



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**

2022 Regional Achievements and Outlook

May 2023



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PREAMBLE

The World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa oversees and provides support towards the life-saving and life-changing operations in nine country offices, namely Kenya, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Djibouti, and Somalia. WFP's activities are articulated in the Country's Strategic Plans linked to host countries' National Development Plans and Frameworks, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WFP's regional, national, local, and community level footprint and expertise have continually enabled WFP to interact with governments and communities to address food security and nutrition challenges in the Eastern Africa Region. Further, WFP's operational capacity, agility, and reliable systems have supported the delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly in the most difficult contexts characterized by remoteness, weak infrastructure, and insecurity.

In-2022, the region was recovering from the-COVID-19 pandemic, albeit with increased conflict, localised violence, displacement of people, and immense climate-related shocks which left 82 million people food insecure, the highest number on record. WFP worked with host governments, the humanitarian community, other UN Agencies, international finance institutions, academia, and 358 cooperating partners to maximize an efficient response to challenges in the region. Through these partnerships, WFP responded on a massive scale, reaching 39.9 million people (46 percent female) – a historic high.

Saving Lives

WFP reached 39.9 million people in the Eastern Africa Region; 5 million more people compared to 2021. Of these, 29 million were residents, 3.9 million refugees, and over 6 million internally displaced people. Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan accounted for over 70 percent of the people reached in 2022 in the region. Emergency response provided through unconditional (relief) assistance accounted for the biggest number of beneficiaries, with over 24 million people receiving assistance through either cash-based transfers (CBT) or in-kind, underpinning the critical importance of emergency response in the region. 14 million people received assistance through CBT and CBT accounted for 31 percent of WFP response in the region, up from 23 percent in 2021.

WFP delivered integrated nutrition response packages by working closely with the governments and partners. Nutrition integration was adopted through other opportunities, like social protection, to target at-risk groups to improve consumption of nutritious foods and increase access to and affordability of healthy diets for all. Nearly 7 million women and children were treated for moderate acute malnutrition. WFP also implemented prevention of malnutrition activities reaching 1.6 million children. Underfunding affected malnutrition prevention response in Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya.

WFP continued to be an enabler of humanitarian response, especially in the hard-to-reach areas by providing supply chain services to partners and governments. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported over 190,000 metric tons of humanitarian cargo to over 72 destinations. The scale of WFP's operations has a significant impact on trade and the regional economy. WFP's supply chain portfolio in Eastern Africa indicates that each dollar spent by WFP on supply chain increases the value of total production by 2.3 USD on average. WFP's supply chain footprint is an enabling factor for the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as it helps improve efficiencies and promotes market linkages.

In 2022, WFP remained a reliable, long term social protection partner to governments in the region. WFP provided technical support to strengthen national social protection systems, policy environment, and programme delivery, including in fragile contexts.

Changing Lives

WFP recognizes the need for a paradigm shift toward a more preventive and integrated approach that promotes food sovereignty, strengthened resilience, and adaptive capacity in communities to respond to emerging and existing shocks. Climate disasters are becoming more frequent, in response, WFP is working with governments and local partners to scale up climate adaptation interventions to protect the most vulnerable. With climate change posing a threat to the food systems, WFP deliberately pursued an integrated and sustainable food systems approach that builds resilience and adopts a gender lens in programming to ensure everyone has equal opportunities.

In 2022, WFP supported over 3 million people to build productive assets at the community and household level aiming to build their resilience and self-reliance. WFP also reached 1.5 million people with climate adaptation interventions; an increase of 60 percent compared to 2021.

WFP supported governments in developing capacities to prepare for and manage disaster risks by strengthening early-warning systems, anticipatory actions, emergency preparedness, and finance and risk-transfer tools. In 2022, WFP scaled up anticipatory actions in the region with **USD 10.1 million** disbursed to Somalia and Ethiopia.

WFP, a globally recognized thought leader in school feeding and partner of choice with more than 60 years of experience, reached over 4 million school-going children with school meals in 2022.

Looking Ahead, 2023

WFP, working with cooperating partners and donors, will maintain **excellence in emergency response** and pursue big-ticket solutions to address underlying causes of food insecurity to break the cycle of saving same lives every year. Advancing integration across WFP's own response and working with others by seeking **complementary interventions** that deliver results at scale along the Triple Nexus (the interlinkages between humanitarian, development, and peace actors).

Anticipatory action has been shown as more cost effective and delivers better outcomes than reactive humanitarian response yet constitutes less than 2 percent of financing in the region. WFP will continue to advocate for financing that is anticipatory, flexible, and predictable.

Pursuing an integrated food systems approach, including promoting local procurement where possible, thereby injecting cash into local economies to strengthen food systems. Also, exploring **water management solutions** and develop a regional water strategy - "no food security without water security".

WFP's appeal to the international community is that the **cost of inaction is severe**. If "humanitarian inflation" and funding gaps are not addressed, the result is often increased stress, depletion of natural resources and violence. Affected families and communities turn to negative coping mechanisms such as skipping meals, selling household assets, taking kids out of school, and becoming refugees.

Number of **beneficiaries**
reached in **2022**



Beneficiaries reached by
Residence status



Beneficiaries reached by Activity



24,225,782

General distributions/ unconditional resource transfer



4,491,996

School based programmes



3,082,631

Food assistance for assets/ asset creation and livelihoods



1,529,793

Climate adaptation and risk management



585,577

Emergency preparedness

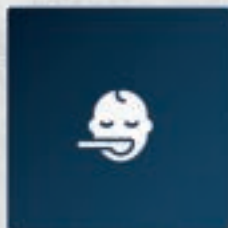


439,331

Smallholder agricultural market support activities

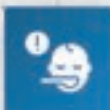


Nutrition



6,908,656

Treatment of malnutrition



1,609,889

Prevention of acute malnutrition



668,119

Prevention of stunting



44,457

HIV/TB care & treatment

Supply Chain



1,349,369 MT

Tonnage of food handed over to Cooperating Partners (mt)

UNHAS



190,042 MT

Amount of cargo transported regionally



111,954

No. of passengers transported regionally



72

No. of destinations covered regionally



WFP contribution to the local economy

No. of smallholder farmers supported by WFP



439,331

Food procured locally and regionally



341,196 MT

USD 267,668,662



Food Systems

No. of people supported through asset creation activities



3,082,631

USD transferred to households participating in asset creation



USD 18,912,883

Total sum insured through risk management interventions



USD 2,660,879

USD disbursed to countries through prearranged financing



USD 10.1 MILLION



Capacity Strengthening



602,674

Value of assets and infrastructure handed over to national stakeholders



17,867

Government and national partner staff who received technical assistance and training



Staffing in WFP Eastern Africa

Total number of staff
6,200

3,794
Male

2,406
Female

5,332

No. of staff locally recruited

3,844

No. of staff serving in emergency duty stations

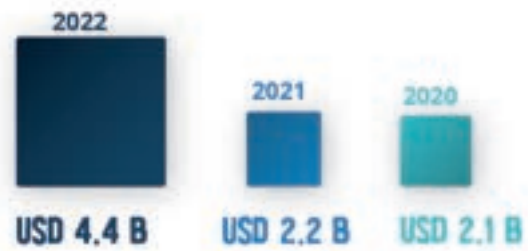


2022 Resourcing Outlook

Requirements vs. resources received



Resources (USD Billion)



Total number of partnerships in WFP Eastern Africa Region

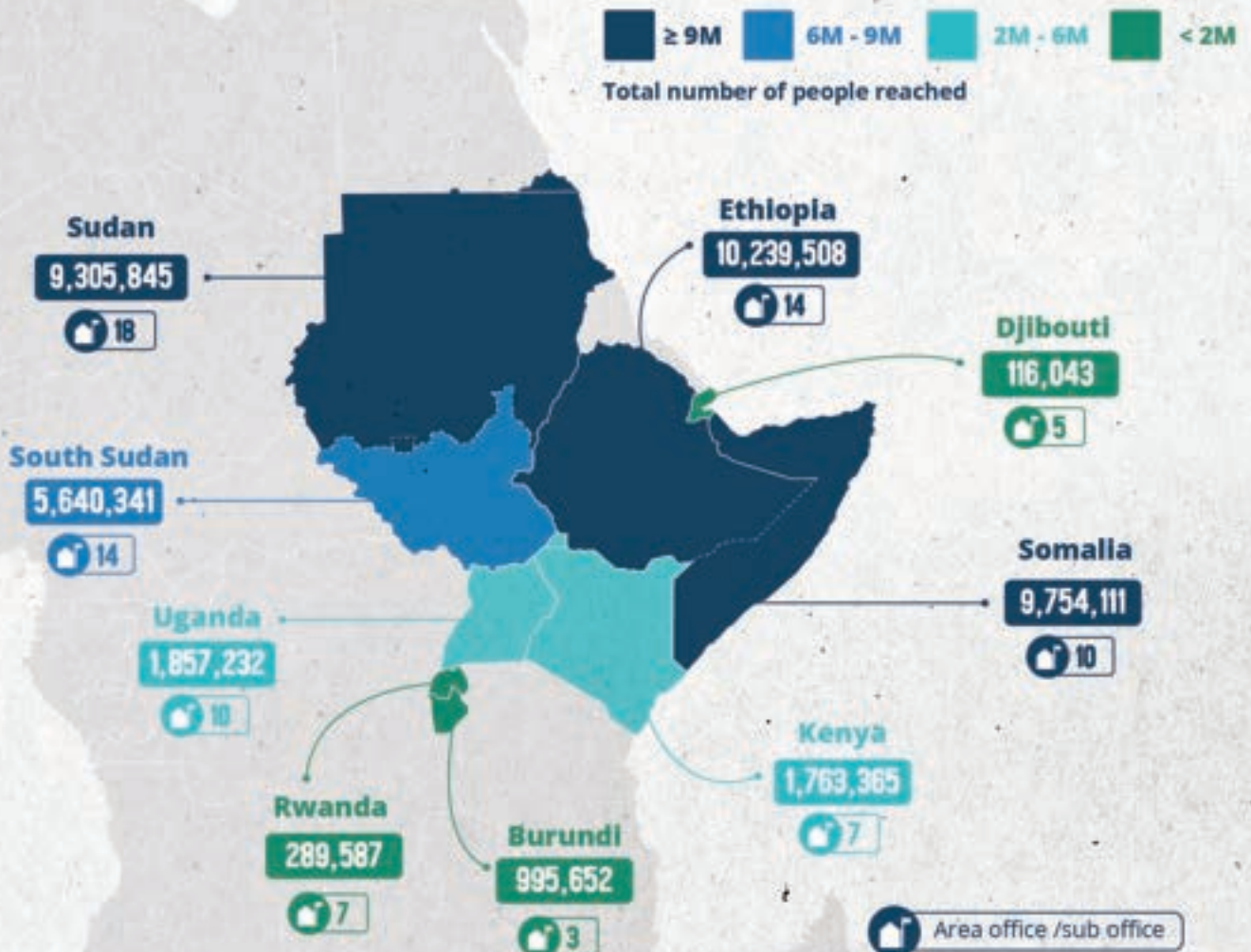
358

277

81

Local CPs International CPs

Country Office Overview



RESOURCING OUTLOOK

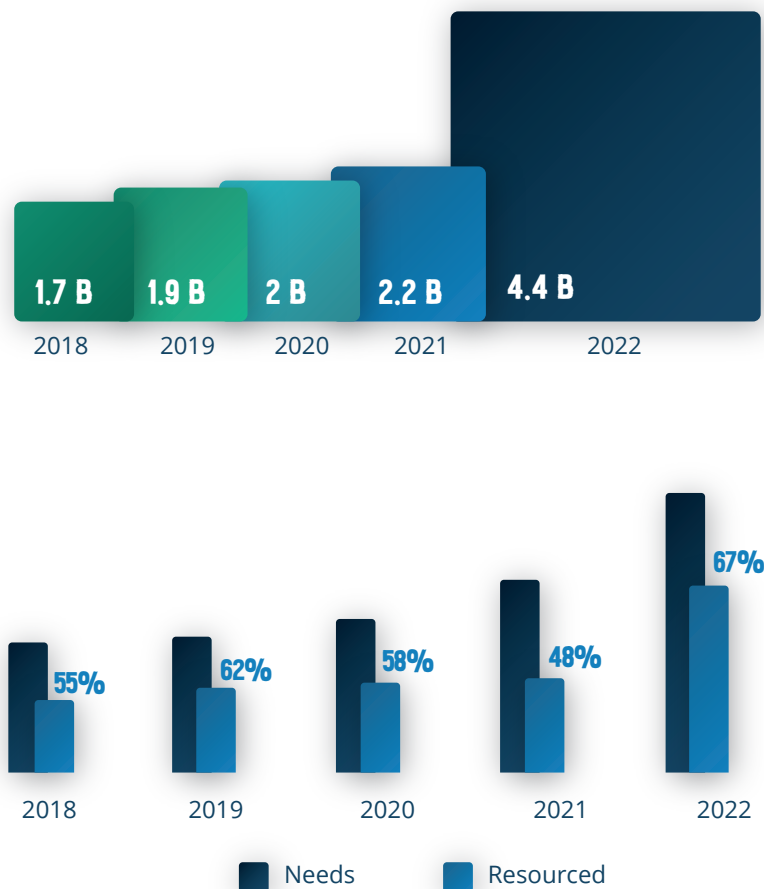
WFP/Michael Tweide



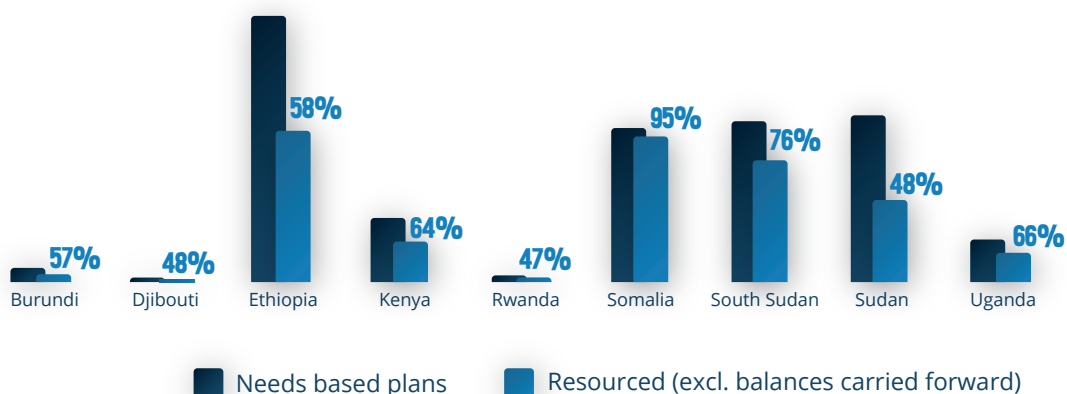
Resourcing Outlook in 2022

- In 2022, the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa received USD 4.4 billion in confirmed contributions against a needs-based plan of USD 6.5 billion, a 101 percent increase compared to 2021.
- The United States of America remains the leading donor to WFP in Eastern Africa Region, having confirmed USD 2.97 billion, representing 68 percent of all confirmed contributions.
- Government donors that increased funding the most in 2022 include United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Netherlands, and Denmark. The UAE's contribution of USD 60 million to Ethiopia was the highest-ever single contribution from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- WFP significantly increased funding from partner governments via international financial institutions (IFIs), specifically in Somalia and Sudan, from the World Bank, the Global Partnerships for Education (GPE), and the African Development Bank.
- Private sector funding to WFP's Eastern Africa Region increased from USD 11 million in 2021 to 50 USD million in 2022. The top private sector donors were Latter Day Saints (LDS) church, Howard Buffet Foundations, High Net Worth Individuals, Gates Foundation, and the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Resourcing Trends 2018- 2022



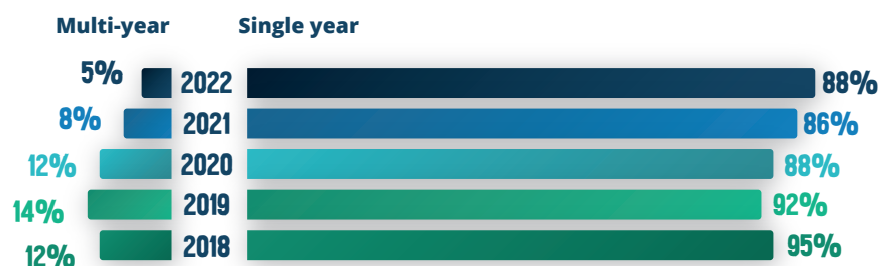
WFP Eastern Africa **Resourcing vs. Needs** per Country Office



Ethiopia received the highest contributions out of all the funding to the region with a 26 percent share, followed by Somalia (25 percent), South Sudan (21 percent), and Sudan (14 percent).

