



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EASTERN AFRICA

2021 Regional Achievements & Outlook



MAY 2022



WFP



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Contents

FOREWORD	04	06	PREAMBLE
IN NUMBERS	08	12	STAFF WELLNESS
GENDER	15	20	EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS
FOOD SYSTEMS	24	32	SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING
NUTRITION	38	43	SOCIAL PROTECTION
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING OVERVIEW	46	52	SUPPLY CHAIN
PROCUREMENT	60	66	CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING (RAM)	69	72	INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	77	80	PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND EVIDENCE GENERATION	85		

Foreword

In 2021, the triple threat of conflict, climate change and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 pandemic drove human suffering to a staggering scale. Eastern Africa felt the brunt of such a convergence, leading to an unprecedented number of people in need. With three consecutive below-average rainfall seasons in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, drought is becoming a recurring phenomenon affecting the lives of 9 million across the three countries. The climate shocks being faced by such communities are usually not the only calamities they have to address. Conflict plays a huge role in having Eastern Africa as the host of the largest displaced population in the world. The conflict in Northern Ethiopia has led to 9.8 million people in dire need of food assistance, with 83 percent of people food insecure in Tigray. In South Sudan, the combination of conflict and climate shocks increased the number of severely food insecure people to 7.2 million people in 2021.

Across the region, the number of people categorized as food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 and above) stood at a staggering 60 million. WFP's Regional Bureau Nairobi (RBN) stepped up to unprecedented challenges, continuing the delivery of life-saving and life-changing interventions throughout the region.

The mounting operational requirement and the urgency of closing the funding gaps, creates a volatile situation that sees a tremendous increase in the severity and scale of food insecurity. In response to these concerns, RBN ramped up its assistance to reach as many people as possible, providing food and nutrition assistance to food-insecure communities; technical support to Governments, including trainings and policy guidance; and provision of logistical services to the wider humanitarian community.

Thanks to the generous contribution of Donors in 2021, over 34 million beneficiaries (of which 53 percent were female and approximately 1 million were people with disabilities) were supported by WFP RBN, compared with 26 million in 2020 and 24 million in 2019.

Supporting the Food Systems work across the region led to game-changing initiatives. Innovative actions were taken in areas of value chain assessments, local pro-smallholder farmer procurement, scaling up work in post-harvest loss and climate resilient agriculture, commodity traceability, and measuring impact of interconnected programme and procurement work on national food systems.

Through RBN's strong partnerships with Governments, other UN Agencies, International Finance Institutions (IFIs), Academia, Cooperating Partners and Civil Society Groups, we are continuously working to bolster human capital. WFP was able to deliver timely assistance to affected populations, provide strategic, technical, programmatic and operational support to strengthen national and sub-national level capacities, and provide supply chain services to governments and wider humanitarian community. Throughout its operations, WFP adhered to principles of prioritising safety and dignity, avoiding causing harm, meaningful access, accountability, and participation and empowerment.

RBN is prepared to face the new realities of the world. This third edition of the WFP Eastern Africa Regional Achievements celebrates our work and our impact, highlighting WFPs capacities in a wide range of areas, including emergency preparedness and response, food system, gender, nutrition, school-based programming, social protection, supply chain, innovation and digitalization, staff wellness, environment and knowledge management and evidence generation.



Michael Dunford

Regional Director for the
Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa

A photograph of a man in a striped shirt holding a large bunch of green bananas. He is standing in a banana plantation with large green leaves and a clear blue sky in the background. The man is looking down at the bananas he is holding. The bananas are still green and have some brown spots on them. The man is wearing a red and white striped shirt and a red and black checkered wrap around his waist.

Preamble

The World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa oversees and advises on the life-saving operations and activities in nine country offices (COs), with limited presence in Eritrea, under its remit. Alongside Host Governments, RBN coordinates with the humanitarian community, including the Private Sector, UN Agencies, International Finance Groups, Academia, Cooperating Partners, and other Civil Society Groups, to maximize an efficient response to food security and nutrition challenges facing the countries in the region.

In 2021, the protracted COVID-19 pandemic situation, the increased emergency response requirements caused by conflict and localised violence, climate-related shocks and stresses, compounded the humanitarian situation in the Eastern Africa region. WFP, despite these monumental challenges, continued the delivery of lifesaving and life-changing interventions throughout the region.



Saving Lives

This year, apart from supporting around 25 million people with food assistance, WFP also directly assisted 10 million people with cash transfer, to empower them with the choice to address their essential needs in local markets, while helping to boost these markets.

Nutrition support was provided throughout the region, with operations in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan as some of WFP's largest operations with very high nutrition needs. More than 11 million women and children received nutrition support. WFP's School Based Programmes reached more than 4 million students in the region, allowing children to learn and perform better, broadening their educational opportunities.

WFP RBN provided logistics services to Governments, partners and other UN Agencies valued at approximately USD 340 million, mobilizing over 2 million metric tons.

Changing Lives

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the already existing food system weaknesses and vulnerabilities, we worked to tackle the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition. RBN focused on supporting the Food Systems work in country offices, including contributing to the dialogue on World Food Systems Summit.

WFP RBN also offered nationally tailored technical assistance and capacity development support to countries in the region, helping them strengthen policy and legislation, improve institutional accountability systems, as well as improve strategic planning, financing, and programming. In 2021, more than 84 thousand Government and national partner staff received technical assistance and training from WFP.

Through our innovative and digitalized solutions, we were able to monitor the food security of vulnerable hard-to-reach communities in real-time, and to provide digital training to people, bridging their way out of hunger and poverty towards a future with employment.

WFP RBN is proud of the work and achievements made in 2021, thanks to the generous support from our Donors and Partners. Looking forward to 2022, we will continue to face paramount challenges and will need to redouble our efforts to help individuals, communities, and Governments to end hunger and malnutrition, working towards a world with Zero Hunger.

People **IN NEED** in Eastern African Region



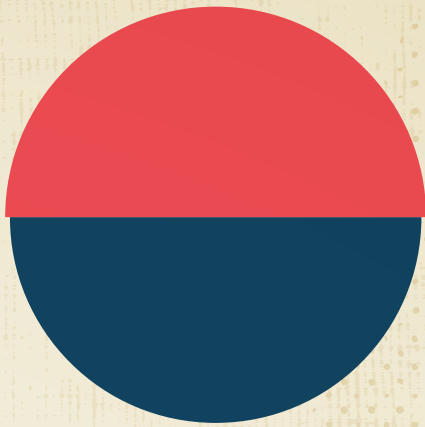
No. of beneficiaries reached in **2021**

34,434,041

Women **53%** 47% Men

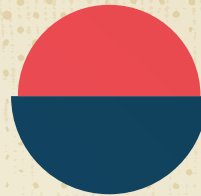


261,563		431,993
	Returnees	
3,390,798		3,528,392
	Refugees	
4,998,587		5,049,210
	IDPs	
28,345,498		25,424,447
	Residents	



General Distributions/
Unconditional resource transfer

21,643,058
20,675,526



School Based
programmes

4,074,401
4,703,769

Smallholder
agricultural market
support activities

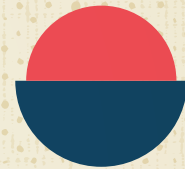
71,226
225,460



Beneficiaries Reached by Activity

Emergency
Preparedness

261,875
534,000



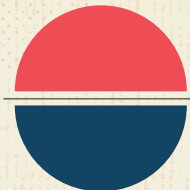
Food Assistance for
Assets/ Asset creation
and livelihoods

2,757,016
3,614,500

Climate Adaptation and
Risk Management

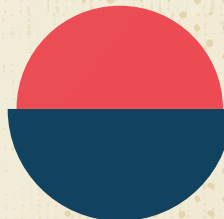


626,899
1,364,330



Reached
Planned

Nutrition



Treatment of Malnutrition

6,525,544
7,696,674



Prevention of Acute Malnutrition

2,978,877
3,828,233



HIV/Tuberculosis
Specific Activities

60,708
102,490



Prevention of Stunting

1,967,368
1,469,103

WFP Contribution to the Local Economy



Procurement of food purchased locally and regionally

442,119 MT
USD 206,567,390

Capacity Strengthening



Value of assets and infrastructure handed over to national stakeholders

USD 1,109,199

83,800

Government and National Partner Staff who received technical assistance and training

Supply Chain



Tonnage of food handed over to Cooperating Partners (MT)

1,292,915 MT



UNHAS



Cargo Transported regionally:

661,574 MT



No. of passengers transported regionally:

85,168



No. of destinations covered regionally:

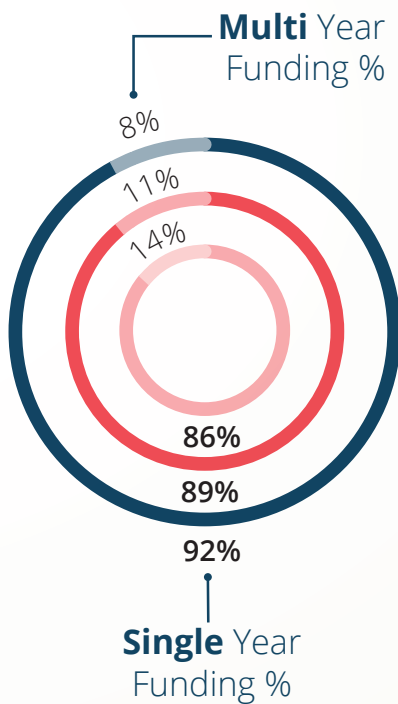
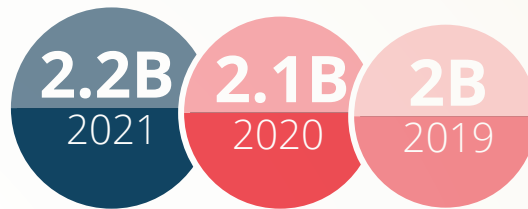
78

2021 Resourcing Outlook

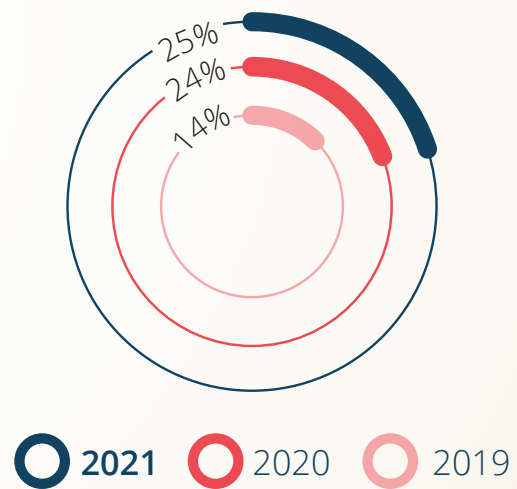
● Requirements vs. ● Resources received (USD)



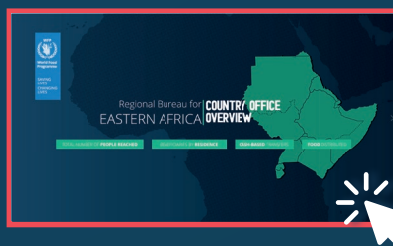
Resources (USD Billion)



WFP Eastern Africa Allocation



Country Office Overview





Staff
Wellness

Regional Overview

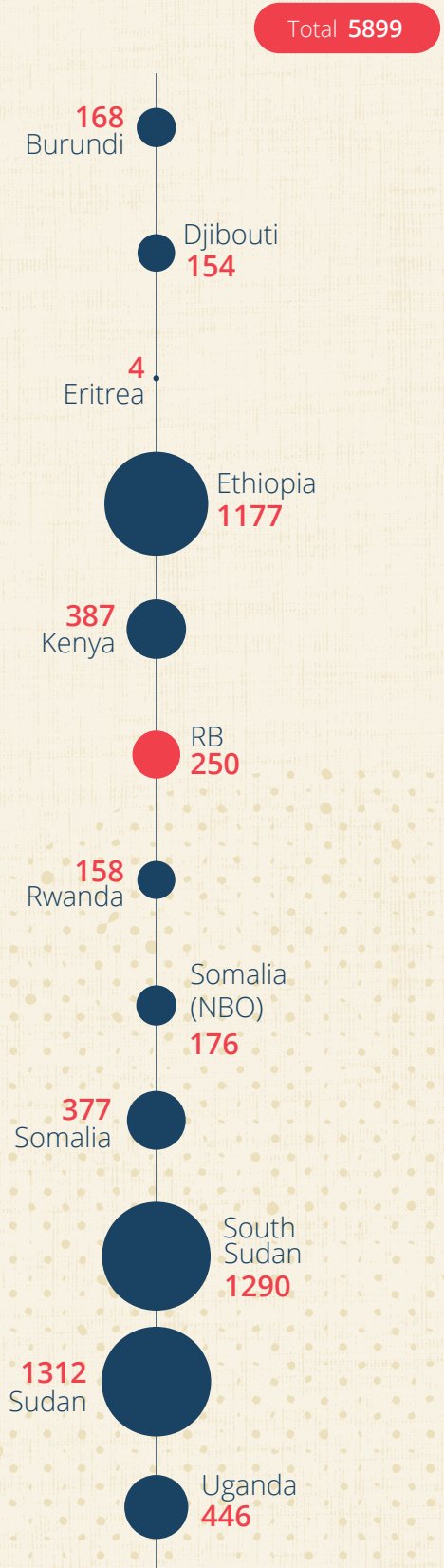
The staff number in the Eastern Africa Region has increased to support the ever-growing operations in the region. Currently, there are around six thousand staff across the 10 countries. Every employee's health, safety and wellbeing are of vital concern to WFP. The physical and psychological health of our employees and their recognized dependents is of paramount importance to the efficiency, productivity, and overall success of the WFP mandate. WFP is committed to promoting a safe and healthy workplace for its employees in order to accomplish its mandate and strategic objectives.

The coronavirus pandemic remained a central theme for the Wellness Unit throughout 2021 and operational tasks focused heavily on COVID-19 prevention, management, and vaccination of staff members, as well as the provision of psychosocial support. Medical Officers and Staff Counsellors worked closely together to raise awareness around COVID-19 and equip staff to protect their physical and mental health in the face of the pandemic.

Of the 79 medical evacuations from countries in the Region in 2021, the vast majority were unrelated to COVID-19, and resulted from other illnesses or injuries, including those related to critical incidents. Countries such as **South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti** still battle inadequate healthcare systems, and staff are often required to undertake medical travel to Nairobi, **Kenya** for certain types of health care. However, the creation of Sudan Medical Assistance Team (SUMAT) and Ethiopia Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) in **Sudan and Ethiopia** respectively, have improved substantively the support that can be provided to staff in-country and reduced the need for medical travel in these countries. Despite the critical situation in Tigray in Ethiopia, it was also possible in 2021 to maintain clinical activities in Mekelle and to add a new, small clinic in Shire. **Uganda** has its own Roving Medical Officer who was recruited on a short-term contract.

Psychosocial support for staff is provided by the Regional Staff Counsellor in Nairobi and by five Country Office Staff Counsellors in **Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia (Nairobi-based), South Sudan, and Sudan**. However, in response to growing staff numbers and needs, an additional two Staff Counsellors are being recruited for the Region in 2022 – in Sudan and in Nairobi. RBN is also leading the way by becoming the first Regional Bureau to recruit a Family Liaison Officer, who will focus in particular on the needs of national staff and their families.

Total Number of Staff November 2021



Regional Achievements

COVID-19 Response

- Joint medical and psychosocial COVID-19 awareness-raising webinars were rolled out to all staff in each of the Region's countries, and additionally to some COs in Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBJ). Providing clear information and debunking myths around vaccination proved key to ensuring a high level of vaccine uptake.
- The RBN Vax to the Max campaign, a joint initiative of counselling, medical and communications, succeeded in achieving 100 percent vaccination in RBN and was used as a template by other WFP Country and Regional Offices.
- 5500 staff in the Region received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination in 2021 and almost 4000 were fully vaccinated by year-end. In addition to the Regional Bureau, **Eritrea and Rwanda** also achieved 100 percent vaccination of staff.
- A COVID-19 video filmed by the RBN Wellness team was highly commended and widely shared. [Through Our Eyes](#) features testimony from COVID survivors amongst staff in the Eastern Africa Region.
- In recognition of the service and support given to WFP RBN staff during the pandemic, the RBN Wellness team received the Regional Director's Award of Appreciation 2021

Leading the way

- As soon as COVID-19 restrictions eased, The RBN Wellness Unit held the first joint Regional Medical and Counselling retreat, attended by the Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Staff Counselling. The innovative retreat ensured that WFP medical and psychological colleagues who had been working around the clock to support staff throughout the pandemic, were given an opportunity to debrief on the response, review processes, and receive support for their own wellbeing.

New ways of working

- In-person counselling and psychosocial support missions to field offices re-commenced in the latter part of 2021. However, a high demand for individual and team counselling sessions on Teams and other platforms, reflected the growing familiarization of staff to access psychosocial support in an online format. Key trainings for Wellness Support Volunteers were also adapted for online roll-out.
- Increasing numbers of staff in RBN visited and used the WFP Wellbeing App, with the majority of the Region's COs now hosting tailored pages with local information relevant to specific duty stations.

Challenges

- Key challenges were related to inadequate medical facilities in **Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia**.
- With the pandemic in its second year and continuing to impact on staff work and personal lives, there was an increased need for psychosocial support to combat COVID fatigue as well as other related issues.



Gender

Regional Overview

The gender landscape in RBN is generally progressive, as most countries in the region have existing legal frameworks and policies to support gender equality and women's empowerment. Improvement can be seen in the increase in women's access to leadership spaces. However, gender inequality remains a significant impediment to WFP's food assistance programmes. Specifically, climate shocks have a significant effect in the region because of the role of agriculture in food security and employment creation. Women remain central to agricultural production in this region. For example, 96 percent of women in **Burundi**, 76 percent in **Kenya**, 84 percent in **Rwanda**, and 77 percent in **Uganda** comprise the labour force in agriculture¹. The majority of these women are concentrated in the low value capture production modes of agricultural value chains, and they work in informal arrangements that render them disproportionately susceptible to climate shocks. Their contribution to domestic work and childcare, is time-consuming, unpaid, and limits their ability to get paid work. Their land tenure remains low due to obscurities in national laws or conflict with gender discriminative customary law. Few of the women in this region have access to bank accounts or mobile money accounts and fewer have the financial ability to borrow money. The gender digital gap is exacerbated by poor affordability, as well as limited literacy, and skills. Sexual harassment and gender-based violence remain significant barriers to moving the dial towards gender progressive change. These gaps pose a challenge to effectively addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change.

Regional Achievements

Much of the CO support in 2021 emphasised capacity enhancement through the below initiatives:

Gender Transformation Programming

The gender transformation programming in program design is a capacity enhancement initiative that targeted all CO gender officers and the team in the Gender Results Network. The program provided the participants with the tools to effectively implement gender-responsive and gender-transformative interventions in strengthening food systems. Beyond capacity strengthening in gender transformative program design, WFP worked with an external firm that has expertise in gender-transformative approaches in food systems to; (i) conduct an intersectoral gender analysis and develop case studies based on WFP programming interventions (ii) design and deliver an intersectoral training on gender transformative programming, with a focus on resilient livelihoods and inclusive local agricultural value chains. While participants reported better knowledge of gender-transformative programming, the final report from the training recommended continuous follow up and in-depth gender trainings at country level to allow a nuanced reflection on gender integration in country-specific context and programs.

Regional Workshop on Gender

The objective of the regional workshop was to provide a knowledge exchange/peer sharing platform for enhancing capabilities on gender integration in food systems. The workshop strengthened cross-country collaboration and facilitated dialogue among Headquarter Gender Office (GEN), RBN gender team, and the respective CO Gender Advisors. Following the workshop, each CO in the region designed a gender action plan based on the knowledge gained from the workshop. The country-specific gender action plans will help to frame the respective country and regional gender trajectory.

16 Days of Activism Campaign

To commemorate the 16 days of activism, RBN conducted virtual discussions and disseminated an opinion piece. The commemoration created awareness – among all employees, offices, and partners about Gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of violence, its root causes, and how they have increased during recent climate crises. It also created a platform to share information about actions (programs, projects, and services) that tackle, respond and address GBV, particularly around strengthened Climate Adaptation/Resilience. Finally, it advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment as one of the ways to minimise risk of GBV.

Mastercard Foundation project

In 2021, WFP partnered with the Mastercard Foundation (MCF) to implement an integrated project with a common goal: strengthening local food systems and making them more inclusive for youth, in particular young women. The project has a strong focus on gender, youth, and livelihood expansion, and will be implemented across eight COs in Africa, three of which are within this region: **Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda**. This specific collaboration between WFP and the Mastercard Foundation opens new opportunities to work with youth in the nexus of food systems and innovation. Additionally, the project is an opportunity for CO to explore gender transformative programming (where feasible like **Kenya**) by strengthening local food systems and empowering women and youth all at once.

Development and Implementation of FFA Work Norms that have Gender Responsive and Gender Transformative Outcomes.

The Asset Creation Program is characterized by a high proportion of clients being women, whose over participation may increase their burden of work, compromise their other responsibilities including childcare and household maintenance and may result in unintended negative outcomes for women. The RBN gender team in partnership with the University of Nairobi developed guidelines to foster equal participation of both men and women in asset creation activities, to achieve better gender-responsive and gender-transformative outcomes. The development of these guidelines is part of the broader work to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment in food systems.



