



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Eastern Africa

## Environmental Management

Regional outlook and  
2020 Achievements

June 2021



## 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.**

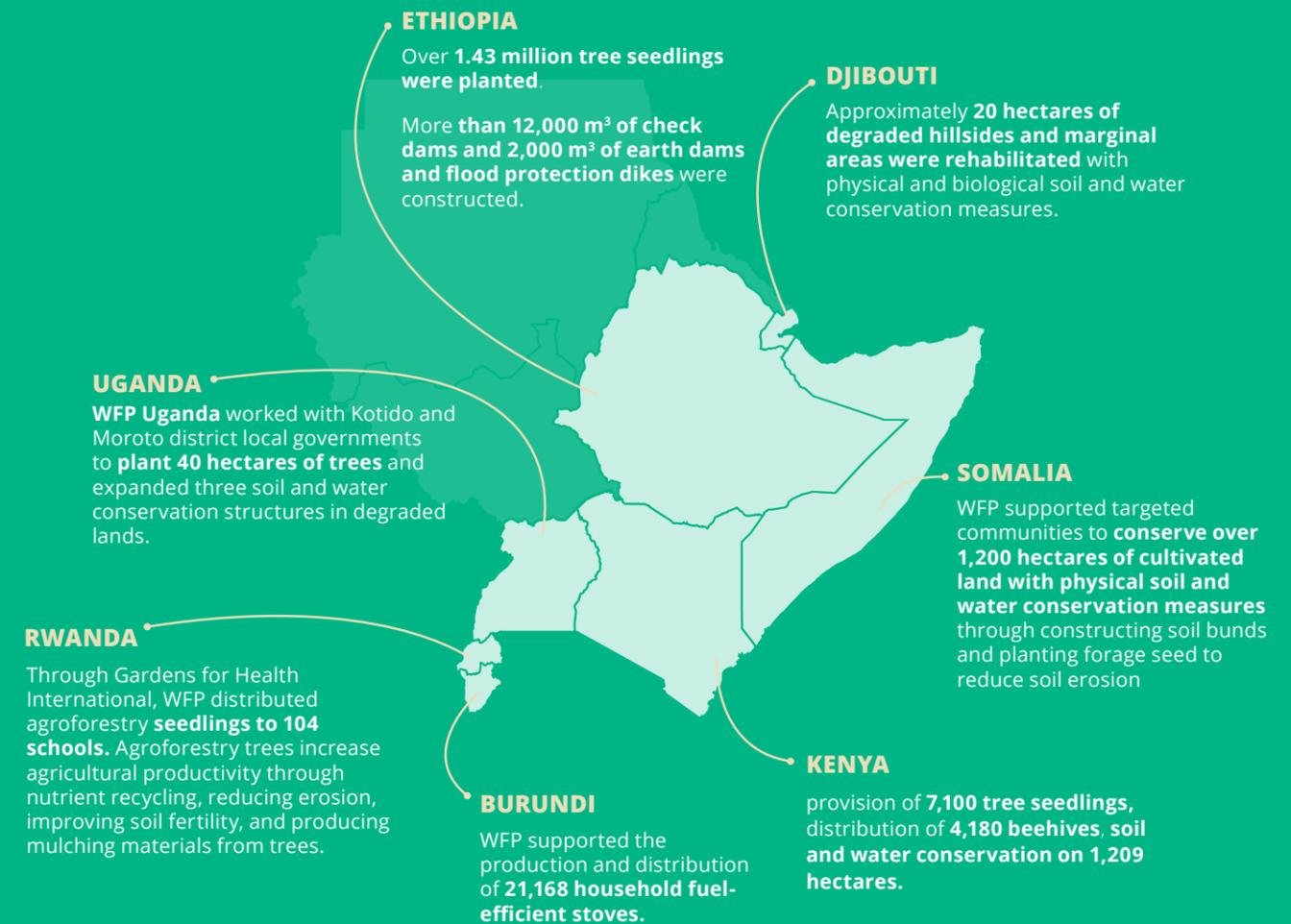
WFP's vision is that our life-saving work today contributes to a more environmentally sustainable tomorrow, as envisaged by the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP is committed to reducing negative environmental impacts and increasing the sustainability of our programmes - through awareness, local partnerships,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

WFP constructed 96 fuel-efficient stoves in 24 schools



RWANDA

18 institutional stoves were constructed



UGANDA

# 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.



Rwanda - e-waste recycling operator

**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.



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.

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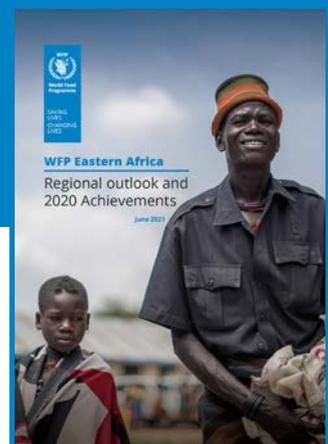
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