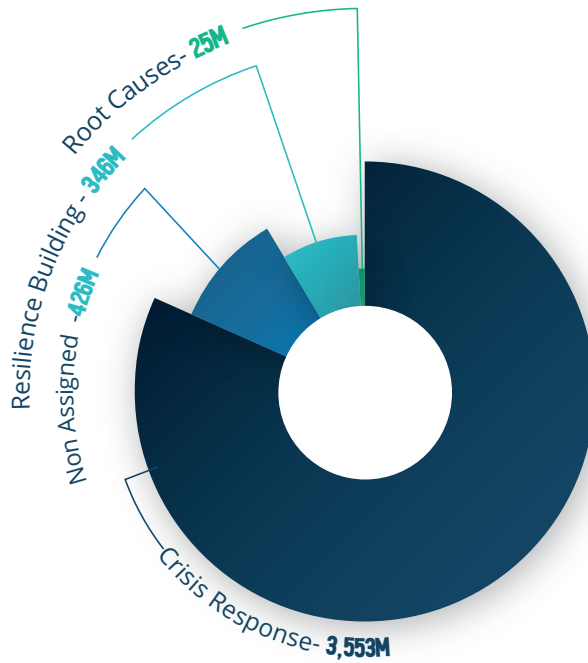
The big four countries in WFP’s Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa (South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia) received USD 3.7 billion in 2022, representing 86 percent of the overall funding to the region and 26 percent of the overall global funding in 2022.

Multi-year vs. Single year Resourcing (2018-2022)

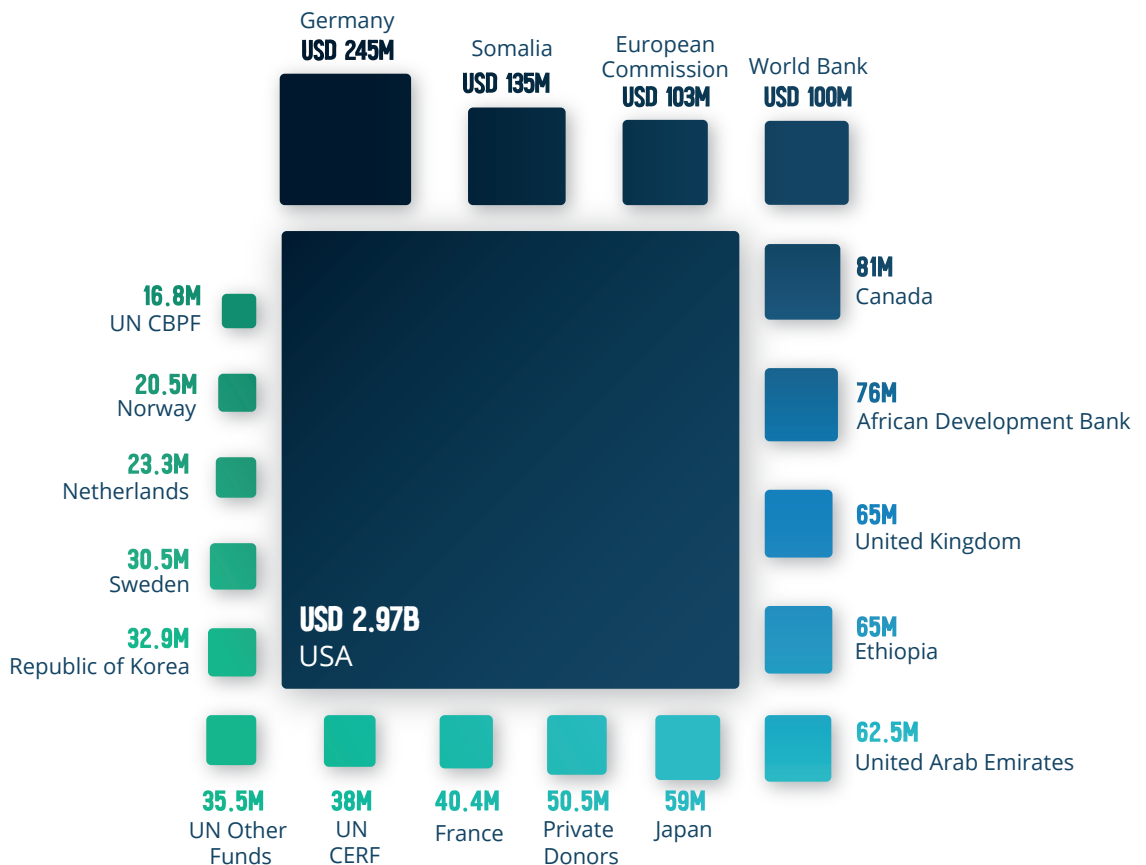


There has been a decrease in multi-year funding since 2020. The decrease in 2022 is a reflection of the global trend where the share of multi-year funding decreased to 10 percent from a 2019-2021 trend of 15 percent. Multi-year funding to the Regional Bureau in 2022 was made possible by donors such as Canada, Denmark, Germany, Monaco, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Austria, USA, and the United Kingdom. South Sudan is the largest recipient of multi-year funding in the last 5 years.

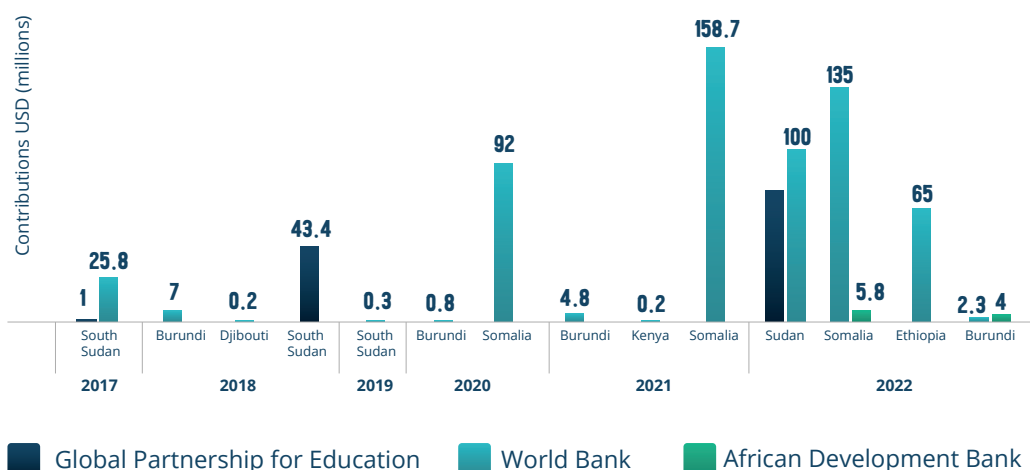
Funding by Focus Area



WFP Eastern Africa Top Donors



WFP Eastern Africa **International Financial Institutions /partner governments** funding (2017-2022)

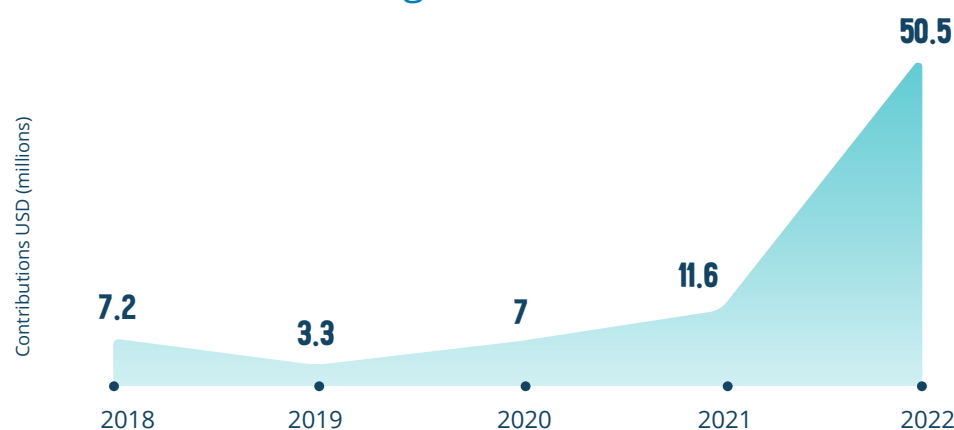


In 2022, partner government funding to WFP Eastern African Bureau, with international financial institutions (IFIs) as source donors, accounted for **USD 389 million**.

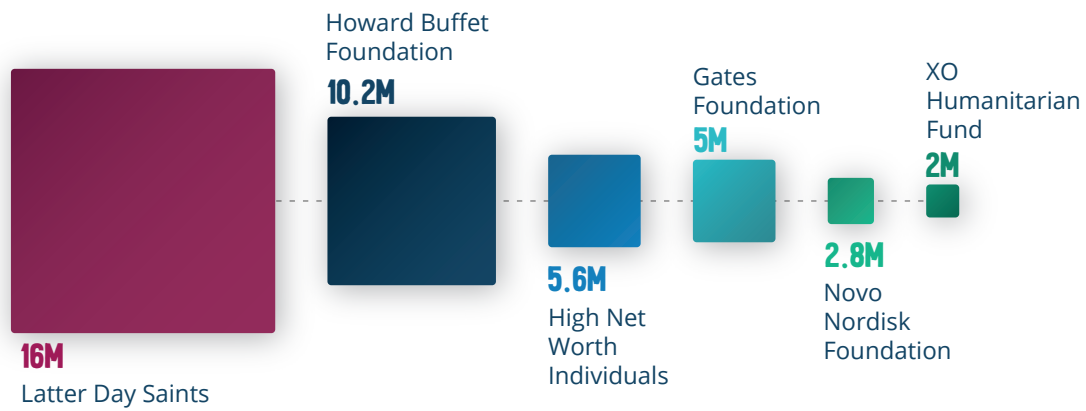
These contributions include:

- **Sudan:** USD 100 million funding through the World Bank to implement the Sudan Emergency Safety Net project. WFP is also the sole administrator for the **African Development Bank's USD 73 million** wheat value chain strengthening project. It has successfully completed negotiations and awaits Board approval.
- **Somalia:** USD 135 million agreement with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs financed by the World Bank for drought response and safety nets, and USD 5.8 million through the Global Partnership for Education Accelerated Funding grant to the Government of Somalia.
- **Ethiopia:** USD 65 million agreement with the Federal Government of Ethiopia financed by the World Bank.
- **Burundi:** USD 4 million agreement with the Ministry of Education financed by the Global Partnership for Education.

Private Sector Funding

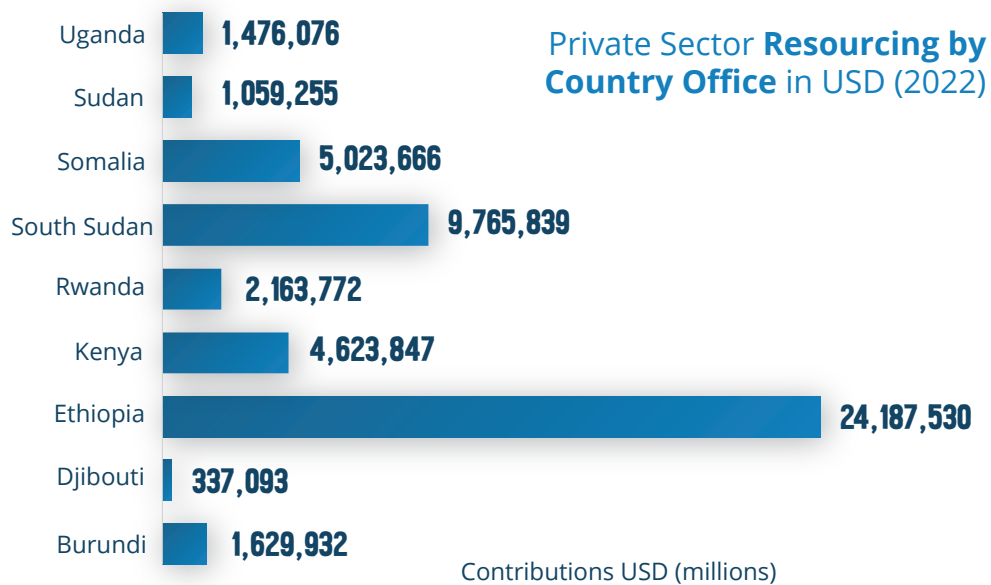


Top **Private** Donors

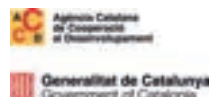
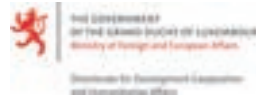


WFP also established the first local private sector technical partnership worth USD 1 million with the Hive Group in Kenya.

In addition, five Share the Meal campaigns were carried out in the region for the Horn of Africa (HoA) drought. The campaigns took place in South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda.



Public and Government Donors





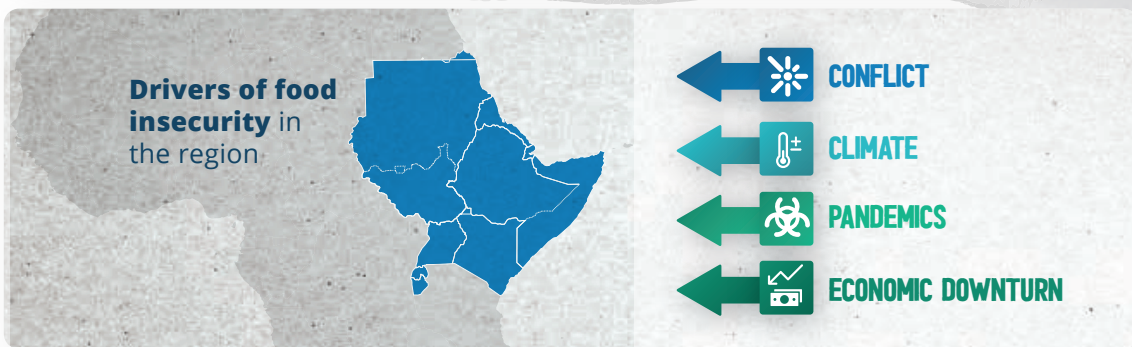
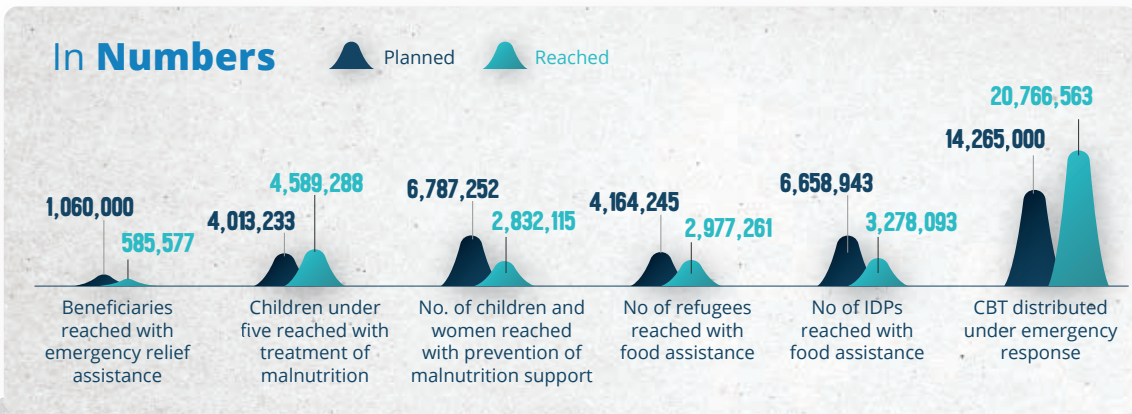
Private Donors



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



WFP/Alessandro Abbonzio



2022 registered the worst drought in the Horn of Africa Region in four decades. 22 million people were acutely food insecure as of December 2022, an increase from 13 million in early 2022. This was exacerbated by conflict complexities, the global food crisis, and floods that affected 1.1 million people in South Sudan. While the region was still recovering from the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, Ebola hit Uganda killing up to 55 people, and an outbreak of cholera and other communicable diseases, also further added to the woes of the region's population.

