



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP's social protection engagements: Analytical Summary 2021

At the end of every year, WFP's country offices worldwide issue an annual country report – ACR¹, outlining progress on their activities. 83 country offices - representing almost every country where we work - reported engagements supporting national social protection during 2021. Here we present a summary of those activities, highlighting the broad range of ways and contexts in which we support social protection.

What is WFP doing in social protection?

Social protection programmes play a vital role in the pursuit of a world with Zero Hunger. They prevent, and protect people against, poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion and support individuals and households to manage and build resilience to shocks and stressors. During 2021, with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic pushing further people into poverty and unmet essential needs, WFP has again stepped up its activities to help governments mitigate the consequences of that crisis and many other emergencies, while also working to help strengthen the national systems that enable people to better meet their needs and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks.

Building on the expertise from WFP's own operations, we have provided technical advice to governments on the design and delivery of their cash and food transfer programmes, including also school feeding programmes, public works, and targeted food subsidies. In some cases, upon the request of governments, we have run interventions on their behalf, or have channelled emergency responses through national social protection systems. We have done this while keeping humanitarian principles at the heart of everything we do. In contexts where we continue to deliver its own assistance directly - reaching over 100 million beneficiaries in 2021 - we have explored how to do so in ways that facilitate lesson-learning, or even future integration into the national social protection system when the time is right.

1. For details of the specific activities undertaken by country, see <https://www.wfp.org/annual-country-reports-2021>



Figure 1: How WFP supported nationally led social protection systems and programmes in 2021



In 2021, WFP provided support to 83 countries and its national social protection systems as a means for ensuring people to meet to their food security, nutrition and other essential needs and manage risks (figure 1).

WFP primarily provided technical advice but also delivered social protection programmes benefits on behalf of national government showcasing the strong dual role of WFP:

In **69 COUNTRIES** countries WFP strengthened **SYSTEM'S ARCHITECTURE**, by supporting governments with policy formulation, building capacities, governance structures, setting up platforms, financing programmes and improving coordination across sectors.

WFP continued to deepen its **PROGRAMME SUPPORT** with advice and operational delivery on behalf of **60 GOVERNMENTS**, an increase of 38% from the previous year (2020).

▶ WFP supported the **Committee on Social Protection** for the development of the **first ever Social Protection Policy in Namibia**.

▶ **In Burkina Faso**, WFP carried out a comprehensive study to assess the coverage of the social protection interventions offered to people living with HIV (PLHIV). The results were used to make recommendations for making social protection interventions more effective and served as an advocacy tool for the **sustainable integration of PLHIV into the new national social protection system**.

▶ **In Somalia**, WFP implemented a national cash-transfer programme **Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP)**, registering, enrolling, delivering CBTs to 1.1 million people (delivered through mobile money), and managing feedback for all and complaints from 14,000 people. WFP scaled up its assistance through a horizontal and vertical expansion of the SNHCP to deliver assistance to 383,000 locust-affected people.

WFP is taking a systems-level approach when supporting national social protection!

The number of countries where WFP has worked, and the diversity of system building blocks demonstrates the breadth and depth of WFP's global engagements in social protection². They do not imply any prioritization of some building blocks over others, or that working on

a greater number of blocks is better than working on fewer. Rather, support continues to be driven by national needs and priorities, identified in consultation with the government and its partners and set out in WFP's Country Strategic Plans.

²The numbers in this analytical summary reflect WFP's ongoing global engagement in social protection and are greater than the number of countries where WFP has achieved long-term output targets or high-level targets, as described in the Corporate Results Framework 2022-25.

Figure 2: Number of countries where WFP contributed to each of the 12 building blocks, through technical advice to national actors and/or delivery on their behalf, 2021.