CO Highlights

Through the climate action fund, the gender unit supported COs to apply the knowledge disseminated from the varied capacity building initiatives. The COs that participated supported a gender-transformative food systems approach to programs/interventions and integrated climate adaptation as a cross-cutting theme as follows:

- **WFP South Sudan** conducted a gender analysis for Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) interventions for strengthening Gender-transformative impact to ensure gender-equitable resilience. The key outcome of this study was evidence and recommendations on closing gender gaps in SAMS activities.
- **WFP Kenya** conducted a gender analysis on the Pasture and Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes Value Chains to assess the link between gender equality and nutritional impacts. The analysis will generate evidence-based data on the gender and socio-economic and cultural dynamics in the respective value chains and the results will be used to inform the selection of priority food value chains for the Mastercard Foundation Project.
- For the MCF project, the CO targets 150,000 smallholder farmers and 9,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and traders (half are women) to benefit from WFP's post-harvest loss management and smallholder farmer support activities. The project will empower women and youth in local food systems by accelerating access to or improving the benefits derived from both on and off-farm jobs, in Arid and Semi-Arid regions (ASALs) and High Productive areas (HPA).
- **WFP Rwanda** conducted a gender capacity assessment of WFP Rwanda Cooperating Partner engagement. The assessment aimed to understand the extent to which cooperating partners met GEWE integration standards and the results of the exercise will inform the WFP Rwanda's CP gender capacity enhancement plan.
- For the MCF project, the CO targets about 200,000 smallholders in Rwanda, with a minimum of 50 percent women's participation, and about 600 youth-led MSMEs with 60 percent of these being women-led. The project facilitates smallholders' access to markets by mobilizing agro-processors and off-takers, promotes a vibrant youth-led market for small scale post-harvest equipment to improve quality and reduce post-harvest losses, and catalyses investments in nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chains for youth-led MSMEs.
- **WFP Uganda** provided financial literacy trainings under its CBT activities, to enable Persons of Concern (POCs) effectively utilize the Cash-based Transfer (CBT), enhance their agency, and expand their opportunities and choices. The trainings employed a Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) approach and created employment opportunities for women as trainers. Notably, 35 percent of the trainers were women. Both women and men were trained together on improving joint decision making on household financial resources. The financial literacy trainings enhanced women's financial management knowledge and skills. This was evident when more women started savings groups (Village Savings and Loans Associations) and were actively involved in the income-generating activities. Enhanced access to the income-generating activities eventually created the space for more women to make joint decisions at the household level.
- For the MCF project, the CO will target about 90,000 beneficiaries with a minimum of 60 percent women's participation across these categories: national smallholder farmers, refugees, youth smallholder farmers, national youth smallholder farmers, and refugee youth smallholder farmers. Additionally, it will target about 2,000 MSMEs owners with 40-60 percent of the total being women-led. Applying a strong Agriculture and Market Support (AMS) component, the project seeks to improve post-harvest loss management, increase pro-smallholder marketing among smallholders especially women and youth, and strengthen national institutions for pro-smallholder policies and programs.
- **WFP Ethiopia** facilitated a workshop to incorporate gender analysis and gender-transformative design into Anticipatory Action (AA) planning in the Somali region. They also conducted a capacity strengthening workshop on integrating gender equality within emergency response and preparedness activities through Forecast based Financing and AAs for climate actions. The output from the workshop was revised Forecast based Financing indicators aligned to gender-responsive outcomes to contribute to engendering interventions in AA.



- WFP Somalia** engaged men with targeted Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) to support nutrition outcomes at the household level in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The gender transformative interventions sought to dismantle stereotypes on domestic and unpaid care work through targeting men with SBCC at an interpersonal level; forming peer support groups; identifying and promoting male nutrition champions; and integrating kitchen gardens and/or animal husbandry into the father-to-father support group activities. It is envisaged that more men will willingly engage in better nutrition and health-related practices such as childcare, growing of vegetable gardens, and animal husbandry - roles traditionally reserved for women.
- WFP Sudan** conducted a baseline study to investigate the linkages between gender, energy and environmental safeguarding. The study concluded that the burden of collecting firewood lies on women, and household reliance on unclean sources of cooking energy results in increased indoor air pollution, respiratory illnesses, stunted growth in children, and increased adult and child mortality rate. Informed by the findings, the CO rolled out a project on “Adaptation to climate change in humanitarian settings” in the White Nile and East Darfur states. The project targeted 25,000 participants and 52 schools from WFP’s school meals programme. Through the targeted 25000 participants, women were provided with alternative livelihood opportunities and fuel efficient stoves. Because of their disproportionate dependence on natural resources, they will benefit from the reversal of deforestation and soil degradation in the long run.

Challenges

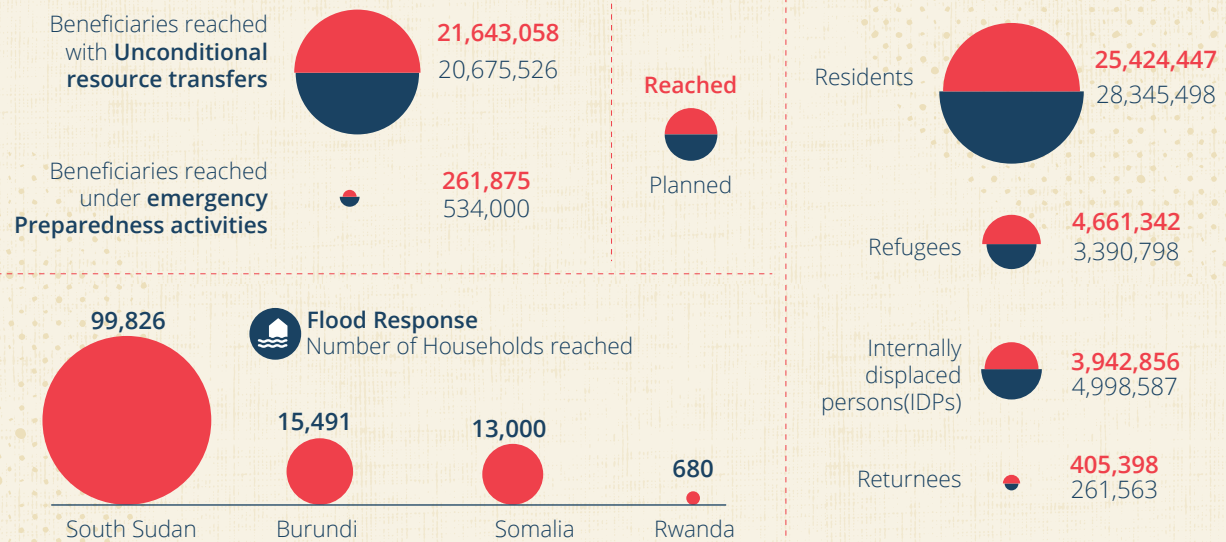
The new gender policy outlines an implementation framework that provisions staff capacity at regional and country levels. Gender transformative change is slow, gradual, and non-linear. Thus, to meaningfully integrate gender in WFP’s food system’s programming, more staff capacity and funding are required for sustained periods.

Looking forward to 2022: Operationalization of Gender Policy

Operationalization of the new Gender Policy (2022-2026) will be an area of priority for 2022. The new policy addresses for the first time the root causes of gender inequality, and it has expanded the scope of potential partners to consider (local and local women’s rights groups). To this end, in-country missions will be conducted to sensitize staff on the new policy and the regional gender team will work with country teams to co-design country-specific gender action plans. Beyond in-country sensitization, efforts will also go towards capacity assessments and capacity enhancement of staff and cooperating partners. Partnerships remain the core of WFP’s efforts to accelerate progress in gender equality and women’s empowerment. For this reason, the regional emphasis will be on identifying the right partners (for example feminist and women’s Civil Society organisations that are best positioned as first responders and key development partners in humanitarian settings) that complement the ambition of the policy.



Emergency Response and Preparedness



Regional Overview

In the Eastern Africa region, the emergency and humanitarian context has become increasingly complex and frequently entails cross-border implications. The regional food security situation is alarming. As at the end of 2021, **approximately 63 million people are food insecure in WFP’s ten countries of operation in the region. Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan** are among the ten worst food crises globally in terms of numbers of people facing Crisis or worse IPC Phase 3 and above) levels of food insecurity.

This deep food insecurity is driven by numerous compounding shocks encompassing climate hazards, conflict and insecurity, disease outbreaks and economic shocks. Climatically, **a sub-regional drought across the Eastern Horn of Africa is affecting some 12-13 million people with acute food insecurity** and severe water shortages across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have led to drought and failed crops with harvests 60-70 percent below normal in affected areas. At the same time, heavy rains and floods are affecting the region, with heavy flooding recorded in 2021 in Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. In South Sudan alone, record flooding is affecting more than 850,000 people in 33 out of 78 counties.

Conflict and insecurity compound the impact of these climate hazards. **In northern Ethiopia, conflict has resulted in over 9 million people in need of relief food assistance across the three regions of Afar, Amhara and Tigray.** In addition to driving suffering and food insecurity, conflict has been a key driver of displacement. In the past ten years, the total number of refugees in

Eastern Africa has more than tripled **from 1.4 million to 4.7 million.** Uganda alone is generously hosting some 1.4 million refugees, the highest number of any country in Africa. In addition to refugees, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has more than doubled over the same time period from **5.4 million to 12.4 million.**

Moreover, COVID-19 and associated containment measures have disrupted the informal economy, hitting the urban poor the most. The drastic economic slowdown resulted in a disproportionate loss of income and employment. A combination of disrupted food systems, food price volatility, inflation and high food prices meant reduced household capacity to afford food from markets across much of the region. Food price inflation in 2021 was over 100 percent year on year in Sudan, and 30-40 percent in both South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Looking forward into 2022, food insecurity is expected to deteriorate through to June due to ongoing drought, compounding impacts of conflict and COVID-19, likely floods in South Sudan and macro-economic instability in Burundi, Ethiopia, and Sudan. In northern Ethiopia, challenges with humanitarian access will also continue to drive high food insecurity numbers even if a peace deal is reached soon.

These shocks continue to disrupt the lives and livelihoods of populations in the region, increasing the number of food-insecure people and malnourished children in the region. In response, WFP together with Governments, UN Agencies and Partners continue to prepare for and respond to avert regional food and nutrition crises.

Regional Achievements

In 2021, WFP responded to numerous large-scale and more localised humanitarian shocks across Eastern Africa. Together with Governments, UN Agencies and other partners, WFP continue to prepare for and respond to regional food and nutrition crises while following an accountability, inclusion and do no harm approach, supporting populations affected by conflicts, droughts, floods, desert locusts and COVID-19.

Conflict response: WFP Ethiopia

Over a year into the conflict in northern Ethiopia, more than 9 million people across the three regions of Afar, Amhara and Tigray are in dire need of food assistance. WFP estimates, that on average, only 29 percent of the caloric needs of crisis-affected populations in northern Ethiopia were covered in the past months. In the Tigray region, 83 percent of the population (4.6 million people) are food insecure and struggle to find enough to eat.² Moreover, 50 percent of nutritionally vulnerable pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were found to be malnourished and three quarters of the Tigray population are using unsustainable coping strategies to deal with food shortages. This includes limiting portion sizes, the number of meals per day, and almost exclusively relying on cereals, indicating an extreme lack of dietary diversity.

WFP response: As of end of 2021, WFP has reached approximately 3.5 million people in northern Ethiopia with emergency food and nutrition assistance. WFP is also serving some 88,000 camp-based Eritrean refugees in the three affected regions with a combination of relief food and nutrition programmes.

The impact: WFP has been providing food assistance to conflict-affected areas of North Gondar in the Amhara Region since September 2021. To assess the food security of households participating in relief assistance, a food security survey was undertaken in December 2021. The assessment indicated that WFP food assistance is having a positive impact in diversifying household food consumption and improving beneficiary households' ability to cope with the situation. For instance, the proportion of households deemed to have acceptable food consumption increased from 34 percent in May 2021, to 82 percent after the WFP intervention.

Shock Response: WFP Rwanda and Burundi

WFP has been responding to more localised shocks across the region. In May 2021, the Nyiragongo Volcano erupted near Goma city in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with lava streams pouring East in the direction of **Rwanda**. The volcanic/tectonic activity also caused many earthquakes in both DRC and Rwanda, resulting in a mandatory evacuation of several parts of Goma. Following the evacuation, residents of Goma started to enter Rwanda for safety reasons. To respond to this situation, WFP provided high energy biscuits (HEBs) and hot meals to approximately 1,600 displaced people from DRC until June 2021, when the majority of those displaced could safely return to the DRC.

Moreover, in neighbouring **Burundi**, WFP led successful emergency response to the flooding of Lake Tanganyika. Engagement and collaboration with the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) continued with the successful rolling out of the pilot phase of the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) initiative. This innovative approach aims to capacitate the BRC to establish an AA system ahead of floods. As a result, a draft flood early action protocol was developed, and 12,835 people at risk of further flooding of the rising Lake Tanganyika received anticipatory cash and were able to take preventive measures. In June 2021, WFP managed to secure further funding and scale up the initiative to widen it to a multi-hazard anticipatory system that also includes droughts, epidemics, and man-made disasters.

Desert locust crisis response: WFP Somalia

A key regional achievement of 2021 was a substantive reduction in the desert locust crisis that had been threatening livelihoods across much of the region. Over 2020 and 2021 WFP has been collaborating with, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Governments, and partners to address the implications of the desert locusts.

In Somalia, WFP reached 581,000 people whose livelihoods were affected by desert locust infestation across 45 districts. Hereby, WFP leveraged the national social safety net, which WFP implements on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Programme targeting and prioritization:

WFP Rwanda and Uganda

Another key achievement in 2021 has been the progress on programme targeting and prioritisation recognizing limited resources and overwhelming humanitarian needs in the region. To maximize available resources, WFP and UNHCR in **Rwanda and Uganda**, through the Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub, strengthened targeting practices to prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable populations while concurrently promoting self-reliance of refugee populations.

Challenges

Access constraints in northern Ethiopia: Humanitarian operations in northern Ethiopia remain severely restricted by operational constraints, including insecurity, bureaucratic impediments, limited access to people in hard-to-reach areas, and limited presence of partners on the ground, especially in Afar. As of Dec 2021, **no humanitarian supplies have entered Tigray Region by road since 14 December and fuel stocks have not been replenished since August 2021.** The lack of fuel in Tigray has a major impact on the delivery of assistance, with humanitarian organizations forced to suspend operations.

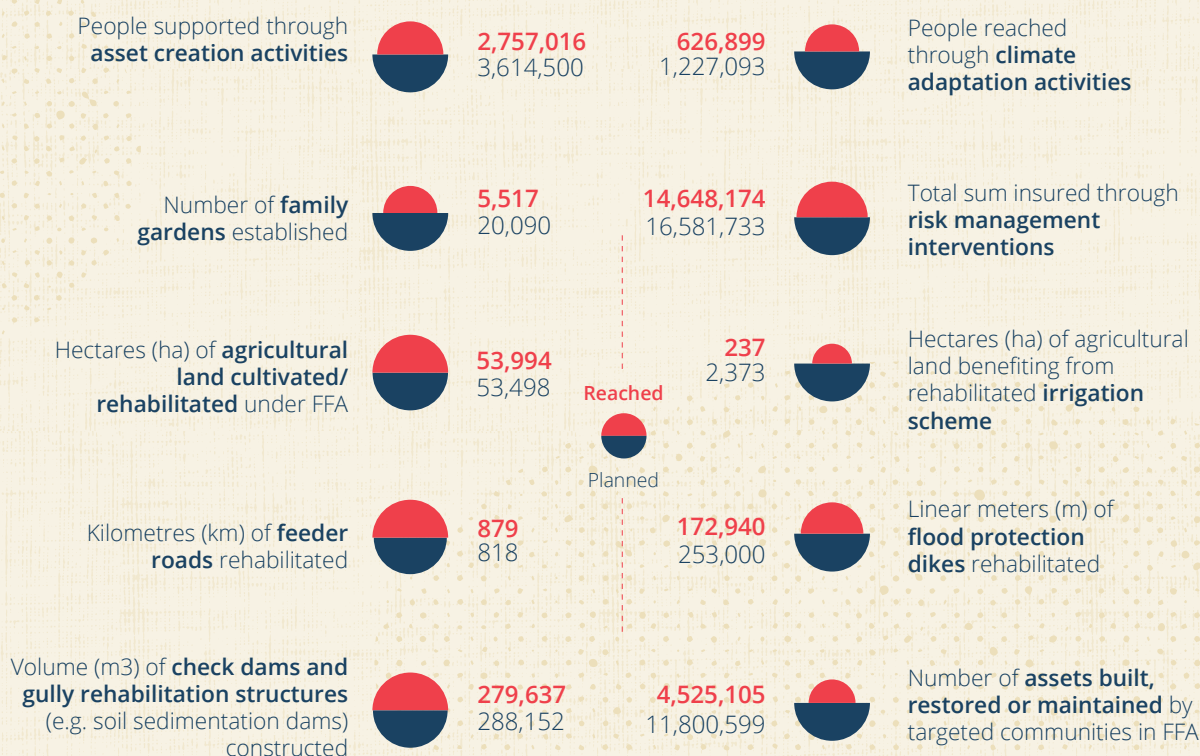
Ration Cuts: Due to substantial funding shortages in the region, significant **refugee ration cuts of up to 50 percent** are affecting some 70 percent of the total refugee population in the region. This includes cuts of 50 percent of the minimum required food basket in **South Sudan, 48 percent cut in Kenya, and 40 percent cut in Ethiopia.** This has resulted in growing risks for refugees, including increased malnutrition and anaemia, stunted growth of children, protection risks such as child labour, and security risks to humanitarian workers.

Ration cuts are not only affecting refugees. In South Sudan for example, the immense scale of needs and funding shortages mean substantial ration cuts for vulnerable populations both internally displaced and facing acute food insecurity. Due to limited funding, WFP is only able to provide 70 percent rations in the two most severely affected counties, and 50 percent rations in all other areas, and only over the lean season.





Food
Systems



Regional Overview

In the Eastern Africa region, Somalia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan face the top ten worst ongoing global food crises. The region represents larger contexts of food and nutrition security issues that communities, Governments, and WFP engage with. In the same breath, Eastern Africa holds many of the answers to addressing these challenges, offering opportunities for WFP to enhance its commitment by adopting a transformative approach to food systems engagement.

WFP 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 aims to intentionally contribute to the development of a sound food system to make it more nourishing, sustainable, equitable, and resilient for all.

Regional Achievements

Regional strategic support

In 2021, WFP RBN initiated the discussion of food systems for the region in the lead-up to the Food Systems Summit in September 2021. The **RBN Strategic Approach Paper 'WFP and Food Systems'** was developed, summarising the RBN's perspective on food systems and food systems transformation. It offers guidelines for COs on how to more purposefully contribute to a nourishing, equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in their respective geographies and in the region as a whole. The document aims to provide encouragement as well as strategic and technical direction, focusing on the practical application of a food systems lens to WFP's work, rather than on a purely conceptual discussion of the subject.

In 2021, WFP RBN established a **Regional Food Systems working group**, where COs shared best practices in developing food systems approaches for their respective countries and contexts. An example of this is the ‘school system’ approach in Rwanda where school meals programming is used to integrate local farmer cooperatives to work with markets, promote fortified grains to meet nutritional needs, work on minimizing the environmental impact of the programme through the ongoing fuel-efficient menu study, and provide technical advice to the Government on sustainable procurement models. Kenya used conservation agriculture and agroforestry to respond to drought. Other practices included strengthening nutrition value chains and involving youth groups in financial trainings, allowing for climate adaptive and mitigative programming.

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 and capacity strengthening for local institutions.

R4 Rural Resilience Initiative

In 2021, R4 initiative reached 49,794 households in Amhara Region, Ethiopia, as compared to 3,042 households in 2018. USD 1,167,670 has been paid as premium to secure a total value of USD 7,961,110, in terms of the value of crop produce insured against drought. In Kenya, the R4 program focused on enhancing financial inclusion through the formation of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) among beneficiaries. The aim of the VSLA is to support the beneficiaries in building their reserves and to enable them to make co-payments of their premiums. Through VSLAs, 12,805 beneficiaries were able to access savings and credit. The total sum insured was USD 1,225,94, while 5,545 beneficiaries received pay-outs amounting to USD 96,486.

Satellite Index Insurance (SIPE)

To contribute to combating climate-related shocks, WFP implemented the SIPE intervention in Ethiopia, a satellite-based pasture-drought index insurance cover with additional livelihood support targeted at pastoralists. SIPE helps beneficiaries respond to the loss of pasture and grazing reserves by making timely pay-outs to vulnerable pastoralists, supporting them against the effects of COVID-19, 2020 Desert Locust invasion, and drought. In 2021, in Somali Region Ethiopia, a total of 28,321 households benefitted from the SIPE programme, at a total sum insured of USD 7,660,264. In the Horn of Africa region, pay-outs pay-out of USD 1,672,595 to pastoralists (24,966 received early payout; 25,374 received late payout) households were triggered in response to the 2021 drought situation.

Capacity Strengthening for risk transfer

To build local capacity in sustainably providing Weather Index Insurance (WII) to smallholder farmers in the Amhara region, Ethiopia, WFP is handing over responsibilities of the insurance component to Oromia Insurance Company (OIC) till the end of 2022, including building a microinsurance team, supporting product design, marketing and awareness-raising of the insurance product, establishing distribution channels, distribution strategy and timely pay-outs, premium collection, and supporting R4 WII product licensing and approval from National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE).

WFP also collaborated with the Climate Research Institute of Columbia University (IRI Columbia), to build the capacity of the local index design team through virtual (due to COVID-19 restrictions) refresher trainings. The index design team is expected to have the capability of developing and designing indexes on its own in the long run, with the team being involved in each step of the design process. IRI Columbia was also brought on board to support with risk review, which concluded that there was no basis risk situation for that season but recommended some adjustments to the SIPE contract design, to cater for similar situations in future.



Anticipatory action

The Eastern Africa region is prone to droughts and floods, which, together with other issues like conflict, act as key drivers of the rising levels of food insecurity in the region. WFP, together with Host Governments in the region and various local and international partners, expanded the development of AA systems within the Eastern Africa region. By employing the AA approach, WFP uses forecasts to trigger humanitarian actions and prepositioned financing before an extreme weather event hits vulnerable populations. **This is critical to reducing disaster impact on production and assets, protecting food security and nutrition and building resilience.**

As the UN's largest humanitarian agency, WFP is well-positioned to deliver on using AA. Leveraging our deep field presence in food insecure settings, our strong convening power and expertise in risk analysis – even in the most difficult contexts - we can help to drive a shift in the international humanitarian system to proactively manage risks rather than disasters.