Impact

82 MILLION people are food insecure in the eastern Africa region, including **22 MILLION** across **Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya** as of December 2022.

An estimated **5.1 MILLION CHILDREN** were **acutely malnourished** in drought affected areas of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia in 2022, including 3.7 million moderately malnourished. In Somalia alone, every second child is malnourished (54 percent) and "one child is admitted for medical treatment for malnutrition every minute". Increasing malnutrition levels have also been recorded in Kenya, where the number of children requiring treatment for acute malnutrition rose by 36 percent from 653,000 to 885,000 between August 2021 and 2022.

Number of internally displaced people (IDPs) though reduced from 12.4 million in 2021¹ to **11.7 MILLION** in 2022² is still extremely high.

1 Document - EHAGL: Internally Displaced Persons - Regional Overview - January-December 2021 (unhcr.org)

2 EHAGL: Refugees, asylum-seekers, refugee returnees and IDPs | Global Focus (unhcr.org) 2022



The number of refugees remained high in 2022, totaling **4.92 MILLION**, a minimal decrease from 4.93 million in December 2021.



Approximately **10.8 MILLION LIVESTOCK DIED** (4.5 million in Ethiopia, 2.5 million in Kenya, 3.8 million in Somalia) since the beginning of the drought.



Across the region, up to **24 MILLION** people face daily household water insecurity³.



The cost of local food baskets **INCREASED BY MORE THAN 45 PERCENT**, with South Sudan (+89 percent) and Sudan (+81 percent) reporting the highest increases.



In December 2022, **AVERAGE INFLATION RATE WAS OVER 24 PERCENT** with double digit figures in Sudan (87 percent), Ethiopia (34 percent), Rwanda (31 percent), and Uganda (10 percent).



The **GLOBAL FOOD CRISES** led to supply chain challenges for specialized nutritious foods (SNFs)



THE FUNDING GAPS limited the ability of WFP to meet immediate humanitarian needs, especially among refugees. This led to ration cuts of up to **40 PERCENT** in 2022.

Key Achievements

WFP scaled up humanitarian assistance in Eastern Africa in response to the drought. Thanks to generous contributions from our donors, funding for the region reached a new high of USD 4.09 billion, with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) providing nearly 80 percent of the funding. WFP also increased relief assistance in drought affected countries, doubling the numbers reached across the region to 43.5 million.

WFP increased CBT as a modality in drought response to USD 750 million in 2022, with Somalia distributing the highest CBT globally (USD 470 million). CBT has ensured timely assistance to the affected populations and supported strengthening of local economies.

The 2022 Economic Impact Assessment of World Food Program Expenditures in East Africa showed that each dollar spent by WFP in the region, increases real income (GDP) by considerably more than one dollar in most cases⁴. WFP moved 341 mt of food, including from local procurement, thereby injecting USD 554 million into local economies.

WFP scaled up its nutrition assistance, to address the deteriorating nutrition situation, reaching 2.8 million moderately malnourished children and women. The increasing case of malnutrition requires more preventive approaches to prevent occurrence of malnutrition.

To drive the localization agenda, WFP collaborated with local partners and government entities in drought response. In 2022, WFP collaborated with 130 partners across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, with 96 of them being local and national NGOs (74 percent), resulting in improved access to all beneficiaries in hard-to-reach areas.

³ [https://www.unicef.org/media/133346/file/HoA-Dashboard-\(Drought-Situation\),-December-2022.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/133346/file/HoA-Dashboard-(Drought-Situation),-December-2022.pdf)



Refugee Response

Achievements

WFP reached 4 million refugees and asylum seekers with food and nutrition assistance in 2022. This included camp and settlement-based refugees and asylum seekers in transit and reception centres across the region. WFP also collaborated with UNHCR and other partners to undertake the joint Kenya refugee assessment mission to inform the joint plan of action that guides implementation by stakeholders. In Uganda and Rwanda, refugee response is continuing with prioritization approach, providing assistance based on vulnerability levels of the refugees and asylum seekers.

The Eastern Africa Region comprises the 4-UNAIDS fast track countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan). WFP is expanding its HIV sensitive and specific activities to refugee contexts. These use the health and school platforms to contribute to HIV prevention efforts through Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and facilitating treatment adherence among people living with HIV (PLHIV) by providing nutrition support.

Challenges

In 2022, the region experienced an increased influx of refugees, the majority of whom arrived with severe malnutrition, putting additional strain on the region's limited response resources and hosting areas.

Due to funding constraints, WFP implemented ration cuts affecting 38 percent of refugees supported by WFP in Eastern Africa. Refugees hosted in South Sudan and Ethiopia saw their rations cut by half, while Kenya saw a 20 percent cut and Uganda saw a 60 percent cut. The additional funding received from BHA enabled WFP to review ration levels in Kenya from 50 to 80 percent, and Djibouti from 50 to 100 percent. The ration cuts increased the risks for refugees, including increased malnutrition and anaemia, stunted child growth, an increase in crisis coping strategies such as child labor, and security risks for humanitarian workers because of backlash.

Due to funding constraints, WFP implemented a 40 percent ration cut for refugees in 2022. The region's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) implementation, which has so far been launched in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda, is also being jeopardized by under-resourcing of humanitarian needs for refugees.

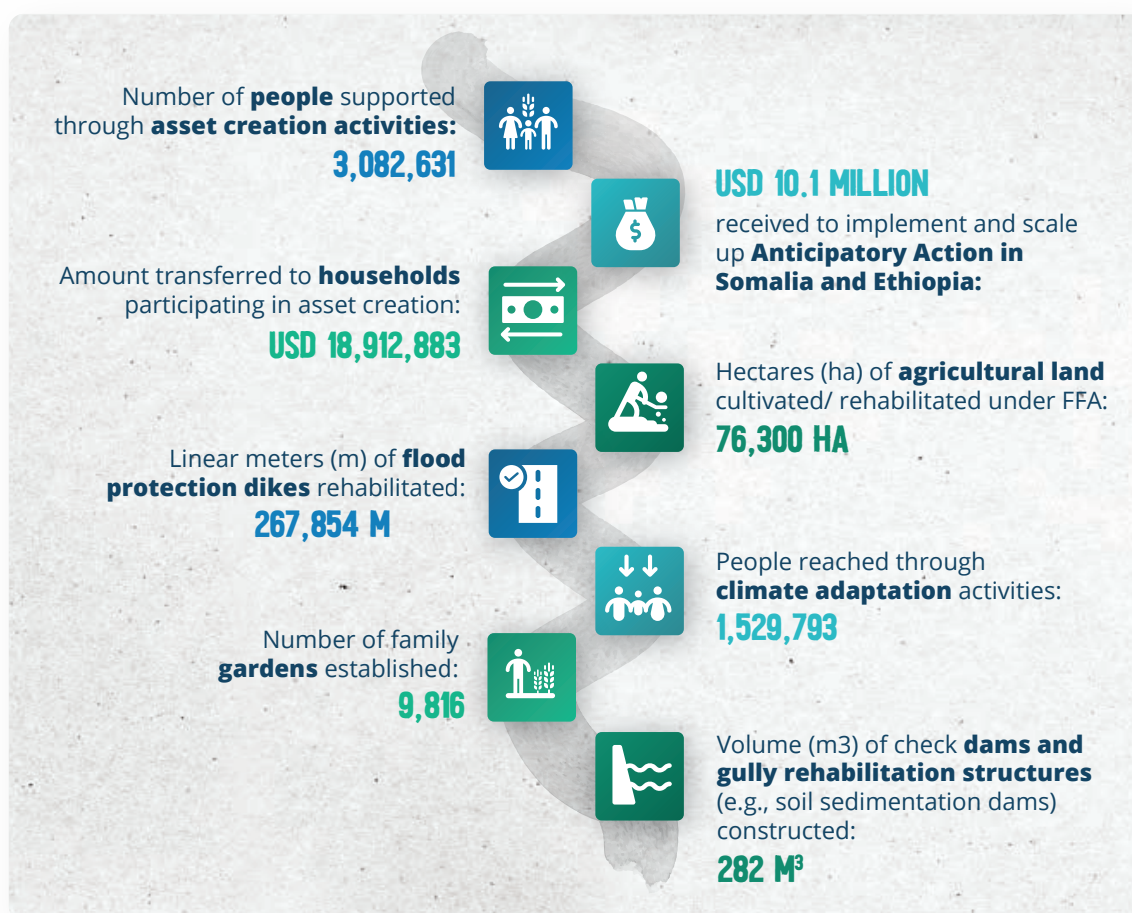
FOOD SYSTEMS



MFP/Gabriela Vivasqua

Integrated Food Systems Approach

2022 in Numbers



Overview

Climate crisis poses a significant risk to food systems, disproportionately affecting the most food-insecure people around the world. Climate variability and extreme weather events also interact with other main drivers of hunger and malnutrition, including conflict and economic shocks. This creates multiple effects across many different points within food systems, resulting in more frequent emergency responses and continued erosion of vulnerable population's ability to adapt to a changing climate.

The increased number and frequency of shocks require effective, integrated, scalable and risk informed approaches to address the deeply rooted causes of food insecurity and malnutrition among the most vulnerable. In addition, these challenges also call for support to help governments, communities and households build stronger capacities, systems, and institutions to prepare for and manage multiple risks.

WFP has adopted a preventive and integrated approach that promotes food sovereignty, strengthened resilience, and adaptive capacity in communities to respond to emerging and existing shocks. Gender transformative approaches are integrated in activities to ensure everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources to enhance food systems.

Food systems can only be resilient and sustainable when they are able to withstand shocks and stressors, whether natural or anthropogenic, and have distinguishing features that enhance their overall capacity to absorb, adapt, and bounce-back to/from multivariate shocks that may occur. Central to managing the anticipated shocks and risks towards the delivery of resilience outcomes is the focus on comprehensively addressing all limiting factors that constrain or erode the capacity to achieve desired outcomes in an integrated and layered manner.

WFP has expanded its understanding of the 'operational environment' and identified the area-based approach as an appropriate framework that intentionally interlinks interventions, such as ensuring that interventions are synergized, co-located, or integrated to effectively contribute to the 'Changing Lives' agenda.



Priorities for 2023



Pursue an integrated food systems approach that builds resilience, allowing communities to adapt to climate change and respond to shocks – with deliberate focus on gender transformation.



Operationalize existing partnerships, especially to meet knowledge, technical gaps and questions emerging at country level. Foster alliances with normative agencies such as UNEP and merge WFP's operational capacity with technical know-how of others.



Learning and knowledge dissemination, through the launch of the Food Systems Learning Initiative, Food System Reference Group meetings, and related thematic working groups (climate action, pastoralism, and anticipatory action).



Explore water management solutions and develop a regional water strategy. WFP is pursuing new avenues in integrated water resource management. Recurrent climate shocks, such as drought and floods, underscore criticality of water - *"No food security without water security"*.



Procure food locally where we can, injecting cash into local economies to strengthen food systems. Advance sustainable and green operations across WFP portfolio.

Anticipatory Action in Eastern Africa

The Eastern Africa Region has been facing frequent climate related disasters such as recurrent droughts due to failed or below average rainfall seasons, and floods. In 2022, climate crisis became the 'new normal', with the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia) facing one of the most severe droughts. Climate shocks have led to increased vulnerabilities as communities are left dealing with severe loss of and damage to lives, livelihoods, crops, and infrastructure.

In line with WFP's Strategic Plan, WFP's Anticipatory Actions aim to contribute to improving and adapting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people and food systems to manage climate risks. In 2022, WFP scaled up Anticipatory Actions to cover seven countries¹ in the Eastern Africa Region, with focus on enhancing systems and implementing actions to pro-actively reduce or prevent the impacts of droughts and floods.

WFP supported the establishment of anticipatory action systems through strengthening government capacities to develop tailored forecasts and early warning information, and to design pre-agreed actions that are activated by more reliable early warning information.

WFP increased the scale of Anticipatory Action systems within the national disaster risk management (DRM), social protection and humanitarian systems. The linkage with social protection systems aided in the timely, sustainable, and cost-effective response to climate risks affecting the most vulnerable populations.



¹ Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda

What does **Anticipatory Actions** look like for WFP?

Anticipatory Actions are predefined actions taken based on defined thresholds from forecasts and risk analyses, in anticipation of predictable hazard impacts, to prevent or mitigate the risk or impact. An Anticipatory Action system consists of:



Forecast triggers



Anticipatory actions



Pre-arranged financing



Monitoring and evaluation framework

Anticipatory Actions can be delivered through various mechanisms, with funding and implementation of community-level action delivered in the critical window between a forecast and an extreme weather or climate event.

In 2022, WFP's global Anticipatory Action portfolio accounted for USD 41 million, of which USD 36.8 million was available in prearranged financing that can be rapidly disbursed to countries with Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs) in case of a trigger activation. WFP Eastern Africa received USD 10.1 million to implement and scale up anticipatory action in Somalia and Ethiopia. This scale-up was possible thanks to the support from long-term donor partners such as Germany, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and new donors, including the European Union, the United States of America, the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund.

The climate crisis is evident in the Eastern Africa Region and has led to increased food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. Humanitarian needs are increasing, however, funding for response has not been enough to address the scale of humanitarian needs. Additional funding is needed to generate lasting impacts by galvanizing preventive solutions and increasing capacities of communities to prepare for, manage and adapt to climate disasters. Anticipatory actions are more cost-effective, protect critical assets in the communities, help reduce impact of climate impacts on vulnerable people and food systems, and enable available funding to be more effective at managing climate risk.

2022 Anticipatory Actions **Achievements**

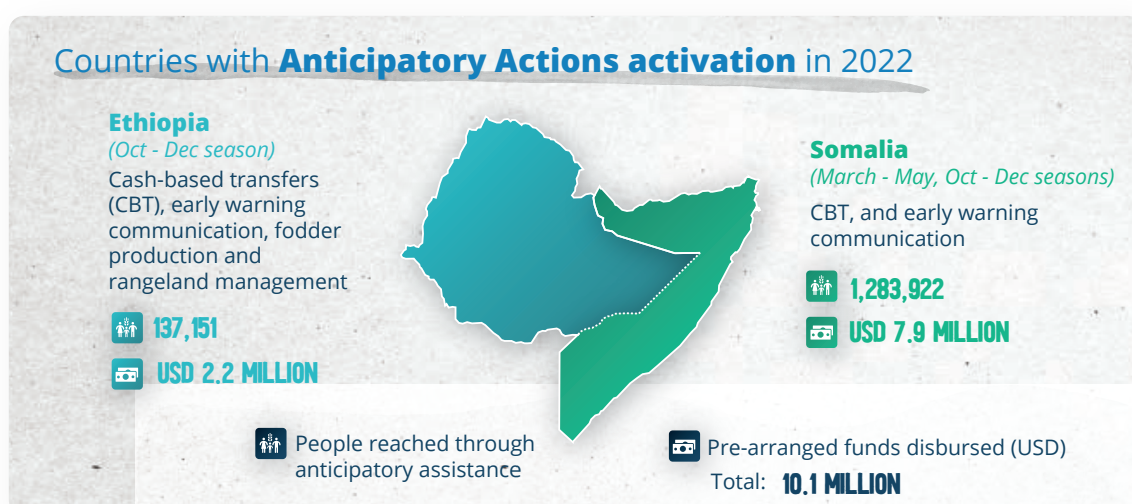
1. Development of Anticipatory Action Plans

In 2022, WFP in collaboration with governments and partners undertook processes to co-develop Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs) in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. This involved:

- Strengthening the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) to produce tailored forecasts that will be used as triggers to activate anticipatory actions. This was done with technical support from the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), together with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and other international science institutions.
- Strengthening the capacities of national and sub-national Disaster Management Authorities to develop Anticipatory Actions and link this to contingency planning.
- Co-defining a range of anticipatory actions that would be implemented when the plans are activated, including agreements on roles and responsibilities for implementing the actions.
- At the end of 2022, WFP Burundi had supported the Burundi Red Cross to develop a simplified Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods, which will be submitted to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for approval. Once approved, Burundi Red Cross will have access to pre-arranged Anticipatory Action financing from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.
- Additionally, WFP Ethiopia together with the Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau had developed a draft AAP that will be submitted for approval to access anticipatory actions implementation funds from the WFP global climate trust fund. In 2023, it is expected that four of the AAPs will be finalized and endorsed to provide a framework for enhanced readiness and advocacy for pre-positioning of anticipatory actions implementation funds.

