



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Eastern Africa

Regional outlook and 2020 Achievements

June 2021



PREAMBLE

The year 2020 was an exceptional one following the outbreak of COVID-19. The unique challenges such as climatic shocks, conflicts, macroeconomic conditions coupled with COVID-19 led to a rapid increase in food insecurity, further aggravating the humanitarian needs in the region. Despite these challenges, WFP remained at the fore front delivering assistance, while supporting the response plans for the Governments in Eastern Africa Region.

WFP has continued to embrace and foster stronger partnerships with governments, communities, donors, and partners which have been a vital in driving success in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic paved way for new opportunities, including opportunities for new and stronger partnerships, with the aim of addressing the growing emergency needs. In addition, WFP's joint partnerships resulted in enhanced information and food security analysis in urban areas, strengthening of social protection systems and the reopening of alternative transport corridors in the region.

Thanks to the generous contribution of donors, WFP in Eastern Africa was able to assist over 26 million people in 2020 – an increase of 11 percent from the 2019 cumulative figure. WFP prioritised lifesaving food assistance while also adapting its programmes to ensure

that assistance is delivered in a safe, dignified, and accountable way. Working with partners, WFP supported governments in the Region to respond to COVID-19 by providing technical support to strengthen national social protection systems, and providing supply chain services to governments and wider humanitarian community.

To contribute to increased resilience and long-term change in communities, WFP put greater emphasis on linking humanitarian assistance with development, by working with communities to create sustainable development activities that contribute to long-term resilience and enhance ability of communities to respond to shocks. In addition, WFP continued to engage at national level to inform national policies and strategies and enhance the capacity of national institutions for greater ownership and increased capacities to address food security challenges outlined in their development plans.

This second edition of the WFP Eastern Africa Regional eBook highlights and celebrates WFP work in Eastern Africa and demonstrates WFP capacities in various areas including: emergency preparedness and response, food system, nutrition, school-based programming, social protection, supply chain, and food security analysis.

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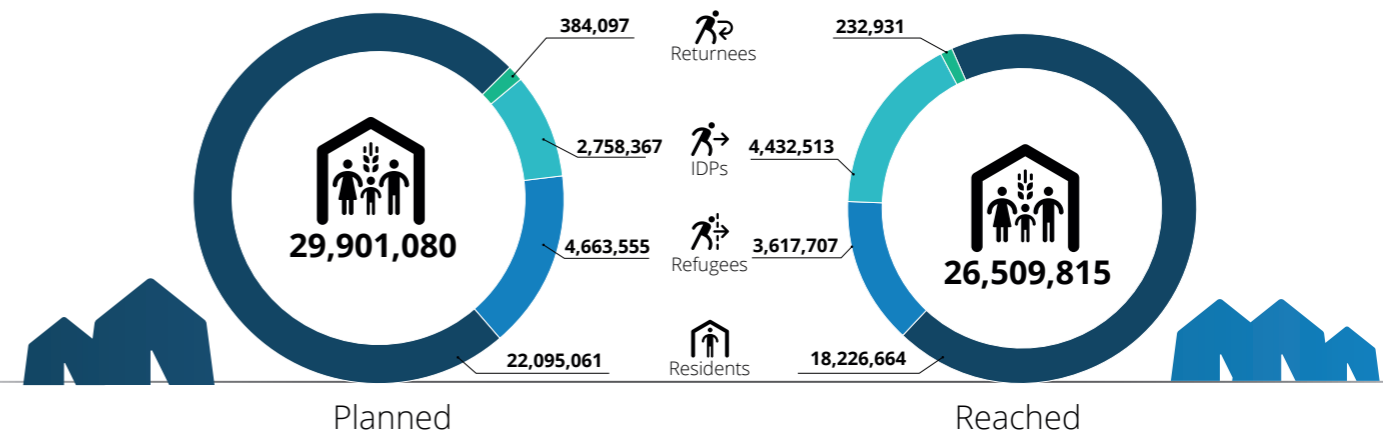
IN NUMBERS

People in Need in Eastern African Region

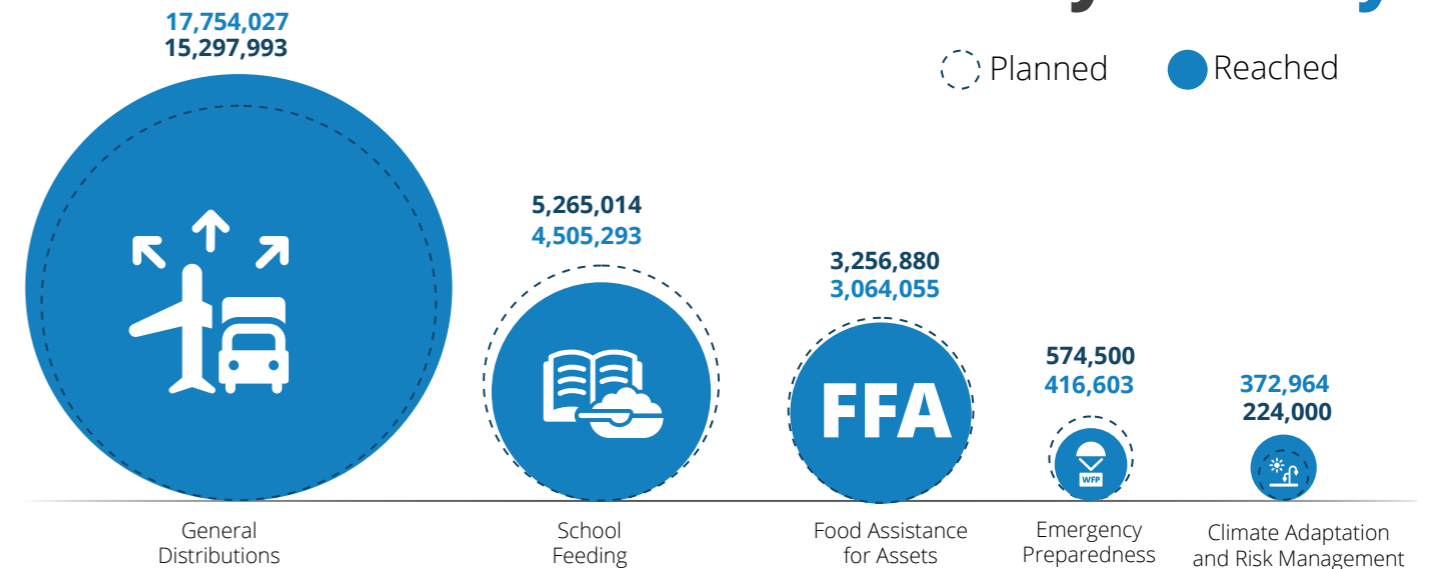
No. of beneficiaries reached in **2020** **26,509,815**

56% Women 44% Men

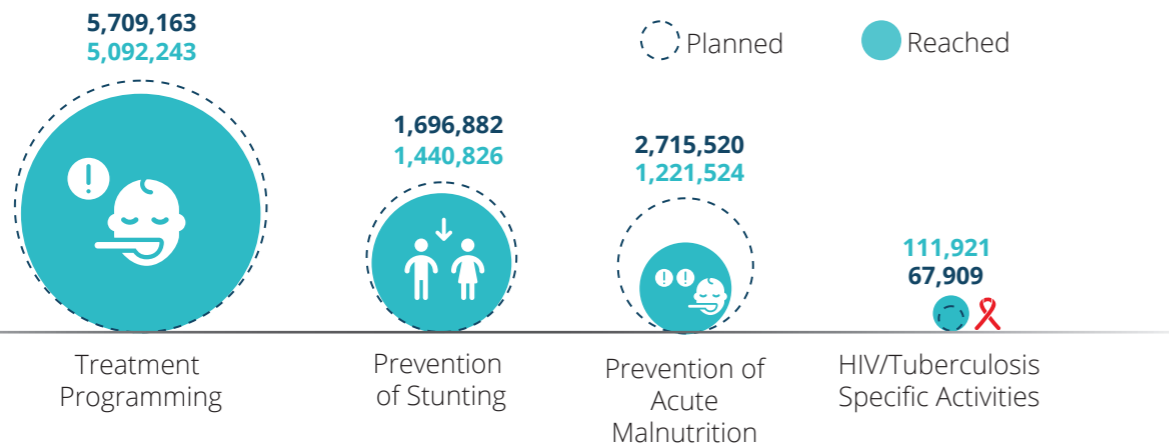
Beneficiaries Reached by Residence



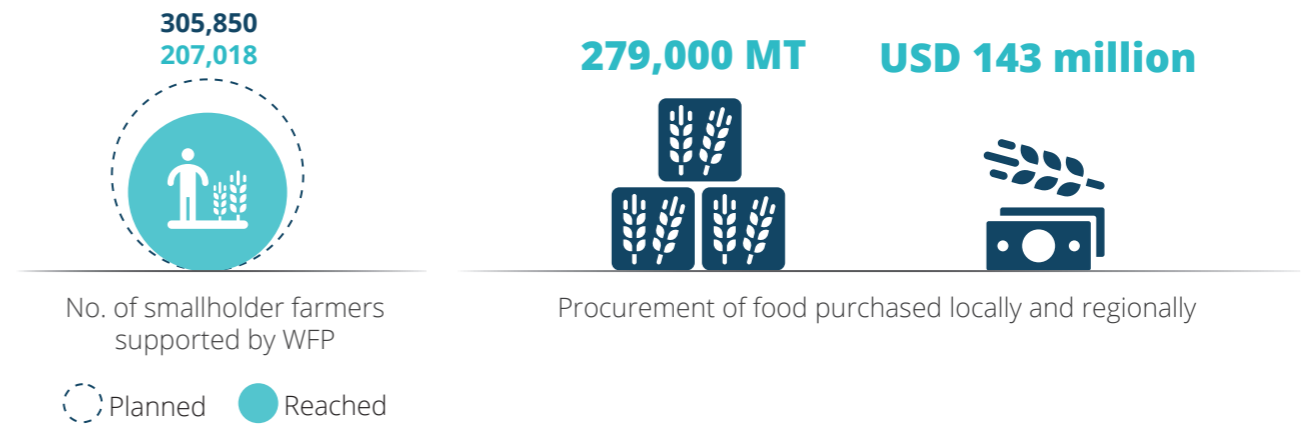
Beneficiaries Reached by Activity



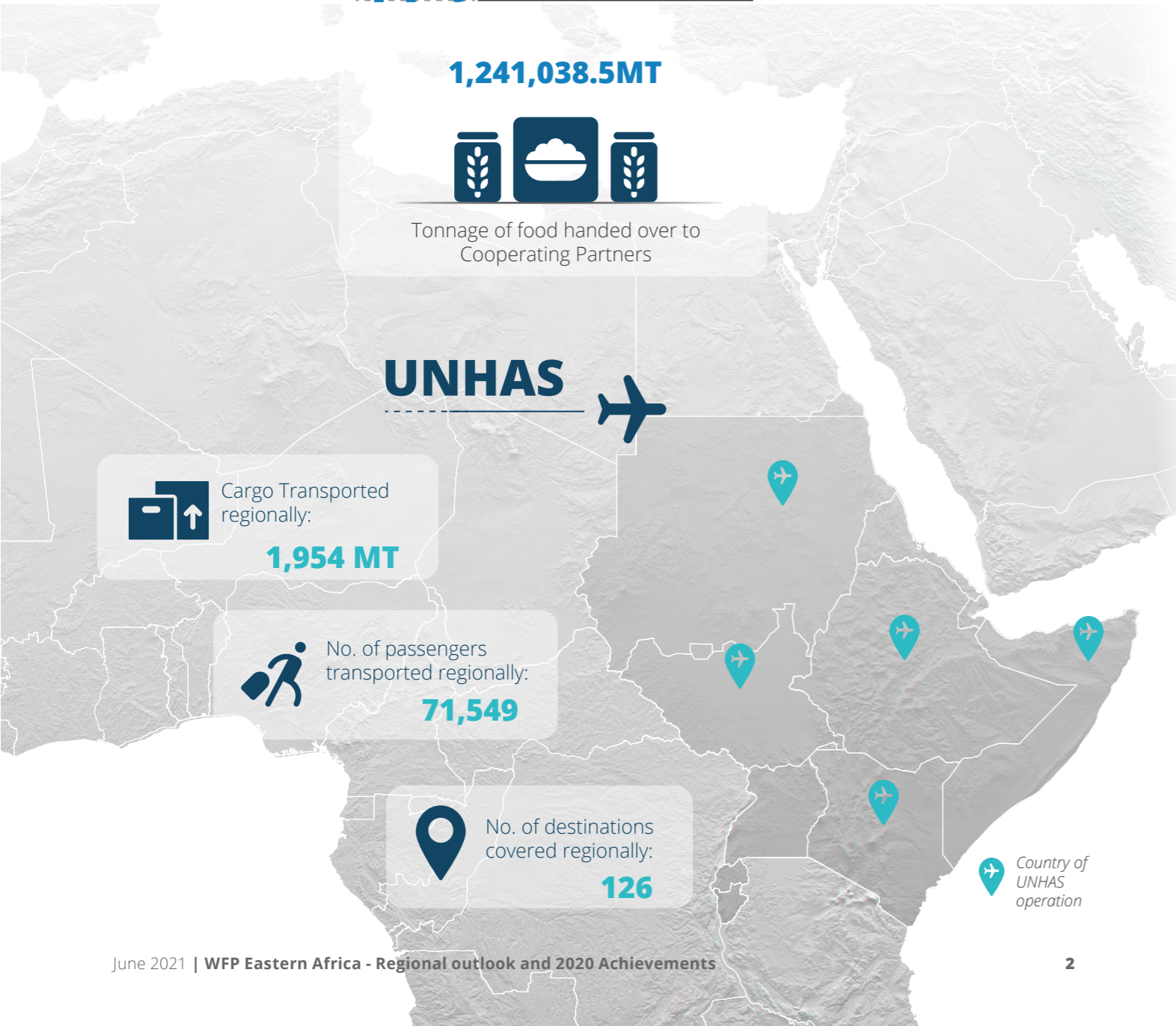
Nutrition



WFP Contribution to the Local Economy



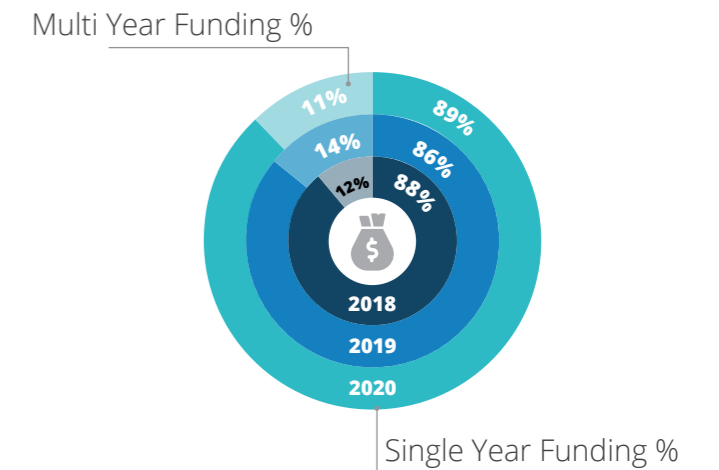
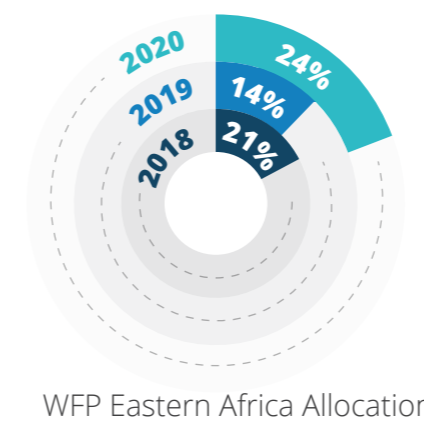
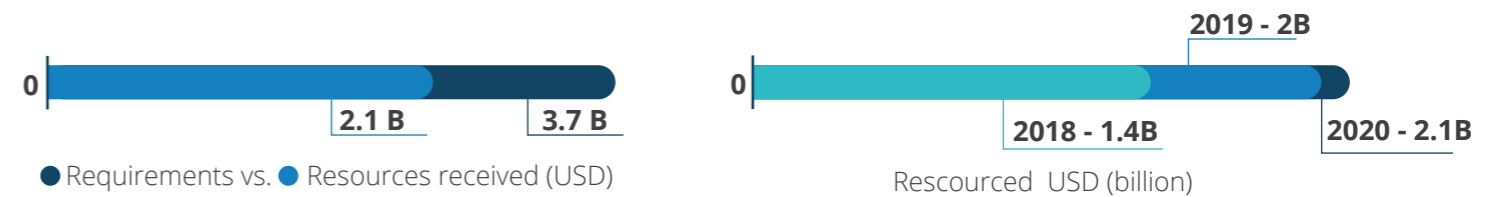
Supply Chain



Capacity Strengthening



2020 Resourcing Outlook





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Responding to Emergencies in Eastern Africa

Overview

WFP's emergency preparedness and response has remained a critical function since its founding in 1961. Wherever disasters hit, whether man-made or natural, sudden, or protracted, the organization works with governments and key stakeholders to save and change lives of populations that are most at risk of food insecurity through humanitarian coordination, relief, resilience, and capacity strengthening efforts. WFP is also investing in the nexus discussions and engaging conflict sensitivity in her strategic programming.