Investment in AA saves money. One dollar that is invested in protection and prevention, can save up to three dollars in the eventual humanitarian response rate.³ In Kenya specifically, the estimated long-term impacts of drought-related AA could result in a potential savings of USD 1 billion a year.⁴

In 2021, WFP supported the ongoing development of AAs systems, capacity strengthening of national actors and implementation of AAs. This was done in seven countries in the region, namely Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. This is supported by various Donors: the Government of Denmark (DANIDA), the European Union (DEVCO and ECHO), the United States of America (USAID) and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. The AAs implemented in Ethiopia and Somalia were unconditional cash transfers, early warning communication and blanket supplementary feeding. The development of AAs systems in the countries brought together multiple actors to pre-define AAs to be implemented before a drought or a flood occurs and to explore forecast thresholds that will be used to activate the implementation of AAs. **Going forward**, WFP will:

- Invest more in understanding and tailoring AA systems in the context of compounding and consecutive shocks; and
- Scale up AA to cover more people in more locations.

Energy for Food Security

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. In 2021, WFP continued to contribute to the 'Energy for Food Security' dialogues and activities in the Eastern Africa region.

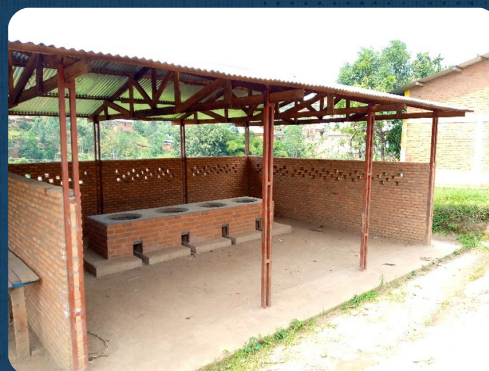
In 2021, within displacement settings, WFP distributed and installed 67 institutional stoves and 13,398 fuel-efficient household stoves. Various assessments were also undertaken across the region, including an assessment of fuel-efficient stove options for the refugee influx from Tigray in Gedaref, Sudan, and a stove assessment in Ethiopia.

Momentum is gathering in the region on transforming the way school meals are being cooked. Burundi begun implementing a \$3.5 million program in school kitchens and stoves for the World Bank. WFP is supporting the World Bank in the mapping of the 'state of cooking in schools', culminating in a landscape report in 2022. The Regional Bureau has funded a study on fuel-efficient school meals in Rwanda, which will have learning and guidance for the region on how to provide nutritious school meals in a more fuel-efficient manner.

Environmental Safeguarding *(supported by WFP in 2021)*



On-going construction of kitchen and energy-saving stoves at Rugobe School, Burundi – safeguards the Environment and Population by reducing deforestation along the hilly areas resulting in soil erosion, water pollution and siltation of river systems. Additionally, it contributes to the reduction of indoor air pollution.



Newly constructed kitchen and energy-saving stoves at Nyabiraba School, Burundi – safeguards the Environment and Population by reducing deforestation along the hilly areas resulting in soil erosion, water pollution and siltation of river systems. Additionally, it contributes to the reduction of indoor air pollution.



On-going construction of a grain storage facility at Kinama Refugee Camp, Burundi – safeguards the environment and population through the provision of proper grain storage to address the effects of storage losses/ post-harvest losses and grain management practices. Four factors which greatly affect grain storability are (1) grain moisture content; (2) grain temperature; (3) initial condition of the grain; and (4) insects and molds.



Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Livelihoods Activities (3PA and FFA)

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) is a “win-win” approach: in the RBN region, people receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs while they build or boost assets that will improve their livelihoods by creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impact of shocks, increasing food productivity, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.

Through its FFA programme, WFP has also built transformative capacities through capacity strengthening activities with government technical services and Local Government. For example, the FFA’s use of the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) connects local level contexts with those at regional and national levels to inform policies and strategies required to support the most vulnerable populations to better manage risks and shocks. In 2021, WFP continued to partner with three national Universities in the region for the adaptation of the 3PA tools. The partnerships between WFP and the universities aimed at providing technical, programmatic design and operational support to strengthen national and sub-national level planning capacities.

In **Sudan**, WFP aimed to strengthen livelihoods and productive capacity of food-insecure people by equipping women and men with life skills that can contribute to their empowerment. WFP provided cash transfers in return for training in income-generating activities or building community assets to cushion them against shocks.

Inclusive community consultations (Community-Based Participatory Planning) took place to identify the type of assets and skills development activities that would address the priority needs of women, men, and youth in the targeted communities.

In **Uganda**, through FFA, WFP established 3 irrigation facilities, 5.3 hectares of woodlots and 6.5 hectares of gardens. Through its partnership with the Makerere University School of Public Health, WFP facilitated the development of one Integrated Context Analysis, one Seasonal Livelihoods Plan, and thirteen Community Action Plans. The integration of Community Action Plans into the Kaabong and Kikuube five-year district development plans is a significant achievement towards institutionalizing 3PA at the district level.

In **South Sudan**, FFA was rolled out into hard-to-reach conflict-affected locations of Greater Jonglei and Unity, reaching an additional 20,000 beneficiaries. This expansion included the roll-out of pastoral FFA to four locations with a view to support Agro-pastoral and pastoral communities, including people living in cattle camps with the intention to support peacebuilding and community violence reduction through livelihood diversification, market access, and climate change adaptation. Through asset creation activities, 162 dykes were constructed (66 percent of target), 44,552 hectares of land were cleared and cultivated (average 300kg of cereals harvested per household), 478 km of community access roads rehabilitated, and 273 shallow wells created. In addition, a total of 109,000 participants received skills training in various aspects of livelihoods, infrastructure development, environmental management, and social cohesion.

Support to Smallholder farmers

In line with WFP Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFP) and the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) framework, RBN provided guidance and support to COs to promote a demand-driven, value chain development approach to improve smallholder livelihoods and promote systemic changes along the value chain. In collaboration with HQ, pilot COs—Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia—were supported in developing value chains for selected commodities, in paper-based traceability and in program design to improve the efficiency of the value chains. In addition, the regional bureau also developed a public sector engagement strategy for adopting traceability as an exit strategy and to ensure sustainability of the pro-smallholder procurement.

In the coming year, the unit has planned to professionalize farmer organizations through building their business skill and strengthening institutional capacity. Also in the plans is the development of a training of trainer’s manual, training, and an experience sharing and mentorship program for the LRFP countries and school feeding program operational areas.

Post-harvest losses are one of the developing world’s greatest challenges, a key to opportunity to unlock food security and economic growth when minimized, and one of the important barriers to drastically reducing poverty.

WFP through its Zero Food Loss Initiative offered opportunity for smallholder families to purchase cost-efficient, air-tight storage equipment. Additionally, RBN guides COs to drive demand through awareness campaigns combined with training of ‘power-user’ farmers and agriculture extension agents (Government) to create word-of-mouth marketing. On the supply side, WFP works with local manufacturers and distributors to produce simple but effective hermetic storage silos and bags.

In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), WFP engaged in encouraging National Government investment in post harvest loss management (PHLM) knowledge and technology, to create an enabling investment environment and support blended financing strategies that smallholder farmers can afford.

In regard to PHLM knowledge management, RBN has shared good practices on local grain storage of different sizes and types for consideration to help farmers who have limited income. In addition, an impact assessment of the existing post-harvest interventions will recommend sustainable, cost effective and context-specific alternative solutions tailored for different farming communities (pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and agricultural).

CO highlights

- **Sudan** held a consultation workshop to team up farmers with the Private Sector and created awareness for Government actors to address post-harvest losses across the country.
- **Rwanda** promoted post-harvest management from harvesting, handling and storage of maize by organizing farmers. As a result, buyers are buying both maize cobs and grains.
- The regional bureau organized an experience-sharing visit for **Uganda** to learn about farmer organizations providing backward and forward market linkages, including post-harvest services to members and non-members.
- Farmers have become price makers, and not price takers. Previous general food distribution recipients in Karamoja, **Uganda**, are now selling quality grain to WFP.





Hydroponics

H2Grow is WFP's hydroponics initiative bringing locally adaptable and affordable hydroponic solutions to vulnerable communities around the world. 2021 was a successful year for hydroponics in RBN, with four new countries jumping into the ladder of innovative agricultural methods, making it one of the regions with the most COs implementing hydroponics. Burundi, Ethiopia, Uganda and Somalia started piloting hydroponics for animal feed or human consumption for the first time, while Kenya, which had been implementing hydroponics for several years, also started a pilot on blended finance for hydroponics.

- **Burundi** started implementing hydroponics for vegetable production. In the first phase, the project was piloted in one school in the region of Kirundo. The CO is preparing the roll-out now and will build 40 additional greenhouses in schools, cooperatives and among IDPs communities.
- **Ethiopia** started implementing hydroponics for animal feed production in the field with 30 household (HH) units reaching approximately 150 beneficiaries in Dolo Ado region and plans to roll out the project in other pastoralist arid areas of the country.
- **Uganda** piloted the production of hydroponics vegetables within their refugee response with two farmers groups for home consumption and aiming at commercial production in a next phase. In the initial phase, 2 demonstration units were installed, one in Kyangwali and one in Kyaka II settlements to grow vegetables like lettuce, tomatoes or spinach.
- **Somalia** piloted hydroponics for animal feed and is preparing the handover to the Government of the training centre in Puntland where hydroponics will be practiced.
- **Kenya** started a pilot aiming at scaling up low-tech hydroponics through access to finance- a blended finance model with asset-based loans, focusing on urban agriculture for vegetable production.



School-based Programming

Regional Overview

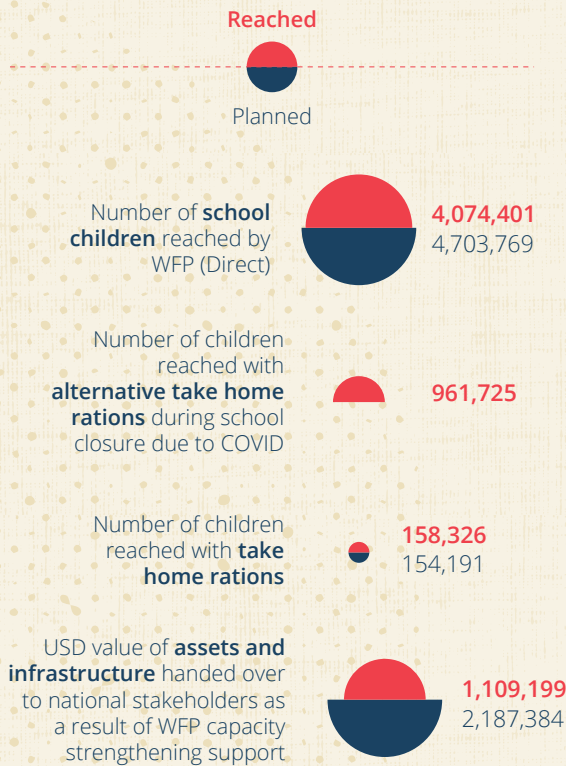
The contribution of school feeding programmes in advancing education, health and nutrition outcomes including stimulating local agriculture and economies is widely acknowledged across the world. In 2021, most countries in the region prioritised resumption of school feeding programs to ensure all children return to school, receive appropriate support to meet their needs and recover from the multiple consequences of COVID – 19 pandemic and other shocks as part of building better efforts.

Regional achievements

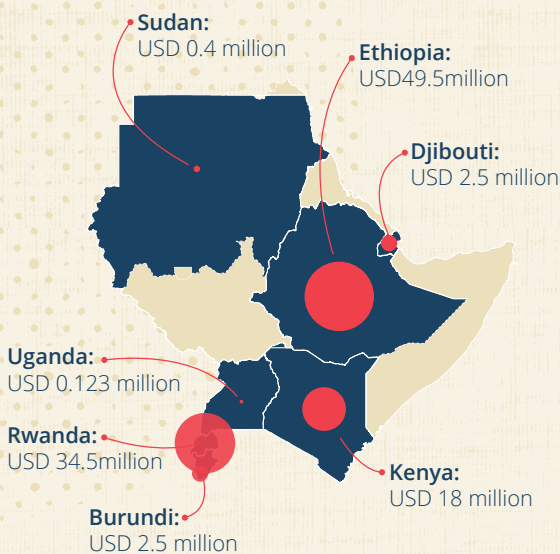
Development of the regional school feeding implementation plan

In 2020, WFP launched a ten-year school feeding strategy (2020–2030) which recognized the importance of the first 8,000 days of a child’s life and use of schools as a cost-effective platform for delivery of an integrated package of health and nutrition services through multi-sectoral and multi-actor responses.

To support roll-out of the strategy, a regional school feeding implementation plan was developed through an extensive consultative process to address the context-specific needs of the different countries and shift towards more inclusive and sustainable school feeding programmes. The plan outlines key focus areas that will be prioritised for the next five years including increasing stable investments in school feeding, enhancing advocacy efforts, deepening existing and new partnerships, improving the nutritional quality of school meals, and other key programmatic approaches such as scaling up home-grown school feeding programmes to enhance sustainability of the school feeding programmes in the region.



Cumulative Government Investment to School Feeding



Government investments in school feeding

Resource mobilization for school feeding programmes is key in ensuring children access school meals which in some cases are the only meals children receive in a day. To enhance sustainable financing of school feeding programmes, WFP has been working closely with relevant partners to develop school feeding policies including advocating for increasing budgetary allocation from National Governments.

As part of the nationwide scaleup of the school feeding programme, the Government of Rwanda increased its budget allocation for school feeding from USD 8 million to USD 27 million for the 2021/22 academic year representing approximately 6.4 percent of the total national education budget.

In Kenya, more than USD 18 million was allocated to support the national school feeding programme. Similarly, the Government of Ethiopia with the ten regional states affirmed their commitment by allocating USD 56 million to school feeding for the 2021/22 academic year.

Despite the increasing Government investments in school feeding, enhanced advocacy efforts are still needed to improve budget allocation for universal coverage and mitigate the unreliable parental contributions observed in some countries.

Enhanced partnerships for school feeding

In 2021, enhanced partnerships have been the driving force to advance the quality and scale of school health and nutrition programmes in the region. Notably:

- **School meals coalition:** Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Somalia joined more than 120 Governments, UN Agencies, Civil Societies, the Private Sector, and Academia in signing up for the school meals coalition which seeks to ensure that every child can receive a healthy and nutritious meal every day in school by 2030. Notably, the Government of Rwanda submitted to the coalition its commitments to the National school feeding programme. Through the Global School Meals Coalition, WFP Rwanda has partnered with France to enhance the Home-grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. RBN is supporting the rest of the governments in the region to sign up and outline their specific commitments to the school feeding programmes for the next ten years with the aim to restore gains made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, increase coverage, and improve the quality and efficiency of the existing school feeding programmes.

- **The Power of Procurement for Nutrition (PP4N)** initiative with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation was established aimed at promoting healthy diets in school menus using fortified whole grain maize-meal.
- **Burundi:** Trilateral agreements between the World Bank, WFP and the Government continued to expand the energy project in 54 schools.
- **South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia** have an ongoing partnership on improving school health and nutrition services with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA)-New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-WFP supported National Governments' participation in the commemoration of the 6th African Day of School Feeding themed 'Harnessing Africa's Traditional Knowledge and Food to Support Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes and Systems During COVID-19 Response and Beyond.'
- Mastercard: he shared-value partnership with Mastercard which explored the extent to which a traceability mechanism in the HGSF programmes was feasible ended with a No-Go-Decision. It is likely, that with additional studies planned under the smallholder agriculture unit, the Bureau may extend the same to HGSF.

Increased enrolment and attendance

The WFP school feeding programme continues to be an enabler for keeping children in school with the net effect of stimulating enrolment and retention rates for better learning outcomes in addition to encouraging parents to return children back to school following the massive school closures within the region. In 2021, the WFP led school meals programmes in the region reached more than 3.6 million learners with hot meals provided in schools and alternative take-home rations where necessary. This is a considerable increase from the 2020 and 2019 beneficiary numbers despite the prolonged school closures lasting nearly 2 years in Uganda, the conflict situation in Sudan and Ethiopia leading to the suspension of school feeding programmes in the conflict-affected areas. All the countries except for Uganda where schools were closed, reported an improvement in either the enrolment or attendance rates compared to the pre-COVID-19 period which is attributable to the adaptive interventions including the back-to-school campaigns that were put in place.



Institutional capacity strengthening

WFP has continued to strengthen Government capacity and institutions in the provision of school meals on policy and technical levels.

In **Ethiopia**, WFP also provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop the national school feeding policy and strategy which was endorsed in 2021. School feeding is now embedded in the Government's policies, institutionalised with a directorate to lead the programme and a WFP appointed technical staff at the MoE, paving the way for the transition towards nationally-owned school feeding. WFP strengthened its collaboration with other UN Agencies, working with the FAO in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) to establish policies on public food procurement for Government-led HGSF initiatives and diversified diets.

WFP supported Government to conduct a School Feeding System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) analysis, which resulted in establishment of a two-year action plan focusing on the crucial capacity-building interventions based on the remaining gap identified.

WFP's capacity strengthening investments in school feeding led the Addis Ababa City Administration to institutionalize school feeding by establishing an independent agency, to manage school feeding and implement the national school feeding policy and strategy, allocating funding for this programming in their budget and establishing school feeding in all public schools.

In **Rwanda**, WFP supported the Government's school feeding efforts by directly implementing the HGSF programme and providing technical assistance, including support to develop the Comprehensive National School Feeding Policy and School Feeding Operational Guidelines for the Government's NSFP officially approved by the Government in 2021. With support from WFP, the **Somalia** Government drafted a national school feeding policy to promote the implementation of a devolved, sustainable, and effective home-grown school feeding program that ensures timely provision of nutritious and diversified school meals while improving access, retention, equity, and quality of education; improves the health and nutritional status of schoolchildren and promotes local economies through support and linkage of school feeding with local smallholder farmers' associations and traders. The policy was validated by the Ministry of Education at the Federal and Member State levels for the parliament and Cabinet Office's approval.

South to South and Triangular Cooperation

To foster Government's engagement in School Feeding, WFP organized a study visit to Benin with the First Lady of **Burundi** and line Minister to learn from Benin's good practices and success and transpose them to Burundi. The visit also paved the way for the First Lady's nomination as the ambassador for Burundi to the school meals coalition after the Country signed up in September 2021.

WFP also assisted the Government in documenting the history of the school feeding in Kenya and facilitated several virtual engagements between the Ministry of Education with the Governments of Djibouti, Nigeria, and Burundi.

Home-grown school feeding

2021 saw the establishment of global consensus and support towards strengthened school feeding programmes, highlighting the need for nutritious and increased coverage of school meals to ensure every school child receives a nutritious meal. National Governments in the region demonstrated high level political commitment through engagement in global school feeding events, increased budgets towards HGFS, adoption of innovations such as efficient cooking stoves, reduction of aflatoxins, and the promotion of healthy diets through diversified school menus.

RBN initiated the LRF for HGFS which seeks to enhance linkages with smallholder farmers to promote nutritious menus and scale. The project is targeting LRF front runner countries (Uganda and Ethiopia) where WFP has seen significant procurement from smallholder farmers for redistribution in the region, and HGFS Proof of Concept countries (Rwanda and Burundi) where, working with Governments, WFP scaled up HGFS portfolios. Increased linkages with smallholder farmers and decentralised procurement spurred an immediate market for smallholder farmers around the schools.

To strengthen and harmonise HGFS approaches, the AUDA-NEPAD-WFP developed HGFS implementation guidelines with the participation of RBN and selected countries. These guidelines will improve the programming and implementation of HGFS activities in the region.

Nutrition – *sensitive school feeding*

Well-designed school feeding programmes provide a great opportunity to address some of the underlying and basic determinants of malnutrition. To help address malnutrition among school children, most countries diversified meals provided in schools by including other nutritious foods in the rations. In **Burundi**, fortified maize meal and fish were included in the rations as much as possible with some of the schools providing milk to further improve the nutritional status of children. In **Ethiopia**, haricot beans and other indigenous crops were procured from smallholder farmers which helped provide diverse school menus. In **Somalia**, kitchen gardens were established in schools to promote dietary diversity using locally available foods. This was complemented with a nutrition – SBCC campaign on the importance of hygiene and the benefits of consuming diverse and nutritious diets targeting school children and support staff.

Complementary activities in schools

In collaboration with other partners for School Health and Nutrition, complementary activities such as deworming, social behaviour change messaging on nutritious dietary intake, HIV prevention especially targeting adolescents, Gender and Disability inclusion, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and the establishment of school gardens have been embedded in the school feeding programmes in the region. Partnering with UNICEF for example, has seen the establishment of WASH facilities for supported schools in **Somalia** and the administration of anthelmintics to school going children in **South Sudan** greatly reducing the risk of preventable diseases that can be detrimental to the health and nutrition status of school age children.





Evaluations and Lessons Learned

To enhance accountability and future programming, WFP **Rwanda** conducted an end-line evaluation of the USDA McGovern–Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programme (2016 – 2021) in all targeted districts.

The evaluation found that most endline targets were met or exceeded in nearly all activities with over 60 million meals provided to students; student absenteeism due to illness decreased from 8 percent to 1.72 percent among female students, and from 7 percent to 2.38 percent among male students; the percentage of students identified as attentive increased from 60 percent to 74.1 percent, and student reading comprehension had increased from 49 percent to 77.7 percent. The findings were used to inform the design of Phase II (2021 – 2025) of the programme and integrated into the Phase II baseline report.

Challenges

Several challenges affected the smooth implementation of school health and nutrition programmes in the region, among them Covid-19 which led to closures of schools, shifting in school terms and models of teaching. The switch to online learning disadvantaged many schoolchildren in remote areas with poor electricity connections. In **Uganda** for instance, schools closed for two years putting children at least two years behind their peers in the region.

Other challenges include climate change impacts such as drought (Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia) and conflict (Tigray) which have induced hunger, malnutrition, human displacements, disruption of learning for schoolchildren and loss of livestock. Inadequate or no resources impacted local procurement of food stuffs for schools such as in Burundi, where some schools experienced pipeline breaks and drop-out was recorded. Access in both Sudan and South Sudan remained a key bottleneck in service provision due to poor roads infrastructure especially in rainy season.

2022 Outlook

In 2022, the regional bureau will prioritise the rollout of the regional school feeding implementation plan. The COMPACT, a document serving to clarify the support that will be provided by the regional bureau and the HQ functional team to COs, will be the guiding document. The activities of the School Meals Coalition as a platform for advocacy and increased opportunity for resource mobilization will also be supported.

The regional bureau also seeks to increase its efforts in mobilizing resources from National Governments, Donors, IFIs and the Private Sector. Additionally, several cost-benefit analysis and research studies are planned, to generate evidence on the effectiveness of school health and nutrition and make the case for investment.