2. Delivery of Anticipatory Actions

With a prolonged drought on the horizon, based on forecasts warning of a fifth consecutive below average rainfall season between October and December 2022, WFP in Ethiopia and Somalia activated implementation of a set of anticipatory actions in each country to prevent or reduce the impact of predicted imminent extreme weather events on at-risk populations.





WFP Ethiopia Anticipatory Actions

WFP strengthened early warning systems, flagged potential hazards, and triggered preparatory actions at national and community level. This empowered vulnerable communities to prepare for drought impacts and prevent loss and damage.

WFP Ethiopia and partners disseminated last-mile early warning messages containing advisories on actions that communities could undertake to reduce the risk of deteriorating drought conditions on their livelihoods and food and nutrition security. The early warning messages reached about 19,586 households (137,151 people).

Secondly, 6,460 households (45,220 people) were supported with rangeland enclosure and fodder production to improve and preserve pasture and ensure that fodder is produced and available for key livestock during the prolonged drought period. Through this, about 5,600 hectares of rangeland were rehabilitated.

Thirdly, anticipatory cash-based pay-out was distributed to 3,600 households (25,200 people) to reduce deterioration in food security and livelihoods and to stabilize the purchasing power of households.



WFP Somalia Anticipatory Actions

WFP Somalia distributed USD 6.7 million in anticipatory action cash transfers – the largest anticipatory action pay-out in WFP globally – to assist communities in stabilizing their purchasing power ahead of an impending drought. The cash-based transfer (CBT) was delivered through the national Safety Nets Programme, which enabled rapid delivery to vulnerable households.

Last-mile early warning messages were also disseminated through radio, reaching 1.2 million people in the Bay and Bakool regions. The messages highlighted the risk of drought to crops and livelihoods and suggested actions that communities could take to mitigate and prepare for the predicted drought conditions.



3. Strengthening of National Early Warning Systems through Partnerships

- a. **Strategic engagement with the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC)** was enhanced during the year, to provide sustainable capacity strengthening support on early warning systems and advance integration of anticipatory actions in the national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) systems of countries in the region. This technical support was provided in Djibouti, Kenya, and Uganda, with more countries expected to benefit from this collaboration in 2023.
- b. **WFP started working with Google to strengthen early warning systems (EWS)** for anticipatory actions, using machine learning techniques to improve forecasting for heavy rainfall. This project was approved in 2022 by Google and will start in 2023 in collaboration with the University of Oxford, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), ICPAC, WFP and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The project will start in Ethiopia and Kenya and later be scaled up to other countries in the region.
- c. **The Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods in the African Greater Horn through Effective Anticipatory Action project** will engage in research on effective Anticipatory Actions for pastoralists in trans-boundary areas in the region. The project was approved under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) programme, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The project will be implemented through partnership with the IGAD Centre For Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), the University of Sussex, WFP, the IFRC, the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) and some local universities.



Climate Adaptation and Security

Climate Action in Numbers



WFP'S Climate Action seeks to provide effective and scalable solutions to help food insecure people prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate shocks and stresses. WFP prioritised climate action to the most vulnerable in fragile context to provide adaptation and innovative solutions that link humanitarian and development action.

An example of these actions are the climate risk management approaches which include risk financing and climate risk insurance. These enabled communities to better manage and cope with climate shocks and their timely recovery.



1. Rural Resilient Initiative (R4) Achievements

WFP's Rural Resilient Initiative (R4) approach combines four risk management strategies, namely improved resource management through asset creation (risk reduction), insurance (risk transfer), livelihoods diversification through access to microcredit (prudent risk taking), and savings (risk reserves).

WFP Kenya, through the R4 initiative, assisted smallholder farmers in managing climate change risks, reaching 47,000 people in Kitui and Makueni counties. The farmers received payments totalling USD 509,000 (five times the previous year) after suffering crop losses due to a poor cropping season. The payment assisted the farmers to meet their basic needs, protect their assets, and prepare for the next agricultural season.

Similarly, in Ethiopia, WFP transferred USD 968,754 in unrestricted CBT to targeted households in the Somali Region through its anticipatory action program, assisting people to take prompt action and build resilience against climate shocks. The asset creation programs rehabilitated 5,600 hectares of rangeland, opened 3,300 hectares of land for production in Gambella, irrigated 508 hectares of land, and built canals.

2. Satellite Index Insurance in Ethiopia

Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia (SIPE) is a satellite-based pasture-drought index insurance (asset protection) provided with additional livelihood support to targeted pastoralists. SIPE responds to the onset of severe droughts and loss of pasture, by making timely pay-outs to vulnerable pastoralists if a pre-set threshold for pasture scarcity is reached. SIPE activities are channelled through the Government's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in partnership with the private sector.

In the Somali Region, WFP insured 38,890 households of pastoralists against extreme climate shocks through the SIPE Programme, paying out over USD 4.1 million. The pay-outs enabled pastoralists to keep their core breeding stock alive during the drought and to be in favourable condition to rebuild their herds once the drought had ended.

3. Opportunities for Scaling Access to Livestock Insurance

World Bank's DRIVE Project:

In the Horn of Africa, the World Bank and ZEP-RE are launching the regional De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement for Rural Economies (DRIVE) project. The WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa assisted Ethiopia in 2022 (and Somalia planned for 2023) in conducting feasibility studies to inform WFP's participation in the DRIVE project. The aim is to increase access to insurance among pastoralists in the Horn of Africa Region.

Zoetis Foundation Project:

The grant, which will be signed in March 2023, will support climate resilience and livelihood programming in drought-affected communities in Kenya and Ethiopia. It aims to increase access to livestock insurance and other financial inclusion packages, as well as connect them to veterinary services, to increase drought resilience and improve their livelihoods. The goal is to provide integrated services to at least 80,000 pastoralists in both countries, including financial literacy, index-based drought insurance, and village savings and loans. WFP will also collaborate with government and private veterinary service providers to strengthen the capacity of 350 local veterinary service providers.

Leveraging **Local and Regional Procurement** to Strengthen Food systems

One key challenge in food systems is fragmented and inefficient markets. WFP continued to invest in the capacity of small-holder farmers to increase their productivity, access to markets and improve the markets systems through local and regional procurement strategies.

WFP's Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFP) was piloted in three countries - Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The LRFP aims to contribute towards achieving zero hunger by increasing local food procurement and developing resilient food systems through collaboration with key stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, governments, and the private sector. The LRFP framework ensures that WFP pipelines remain reliable and cost-effective when responding to emergencies and saving lives.

In 2022, 5,509 smallholder farmers in **Sudan** supplied 5,724 metric tons (mt) of food worth USD 1.8 million. In **Ethiopia**, 2,500 smallholder farmers supplied 10,400 mt of maize worth USD 6.7 million, and smallholder farmers in **Uganda** supplied 9,241 mt worth USD 3.7 million under direct and indirect procurement, the latter under an arrangement with private sector aggregators.

Countries can now assess capacity of farmer organizations, analyze, and develop value chains, and link key partners along the value chains to address quality issues. Thanks to WFP support, small holder farmers have also gained skills, and received equipment for post-harvest loss management, contributing to increased knowledge on postharvest handling, and good agronomic practices.

WFP has enhanced knowledge sharing among countries and other regions implementing LRFP. All the LRFP pilot countries conducted value chain analysis to inform LRFP program design and implementation. WFP's smallholder agriculture market support program is also informed by value chain analysis and geared towards developing the value chains through systems approach.



Effective **Water Resource Management** for Fragile Food Systems

Looking forward, in 2023, WFP will pursue new avenues in integrated water resource management. Recurrent climate shock (drought and floods) underscore criticality of water. Effective water resource management is essential for a functional food system, especially in fragile or complex settings.

Changes in the hydrological cycle linked to climate change have disrupted ecosystems and livelihood strategies, manifesting in droughts and floods on an unprecedented scale. These shocks have already devastated the lives and livelihoods of millions, causing humanitarian crises, food and nutrition insecurity and leaving already fragile food systems in need of urgent attention. In the Eastern Africa Region 82 million people face hunger, often with issues related to water resource management at the core of the problem, such as droughts or floods.

Current approaches to water management are highly segregated, focusing on technical improvements and sectoral solutions without sufficient attention given to basic social and sustainability goals. Water resource management approaches should consider the experience, knowledge, needs and expectations of local water users, and how these are distinctly gendered.

In developing countries, women and girls spend an estimated 40 billion hours every year hauling water from distant and frequently polluted sources. Women have been reported to spend as much as 8 hours per day carrying up to 40.8 kg of water on their heads or hips. This is often to meet production as well as domestic needs at home.

It is evident that there cannot be food security without water. Investments in water resource management must be integrated across sectors and ensure equitable access for all, including for marginalized and vulnerable populations.

In partnership with governments, international partners and affected communities, WFP works as an enabler, convener, and operational partner to identify solutions to persistent problems that drive hunger and malnutrition in the areas in which it works. WFP Eastern Africa Bureau remains fully committed to provide its full operational capacities and experience on the ground with communities, government partners, sister UN agencies and NGOs to convene, enable and accelerate people-centred, integrated solutions for enhanced water management and restoration of broken food systems.



2022 Lessons from Studies and Joint Partnerships

Rwandan school meals comprise beans accompanied by maize meal (kawunga) or rice. Beans require considerable cook time (between 2-5 hours), and, therefore, significant amounts of firewood to prepare. A baseline survey conducted by WFP Rwanda indicated that the cooking of beans for school meals accounted for 70 percent of a school's firewood consumption. In 2022, WFP engaged the University of Loughborough to carry out a fuel efficiency study in a few select schools in Rwanda. The study focused on the impact of fuel-efficient cooking practices (such as pre-soaking beans and storing firewood in dry conditions) on energy consumption.

Fuel-efficient cooking practices, such as pre-soaking beans and proper firewood storage reduced cooking time by 19 percent and pre-soaking beans saw a 10 percent reduction in firewood consumption. However, pre-soaking had no effect on beans that were old and hard as these did not soften through soaking. The team further observed that fuel made up 8 percent of the total meal cost; when fuel-efficient menus and cooking practices were applied, the percent of that cost made up by cooking fuel decreased from 8.1 percent to 4.9 percent. There was also a 39 percent cost reduction for firewood-only cooking events.

Key recommendations include: (1) training schools in energy-saving practices like pre-soaking beans to save fuel; (2) upgrading school kitchen infrastructure to be energy efficient; and (3) supporting the development of clean cooking fuels at a national level. The WFP team is currently in the process of developing fuel-efficient school feeding guidance for the Eastern Africa Region.

In 2022, WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa operationalised a partnership with Adelphi, a climate security firm based in Berlin. The partnership aimed to understand WFP's comparative programmatic advantage in strengthening resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stressors from climate-related disasters, economic crises, and conflicts. WFP and Adelphi penned three climate security country profiles in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. In addition, a joint regional climate security position paper was developed, making key linkages to the larger climate and food insecurity sphere, as well as informing its core programming through evidence-driven decision-making.



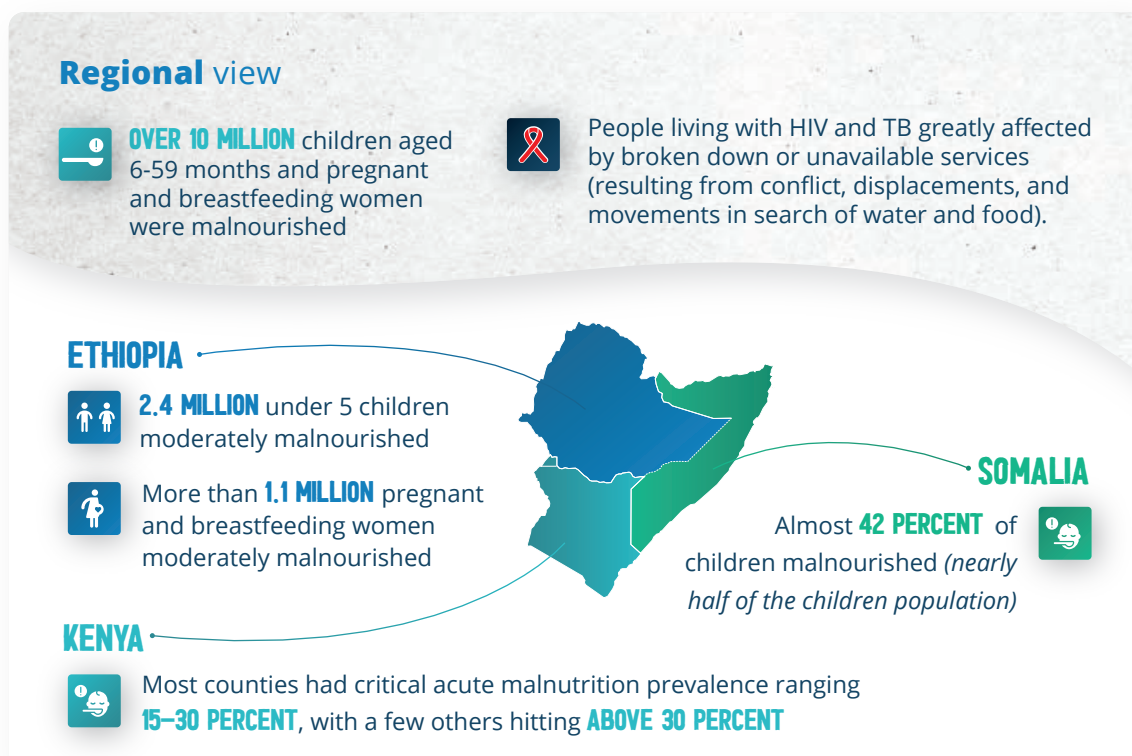
NUTRITION

WFP/Arete/Lisa Murray



Regional Nutrition Overview

Malnutrition in the region is widespread and deteriorated due to successive shocks including drought, floods, conflicts and macro-economic crises since 2021. This was at a backdrop of an existing fragile situation with Global Acute Malnutrition rates of above 15 percent for most countries prior to the shocks. Furthermore, about 50-70 percent of the population was unable to afford a healthy diet. The deteriorating food security in the region exacerbated malnutrition levels for the most at-risk households and individuals, particularly young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and people living with HIV.



Regional Nutrition Achievements

Preventing and Treating Moderate Acute Malnutrition

Stabilisation of malnutrition rates was a priority for saving lives in the Horn of Africa. Intensified operational reach to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children under 5 years and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers was prioritised in the Horn of Africa. About 5 million women and children were treated for MAM. The exceptional supplemental funding from USAID enabled the much-needed procurement and delivery of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) thereby increasing programme coverage.

Nutrition capacity was augmented for the three priority countries with functional staff at senior levels and temporary duty assignment (TDYs) for the Horn of Africa response. Notably with significant increase in emergencies throughout the region, a more deliberate shift to integrate nutrition and diversify approaches for both prevention and treatment, was the focus of nutrition technical support and service provisions. Country level collaboration through the nutrition cluster was also amplified to improve complementarity and coverage to respond to nutrition risks.

Mixed Approaches for Emergency Nutrition Response

With malnutrition needs increasing due to rising cases of acute malnutrition, the region faced limited supplies for Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNFs) competing with global demand. WFP took initiatives to engage local suppliers to increase production and, in some countries, substitute products as appropriate for different target groups.