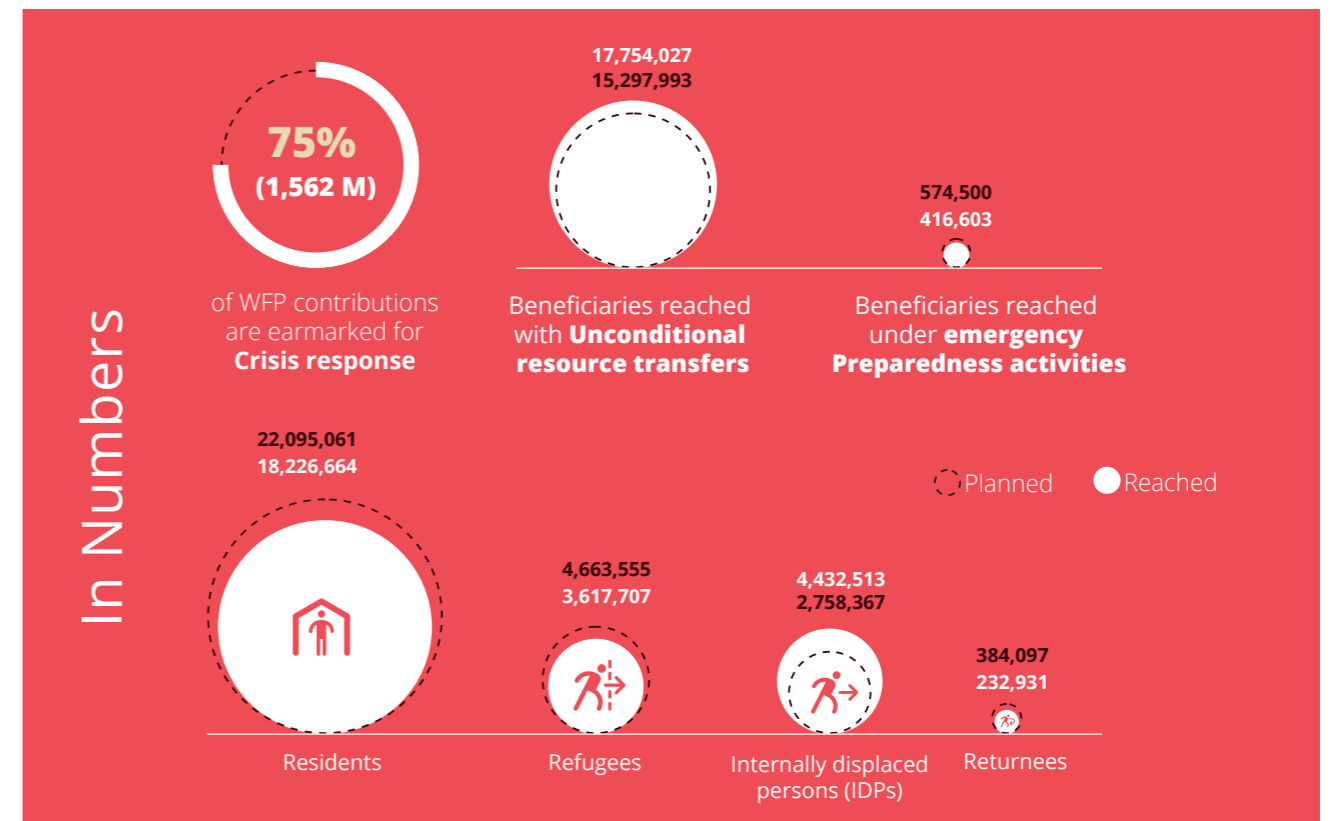
Over the years, Eastern Africa has experienced below average rainfall and delayed seasonal rains, resulting in drought and famine across the region. In addition, the region has had to contend with conflict and insecurity, flooding, desert locust invasion, and diseases such as Ebola and COVID-19. These disasters have continued to disrupt the lives and livelihoods of populations in the region, increasing the number of the food insecure people and malnourished children in the region

In response, WFP together with governments, UN agencies and other partners continue to prepare for and respond to avert regional food and nutrition crises while following an accountability, inclusion and do no harm approach. In the period 2018-2020 conflict and insecurity remained the number one driver of need in Eastern Africa accounting for 73 percent of WFP response followed by natural hazards at 19 percent and socio-economic and other shocks at 8 percent¹. In 2020 the region hosted up to 4.4 million refugees and 8.1 million IDPs with a majority of these resulting from conflict and insecurity. Uganda and Sudan

hosted the highest number of refugees at 1.4 million and 1 million respectively, Ethiopia's Tigray crisis increased the number of IDPs in the country that hit 1.85 million by December 2020. Somalia continues to lead in the number of IDPs at 2.65 million as of December 2020. WFP together with partners continue to advocate for more resources. Reduced funding has led to ration cuts of 16-to 60 percent in refugee response in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Djibouti, and Rwanda.

WFP has also continued to support 33.3 million food insecure residents in Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and above affected by previous droughts, locust invasion and conflict, through general food distribution and livelihood interventions.

WFP and partners adapted programme implementation to the government COVID-19 protocols while supporting Government interventions in support of populations impacted by the economic impact of COVID-19 especially in urban set ups.



More funding is needed to support refugee operations

WFP reached over **3 million refugees and 4 million IDPs** in the Eastern Africa region.

Due to funding constraints, WFP has been compelled to implement ration cuts for refugees in South Sudan (50 percent), Uganda (40 percent), Kenya (40 percent), Djibouti (23 percent), Ethiopia (16 percent) and Rwanda (8 percent), affecting 72 percent of the refugee population in the region. This has resulted in growing risks for the refugees, including increased malnutrition and anaemia, stunted growth of children and a myriad of protection risks.

Funding constraints for the refugee humanitarian response is undermining gains made by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) within the region, which was established on the understanding that while immediate 'life-saving' needs of refugees are met, host governments and development partners will support the integration of refugees in local economies and extend their access to services such as health and education.



Refugee self-reliance

WFP in collaboration with UNHCR, FAO and the Turkana County Government contributed to the self-reliance and integration of refugee and host community populations. WFP supported development of agriculture infrastructure, horticultural farms and water harvesting structures. Farmers produced an average of 4.5 mt of vegetables and fruit. Findings indicate that participants in self-reliance activities in Kalobeyei showed significantly lower levels of poor food consumption, and in particular, women-headed households seemed to benefit. Besides in Kalobeyei, 29 percent of self-reliance activity participants reported agriculture as a source of income compared to 3.7 percent for non-participants.

In Ethiopia; Gambella and Somali regions, WFP supported with agriculture production, agro-processing, market strengthening and access to financial services. This led to an improvement in the consumption of sufficient food compared to the baseline of 48 percent in July 2018. In Uganda, WFP expanded its asset creation and livelihoods (ACL) interventions from two districts in 2019, to three refugee hosting districts (Adjumani, Lamwo and Isingiro). As a result WFP facilitated the building of 16 food storage facilities. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, WFP constructed two valley dams in Isingiro to address water scarcity challenges during prolonged dry seasons.

COVID -19 Response and programme adjustments

The outbreak of COVID-19 in the region was an unprecedented social, economic and governance shock for the region, with direct and indirect impacts on food and nutrition security, health, education, gender, and social protection.

Government response: To contain the spread, governments implemented containment measures, including lockdowns and closure of international borders which exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities such as poverty, inequality, climate change, weak private sector investment and vulnerability of the economy to internal and external shocks.

WFP response: To supplement government efforts in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic, WFP launched cash transfers and nutrition support for millions of vulnerable people struggling to survive the impact of COVID-19 in the region (in Kenya).

WFP adjusted its programmes, integrating COVID-19 risk mitigation measures such as providing packaged the food entitlements, switching monthly food distributions to bi-monthly distributions to avoid crowd gatherings, using contactless SCOPE cards, installing hygiene equipment at distribution sites and schools to protect beneficiaries and staff from contracting the disease.

To keep itself and stakeholders abreast of beneficiaries' experiences, WFP used technology-based monitoring approach to monitor programmes in the context of COVID-19 and in areas with restricted access.



Desert locust infestation in East Africa

In 2020, swarms of desert locusts hit East Africa and spread across the countries in the region wreaking havoc as they descended on crops, vegetation, and pasturelands, threatening the food security and livelihoods of millions of people. The 2020 upsurge, which started in 2019, affected Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Others were Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, and South Sudan, etc. Considered the most destructive migratory pests in the world, they affected hundreds of thousands of hectares, including cropland and pasture.

Government response: The governments in partnership with FAO and the Desert Locust Organisation established high surveillance and preparedness through aerial and ground spraying, consequently averting loss of million tonnes of food in countries already hard hit by acute food insecurity and poverty and where many were already hungry.

WFP response: WFP supported food security assessments in the region to quantify the impact the locusts on food production and availability. Support to affected communities included a combination of emergency assistance, social protection, and livelihood interventions.

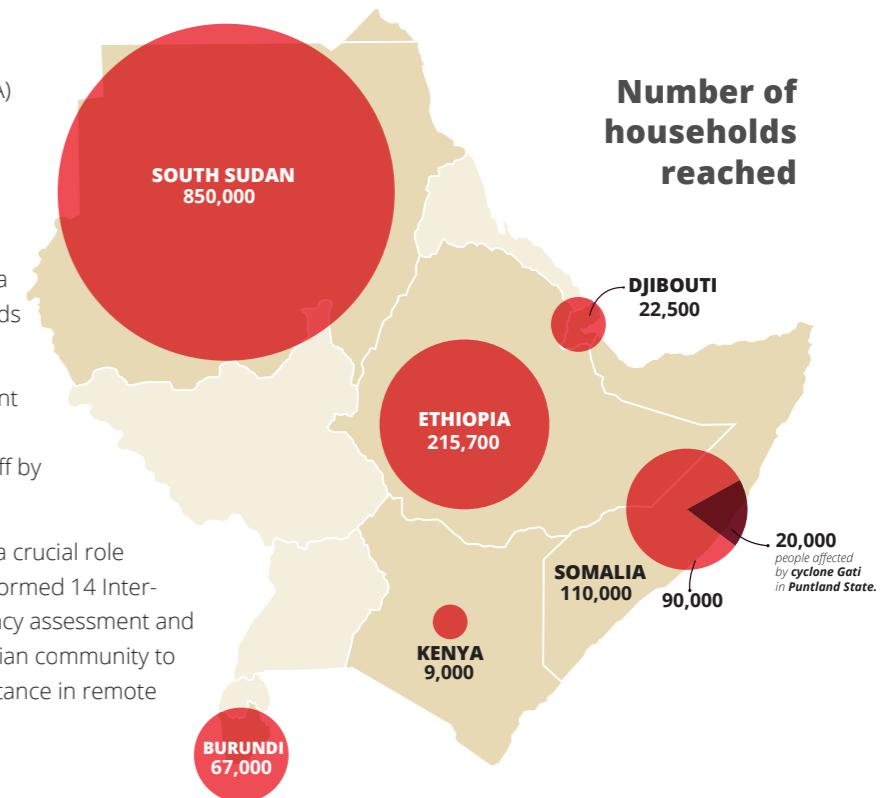
While not directly part of locust control operations which were led by FAO, WFP assisted the affected populations and governments through: i) providing nutrition support and building the resilience of small-scale farmers (in Kenya and Somalia); ii) providing emergency cash assistance to the affected people in locust-affected regions (in Somalia); iii) helping affected households to create assets to build resilience (in Djibouti); iv) providing cash-based transfers to vulnerable people in locust-affected areas (in Somalia); and v) providing vehicles to governments to monitor swarms.



Enabling communities to cope with Climatic shocks

Flood response

- Through its Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, beneficiaries in Somalia and South Sudan received food assistance for the construction of earth dams and flood protection dikes.
- WFP supported the Government of Somalia to conduct a post-flooding impact and needs assessment.
- In Kenya, WFP, on behalf, of the Government provided food assistance to households affected by airlifting food to locations cut off by floods.
- In South Sudan, UNHAS continued to play a crucial role in emergency response providing and performed 14 Inter-Cluster Coordination Group flood emergency assessment and response missions enabling the humanitarian community to reach flood-affected people with vital assistance in remote areas



Drought response

- WFP supported the Government of Kenya to conduct an after-action review of preparedness and response to droughts in 2016-2019 with the goal to improve future drought preparedness and response interventions
- In Ethiopia, WFP provided inland transportation services to FAO for the distribution of animal feed as part of an emergency response in drought-hit Somali Region.
- To strengthen make vulnerable rural households become more resilient to frequent and intense climate-related drought shocks, WFP implemented climate risk management activities through the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) and Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia (SIPE) across the Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions. This aimed to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable rural households for them to better cope with frequent and intense climate-related drought shocks.





NUTRITION

Nutrition and HIV overview in the Region

The low consumption of nutrient dense foods coupled with poor dietary diversity and inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene continue to hamper food security and nutrition outcomes. The non-affordability of nutritious diets remains the main barrier to achieving food and nutrition security across the region, as demonstrated by the high levels of stunting, wasting, anemia as well as widespread micronutrient deficiencies.

The caseload for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition accounts for 38 percent of WFP's global nutrition-specific beneficiaries (6.5 million) and 43 percent of all distributed specialized nutritious foods. This is due to the scale of humanitarian needs characterized by the high burden of acute malnutrition and WFP's large-scale operations in Ethiopia (2.5 million), Somalia (1.8 million), and South Sudan (1.1 million). Alongside the desert locust infestation, COVID-19 further worsened the nutrition landscape and increased the burden of acute malnutrition by 25 percent in the East and Southern Africa region. Regional acute malnutrition estimates show an increase from 8.1 to 10.1 for MAM and from 10.7 to 13.4 for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM).

WFP in Eastern Africa leverages programs, sectors, and partnerships to prevent all forms of malnutrition across the lifecycle. Alongside a sustained humanitarian response, emphasis is placed on the school, health, food, and social protection systems to ensure that nutrition is positioned at the heart of the systems of the future.

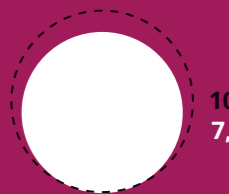
The East African region is second hardest affected region by HIV globally, with an estimated 4,200,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV). Despite the rapid scale-up of treatment, pockets of vulnerability continue to exist across the region with subaltern groups, including adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 and other key populations, being disproportionately affected. In Eastern and Southern Africa, adolescent girls and young women accounted for 30 percent of new infections in 2019.

While WFP's HIV and TB programmes link food and health systems through the provision of food assistance for better health outcomes, WFP's regional response strives to address the multiple structural deprivations affecting vulnerable PLHIV and TB clients to foster access to the support systems and services they need to be drawn out of poverty.

In Numbers

○ Planned ● Reached

Number of **women and children reached with nutrition**



10,189,474
7,866,514

Number of beneficiaries reached through **treatment programming**



5,709,163
5,092,243

Number of beneficiaries reached through **prevention of acute malnutrition activities**



2,715,520
1,221,524

Number of beneficiaries reached with **prevention of stunting activities**



1,696,882
1,440,826

Number of people reached vs. planned with **Social Behaviour Change communications (SBCC)**



62,294
49,056

Number of people reached through **interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)**



16,373
4,144

Number of people reached through **interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)**



34,355
25,006

Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using **mass media (i.e., national TV programme)**.



19,906
11,566

Specialised Nutritious Foods (SNF) distributed
102,345.7 MT



2020 Nutrition highlights and positioning for 2021

Enhanced Partnerships for Nutrition Outcomes

The treatment and prevention of malnutrition resides at the core of WFP's response and embodies the central pillar of the global efforts towards the achievement of SDG 2. In 2020, WFP and UNICEF launched a partnership to work together in the areas of maternal and child nutrition, and school health and nutrition with the intent of increasing coverage and reducing inefficiencies. Three pilot countries were selected in the East and Central African Region: Ethiopia, Somalia, and South-Sudan. Driven by a context-specific rather than a one-size fits all approach and structured around the primacy of prevention and maternal nutrition, the partnership builds on capacity and expertise in loco and fosters a multi-system response.

The **Global Action Plan on Wasting (GAP)** was revitalized in 2020. Geared towards addressing wasting in different sectors and systems (health systems, food systems, social protections systems), the GAP partnership brings on board a varied set of stakeholders working in the nutrition sector. Supported by WFP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO and UNHCR, the GAP processes and actions will be government led and owned, in-line with existing and planned national strategies and action plans on food security and nutrition.

