



# World Food Programme Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

## 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) aims to address the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, vouchers or food transfers while 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

- Management of degraded ecosystems
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral and fisheries potential
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure (schools, granaries, etc.)
- Skills development training 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 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

## How We Do It

Five factors are crucial for the success of FFA across livelihood types, geographical contexts, and countries:

**Putting communities and people at the centre:** Community ownership lies at the heart of FFA programmes through community level participatory planning that empowers and provides a voice to the most vulnerable people in making the decisions, implementing and managing the assets created.

**Enhancing partnerships and complementary interventions:** Different assets and complementary interventions from partners need to be integrated and scaled-up for greater impact.

By using WFP's innovative [Three-Pronged Approach \(3PA\)](#) for planning and programming, WFP encourages governments, NGOs, technical experts and communities to work together to structure long-term, locally tailored solutions. And by joining forces with partners – including sister UN agencies like FAO, IFAD and UNICEF – WFP can be more effective and reach more people.

**Understanding the local context,** landscape and livelihoods to select the right assets.

**Making sure technical standards for assets created are met** to ensure that assets are sustainable and can withstand the exposure to climate and other shocks.

**Strengthening local and government institutions' capacities to achieve SDG 2:** Government institutions need to be in the driver's seat.

**Using FFA as an entry point for integrated resilience programming** by engaging with UN agencies and WFP programme areas (i.e. climate risk finance, smallholder agricultural market support etc.) to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities to shocks and stressors.

# World Food Programme

## Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

### FFA's Main Benefits

- Empower local communities and vulnerable groups through participatory planning
- Improve access to food for the most vulnerable and food-insecure people in times of need
- Reduce disaster risks and build resilience to shocks
- Improve prospects for peace by strengthening dialogue and promoting cooperation between divided communities, and by addressing the drivers of conflicts, such as access to natural resources or lack of livelihood opportunities
- Contribute to long-term environmental and livelihood benefits
- Promote gender equality, women's empowerment and improved nutrition
- Strengthen local and government institutions' capacities to ensure sustainability of the investments made.
- Generate nutrition-sensitive assets and benefits through Social Behaviour Change Communication approaches that increase dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes.
- Promote return on investment as FFA interventions have led to beneficiaries diversifying their livelihoods, obtaining new income sources and increasing their overall income levels, according to impact study findings in El Salvador, Malawi and South Sudan.

### 2019 Achievements at a Glance

- **9.6 million people** directly benefited from FFA and FFT programmes in **50 countries**.
- **126,900 hectares** of farming or non-farming land rehabilitated or improved – **almost double the size of Singapore**.
- **9,700 water ponds**, shallow wells, and fish ponds built or rehabilitated.
- **8,800 kilometres** of feeder roads and trails constructed or repaired – such as the **flight distance between London and Mexico City**.
- **6,700 bridges and culverts** constructed or repaired.
- **7,000 hectares** of forest planted.

### FFA Programmes in 2019

