

World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR **EASTERN AFRICA**

# Environmental Management

## 2021 Regional Achievements & Outlook

MAY 2022

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MICHAEL DUNFORD

Regional Director for Eastern Africa

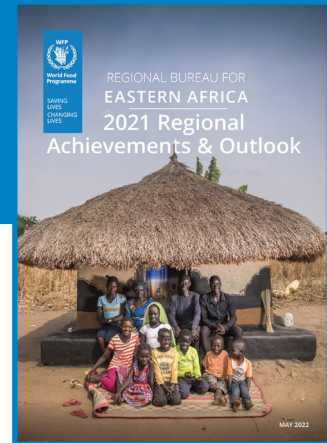
### RYAN ANDERSON

Senior Regional Programme Advisor

[RBN.reports@wfp.org](mailto:RBN.reports@wfp.org)

## PHOTO CREDITS

Cover Photo: WFP/Niema Abdelmageed



[Click here to view full report](#)

**World Food Programme**

Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa

[wfp.org](http://wfp.org)