFP's EU-funded cash transfer programme injected more than €1.5 million into local markets every month.

Findings show that the element of choice is critical: vulnerable households, which are empowered to decide about their lives, make choices that improve their food security and wellbeing.



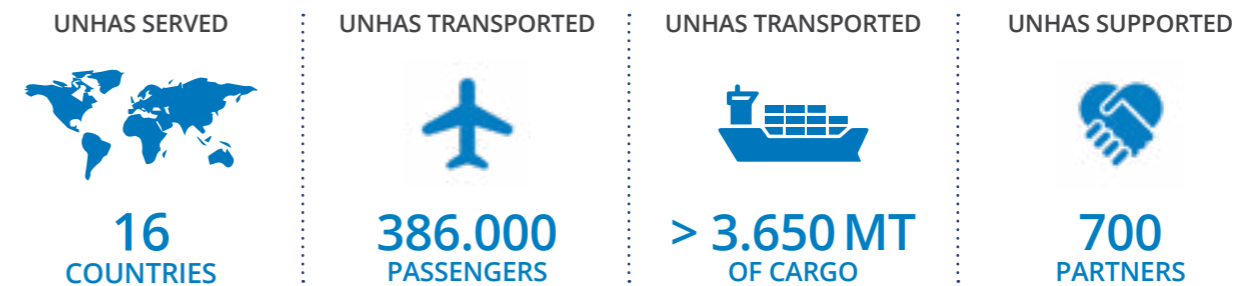
Drones

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, accessing affected areas to assess damage and needs is one of the key challenges faced by humanitarian organisations — and every second counts. Unlike a helicopter or a large team of people, a drone can be deployed within minutes of a disaster for rapid and detailed assessments.

As part of EU-funded disaster preparedness strategies in [Madagascar](#) and [Mozambique](#), WFP trained participants from government disaster management offices to use and deploy drones when disaster strikes. Thanks to trainings conducted in 2018, WFP and partners were able to use drones to assess damage and map needs in the aftermath of the cyclones Idai and Kenneth during the spring of 2019.



FACTS & FIGURES 2018



FACTS & FIGURES 2018



UN Humanitarian Air Service

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, offers safe, reliable, cost-efficient and light cargo transport for the wider humanitarian community to and from areas of crisis and intervention. It is the only humanitarian air service that gives equal access to all humanitarian entities.

In 2018, support from the EU helped WFP keep UNHAS flying in Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan. EU funding was vital to ensure access to the world's most remote and challenging locations, where no safe surface transport or viable commercial aviation options were available.



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