In addition, WFP explored a mixed model approach of using in-kind and/or cash for malnutrition prevention and the use of specialized products. Not intervening in the absence of specialized nutritious production was not an option. Throughout, as the emergency evolved rapidly and at large scale, nutrition integration was adopted through use of other opportunities such as in social protection to target at-risk groups to improve consumption of nutritious foods and increase access to and affordability of healthy diets for all. Wherever and whenever feasible, together with governments and partners, nutrition programme integration continued to take a progressive intent to leverage on the existing systems - food, social protection, education, and health for human capital development.

Continued Focus on HIV/TB

With the effort to leave no one behind, protect and be inclusive, positioning of HIV/TB sensitive social protection remained a core pillar for WFP country office initiatives. In Burundi, entry points for HIV/TB in 'Merankabandi' were defined. In Rwanda, HIV-sensitive social protection mapping exercise was done to enhance the capacity of the national social protection system in reaching people with HIV. Further, a Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis was conducted in Djibouti to inform a government priority nutrition programme for urban areas.

Integration and Advocacy

Nutrition-sensitive cash programming was a core advocacy piece and picked momentum in 2022, building on the rising use of the cash-based transfer modality. Cash for nutrition grew using various platforms; in Burundi it was linked to resilience, in Uganda Nutri-cash was linked to social protection, while in Somalia it was part of *Baxnaano social protection scheme in emergencies*.



A cash for nutrition interim guidance for the prevention of acute malnutrition has been articulated. Decisions on the transfer value are, however, challenged by rapidly rising food prices and inflation rates in countries to make a meaningful contribution to dietary diversity. In addition, to advocate for nutrition, the region hosted a high-level nutrition advocacy mission by the Princess of Jordan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid, a maternal and child health advocate, who visited four countries – Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya. The mission highlighted the need to prevent malnutrition and leverage emergencies to build resilience.

Course Correction and Informed Programming

Several studies were undertaken in 2022 and continue to inform programming and course correct. First, the Nutrition in Retail Study landscape of local food processors and retailers of nutrient-dense foods to promote use of cash transfers for healthy diets. Secondly, the food security and nutrition vulnerability protocols among people living with HIV (PLHIV) applied in Somalia and Uganda shed light on the risks of PLHIV during emergencies. Further, the study on HIV Sensitive Social Protection in East and Southern Africa Fast Track Countries was commissioned jointly by WFP, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

As part of enhanced monitoring, the Nutrition Outcome Response and Information System Hub (NOURISH) dashboard was created for Somalia, providing a near real time monitoring and reporting of nutrition data from cooperating partners. Moving forward, other countries are exploring the potential of a country level or regional level 'NOURISH' dashboard.

Enhanced Partnership

WFP efforts are undertaken together with regional economic bodies supporting the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other stakeholders. At the regional and country levels, WFP works with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) through the partnership framework. The two UN Agencies focus on three front runner countries (Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia), and developed Global Action Plans for prevention of wasting.

In addition, a regional stock-taking meeting was held by WFP and UNICEF and discussions focused on the progress made in addressing acute malnutrition and school health and nutrition. At the end of the meeting a report was developed, detailing the partnership activities, modalities of engagement between the two agencies, and lessons learnt across the three countries. Furthermore, in the Regional AIDS Team for East and Southern Africa (RATESA), WFP Nutrition Team remain actively engaged in shaping regional priorities.

Further, WFP sustained collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for HIV programming in emergencies. WFP also collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the social protection agenda, while also exploring partnership opportunities with academic institutions and research centres.

2023 Nutrition and HIV Outlook

With a focus on improving human capital as an investment by governments, systems and sectors, WFP will leverage social protection and education, nutrition, HIV/TB and school-based programmes to improve diets to prevent all forms of malnutrition. Innovations, such as the cash for nutrition, will ensure learning and evidence generation. The Home Grown School Feeding (HGFS) will continue to be a flagship programme as an anchor for intentional local and regional procurement, and agricultural markets linkages for smallholder farmers, further demonstrating the unique capacity of school meals to create both demand and supply in the food system. Where possible, WFP will leverage schools as a system for resilience. WFP will continue to generate evidence and test the choice and inclusion of appropriate monitoring and evaluation indicators for school feeding, currently a global gap, while enhancing knowledge management and fostering partnerships for scale.

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMMES

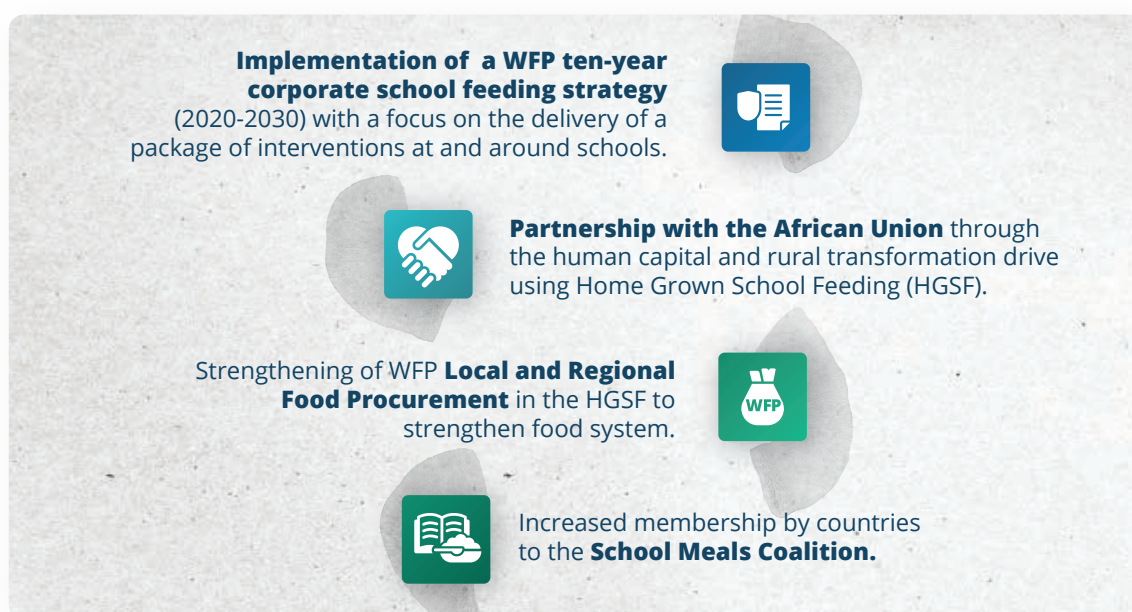


WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

Regional Overview and Achievements

Governments have made efforts in the Eastern Africa Region to restore education and school-based programs following the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the deteriorating food insecurity due to conflict, the global food crisis, and the drought in 2022 masked the progress of school-based programs especially across the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya).

WFP has continued to work with partners and governments in the region to safeguard the gains made earlier in school feeding. Key opportunities in the region include:



The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa is supporting governments to explore new financing initiatives to increase coverage, quality, and sustainability by seeking partnerships and enhancing advocacy efforts through school feeding value for money studies. WFP's role is, therefore, progressively shifting towards supporting governments through combined technical and operational assistance where necessary. The Eastern African Region has embraced shifts as part of the regional implementation plan as follows:

Increased Government Investment in School Meals

The potential to finance school meals using government funding grew, with seven out of nine countries in the region joining the school meals coalition¹. The school meals coalition is a government-led financing initiative to implement national school feeding programs.

To date in the Eastern Africa Region, 15.5 million children benefit from school meals. WFP supported 4.5 million school children; an increase of 10 percent, while governments of Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, and Djibouti either funded or expanded their fiscal allocation to school meals, thereby contributing to scale.

¹ The School Meals Coalition (SMC) is an initiative of governments and a wide range of partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve and scale up food and education systems, support pandemic recovery and drive actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



School meals became universal in Rwanda and reached **4.5 MILLION** school-going children in 2022 compared to 3.3 million in 2021. The Government of Rwanda increased its national budget for school feeding from USD 34.5 million in 2021 to **USD 74 MILLION** in 2022, covering 90 percent of school feeding costs in pre-primary and primary schools and 15 percent of school feeding costs in secondary school.

South Sudan allocated **10 PERCENT** of the national budget to support school feeding activities. All these government initiatives reflect the increasing domestic financing by governments in the region.



The Government of Ethiopia and the Government of Kenya are investing up to **USD 83 MILLION** and **USD 18 MILLION**, respectively, in the national school feeding programmes.

In Kenya, **2.5 MILLION** children in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands were served under the nationally owned school feeding programme.



Increasing Decentralized Procurement for Home-Grown School Feeding

Since 2021, the Home-Grown School Feeding model has gained momentum among governments and is currently being implemented in all countries at varying scales. WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding has tangible benefits across different sectors including the agricultural sector, education, health and nutrition, and social protection.

Four (Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, and Burundi) countries adopted the cash-to-schools model to enhance local procurement, where schools purchase their food commodities from smallholder farmers. The Home-Grown School Feeding creates structured and predictable markets for smallholder farmers while at the same time contributing to education outcomes, improved health, and nutrition, fostering resilience of communities, linking diets, and food systems, improving local agriculture and market linkages, and serving as a safety net.



Burundi has made extra steps in the decentralization of procurement from the national to the lower administrative levels, allowing the purchase of food commodities from smallholder farmer cooperatives for school meals.



In Uganda, WFP supports the Karamoja School Feeding Programme aimed to end hunger, and malnutrition, double agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable food systems. WFP procured 411 mt of local foods from smallholder farmers, worth over USD 300,000 for use in the Karamoja feeds Karamoja initiative.



In South Sudan, WFP procured 517 mt of maize worth USD 198,932 from 3,805 smallholders (1,255 women) for use in 46 schools.



Prioritised Evidence Generation – School Feeding as a Social Protection Safety Net

In collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton, a review of the school feeding-social protection nexus as part of the social protection policy was finalized. The review aimed at collating existing regional evidence on the extent to which school feeding programmes contribute towards social protection. Findings show that although school feeding is the largest safety net regionally and globally, funding was not allocated, particularly for emergency school feeding, as part of shock-responsive social protection. Moving forward, the policy paper will be used to advocate for resource mobilization to invest in school-based programs, within social protection as a safety net.

Improving School Outcomes in WFP Supported Schools

WFP remained a partner of choice to the governments in Eastern Africa, driving school feeding policies and delivery of school meals to promote learning, health and nutrition for school-age children and adolescents. In most countries, school enrolment and attendance improved.

School enrolments for WFP-supported schools increased in South Sudan and Sudan, while attendance rates in schools in Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan remained high and above the set targets. Despite these achievements, the school feeding programme was impacted by conflict in some countries, drought, and the global food crisis. This was further exacerbated by the reduced funding for school-based programs, leading to some countries suspending or reducing the number of schools supported with school meals. An estimated 3 million children may have missed both learning and school meals in the region, mainly due to the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia & Kenya) drought as communities moved to search for water, conflict in Ethiopia forcing displacements and communities to flee their homes, and Ebola outbreak in Uganda. This notably affected school enrolment and retention in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Country	Enrolment rates in school meals supported schools		Attendance rate in WFP school meals supported schools		Retention rates in WFP school meals supported schools	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
South Sudan ²	13	10				
Sudan	9	-5	95		96	94
Ethiopia	7.6	4	71	92	79.5	85.5
Kenya	-5.77	-0.16	97	97.8		
Rwanda			92.2	94	88	82
Somalia ³	13.6					
Burundi ⁴	8.1		96.8		91.9	
Uganda ⁵	20.3		73			

2023 Outlook

WFP will continue to provide technical assistance and strengthen advocacy to position school meals and HGSF as an anchor for human capital development, promote intentional linkage to LRFP, and leverage schools as a system for resilience.

The articulation of commitments or the joining of the school meals coalition (SMC) and the launch of the East Africa Community SMC sub-regional network is planned in 2023, with the expectation to reach 100 percent membership.

- The Regional Bureau will generate evidence on cash to schools' approaches, and effectiveness and demonstrate accountability by supporting country offices to choose and include appropriate monitoring and evaluation indicators, including knowledge management.
- Internally and externally, WFP will leverage global, regional, and local alliances for multisectoral approaches and resource mobilization. The school-based implementation plans will also continue to be updated given the unabated drought, conflict, and displacement.



2 There was no analysis on attendance indicators because of technical glitches on data collection that affected the quality of the attendance data.

3 Indicator was introduced late in 2022 as a result of Budget Revision to the CSP hence no data was collected.

4 Indicator introduced in 2022.

5 2021 values are missing as schools remained closed in 2021 due to COVID 19.

SOCIAL PROTECTION



WFP/Gabrielle Menezes

Regional Social Protection Overview

The deteriorating food security situation and increasing humanitarian needs continued to highlight the importance of social protection as a way of meeting essential needs, responding to crises, and building the resilience of households to future shocks and stresses. WFP continued to prioritise social protection, working with national governments and partners to strengthen social protection systems and deliver assistance.

The social protection landscape in the region is diverse, with very nascent systems in countries like Burundi and South Sudan to more established ones in countries like Kenya and Rwanda. Guided by WFP's global Social Protection Strategy, all country offices across the region were engaged in different forms of social protection activities to meet the unique needs of their country.

WFP's work in the region focused on policy and institutional strengthening, system strengthening, capacity building, and supporting programme delivery on behalf of the government. WFP also supported knowledge and learning through assessments and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation to make informed decisions that improve social protection policy, programme design, and delivery. This work was greatly strengthened by a partnership with the University of Wolverhampton through the Learning Facility where experts supported countries with technical assistance and open conversations to build practical know-how on social protection.



Regional Achievements

Shock Responsive Social Protection

Multiple and concurrent shocks in East Africa have shone a spotlight on the region's need to devise long-term solutions for responding to shocks and crises. As a result, WFP worked to support the development of and leverage the shock-responsive components of national social protection systems to meet immediate needs, while also improving these systems to make them more effective and responsive to future shocks.

For instance, in **Somalia**, to help cope with the drought after five consecutive below-average rainy seasons, WFP supported the Government of Somalia to leverage the shock-responsive component of the National Safety Net for Human Capital Programme-Baxnaano, through a vertical and horizontal expansion. In September 2022, over 1 million people enrolled in the national safety net received top-ups to their monthly entitlements. In December 2022, additional funding from the World Bank allowed for the expansion of Baxnaano to 930,000 drought-affected people outside of the national safety net coverage.

Ethiopia: With support received from the World Bank, towards the end of 2022, WFP plans to provide a complementary safety net to drought and conflict-affected households in the Tigray region to enable them to cope with shocks and improve their food security. In addition, WFP will conduct a capacity strengthening assessment which will strengthen the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) structures and implementation of the PSNP in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

Furthermore, in **Sudan**, food security has been negatively affected by the ongoing economic crisis and the conflict in Ukraine as Sudan is dependent on wheat imports from the Black Sea Region. A change of government in October 2021 forced a pause in Sudan's flagship social protection program – the Sudan Family Support Program (SFSP). Recognizing the need for a national safety net to assist food-insecure households, the World Bank and WFP launched the Sudan Emergency Safety Net Project in August 2022 to fill this coverage gap. The intervention targets 2 million people facing IPC 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency) levels of food insecurity to cover their needs during the lean season. In addition to providing unconditional cash and food transfers, WFP is building delivery systems and conducting monitoring and evaluation activities to help inform future social protection programming.

Strengthening National Social Protection Policies

In 2022, WFP continued to support national social protection system architecture by supporting governments to develop and improve social protection policies, strategies, and frameworks. WFP's support included research, assessments, analysis, and valuation of previous policies, facilitating policy dialogue, and supporting the drafting process.

In **Djibouti**, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity to evaluate the national social protection strategy (2018-2022). Findings from the evaluation will contribute towards the development of the National Social Protection Strategy for 2023-2027. WFP also supported an institutional capacity assessment of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity to further inform the development of the new strategy. The new strategy once in place will support the development of a robust and agile social protection system that responds better to the changing context and vulnerabilities in Djibouti.

Further, WFP, through strategic partnerships, contributed to financing and coordinating the development of policies **in Kenya**. Two sub-national social protection policies for Baringo and Samburu Counties were finalized and approved. These policies will contribute to the increased and predictable allocation of resources by the county government to support the delivery of and guide the improved design of social protection programmes at the sub-national level.