Nutrition within a System Approach

WFP leverages a plethora of systems for nutrition integration. Alongside the health and the school systems which have historically resided at the core of WFP's response, a revitalised focus on the social protection and food systems has broadened WFP's reach and ability to meet the ever-changing needs of the most vulnerable.

While nutrition-sensitive social protection approaches have been central to WFP's response within the region, a new focus across the different components of the food systems has opened new opportunities for WFP to leverage its nutrition expertise and comparative advantage within the food environment, value chains and vis-à-vis consumer behaviours. A nutrition-sensitive food system approach further highlights the non-traditional approaches that WFP can lead to address the key drivers of malnutrition and food insecurity in the region, including climate shocks, conflicts, and economic disparities.

Integrated nutrition programming is crucial in improving nutrition outcomes as it addresses both the immediate and the underlying causes of malnutrition. In Somalia, this approach was used in 15 districts through a

Partnerships for HIV outcomes: WFP's HIV response is founded upon strong global, regional, and country-level partnerships. Led by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and coordinated at the regional level through the Regional AIDS Team for Eastern and Southern Africa (RATESA), WFP worked to ensure that *people-centred HIV and health services are integrated in the context of stronger systems for health*; sustained efforts to ensure that *children and adults living with HIV access testing, know their status and are immediately offered and sustained on affordable quality treatment*; and supported partners to ensure that *new HIV infections among children are eliminated and their mothers' health and well-being is sustained.*²

To further the research and evidence agenda, WFP has been working with a series of research institutions, including the Oxford-UCT Research Hub to investigate the bi-directional relationship between food insecurity/nutrition and HIV risks and vulnerabilities, with a particular emphasis of adolescents and young women.

joint programme with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) where nutrition activities were complemented with water, sanitation, and health (WASH). In addition, households of 7,200 malnourished children were enrolled in a WFP-supported livelihoods activity to improve resilience over time.

Households results from a mid-term assessment of the programmes showed less than one percent relapse to malnutrition for beneficiary family members. This indicates that 99 percent of children remained free from acute malnutrition as their families benefited from livelihood activities. Similarly, under the Rome-based Agencies programme in Burao and Odweyne districts of Togdheer region which targeted 6,200 beneficiaries, 1,170 WFP nutrition programme beneficiaries were referred to livelihood activities implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization. These complementary activities included beekeeping and vegetable gardening, and maximized opportunities to improve nutrition through addressing immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition

111,921
67,909

Total number of beneficiaries reached via **HIV/TB-specific activities*** and **HIV-sensitive interventions**

*24% of the total WFP's beneficiaries reached with HIV specific interventions across the globe

Total number of **PLHIV reached with COVID-19 specific interventions** - **16,909**

Total **HIV and TB financing** across the Region - **USD 1,239,914.68**

PLHIV reached in Humanitarian settings across the Region - **127,048**

All the data comes from the ACR analysis conducted with the HQ team

HIV within a System Approach

In 2020, WFP RBN focused on expanding the knowledge base for the integration of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV within national social protection systems and emergency response mechanisms. These efforts were articulated in the form of two extensive regional pieces of research covering the Eastern and Southern Africa Region. The former, focused on *'the Role of Food and Nutrition Support in Refugee HIV and TB Responses Across East and Southern Africa'* and investigated the multiple challenges faced by refugees living with HIV and TB and the structural deprivations that remain the main obstacle to achieving the 2030 Agenda objectives.

The latter was a mapping across the 15 UNAIDS Fast-Track Countries³ across the Eastern and Southern Africa Region to concretely understand how social protection provisions across the 15 countries can play a critical role in helping people overcome the structural inequalities that drive the HIV epidemic and that serve as barriers to treatment, testing, schooling, and other essential services. Other efforts were also made to ensure the integration of considerations around HIV prevention within the new School-based Programmes approach, with a particular focus on adolescents.

Nutrition response amidst the Pandemic

WFP adopted its programmes to guarantee the continued delivery of health and nutrition services while ensuring that health and safety protocols were respected. Programme adaptation efforts included the addition of food distribution sites for crowd control, the installation of hand washing facilities, remote monitoring and assessments initiatives, family-led nutrition assessments, such as the family-led MUAC, and the initiation of telemedicine services for the provision of antenatal and postnatal consultations, among others.

The change fostered by the Pandemic has accelerated WFP's shift towards urban and peri-urban programmes as well as towards system strengthening to ensure that the food security and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable are met even in times of crisis. To ensure that adequate resources were mobilised, WFP and UNICEF produced a joint call to action for nutrition interventions by governments and donors across the region.



Treatment of Malnutrition

Lifesaving nutrition assistance to prevent and treat malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW-G) and children of age 6-59 months was prioritised. WFP expertise in supply chain ensured continued supply of essential commodities for these activities amidst supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19. Over 26,000 Mt of specialized nutritious food was distributed to 6.8 million women and children across the region.

Monitoring data show that MAM treatment performance rates for children aged 6-59 months surpassing SPHERE targets in six countries. The positive results are attributed to the quality of WFP programming, adherence to Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines by partners, health and nutrition messaging and WFP's trained outreach workers involved in active case finding, referral, follow-up, defaulter tracking and reporting.

Prevention of Malnutrition

Prevention of stunting and wasting, particularly among children for the first 1,000 days, offers a window of opportunity for optimal growth and development and to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. WFPs prevention of stunting interventions supported adequate nutrient intake to reduce mortality, morbidity, and the incidence of severe acute malnutrition, which is not only more expensive to treat, but is associated with higher risks of morbidity and death.

In Ethiopia, Amhara Region, WFP provided Fresh Food Vouchers (FFV) using digital short-message service (SMS)-based vouchers to households with children aged 6 to 23 months or pregnant and lactating women and girls, enrolled in the Productive Safety Net Programme. WFP reached 134,000 beneficiaries, with approximately USD 2.7 millions of voucher value. A total of 269 market retailers (208 women and 61 men) benefitted from this activity with business volume of enrolled retailers reporting an increase by an average of 40 percent. WFP strengthened its collaboration with the Government, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to horizontally expand the FFV activity in the 40 districts with the highest prevalence of stunting in the country. The expansion is planned for 2021.

In Somalia, WFP provided over 10,000 PLWG with e-vouchers contributing to increased uptake of antenatal and postnatal services and enhanced diet diversity through purchase of local nutritious fresh fruit and vegetables.

WFP Rwanda partnered with the Boston Consulting Group and other One UN nutrition agencies to support the Rwanda Biomedical Center and the National Child Development Agency to scale-up the "Smart Simplicity stunting-free village model" to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Rwanda. The partnership was successfully scaled-up to over 40 villages in 2020, an increase from two in 2019. A total of 8,000 community health workers were trained to enhance village nutrition surveillance for the timely detection of growth faltering.

COVID-19 and HIV

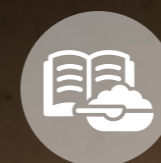
To ensure continuity and treatment outcomes among PLHIV. WFP worked with the UNAIDS secretariat to reprogramme some of the HIV funding mechanisms to ensure continued service provision. Regional support was also offered to ensure that national funds were mobilised for a HIV-sensitive COVID19 response, as in the case of Kenya.

To sustain vulnerable households to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 to their livelihoods and adherence to ART treatment. WFP provided food assistance in to some 95,600 PLHIV selected households in Djibouti, Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. In Djibouti assisted households were also linked to the national social protection system, the Programme National Solidarité Famille.

Strengthened Capacity for National Institutions

In Uganda, WFP supported improvements to Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) to improve programme delivery, data quality and reporting at national and district levels. This resulted in reporting of community blanket supplementary feeding programme (CBSFP) treatment data into the HMIS platform, which was not previously done.

In Rwanda, WFP supported the Rwanda Biomedical Center to develop "National Nutrition Guidelines for PLHIV" and counselling cards.



SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMMING

Overview of School Feeding (In Numbers)

3,634,477 2,747,391
Number of **school children reached**
by WFP (Direct)

Planned Reached



USD value of **assets and infrastructure**
handed over to national stakeholders
as a result of WFP capacity strengthening
support:

USD 401,021

Number of children reached with
alternative take home rations during
school closure due to COVID
391,154



Cumulative **government investment** to
school feeding:

USD 101.5 M

2020 School Feeding achievements

School feeding is one of the most extensive social safety nets which yields substantial benefits across multiple sectors including health and nutrition, education, social protection, and agriculture. School feeding contributes to increased enrolment, enhanced learning, and support higher education achievement particularly among girls and young women. Where there is local procurement of food, school feeding provides a predictable market for smallholder farmers positively impacting their livelihoods and local agricultural systems. Given its potential multi-sectoral returns, school feeding is one of the most cost-effective interventions.

As part of an integrated school health and nutrition response, WFP worked jointly with national governments, UN agencies, NGO partners and communities to ensure vulnerable children including those living in extreme poverty access safe and nutritious school meals in eight out of nine countries across the region. WFP **provided operational support in crisis – affected Countries (South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, and Burundi)** to increase coverage of existing school feeding programmes and **technical assistance in stable countries with emerging and/or established capacity such as Kenya, Djibouti, Rwanda, Uganda, and Ethiopia** to transition to national government ownership.



Enhanced Partnerships and Complementary Interventions in school feeding

For improved outcomes, WFP has strengthened its partnerships with UN agencies and partners, and the Governments ministries to provide a comprehensive package of essential interventions. WFP is committed to ensure school children have access to safe and nutritious foods and complementary nutrition interventions. In 2020, countries in Eastern Africa provided essential package comprising of nutrition; water, health and sanitation (WASH); social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaigns and nutrition education; enhanced linkage to markets and food systems; and use of safe energy options.

The closure of schools due to COVID-19 posed risks to the education, health, and nutrition of approximately 10 million children in Eastern Africa. Working together with UNICEF, UNESCO and other Partners, WFP actively engaged in planning for safe re-opening of schools with the Government taskforces across the countries to restore access to education, meals, and health services.

WFP continued to strengthen its partnership with UNICEF to ensure school going children benefit from an integrated package of health and nutrition interventions in schools. This partnership has led to the development of a plan of action in Ethiopia outlining six key outputs for prevention and treatment of maternal and child wasting, and implementation of integrated package of health and nutrition interventions in schools.

In South Sudan, WFP and UNICEF ensured vulnerable school children receive a holistic set of interventions, including a nutritious school meal, improved teaching-learning materials, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH),

and strengthened Parent and Teacher Associations' capacity. Fortification of school meals using micronutrient powders which was hampered in 2020 due to the protracted closure of schools will be implemented in 2021.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MOECHE) **in Somalia**, schools supported jointly by UNICEF and WFP received an integrated package of quality education, school feeding, water, sanitation, health, and deworming interventions. **In Burundi**, WFP partnered with UNICEF and IFAD to develop a joint programme on food security and nutrition and hygiene strengthening in schools assisted under school feeding and strengthen the milk chain value chain, respectively.

In partnership with FAO and UNICEF, WFP established school gardens in 21 schools and piloted two hydroponics projects in Djibouti. Each agency provided specific expertise to the project: FAO provided training on crops and agriculture, WFP developed recipes on how to cook and preserve the nutritional value preserve of fresh produce, while UNICEF developed educational tools to support the project.

In Burundi WFP partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA and cooperating partners, increased awareness on gender-based violence, early pregnancies, and marriages through youth clubs across 278 primary schools in reaching nearly 35,000 school children. In Rwanda, WFP supported construction of essential school infrastructure such as kitchens and stoves, handwashing stations, water systems, eight girls' sanitary rooms and six latrines to improve sanitation and hygiene practices.

COVID-19 impact on School Feeding outcomes

Prior to the closure of schools occasioned by COVID-19, an increase in enrolment and attendance was observed in schools providing meals to children across all the Countries. WFP reached a total of **2.7** million school children across the region. Except for Burundi, the rest of the countries closed schools as part of the Government containment measures. WFP supported the Ministry of Education across the different countries to develop back-to-school advocacy and campaigns to sensitize parents, teachers, community leaders and students.

To ensure that school children continue to receive a nutritious meal, WFP changed modality of the school feeding programme activities from daily on-site school feeding to alternative take-home rations reaching more than 391,000 school children in the region. This was also done to encourage re-enrolment and attendance; decrease drop-out rates; and improve learning after the prolonged school closures. Where schools re-opened for candidate classes and school children in

higher grades, on-site school feeding was provided to incentivize attendance, retention and improve nutrition status of students

Despite the high enrolment recorded in Burundi, the dropout rate remained above the target for both girls and boys due to funding constraints and increase in prices occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic which led to withdrawal of food suppliers. For the rest of the countries, overall enrolment and attendance declined in 2020 compared to the previous year. For example, overall attendance and enrolment in Uganda decreased by 13 percent and 6 percent respectively in 2020. In contrast, there was a general improvement in the overall primary school enrolment and retention rates in WFP assisted schools in Somalia compared to 2019. Notably, girls' enrolment rates were higher than for boys. The positive results can be attributed to the provision of school meals to children in WFP assisted schools.



Government Investments in School feeding

To sustain the gains made so far, WFP continued to create an enabling policy environment and advocacy for increased budgetary allocations from the host governments. Despite the challenges occasioned by the onset of COVID-19, a total of **USD 101.5 million** was allocated to school feeding by the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. This demonstrates their recognition of its contribution to human capital development and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Notably, the Government of Rwanda made a historic announcement committing to a nationwide school feeding programme which expands the coverage of the Government-led school feeding from 600,000 students to 3.2 million pre-primary, primary and secondary students starting in the 2020/2021 school year. As a result, the national budgetary allocation to school feeding was increased from **USD 8 million to USD 37 million** taking up 10 percent of the annual budget for education sector with an additional allocation of USD 19 million for construction of school kitchens and stoves.

Similarly, the government of Burundi allocated **USD 2.5 million** to school feeding, an eight percent increase from the previous year, to facilitate strengthening of the milk value chain and introduction of innovative milk distribution to some of the supported schools.

WFP's activities in school feeding are aligned with governments priorities, and contribute to multiple sectors mainly education, nutrition, social protection, and local agriculture while also contributing to development of human capital. WFP will continue to support national ownership, leadership, and investment in school feeding programmes. Leveraging WFP expertise and knowledge, greater synergies and support will be established with government ministries and actors to safeguard the investments this far. WFP will continue to support countries' school feeding and education agenda while also advocating for, more resources in education and school health and nutrition; increased domestic financing for school-based programs; and stronger linkage and contribution to local agriculture and markets through local procurement from farmers and other producers.

Home Grown School Feeding

In the Eastern Africa Region, WFP implements the home-grown school feeding across eight out of nine countries⁴ with primary focus on providing nutritious school meals, stimulating local agriculture and markets, improving income and livelihoods of smallholder farmers through procurement of locally produced foods. Based on the priorities and context of the country, the programme was implemented using different modalities including cash-based transfer to schools, direct procurement from smallholder farmers, farmer organizations, and vouchers.

The Government of Burundi identified the HGSP programme as the largest and most important safety net for its vulnerable population placing it and nutrition at the top of its national agenda. The programme gained momentum with the selection of the First Lady of Burundi as a champion and increase of government budgetary allocation from **USD 2 million to USD 2.5 million**. To facilitate progressive handover of

the programme to the government, WFP supported development of a national HGSP policy and transition plan for the next fifteen years.

In Ethiopia, WFP in partnership with FAO supported Regional Bureaus of education to scale-up nutrition-sensitive HGSP by creating synergies with smallholder farmers while supporting the development of food safety and quality standard guidelines and training.

In August, WFP Somalia shifted modality of school feeding from in-kind food assistance to home-grown school feeding using value vouchers. This was driven by the need to increase the diversity of foods provided beyond the traditional in-kind assistance. WFP reached 90,000 school children and supported local markets through enhanced linkages between the local producers and schools. A total of USD 3 million was injected into the local economy.

Nutrition sensitive School Feeding in Sudan

Through its partnerships with the Federal and State Ministries of Education, WFP initiated scale-up of nutrition-sensitive school feeding activities to crisis-affected areas across nine states in Sudan with further roll-out planned for 2021. The use of micronutrient powders to fortify school meals and use of high energy biscuits in school meals was piloted in 2020. Based on successful pilot activities, the products will be incorporated into the design of school feeding programme in 2021.

In some locations of Red Sea and Kassala states, where girls face significant barriers to education, distribution of alternative take-home rations were supplemented with cash-based transfers. As part of the support, SBCC messages on nutrition were developed and delivered together with the cash-based transfers to encourage purchase of diverse and nutritious foods for a healthy diet.



Support to Government and Capacity strengthening

To enhance transition to national government ownership, WFP supported capacity strengthening efforts with focus on improving capacity of national institutions, policy environment, government financing, and advocacy efforts for school feeding.