Nutrition

Regional Overview

Nutrition and HIV and Tuberculosis (HIV/TB)

Programmes in the Eastern Africa region continue to be impacted by a set of complex vulnerabilities with far-reaching implications to nutrition, livelihoods, and education. The drivers are diverse and wide-ranging, encompassing a host of factors such as high levels of food insecurity, conflicts/fragility, food price volatility, unaffordability of quality diets, and more. The Eastern Africa region is also the second-highest impacted by HIV/TB globally. Added together, these overlapping risks create unprecedented drawbacks and threaten both the economic and human capital development for the region.

WFP in Eastern Africa aims to (re) position to a system-, sectors-, and cross functional-wide approach. The 2021-2023 Regional Nutrition Strategy focuses on a shift through three core pillars: Integration, Partnerships and Thought Leadership. By taking a multisectoral systems approach and integrating nutrition across and within programming, the aim is to mitigate the effects of and lower the levels of all forms of malnutrition and HIV/TB prevalence by focusing on improved access to and affordability of healthy diets for all.

Prioritizing food systems in the region has allowed for the integration of nutrition in various ways, from emergency and resilience programming to social protection systems, the use of schools as a platform for integrated programming, and beyond. As a next step, WFP will continue to generate evidence to inform programmatic decision making on to how to further integrate nutrition, clearly determining objectives using a wide range of platforms. Actions through market development, food systems, and resilience as well as sufficient funding availability will prove crucial to carry this work forward.

Reached



Planned

Number of women and children reached with nutrition



11,471,789
12,994,010

Number of beneficiaries reached through treatment programming



6,525,544
7,696,674

Number of beneficiaries reached through prevention of acute malnutrition activities



2,978,877
3,828,233

Number of beneficiaries reached with prevention of stunting activities



1,967,368
1,469,103

Specialised Nutritious Foods (SNF) distributed



73,643
93,735

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



6,364,516
7,033,786

Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)



4,923,037
4,676,831

Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)



807,730
1,367,615

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



633,749
989,340

HIV/TB

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



60,708
102,490

Regional Achievements

Nutrition

In spite of the challenges faced, nutrition and nutrition-related programming still found a way to make a noticeable impact in 2021. The Regional Nutrition Strategy for 2021-2023 was defined and communicated regionally across Eastern Africa. Integration was championed throughout a number of COs, such as in Theories of Change in **Somalia and Burundi**, as well as across programming for food systems, social protection (including CBT), supply chain and procurement as part of the local and regional procurement (LRP) initiative. Furthermore, the unit supported five digital nutrition solutions in five different countries in the region.

Immediate and sustained emergency nutrition support was provided throughout the region, with operations in **Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan** as some of WFP's largest operations with very high nutrition needs. The **Horn of Africa** drought affecting **Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia** has resulted in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates above emergency thresholds, necessitating further support. Working closely together with the Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) unit in WFP, the nutrition and HIV/TB unit conducted joint assessments on food security and nutrition among IDPs, communities and refugees.

A key focus in 2021 was on partnerships, and the nutrition and HIV/TB unit sustained regional partnership efforts to position WFP as a partner of choice in nutrition and HIV/TB programming in the region, working with regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs, UN Agencies, academia, Private Sector, and other Donors. Private Sector partnership engagement efforts bore fruit in 2021, as nutrition was the entry point for work with DSM on micronutrient powders, with Africa Investment Forum (AIF), the Rockefeller Foundation and Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Fortification initiatives with potential to improve healthy diets were supported in eight countries through large as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As the global co-convenor of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, WFP focused on food design, food safety, post-harvest-loss reduction and market connectivity together with co-convenor GAIN, conducting a pitch competition with cash reward for the winners.

The WFP and UNICEF regional offices continued to work closely together, rolling out the UNICEF-WFP framework in all nine countries in the region, including an M&E framework drafted by WFP. **Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan** were selected as pilot countries for the WFP-UNICEF partnership on wasting and school health and nutrition, resulting in an approved roadmap and improved collaboration, joint planning and implementation by both agencies.

Numerous studies were undertaken in 2021, at both regional and country levels: a Last Mile study in **South Sudan** documented SNF supply chains in complex settings; a regional nutrition in retail research piece was undertaken, focusing on nutritious foods to broaden the local supplier base and create demand for nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition, linked to social protection and championing healthy diets through CBT; and the groundwork was laid for a study in **Djibouti** in 2022 on evidence generation and the impact of CBT for nutrition programming in urban areas.

In 2021, the regional team embarked on an exercise to document the programme adaptations implemented in the COs following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic within the region in early 2020, and in the process identifying good practices and lessons learned that could be disseminated. The exercise covered adaptations in the Nutrition, HIV/TB and school-based programmes in the nine COs. Nine country profiles and a regional summary were produced.



HIV/TB

HIV Integration into National Systems

Building around a series of interlinked priority areas aimed at strengthening national systems and fostering programme integration, WFP RBN fostered the HIV-sensitive social protection and HIV in humanitarian settings agenda; advanced the evidence generation and knowledge management agenda for better programme and advocacy; focused on adolescents and young people as a key group of concern; and supported innovation for better outcomes.

Two policy briefs and a journal article exploring the linkages between food security and HIV risks and vulnerabilities among adolescents and adolescent mothers were published in partnership with the Oxford-UCT team and the RBJ HIV team, with evidence clearly showing heightened vulnerability associated with being a food insecure adolescent mother and living with HIV. Food security, nutrition and socio-economic vulnerability studies were further conducted in **Djibouti** and in **Rwanda** in close collaboration with key national ministries and a stigma index study was conducted among refugees living with HIV in **Rwandan** camps. Compelling evidence shows a staggering picture of the people living with and affected by HIV affected by intersecting inequalities and overlapping vulnerabilities. A condition of precariousness perfectly encapsulated by co-existence of both under and over nutrition among HIV positive urban dwellers in **Djibouti**. The evidence produced for Djibouti supports the ongoing efforts in partnership with the Djiboutian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities to ensure that people living with, and households affected by HIV are included in the national social protection system.

HIV-sensitive and specific programmes continue across eight operational countries in the RBN region, where regular nutrition assessment, counselling and support services for improved nutrition behaviour and specialized nutritious foods to malnourished People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are provided alongside safety nets for food-insecure families affected by HIV. Mother to child prevention programmes are also implemented across health facilities and often embedded in the larger nutrition programmes both for host and refugee populations. To meaningfully situate HIV within the school, health and nutrition policy and programmatic space and to ensure that schools are utilised as platforms for multiple interventions, HIV-related

considerations were integrated in the key school-based programmes (SBP) regional policy documents, such as the RBIP and the SBP resource mobilisation and advocacy strategy. At the country level, school feeding programmes particularly in selected schools in **Rwanda and Ethiopia**, provided a suitable platform for age-appropriate messaging in schools to create awareness on HIV risks and prevention, with a focus on risky behaviours.

Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

While ensuring that food security and nutrition needs remain at the core of national and regional HIV and TB responses, WFP co-leads the areas of work on HIV-sensitive social protection (with International Labour Organization, ILO) and HIV in humanitarian settings (with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR) under the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). To meet regional and country objectives, roughly 1.9 million USD were raised to sustain regional and country programmes and contribute towards eliminating AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The successful use of these catalytic funds was articulated around strengthening the capacities of key Government partners in **Rwanda, Djibouti, Burundi, and Kenya**, as well as around key regional partnerships with the Regional AIDS Team for Eastern and Southern Africa (RATESA), the ILO and UNHCR and other regional stakeholders such as the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Global Fund. Emphasis was further placed on investing in building a learning agenda in collaboration with leading research institutions such as EPRI, the Oxford-University of Cape Town research centre and the ACCELERATE Hub.

Central to furthering the HIV-sensitive Social Protection Agenda in the region a mapping covering the 15 Fast-Track countries across the Eastern and Southern Africa region was finalised in partnership with the RBJ office, the ILO and UNAIDS. The study was validated in an Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)-led webinar with over 100 regional partners, including UN Agencies, the Academia, Donors, National Governments, and the Civil Society. The webinar further resulted in a Call-to-Action calling on Governments and regional stakeholders in the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region to improve social protection mechanisms in order to address inequalities and be more inclusive of people and communities living with and affected by HIV.

Evaluations

In 2021, the evaluation on the Fresh Food Voucher Programme in **Ethiopia** was finalized. The programme was found to be relevant for the context, closely aligned with national nutrition policies, and puts emphasis on the access to fresh nutritious foods, with improvements in children's dietary diversity over the course of the programme.

Additionally, the endline evaluation for the USDA McGovern-Dole programme in **Rwanda** was finalized. The report highlighted the programme's contribution to improved knowledge about nutrition and the potential of school and kitchen gardens in communities.

Challenges

Funding needs continue to rise and current funding availability is not adequate to meet food and nutrition needs in the region. Funding shortages in 2021 led to reductions in food rations for refugees, impacting not only food security but also nutritional status. Additionally, malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes in eight of the nine countries were directly affected by the funding shortages, resulting in programmatic adjustments to maximize impact. Nonetheless, the lack of resources for nutrition is impactful, negatively affecting individuals' nutritional status as well as potentially perpetuating the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, with dire repercussions for countries' economies, health and social protection systems, and human capital development. Identifying and raising additional resources, including among Non-traditional Donors, remains a key priority if adequate programming and Government support is to be provided.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to limit the ability to carry out surveys, which are the main source of information for nutrition data. Programme and clinical data have been substituted but the lack of up-to-date nutrition data through surveys has proven challenging to plan and provide accurate projections, especially in emergency contexts.

Lessons Learned

There is a need for continued and further integration across programming, with a key focus on emergency preparedness and response, CBT, food systems and resilience. Linking resilience with malnutrition prevention programming, especially in emergency contexts, will be needed to shift the focus from reactionary to preventative. An increased focus on a systems-approach and cross-functional integration will enable further interlinked programming.

2022 Outlook

Moving into 2022, WFP regional and country teams will continue to further the Nutrition, HIV and TB agenda in line with the Regional Nutrition Strategy (2021 – 2023), the new global AIDS strategy (2021-26), National Governments' priorities and WFP's in-country comparative advantage. It is key to acknowledge that HIV is a disease of inequality, and it is hence both a cause and consequence of poverty and vulnerability. It is also important to note that in order to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, WFP needs to explore more innovative and sustainable solutions working closely with government-led systems to support the needs of vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women, and people living with HIV/TB. By taking a multisectoral systems approach and integrating nutrition across and within programming, the aim is to mitigate the effects of and lower the levels of all forms of malnutrition by focusing on improved access to and affordability of healthy diets for all. By addressing the structural drivers of malnutrition, including food and nutrition insecurity, we can make strides towards eliminating hunger and AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 while fostering healthy societies and breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty.



Social
Protection

Regional Overview

In 2021, RBN continued to witness the recurrence of large-scale covariate shocks, such as droughts, floods, pandemics, and conflicts. These shocks and stressors exerted a significant impact on the lives of the most food and nutritionally insecure households. In response, there has been an increased role of social protection in mitigating the impact of these shocks, protecting vulnerable households from engaging in negative coping strategies and laying a strong platform for building the resilience of households to future shocks and stresses.

WFP's engagement in social protection is mainly on strengthening the capacity of the Governments to provide social protection services through several entry points that span across 12 building blocks as expounded in the global social protection strategic framework.

Regional Achievements

All countries across the region were engaged in some form of social protection activities from delivering on behalf of the government to facilitating the review of key social protection strategies and supporting strengthening management information systems.

Policy and programme development

WFP is actively involved in the development of shock responsive social protection strategies and capacitating Government officials on shock responsive social protection systems. For example, **Rwanda** supported the capacity building of Government officials and other partners on shock responsive social protection and is facilitating discussions on the use of social protection system to respond to natural shocks and the development of an operational framework for the shock responsive social protection system. Moreover, WFP supported the updating of a Disaster Risk and Management (DRM) Policy aimed at mainstreaming the DRM into social protection among other sectors.

Social Protection Digitization

WFP continued to support the development and strengthening of management information systems.

Sudan has worked with the Government to design social protection management information systems that support the emerging social protection system. **Somalia** is partnering with UNICEF and the World Bank to develop a Unified Social Registry that will support the targeting and management of the *Baxnaano* programme.

Partnerships

WFP continued to strengthen partnerships with development institutions to provide technical support and capacity building on social protection. WFP partnered with the **University of Wolverhampton and Institute of Development Studies through the RBN supported Learning Facility** to build practical know-how and address bottlenecks on social protection implementation through open conversations with experts.

Evidence Generation

A part of the social protection evidence generating activities, the region conducted a Social Protection Management Information System (MIS) mapping exercise to assess the state of MIS architecture in the region, identify gaps and provide evidence-based recommendations regarding opportunities and entry points. RBN also recognises that MIS are important policy and operational tools in the development of strong, nationally owned SP systems.

The report highlighted that social protection policies and strategies have largely shaped the type of integrated information system in RBN countries. Whereas **Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda** have built integrated beneficiary registries; **Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan** are moving to establish social registries. On the other hand, **Kenya** also recently integrated a social registry component as part of its Enhanced Single Registry (ESR).

Several recommendations were made, key among them is the need to support Governments to build strategies on data use for evidence-based decision making. This entails supporting strategies that ensure that data is analysed, shared with relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national level, is used for policy cycles such as social protection policy review, the national development plans.

Challenges

The COVID-19 posed a major challenge with in the region in 2021 negatively impacting livelihoods of millions of people. In the urban areas, the effect was exacerbated by large numbers of workers that are in the informal sector, while in rural areas, disruptions in the availability and access to agricultural inputs were among other negative impacts. In most countries within the region, Governments responded with short-term fiscal expansionism, with increased public spending allocated to supporting the health sector and providing social safety nets to those worst affected. However, the overstretched budgets were largely temporary.

Secondly, the impact has been disproportionately felt by the working poor and their families, especially those in the informal sector who could not work from home when lockdowns were imposed and had no access to unemployment insurance. This posed a new challenge with regards to implementation of social protection programmes within the urban setup. Most countries had limited coverage of social protection interventions within urban areas. Currently the urban working poor are excluded from virtually any social assistance and social insurance. This gap in social protection systems needs to be urgently addressed, and with additional resources.

Thirdly, in recent years, the region has faced multiple climate shocks, notably droughts, floods and desert locust outbreaks. This calls for more shock-responsive social protection systems with robust information systems and social registries to allow various programme expansions: an increase in population coverage (horizontal) and additional benefits to existing people (vertical) and pre-positioned resources. These systems are still at different levels of development within the region.

Lessons Learned

Strengthening shock responsive social protection systems in the region

There is a need to support Governments within the region to strengthen shock responsive social protection systems. This includes strengthening Management Information Systems that are linked to beneficiary management systems.

Strengthening linkages between social protection and rural development

The COVID-19 pandemic heightened the need for supporting expansion of Government social protection programmes and linking them to livelihoods programmes. For example, in **Ethiopia** where WFP is working with the Government to expand elements of the Productive Safety Net Project in urban areas, the combination of climate-related shocks impacting on food production and COVID-19 have pushed up food prices. WFP is providing complementary programming alongside the Governments on social protection. Assistance to cover seasonal food gaps is complemented with additional support to productivity and engagement in resilient and profitable food systems.

Building linkages between disaster risk management systems and social protection systems

WFP could also leverage its comparative advantage on systems and data management to support the design and operationalisation of early warning systems that support shock responsive social protection system in the region. The early warning system can be used to trigger responses to shocks via the social protection sector. Such an approach would ensure that the resilience and shock-responsive agenda is supported through social protection information systems such as social registries and also through functional early warning and early action system.



Partnerships and Funding Overview

Overview

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.

2021 was another record year for contributions to RBN with a total of US\$2.2 billion received against a needs-based plan of US\$ 4.5 billion, therefore covering 49 percent of the needs. This level of contributions is 4 percent higher compared to funding in 2020. Funding in 2022 is likely to remain at similar levels to 2021.

Significant progress was made in the diversification of funding streams: RBN received record high contributions: US\$ 48 million from Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA); US\$ 163 million from Host Governments with IFIs as sources donors; US\$ 11.5 million from Private Sector.

The US remains by far the biggest donor to RBN with US funding representing 62 percent of funding to the region in 2021, a slight decrease since 2020. Funding from both UAE, Finland, Ireland, France and Luxembourg increased by over 200 percent in 2021, while funding from the UK, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Netherlands and RoK declined in 2021.

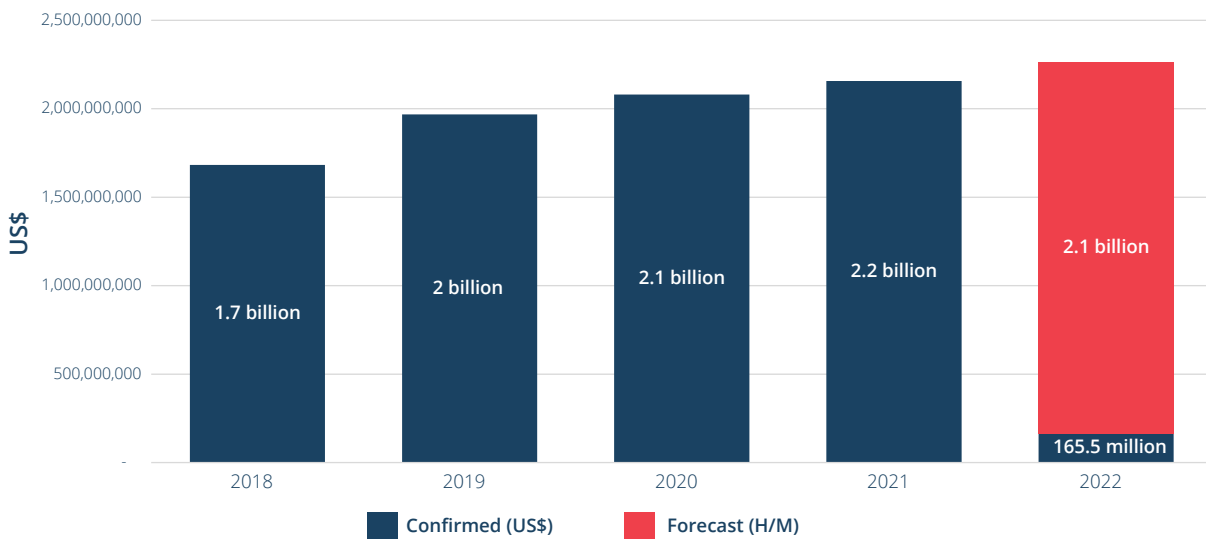
2021 has also seen an increase in flexible regional allocations to RBN, in particular EUR 52 million from the German Foreign Office. RBN has also received a first-ever regional allocation for innovation from USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

Multi-year funding decreased slightly in 2021 with 92 percent of contributions being single-year. 83 percent of 2021 contributions were earmarked at activity level, 9 percent at Country Strategic Plan (CSP) level and 8 percent at strategic outcome level.

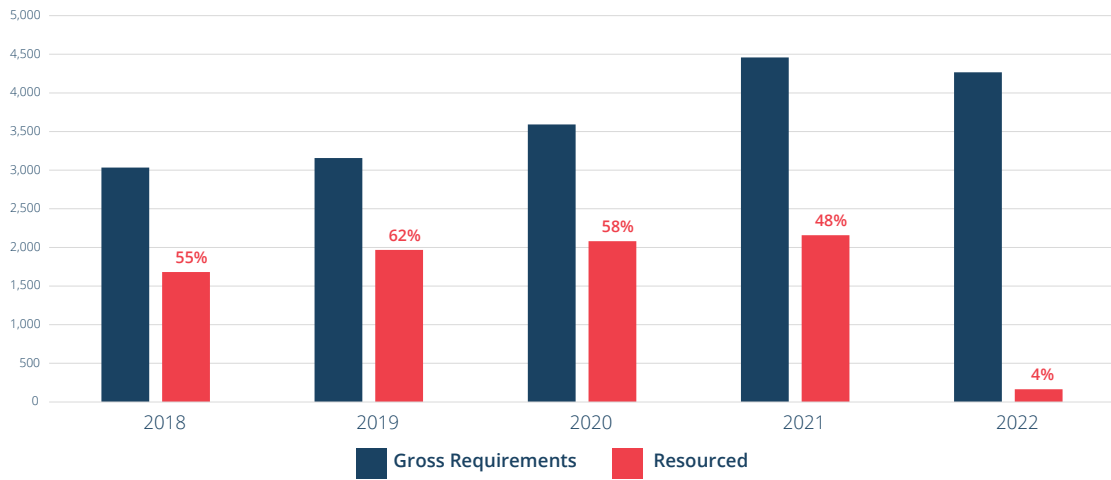
RBN Sourcing Trends 2018-2021

RBN received slightly more than US\$ 2.2 billion in contributions in 2021 against operational requirements of US\$ 4.5 billion, therefore representing 49 percent of the estimated annual needs. This level of funding is 4 percent higher compared to funding received in 2020.

