

Building sustainable social protection systems is central to fulfilling WFP's mission to end global hunger. WFP supports governments across the world to build and strengthen national social protection systems to better help people meet their food security, nutrition, and associated essential needs and address the risks and shocks they face.



CHANGING LIVES



Social Protection

Social protection programmes go well-beyond poverty and hunger alleviation — they are critical engines for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Evidence shows how social protection programmes and systems support the resilience and performance of national food systems, enhance food security and nutritional outcomes, help build human capital and strengthen long-term capacities to address risks and shocks at scale.

The global food crisis drove millions of people into chronic hunger and food insecurity. WFP scaled up direct food and nutrition assistance to over 120 million people in 2022, but the increasing needs will soon outstrip WFP or any other organization's ability to respond. National social protection systems, offer a solution to this challenge with their annual expenditure of trillions of dollars, operating at a scale and magnitude greater than any international humanitarian response.

By investing catalytic amounts in strengthening those national systems, WFP can support

governments and meet the needs of several hundred million hungry and malnourished people who are not directly receiving food assistance.

WHY WFP?

WFP is uniquely positioned to support governments in building and strengthening their national social protection systems:

- **Our Field Presence:** Our global footprint and frontline presence, in remote locations, fragile contexts and conflict situations, means WFP can provide practical support for establishing, using, and strengthening social protection even where others are absent.
- **Operational experience:** WFP has developed the largest global capacity to deliver and scale up food assistance, often in exceptional circumstances. This means we are positioned to support countries in the design and implementation of effective systems and programmes – especially, but not exclusively, those that provide cash and food transfers.

- **Analytical capabilities:** WFP can help governments map, identify, and target the people most in need of social protection, making us the obvious partner of choice for countries seeking to understand the nature of vulnerability.
- **Working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus:** WFP supports governments with our expertise in emergency preparedness and resilience, the design of adaptable and agile programmes, the transition from crisis to post-crisis contexts, awareness of accountability and protection and experience in enhancing intersectoral coordination.

MOVING FORWARD:

1 Building and strengthening various components of national social protection systems

WFP will help advocate for sustainable and equitable financing, integration of social protection into plans for emergency preparedness, and for the transition from internationally led interventions to sustainable nationally led social protection systems.

2 Support the quantity and quality of national social protection programming

WFP's knowledge of different targeting mechanisms enables us to design social protection interventions in a way that reaches the most vulnerable populations. WFP also supports in defining modalities and size of benefits provided, their duration, frequency and ways in which these can better reach the targeted populations in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner, ensuring accountability.

3 Strengthening partnerships and evidence on social protection

WFP pursues partnerships actively across all its operations as a means of achieving better outcomes for people. This includes partnerships in operations, resourcing,

knowledge and advocacy and joint programming. Our systematic efforts to produce evidence, exchange knowledge, and support the process of learning helps us to effectively contribute to social protection.

COUNTRY EXAMPLES



In **Somalia**, WFP helped implement the 'Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project' registering, enrolling, and delivering mobile money, to 1.1 million people and managing feedback and complaints mechanism from 14,000 people. WFP scaled up through a horizontal and vertical expansion to deliver assistance to 383,000 locust-affected people.



In **Haiti**, WFP managed several multi-year grants to strengthen the government's capacity to design, manage and monitor social assistance programmes. WFP also supported the design of an inclusive national payments system to enable direct delivery of benefits to targeted populations.



In **India**, WFP supported the government to adjust the 'Targeted Public Distribution System', the world's largest food-based safety net that supports over 813 million beneficiaries every month, ensuring food and nutritional security even during shocks and crisis as demonstrated throughout the pandemic.