In 2020, WFP handed over the school feeding programme **in Djibouti** to the Government. This is a significant milestone, with WFP now shifting from direct implementation to upstream technical assistance and capacity strengthening. The quick transition stemmed not only from WFP funding constraints, but also from the capacity built over the years through continuous technical assistance.

In Ethiopia, the Ministry of Education leveraged on WFP's expertise in policy and strategy during drafting of the National School Feeding Strategy which is expected to be finalized in early 2021. In partnership with Ministry of Education and FAO, WFP also trained smallholder farmers on food safety to improve supply chain, reduce costs and enhance efficiencies.

WFP supported government of **Rwanda** in designing of low-cost kitchens and menu modelling to guide procurement and food preparation activities. In 2021, WFP will provide technical assistance and staff secondment to support the establishment of the first school feeding unit.

Similarly, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MOECHE) of Galmudug in **Somalia** to establish a school feeding unit and trained staff on school feeding policy, stock management, coordination and monitoring and evaluation, and SCOPE registration. This will contribute to the effective implementation of the school feeding programme with the long-term goal of transitioning to government ownership.

In Sudan, WFP has expanded the school meals programme to 90 schools in South Kordofan, adding 12 schools in Blue Nile, to cover approximately 60,000 children in response to a rapid interagency assessment conducted in December 2019.



FOOD SYSTEMS



Food Systems consists of all elements involved in the production, distribution, consumption, or disposal (loss or waste) of food products that originate from agriculture. Food systems are underpinned by a complex network of important characteristics, such as (i) *contexts*, (ii) *drivers* and (iii) *actors*, each playing a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening linkages that contribute to effective and sustainable food systems:

- i. The WFP global food system is composed of overlapping systems at regional, national, and subnational levels. For example, consider the contrast between the food systems of a remote village in Uganda with the highly industrialized and commercialized food system of a major district in Kampala.
- ii. Drivers can be both internal and external, and influence characteristics that inform the context of a food system. Examples of an internal driver include consumer preferences and food processing innovation, whereas urbanization, conflict, and populace displacement are examples of external drivers.
- iii. Actors play a pivotal role within food systems, each levying a degree of influence over their respective environments. These can include policy makers, the private sector, smallholder farmers, consumers.

Other factors such as natural systems (ecology and climate) and societal systems (health, economic, and governance) support food systems, as do critical societal outcomes (equity of gender, socioeconomic development, and nutrition).

When food systems work within the context of their environment, all elements that contribute to it benefit. However, in many countries and regions, food systems are constantly impacted by a myriad of characteristics that negatively affect the population, environment, and economies.

In the eastern Africa region, approximately 20 percent of the global population faces acute hunger. Ethiopia and South Sudan face two of the top ten worst global food crises which are still ongoing. The region constitutes a microcosm of larger trends and food and nutrition security issues faced by communities, governments, and WFP itself. At the same time, eastern Africa holds many of the answers to addressing these challenges, offering additional opportunities for WFP to fight hunger by adopting a transformative approach to food systems engagement.



One-third of WFP global procurement is purchased by WFP in eastern Africa. In 2020, this accounted for **130,000,000 metric tons** – noted for its high dependence on local and regional purchasing, inclusive of smallholder farmers.



Through its vast supply chain footprint in the region, WFP in eastern Africa contributed more than **USD 400,000,000** to the transport sector. In addition to its financial impact, WFP has professionalized several sectors through its partnerships, such as food safety quality and the establishment and rehabilitation of commercial trade routes.

As WFP continues to participate in food systems, it looks to align its programmes and activities, as well as its thinking, to adopt a holistic food systems lens. With the objective to transform its assistance, WFP will look to intentionally contribute to the development of a food system that will make it more nourishing, sustainable, equitable, and resilient for all.

In Numbers

○ Planned ● Reached



479 339
Kilometres (km) of **feeder roads rehabilitated**



3,257,976 **2,066,718**
Number of **people supported through asset creation activities**



524,000 **422,081**
People reached through **climate adaptation activities**



71,889,323 **40,673,070**
USD transferred to **households participating in asset creation**



8,220 **3,563**
Hectares (ha) of agricultural land benefiting from **rehabilitated irrigation scheme**



55,747 **47,049**
Hectares (ha) of **agricultural land cultivated/ rehabilitated** under FFA



160,000 **61,000**
Linear meters (m) of **flood protection dikes rehabilitated**



560 **560**
Number of **assets built, restored or maintained** by targeted communities in FFA



35,926 **5,482**
Number of **family gardens** established



5,178,074 **4,639,338**
Total **sum insured through risk management** interventions



77,440 **12,040**
Volume (m³) of **check dams and gully rehabilitation structures** (e.g. soil sedimentation dams) constructed

Energy for Food Security

In 2020, WFP distributed 21,168 household fuel-efficient stoves in Burundi and 361 fuel efficient stoves were installed in WFP-supported schools in both Burundi and Rwanda.

This is but a small part of what WFP's role can and should be, in contributing to 'Energy for Food Security' dialogues and activities in the eastern Africa region. Access to energy remains a cross-cutting theme and informs many of the operations where WFP provides its life-saving assistance: within humanitarian settings, enabling improved livelihoods in rural areas, preventing shocks, and building resilience.

The majority of food that WFP distributes to beneficiaries requires cooking before it can be consumed. Therefore, interventions that contribute to affordable, clean, and efficient cooking are at the core of WFP's mandate. Failure to acknowledge the importance of building sustainable value chains for energy products, services, and policies, plays a significant role in undermining the sustainability of WFP's interventions.

Food consumption is negatively affected by lack of fuel, which prevents people from being able to properly cook food or disinfect water by boiling. Energy scarcity and high-priced fuel equipment forces many households, already struggling to secure cooking fuel, to adopt negative coping strategies. Consequently, households

may barter food assistance for fuel or undercook meals to preserve their limited resources. In dire instances, individuals and households will skip meals, leading to detrimental effects on their nutritional and dietary diversity.

Centering the specific cooking needs of displaced people can alleviate possible tensions within host communities, for example, biomass resources such as firewood. When ignored, there is the potential for exposing people who collect fuel (majority women and children) to harassment and violence. Moreover, meals cooked on traditional stoves disproportionately effects the health of women and girls; as the primary cooks, they are more susceptible to debilitating respiratory diseases.

WFP can boost access to clean, modern cooking solutions for vulnerable households in humanitarian settings through different modalities including cash-based transfers to reduce the demand for cooking fuel, which is a major driver of deforestation. Linked to Home-Grown School Feeding, WFP in eastern Africa is constantly seeking new and innovative ways as to how school meals are prepared and cooked. For example, transforming school kitchens and stoves and linking multi-purpose energy and water solutions to smallholder farmers to boost local production of fresh foods to be used in WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding activities.



Hydroponics

In 2020, WFP in eastern Africa continued its efforts in supporting the conceptualisation, roll out, and implementation of hydroponics projects, in addition to providing guidance across all relevant WFP Country Offices globally. Presently, WFP in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia are assessing the capacity and environmental infrastructure to pilot their own hydroponics activities. Ensuring the sustainability of innovative activities is core to WFP programming. Consequently, the adaptation of hydroponic equipment and guidance to the local context is crucial. Utilising low cost, locally available materials and recycling or upcycling waste materials, allows WFP to replicate similar results at a fraction of the high-cost hydroponic systems, guaranteeing the intervention remains cost-efficient and sustainable over time.

Hydroponics for fresh fodder production overlaps with WFP's portfolio on Resilience, Livelihoods, and asset creation programmes (FFA), acting to both complement and strengthen other FFA interventions. Noting the key ecological challenges that hinder the adoption of short- and medium-term outputs, hydroponic activities can improve the availability of nutrient-rich, fresh animal fodder to feed livestock, a crucial productive asset in many communities. In environments that are arid and semi-arid, where fresh grazing pastures are not always available and/ or water sources that are affected by unpredictable shifts in rainfall patterns, hydroponics are one of WFP's approaches to providing life-saving assistance.

Through the provision of higher quality animal fodder, pastoral livestock diets improve, which in turn results in an increase in its market value, survival rate, and the quality of the produce (meat and milk derived from the animal). Additionally, as hydroponic fodder production is an activity that takes place within the household, it has the potential to reduce the risk and exposure of assault that may come as a result of taking the livestock out for grazing. By producing fodder at home or within the community, this risk is mitigated; women and children, who are usually in-charge of this task, can dedicate more time to other household duties and children can attend school. Hydroponic activities aim to contribute towards increased youth empowerment, building technical capacities through the installation and management of these systems.

WFP is in the process of developing guidance on hydroponic fresh vegetable production, with the objective of adapting the current technique to produce fresh vegetables for human consumption. WFP in the Eastern Africa region plans to support local farmers through hydroponics systems trainings and market linkages where surplus produce can be sold as an income generating activity. Furthermore, hydroponics vegetable production can be linked to home-grown school meals and WFP's School Feeding programme, supporting the production in school gardens.

Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Livelihoods Activities

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) is one of WFP's programmes that was implemented and aimed at addressing the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, voucher or food transfers while strengthening their livelihoods.

In 2020, WFP South Sudan, livelihood Asset Creation activities were implemented in 475 communities and more than 606,000 people were provided with food assistance. WFP recipient households were supported with skills development training in post-harvest management via WFP's Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) activities. Moreover, smallholder farmer with surplus produce were able to sell directly to WFP under the home-grown school feeding programme. Participants received nutrition-sensitive training designed to enhance their capacities in child feeding, dietary diversity, vegetable production and preparation, and hygiene/sanitation.

In Uganda, WFP expanded its asset creation and livelihoods interventions from two districts in 2019, to three and two drought-prone districts: 65,995 women and men were supported with cash-based transfer. Through these interventions, participants contributed to

the building of 16 food storage facilities, 18 institutional cooking stoves and established 355 hectares of trees for fuel wood, and school orchards and gardens. These assets increase community resilience against natural disasters and climate change effects, while strengthening rural livelihoods.

In Somalia, WFP and the Puntland State Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Climate Change constructed a Skills Training Center for climate-adaptive livelihoods in Garowe. The Training Centre will become a climate-smart training hub providing a platform for enhanced information sharing on adaptive agricultural techniques, primarily at household or community level, such as hydroponics culture.

In Ethiopia, through the Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme (JP RWEE), WFP focused on empowering women in rural areas. The programme empowered women to form groups and cooperatives for business skills and entrepreneurship development training. Following the establishment of Village Level Economic and Social Associations and training, WFP disbursed a credit guarantee fund scheme of USD 1.1 million through loans for 2,930 households for goat, cattle fattening, rearing, and poultry farming.

Support to Smallholder farmers

WFP supports smallholder farmers through capacity strengthening, linkage to markets and support on post-harvest loss management. This aim at strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, establish reliable markets systems; and by focusing on women, to increase women participation in agricultural value chain and promote gender equality. In 2020, WFP supported over 190,000 small holder farmers across the Eastern African region. WFP worked with partners to deliver capacity strengthening initiatives for smallholders and sub-national institutions across the region. Trainings focused on post-harvest loss management, marketing skills and climate smart agriculture. As a result, over 4,350 small holder farmers contributed to the quantity of food purchased by WFP in the region For instance, in Burundi,

WFP purchased 2,606 mt of food commodities from local smallholder farmers worth USD 2.4 million; and WFP Rwanda supported farmers to sell 11,682 MT of maize and beans for USD 3.6 million.

Innovative solutions to improve food supply chain and access to markets. WFP Burundi collaborated with AUXFIN international- organization that provides Financial and technical support to farmers- to introduce the Universal Method of Value Access (UMVA). which will allow smallholder farmers to share their stock with clients and implement their trading transactions. Kenya upgraded the *Dalili* app- a digital market application showing the price and availability of commodities in retail outlets. There was also an increase in the number of users.



Under Integrated Resilience initiatives, WFP launched the Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets Creation for Resilient Communities and Gender Transformation" (SMART) project. The project aims at increasing incomes and diversifying livelihoods opportunities to enable communities cope with shocks and build government and community capacities on integrated social protection, livelihoods, and agricultural programming. The FFA projects increased the proportion of households consuming enough and adequate food from 39 percent in June 2019 to 61 percent.

In Kenya, WFP played an active role in the USAID-funded Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth for layered and integrated support to resilience building across ASALs. WFP jointly worked with the county governments to train 1000 government officials. The training enabled county governments to take a lead role in addressing systemic challenges facing local food systems. Further, WFP collaborated with FAO to develop and broadcast five Shamba Shape-up episodes that informed 9 million people in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda on pre-and post-harvest management, food safety and quality, and marketing

The Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) and related partnerships - allowed WFP to identify the contextual and country specific challenges through integrated context analysis (ICA), and plan for country specific interventions that are community driven through seasonal livelihood planning (SLP) and community-based participatory approaches. The ICA and SLP pilots were developed; community action plans informed WFP investments and contributed towards the Government's local development strategies, laying a foundation for high-quality interventions.

WFP's asset creation and livelihood activities were implemented in partnership with the Government at national and local government level, academia (Makerere University and University of Nairobi), UN agencies and with key stakeholders in districts of operation. The capacity strengthening to the Government and partners on the 3PA is geared to enhance district local governments interest and commitment to promote ownership, effectiveness and sustainability of Assets created. These layered interventions together with WFP Food systems aimed at promoting productivity, marketing, increased income and building resilience to climatic shocks.

Risk Transfer (Insurance)

WFP continues to support vulnerable and resource constrained smallholder farmers and pastoralists in eastern Africa to cope with climatic shocks, through the provision of index-based insurance services for crops and livestock. Through the R4 program implemented in Kenya and Ethiopia, different risk transfer (insurance) products including; Weather Index Insurance (WII), Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII), and a Hybrid Index insurance have been developed and availed to the local farmers who face the challenge of erratic rainfall and extended droughts due to climate change. R4 combines insurance with three other components i.e. risk reduction (improved agricultural practices and asset creation), risk reserves (savings) and prudent risk taking (increased investments in livelihoods diversification).

In 2020, R4 reached 68,917 households (35 percent female) in Tigray and Amhara regions of Ethiopia, translating to more than 400,000 people reached with insurance for crops. The total value of produce insured was USD 4,650,540 at a premium value of USD 773,925. Payouts totaling to USD 80,355 were disbursed to 17,316 farmers due to poor rainfall. In Kenya, a total of 12,000 farmers (85 percent female), approximately 72,000 households were

insured under R4 in Makueni and Kitui counties. The total sum insured was USD 1,356,222 at a premium value of USD 205,768. Payouts totaling USD 105,886 were disbursed to 5,715 households across the two counties.

Under WFP's Satellite Index Insurance Program in Ethiopia (SIPE), 15,504 households across 7 Woredas (administrative districts) in the Somali region received pasture drought index insurance worth to 5 Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs), at a total premium rate of USD 982,190 fully paid by WFP.

WFP continues to support capacity building of local partner institutions in Kenya and Ethiopia to enhance their technical and operational capacities with the view of building the sustainability of insurance programs in the countries. Linkages are also being enhanced with local governments who continue to provide support in the form of premium subsidies through the Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya and the Ethiopian national productive safety net program from which farmers in Ethiopia earn partial premium subsidies through engagement in public works. Savings, income-generating activities, and access to credit are also being promoted among beneficiaries of R4 and SIPE as part of the graduation strategy.



Anticipatory Actions

Extreme and unpredictable weather patterns have quickly become a defining factor to global food insecurity. To assist countries in the mitigation and management of climate risks, WFP has broadened its humanitarian and development scope to contribute to adaptive climate risk management solutions.

In the eastern Africa region, WFP continued to support national and sub-national governments to scale-up their forecast-based anticipatory actions. Utilizing Forecast-based Financing (FbF), an innovative approach to addressing food security challenges in the region, WFP has aligned its activities with national objectives related to preventative climate actions and policies.

In partnership with key stakeholders, such as DANIDA, IFAD, and ECHO, WFP supported the co-development of proactive humanitarian systems, linking weather forecasts and early warning systems to anticipatory action plans and pre-positioned finance. Through the adoption of preventative approaches, WFP aims to reduce humanitarian response needs and costs. Specific to this region, FbF has the potential to play a significant role by mitigating and/or preventing the impact of predictable climate-driven emergencies.

WFP provided technical support to its offices in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, establishing start-up FbF systems and related activities. This included technical capacity strengthening through the recruitment of national FbF Coordinators. These technicians will co-develop FbF systems and anticipatory actions with national and sub-national stakeholders, map out stakeholder engagements needed, and define target locations for piloting FbF anticipatory actions in the countries.

Capacity strengthening for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the region was established and will develop reliable and tailored forecasts and early warning alerts. Data collected through these systems will be utilized to drive informed decision-making. Crucial to WFP's FbF programmes is the involvement of partnerships, and, acknowledging those at the national and regional level. Technical support provided by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) to the Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency to develop drought anticipatory action triggers based on improved seasonal forecasts, ensures WFP's activities and programmes are adaptive to climate shocks.