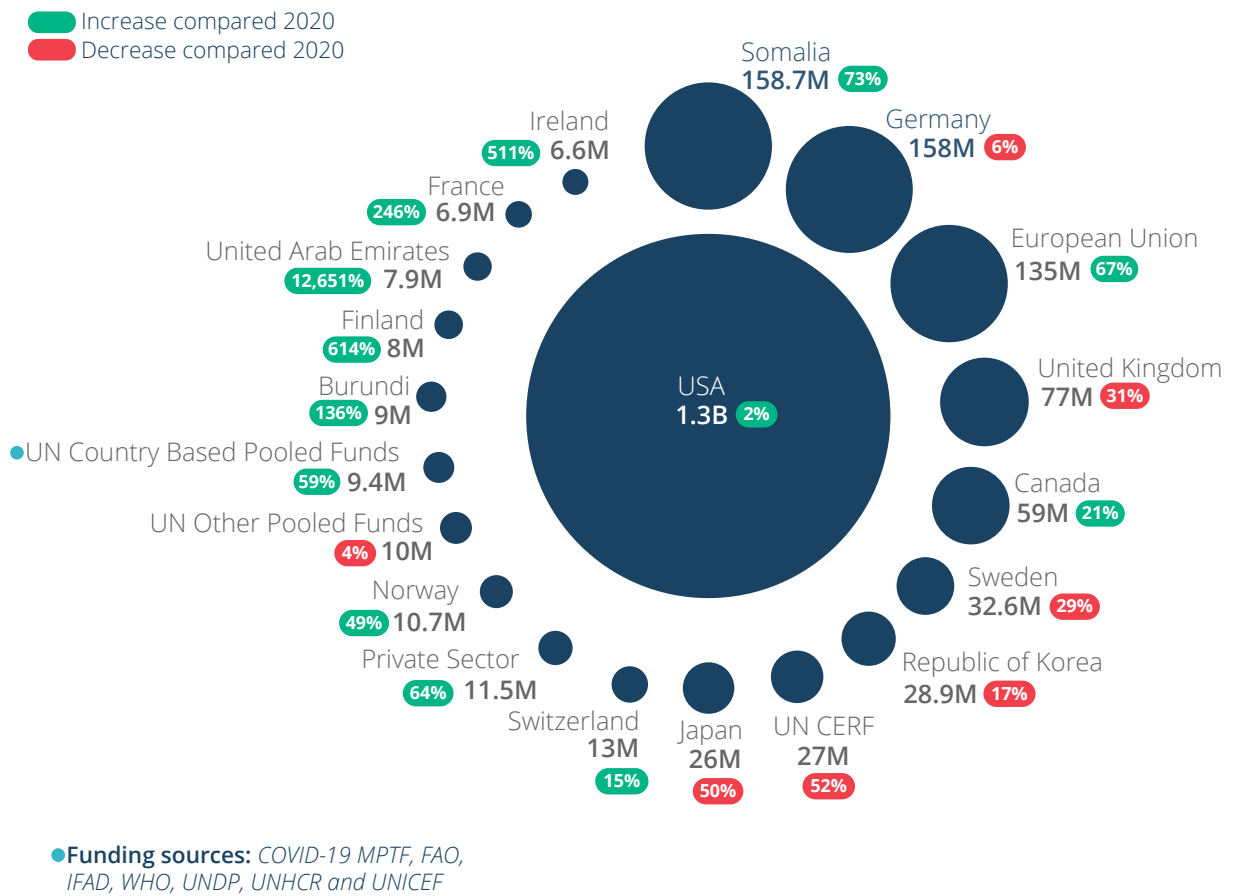
However, the complex contextual challenges in the region continue to increase the needs in the region; 2021 needs-based plan increased by 24 percent compared to 2020. Confirmed contributions in 2022 have so far covered only 4 percent of the needs. WFP is grateful for the support from Donors, Government, and Partners, and will continue to advocate for increased and timely funding in order to reach people targeted for humanitarian assistance.



RBN Overall Funding VS Need Trends



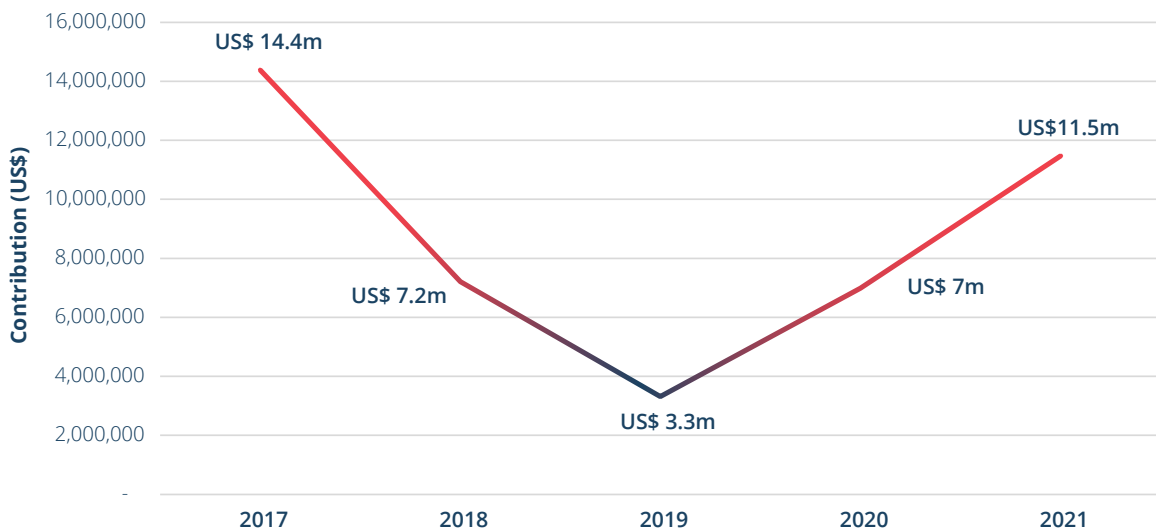
RBN Top 20 Donors in 2021



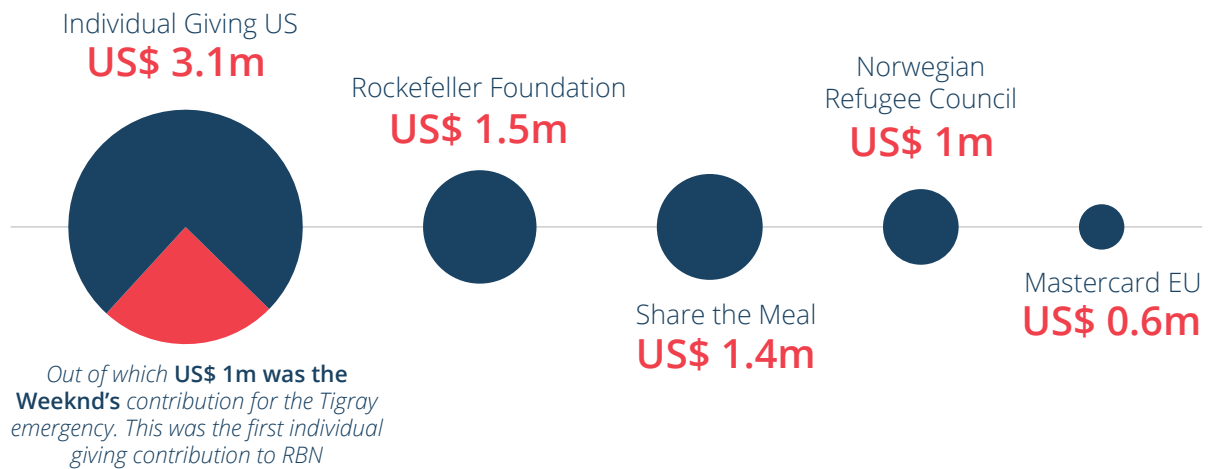
Private Sector

WFP continues to strengthen partnerships with Private Sector. The Private Sector remains critical to WFP, providing opportunities to support communities to address zero hunger in countries through strategic and sustainable activities.

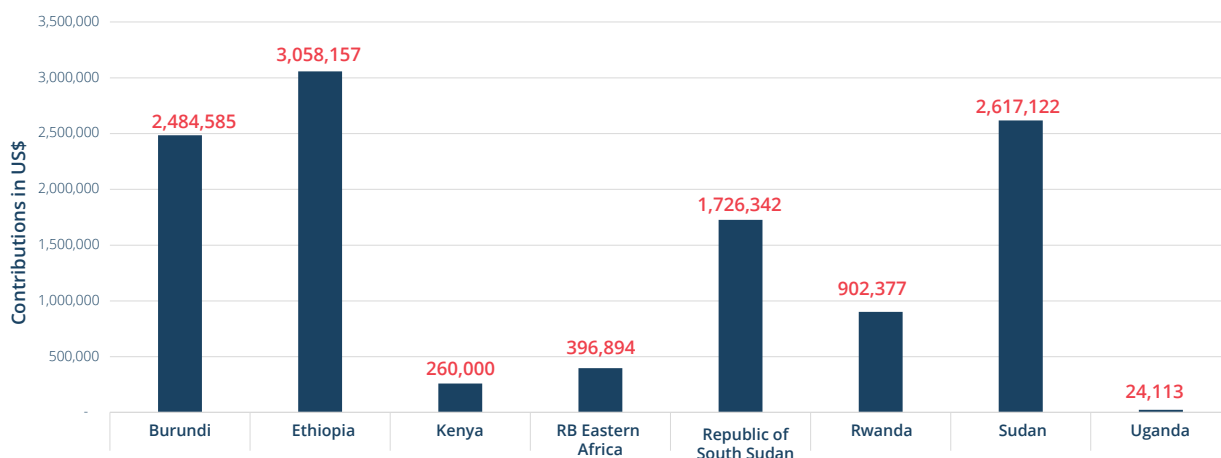
In 2021, Private Sector funding to RBN continued to increase. RBN received US\$ 11.5 million (66.7 percent growth) representing 2 percent of all Private Sector funding globally. For the first time, RBN received funding from Individual Donors. Other first-time Private Donors included Rockefeller, Khalsa Aid, Big Win Philanthropy, Conrad Hilton Foundation, A Glimmer of Hope Foundation and the BSH Hausgeräte GmbH group.



Top 5 Private Sector Donors in 2021:



Private Sector Funding Per Country Office in US\$ (2021)



Overview of Cooperating Partners in RBN as at end 2021



Under WFP’s Corporate Partnerships Strategy (2014-2017), corporate guidance documents (NGO Partnership Manual, NGO Partnership Guidance) and the 2016 Grand Bargain agreement, RBN continued to strengthening the Cooperating Partner (CP) function throughout the region through digitalisation, capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange and evidence.

Digitization

In 2021, RBN continued the rollout of the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) to countries in the region to enhance efficient and easy collaboration between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and UN partners. 300 cooperating partners were trained on how to create and update their profiles giving them improved transparency on partnerships opportunities with WFP and other UN Agencies. The adoption of the UNPP supports a harmonized approach to due diligence across all UN Agencies in the region.

RBN piloted an end-to-end system for digitizing the Cooperating Partner process called Partner Connect, starting with distribution reports to enhance timely reporting and visibility on stock distribution. The pilot was conducted in November and December 2021 with 2 CPs in Kenya and 3 CPs in Uganda with pilot lessons informing how the platform will be rolled out in 2022.

Partnership Excellence

Additional funding in 2021 allowed RBN to develop a standardized Onboarding package to guide COs on how to how to effectively onboard partners upon signing Field Level Agreements (FLAs). The package included revised, detailed information on how to educate CPs on WFP Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption (AFAC) clauses, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the new budgeting and invoicing templates. The CP Onboarding package will be finalized in early 2022 for adoption.

RBN continued its regular engagement with Regional Cooperating Partners with 8 virtual events in 2021 which allowed regional partners to showcase their work around common interest themes: Environmental impacts of climate change on Food Systems, Forecast-based Financing (AAs), Integrating Protection in our work, Managing Aflatoxins and Partnering for better Fraud and Corruption risk management – to name a few.

Regular oversight and monthly engagement provided timely support on both operational and process issues to address risks and improve the overall partnership management cycle. On-going training to WFP staff on CP Management systems, tools and processes, as well as to our Partners helped build capacities for stronger partnership.

Evaluation

A decentralized evaluation was commissioned by RBN in 2021, covering the period from January 2016 to December 2020 to create an evidence base of previous successes and challenges from which WFP can learn and improve. The Thematic Evaluation of Cooperating Partnerships in the Eastern Africa Region (2016-2020) looked at three main questions:

- How relevant are WFP cooperating partners and partnership management practices in countries supported by RBN?
- To what extent have (a) CO partnership management practices and (b) partners' capacities and performance been strengthened?
- What internal and external factors have influenced (a) CO partnership management practices and (b) partners' capacities and performance?

The six evaluation recommendations were divided in two parts: Strategic and Operational and will be addressed in 2022.

Strategic recommendations

1. WFP should develop a strategy that contains an intentional approach to how WFP will meet its commitments to the localization agenda in the Eastern Africa region.
2. WFP should articulate a more intentional approach to drawing on CP management as a strategy for increasing capacity for gender-transformative programming.
3. WFP should continue to harmonize partnership management processes with other UN Agencies and pursue strategic collaboration with other organizations aimed at capacity strengthening of CPs.

Operational Recommendations

1. WFP COs should operationalize their intent to foster more strategic engagement of CPs
2. WFP should institutionalize partnership management, including CP management, as a field of technical expertise that encompasses oversight on transactions of cooperating partnerships and strategic aspects of CP management
3. WFP should continue ongoing efforts to increase the digitization and automation of CP management processes at COs and Field Offices in the region.



Supply Chain

Overview

In 2021, a total of **2,022,000 metric tons (MT)** arrived in RBN, making it the Regional Bureau with the largest volume; with logistics services valued at approximately USD 340 million injected into the region.

Through Bilateral Service Provision (BSP), RBN 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 humanitarian community. These included logistics planning, coordinating, and facilitating the importation and movement of medical items, deep field storage and multimodal transport solutions.

In addition, RBN has opened new corridors between **Sudan and Ethiopia**, and between **Rwanda and Ethiopia**.

Logistics Achievements 2021

Best Corridor Model Award

The RBN 2021 Corridor Management (CM) model was evaluated as the best model by the Office of Internal Audit (OIGA) in terms of strategic guidance, cost efficiency objectives, approval of annual plans and budget and review of performance.

Cash Based Transfer

In 2021, WFP transferred **USD 440 million** across nine countries in the region, allowing recipients to meet their food needs in local markets either through cash or through voucher programmes and contracted more than **2,500 retailers** across six countries through its voucher programmes.

Through its voucher programmes, WFP works closely with the retailers to ensure availability, price, quality, and service to its beneficiaries through regular monitoring as well as capacity strengthening where needed, training on business skills, allowing retailers to grow their businesses, which stimulates economic growth, while offering a better customer experience for all.

Environmental Sustainability (Green Logistics)

RBN Logistics and the Environment unit are building on and expanding the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory by adding the calculation of supply chain emissions and developing a data-driven, scalable, three-year regional sustainability strategy.

The objective of the joint Environmental-Logistics project is to develop and implement a measurable and scalable supply chain sustainability strategy. Building more sustainable supply chains is increasingly becoming a priority for National Governments and WFP Donors. This effort is also in line with WFP's global target of achieving a 45 percent reduction in CO2 emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, developed in response to the UN Sustainability Strategy (2020-2030).

Temperature Sensitive Logistics (TSL)

Building on the experience gained during the Ebola outbreak in 2014-15, the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 onwards, and requests for increased support in health emergency responses and preparedness, WFP started to expand its scope from handling "high volume and small value" commodities such as delivering large quantities of bulk food items to "high value and small volume" commodities such as vaccines with increased product quality requirements.

WFP was designated as the in-country logistics provider in the MasterCard Foundation's Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative. WFP RBN partnered with the African Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) to support countries in East and Central Africa by providing technical inputs and recruitment of staff.

The RBN TSL team supports COs in building in-country TSL capacities and assists HQ formulate information and strategies through contribution and inputs from the field teams. The team is also represented and co-leads key regional forums such as the Regional Logistics Working Group or the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) assessment of New Vaccine Deployment Plans at a local level, a requirement for the COVAX initiative.

Country Office Updates

Burundi

In efforts to leverage lake/water transportation and improve delivery efficiency, WFP Burundi undertook nine major ports assessments on the Lake Tanganyika corridor on infrastructure, handling capacity & operations.

Additionally, Burundi sees a great opportunity in continued cooperation and the transfer of skills by working closely with key partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture to improve and design effective solutions to reinforce food systems: post-harvest grain handling training; capacity strengthening for farmer's cooperatives and local traders to understand quality standards and to comply with WFP standards.

To optimize their supply chain system, WFP Burundi looks to continue collaborating closely with Government Partners for the facilitation of cross border trade through the elimination of all existing Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) and identification of new NTBs.

Djibouti

In 2021 WFP enhanced its COVID-19 related storage and transport services for WHO storing 500 vaccines for WHO on site. To address the challenge of storage constraints that lead to reduced deliveries in Djibouti, the Port of Tadjourah offers additional storage capacity and overland transport to northern Ethiopia. This allowed an increase in rail transport into Ethiopia for containerized cargo. Djibouti silos achieved 100 percent utilization in 2021 playing a key role in providing supplies during the COVID-19 response.

Ethiopia

In 2021 Ethiopia moved over 1 million metric tonnes. WFP logistics continues to support the Government of Ethiopia on service provision with emphasis placed on strengthening ground transportation capacity and logistical efficiency. CBT is an innovation project that combines social and behavioural change communication with a monetary incentive to encourage positive spending habits among recipients of cash entitlements. Djibouti remains the most efficient corridor.

The capacity strengthening team is closely working with the Government of Ethiopia to improve the transport sector and achieve logistics efficiencies. Under a joint MoU between WFP and the Ministry of Transport, WFP provides technical and advisory services.

Kenya

2021 saw Moyale corridor being successfully used to provide support to Ethiopia. However, the transshipment problems on the Ethiopian side slowed down this operation.

7,000 metric tonnes were dispatched to support the Ethiopia Tigray emergency operation. The mechanization of the Mombasa port/warehouse operations also enabled faster handling and cost savings in the transportation of goods.

WFP Kenya successfully piloted the vegetable oil ATM machine in Dadaab which dispenses vegetable oil much like banking ATM dispense cash at the demand of the beneficiaries. The first prototype of the machine was piloted in July in Dadaab.

The Special Economic Zone in Mombasa has enabled bulk movement from Mombasa silos to Nairobi and Jinja.

Rwanda

Despite the challenges with the new AIF contract terms as well as delayed sales orders from buying COs resulting in storage and shelf-life constraints for CSB+, the co-ordination of regional contract for super-cereal (CSB+) supply from AIF remains a key activity for WFP Rwanda Supply Chain; Africa Improved Foods (AIF) have delivered more than 25,000 tonnes of CSB+ to countries across the region

WFP Rwanda also plans to increase its Local and Regional Food Procurement (LRFP) of maize and beans for Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) and integrate Small Holder Farmers (SHF) into fresh food Supply Chain for school feeding program.



Somalia

Somalia continued to implement a home delivery model with success for both cash and in-kind assistance. Somalia was the first WFP CO globally to effect COVID-19 vaccine deliveries in-country.

The e-Shop, a system that links families receiving WFP cash-based assistance to an array of local retailers, provides WFP with enhanced visibility on which food items are received by individual households at the most granular level possible: deliveries are tracked right to the doorstep of each e-Shop user. This system gave beneficiaries real-time and transparent price information, and empowered them to redeem their cash assistance and order food online from phones or other devices. This, along with the clear separation of responsibilities between retailers, delivery agents and cooperating partners, decreases the risk of fraud and enhances accountability. Through coordinated efforts between WFP, retailers and delivery providers, e-Shop also enables WFP to reach communities in hard-to-reach locations with limited infrastructure.

Since the launch, the platform has enabled 286,000 home deliveries, supporting 1.7 million people. More than 135,000 direct customers, 1,300 retailers, and 150 schools have registered on the platform and a total of US\$ 2 million in e-sales were generated.



Sudan

The Port Sudan provides an added channel for transport dispatches from the Port to other logistical hubs in the country.

Sudan, however, faces a myriad of challenges added to the current political instability, nation-wide tension and uncertainty, and hyper-inflation all on top of slow recovery from COVID-19. The increasingly complex customs clearance procedures and stringent Government restrictions on commodity shelf-life for import of > 1 year for staples leaves a less than one year shelf life for food items by the time BHA documents are issued.

For ease of small cargo deliveries, WFP Sudan use the Global Vehicle Leasing Programme (GVLP) to add pick-ups to their fleet to address the problem of insufficient transport in Sudan.

There is equally a greater need to increase in-kind support as CBT has not received adequate Government support for implementation.



South Sudan

Through Bor dyke rehabilitation project, WFP Logistics in South Sudan sealed 56 breach points out of 70 along the Bor dyke, which mitigated the continuing effects of flooding such as displacement. This involved a workforce of 1,500 people upgrading 31.6 km of the dyke. By August, 16,000 people initially displaced by the flood returned to their homes to rebuild their properties. The repair of breached dyke points was undertaken with community involvement to foster local ownership.

WFP contracted scientists from Water Management and Hydrological Engineering, HYDROC, to develop a study on the potential solution(s) against climate change.

WFP increased investments in roads and complementary market infrastructure, such as rural warehouses, training of smallholder farmers on storage to reduce post-harvest loss (PHL).

Ethiopia and South Sudan are willing to store unsold CSB+ from AIF which will decongest Rwanda stores to facilitate more favourable contract terms for Transfer of Title, storage, and uplift of contracted CSB+.



Uganda

Uganda emerged with the highest percentage of LRP in the region.

The prepositioning of imports in Mombasa means that often shelf life is less than 50 percent once the food comes to Uganda. Given the requirement by Uganda National Bureau of Standards that imports shall have more than 75 percent shelf life, there is an urgent need for RBN and SCOR to assist in negotiations between the Uganda CO and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) on streamlining of clearance procedures, and on effecting an MoU between WFP and UNBS.

UNHAS

Ethiopia and Sudan- *Tigray conflict crisis*

Given the deterioration in protracted humanitarian contexts, 2021 saw humanitarian needs increase sharply, along with the resulting need to launch and escalate the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations in several crisis-affected locations.

Following the escalation of the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia in late 2020, the erosion of humanitarian access resulting from military operations, vast distances and the suspension of commercial flights hampered timely response to the increasing needs of affected populations. UNHAS Ethiopia adapted quickly to meet the additional air transport needs of the humanitarian community in the region by incorporating a third aircraft with 70 seats into its fleet and launching two regular flights per week connecting Addis Ababa to Mekelle, the capital of Tigray, in July 2021. Since then, UNHAS has provided the only safe access to the Tigray region. At the same time, with the arrival of tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan, UNHAS Sudan positioned a helicopter in Kassala to facilitate air transport between refugee camps, and increased its flights to Kassala by making them daily.

Refugee operation in Kenya

During the year, UNHAS Kenya operated a special charter flight from Dadaab to Kakuma on behalf of UNHCR, carrying 63 refugee students to sit their national exams, a critical step in building resilience and self-reliance. UNHAS also operated seven voluntary repatriation flights transporting a total of 270 passengers to Somalia and Burundi, and supported resettlement activities by transporting, on behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 430 refugees from the camps to Nairobi for pre-departure activities.