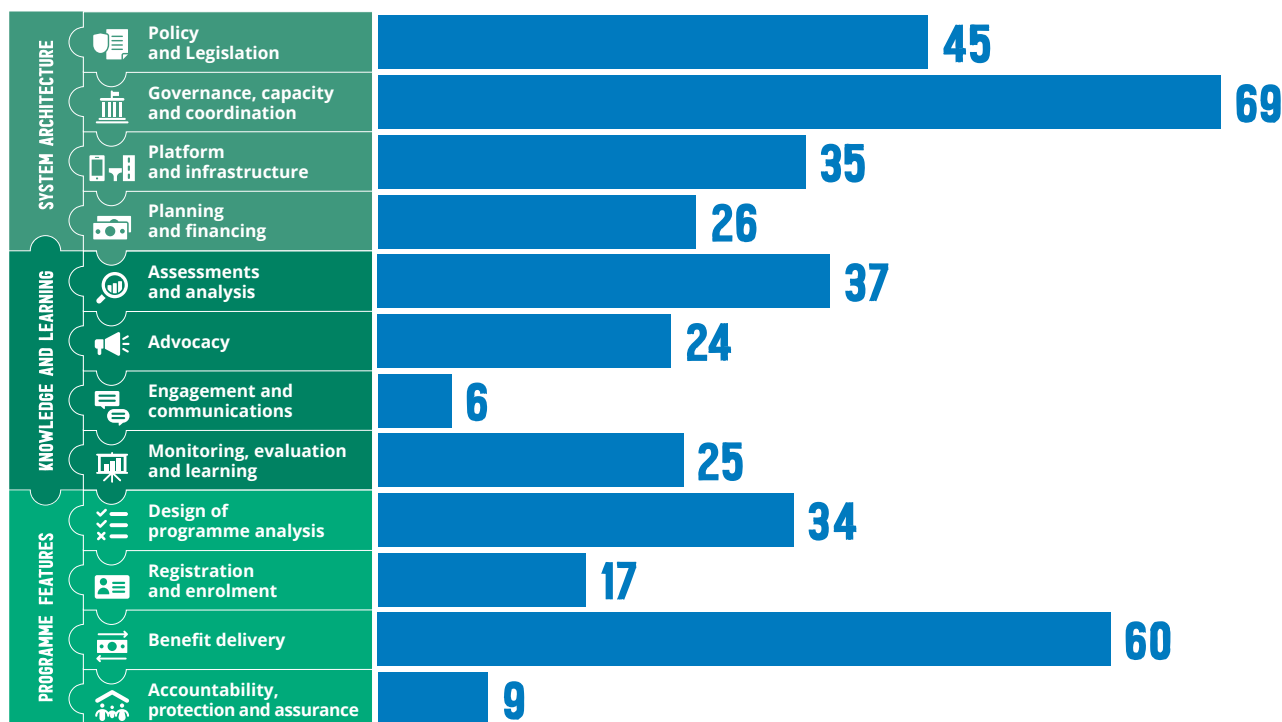
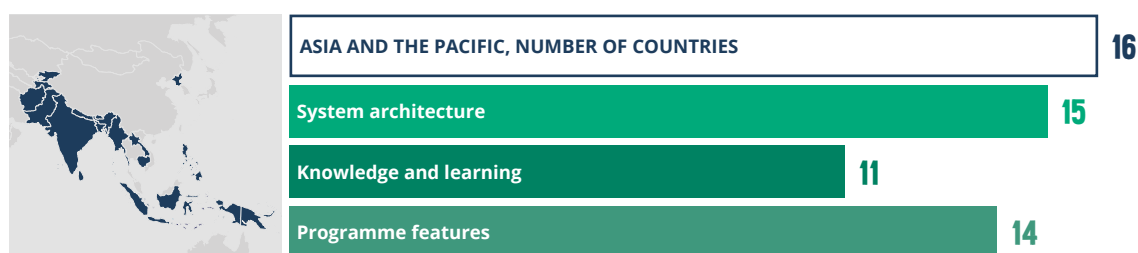
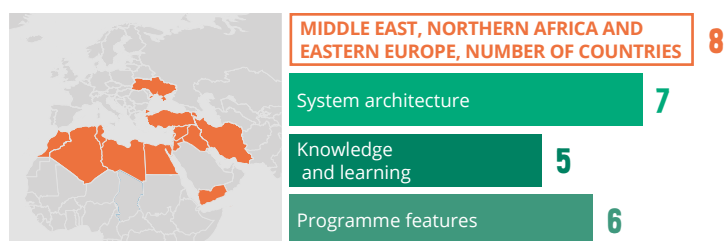


Figure 3: Number of countries by regional bureau where WFP supported systems architecture, knowledge and learning, and programme features, in 2021



Myanmar: WFP provided both technical and material assistance to the Department of Social Welfare to set up a social management information system to strengthen the management of social protection programmes, facilitate strategic planning, and conduct system-based monitoring and evaluation to support informed decision-making.

WFP supplied hardware to the Department of Social Welfare which helped the Department with beneficiary data registration, record keeping and data protection, as well as to transition from paper based to a digitized monitoring system.