In Rwanda, following high-level policy dialogue to operationalize shock-responsive social protection in 2021, WFP and partners continued to provide thought leadership to influence policy reformulation. This led to the creation of a national operational framework and guidelines for the delivery of shock-responsive social protection. Through this framework, in 2023 the goal is to implement an emergency cash transfer component in the Government of Rwanda's flagship social protection programme, Vision Umurenge, to prevent negative coping strategies when disaster strikes. WFP also trained 27 government and partner staff on key technical topics and provided technical support on the strengthening of targeting procedures and improvement data systems to enable comprehensive and timely support.

WFP also worked with the Government of **Uganda** to draft the National Social Protection Strategy. This strategy will address recommendations from the 2019 social protection sector review.

Similarly, in **Burundi**, WFP also contributed to the development of the Social Protection Strategy (2023 – 2027) which is currently undergoing an approval process. The new strategy is set to provide a clear vision for social protection in the country and act as a guide to different actors on how to best engage in the sector.

Digitization of Social Protection Systems

WFP collaborates with governments to support management information systems (MIS) and national registries as they are the backbone in the development of strong, nationally owned social protection systems. In 2022, social protection digitization continued to be a key priority in the social protection agenda in the region and remains a critical component of WFP's collaborations with governments, international financial institutions, and other partners.

In Ethiopia, WFP undertook a mission on behalf of the Humanitarian Response Programme, which is managed by the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), and the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), which is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The objective of the mission was to assess the registration process and identify challenges and opportunities for digitization. The mission resulted in the design and development of a digitized registration system that will be piloted in 20 Woredas in the Somali Region in 2023.

WFP has also been working with the Government of **Burundi** and other partners to strengthen the social protection system, notably through the operationalization of the social registry. WFP is also supporting capacity strengthening of the national government to provide basic social assistance to its citizens and strengthen its ability to respond appropriately to shocks. In 2022, WFP supported engagement and dialogue on the development of a national social registry and government capacity building on social registers. As part of the social registry intervention, WFP organised a south-to-south peer learning mission to Kenya. Lessons learned from Kenya's experience in developing its Enhanced Single Registry, are expected to further inform the Government's next steps and the development of a single registry roadmap for Burundi.

In Kenya, WFP continued to support the government in strengthening the national Enhanced Single Registry (ESR). This assistance included financing data collection in 16 counties and identifying the most vulnerable households for inclusion in the national ESR. This undertaking ensured inclusion of the most vulnerable households into national and county social protection programming. Additionally, WFP collaborated with the national government to use the data in the ESR to support the delivery of shock-responsive programming to target vulnerable drought-affected households through the "*Lisha Jamii*" drought response campaign.



For Uganda, WFP assisted the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development to enhance the MIS of the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment Programme through MIS decentralization, installation of a data recovery centre in Northern Uganda, and regular operations and upgrades to the National Single Registry (NSR). WFP supported application programming interfaces (APIs) between four national social protection programmes and the NSR as well as an API with the National ID database. This enhanced interoperability between national social protection programmes will result in more inclusive and complementary programming.

In South Sudan, WFP remained the lead agency in beneficiary registration and transfer management, using WFP's SCOPE (beneficiary information and transfer management platform) MIS. WFP extended the usage of SCOPE to various NGOs and UN agencies, offering a service to check biometric duplication in its registered households under a World Bank project. These digitization activities improved efficiency, increased accountability to people targeted by humanitarian assistance, and supported WFP and humanitarian partners' activities, including capacity strengthening on digital literacy.

In Rwanda, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) to enhance the national social protection system. Technical assistance was provided in the assessment of 'the Complaints and Feedback Management (CFM) system. The assessment aimed to provide recommendations for improvements that would provide a safe and accessible platform for participants, communities, and stakeholders to provide feedback, suggestions, and complaints related to the government's social protection programmes.



WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY AND SYSTEMS

WFP/Arrete/Fredrik Lemnyd



Regional Capacity Strengthening Overview

WFP continued to strengthen the national capacities to address food insecurity and malnutrition. Recognizing that governments are the primary responders, WFP investments in capacity strengthening aim to strengthen national programs and systems to contribute to long-term and sustainable development that address Zero Hunger.

In 2022, the success of capacity-strengthening activities was made possible by the strengthened partnership with the governments across the region, extensive WFP footprint and operational presence, and WFP work along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through the saving lives and changing lives agenda.

WFP supported efforts with a focus on improving the capacity of national and local government on policy and legislation, institutional accountability strategic planning, programme design and delivery, as well as engagement and participation of non-state actors like the national Red Cross Societies.

Investments were also made toward strengthening the government's emergency response and preparedness capabilities. This aimed to enhance governments' national predictive capabilities related to early warning, to promote timely preparedness and anticipatory actions and strengthened national strategies to enable communities to recover after shocks.

1. Policy Development



In Kenya, over the past years WFP has successfully worked with the county governments in northern Kenya to develop Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policies and supported implementation of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), backed with Government budget allocation for disaster and relief assistance.



In Djibouti, on the other hand, WFP supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity to evaluate the National Social Protection Strategy (2018-2022). WFP also supported an institutional capacity assessment of the Ministry to further inform the development of the new strategy. Findings from the evaluation and Integrated Context Analysis will contribute towards the development of the National Social Protection Strategy (2023-2027).

2. Systems Development



Kenya:

- WFP facilitated the development of a national coordination committee led by the Ministry of Education, ensuring coordination of activities at regional and county levels.
- WFP also worked with the Government to digitize the procurement process for food commodities meant for schools by leveraging the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS).



In Uganda, WFP provided technical support on the strengthening of social protection, targeting procedures and improvement of data systems to enable comprehensive and timely response to shocks. This included the training of 27 government and partner staff on key technical topics.

3. Human Capital



In Rwanda, WFP seconded a DRM Advisor to the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) to support DRM policy framework development, implementation, and monitoring.



Further, WFP Seconded WFP staff and expertise to 11 government institutions in **Ethiopia**. The staff provided advisory support to the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), and the national food assistance prioritization committee in formulating recommendations for setting the criteria for prioritization of food needs for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). WFP facilitated the development of training manuals for the Government, focusing on food management and preparation, cascaded at school level for safe and quality meals in schools.

4. South-to-South Learning



WFP facilitated a visit to Senegal for government representatives from **Burundi** to understand programme integration within school feeding and how the Government of Senegal procures food from smallholder farmers for school feeding activities (as one of the countries piloting the decentralized procurement for school feeding).



In South Sudan WFP is engaged in knowledge transfer, transferring knowledge to Ministries in the form of trainings, and development of standard operating procedures and guidelines to mitigate loss of institutional knowledge.



COOPERATING PARTNERS

WFP/Eulalia Berlanga



Cooperating Partners in Eastern Africa Region in 2022



CP expenditures incurred by WFP through international and local partners



Working with Partners to Deliver Assistance

Cooperating Partners remain an essential part of the implementation and achievement of WFP's Country Strategic Plans (CSP) in the region. Collaborating with the best fit cooperating partners has ensured WFP programme excellence in implementation and support to its beneficiaries across geographic coverages. Overall, WFP was able to reach 39.9 million beneficiaries across the 9 nine country offices in collaboration with its Cooperating Partners.

WFP and its cooperating partners ensured timely humanitarian response in the region particularly in hard-to-reach areas. For instance, WFP worked with 130 partners in the Horn of Africa Region in implementing drought response initiatives in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. WFP reached more people in Somalia than ever before doubling its relief food assistance to reach 4.4 million beneficiaries monthly through its cooperating partner who were mostly local Non-governmental Organisation (NGOs).

WFP Efforts towards Localisation Agenda

In 2022, more than 50 percent of WFP cooperating partnerships were local partners, including government entities, NGOs, and communities. Regionally, approximately 30 percent of WFP Cooperating Partner expenditures were to local partners, which is above the 25 percent Grand Bargain commitment threshold.

WFP **strengthened the capacity of local partners** in the implementation of WFP activities to enhance sustainability and ownership, in line with WFP's commitment to the Grand Bargain commitment. For instance, in Burundi, WFP collaborated with the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) societies to strengthen the capacity of the Burundi Red Cross in anticipatory action activities.



In Ethiopia, WFP collaborated with the federal and regional governments to improve access to early warning in climate shock response. Further, Kenya's government disaster risk management and relevant ministries continue to take lead in the drought response initiatives supported technically by WFP.



WFP in **Somalia** is aiming to strategically partner with the Somalia NGO Consortium (SNC) in 2023. This partnership will broaden WFP engagements with local partners while targeting the women-led Cooperating Partners to collaborate with WFP in Somalia.

WFP worked with the 9 host governments in the implementation of the CSPs. This collaboration extended to either federal, state, county, national or local government bodies and the communities. In seven out of nine countries, WFP strengthened the capacity of governments and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the increasing climatic shocks and stresses. WFP will continue to drive and support the localisation agenda in 2023.

Performance-based Capacity Strengthening of Cooperating Partners

Annual performance evaluations conducted by both WFP and partners continue to inform capacity gaps and capacity strengthening plans in the region. Continuous feedback and engagement with cooperating partners as well as regular spot checks in collaboration with other key stakeholders, including UN agencies, have also proven to be key in driving capacity strengthening initiatives.

Digitisation of Cooperating Partner Process

WFP in collaboration with other UN agencies has continued to develop digital tools to streamline Cooperating Partner Management processes and improve efficiency. WFP fully rolled out the **United Nations Partnership Portal** in nine country offices, simplifying and strengthening the UN partnership selection process, increasing transparency, and reinforcing WFP engagement with all partners.

WFP initiated the use of the **UN Implementing Partner Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Capacity Assessment Tool**, a screening tool developed in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR for all its partners. This robust tool will be rolled out to partners in 2023 and WFP will support partners in addressing capacity gaps related to the PSEA as per their capacity assessment reports.

Partner Connect digital tool, an online WFP system that allows partners to carry out real-time reporting, was rolled out in parts of the region in 2022. Digitizing the partner reporting processes will enhance the timeliness, data quality, visibility, traceability, and transparency of the reporting process. WFP strives to roll out the tool further fully in 2023 and 2024.

Development of Regional Cooperating Partner Management Strategy

WFP Eastern Africa region developed its first **Cooperating Partner Management Strategy**. This is following the outcomes and recommendation of the thematic evaluation of cooperating partnerships management conducted in 2021. The strategy aims to achieve effective and efficient implementation, strengthen strategic engagement with actors in the humanitarian and development sectors, and improve accountability and transparency in resource management. These 3 key objectives will improve partnership management practices while strengthening partners' capacities and performance.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND EVIDENCE GENERATION



Knowledge in Action

WFP continued to leverage experiences and knowledge from its operations across the region to foster replication, evidenced-based programming, and learning across the region.

The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa has been coordinating knowledge management activities by tapping into the knowledge generated at the regional level and identifying strategies to increase its access. Some key strategies that were used in 2022 to generate and disseminate knowledge included information and knowledge-sharing sessions, and multi-media products such as podcasts and mini-clips.



Cross-Regional Collaboration

As a leader in knowledge management within WFP, the Regional Bureau in collaboration with the Innovation and Knowledge Management (INK) division in Headquarters, hosted the first Global Knowledge Management workshop in November 2022. In attendance were 20 knowledge management experts from six regional bureau who exchanged experiences and set up a working group dubbed *Knowledge for Action*. The working group will support the establishment of the corporate knowledge management framework and its strategic objective of building a culture of continuous learning, performance mindset, and collaboration.

Collaboration is central to knowledge sharing, and the Regional Bureau continued to engage in the African Knowledge Management Hub (AKMH). This is a forum that brings together UN Agencies across the African continent to share knowledge and learning, while also strengthening knowledge management initiatives.

EVALUATIONS



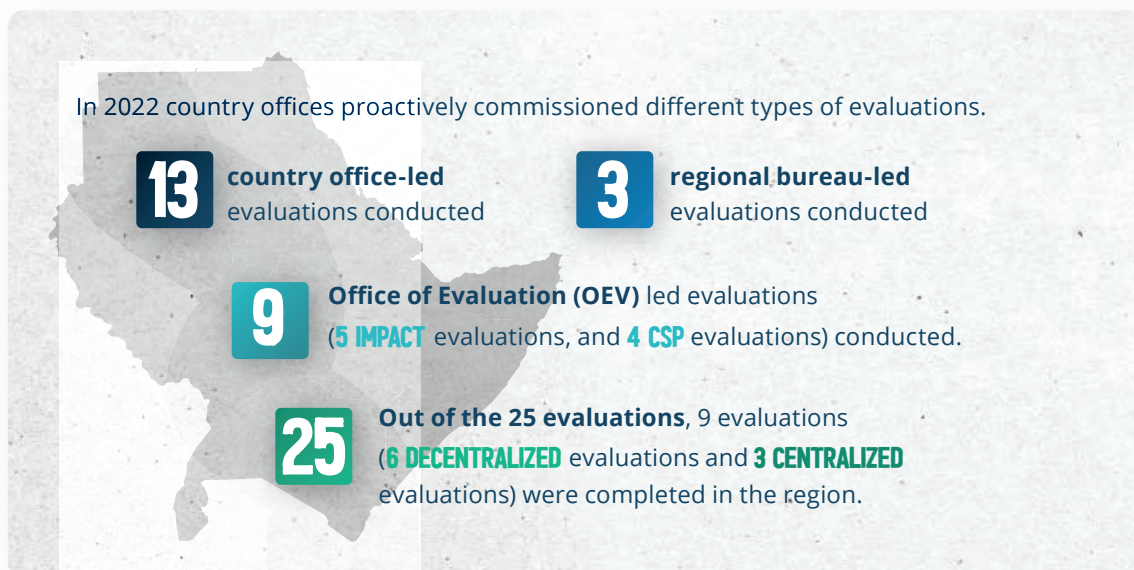
The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa commissioned new evaluations in 2022. The evaluations helped to produce knowledge on a wide range of topics. A total of 25 evaluations were conducted in the region, including 16 decentralized evaluations, 4 country strategic plans (CSP) evaluations, 5 impact evaluations, among which 7 were country-focused and 2 were regional evaluations. Out of the [9 finalized evaluations](#), 6 evaluations received their Post Hoc Quality Assessments (PHQA), reaching a “satisfactory” level by scoring an average of 86 percent out of 100 percent.

WFP developed a Regional Evaluation Strategy (2023-2030) for Eastern Africa, aligning it with the WFP Evaluation Policy (2022-2030). The strategy will be finalized in 2023 and it places evaluative evidence use at the centre of the function. WFP also completed a feasibility study on evidence use and Evidence Gap Map (EGM) in March 2022. In addition, a regional evaluation and evidence-use workshop was held in July 2022. Evaluation focal points from nine countries attended the workshop and discussed lessons learned, regional strategic priorities, and evidence generation and use.

WFP developed a Regional Evaluation Strategy (2023-2030) for Eastern Africa, aligning with the latest WFP Evaluation Policy (2022-2030). The Regional Evaluation Strategy will be finalised and shared in early 2023.

Evaluation Highlights

1. Evaluation Coverage and Quality



In addition, out of nine countries in the Eastern Africa Region, seven countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan) were covered by at least one evaluation in 2022. The commissioned evaluations strategically supported the country offices across the region in filling the knowledge gaps on various topics, such as food systems, supply chains, school-based programming, and resilience.

As evaluation quality determines the credibility and usefulness of an evaluation, internal and external quality assurance systems should be in place. The application of the Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA), an independent external assessment of the quality of WFP evaluations, is mandatory for all WFP-managed evaluations. It is a learning and accountability tool for the WFP OEV, country offices, HQ Divisions, and Regional Bureau independent evaluators, and evaluation users.

Out of nine evaluations completed in 2022, the results of PHQA on six evaluations were shared and the evaluation quality in the Eastern Africa Region was “satisfactory”, with an average score of 86 percent. The regional bureau will keep ensuring quality evaluation in the region.

2. Regional evaluations: Regional Thinking, Behaviour, and Systems

WFP adopted a more strategic approach by diversifying the types of evaluations conducted in the region. Regional-level evaluations embraced a more holistic view to better support and guide WFP actions.