To enhance collaborative FbF systems and joint action at scale in the region, WFP engaged with partners working on anticipatory action. This included the OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund pilot on drought anticipatory action pilots in Ethiopia and Somalia. The aim of the Horn of Africa Partnership (IGAD, Government of Sweden, UNDRR, and WFP) is to develop regional flood risk profiles that can be linked to ongoing country-level flood anticipatory action initiatives such as in Burundi. In addition, the partnership explores research initiatives such as the Co-production of Climate Services for East Africa (CONFER) project to shape science development in the region, mapping the need for anticipatory action. This provides an opportunity for testing rapid-onset and slow-onset anticipatory action Standard Operating Procedures, once established, through pre-positioned contingency funding within WFP (currently supported by DANIDA) and risk financing by other actors.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Strengthening National Social protection Systems beyond COVID-19

WFP in the region is increasingly prioritising its work in support of national social protection systems, in recognition of their potential to deliver SDG 2 results at scale, and as a practical means of delivering across the humanitarian and development nexus. There is also increasing recognition of the importance of strong social protection systems to develop more resilient societies. WFP's work in support of social protection systems throughout 2020 is a strong example of the ways in which work to strengthen and support national social protection systems can be pushed forward not just in contexts of stability, but through contextual complexities and in times of shock in conjunction with emergency support.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 drew a spotlight on social protection, and the significant gaps in coverage and support for many people across East Africa. This spotlight saw renewed interest and support to strengthening social protection systems, and the importance of their role in shock response. It also provided a case of significant learning for WFP and our national government partners. Among these lessons is the importance of, and challenge for WFP not only to support national governments in the scale up and expansion of social protection, but ensuring that existing programmes and support is maintained and sustained, even through large-scale shocks. Sustaining and adapting support are both critical to the continued effectiveness of social protection in the challenging and changed circumstances of a pandemic or other large-scale covariate shock⁵.

Over the course of 2020, in response to the unique circumstances and demands of COVID-19, WFP strengthened its engagement with and support to national governments across the region, as well as development partners and other UN agencies. This led to strengthening, expanding, or adapting existing national

systems and programmes; the introduction of new safety nets, particularly for vulnerable populations in urban areas; enhanced support to governments in targeting and monitoring; and enhanced capacity for national institutions to design and implement effective national social protection systems that respond to existing and emerging shocks.

WFP also focused on expanding the knowledge and evidence base for social protection in the region by launching the social protection Learning Facility, a partnership between WFP, the University of Wolverhampton, and IDS. The Learning Facility provided WFP teams with on-demand access to world-renowned social protection experts, enabling teams to pivot and adapt with the support of this expertise quickly and through evidence-based decision making. This partnership with academia combined real-time evaluation of WFP's activities with technical assistance to WFP staff who were navigating difficult trade-offs as they sought to support governments to flex social protection in the region. It also ensured that the lessons learned through this experience were captured and could be shared externally.

Social protection achievements in 2020

Strengthening National Systems

In Kenya, WFP coordinated UN support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to strengthen the social protection sector and expand transfers in response to COVID-19. In addition, due to the surge in demand for utilization of the existing social protection system by non-state actors, WFP accelerated the enhancement of the Single Registry to enable humanitarian actors to link their support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

In Uganda, WFP positioned itself as a strategic supporter to the Government within the refugee response operation and a key enabler for social protection programming. Specifically, WFP refined the Child-Sensitive Social Protection Programme to deliver a detailed multi-year work plan on social protection system strengthening. In West Nile refugee district, WFP provided cash assistance to vulnerable households. WFP also launched a multi-year project in Karamoja to enhance the Government's capacity to reduce, anticipate and rapidly respond to effects of shocks and sustain climate-resilient development.

WFP Uganda also provided support to improve the Government's beneficiary information and assistance management (BIAM) systems, making considerable progress in integrating the Karamoja Social Registry (KSR) with the National Single Registry (NSR) to allow for exchange of individual intervention data.

In Somalia, WFP and partners supported the national social protection agenda through providing technical advice and operational support. Specifically, WFP Somalia operationally supported the national rural Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP) in 21 districts across Somalia targeting 1.2 million people. In addition, WFP in collaboration with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) implemented a Shock Responsive Safety Net for Locust Response Project (SNLRP) to deliver emergency cash transfers to 100,000 households (or 600,000 individuals) affected by locusts, providing a vertical and horizontal expansion of the national safety net project, SNHCP as shock response.

In Djibouti, WFP provided technical advice to support Ministère des Affaires Sociales et des Solidarités (MASS) to develop and implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework's pillar. The support targeted long-term resident refugees in Djibouti eligible for inclusion in national safety nets.

In Burundi, WFP, together with World Bank and UNICEF, supported the Burundian Ministry of Solidarity to identify and target vulnerable populations, including expanding a social registry.

Scale up of social protection systems in Urban areas

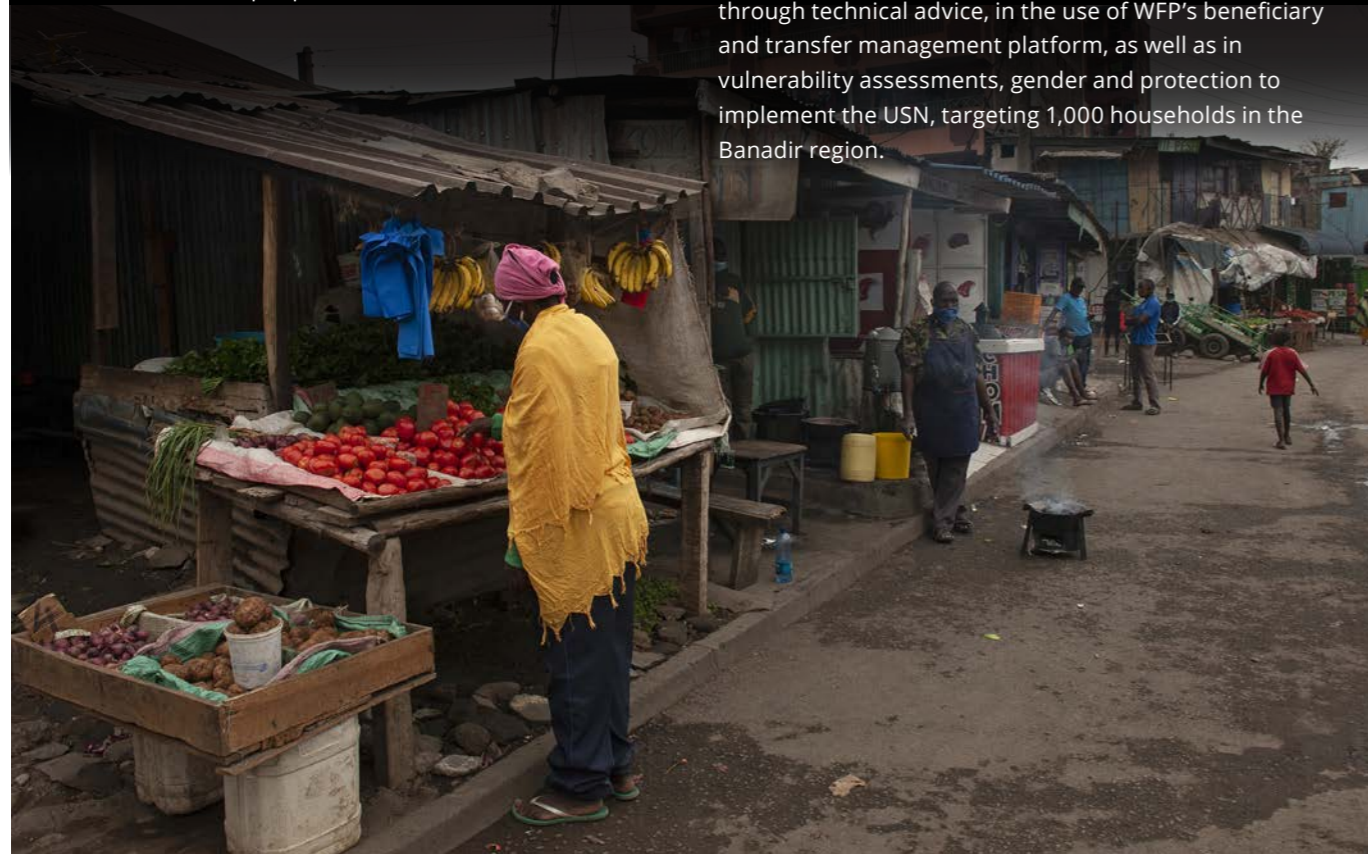
In Kenya, WFP implemented an urban response intervention in Nairobi and Mombasa working in collaboration with the national and sub-national Governments and respective line ministries. The response targeted 282,000 people and 96,000 people respectively in informal settlements in Nairobi and Mombasa with cash-based transfers (CBT). The programme was designed to primarily reach households that did not currently receive long-term social protection benefits (horizontal expansion of safety nets) beyond existing beneficiaries but targeted by the Government and with verification against the Single Registry. WFP also supported the Ministry of Education to provide alternative take-home rations to school children.

In Ethiopia, WFP jointly with the Federal Urban Job Creation, supported the Government in undertaking a vertical expansion of the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP) to reach the most vulnerable in 11 cities in Ethiopia. WFP also provided food assistance to 220,000 COVID-19-related returning migrants at points of entry and mandatory quarantine centres and COVID-19 infected people in treatment centres.

In Djibouti, WFP supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS) to roll out their national social protection system - Programme National Solidarité Famille (PNSF) that benefitted 3,990 households through monthly cash-based transfer (CBT). WFP provided restricted-use vouchers to 6,000 urban households and food to 2,595 rural households affected by the COVID-19 related crisis.

In South Sudan, WFP extended the duration of support to 77,600 people under the Urban Safety Nets Project in Juba and shifted the distribution modality from cash to in-kind food, due to increase in food or limited food availability in markets due to COVID-19. WFP also provided one-month of in-kind food assistance to 36,700 vulnerable urban residents who had been registered in SCOPE- a beneficiary management system.

In Somalia, WFP provided operational support for the urban safety net (USN) in Mogadishu, reaching 125,000 people with predictable quarterly CBTs to cushion them against shocks. In addition, the institutional capacity of the Banadir Regional Administration was strengthened through technical advice, in the use of WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform, as well as in vulnerability assessments, gender and protection to implement the USN, targeting 1,000 households in the Banadir region.



Nutrition Sensitive Social protection

WFP rolled out integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programme in **Nairobi** informal settlements. This targeted moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women/girls (PLW/Gs), elderly persons and people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV). A total of 11,574 people, including 1,845 PLW/Gs, and 1,216 elderly beneficiaries, were admitted to acute malnutrition treatment programmes, with 77 percent children and 82 percent PLW/Gs fully recovering from malnutrition.

In Uganda, WFP collaborated with Uganda government and implemented a vertical expansion and shadow alignment of WFP Maternal Child Health and Nutrition programme, and two government social protection programmes. Under this hybrid model, WFP provided a top-up transfer to over 56,000 pregnant and lactating mothers and children under two years - both in refugee camps and hosting communities.

Given the increased vulnerabilities for people living with HIV (PLHIV), WFP provided food assistance to over 95,000 vulnerable households in, Djibouti Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and South Sudan.



PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS



Introduction

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is not about what we do as WFP but rather how we do it – how we work to ensure that we assist people in a way that not only avoids exposing them to additional risks, but also strives to actively improve safety and dignity, enhance social cohesion, and be accountable to the individuals we serve as rights holders, taking their preferences and concerns into account in programme design and delivery.

Safe and Dignified Distributions

All countries in the region reported very high levels of satisfaction in terms of safety and dignity experienced while accessing food assistance, between 85-100 percent of those consulted from outcome monitoring responded positively in every operation. Particular attention was paid to distance from distribution sites, unhindered access, and prioritisation of people with specific needs. In Burundi, beneficiaries live between 1-2km from the distribution sites, 100 percent of people consulted reported that they felt they were treated in a dignified manner, and community leaders were involved in allocating support for those with special needs to ensure inclusion in assistance. 94 percent of respondents to post-distribution monitoring conducted in **Ethiopia** reported waiting less than three hours to receive their entitlement once the distribution started, and the elderly, people with physical disabilities and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) were given priority in queuing. The positive results from corporate indicators on safe and dignified access were corroborated in **Somalia** by a perception survey conducted independently by Ground Truth Solutions, indicating that communities felt generally safe when receiving assistance.

85-100%

of those consulted from outcome monitoring responded positively in every operation



In **Burundi**, beneficiaries live between **1-2km from the distribution sites**, 100% of people consulted reported that they felt they were treated in a **dignified manner**



Protection Risk Assessments

To respond to protection risks arising within the scope of our operations, WFP needs to consult with communities and other relevant stakeholders including protection actors to identify and understand the most prevalent concerns. Protection risk assessments enable WFP to prioritise actions required to ensure the delivery of assistance does no unintended harm to those we assist. In Uganda protection risk assessments were conducted to inform the design of social protection and cash-based transfer (CBT) digital migration activities. WFP **South Sudan** continued to focus on sourcing, documenting and analysing protection, gender and conflict sensitive data,

and operationalizing this knowledge to inform evidence based and protection-sensitive programming. Specific guidance and a comprehensive protection risk register was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this continues to be utilised by cooperating partner staff, protection agencies and coordination structures. Safety audits were conducted through collaboration with the Gender-based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster and the Nutrition Cluster, with a particular focus on safety for women and girls in the scope of nutrition service delivery, and the results used to identify and implement necessary mitigation measures.

Addressing Protection Concerns

Once issues are identified, WFP and partners address them through: implementing mitigating measures and programme adjustments; referral to external partners for concerns outside the scope of the mandate; or addressing staff, partner or service provider conduct related issues through appropriate sensitisation and necessary measures. Safe referrals were improved in **Rwanda** through updating of the community feedback mechanism (CFM) materials and feedback forms, to facilitate increased use of relevant referral pathways. CFM field monitors were trained on how to safely refer issues

including GBV, child protection and other protection-related incidents. All staff in WFP **Kenya** were sensitised on domestic violence, including on prevention, response, and referrals, in response to the increasing rates reported by helplines and safe shelters throughout the country. Actors closest to affected populations including community gatekeepers and security services were briefed on relevant codes of conduct and contractual obligations. Community leaders were informed of available services and referral pathways and encouraged to cascade information to their communities.

Meaningful Access and Disability Inclusion

The principle of meaningful access requires that access to assistance is ensured in proportion to need and without any barriers, including those relating to discrimination and people living with disability (PWD). WFP strengthened focus on disability inclusion across the region in 2020, with Somalia and South Sudan engaging with Humanity Inclusion and other specialised organisations and networks to provide training for staff and to improve inclusive approaches across all activity areas. Selected retailers in **Djibouti** were requested to grant priority access to people with special needs, including those with disabilities, during SCOPE card transactions. WFP **Somalia** collected sex and disability disaggregated data using the Washington Group Short Set Questions. Fifteen regional hubs in **Somalia** developed plans to ensure minority community members and people with specific needs have access to the

information and assistance they require.

A disability inclusion action plan was developed in **Kenya** outlining key priorities to structurally address inclusion issues. In partnership with the National Union of People with Disabilities in Uganda (NUDIPU), WFP **Uganda** provided training to 636 members of the Food and Cash Management Committees on disability and inclusion, focused on how to factor relevant concepts into their day-to-day work and how to advocate for the rights of PWD. WFP **South Sudan** finalised guidelines adapting relevant aspects of WFP's corporate disability inclusion roadmap and undertook a gaps and opportunities analysis on WFP's Community Based Participatory Planning process to generate concrete recommendations on how to strengthen disability inclusion.

Coordination and Collaboration on Protection and AAP

WFP continued to collaborate with partners towards stronger collective outcomes related to protection and AAP. WFP participated in the update of **Somalia** Humanitarian Country Team's (HCT) Centrality of Protection Strategy 2020/2021. WFP engaged with Minority Rights Group International to incorporate a representative of minority rights groups in the Food Security Cluster monthly meetings, to ensure that minorities accessed humanitarian information and assistance. WFP joined the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce whose outputs informed AAP programming in the overall COVID-19 response and helped the development and dissemination of Community Engagement Guidelines on COVID-19. WFP **Somalia** provided training on GBV to cooperating partner staff in partnership with the Food Security Cluster and the GBV

Sub-Cluster, and updated GBV referral pathways for rural locations in collaboration with UNICEF and the GBV Sub-Cluster.

Collaboration with relevant actors in Somalia included the establishment of a Community Engagement and Accountability Working Group, which led to the establishment of an Inter-Agency Information Management system, designed to receive collective beneficiary feedback and facilitate strategic decision-making by the HCT. Similar engagement occurred in Ethiopia where WFP co-chaired the Inter-Agency Accountability Working Group and an Inter-Agency Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network, which produced a strategy for a Community-Based Complaints Mechanism and ensured that adequate support was given to survivors of violence.