Assessment missions in South Sudan

UNHAS South Sudan serves numerous non-scheduled and ad hoc locations, and facilitated inter-agency and multisector assessment missions, including in sudden-onset emergencies such as floods. In 2021, it transported 38 assessment missions of the inter-cluster working group. Requests from the humanitarian community for this service are expected to grow in 2022 owing to increasing needs.



Number of **passengers** transported regionally:



85,168

MT of **cargo** transported regionally:

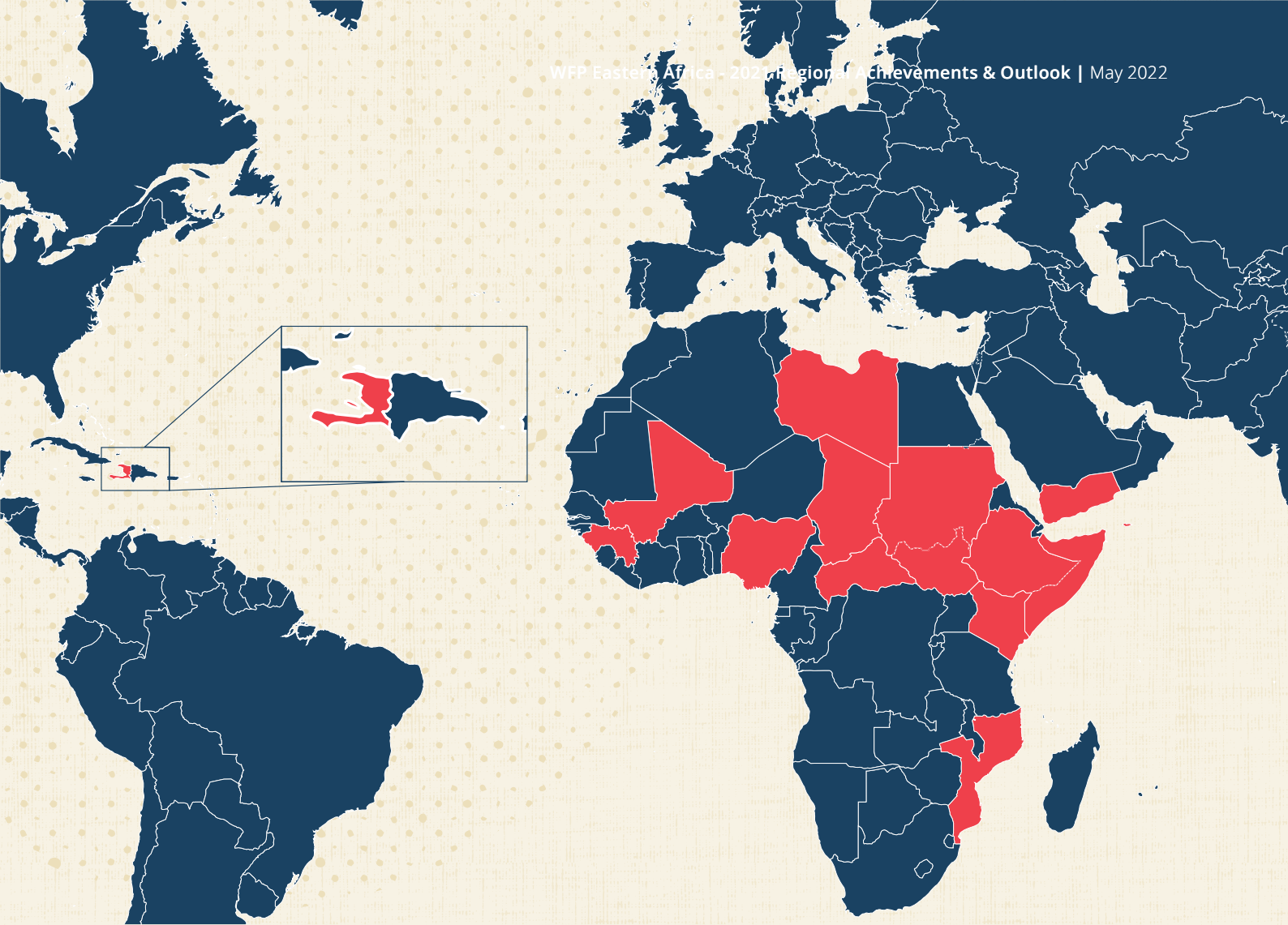


661,574

Number of **destinations** covered regionally:



78



UNHAS support for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and medical equipment in 2021

UNHAS operates in a total of 14 countries worldwide including 5 countries in Eastern Africa: **Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan**, playing an essential role in distributing COVID-19 vaccines and medical equipment at the country level.








- **UNHAS Ethiopia** transported medical items, including COVID-19 vaccines for United Nations staff members.
- **UNHAS Kenya** assisted the COVID-19 response by transporting medical supplies such as testing kits, samples, personal protective equipment and COVID-19 vaccines to and from Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.
- **UNHAS Somalia** supported its users with the delivery of critical medical supplies, including COVID-19 vaccines, with a total of 15 MT transported. UNHAS facilitated airstrip improvement work in two locations and continued to provide capacity development activities for its staff, covering various subjects including temperature-sensitive logistics systems and processes in support of cold chain activities related to the transport of COVID-19 vaccines. Induction briefings were completed for 16 crew members.
- **UNHAS South Sudan** assisted the COVID-19 response by transporting 400 suspected samples for testing and more than 2,300 kg of medical equipment, including vaccines, between 50 destinations across the country.
- **UNHAS Sudan** supported the distribution of 410 kg of COVID-19 items (vaccination cards, vaccination registration books, sanitizers, syringes, masks and COVID-19 test materials) to various field destinations.











UNHAS performance figures 2021

-  Passengers transported
-  Cargo transported
-  Destinations reached
-  User organizations served
-  Fleet
-  Medevacs performed
-  COVID-19 medevacs performed
-  Secevac performed

UNHAS Sudan Operating since 2004

-  23,144
-  69.8 MT
-  41 (39 regular + 2 ad hoc)
-  98
-  7 aircraft, including 4 helicopters⁵
-  15 patients
-  6 patients

UNHAS South Sudan Operating since 2011

-  64,012
-  2,802 MT
-  82 (57 regular + 25 ad hoc)
-  279
-  12 aircraft including 4 helicopters⁶
-  133 patients
-  14 patients
-  129 passengers

UNHAS Ethiopia Operating since 2008

-  4,166
-  39.5 MT
-  10 (6 regular + 4 ad hoc)
-  85
-  3 fixed-wing aircraft⁷
-  20 patients
-  6 patients

UNHAS Somalia Operating since 2007

-  7,906
-  1,067 MT
-  32 (11 regular + 21 ad hoc)
-  89
-  5 fixed-wing aircraft⁸
-  2 patients
-  5 passengers

UNHAS Kenya Operating since 2012

-  4,344
-  40 mt
-  10 (3 regular + 7 ad hoc)
-  49
-  1 fixed-wing aircraft⁹
-  1 patient

Challenges

Difficult business environment: In 2021, fuel price increased by 25 percent. Lengthy food exemption process, and the viability of corridor structures are likely to give anticipated volume reduction in 2022 and beyond. Cumbersome customs procedures have led, and may continue to lead to long lead times to final delivery points. Service Provision levels are also still low as there is only one agency engaged (FAO).

Political instability and conflict: unstable Government, continued tribal clashes, civil unrest, and hyper-inflation in **Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan** have hindered smooth logistical operations. The conflict between the Government of Ethiopia and forces in its northern Tigray region led to uncertainty on the corridor delivery and continuity of trucking capacity to Ethiopia.

Increased cost: the cost of operation and Field Level Agreements have increased due to effects of COVID-19.

Inaccessibility of parts of **South Sudan** throughout the year due to low infrastructure investment across the country, more and more roads have deteriorated extending lead times for arrivals to WFP hubs and Country Programme warehouses. The small quantity deliveries (Nutrition & School Feeding) to remote locations are not viable for Transporters or Fleet.





Procurement

Regional Overview

The WFP is operating in over 80 countries, reaching over 100 million food insecure people. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Agenda 2030, WFP works on eradicating hunger (SDG2), while contributing to all other objectives through forming and encouraging global partnerships (SDG17).

As per the available IPC analysis, about 33 million people are food insecure in the region. Among the ten countries that RBN supports, **Ethiopia** has the largest number of food insecure people, followed by **Sudan and South Sudan** respectively. South Sudan has the most severe food security situation while the Tigray region in Ethiopia continues to be an area of concern for the RBN region as the humanitarian situation escalates as a result of the conflict.

Regional Achievements

Cost-effective and efficient Procurement

Goods and Services

Non-Food items in a variety of different categories were purchased in the RBN region for about **USD 236 million** in 2021 accounting for a 52 percent increase from the previous year. More than 50 percent of the purchases are from local and regional vendors injecting millions in revenue in the countries that WFP procures from.

Food Procurement

In line with WFP's Zero Hunger initiative, RBN endeavours to purchase its food requirement as close as possible to its beneficiaries through LRP to the extent that the market allows; ensuring not to distort local markets through paying above market price. Buying food at the right time, right place and at the lowest possible cost is a right step towards achieving its fight against hunger. Not only does LRP support agriculture development in the region, but it also enables WFP to avail commodities much faster to the operations, owing to shorter lead times, and at a lower cost

In 2021, RBN purchased 445,115 MT for a value of about USD 206 Million of various commodities providing food assistance to more than 20 million people across Eastern Africa. This was an increase of 22 percent from the previous year with 55 percent of the total purchases accounting for LRPs.

Buying at the right time, right place and at the lowest possible cost ensures that WFP maximizes every dollar received which is in the best interest of the people we serve, the organization and our donors.

Enabling of WFP Programmatic Objectives

One of the objectives under WFP's global procurement strategy and vision is to purchase at least 10 percent of the commodities from smallholder farmers and connect smallholder farmers to commercial supply lines. Through the implementation of the Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy and improved traceability along the supply chain, **18 percent of the food purchased in RBN in 2021 has been certified as Pro-SHF**. Not only is WFP pursuing household-level results but also system-level results. With increased traceability, WFP is working towards economic gains where the Small Holder Farmers' livelihoods will be improved while also increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the value chain with broader development objectives being nutrition sensitive and inclusive value chains. Traditionally, intermediaries and middlemen have benefited greatly at the expense of SHFs. With increased traceability, WFP aims at ensuring fair prices are paid for the commodities purchased from SHFs.

Over the years, to address the nutrition needs in the region, WFP's food basket is now more diverse and includes a larger proportion of processed foods, which are more prone to risks than grains. In 2021, **a sustainable sourcing strategy for Specialised Nutritious Foods (SNF) was developed**. With increased call for LRP, WFP is supporting local manufacturers building capacity for local production. This shift will be encouraging knowledge sharing amongst local companies and WFP spurring growth in the countries where WFP is operating.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Reliance on a few key manufacturers within the region for SNFs coupled with tied contributions.

This leads to increased vulnerability of supply, increased risk of supply disruption and greater dependency between WFP and the suppliers.

Lesson Learned: the need for expansion of supplier base for food commodities especially the SNFs. RBN undertook an Expression of Interest in Q4 of 2020 which saw 9 potential suppliers for Supercereal (SC) and SC+ identified. While getting them onboard and operational is a long-term plan, progress has been achieved with 1 of the vendors located in Ethiopia certified to begin the production of SC.

While WFP endeavours to purchase locally and regionally to the extent the market allows, flexible funding enables WFP to widen its sourcing options which is crucial to WFP meeting its objectives in ending world hunger.

Delays in contract delivery and implementation

Due to COVID-19 disruptions, Q1 and Q2 of 2021 saw a lot of delays on key commodities such as SC because of raw material shortages. Delays were also experienced in the importation of the fortificants and raw materials. Longer lead times were experienced in the procurement of ICT equipment as a result of global shortages occasioned by increased demand and manufacturing parts shortages. COVID-19 also brought about habit changes (working from home) which further exuberated the ongoing crisis.

Lesson Learned: WFP recognised the need for growing local markets to ensure that key elements required in the production of key commodities can be sourced locally.

2022 Outlook

Food Procurement

Consecutive poor rainfall experienced in Q4 of 2021 saw lower production forecast and the snowball effect may be a tighter food balance sheet for Eastern Africa and potentially higher food prices. The outlook for the first half of 2022 point to a below average rainfall season posing a risk to the crops.

Over 20 million people in the Horn of Africa including Kenya face crisis or worse outcomes as a result of conflict and drought. Extremely high food, fuel and water prices are significantly affecting household purchasing power, further contributing to the occurrence of the crisis. While recent conflict and drought are major factors, macroeconomic challenges, eroded international budgetary support, and rising global food prices, the household food access challenges will persist across Eastern Africa throughout 2022.

While RBN supports LRP, it endeavours to avoid stretching the local markets, through large volume purchases where availability is limited, with a view to minimize adverse impact on local consumers, through inflation of food prices. For that reason, international sources are also considered.

WFP, through service provision, purchased wheat on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and Sudan. In 2021, about 680,000 MT and 112,000 MT were purchased for Ethiopia and Sudan respectively. In the last five years, WFP has mainly purchased wheat in the black sea region concentrating majorly on exports from Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania.

Global crude oil and fertilizer prices, freight costs, as well as Government interventions, will continue to define the price trend in 2022.

Goods and Services Procurement

Over the last 2 years, there has been a global chip shortage. Production of ICT equipment has been impacted due to multiple component shortages, global silica shortages used in the production of chips and LCD panels along with drought in the countries where the chips are manufactured, as water is a critical resource in the chip manufacturing process. This has affected stocks in the distribution channel and product lead times are greater than normal as the market continually adapts and changes. This has further been exacerbated by the COVID -19 Pandemic – increased demand driven by changing habits is further pushing the crisis further with increased pricing observed. The crisis is set to continue through 2022.

2022 Priorities

In 2022, RBN aims to continue sourcing as much as possible from local and regional sources including smallholder farmers. RBN will closely monitor the local and regional markets and consider international sourcing options where unfavourable local conditions persist.

Buying the right food at the right place at the right time is WFP's first crucial step in WFP's fight against hunger. To ensure effectiveness of procurement, WFP will continue to align funding with procurement opportunities, to ensure a knock-on effect to on-time deliveries. WFP will also expand the supplier roster ensuring healthy competition, value for money and best interest of WFP.

To further secure the availability of quality food, achieve on-time deliveries and reduce costs, WFP will seek to digitalise and simplify procedures including streamlining of CBT business process and transactions.



Food Safety & Quality

COVID-19 travel restrictions and the conflict in Tigray region led to the increase in food demand and supply chain challenges. In turn, this demanded improved Food Safety and Quality intervention in ensuring food distributed met the highest safety and quality standards. In 2021, the RBN Food Safety & Quality team (FSQ) focused on provision of technical support to COs, oversight, local supplier development, compliance testing for products (upstream and downstream) internal and external capacity building/strengthening and knowledge management.

Quality Assurance Systems

Food incident remains a challenge in the supply chain owing to the switch to more Specialised Nutritious Foods that are of higher risk and requiring special handling coupled with more local sourcing from less developed quality assurance systems. This has prompted FSQ team to focus more on upstream quality assurance, in ensuring quality at source through supplier development. This has to be complemented by the establishment of a robust quality assurance system and suitable infrastructure within WFP supply chain to ensure food safety and quality is preserved to the last mile.

To ensure that a robust quality assurance system is established within the organization, comprehensive FSQ guidelines were established, improving existing protocols, manuals and guidelines in transport and logistics, integrating FSQ in programmes such as CBT, nutrition, school feeding etc. Other than providing guidance on FSQ integration, the guidelines will be utilised as the criteria for FSQ oversight and support to COs

For establishing robust Quality Assurance Systems as well as clarifying the role of FSQ, in 2021, FSQ high-level committee was formed at HQ for providing corporate guidance on FSQ policies, the FSQ risk appetite statement was also endorsed by the ED. Delegation of authority was also streamlined and positioning of FSQ in CBT. FSQ team developed supplier audit tools and procedures as well as reviewing COs risk registers to ensure FSQ is incorporated in risk planning, and COs are more accountable for FSQ matters.

Capacity Strengthening

Robust capacity strengthening activities were carried out to ensure that food safety and quality operations are well implemented in the region. At the regional level, this includes holding a Webinar on Management of the Supply Chain of Specialized Nutritious Foods, training of food technologists to support suppliers, holding a regional lessons learned meeting with RBN CO Food Incident Management Committee representatives to support the improvement of the corporate protocol. RBN also supported the COs through providing FSQ technical support (drafting guidelines, conducting assessments, reviewing strategies, etc.).



Country Office Highlights

EXCEPTIONAL CLEARANCE

1 fortified maize meal supplier in Rwanda granted exceptional clearance through dir. Sc after failing the assessment

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality assurance pilot planning phase with aif-**Rwanda** (sc+ supplier)

COMPLIANCE TESTING

32 samples were tested for compliance with focus on downstream-29 and upstream (3) deviations investigated for continual improvement- all cos

Country offices were supported with investigation and mitigation measures implementation, and closure of **42 food incidents** – All reported in DOTS

SUPPLIER AUDITS

14 suppliers audited

2 new suppliers added to the roster and **8 suppliers retained**

FOOD INSPECTION

444,292 MT of food procured and inspected in the region

Regional food inspection review

SUPPORT MISSIONS

14 small-scale millers assessed in Burundi for support

Somaliland mission TDYer in **South Sudan**

EXCEPTIONAL RELEASES

3 commodities (salt, csb++, maize meal) granted exceptional releases

FOSTER

FOSTER rolled out in RBN with over **50 FSQ and Procurement staff** trained on the new platform.

IPA-11 potential SC+ Suppliers evaluated



Capacity Strengthening

WFP offers nationally-tailored technical assistance and capacity development to strengthen Government capacities along five pathways: policy and legislation, institutional accountability, strategic planning, programme design and delivery, as well as engagement and participation of non-state actors.

In 2021, WFP helped the **Government of Ethiopia** strengthen its capacity in the design and implementation of social safety net programmes, supply chain management, as well as early warning and emergency preparedness systems. As a result, WFP was able to channel 83 percent of CBT through the Federal Government Ethiopia social protection systems, expanding cash transfers using the safety net payment channel in Somali region to contribute to shock-responsive safety net. WFP also developed a gender-sensitive Country Capacity Strengthening Strategy in consultation with key government entities, which stipulated WFP's activities and investments in capacity building to help the country achieve SDG 2.

In **Burundi**, WFP supported the Government to develop a gradual handover strategy for the HGSP programme, with specific actions including supporting the Government for setting up legal frameworks for the programme. WFP also supported the Burundi Government to better prepare and respond to emergencies and conduct food security assessments.

WFP continued its engagement with **Burundi Red Cross Society (BRC)**, a non-state actor, to successfully roll out the pilot phase of the Forecast-based Financing initiative, an innovative approach that aimed at capacitating the BRC to establish an AA system. WFP worked together with UNICEF and World Bank to support the Government to create an adaptive, shock responsive social protection system through a Social Safety Net Support Project in Burundi.

WFP invested in capacity strengthening **in Rwanda** to expand national social protection and food security programmes, and systems to enhance resilience to shocks. Over 2,692 Government and Partner staff directly benefitted from institutional capacity strengthening initiatives to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities. To further enhance institutional capacity of the Government of Rwanda in 2021, WFP also successfully supported the Ministry of Health through the provision of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) as part of WFP's support of the Government's COVID-19 National Contingency Plan.

In Sudan, WFP also supported capacity strengthening for staff of the Ministries of Health and Education, as well as CPs, in implementing nutrition and school feeding activities in the context of the pandemic through ToTs for the government staff and cascade training to the school staff. Building on its areas of expertise, WFP also continued providing technical support to the Government's Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP) for cash transfers to Sudanese families, in coordination with the World Bank.

WFP supported the **Government of Kenya** to develop sustainable food systems strategies and a Resilience Programming Framework, to generate a shared understanding of resilience programming and coordinated approach on programme design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization. To support the Government in taking over the implementation of integrated moderate acute malnutrition (IMAM) programmes, WFP held consultations with county governments and developed hand-over roadmaps. County Governments were supported to develop gender-responsive FbF action plans to strengthen women's resilience to climate shocks. WFP also provided CP capacity strengthening support, including providing training on FbF, gender transformative climate-resilient livelihoods, and disaster risk management geared towards gender transformation.

In Somalia, WFP facilitated the delivery of capacity strengthening initiatives focusing on the transfer of technical skills in market assessment, price monitoring, food security and nutrition assessment, as part of its approach to strengthening the Government's capacity to implement disaster management and early warning mechanisms.

Summary

5- Pathways	Example
Policy and legislation	<p>In Ethiopia, WFP developed a gender-sensitive Country Capacity Strengthening Strategy in consultation with key Government entities, which stipulated WFP’s activities and investments in capacity strengthening to help the country achieve SDG 2.</p> <p>In Burundi, WFP supported the Government to develop a gradual handover strategy for the HGSF programme.</p>
Institutional accountability	<p>WFP helped the Federal Government of Ethiopia improve institutional accountability through joint CBT programming using safety net payment channel.</p>
Strategic planning and financing	<p>In Rwanda, WFP successfully supported the Ministry of Health through the provision of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) as part of WFP’s support the Government’s COVID-19 National Contingency Plan.</p>
National programme design and delivery	<p>To improve programme design and delivery, WFP provided technical support to the Government’s Sudan Family Support Programme for cash transfers to Sudanese families, in coordination with the World Bank.</p> <p>In Somalia, WFP facilitated the delivery of capacity strengthening initiatives focusing on the transfer of technical skills in market assessment, price monitoring, food security and nutrition assessment.</p> <p>WFP supported the Government of Kenya to develop sustainable food systems strategies and a Resilience Programming Framework, to generate a shared understanding of resilience programming and coordinated approach on programme design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization.</p>
Engagement and participation of non-state actors	<p>In Burundi, WFP continued with its engagement with BRC which successfully rolled out the pilot phase of the FbF initiative, an innovative approach that aimed at capacitating the BRC to establish an AA system.</p>



Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM)

Regional Overview

Prolonged conflict, macro-economic challenges occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic, persistent climatic shocks (drought and floods) have markedly increased the severity of food insecurity and malnutrition across the region. As at the end of 2021, approximately 63 million people are food insecure, including refugees and IDPs, with highest prevalence in **Sudan (9.8 million), Ethiopia (approximately 7.4 million) and South Sudan (7.2 million)**. Following escalated geo-political and economic knock-on effects of the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict, and short of sustained interventions, the number of food insecure people is likely to accelerate beyond 80 million by June 2022.