First, [“Thematic Evaluation of Cooperating Partnerships in the Eastern Africa Region from 2016 to 2020”](#) was commissioned in collaboration with the WFP Regional Cooperating Partnership Management Team. The evaluation covered eight country operations in the region, covering both international and national partners core to implementing WFP programming across the region. The evaluation informed the development of a Regional Cooperating Partnership Strategy, and the ongoing work with cooperating partners. The **PHQA rated the evaluation as “highly satisfactory” (90 percent out of 100 percent)**. Management response will be developed in 2023.

Second, the [Thematic evaluation of supply chain outcomes in the food system in Eastern Africa 2016-2021](#) was commissioned by WFP, covering all nine country offices in the region and three county case studies (Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan). The objectives of the evaluation were to identify and assess the nature and extent of the effects of supply chain activities on food systems and their components, to differentiate effects according to gender or other groups, and to make recommendations for improving future interventions. The subject of the evaluation was the wide range of supply chain activities implemented by procurement and logistics teams in collaboration with other WFP programmes in the region. Overall, the evaluation identified a number of areas with strong results effectively strengthening food systems and country supply chains. **PHQA rated the evaluation as “highly satisfactory” (93 percent out of 100 percent)**.

In 2022, WFP also commenced another regional evaluation, the Local and Regional Food Procurement Pilot programme in Eastern Africa (2021 - 2023). The evaluation covers Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda and applies a developmental approach to generate evidence and support learning in an adaptive, on-going, and utilization-focused manner. The evaluation will be finalized in 2023.

3. Regional Evaluation Strategy

In 2022, WFP developed the **Regional Evaluation Strategy (2023-2030)** for Eastern Africa, following a consultative process with other WFP internal stakeholders. The strategy builds on the previous Regional Evaluation Strategy (2018-2021) for Eastern Africa and is aligned with the latest WFP Evaluation Policy (2022-2030). The Strategy envisages that “WFP’s culture of accountability and learning is supported by evaluative thinking, behaviour, and systems that strengthen its contribution to achieving zero hunger”. The Strategy’s organization mirrors the results laid out in WFP’s Evaluation Policy Theory of Change and the Corporate Evaluation Strategy. Further, the Strategy places evaluation evidence generation and use at the centre of the function over the next 7 years.

4. Evidence Generation and Use: Study and Practice

The production and use of evaluation evidence are increasingly being recognized by WFP because of their significant role in knowledge management and making of better-informed decisions. Evidence production and use is one of the five principles of WFP’s Corporate Results Framework and is featured as a staple in WFP Strategic Plan (2022-2026). Externally, evidence is also critical for WFP towards making the case and advancing the goal of achieving Zero Hunger within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) processes.

Throughout the year, the Evaluation Team ensured that management responses from all decentralized evaluations were consistently and routinely captured and tracked, and all evaluation reports and required products were made available publicly.

To promote the production and use of evaluation evidence, the final report of the feasibility study on evidence use and Evidence Gap Map (EGM) was conducted and finalized in 2022. The study found that 77 percent of online survey respondents reported that evaluations are one of the top useful evidence following the assessments (86 percent). Overall, the study showed that the evidence was widely used (95 percent) in daily work. Despite the various definitions of evidence, their significance for assessing impact and outcomes and for informed decision-making was largely recognized. In daily work, evidence is used for a large variety of purposes, including reporting and informed decision-making. However, the usage of evidence is low in the process of preparing/ supporting a Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

Based on the findings, the study proposes a new approach for displaying the regional evidence gap map, more adapted to the different users’ needs and WFP objectives and outcomes. The EGM will be revised and revamped in 2023.

Finally, WFP proactively engaged in evaluation network activities in 2022 with the UN Network for Evaluation in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNNESSA), as a co-chair of the network and lead of the UNNESSA Knowledge Cafés (inspired by the Knowledge Management cafes at WFP Regional Bureau). The Knowledge Cafés provide a free and interactive space for evaluation professionals from UN agencies across Africa to exchange knowledge, showcase their work and share lessons learned and good practices. Evaluation focal points from country offices were invited to the Knowledge Cafés and proactively engaged in sharing experiences.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

WFP/Mohamed Elamin



“ IF IT IS NOT SAFE...IT IS NOT FOOD ”

Overview

Increasing humanitarian needs in the Eastern Africa Region led to increased demand for humanitarian assistance in 2022. The global food crisis impacted the supply of humanitarian assistance. WFP demonstrated its agility and capacity to effectively respond to the growing regional needs by identifying alternate food suppliers while strengthening food safety and quality assurance strategies.

To provide timely lifesaving and life changing assistance, the Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) unit in the Regional Bureau of Eastern Africa worked alongside the 9 Country Offices to facilitate the acquisition and conveyance of the much-needed food assistance to the most vulnerable, ensuring that the food delivered to beneficiaries was safe and met the required quality standards

WFP's commitment to embedding food safety in all its operations was further demonstrated through increased investments in food safety. For example, the capacity of the FSQ unit was strengthened by the recruitment of Food Safety Officers who are providing technical support to the country offices and the Regional Bureau. In addition, each country office has a Food Technologist to support with the implementation of the food safety and quality guidelines. The corporate food safety and quality guidelines launched in 2022 provide guidance on how food safety and quality components are integrated across country operations, through upstream quality management such as food supplier development and management, food inspection, and quality assurance modelling, downstream quality management to the last mile, integration of FSQ into programmes such as school based programs, cash based transfers, nutrition and food fortification, as well as smallholder agriculture market support.

WFP also provided capacity strengthening to local suppliers to ensure that they meet WFP's minimum food safety and quality technical expectations, thereby increasing local and regional procurement of medium and high-risk foods. As a result, the Regional Bureau was able to expand its regional and local procurement base, with 341,196 metric tons (mt) of quality and safe food procured from local suppliers, including smallholder farmers, this represents an increase of 39 percent from 2021. Having a pool of local suppliers whose capacity has been strengthened has enabled WFP to source fortified blended flours, Ultra-high temperature processing (UHT) milk, high energy biscuits, vegetable oil, and ready to use supplementary food (RUSF) from the region.



WFP/Arrete/Fredrik Lernerbyd



Regional **Achievements**

1. **Strengthening Capacity of Suppliers**

WFP adopted new strategies to manage the limited supply of food and lack of adequate suppliers for food commodities such as specialised nutritious foods for the nutrition programmes. Local and regional food procurement strategies were strengthened in pursuit of alternate suppliers. To ensure new and existing suppliers met the food safety technical expectations for food manufacturing, WFP conducted technical assessments and provided capacity strengthening support to local suppliers to establish robust quality assurance and food safety management systems. The assessments and capacity strengthening empowered the local suppliers not only to meet WFP requirements but also the national standards to enable them access better markets locally and regionally.

2. Implementation of Pilot Quality Assurance Model

WFP annually procures SuperCereal Plus for its nutrition programmes from Africa Improved Foods (AIF) in Rwanda - a key supplier for WFP countries in the Eastern Africa Region. The Africa Improved Foods company has been transitioned to 100 percent quality assurance model in which it has increased its capacity to be able to ensure and manage food safety and quality along the production value chain. This eliminates the need by WFP to test every lot but relies on the supplier's internal controls and Laboratory analysis contributing to cost saving of up to approximately USD 650,000 annually and reduced food inspection turnaround/lead time from 14 days to 6 days, hence improving supply chain efficiencies. This has been possible thanks to WFP technical support and capacity strengthening.

3. Enhanced Food Inspection

Food inspection services were strengthened at the major food entry points of Djibouti, Mombasa, and Somalia Ports. A total of 869 certificates of analysis were reviewed, out of which approximately 93 percent of food was accepted. This was also intensified by the onboarding of a second inspection company (Polucon limited), which increased WFP's inspection capacity resulting in improved efficiencies and quality of inspections. Food inspection carried out throughout WFP operations in the region was captured in digital systems¹, this has ensured real-time data tracking, analysis, and reporting.

4. Food Incidents Management

Beneficiary safety was at the centre of WFP response. Food that deviated from specification was promptly identified and reported, tracked, and managed, including investigating the root causes and recommending mitigation measures. WFP rapid response and last mile tracking of food commodities allowed timely detection, management, and withdrawal of affected food commodities before reaching the beneficiaries.

5. Regional Aflatoxin Control and Management Strategy

The first WFP Regional Aflatoxin Control Strategy for Eastern Africa was developed with the aim to reduce prevalence of aflatoxin and promote increased availability of aflatoxin-safe food on the market. The strategy provides guidance toward achieving synergy as well as leveraging available resources, partnerships, expertise, experiences, and lessons learned from past and existing interventions. In addition, the strategy will support the implementation of the Local and regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFPP) by integrating aflatoxin control and management interventions in food sourcing and handling within the WFP supply chain.

6. Capacity Strengthening

Creating food safety and quality awareness was prioritized in the region to equip internal and external stakeholders with the required information to ensure safe food at all times and at every stage within the food value chain. Over 1,050 people, including WFP staff, food suppliers, smallholder farmers, public health officers, and cooperating partners benefited from the different capacity strengthening activities regarding food safety and quality.

¹ FOSTER and DOTs (a WFP data integration system)

7. Strengthened Partnerships in Food Safety

WFP strengthened its partnership with USAID BHA to support food safety activities. The focus was on aflatoxin control and management in the Eastern Africa Region, particularly on aflatoxin detection, prevention, decontamination, and support to government systems.

Country Office Highlights



Burundi: Three local small-scale millers were supported with capacity strengthening on food safety and quality for maize under a Rockefeller Foundation funded project. The support enabled the suppliers to supply fortified maize flour for WFP's School Based Programme.



Kenya: WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Health to pilot an aflatoxin control and management project including for nixtamalization (grain processing in which the grain is soaked and cooked in an alkaline solution) pilot for aspergillus resistant peanut. WFP also provided 17 mini-labs, worth USD 170,000 to the Ministry of Health in Counties to support food safety and quality surveillance in markets and schools, with focus on aflatoxins testing to ensure safe food in the population.

WFP piloted bulk oil and oil ATMs in the refugee camps. This contributed to minimized risk of contamination brought by hand scooping. WFP contributed greatly to the risk assessment that led to this improvement and to monitoring and evaluation activities.



Ethiopia: WFP provided technical support and capacity strengthening to a local supplier, Quarit, on the implementation of WFP's food safety and quality technical expectations for manufacture of fortified blended flour such as the Corn Soya Blend. Quarit has been able to produce over 3,174 mt of Corn Soya Blend (SuperCereal) to WFP for use in the Tigray crisis for the nutrition programmes, helping avert major pipeline breaks and ensure continuity of assistance .



Somalia: WFP collaborated with Trademark East Africa to establish food quality infrastructure- a modern food laboratory for the Somaliland Quality Control Commission, bringing food quality testing solutions closer. This aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Government in enforcement of standards through testing and will also contribute to cost savings and reduced lead times. Currently, samples are shipped to Mombasa for testing before commodities leave the port.



Rwanda: WFP supported the capacity strengthening of local millers on food safety and quality for production of whole maize meal for School Based Program under the Rockefeller Foundation funded project.

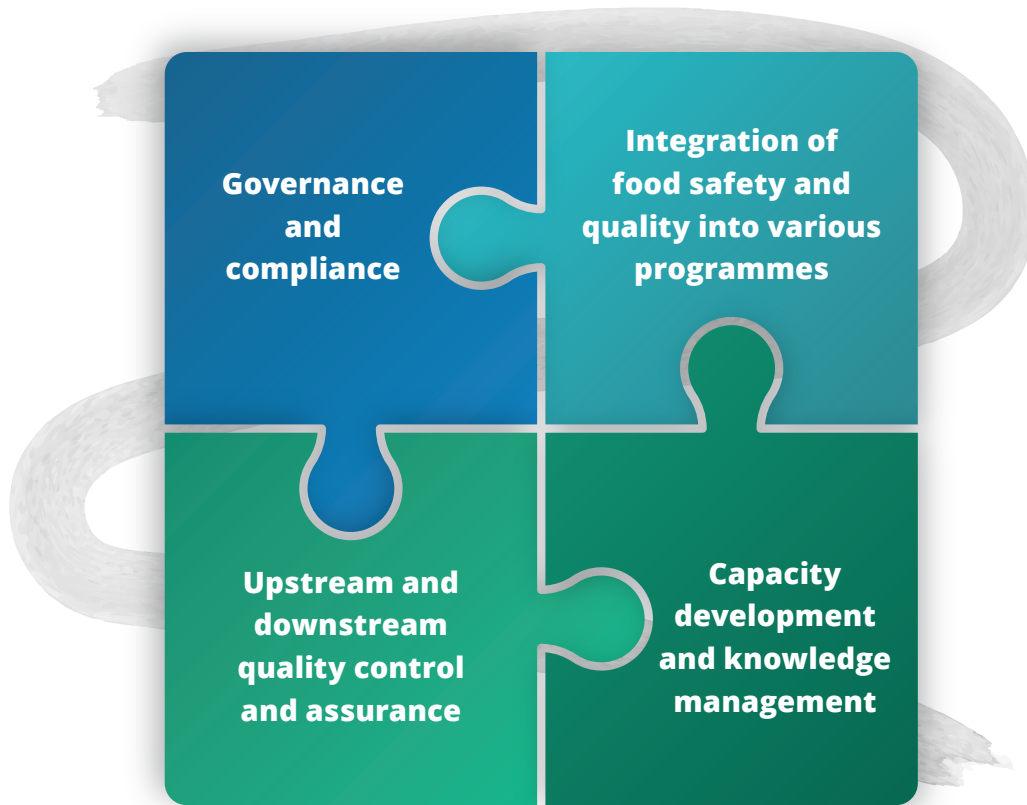


Sudan: WFP worked with a local supplier (Samil) for ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) to provide technical support on food safety and quality standards. This contributed to improvements in primary packaging and product integrity along the value chain from production to consumption. WFP supported the Government through the Agricultural Bank of Sudan to rehabilitate warehouses resulting in increased storage capacity, prepositioning food supplies for timely response, and effective grain (sorghum) cleaning to eliminate defective grains and toxics seeds.



Uganda: Investments in local suppliers has contributed to increased local sourcing capacity for maize, maize meal, salt, vegetable oil, and fortified flours.

Priorities for 2023



PROCUREMENT



WFP/Tarek Jacobo



BUYING FOOD AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, AT THE RIGHT PRICE FOR FIGHTING HUNGER



Regional Procurement Overview

Delivering safe and nutritious food at the right time, right place, and in the most cost-efficient way is critical for WFP's response as it ensures affected populations receive assistance on time. In 2022, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance drastically increased due to a multitude of shocks. These include conflict, climate shocks, economic crisis, and the global food crisis which destabilized food systems leading to an increase in food prices. This was further worsened by the increase in fuel and fertilizer prices, failed rain season, and drought in the Horn of Africa, which lowered harvest for cereals and pulses in the region.

WFP's agility, robust procurement processes, and efficient supply chain systems enabled it to remain the largest humanitarian organization in the Eastern Africa Region, delivering food commodities to over 39.9 million people.

WFP accelerated the implementation of the Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFP) which prioritised the substitution of imports with local and regional crops by procuring from smallholder farmers and regional suppliers. This allowed WFP to scale up and sustain humanitarian assistance while also contributing to the local economies and agricultural development in the region.



Regional Bureau of Eastern Africa purchased **341,000 METRIC TONS** of food valued at **USD 267 MILLION**.

27 PERCENT (92,000 METRIC TONS) of food was sourced from **smallholder farmers**.



Goods and services worth **USD 4.2 MILLION** were procured, including conferencing and workshops, consultancy services, and ICT equipment.

Due to the global food crisis, food purchased **DECREASED BY 23 PERCENT**, however, the cost of food was high. WFP spent **30 PERCENT MORE** compared to previous years.



Purchases of **13,500 MT OF VEGETABLE OIL** from **Kenya and Uganda** were also trialled and found successful, replacing imports of vegetable oil from Asia, injecting money into the regional economies (USD 25 million), and providing employment opportunities.