Information Provision and Community Engagement

To ensure accountability in **Ethiopia**, WFP provided information on entitlements and rights to beneficiaries across all activities. This reduced the potential for confusion, tension, and diversion. Key messages were provided on the objective and nature of the assistance, the right to receive entitlements free from fees, to be treated with respect, and on how to lodge a complaint should any of the conditions be breached. Beneficiary consultations were conducted involving a diverse range of individuals from the community, to understand existing knowledge about the activities, preferences, and levels of access to the CFM. WFP **Djibouti** held consultations with a range of local partners and a broad sample of community members to ensure that perspectives and preferences were taken into account in the design, targeting and implementation of WFP programmes. These included consideration of appropriate locations and transfer modalities, and ensuring activities were inclusive and safe. WFP continued to upgrade distribution sites following continuous consultative dialogue with local communities and stakeholders.

The global COVID-19 pandemic presented a huge challenge in communicating and engaging with beneficiaries due to movement restrictions, geographic lockdowns and restrictions on public gatherings. Remote means of communication were thus employed in most countries to improve awareness of the programmes. WFP **Kenya** engaged radio stations across all areas of operations to communicate changes to food distribution processes due to COVID-19, entitlements, dates of disbursements, avenues of providing feedback and programme duration. Bulk SMS were sent to participants of the urban response programme, CBT beneficiaries and smallholder farmers. Animations, infographics and short videos were developed focusing on nutrition, cash redemption processes, COVID-19 prevention and protection. The content was disseminated using TV screens mounted at food distribution points and several social media platforms within refugee camps and settlements.



Community Feedback Mechanisms

Encouraging crisis affected populations to provide feedback and complaints is a key pillar of accountability for WFP. In **Burundi**, monthly reports on CFM were produced to provide a snapshot of the number and nature of feedback received and of the profile of people providing feedback. This allowed WFP to identify patterns of issues and communication preferences to be noted and addressed by management. One adjustment made was the introduction of new weighing scales at distribution sites for increased transparency. WFP **Djibouti** selected an external partner, the NGO Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes, to receive, coordinate, register and manage community feedback in the settlements. The NGO's strong links with local groups of women particularly guided WFP's choice to partner with them. Feedback received influenced a number of programme adjustments, including extensive consultations around the potential for e-vouchers to increase perceptions of dignified assistance, with the proportion of those surveyed considering their dignity was upheld rising from 47% to 96%. Retailer agreements were also amended to address unavailability of certain products and access challenges.

Food distribution committees in **Ethiopia**, composed of elders, religious leaders, women representatives, and village officials, played a crucial role in announcing food distribution dates to beneficiaries and facilitating crowd control at distribution points, where CFM awareness was raised through community outreach members. CFM operators provided support in Amharic, Oromia and Somali languages, broadening access. Information on the CFM was further provided through sensitization campaigns and the use of posters, stickers, beneficiary cards, food cartons and t-shirts worn by staff and committee members during community-based discussion sessions. In all cases, CFM operators called back the complainants and provided feedback and results to 'close the loop', and ensured the relevant WFP sub-office was notified of any relevant issues raised to improve programming.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WFP's Environmental Commitment

WFP is a lead proponent and growing practitioner of environmental sustainability across its programmatic activities and support operations. WFP's approach stems from the recognition that we cannot end hunger without a healthy natural environment and use of sustainable natural resources.

WFP's **Environmental Policy**, adopted in 2017, commits WFP to systematically identify, avoid and manage risks to the environment from our programmes and operations. **The policy is comprised of three main implementation tools, which together form WFP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework.**

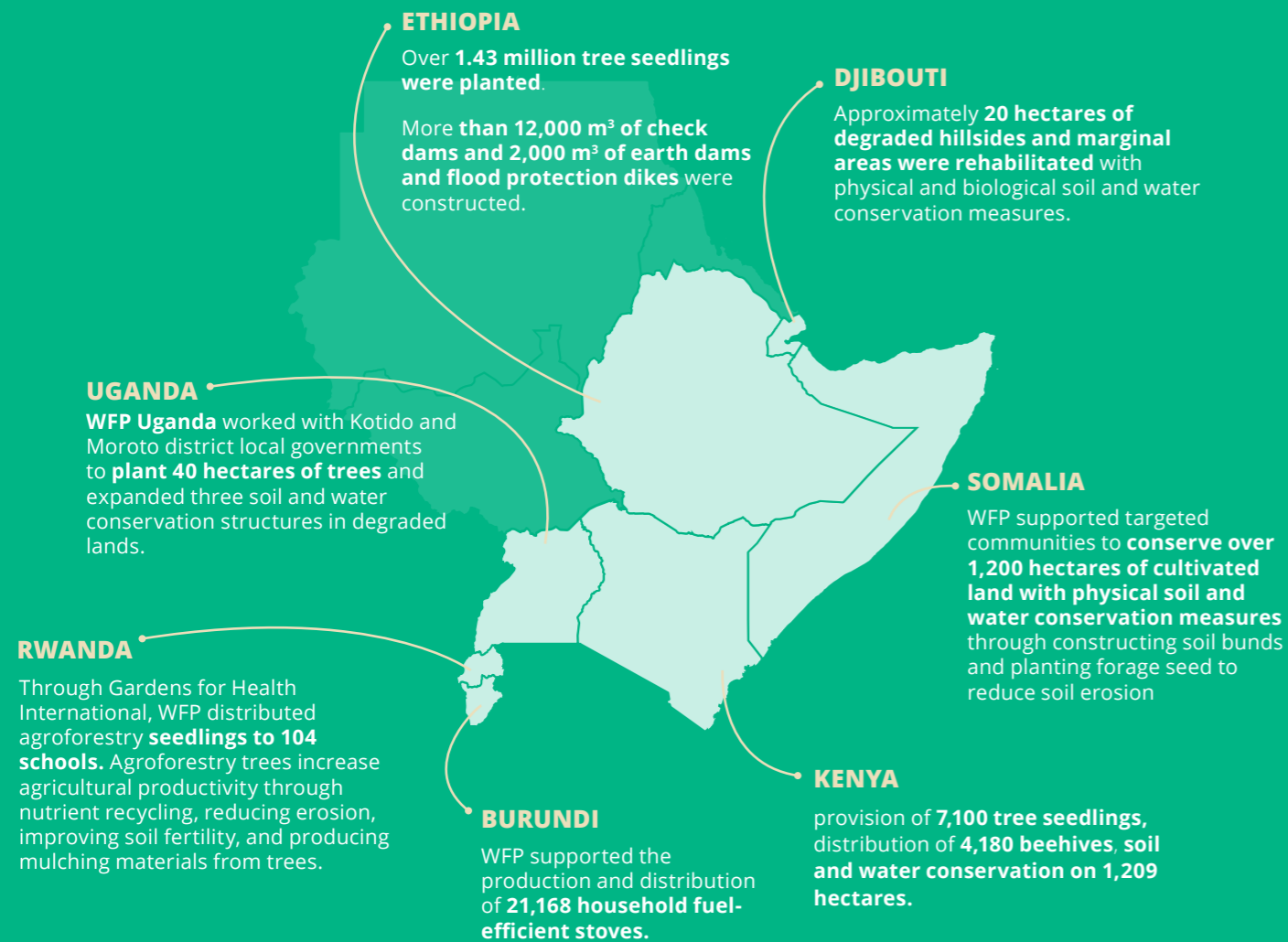
WFP's vision is that our life-saving work today contributes to a more environmentally sustainable tomorrow, as envisaged by the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP is committed to reducing negative environmental impacts and increasing the sustainability of our programmes - through awareness, local partnerships, inter-agency collaboration and innovation.



WFP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework:

- A set of core environmental (and social) standards;
- A process for screening and categorizing environmental risk (for programme and construction activities);
- An environmental management system (EMS), (for support operations – supply chain, facilities, admin, IT, travel).

Sustainable land management practices and technologies that increase productivity and income, build resilience of beneficiaries, and reduce disaster risks



130 institutional fuel-efficient stoves in WFP-supported schools



BURUNDI

WFP introduced fuel-efficient stoves in 23 schools



DJIBOUTI

WFP's Safe Access to Fuel and Energy programme



RWANDA



UGANDA

WFP constructed **96 fuel-efficient stoves** in 24 schools

18 institutional stoves were constructed

2020 Key Achievements

Environmental Management System (EMS) implementation

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a management tool used to identify, manage and reduce an organization's impact on the environment in a systematic and consistent way. WFP's EMS focuses on energy management; waste management; water/wastewater management; sustainable procurement; staff awareness and training. WFP Regional Bureau Nairobi commenced implementation of EMS implementation in RBN commenced in 2017 in Kenya, with support from the Swedish Government. As of 2020, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Rwanda have adopted an EMS, and further scale-up in the region is planned. Under their EMS, these countries are implementing environmental improvement projects focusing on energy management, waste management, water/wastewater management, sustainable procurement, staff awareness, and training.

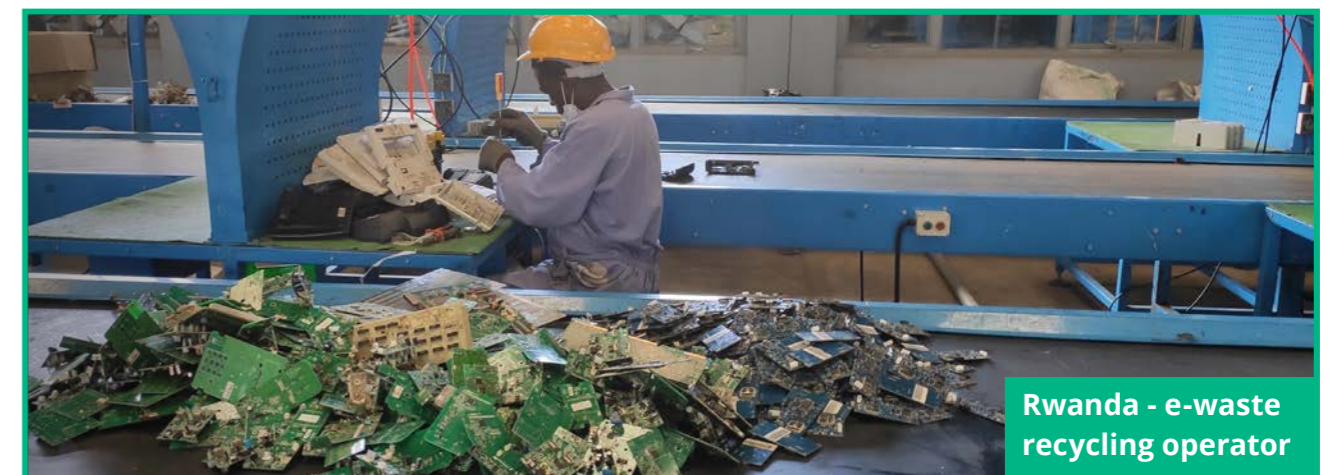
In Kenya, as part of **WFP's Energy Efficiency Programme**, a 14 kilowatts peak (kWp) solar system with 37 kilowatt hour (kWh) of storage was installed within the Kakuma refugee camp to provide clean power for general food distributions and for the WFP's residents security lighting. The project not only reduces energy consumption, but also greenhouse gas emissions of WFP Kenya operations.

To improve waste management in distributions, WFP Kenya recycled 14 metric tons (mt) of surplus Polypropylene (PP) bags and turned them into new unbranded bags, composed of 50 percent recycled material, for use in the local market. To date, a total of 146 mt, equivalent to 1,070,000 bags, have been recycled under this scheme. This partnership with a local company has successfully demonstrated that recycling surplus Polypropylene bags is technically viable and can reduce negative environmental impacts while also producing economic benefits.

WFP Ethiopia established agreements with recycling companies to manage packaging and supply chain waste in a more sustainable way. Leveraging its logistics network and expertise, **WFP recycled 9,000 broken pallets and over 100 mt of paper and cardboard**. The broken pallets are shredded, mixed with virgin plastic and transformed into injection-molded beverage crates. WFP also trained fleet managers on vehicle maintenance and performance efficiency and conducted truck driver training on fuel-saving driving practices.

WFP Somalia is leading the way on safe recycling & disposal of WFP electric and electronic waste (e-waste). The country office conducted a scoping study to identify potential recycling partners, issued a tender, and the resulting long-term agreement(s) will facilitate environmentally and socially responsible recycling and disposal of obsolete electronic and electric equipment accumulated in both Somalia and Kenya. If successful, the system will be expanded to other WFP operations in the region and globally.

COVID-19 response The regional environmental team, in cooperation with WFP's Wellness team and with advice from UN sector experts, developed global guidance on waste management of used personal protective equipment (PPE) including tailored support to individual countries on waste management. Two small scale incinerators were installed in Kenya (Kakuma and Dadaab) to safely dispose of COVID-19 PPE. Additionally, in Uganda, WFP installed incinerators for the Ministry of Health in five locations, to support Government hospitals manage medical waste during COVID-19.



Rwanda - e-waste recycling operator



Ethiopia - Pallet Recycling Project



Kenya - Covid Incinerator

Environmental and Social Safeguards and Risk Screening in Programmes

Capacity building is an essential part of the Environmental Policy field roll-out. In 2020, seven WFP country offices received training on the application of and compliance with the WFP Environmental and Social Safeguards (including risk screening) for Programme activities. Country offices were also supported in complying with national environmental laws and regulations and donors' environmental and social requirements. Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan integrated WFP and/or donor safeguards in their Country Strategic Plans (CSP).

WFP South Sudan focused on building resilience, enhancing livelihoods of smallholder farmers to seasonal climate shocks through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA). This helped restore access to food through the rehabilitation of degraded lands, feeder roads and market infrastructure. Prior to undertaking any asset creation activities, WFP and its partners undertook environmental screening to identify any potential environmental risks of the asset creation activities. Where risks were identified, mitigation measures were put in place to ensure that the assets created did not have unintended negative consequences on the ecosystem. For example, where land was cleared for cultivation, communities maintained a certain number of trees – particularly old trees – to reduce deforestation. In these locations, households were given tree seedlings for replanting and afforestation.

In Ethiopia risk reduction measures were implemented as part of the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) where Insurance for Work (IfW) contributed to reducing the impact of drought on communities. Through physical soil and water conservation structures, the R4 initiative contributed to food and nutrition security. The reduced erosion of fertile farmland soils, improved soil moisture, and groundwater recharge all provided positive changes to the environment.

WFP Uganda supports sustainable livelihoods strategies that can promote food security while protecting the environment. In Isingiro, WFP worked with the district local government to create stone bunds to protect the water catchment for household use and animal production and has planted two acres of trees to protect and restore the Rwizi river. In the same district, WFP collaborated with FAO to protect two valley tanks and excavate household underground tanks to ensure communities and animals had access to water.

RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING



WFP Food security analysis informing programming and targeting in COVID-19 response

The year 2020 was an exceptional one following the outbreak of COVID-19 globally raising the need for information on emerging food security issues relating to COVID-19. WFP's expertise in food security analysis, wide and deep field presence, and extensive partnership with regional bodies, governments and communities enabled WFP to provide prompt and reliable food security information. The regional office released the first WFP report on the Economic and Food Security Implications in East Africa in the first quarter of 2020,⁶ and further released topical issues on COVID-19 impacts on different areas: i) livelihoods, food security and nutrition; ii) supply chain, regional trade, markets, and food security; iv) livelihoods, food security and nutrition with a focus on urban areas in collaboration with UN Habitat⁷.

Given the constraints and challenging conditions brought about by travel restrictions imposed by governments across the region to curb the spread of the COVID-19, WFP strengthened and scaled up its remote monitoring approaches and analysis through the use of Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) in Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan.

Working in partnership with Geo poll, hunger monitoring surveys as well as other specific food security monitoring surveys using mVAM were conducted in these countries. The generated mVAM data further contributed IPC analysis thereby ensuring the continuity of food security information in the region. In Ethiopia, a large-scale phone based household survey was conducted by setting up an in-country call center, which formed the basis for the IPC analysis for the country. Because of the impacts of COVID-19 among urban populations, the IPC analysis was also extended to urban areas in Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti. The rollout/strengthening of mVAM also allowed for programme monitoring with adjustment of the tools as considered appropriate.

WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring team in regional bureau also provided important guidance to the UNHCR-WFP joint targeting hub's technical guidance to prioritization of assistance to refugees in Rwanda, which has been later expanded to Uganda.

The dire need of evidence-based information led to strengthening of partnerships with other UN Agencies such as UN-Habitat leading to a publication on the Impacts of COVID-19 on urban livelihoods and food security⁸ in East Africa and the work is underway for similar analysis covering the sub-Saharan Africa. An MoU between UNHabitat and WFP was signed in October 2020.