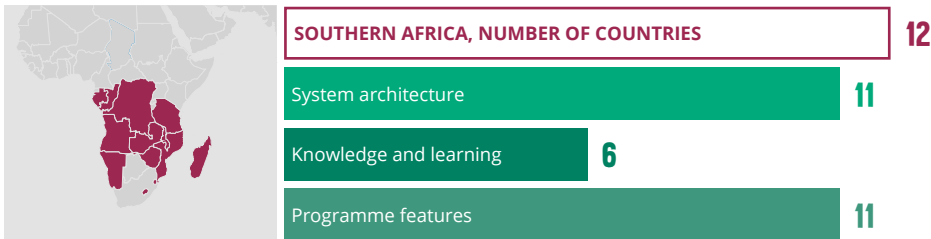
Lebanon: WFP supported the Ministry of Social Affairs in scaling-up the National Poverty Targeting Programmer's (NPTP) assistance to reach 36,000 households, more than doubling the number of beneficiaries. In parallel, the Government and WFP launched the registration for the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), which complements the NPTP, by providing 12 months of cash assistance

to an additional 147,000 extremely poor Lebanese households. WFP worked to ensure that these two major social assistance programmes in Lebanon are aligned operationally in terms of targeting, eligibility, and transfer values, and strategically for a unified social protection policy and vision for Lebanon.



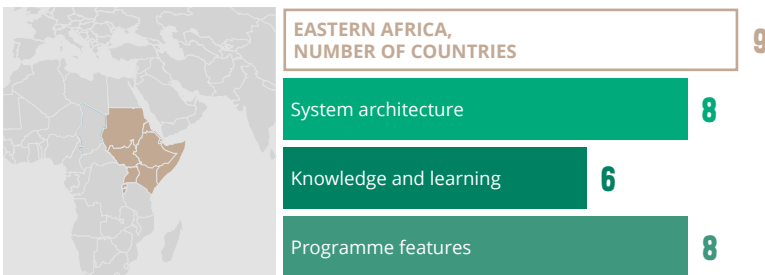
Mauritania: To inform policies and programming in social protection and improve nutrition-sensitive approaches in this sector, WFP carried out the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG)

study which assessed the country's nutritional situation and identifying the barriers faced by the most vulnerable in accessing healthy and nutritious foods.



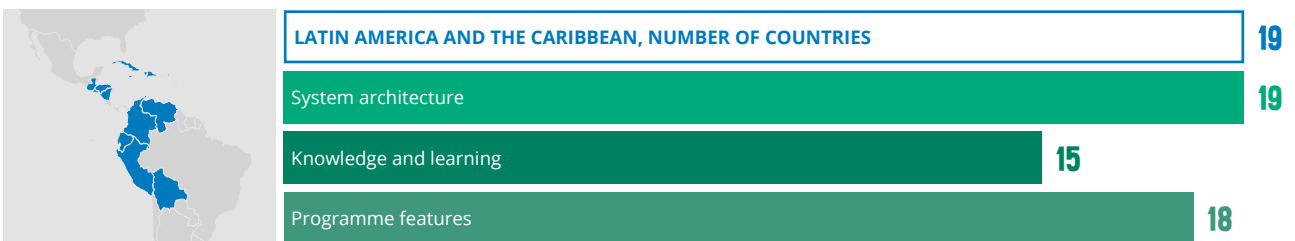
Malawi: In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP carried out an after-action review of the Government's 2020/2021 lean season emergency response to determine lessons learned and best recommendations for future programming. This resulted in the publication of standard

operating procedures for the use of the social protection system in the 2021/2022 lean season emergency response, through which WFP and its partners reached 600,000 people in food-insecure areas with food and cash assistance.



Uganda: WFP assisted the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development to design and launch a National Single Registry, which is an integrated beneficiary management information system (MIS) for the Government. To do so, WFP assessed management information system needs for eight districts and procured

hardware to decentralize key MIS functions to the district level. The new registry supports data integration across eight national social protection programmes and provides Government with important information about coverage and level of social protection benefits.



Haiti: WFP managed several multi-year grants aiming at strengthening the Government of Haiti's capacities to singlehandedly design, manage and monitor social safety nets. The Country Office has been consulted by the IMF to help the Fund identify benchmarks aligned with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's work in social protection and for IMF's potential budget support

to the Government. WFP's technical support also helped the Government to design an inclusive national payment system, linked to a Management Information System, to enable direct payments to Haitian citizens who receive social benefits and facilitate social protection planning and implementation, including for emergency response.



Can WFP programmes count as social protection?