Regional Achievements

RBN continued to advance the evidence-building agenda, promoting integrated and cross-functional approaches to inform programme, policy, and financing. Deliberate efforts were directed to increasing efficiency and quality of data collection and analysis by leveraging innovative digital technologies, and building strategic and operational partnerships to meet broader food security and nutrition evidence needs.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, RBN maintained its agility and commitment in tracking and reporting on key population and programme outcomes. This was made possible by remote Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) and monitoring approaches, adjustments of methodologies, tools/checklists, and guidance. Additionally, RBN generated numerous evidence products that ensured WFP and other stakeholders were reliably kept abreast on the evolving food security and nutrition situation. Products include the static cartographic maps, Concept of operations, studies on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods, market and trade updates, food security and monitoring bulletins, and so forth

RBN supported the COs to provide credible, relevant and timely evidence that forms the basis for the design of WFP operations - providing the necessary information for strategic and operational decision-making, resource mobilization and accountability to beneficiaries. Specifically, RBN provided targeted support on food security and nutrition assessments/analyses, roll-out of risk-based monitoring framework, setting up of monitoring systems, structures and practices, emergency food security assessments as well as targeting and prioritization initiatives.

Throughout 2021, RBN strengthened technical capacity of the COs and provided support ranging from online trainings on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), monitoring foundations, Market functionality index (MFI), integrated context analysis (ICA) among others. There was continued focus and emphasis on qualitative research training, to enhance qualitative research knowledge and competencies in the region.

Strengthened internal collaboration led to increased joint analyses in collaboration with Nutrition, CBT, Evaluation and Supply Chain thematic areas on the Regional School Health and Nutrition Assessment, Joint Essential Needs Assessment (ENA) and Market assessment, Joint Food Security and Nutrition assessments and updates, the Theory of Change (ToC) of the SBP and Knowledge Management Strategy. An important milestone was the contribution to the new Strategic Plan Line of Sight and Corporate Results Framework Working Groups.

The continued pursuit for programmatic evidence called for the forging of new and strengthening of existing partnerships, that saw improved monitoring of and reporting on food security and nutrition via Geopoll and mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) collaboration, improved market and cross-border trade monitoring and analysis via WFP/Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)/ The Eastern Africa Grain Council and the Market Analysis Subgroup (EAGC MAS) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)- Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) collaboration, and the enhanced of targeting/prioritization via the Joint UNHCR/WFP Targeting Hub, new partnerships with UN-HABITAT and IOM on understanding the COVID-19 implications on food security and livelihood among the urban poor and displaced populations. Equally important was, the partnership with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on climate risk analysis for early warning and early action as a well as flood Risk profiles assessment in the region. Continued collaboration with other stakeholders via FSNWG, substantially contributed generating the Global and Regional Reports on food crises and IPC analyses.

CO Support

RBN continued to work with all the COs in the region in promoting the evidence generation agenda through numerous initiatives.

Djibouti was supported in planning and implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment focusing on HIV patients on ART/ ARVs as well as rural and urban livelihoods food security and nutrition assessment.

Ethiopia was supported in setting up of M&E systems structures and practices for the Tigray emergency operation as well as support to the food security analysis. RBN also provided support on the analysis for the MEB, which defines what a household requires in order to meet their basic needs, including food, water, clothing and housing, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its average costs in the local markets.

Uganda was supported in defining a prioritisation strategy for the refugee response.

Rwanda was supported in the evaluation of targeting effectiveness and improvement of the targeting approach.

Monitoring oversight and support were provided to **Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan and Uganda**, whose overall objective was to identify strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in the existing monitoring systems and practices at the CO and Sub-Office (SO), in line with the corporate oversight principles, and to provide more focused and relevant technical support.

Challenges

With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, data quality continued to be a challenge due to the adoption of remote data collection and monitoring approaches which may affect the accuracy, completeness, and consistency of data. The COs' increased need of regional support on key evidence generation processes and products, as well as the competing priorities, also placed a challenge.

Lessons Learned

Grounded on above-mentioned achievements and challenges, RBN recognises the need for continued tracking of and adaptation to the ever-changing programme context, which calls for leveraging on new and innovative data collection methods and technological platforms to optimise evidence generation. Additionally, the need for continued establishment of new partnerships and collaboration beyond the traditional ones, is critical in strengthening the evidence building agenda.

COs in the Region will continue to require sustained support from the Regional Bureau, while institutionalising systems for improved in-country technical capacities including partners and Governments.





Innovation and
Digitalization

Technology and innovation have become golden assets in a socially distanced world. Delivering what is needed was already a challenge before the pandemic. In 2021, we turned a difficult operational context into a springboard to help grow, strengthen and expand our services to NGOs, Partners, Governments, beneficiaries and WFP itself.

Regional Achievements

Innovation:

IGNITE Innovation Hub

RBN continues to be the region that is defining WFP's digital transformation and innovation agenda, being home to WFP's first Regional Innovation Hub and a leader in introducing new digital products to know and serve our beneficiaries better. RBN launched the IGNITE Innovation Hub for Eastern Africa in 2020. Since then, the hub has been nurturing and scaling up sustainable innovations for increased food security in Eastern Africa by leveraging WFP's brand, partnerships, and expertise. The hub has launched 2 major programs:

NextGen East African Innovators programme

WFP partnered with the Hult Prize and the Danish Technical University's (DTU) SkyLab FoodLab to support nine Eastern African student teams in a bootcamp to learn business modelling and human-centred design skills. Three winning teams from **Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya** participated in a month-long program at DTU's FoodLab to prototype their solutions and receive mentoring and advice from entrepreneurs and experts. Several of the innovators in the program have gone on to receive further support in their projects. One team has been accepted into a prestigious program for global innovators at MIT. The program was made possible with funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

IGNITE Food Systems Challenges

This flagship program was launched in 3 COs – **Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda** – in partnership with local implementing organizations. Its goal is to support East African food systems start-ups and MSMEs with training, technical support and growth funding. In 2022, 5-7 entrepreneurs in each country's cohort will receive up to \$50,000 in non-dilutive seed capital to scale their businesses as collaborators, in WFP's efforts to increase regional food security.

In 2022, the hub will continue to learn from and expand its flagship programmes. It will continue to provide technical support to the Milken-Montseppe Agritech Prize and to **Kenya's** projects in aflatoxin reduction and youth innovation. The hub will also launch an advisory committee composed of other regional units and partners to identify more ways to support innovation in WFP's regional COs and explore potential exchange opportunities between regional COs in implementing innovation programming.

Digitization

Demonstrating leadership through piloting and scaling products

Service Market Place: In 2021, Service Market Place is deployed across the region. It has streamlined how partners access and track services from WFP, the use of School Connect in **Burundi**, and Conditional On-Demand Assistance (CODA) in **South Sudan**. Approximately 249 service requests were processed in the region.

School Connect: School Connect digitises school attendance data and food stocks. It has been deployed to over 800 schools in **Burundi**, and will be scaled up to a further 249 schools. Future implementation is ongoing in **Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan**.

CODA: CODA is a digital application that helps schools monitor food stocks and student attendance on a phone or tablet. The tool also mitigates supply problems by automatically calculating stock availability and food distribution quantities, and helps staff identify issues that could impact children's attendance in class. To date, CODA has registered over 25,000 beneficiaries in **South Sudan** compared to 8,957 as at end of year 2020.

Knowing and serving people

RBN served more people than ever in 2021 with its flagship beneficiary information and transfer management platform, SCOPE, delivering over USD \$440 million worth of transfers in cash and vouchers across nine countries. The ambition and outlook for 2022 is to use technology as a lever to help us know and serve people in need better. This will be achieved through the proactive digitisation of our programme cycle and a dedicated effort to standardise and expand Customer Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs).

The Bureau is also taking increasing responsibilities in supporting local Governments with digitising their own social protection programmes. In 2021, a critical discovery exercise was undertaken to understand the landscape of the social protection information systems across the region to support the definition of how and where WFP can bring value to this space.

Innovation and technology in action:

EMPACT Deduplication and Adjudication Centre (DAC)

Through EMPACT, WFP trains young people in developing relevant digital skills and connects them to jobs online through its EMPACT initiative. The skills offered in 2021 spanned digital microwork, storytelling, computer programming and freelancing. While in the programme, participants are exposed to frontier technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain as well as being trained on soft skills to improve their employability and entrepreneurial skills. Here is what some of the participants had to say about the EMPACT programme:

“EMPACT has had a lot of impact in my life. I managed to pay all debts I had and even started an online business. With the skills acquired I continued working online and earned even more. Before EMPACT I can say I was jobless, but now I have a lot to do that I put some aside or even offer employment to my friends”.

Tellvinch Imani (M), 19,
Kibera resident

“Before I got enrolled in the (EMPACT) microwork training, I had lost my job and my house, and I went to stay with a friend and life wasn’t easy and I was also depressed at that time. When I received a link to apply for the training, I decided to make a choice of changing my life in a positive way for me to get back on my feet again. During the training, we were earning, and I managed to save some cash and started settling some few things in my life”.

Boniface Gichuhi (M), 25,
Kibera resident

Graduates from the EMPACT programme are now working in the **Digital Deduplication and Adjudication Centre** where they support the reduction of duplicate beneficiaries registered into WFP programmes. Results to date show significant savings in South Sudan and Sudan through reducing duplicates to below 2 percent.

“I upload the number of children attending school and the app helps me to calculate how much food to prepare for them”

Sandrine Keza,
Canteen Manager at *Budahunga Primary School in Burundi*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Infrastructure: making the connections that matter

By December 2021, 94 percent of WFP locations in Eastern Africa have migrated or upgraded to the Marlink satellite network. This translates to more flexible connectivity options, enabling WFP to quickly adapt bandwidth in case of an increase in staff, or during emergencies and political instability. Field staff enjoy smoother use of corporate digital tools for calls, meetings and messaging apps, and stable access to cloud-based documents and platforms.

Doing no digital harm

The growing reliance on digital tools brings its own challenges, not the least of which is protecting the large volume of sensitive data they generate. WFP has been strengthening its data protection capabilities through policies, tools and training, continuing a journey toward a more consolidated and centralized approach to data that benefits WFP, its beneficiaries and the wider humanitarian community.

Prioritizing innovations

There are many different, and often competing, definitions of innovation. The regional innovation hub's biggest challenge is to understand CO priorities, pain points, and operational modalities to design a safe space for new ideas to be tried and tested in the service of our mission. Balancing a focus on innovation happening within WFP's core operations with our work supporting innovators in the ecosystem that share our same goals is a challenge we will continue to navigate with support from Donors, Partners, and COs alike.

CO Highlights

Burundi

Forecast-based Financing (FbF) initiative: WFP engaged with BRC to continue the pilot phase of the FbF initiative. The initiative aims to capacitate the BRC to establish an AA system ahead of floods. As a result, a draft flood early action protocol was developed, and 12,835 people at-risk of further flooding of the rising Lake Tanganyika received anticipatory cash, and were able to take preventive measures. In June 2021, WFP managed to scale up a multi-hazard anticipatory system that also includes droughts, epidemics, and man-made disasters.

School Meals going digital in Burundi: As a result of a successful collaboration between WFP Burundi, the Digital Transformation Unit (DTU) and the School Feeding Division, the digital platform "School Connect" is deployed in over 500 schools in seven provinces under the School Meals Programme. The platform provides real-time data on school meal days and stock levels, dropout rates from daily attendance data, food consumption inputs and commodity deliveries. School Connect's online monitoring is paving the way for the digitization of other schools by leveraging the digital footprint: the Supply Chain Last Mile solution will be deployed in connected schools using the same digital devices and capitalizing on the tech literacy built by School connect. By June 2022, 259 additional schools will be covered by the programme.

Ethiopia

Under a **Food Commodity Management Improvement Project (FMIP)**, a Commodity Allocation and Tracking System (CATS) was developed to assist the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) to track food commodities. The system was rolled out in four main regional hubs across Ethiopia. WFP implemented a Bag Marking Solution (BMS) to improve the visibility and traceability of commodities, using EBS inkjet with food grade ink to stamp customized codes, identifying origin, destination, transporter and date on each commodity bag before dispatch. Through its Innovation Accelerator, WFP implemented a solution called Roambee, a real-time shipment monitoring platform which provides insights, predictability and efficiency in logistics using sensors. WFP also assisted the Federal Transport Authority (FTA) to implement a Global Positioning System (GPS) to support its fleet management initiative.

Rwanda

With the support from WFP INKA, and in collaboration with local agro-processor, **Aflasight**, WFP Rwanda launched a one-year innovation pilot. The pilot uses technology to identify and remove aflatoxin-infected maize from the food supply, to bridge the quality gap at the last mile of the value chain, aiming to increase food safety and provide farmers with access to wider markets and better prices for uncontaminated maize. Based on the pilot's success, the technology could be scaled-up across Rwanda in 2022.

South Sudan

Through the **Post-Harvest Loss Venture**, WFP through the Innovation Accelerator, supported the Government and Private Sector in scaling up the promotion of low-cost hermetic storage, such as cocoons, coupled with training to mitigate against losses.

Uganda

WFP utilized the **Mobile Operational Data Acquisition (MoDA) platform** to distribute food assistance to school-going children through digitising the class registers. Each learner was assigned a unique identifier that translated into a coupon to receive assistance. This WFP innovation improved efficiency in service delivery, reaching the rightful beneficiaries and significantly reducing wait-time at the food collection points.





Environmental Management

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

Regional Achievements

Regional and country-level capacity development

Capacity building is an essential part of the Environmental Policy roll-out at CO level. From August 2020 to December 2021, nine WFP COs received training on the application of and compliance with the WFP Environmental and Social Safeguards (including risk screening) for Programme activities. COs were also supported to better comply with national environmental laws and regulations, and Donors' environmental & social requirements. **Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan** integrated WFP and/or Donor safeguards in their CSP.

In Ethiopia, WFP improved soil and water conservation in Amhara region by establishing and training community based Integrated Watershed Management Committees (IWMC) and supporting local nurseries. Reforestation has been one of the main focus areas of IWMC's during 2021, achieved by planting and maintaining seedlings with support of local nurseries.

Environmental restoration, conservation and climate adaptation

WFP supported environmental restoration, conservation and climatic change adaptation through constructing climate-sensitive infrastructure across the region. This includes planting trees on bare hills through resilience-building activities (**Burundi**); supporting rehabilitation and restoration of mangroves, forests, land terraces, marshlands, river banks, water ponds and canals (**Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda**); installing irrigation pump systems (**Djibouti**); supporting reuse and treatment of wastewater (**Djibouti**); constructing irrigation channels, solar-powered boreholes, flood protection dykes, water drainage channels (**Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan**); promoting the use of solar energy and biological stabilization or agroforestry techniques (**Kenya, Somalia**); conserving land against soil erosion (**Somalia**); water source protection (**Uganda**).

Environmental and social risk screening

All the above programme activities were subjected to an environmental and social risk screening. Environmental and social risk management plans were created for all interventions that ranked medium to high risk, to mitigate against negative impacts on people and environments.

Energising School Feeding

With the increasing coverage of school feeding programmes, there are growing concerns about the environmental impact of using wood fuel and charcoal for meal preparation in schools across the region. In **Burundi and Somalia**, WFP equipped schools with fuel-efficient institutional cooking stoves to mitigate the contribution of school feeding to deforestation and land degradation as well as reduce exposure of school cooks to harmful effects of smoke. In addition, WFP built kitchen shelters, distributed briquettes to schools as alternative fuels and participated in reforestation activities in efforts to restore the environment In Burundi.

Similarly, WFP constructed and rehabilitated energy-efficient stoves and accompanying shelters to reduce energy consumption, alleviating the impact of school canteens on the environment, reducing the cooking time, and ensuring adequate working conditions for cooks.

In Rwanda, the Government invested USD 19 million in construction of kitchens and fuel - efficient institutional stoves in over 2,600 public schools during 2020 /2021 academic year to reduce air pollution and deforestation. Agroforestry trees were also distributed to schools implementing HGSP programme. The Government targets to reduce biomass usage from 80 percent to 42 percent by 2024.

WFP is exploring possibilities of making school menus in Rwanda National school feeding programme more energy efficient by including foods that require less energy for cooking, and adapting cooking practices using different types of fuel. This study will be critical in shaping decisions on alternative fuels for schools and populations.

Partnership for Environment

In 2021, **RBN** held discussions with USAID, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on waste management initiatives, exchanging best practices and exploring innovative methods to advance sustainable waste management in humanitarian operations.

Rwanda In collaboration with the Innovation Accelerator Centre in Munich (INKA), WFP began a partnership with Water for People, UNHCR, Nyamagabe District and Water and Sanitation Corporation, to pilot a Decentralized Faecal Sludge Treatment Project (DEFEST). The pilot is contributing towards reducing deforestation by using briquettes as fuel for cooking, and organic manure produce as soil fertilization from the collected sludge from Kigeme refugee camp and Nyamagabe host community.

Uganda In a joint program with FAO, WFP supported the Government to strengthen existing early warning systems to predict, reduce and respond to environmental shocks under the Pro-Resilience Action project (Pro-ACT) program. WFP incorporated environmental and social risk screening and mitigation measures in its physical infrastructure and assets design, including composting, using solar-powered water pumps, and water tap stands, and practicing small-scale irrigation for sustainable implementation of nursery beds and productive woodlots. WFP engaged Uganda Energy Credit Capitalization Company (UECCC) to support the Electricity Access Scale-Up project to increase access to clean energy sources in refugee hosting districts.

Environmental Management System (EMS) Implementation

WFP's Environmental Management System (EMS) ensures that the organization avoids and mitigates its environmental impacts. EMS has five primary focus areas: energy management, waste management, water and wastewater management, sustainable procurement, and staff awareness/training.

As of 2021, EMS in the RBN is being implemented in **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Rwanda**. In 2021, EMS was launched in **Sudan**, activities included a site assessment, creation of an action plan with environmental improvement actions, training and awareness sessions. In 2022, EMS will be further scaled up in the RBN region. Some measures taken at the CO level in 2021 include:

Somalia established two long-term agreements for environmentally and socially responsible recycling and disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) accumulated in facilities. WFP **Kenya and Rwanda** also recycled their e-waste, promoting safe disposal of hazardous waste.

Sudan Over 200 MT of polypropylene bags, 1,600 MT of empty oil tins, 4,500 MT of used engine oil, 300 used tires and approximately 200 batteries were responsibly disposed of through recycling for sustainable waste management. Renewable energy initiatives were also launched in Sudan, and as of 2021, solar photovoltaic systems had been installed in 15 field offices and warehouses, minimizing CO₂ emissions, potential disruptions caused by fuel shortages, and reducing costs. The project generated more than 500-megawatt hour (MWh) and reduced carbon emissions by around 430 tons.

Ethiopia Continued to implement good practices, recycling approximately 3,000 damaged pallets into beverage crates through a local recycler. To expand its recycling activities, a scoping study was carried out to identify other potential recycling partners for polypropylene bags and tyres.



Protection and
Accountability to
Affected Populations



Regional Overview

WFP's approach to protection is informed by the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee's statement on the Centrality of Protection*, which includes the imperative that protection of all persons affected and at risk must inform humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with parties to conflict. In addition to a necessary focus on humanitarian settings, we work in the region to ensure that protection integration is central to both lifesaving and life-changing activities in all settings, striving to 'leave no one behind'.¹⁰

The COs apply the relevant principles across a range of functions within WFP to ensure that our assistance is safe, appropriate and received in a dignified manner. Our efforts in taking a people-centred approach to the way we conduct our operations represents good programming as it increases the quality of the work and the likelihood of positive and sustainable outcomes. Working to ensure we implement protection-sensitive programmes that are accountable to affected populations forms the groundwork for achieving long-term development outcomes and reduces the risk of unintended negative consequences of our efforts.

At the regional bureau level, technical advice and support was consistently provided to inform strategic direction and enhance operational functions, facilitating the application of the principles in practice. A regional workshop on protection and accountability was held in Nairobi for all staff directly engaged in this work in the region in October 2021. Two field missions were conducted to COs to support operationalization of the applicable standards directly, once travel restrictions eased in the fourth quarter of the year. Briefings were provided to COs on request on topics of relevance, including in relation to application of the new protection policy, the Community Feedback

Mechanisms (CFM) annual review, disability inclusion, and community engagement planning for programme transitions. Support was provided to teams to address protection risk identification and mitigation in conflict contexts. Monthly meetings were facilitated to share challenges, achievements and support requests. Guidance was provided for the development and finalization of operational documents including action plans, SoPs, strategies including CSPs, evaluations, focus group discussions (FGD) formats and other tools. Technical notes were drafted for internal learning on topics of concern including access. Presentations on protection and accountability were delivered at a range of regional and CO level workshops to ensure integration across the range of functional areas. WFP engaged with the Regional GBV Working Group, the regional Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) taskforce and supported the establishment of the Regional Protection Working Group.

2021 was a challenging year with COVID-related restrictions, conflict events¹¹ and emerging droughts and other climate linked crises creating and exacerbating protection risks in many countries of operation. Protection clusters are active in five countries in the region¹², and all reported concerning trends, ranging from GBV, to child protection issues, targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, housing land and property rights infringements, exclusion of specific groups, increases in crisis coping mechanisms, violence and displacement.¹³ Displacement and migration increased dramatically throughout the region.¹⁴ In such contexts it is crucial that we are aware of these risks, understand and mitigate them to the extent possible through our approach to activity design, implementation and monitoring.

Regional Achievements

Our teams worked throughout the programme cycle to apply the four protection mainstreaming principles: Prioritise safety and dignity and avoid causing harm; Meaningful access; Accountability; and Participation and empowerment.