By the end of 2020, WFP Eastern Africa further forged a partnership with international Organization for Migration (IOM) to for a joint analysis on the implications of COVID-19 on hunger, migration and displacement that was completed and released in June 2021. In addition, WFP's collaboration with UNDRR and IGAD led to the Horn of Africa partnership announced at a high-level meeting in Stockholm in October 2020, under which work on developing regional flood risk profile is underway. Floods are a regular climate risk affecting parts of the region and contributing to food insecurity.

Working in collaboration with other stakeholders in the food security sector (FAO, Fews NET, UNHCR, UNICEF, IGAD, OCHA, EU, IFPRI, USAID and global Food Security and Nutrition clusters), WFP Eastern Africa contributed to the Global⁹ and the Regional¹⁰ food crisis reports released in June 2020. The regional food crisis report focused on Intergovernmental Authority on Development (*IGAD*) member countries of Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Eritrea and focused on analysing the food and nutrition security and driving factors.

WFP's Research Assessment and Monitoring and Supply Chain teams rolled out the market functionality index (MFI) in the region. The MFI is part of the new Business Process Model for cash-based transfers which supports the 'Market assessment and risk identification' and 'Market situation monitoring' processes of cash-based assistance operations. It is geared to help WFP make informed transfer modality decisions and detect changes in market functionality over time.

In addition, knowledge management was strengthened for effective management of information and knowledge within the region. Several information products were developed such as bi-monthly information products on markets and climate performance for early warning, knowledge sharing with other agencies and countries on emerging issues was enhanced through joint

Webinars and online trainings. WFP provided technical support to the monthly IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH) activities, and remote IPC food security analyses in the region. WFP also participated and contributed to early warning early action information generation through the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF).

Monitoring of Country Strategic Plans

Monitoring of Country Strategic plans (CSP) implementation is a critical priority for WFP. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, WFP has maintained its agility, innovativeness, enhanced accountability, and transparency in tracking and reporting progress for various WFP activities across the region. This was made possible by remote monitoring arrangements, and adjustments of methodologies and guidance. WFP used and optimised existing monitoring processes, to ensure there was credible, relevant, and prompt information and evidence to support decision making as well as other operational adjustments.

The regional office of Eastern Africa, working in close collaboration with the country offices, established and scaled up of various remote monitoring approaches to facilitate process and outcome monitoring of the Country strategic Plans in the face of COVID 19. A joint review of indicators was carried out to identify any potential monitoring gaps expected due to COVID-19 limitations. This Review reduced the foreseen monitoring gap on measuring outcome and cross-cutting results from 23 to 14 percent. Country offices were also supported to ensure the overall quality of the Country strategic Plans results chain in line with the regional evidence building agenda.

In 2020, country offices were supported to apply the introduced guidance materials, tools and systems contributing to a strengthened monitoring system through application of preventive measures and detective controls. WFP's vulnerability assessment and mapping, monitoring, review, and evaluation plans continued to be standardized to capture the timing and costing of evidence-generation activities for better management and oversight of resources. WFP has also put a system in place to monitor implementation of mid-term and evaluation recommendations. Despite of challenging environment, the dedicated efforts on training and strengthening monitoring capacities were continued with focus on qualitative research skills, to contribute to improved ability to collect, analyze and report on qualitative data to support sound decisions on operation design and implementation.

WFP's Risk Based Monitoring Framework was applied to address the needs for systematic and consistent risk management processes, including prioritization of the allocation of resources for monitoring across CSP activities and risk-based site selection for field monitoring visits and tracking coverage of monitoring visits.

Country office M&E teams (Rwanda, South Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya) contributed to UN INFO by capturing the results chain from activities, outputs to outcomes and strategic priorities. The best practices and lessons are being studied to enhance contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and boost closer alignment of agencies for joint monitoring, review, and evaluation of the UN development system's impact in a country in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The evidence building agenda continued to be strengthened through a series of bilateral data review, analysis, and feedback sessions to ensure the generated data meets the minimum quality threshold for reporting and accountability. In collaboration with programme teams, the various evidence building initiatives were supported including the Djibouti food security outcome monitoring, Eritrea and Somalia post-harvest loss management surveys and Ethiopia R4 Baseline surveys.

WFP also established partnerships that enhanced monitoring processes. A partnership with the Overseas Development Institute and the World Bank was established in Kenya to initiate studies on youth, cash and gender programming and explore opportunities for strengthened engagement in Kenya.

WFP-Government partnerships and collaboration contributed to strengthened National and subnational M&E capacities. For instance, in Kenya, WFP supported the ministry of Labour and social protection to conduct post transfer monitoring of the Inua Jamii programme- a government cash transfer programmes. Additionally, support was also provided in the COVID-19 urban response targeting process in Mombasa.



SUPPLY CHAIN

Delivering timely and safe assistance to people in need

With half of WFP Eastern Africa countries being landlocked - including some of WFP's biggest operations, optimal coordination and collaboration between supply chain teams to move food from five major ports through 22 regional corridors to reach recipient countries on time is key. Djibouti, Berbera, and Mombasa ports are 3rd, 4th and 15th respectively in terms of WFP discharge volume.

In 2020, 1,129,628 mt of food was received in the Eastern African region, of which 705,910 mt was through ports in the region (Djibouti, Berbera, Mombasa, Port Sudan and Dar Es Salaam) and the remainder through local and regional procurement (LRP). An additional, 312,452 mt was imported on behalf of the Governments of Sudan and Ethiopia as part of WFP Service Provision. A further 43,596 mt was received by WFP Eastern Africa countries via the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

WFP moved 1.67 million mt of food through the Eastern Africa corridors in 2020. (The corridors serve the wider Eastern Africa region including countries like Mozambique and Zimbabwe; hence the tonnage is higher than that for Eastern Africa region).

Food Procurement is a core function for WFP, enabling the organization to provide life-saving food assistance to more than 20 million people across Eastern Africa fairly, transparently and cost-effectively. Buying the right food at the right time, in the right place and at the lowest possible price is the first crucial step in WFP's fight against hunger - noting there is no food security without food safety.

WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) plays a key role in facilitating this mandate - allowing resources to be managed with minimal constraints.

GCMF uses an advance financing mechanism to procure and pre-positions food using corporate funding in anticipation of confirmed contributions. This approach enabled WFP to purchase food when market prices were favourable, reduce food delivery led times and ensure continuity of emergency response throughout the year. On average WFP achieved 24 days average lead-time under GCMF; reduced from 26 days, overall, against 120 days for conventional purchases. Purchase from local and regional markets has also contributed to supporting local economies. In 2020 WFP procured 279,000 mt of food locally and regionally for a value of USD 143 million, avoiding pipeline breaks and supporting WFP operations scale-up.

Logistics Achievements 2020

New Regional Corridor Management System

WFP piloted a new governance model in 2020, developed to provide better performance, governance and visibility on the volumes of commodities moving through the complex network of over 22 corridors in the region. In addition, the Commodity Management Risk Register was developed to improve the management of risks to WFP corridor operations. The Info-Base platform was implemented at the regional level as an online set of corridor reports for improved benchmarking and decision-making.

Regional Authorized Economic Operator Status

WFP was awarded regional Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status in 2020, granting WFP preferred status at customs entry points - notably ports and border crossings. AEOs have access to simplified customs declarations and transit, priority treatment of consignments, direct clearance, online Licensing and other fast-tracking benefits.

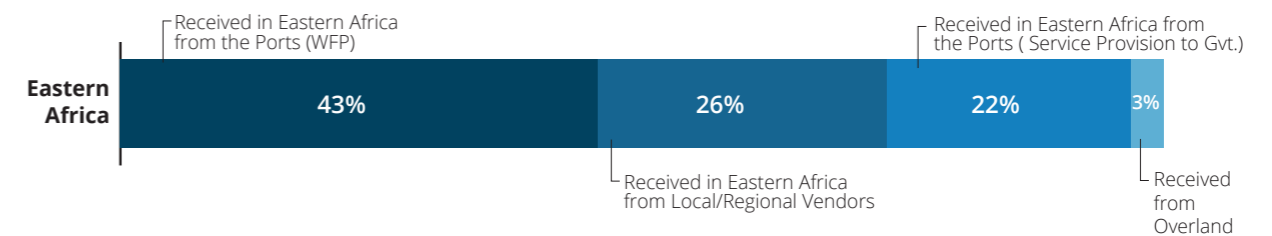
WFP is the first UN agency to receive this status, which is recognized by the World Customs Organization - potentially allowing for global rollout.

Bilateral Service Provision

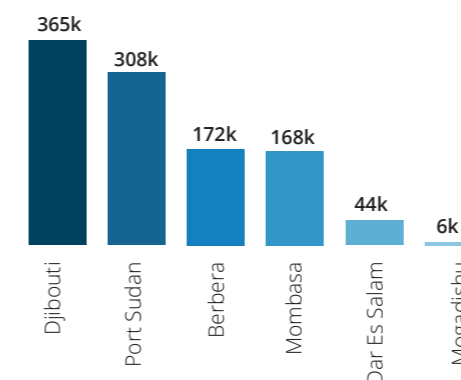
Through this model WFP uses its expertise in humanitarian logistics, extensive frontline field presence and market knowledge in complex operating environments to provide wide-ranging supply chain solutions to the wider humanitarian community. These include logistics planning, coordinating and facilitating the importation and movement of medical items, deep field storage and multimodal transport solutions. WFP Eastern Africa is the largest region in WFP for Bilateral Service Provision, in terms of both volume and value.

In 2020, WFP delivered services to the value of USD 140 million responding to 1,074 service requests from the region, with Ethiopia covering 52 percent of the business. Eighty-two percent of the services were procurement services (99 percent Food for Ethiopian and Sudanese Governments, 1 percent Non-Food Items). WFP Eastern Africa pioneered the digitalization of WFP's service provision to external partners in 2020.

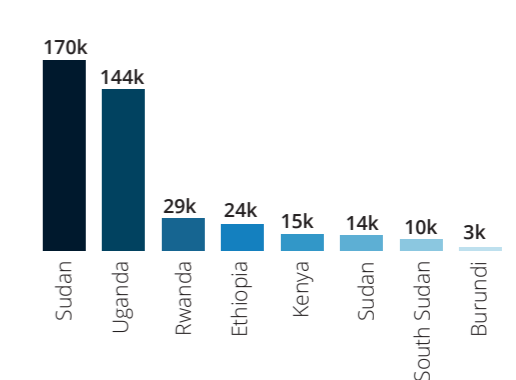
1,129,628 MT food received in Eastern Africa Overall in 2020
(+312,452MT received at the ports for the governments)



750,046 MT of WFP food received through the International Ports
(+312,454 MT for Gvt.)



380,122 MT received from Local Vendors
(incl. receipt from USIK prepo hub in Djibouti)



COVID-19 Response 2020

Ethiopia - Addis Hub

Officially inaugurated on 10 April 2020, Addis was the first Regional Air Hub for the Global COVID-19 Response, moving 11,000 passengers and 6,235 m3 of cargo to 55 countries for 300 organizations.

Working in close collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, the Air Hub received cargo from Guangzhou, China, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and Liege, Belgium, and dispatched to 53 countries across Africa on behalf of humanitarian agencies, including the World Health Organization, Médecins Sans Frontières, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Jack Ma Foundation, the Alibaba Foundation and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Addis Hub was the first regional hub to start operating during the response and moved

 **11,000 pax**

 **6,235mt**

 to **55** countries

South Sudan - Expanding River Operations

To improve delivery efficiency WFP Logistics in South Sudan maximised the use of rivers for cargo transport. Rivers became an even more vital mode of transport after COVID-19 began in South Sudan. In 2020, 54,000 mt were delivered by river, compared to 40,407 mt in 2019. For the first time since the onset of the South Sudan crisis, deliveries by river to Juaibor in the greater Fangak area (notoriously hard to reach) are now taking place.



Djibouti Humanitarian Logistics Base

WFP and the Government of Djibouti provided COVID-19 related storage and transport services for UN and NGO partners, including through the Humanitarian Logistics Base, which can store up to 65,000 mt of food and goods. The bulk storage at the Humanitarian Logistics Base are the only silos owned by WFP globally and played a key role in providing supplies during the year for the COVID-19 response. The Humanitarian Logistics Base provided 4000 sqm of additional contingency space at the Djibouti Free Zone.



Somalia E-shop Platform - Reducing Exposure

Leveraging Somalia's expansive and affordable mobile network, WFP Somalia accelerated plans to implement a mobile money transfer solution which was launched in 2019. With COVID-19 requiring some adaptations, the e-shop App allowed WFP to implement a contactless cash delivery through which 937,000 people received food assistance.

To reduce movement and physical contact, WFP scaled-up the e-Shop application, a mobile food ordering marketplace, and launched a home delivery service. Key achievements included: registered e-shop users increased by 200 percent compared to 2019, 830,000 CBT beneficiaries redeemed their cash via e-Shop and cumulative sales increased to USD 11 million, up from USD 360,000 in 2019. Available on Android, iOS and USSD, the platform is also linked to SCOPE, allowing live, automated data exchange while improving traceability, reinstating beneficiary empowerment, dignity and protection. This solution is now being scaled-up throughout Somalia through the largest retail network in the region, with over 1,145 retailers engaged.

WFP Uganda leads on COVID-19 Inter-Agency Procurement

WFP Uganda was selected to chair the Inter-agency COVID-19 Supply Chain Procurement coordination, in support of the Partner's Portal launched by WHO. WFP further supported the Ministry of Health, WHO and other UN agencies through the provision of 2,028 sqm of warehouse space at Nalukolongo in Kampala and six trucks to support partners requiring storage space and to meet the increased demands for the transportation of COVID-19-PPE and related materials.

WFP Kenya - Keeping Corridors Open

With significant volumes being delivered into the region through Kenya's port of Mombasa - it was essential to ensure the Southern Corridor remained open for vital humanitarian supplies. Despite the port and border challenges, Kenya handled 156,739 mt of food commodities to other countries in 2020.

For the first time since 2018, WFP Kenya successfully dispatched a humanitarian convoy directly into South Sudan over the remote Nadapal border in northern Kenya, delivering just as hunger began to peak. The re-opening of the route cut transit times by half, speeding up delivery of essential cargo despite border delays caused by Covid-19 travel restrictions.

WFP Rwanda - Delivery Despite Lockdown

The border closure by Kenya for Rwanda drivers, forced trans-shipment at borders, requirements for local Rwandan based drivers and escorts, and the arrest of WFP contracted transporters, all added huge operational challenges for WFP in 2020.

Despite these movement restrictions, WFP Rwanda's supply chain managed to adjust and successfully delivered critical nutrition products to WFP operations in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia. WFP Rwanda successfully managed to cater for the regional demand for Super Cereal plus.



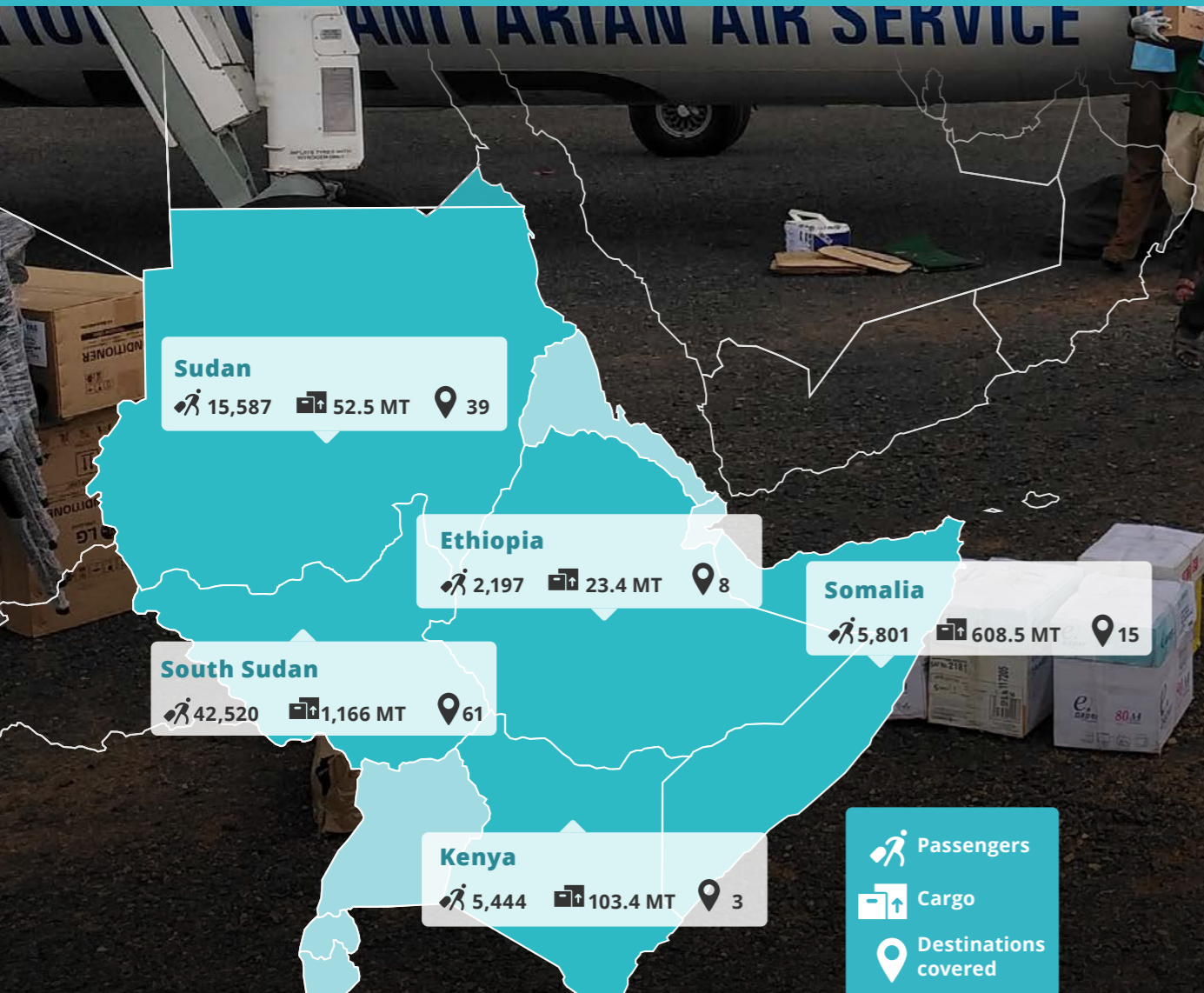


UNHAS Eastern Africa Operations 2020 figures



In 2020, UNHAS passenger traffic in the region registered a significant decrease compared to 2019, due to all the restrictions associated with the COVID-19-induced context. On the contrary, transported cargo increased compared to 2019, given the higher demand for transportation of COVID-19 relief items and the activation of related dispatches.