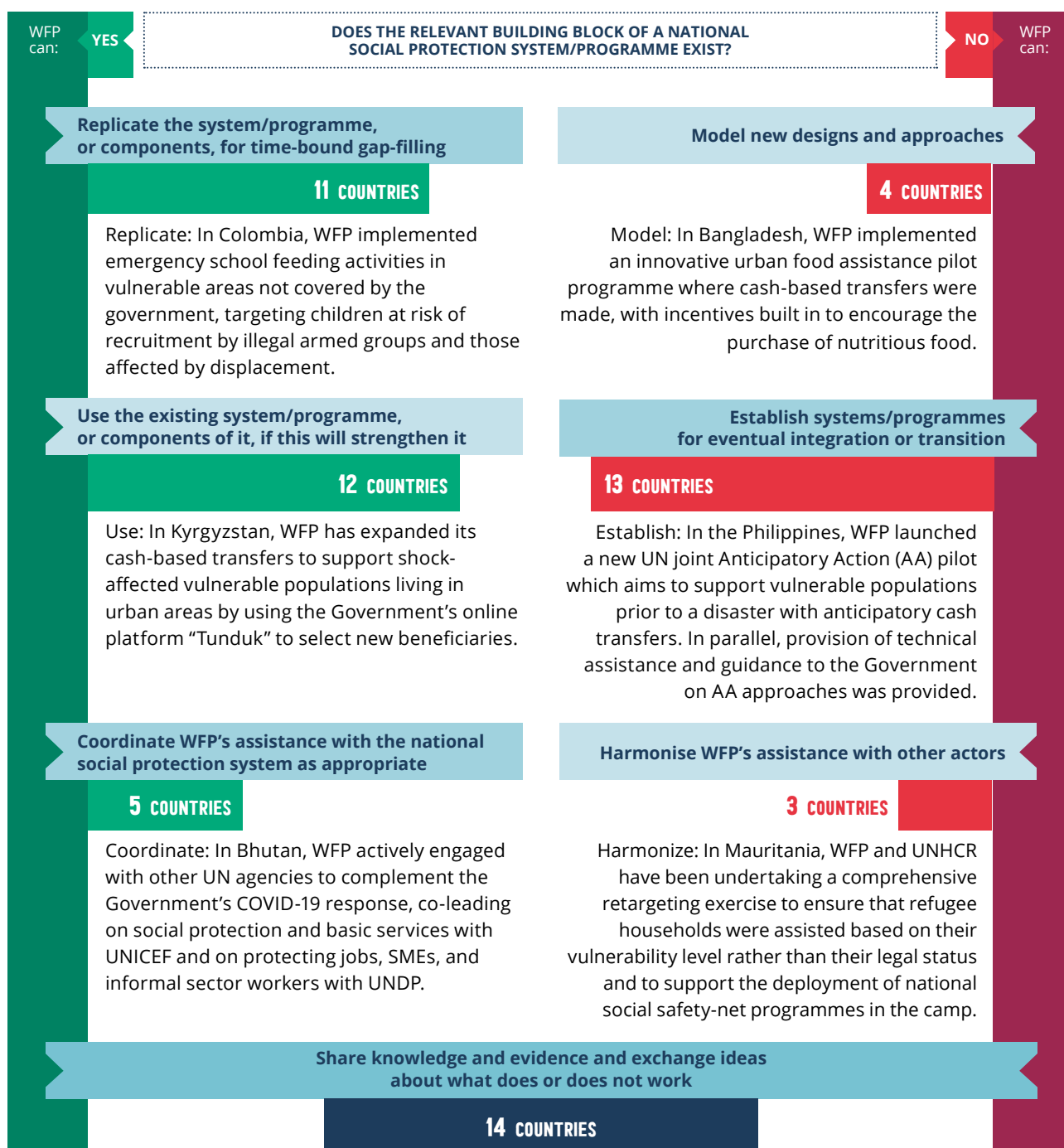
Many of WFP's directly implemented activities contain elements that mirror those of national social protection systems but are not social protection per se. However, this creates opportunities to explore complementarities between our interventions and those of national partners.

When a system or programme building block exists, WFP has replicated or used those building blocks for time-bound gap-filling or for WFP's own delivery in up to 12 countries we operate.

In contexts where the social protection system is nascent or no constituting building block exists, WFP has established and modeled new programmes and approaches for an eventual integration into national systems where possible.

At the center of it all, WFP is sharing technical knowledge and know-how with national actors in 14 countries while delivering efficiently and effectively on its own programmes.

Figure 4: Number of countries where WFP contributed to national social protection through complementary actions in its own programming, in 2021



For further information, do get in touch with us at socialprotection@wfp.org.

To know more about WFP's work in social protection, follow this link:
www.wfp.org/social-protection-and-safety-nets

World Food Programme

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