



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# World Food Programme

## Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

### WHAT IS FFA?

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes are one of WFP's key initiatives that can contribute to improving the long-term food security of people and their communities.

Under the FFA framework, food insecure households receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs, freeing up their time to build or rehabilitate assets, such as constructing a road or rehabilitating degraded land, that will have long-term impacts, creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and the impact of shocks, increasing food

productivity, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.

Although WFP is primarily committed to SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG17 (stronger partnerships for sustainable development), FFA can also contribute to several other Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, involving them in determining, accessing, and managing assets, as well as to SDG10 on reduced inequalities by promoting disability inclusion across its FFA activities, among others.

June 2021

## FFA TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

- Management of degraded ecosystems by investing in nature-based solutions
- 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

Adapting FFA programmes to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic has been crucial for ensuring programme success across different livelihood types, geographical contexts, and countries. The following principles remain key for FFA:

### **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.

**Analysing impacts from space.**

**Documenting good practices** for scalability and replicability.

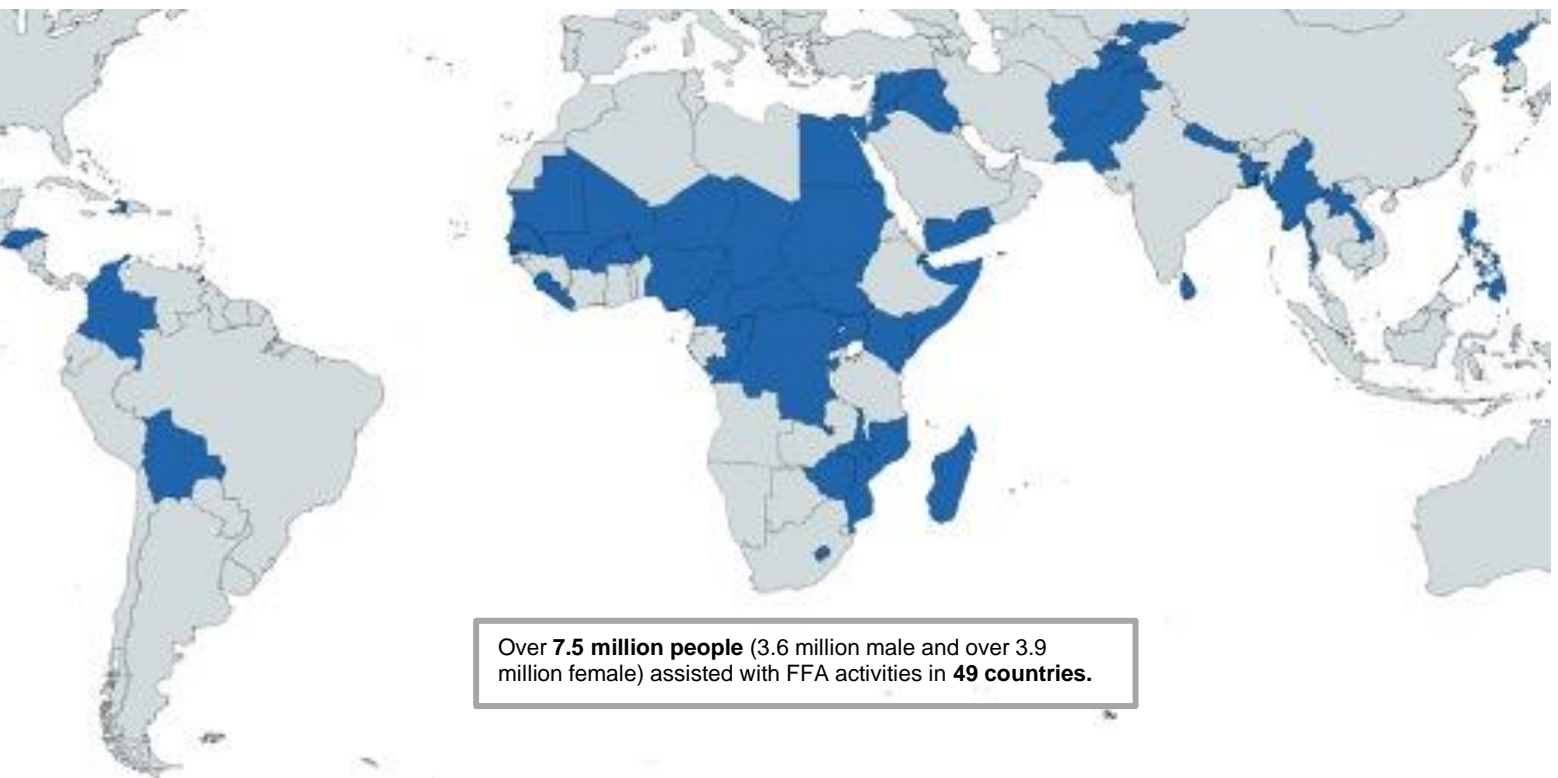
## FFA'S MAIN BENEFITS

- 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.

## 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

- **7.6 million people** directly benefited from **FFA and FFT programmes in 49 countries.**
- **158,900 hectares of farming or non-farming land** rehabilitated or improved – equivalent to almost the size of Swaziland.
- **4,570 water ponds**, shallow wells, and fish ponds built or rehabilitated.
- **10,900 kilometres of feeder roads and trails** constructed or repaired – such as the flight distance between Pakistan and Australia.
- **518 bridges and culverts** constructed or repaired.
- **1,609 hectares** of forest planted.

## FFA PROGRAMMES IN 2020





**ASSET CREATION LIVELIHOODS AND  
RESILIENCE UNIT (PRO-R)**

**World Food Programme**

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