

WFP Eastern Africa

Food Systems

Regional outlook and 2020 Achievements

June 2021



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.

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.

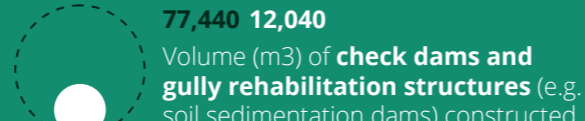
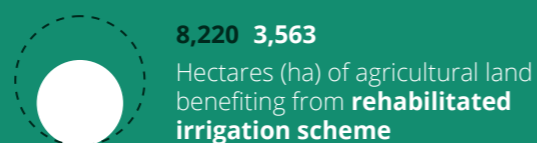
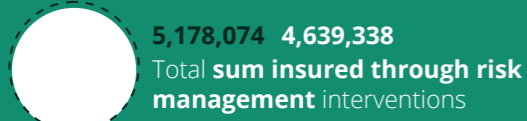
Centering the specific cooking needs of displaced people can alleviate possible tensions within host communities, for example, biomass resources such as firewood. When ignored, there is the potential for exposing people who collect fuel (majority women and children) to harassment and violence. Moreover, 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.



In Numbers

○ Planned ● Reached





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 shoat, 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.

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