Do no harm

Do no harm includes efforts to prevent and minimise as much as possible any unintended negative effects of our intervention, which could increase people's vulnerability to both physical and psychosocial risks. Eight countries in the region reported very high levels of satisfaction in terms of safety and dignity experienced while accessing food assistance, with over 85 percent of those consulted responding positively. Particular attention was paid to distance from distribution sites, unhindered access, and prioritisation of people with specific needs. In **Sudan**, 90 percent of respondents in receipt of general food assistance said WFP's assistance was dignified and 98 percent of the respondents confirmed unhindered access to assistance. In **Burundi**, 100 percent of beneficiaries surveyed during the food security outcome monitoring (FSOM) in December 2021 indicated that they received assistance without any safety challenges, and the majority declared being treated with dignity during distributions. As part of responsive programming in **Ethiopia**, WFP developed response plans including frequently asked questions and answers, sensitizing the community on vulnerability, utilizing community crowd controllers, strengthening community dialogues and integrating corporate protection indicators during beneficiary monitoring. The end-of-year survey revealed 88 percent of beneficiaries had unhindered access to WFP services. In **South Sudan** monitoring data indicated that 98 percent of beneficiaries across all modalities received assistance without any safety challenges. Results from corporate indicators on safe and dignified access to assistance in Markazi camp, **Djibouti** also had overwhelming positive results; 99 percent of the families consulted believed their dignity was upheld.

Meaningful access

The principle of meaningful access involves arranging for people's access to assistance in proportion to need and without any barriers, including discrimination. Efforts were made throughout our operations to ensure we paid special attention to individuals and groups who may face challenges accessing assistance. A key focus of our collective efforts in 2021 was identifying and addressing barriers to access. In **South Sudan**, WFP streamlined disability and inclusion considerations into the main food security assessments and monitoring tools, implementing a recommendation from a disability gap assessment conducted in Wau which involved organisations of persons with disability (OPDs). A disability inclusion action plan was developed in **Kenya** to facilitate the systematic inclusion of persons living with disabilities as beneficiaries and as stakeholders in operations. The action plan built on previous work incorporating relevant questions in monitoring tools, increasing the collection of disability disaggregated data, and providing sensitization to staff on disability inclusion considerations in their work. Training with staff and other stakeholders on disability inclusion was conducted in **Ethiopia**, especially geared towards those involved in beneficiary targeting. Community engagement sessions were also held in Ethiopia to discuss attitudes and to address the stigma that had been identified as a barrier limiting school attendance of persons with disabilities. WFP in **Somalia** established a partnership with other UN Agencies to conduct the first national survey on disabilities. WFP is working toward the development of mobile money as a cash transfer modality in **Burundi**, to enhance access to assistance for the elderly, people with mobility challenges and people with disability, and to reduce risks of taxation and diversion through increased discretion.

Protection mainstreaming was further promoted through a range of capacity building initiatives, and by active participation and collaboration in inter-agency fora. In relation to the provision of capacity building to ensure a continued protection-sensitive approach, **South Sudan** for example carried out a series of refresher trainings for partners, key Government stakeholders, and Project Management Committees (PMCs), which focused on targeting and streamlining protection issues, reaching 101 participants. In **Rwanda**, WFP conducted a gender and protection training for all staff to raise their awareness on the importance of adhering to protection standards in their daily work. The importance of confidentiality, data protection and privacy were also discussed to respect the 'do no harm' principle. In relation to engagement with other actors, WFP actively contributed to inter-agency fora including GBV and Child Protection sub-sectors where

active and PSEA Networks at national and state levels. Participation in these fora enhanced collaboration and coordination to strengthen WFP operations, including coordination of community feedback and response where possible. In **Sudan**, recognizing the importance of having dedicated PSEA capacity and inter-agency coordination, WFP continued to second a PSEA network coordinator to the Resident Coordinator's Office in 2021 and designated PSEA focal points in WFP CO, area offices and field offices. To ensure WFP staff are aware of the rules and in a better position to identify potential issues of concern and safe ways to report, information and awareness-raising sessions were provided to all PSEA focal points in **Rwanda** who work closely with beneficiaries.

Accountability

WFP's Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) work employs a people-centred approach which ensures the interconnected principles of accountability, participation and empowerment are respected in everything we do. Accountability involves giving account to, taking account of, and being held to account by, people affected by food insecurity. Establishing inclusive processes and mechanisms through which affected populations can voice opinions and concerns and provide feedback on the adequacy and appropriateness of our interventions is a key part of this work. **The 2021-2026 Community Engagement for AAP Strategy (2021-2026) establishes three pillars: inclusion, community feedback and response, and information management.**

Inclusion, community feedback and response, and information management

Inclusion requires that we empower all segments of the population to interact with WFP and influence each stage of the project cycle through diverse communication pathways. Some examples of consultative approaches to community engagement were provided above in relation to disability inclusion in particular, but this also links to our promotion of community feedback and response in terms of influencing project approaches through raising concerns.

To ensure that people affected by crises have safe and accessible channels to ask questions, raise complaints and receive feedback in a safe, confidential, and dignified manner, WFP implemented CFM across all countries. Beneficiaries and the broader affected population have access to a range of communication channels including hotlines, helpdesks, suggestion boxes and face-to-face interactions with field staff and CFM focal points. In **Ethiopia**, with the community feedback system, received 5,784 cases. A toll-free helpline was rolled out nationwide in **Sudan** in June 2021. A satisfaction survey conducted through telephone interviews indicated that 85 percent of the surveyed participants were satisfied with the complaint handling and grievance management process. In **Burundi**, the CFM was scaled up in 2021 and feedback was received from 4,300 people, through the following channels: 36 percent through the complaints and feedback desk, 29 percent through the hotline, 28 percent on face-to-face and 7 percent through the suggestion box. Of the 9,476 cases received through CFM helpline in **Uganda** by October 2021, 99.4 percent had been addressed and closed. The information management approaches undertaken by COs include appropriate information provision on entitlements, participatory assessments conducted, consultations carried out, and concrete changes made in response to issues raised by affected communities, some examples of which are provided in the following.

Challenges Encountered and Addressed

Part of accountability is ensuring that issues identified through robust community engagement leads to practical adjustments and follow up for satisfaction on outcomes. This is part of two-way communication and closing the feedback loop, for WFP to not only act on inputs provided by the communities but to further ensure the solution implemented was appropriate and is perceived in a positive light by those concerned.

In Uganda, unaccompanied minors, the elderly and disabled expressed concern during consultations that the increased use of cash as a modality may subject them to exploitation from their alternates, as a result of the planned scale-up of cash up to 100 percent in selected settlements. These concerns will be addressed by conducting periodic follows ups with Productive Safety Nets households to establish how the alternate system is working and working with other stakeholders to refer and resolve any issues of concern.

To assess protection risks in **Ethiopia**, WFP programme officers conducted protection monitoring and risk mapping supplemented by inter-agency assessments to mainstream protection across its country programs. Dignified access remains an area requiring improvement as only 63 percent of beneficiaries surveyed felt that WFP services were dignified. Complimentary qualitative assessments from refugee camps identified delays in food distribution, insufficient monthly general food ration, and overpriced milling prices as major concerns.

Throughout 2021, WFP made corrective efforts, including food delivery using WFP fleet trucks and deploying convoy leaders to enhance food delivery to beneficiaries.

In Sudan there were some challenges connected to ensuring affected populations were aware of WFP's selection criteria, entitlements, and duration of assistance. Only 22 percent of polled beneficiaries at one point were aware of their entitlements. This would appear to be connected to language and communication barriers and to poor literacy rates which caused text-heavy informative posters to be ineffective. To address this issue, WFP plans to strengthen its communication with communities, by identifying key influencers and developing communication materials considering community needs, languages, and preferences. WFP will roll out this strategy in 2022, starting with information sessions for WFP field staff and cooperating partners on the new elements and implementation pathways for the strategy.

Reflections and Outlook for 2022

In 2022, the Regional Bureau protection & accountability leads will continue to support COs to apply good practice across the range of lifesaving to life-changing activities. Areas of focus will include community engagement in prioritization and programme transitions, ensuring a risk-informed approach to emergency preparedness and response, and engaging with TEC to streamline CFM processes. A number of COs will continue strengthening inclusion, particularly paying attention to disability inclusion and engaging with marginalized groups. Community engagement action plans will be developed, and protection integration action plans and risk registers will be updated. A mapping of the protection landscape, activities, capacities and opportunities will be developed for the region to inform priorities for 2022.



Knowledge Management and Evidence Generation

Regional Overview

WFP in the Eastern Africa Region strives to be agile to the constant changing contexts in the region, responsive to the new emerging challenges, and innovative in providing solutions to address the challenges of delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals). To achieve this goal, WFP aims to institutionalise learning and adaptation as a continuous process and leverage the best available knowledge from evidence and practice, from both internal and external sources, for comparative advantage.

RBN covers nine operational countries in Eastern Africa: **Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda**. Knowledge Management (KM) assessments conducted in 4 countries, 7 field offices, and units in the regional bureau in 2017, identified several gaps and challenges, including: an absence of a systematic approach to KM, limited understanding of the KM among staff, limited access to knowledge, poor culture of information capture and sharing, lack of accountability and governance, and lack of an enabling environment and systems to support KM. It is against these identified challenges and recommendations from the assessment that a Regional KM Strategy was endorsed at the beginning of 2021, and work commenced to start implementation at the regional office.

Following the endorsement and launch of the regional KM Strategy in January 2021, a lot of achievements were realised under the six impact pathways:

1. Leadership and governance
2. Knowledge and evidence generation and use
3. An enabling environment
4. Capacity building
5. Collaboration, learning, and adaptation
6. Enabling systems and technologies

Regional Achievements

In 2021, during the first-year implementation of the regional KM strategy, WFP achieved a lot under the six impact pathways.

Leadership and governance

The Regional KM Strategy was endorsed by the regional director, and KM was considered one of the three key priority areas for the region in 2021. Regional units incorporated elements of KM in their 2021 workplans which were presented to management at the start of the year and monitored through the Annual Performance Planning (APP) exercise. KM and Evidence generation and use is recognized as a comparative advantage for RBN countries and operations.

Knowledge and evidence generation and use

Knowledge management tool kit

Through inputs from both internal and external stakeholders, WFP RBN developed a knowledge management tool kit, which contains a variety of methodologies and tools and technologies that aim to guide staff on integrating KM into programming. It is envisioned that the tool kit will play an important role in guiding staff both at regional and CO level on the ways to properly integrate KM into programming to drive results, cut costs, and learn and adapt.

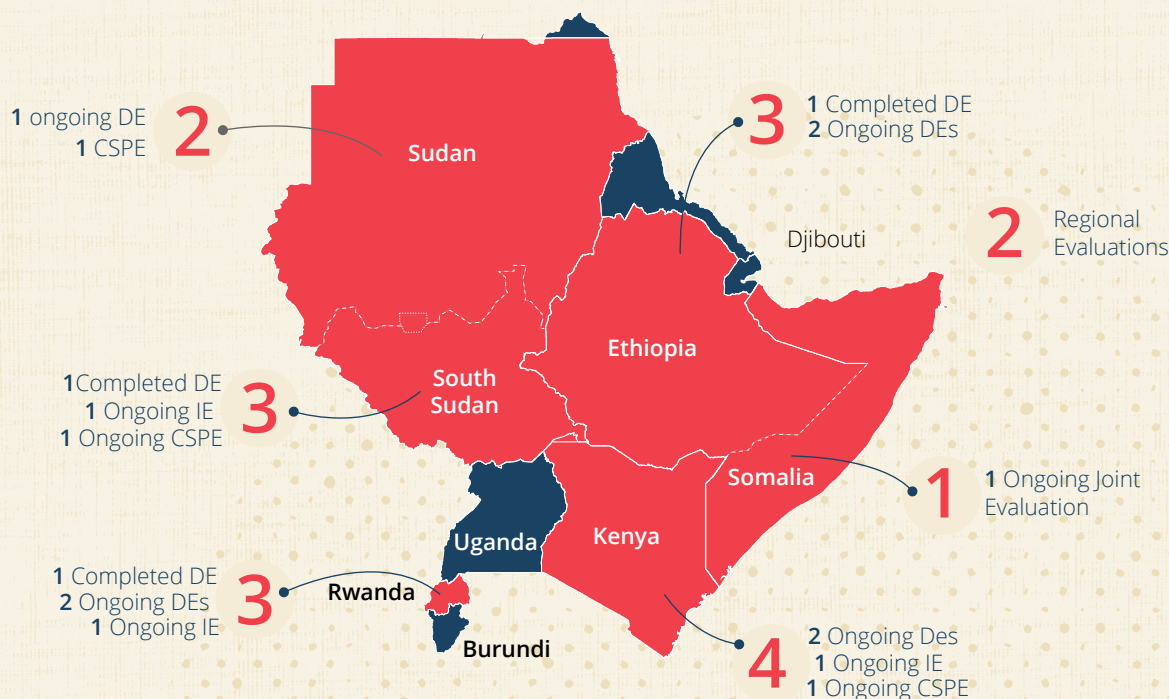
Evidence Generation

2021 Totals

3 Completed Decentralized Evaluations

15 Ongoing Evaluations, including regional evaluations, Impact Evaluations (IE) and Country Strategic Plan evaluations (CSPE)

3 Summaries of evidence



Evaluation

In 2021, the WFP Eastern Africa region was very proactive in commissioning new evaluations that helped to produce credible, independent, and useful evidence on a wide range of topics, despite COVID-19 constraints and challenges. A total of 18 evaluations (including CO) led evaluations, regional evaluations, impact evaluations, and CSPEs were conducted across the region, among which 3 evaluations were finalized.¹⁵ Six countries (**Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan**) had at least one evaluation in-process.¹⁶ The commissioned evaluations strategically supported the COs across the region to generate evidence and fill knowledge gaps on various topics, such as food systems, supply chain, cooperating partnerships, school-based programming, innovation, and resilience.

Thinking Regionally

In 2021, the region began adapting its evidence generation strategy, focusing on key evidence gaps and evidence to support and guide WFP actions on a regional level. Traditionally, a decentralized evaluation covers a single activity or programme, often being commissioned due to Donor requirements. In order to position WFP with evidence in emerging programmatic, operational, and strategic interest areas, RBN began commissioning regional level evaluations.

Regional evaluations in 2021 focused on two important areas of WFP's work that has not been evaluated in-depth in the past: Cooperating Partnerships and the outcomes of Supply Chain on food systems. The first, finalized this year, was a "[Thematic Evaluation of Cooperating Partnerships in the Eastern Africa Region from 2016 to 2020](#)"¹⁷ was commissioned in collaboration with the RBN Cooperating Partnership Management Team, and covered 8 country operations in the region. Both international and national Cooperating Partnerships organizations are core to

implementing WFP programming across the region and WFP. In 2016, WFP began strategically shifting toward longer term planning at the country level (Country Strategic Plans) and to better strengthen local capacity through Grand Bargain commitments, among other shifts. This evaluation was commissioned to help WFP meet these commitments, inform an anticipated regional cooperating partnership strategy, and inform the on-going work with cooperating partners. Overall, the evaluation highlighted important progress in both strategic thinking and management practices around cooperating partners, and areas for improvement:

- Strategic discourse has shifted to better consider cooperating partners beyond simply delivery agents/contractors to being more strategic partners to achieve Zero Hunger.
- The mix of cooperating partners engaged across the region are also relevant to CO priorities and contexts, and WFP has made progress against its Grand Bargain Commitments related to localization, though needs a more intentional approach to localization and a strategy to operationalize how this will be implemented.
- Management practices around cooperating partners have also improved, especially related to risk management. However, the evaluation also highlighted ways in which management practices lag behind current strategic thinking, including: uptake of multi-year agreements with cooperating partners, limited investment and clarity on the approach to strengthen capacity of cooperating partners, and utilizing a more gender-transformative approach with and through its partners.
- Capacity strengthening, particularly for local NGOs, is a critical element of country capacity strengthening more broadly and sustaining programmatic outcomes. While corporate guidance on NGO capacity strengthening exists, operationalizing this guidance, including selecting specific approaches and benchmarks for success, is a challenge.

- Utilizing a more gender transformative approach with cooperating partners can further support WFP's wider gender transformative agenda. While gender considerations have been integrated in operational tools, such as agreement clauses, practices and tools do not encourage cooperating partners to go beyond numeric gender equality towards more gender transformative programming. A more gender-transformative approach requires WFP to pay attention to their cooperating partners and their capacity in deeper ways.

The second regional evaluation, still ongoing, is the "Thematic Evaluation of Supply Chain outcomes in the Food System in Eastern Africa from 2016 to 2021,"¹⁸ commissioned in collaboration with the RBN Supply Chain and Procurement team to assess the nature and extent of the outcomes of supply chain activities in food systems, to differentiate effects according to gender and other groups. This evaluation will provide information to enhance the design, implementation and monitoring of supply chain interventions and overall WFP programming in such a way as to minimise disruption and promote the development of food systems.

Promoting Evidence Use

Across the year, as standard practice to ensure evidence accessibility, all evaluations and evaluation products commissioned and finalized by the region are public and can be found on the [WFP website](#).

- In addition to commissioning evaluations to fill evidence gaps and meet accountability and learning needs, RBN also produced two Summaries of Evidence in 2021 to inform strategies, programme planning, and evidence needs. The first, is the "Evidence on Food Systems: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the East and Central Africa Region (2013-2020)." This summary of evidence consolidated key evidence in terms of good practices, lessons learned, and challenges faced by MSMEs (especially micro enterprises) across the Eastern African region in support of its work to strengthen regional food systems. Overall, the summary found some gaps in evidence: micro-enterprise (typically less than 10 employees) related evidence typically focused on livelihoods and smallholder farmer programming, and evidence



from programming in the region related to SMEs was scant, particularly from UN Agencies. Little evidence was also found on issues such as post-harvest losses, food processing enterprises, and evidence of effectiveness at the policy level.

The second summary of evidence produced was in support of the Burundi Country Office Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) development process. A summary of existing evidence (primarily evaluation and review evidence) specific and relevant to the Burundi context was produced and guided the CO to address and include findings and recommendations into the ICSP. Evidence identified focused on social protection modalities, school feeding programmes, nutrition sensitive programming, gender equality and protection, resilience, and climate change. Very little existing evidence relevant to the Burundi context was found on early warning, forecast-based financing, food fortification, and market integration.

Enabling environment

In a bid to create an enabling environment for KM to thrive in the region, the regional bureau established a network of Information & Knowledge Management Focal Points (IKMFP) from each unit to train and support bureau teams capture, share and use knowledge. Regular meetings with the IKMFP ensured that challenges to adopting KM were addressed in a timely manner and peer-support and learning was enhanced. All 2021 unit workplans incorporated IKM elements which were monitored throughout the year. Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning was one of the key 2021 priorities focused on during APP events.

To enhance Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation

To allow global staff to document good practices and exchange knowledge with different subject matter experts, the KM team engaged with the Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Abidjan (CERFAM) to leverage CERFAM's Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEPT). The RBN Nutrition unit has submitted two good practices to the platform. Discussions are underway with other programmatic areas to document good practices using the platform.

On the regional level, KM Café sessions were introduced in February 2021, to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration across the region. 23 knowledge café sessions were held in 2021, which have been praised widely as providing a good platform for sharing knowledge, lessons learned, and means of collaboration. Discussions are underway to introduce other knowledge sharing channels in 2022.

Enabling systems and technology

In 2021, WFP RBN successfully transitioned all files and documents to Office 365 and decommissioning the legacy shared drive. This transition ensured all bureau staff could access information from anywhere they had internet connection allowing for a more flexible and efficient workforce. Future training will focus on the effective use of Office 365 tools and leveraging the DOT platform operational information and updates.

Endnotes

- 1 USAID. East Africa Gender Fact Sheet. <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/east-africa-gender-fact-sheet>
- 2 WFP, Emergency Food Security Assessment of the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, January 2022.
- 3 “The economics of resilience to drought in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia”. USAID Center for Resilience commissioned study.
- 4 The Economics of Early Response and Resilience: Approach and Methodology (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08a0ae5274a31e00003c0/61114_Approach_and_Methodology.pdf)
- 5 UNHAS Sudan fleet in 2021: 1 Cessna C208 Gran Caravan (12 seats), 1 Embraer 145 (50 seats), 1 Beechcraft 1900 (19 seats), 1 Mi-8AMT (22 seats), 2 Mi-8MTV-1 (22 seats), 1 Mi-8T (22 seats).
- 6 UNHAS South Sudan fleet in 2021: 1 Mi-8MTV-1 (22 seats), 1 Mi-8AMT (22 seats), 2 Mi-8T (22 seats), 1 LET-410UVP-E20 (19 seats), 2 Cessna C208 Gran Caravan (12 seats), 1 DHC-8-202 (37 seats), 2 DHC-8-106 (37 seats), 2 Dornier 228-202 (19 seats).
- 7 UNHAS Ethiopia fleet in 2021: 2 Cessna C208 Gran Caravan (12 seats), 1 DHC 8 Q400 (70 seats).
- 8 UNHAS Somalia fleet in 2021: 1 Cessna C208 Grand Caravan (12 seats), 1 Beechcraft 1900 (19 seats), 2 DHC 8 (37 seats), 1 Fokker 50 (cargo aircraft). One of the two DHC 8 is shared with UNHAS Kenya.
- 9 UNHAS Kenya and ECHO Flight Kenya fleet in 2021: 1 Dash DHC8 (37 seats). The aircraft is shared with UNHAS Somalia.
- 10 This aim is grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 11 [ACLED data](#) indicates a total of 9009 conflict events in the region in 2021, with Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan rating highest. Battles and incidents of violence against civilians were the most frequent event type reported.
- 12 Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.
- 13 Specifics per country are available in the reports of the field clusters, available at <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/field-support/field-protection-clusters/>
- 14 In Somalia, for example, 874,000 were displaced, raising the total to 2.9 million. [DTM data](#) for December 2021 indicates a total of 9.8 million IDPs and 3.3 million returnees in 6 of the countries, in addition to the 4.9 million refugees.
- 15 The following evaluations were finalized in 2021: [Ethiopia, Evaluation of Support for Strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Groups: The Fresh Food Voucher Programme Expansion](#); Rwanda, WFP’s USDA MGD International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program’s support in Rwanda 2016-2020 (endline); and [South Sudan, Evaluation of the Food Assistance for Assets programme 2016 – 2019](#)
- 16 Evaluations in process are defined as those in any stage between confirmation of an evaluation through to approval: preparation (TOR development, contracting), inception, data collection, and reporting.
- 17 The final evaluation report is available here: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/thematic-evaluation-cooperating-partnerships-eastern-africa-region-2016-2020>
- 18 The Terms of reference is available here: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/eastern-africa-supply-chain-outcomes-food-system-evaluation>. The final evaluation report will be finalized in April 2022

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