Regional totals and data disaggregated by country of UNHAS operation (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan)



Addis Ababa Hub, Ethiopia

In the context of the COVID-19 global response, Ethiopia has played a crucial role in logistic support services. In April 2020, the Government and WFP opened a new hub inside Addis Ababa Bole International Airport from which COVID-19 supplies, equipment and humanitarian workers have been transported by air across Ethiopia and Africa. The Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub was opened as part of a UN initiative to scale up procurement and distribution of protective equipment and medical supplies for the COVID-19 response. A team of 25 WFP aviation-UNHAS and logistics staff were based at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, managing a 24-hour operation, including the management of medical evacuations. The Addis Ababa Global Passenger Air Service hub has been one of the main hubs through the COVID-19 response, transporting over 10,000 passengers in the region.

Inter-Regional Support Operations:

Ethiopia-South Sudan

Despite the ongoing challenges due to insecurity, floods, heavy rains and road inaccessibility, in 2020 WFP Aviation also continued cross-border support to South Sudan, air-dropping more than 1,900 mt of cargo from the Ethiopian region of Gambella into South Sudan.

Ethiopia-Sudan

Throughout the COVID-19 response, UNHAS Sudan opened a vital air link connecting Khartoum with Addis Ababa, transporting over 500 passengers.

Ethiopia-Yemen

UNHAS operation in Yemen is currently being supported from Addis Ababa. Following the suspension of all flights to and from Yemen airports due to COVID-19 in March 2020, the operation base was shifted from Amman/Djibouti to Addis Ababa/Nairobi. One aircraft was repositioned to Addis Ababa in April 2020, followed by the other one in mid-May, enabling staff that had been long awaiting to return to Yemen due to COVID-19 restrictions.



PARTNERSHIP



WFP continued to enhance its collaboration and engagement with Governments, Donors, and private sector to strategically position WFP as an innovative leader in food security and nutrition in the region, including through the launch of the new Eastern Africa Innovations Hub.

WFP continues to diversify its donor base, while also advocating for increased, flexible and multiyear funding for sustainable development. The complex contextual challenges in the region continue to increase the needs in the region; annual needs have risen from USD 2.7 billion in 2019 to USD 3.7 billion in 2021. WFP is grateful for the support from donors, Government, and partners, and will continue to advocate for increased and timely funding in order to reach people targeted for humanitarian assistance.

WFP remains committed to its partnerships with traditional donors, while looking to augment its capacity by developing technical relationships with international financial institutions – particularly the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank. In 2020, WFP’s partnership with World Bank was strengthened with the two agencies supporting countries in the area of social protection. For the first time, World bank contributed USD 92 Million to the Federal Government of Somalia making World Bank the fourth

biggest Donor in the region. WFP worked with World Bank to support the National Social Protection Programme in Somalia.

The private sector remains critical to WFP, providing opportunities to support communities to address zero hunger in countries through strategic and sustainable activities. WFP continues to strengthen partnership with private sector including in the implementation of the new corporate Private Sector Fundraising Strategy in the Eastern Africa region. The strategy outlines cooperation with the private sector, foundations and individuals for the achievement of zero hunger. In addition, the strategy strives to promote local for local private sector partnerships. Funding from private sector increased by 110 percent in 2020, among the key private sector partners included Latter Day saints, Share the Meal, WFP Japan, Master Card and Norwegian Refugee council.

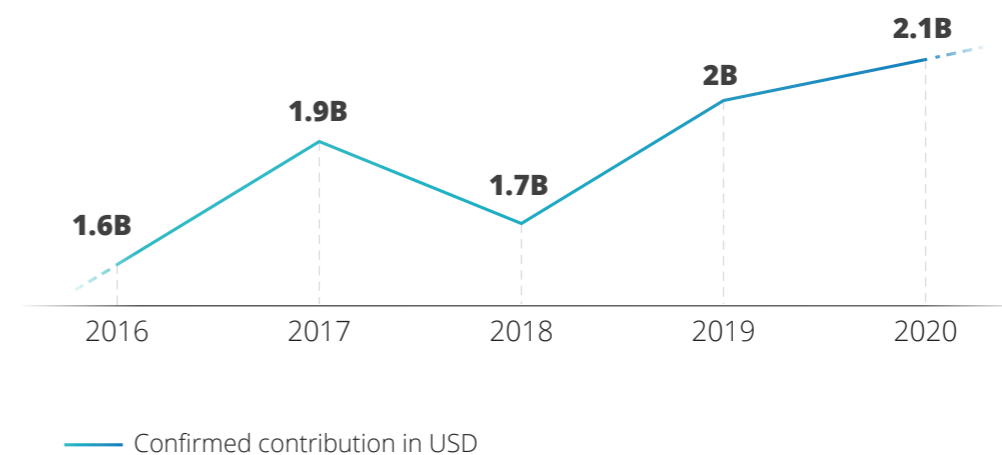
WFP launched the Eastern Africa Innovation Hub in 2020 to identify and provide innovative solutions to communities to address food security and nutrition challenges. WFP has recently signed an MoU with CARE Denmark, bringing the organisation into the East Africa Innovation Hub’s consortium of partners. This will provide the Hub with enhanced technical and operational capacity.

Funding Outlook

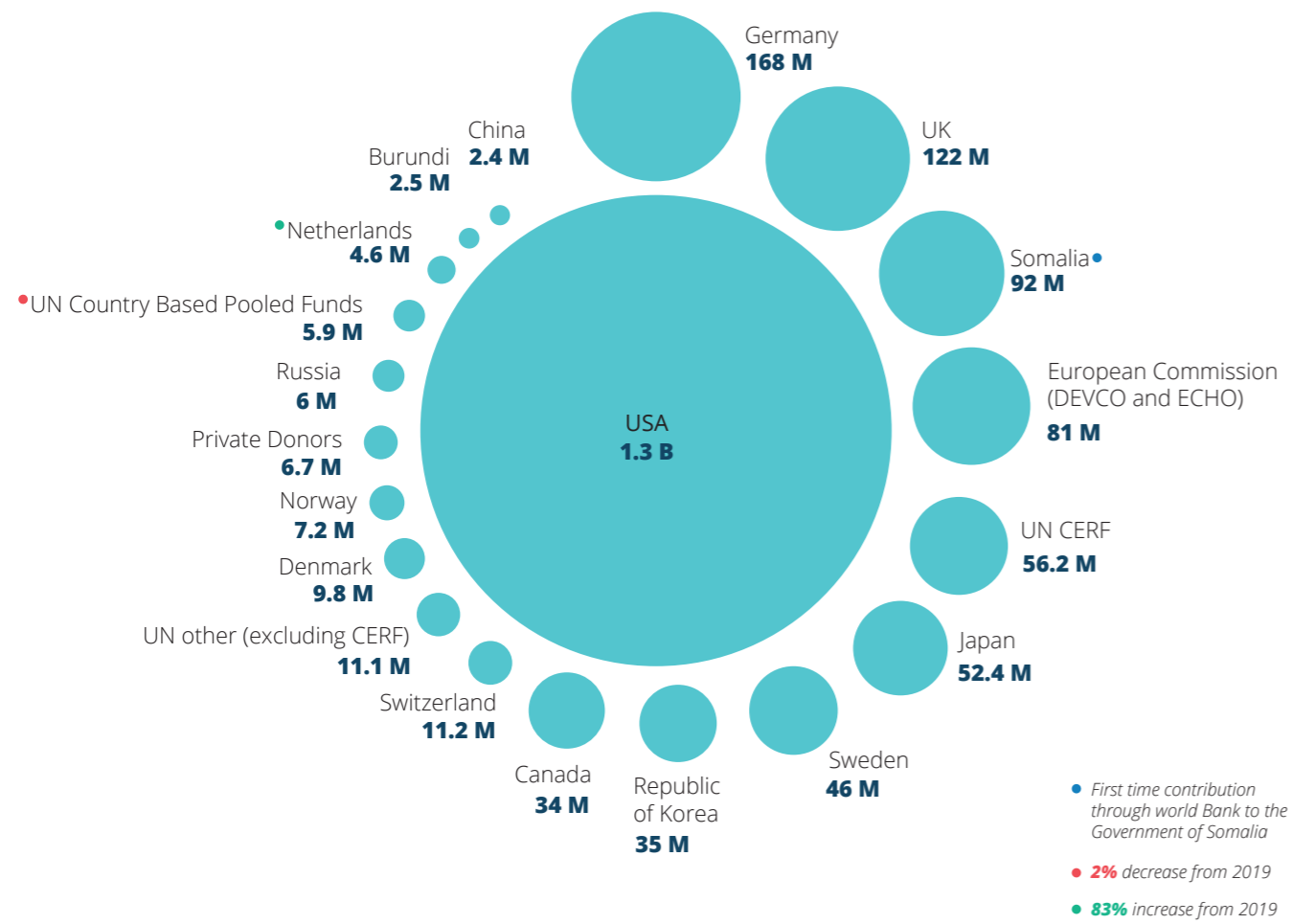
A total USD 2.1 billion was received an increase of 6 percent compared with 2019 resourcing outlook. The USA remained the biggest donor accounting for 63 percent of funding in the region. Efforts were made to diversify funding streams. Notable increase in funding from

some donors was noted including funding from IFIs and private sector that doubled in 2020. Multiyear funding increased slightly to 11 percent in 2020 while earmarking trend remained stable with 81 percent of contributions earmarked at activity level.

WFP Eastern Africa Tesourcing Trend

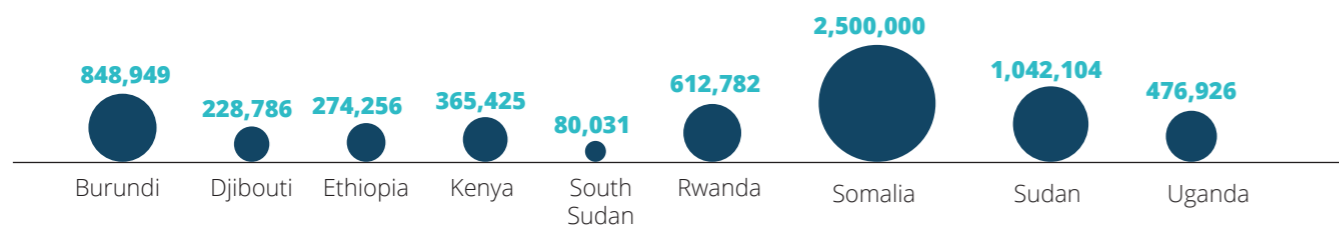


Top 20 Donors



Private Sector

Private sector funding to RBN in 2020 was US\$ 6.7 million representing 4% of all private sector funding globally. Private sector funding to RBN also increased by 110% in 2020.



HIGHLIGHT STORY

Creating jobs in the face of coronavirus

How the World Food Programme is creating opportunities for youth in South Sudan through agriculture

Story by **Musa Mahadi**

Like the rest of the world, South Sudan is in the clutches of coronavirus. Disruptions caused by the pandemic are threatening jobs in a country that already had an unemployment rate of 12 percent. Thousands of young people, the bulk of the country's population are worried about their future.

But the World Food Programme (WFP) is stepping up its programmes not only to provide food assistance to vulnerable people, but also to create employment opportunities for youth through agriculture.



Filemina Simon being assisted to weigh maize grain she brought for sell at Masia Rural Aggregation Centres(RACs) points in Yambio.

New beginnings

21-year-old Filemina Simon is not your average young woman. She has turned her life around, having once relied on WFP for food, she now sells food to them.

When Filemina divorced two years ago, she had three children to take care of, no house to live in and did not know what to do.

"My husband provided everything for the family," says Filemina. "When he kicked me out, I felt the world tumbling on me."

Divorced and now a single parent, with no one to support her, she had no choice but to take matters into her own hands. And, she has never looked back.

She went back to her parents' home on the outskirts of Yambio town, located 355 km west of the capital Juba, where she started farming.

"After farming for about a year, my home had enough food I could even give some to neighbors," Filemina narrates with a hearty smile. "I then discovered through agriculture I would get income that can help me do other things."



Filemina counting her cash from Kush bank agent at Masia Aggregation Centre.

Escaping the poverty trap

Filemina and some 200 other women in Yambio, are now making great strides out of poverty, thanks in part to an initiative run jointly by WFP, Star Trust Organisation and a local financial services provider, Kush Bank.

Known as the smallholder agriculture market support, the initiative supported by Canada and Germany, aims at supporting small scale farmers by connecting them to viable markets whilst strengthening their capacity on post-harvest management and marketing.

The initiative also involves training farmers on best farming practices as well as land utilization. It is part of WFP's efforts to build people's resilience and contribute towards sustainable peace.

As a result, the farmers are steering away from low-input low-output subsistence agriculture to low-input high-yield crops that allow them to feed their families as well as sell excess into the market.

Reaping big rewards

Farmers are not only trained to produce more, but WFP also provides a ready market for the produce.

Through Rural Aggregation Centres (RAC), marketing points established at the village level in close proximity to farmers, the small holder farmers can sell their surplus and get paid promptly through a voucher system by a financial service provider.

"I am very happy, I sold 15 bags of maize grain," says Filemina "I used the money to pay school fees for my children and repaired my two bicycles."

For the second season of harvesting, Filemina used the proceeds to construct a house and used what remained to enroll herself for a course in midwifery at a local university.

In 2019, WFP procured more than 8,000 metric tons of cereals from some 5,000 smallholder farmers like Filemina across the country. WFP is not only buying directly from smallholder farmers but it is also dealing with over 20 local food suppliers who source grain from small and medium sized farms, particularly in Western Equatoria and the Upper Nile regions of the country.

So far in 2020, WFP has procured more than 12,500 tons of grains from small holder farmers across the country and hopes to buy more, providing a much-needed incentive for South Sudanese farmers and creating much needed jobs.



Jackson Ganiko Mahmud 35 years old, arranging sacks of maize grains she delivered at Bakpara aggregation center.

Some of the grains produced by the farmers.



On the left farmers tie a banner at the aggregation centre, on the right farmers standing for a group photo at Bakpara aggregation centre in Western Equatoria State.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Scoping Study: Drivers of Crisis and WFP Interventions in Eastern Africa
- 2 For a specific and detailed account of WFP's HIV response with UNAIDS Strategic Results Area framework, see https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_PCB44_Agenda_Item7-1_PMR.pdf
- 3 As part of the 2016-21 UNAIDS Fast-Track strategy, UNAIDS has individuated the 30 countries that account for 89% of the global HIV burden as Fast Track countries. Fast Track countries are the cornerstones and the engine of the Fast-Track strategy; a bold call to action to fast-track the HIV response and to achieve the 90-90-90 targets, whereby 90% of all PLHIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90% of all people on ART will achieve viral suppression.
- 4 Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda
- 5 Beyond COVID-19: Lessons for social protection from WFP's work in East Africa in 2020
- 6 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000114016/download/>
- 7 The reports can be accessed at: https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/reports_explorer
- 8 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000118161/download/>
- 9 <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2020-global-report-food-crises>
- 10 <https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/regional-focus-igad-member-states-2020-global-report-food-crisis/>

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