96 PERCENT of food commodities were purchased using the **Global Commodity Management Facility**. The facility is a capital management mechanism utilized to purchase food before. country offices receive their contributions, leading to a steady supply and reduced lead times.

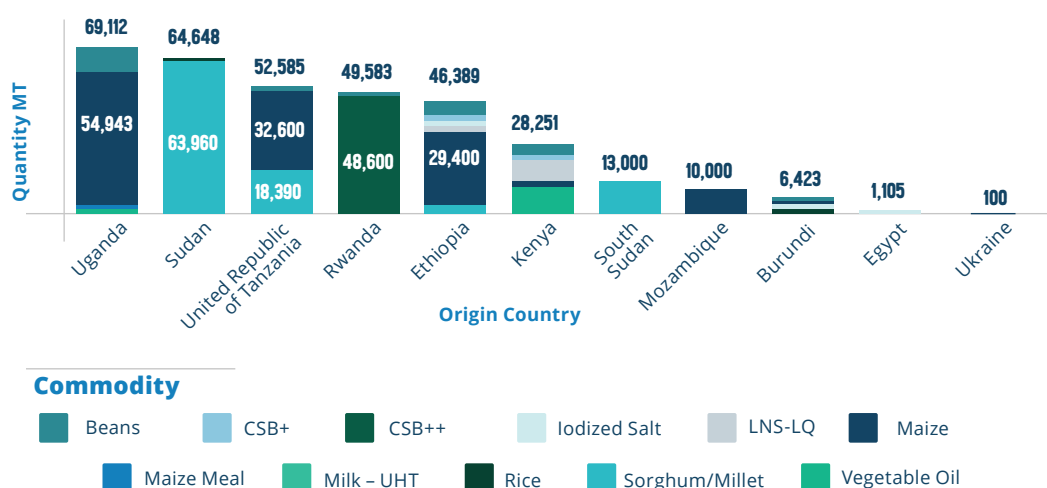


Breakdown of purchases by commodity

341,195 MT for a value of **USD 267,664,662**

Commodity	QTY MT	Average\$/MT	Value USD
Beans	22,923	891	17,567,827
Corn Soya Blend	53,774	1,465	81,081,300
Iodised Salt	3,946	147	547,740
LNS	11,088	2,822	33,755,570
Maize	129,705	459	59,602,679
Maize meal	1,738	781	1,274,875
Rice	1,859	1,294	2,485,459
Sorghum/Millet	100,630	424	43,880,318
UHT Milk	2,026	1,070	2,168,077
Vegetable Oil	13,506	2,016	25,300,816
Total	341,195		267,664,662

Where we procured from



2023 Priorities and Outlook



Strengthening **supplier's relationship** management.



Establishing new and strengthening existing **partnerships** with the public sector, private sector, financial institutions, and UN agencies to identify areas of food procurement synergies.



Conducting **advocacy for donor flexibility** in sourcing restrictions.



Increasing volumes of **food purchases from smallholder farmers** through partnerships on value chain analysis, innovative smallholder farmer procurement, scaling up post-harvest loss management, and climate-resilient agriculture.

SUPPLY CHAIN

WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua



“ **LEVERAGING INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES IN LOGISTICS AND SERVICE DELIVERY.** ”

Logistics Fundamentals

The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa Logistics oversaw the movement of 1,500,116 metric tons (mt) of food in 2022, representing 30 percent of the global tonnage. The total value of logistics services to move the food was USD 286 million. Together with the value of food procured (USD 267 million), the total supply chain value in Eastern Africa was USD 554 million. Corridor fixed costs were USD 19.5 million, which was lower than the planned USD 22 million for moving 1.7 million mt.

In 2022, WFP Logistics Team in the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa worked alongside country and field offices to ensure assistance is delivered on time while strengthening logistics across the region. The regional Logistics Team spent 103 days overseeing operations in South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi, and Rwanda. Additionally, the team cumulatively provided 476 days of field support and 592 days of temporary duty station (TDY) aimed at strengthening country office logistics processes and capacity.

Over 100 participants were trained in various areas, including port operations, transport, and cash-based transfers (CBT). Furthermore, there were three peer-to-peer staff exchange missions for Uganda and Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan, and Djibouti and Ethiopia.

In terms of external engagement, WFP strengthened its partnership with regional entities including, East African Business Council (EABC) and Trademark East Africa (TMEA), as part of the regional initiatives to expand the scale of WFP logistics and corridor development. The team engaged with new entrants in the transport platform market (Uber for Trucks) for transport optimization for WFP and food systems.

WFP also partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics on [Scope 3 supply chain emission reduction](#)¹. Further, supply chain officers from the Djibouti government and WFP headquarters participated in a panel discussion on reducing Scope 3 supply chain emissions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). Moreover, WFP engaged with Wageningen University & Research (WUR) to strengthen evidence generation, and the private sector on food cold storage for post-harvest loss reduction.

Transformative Logistics

WFP Logistics has progressively evolved, the focus has not only been on transporting food but also modernizing digitising logistics and service provision services to improve cost efficiencies, transparency, and reliability. Through its strategic partnerships, WFP Logistics in Eastern Africa is also working on improving efficiency in last-mile delivery, reducing carbon footprint, and contributing to the food systems agenda by strengthening supply chain infrastructure.

¹ World Economic Forum: What is the difference between Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, and what are companies doing to cut all three? September 2022

1. Tracking Carbon Footprint in the Region

WFP developed a carbon accounting methodology in line with international best practices, from both private commercial and humanitarian assistance sectors. The pioneering work resulted in the creation of a **carbon accounting system that measures Scope 3 supply chain carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions**.

WFP also developed a dashboard to capture daily emissions and collaborated with various WFP units to ensure comprehensive measurement of operational carbon footprint. This work includes emissions calculation from supplier food receipt to handover to cooperating partners for beneficiary distributions. WFP aims to scale this corporate solution to be shared with other humanitarian actors.

Noteworthy, progress was also made in improving fuel management through tracking, standardization, and transparency. The solution is being piloted in the Sudan country office, with plans to launch it in other countries due to increased demand. Standard Operating Procedures and business processes have also been developed to ensure effective implementation of the solution.

2. Optimization and Digitization

The regional Logistics Team developed an optimized food basket, an online decision support system to identify the most efficient and cost-effective way to reach beneficiaries and the creation of diverse analyses at global, regional, and country levels to identify trends, risks, and mitigation measures.

The process of contracting transporters and partners' warehouse management systems were also automated. Digitisation efforts have contributed to more transparent, cost-efficient, and reliable supply chain services to the humanitarian community and the people we serve.

A budgeting and costing methodology was also developed. The concept is currently being utilized in Burundi, Sudan, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, facilitating accurate planning, budgeting, and costing of services. A newly developed dashboard was launched to enhance the visibility of logistics service provision operations in the region, this has been instrumental in contributing to optimal repositioning within operational and funding constraints.

WFP Logistics Team **integrated pharmaceutical quality standards into WFP supply chain** for handling temperature-sensitive commodities. WFP Kenya, South Sudan, and Djibouti has integrated the standards for contracting third-party logistics service providers, transporting medical supplies via air transport, or storing temperature-sensitive items. WFP Logistics also created an automated reporting system for Africa Union Centres for Disease Control (Africa- CDC) and Prevention to keep track of all transport/storage requests.

3. Strengthen Supply Chain Capacity

A study was conducted on how to identify ways to measure and improve the impact of supply chain in national emergency preparedness and response. Performance indicators were developed and integrated into the corporate Emergency Preparedness Capacity Indicator (EPCI) tool, which measures and monitors progress on strengthening institutional capacities. The Logistics team also established a knowledge exchange platform for Supply Chain Capacity Strengthening practitioners in the region, which facilitates the sharing of best practices. An example of this is the development of the Government of Somalia warehouse management system with support from WFP.

4. Engineering in the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa

Engineering in the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa continued to support administration, programme, and logistics projects and external partners.

Of all WFP engineering projects valued over USD 100 million, 40 percent were in the Eastern Africa Region. Over 50 percent of regional engineering projects in 2022 were logistics related. Engineering support for programme has been enhanced in the region over the years in country offices for engineering-related projects. Of all 200 plus WFP engineers, 30 percent are based in the Eastern Africa Region.

In 2022, engineering continued to support, guide and advise country offices' projects through the planning, design, procurement, and implementation phases. Three projects valued at USD 5 million were managed directly by the Regional Bureau Engineering Team while 8 other projects valued at about USD 9 million were actively supported in several country offices in the region. In 2022, as part of emergency preparedness, the Engineering Team finalised the development of documentation for long-term agreements identified as critical for emergencies. The process will be finalized in 2023.

The team also conducted four oversight missions, aimed at identifying gaps, and potential areas for support and improving the engineering and construction management processes and products in the region's country offices.



UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)



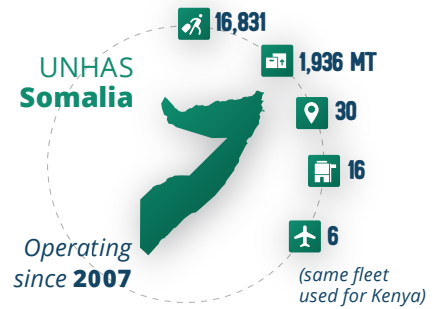
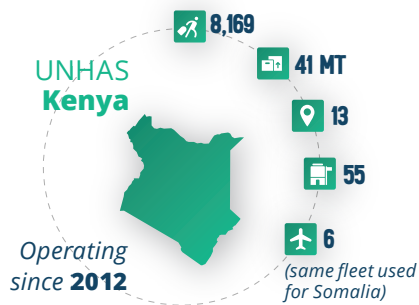
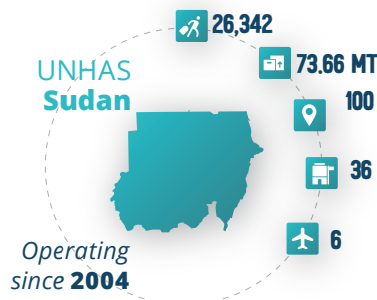
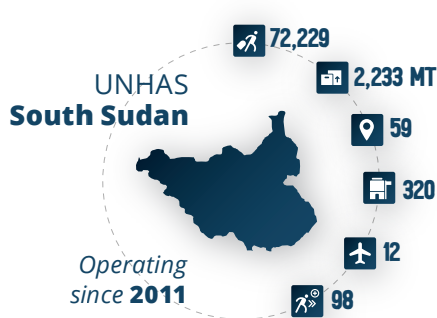
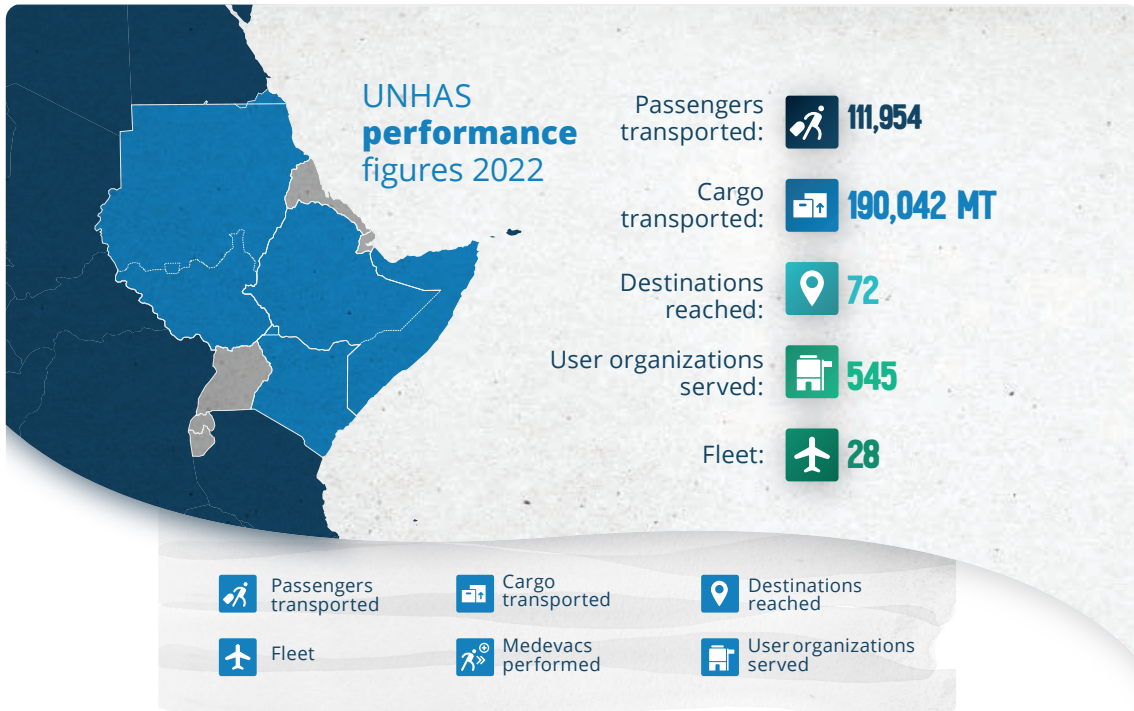
WFP/Geneva Costopoulos

Enabling Humanitarian Response (UNHAS)

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by the World Food Programme (WFP), offers safe, reliable, cost-efficient, and effective passenger and light cargo transport for the wider humanitarian community, to and from areas of crisis and intervention. It is the only humanitarian air service that gives equal access to all humanitarian entities, supporting UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other humanitarian partners.

In 2022, UNHAS remained a vital enabler of humanitarian response to the wider humanitarian community by providing timely and reliable air transport. UNHAS facilitated humanitarian access to the most remote and challenging locations, often under precarious security conditions, where no safe surface transport or viable commercial aviation options were available. It operated in the region's areas affected by natural disasters such as drought and floods and conflict, specifically in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, and Kenya.





PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS



WFP/Mohammed Elamin

Regional **Protection and Accountability** Overview


WFP is committed to humanitarian protection in all its operations. Upholding this fundamental commitment is particularly important in the Eastern Africa region where a wide range of protection threats are present at heightened levels within targeted communities. WFP continued to integrate protection considerations throughout its operations, identifying and mitigating protection risks, and referring and responding to protection issues on time. Priorities for protection and accountability to affected populations are guided by WFP's Protection and Accountability Policy (2020) which is framed within the global protection principles.

WFP country offices in the Eastern Africa Region conduct protection risk analysis regularly. In 2022, **3 countries conducted protection risk analysis**. The protection risk analysis is a tool for the country offices to ensure the centrality of protection through the four mainstreaming principles of *safety and dignity and avoid causing harm, meaningful access, accountability to affected populations, and participation and empowerment*.

Regional **Achievements**

Prioritizing Safety and Dignity, and Avoid Causing Harm

WFP country offices worked throughout the year to prevent and minimize as much as possible any unintended negative effects of interventions that can increase people's vulnerability to both physical and psychosocial risks. Beneficiaries from 8 of 9 countries in the region reported that WFP programmes are delivered in a manner that promotes their safety, dignity, and integrity.



In Sudan, 100 percent of interviewed beneficiaries reported that they were treated respectfully at distribution sites.

In Djibouti, the percentage of people who received WFP assistance with dignity was also overwhelmingly high, 93 percent and beneficiaries reporting no safety challenges was at 99.7 at percent against the annual target of 100 percent.

WFP **Somalia** created a targeting and prioritization strategy for the country's strategic plan to ensure a people-centered approach to WFP's assistance and scale-up.

In South Sudan, monitoring results showed that 98 percent of crisis-affected people and refugees felt safe traveling to and from WFP programme sites while 99 percent reported that the conditions of WFP's programmes were dignified.

In Ethiopia, WFP increased the number of distribution sites in conflict-affected areas in the Afar Region, and in the Amhara Region in inaccessible districts along the border with Tigray. The establishment of new sites has reduced walking distance for beneficiaries and potentially mitigated protection risks.

Promoting Meaningful Access

WFP ensured beneficiaries' access to assistance and services in proportion to their needs and without any barriers, such as discrimination. This included paying special attention to individuals and groups likely to be vulnerable or had difficulty accessing assistance and services, like the elderly, people with disabilities, minority groups, and people not able to read, write, or access information. Additionally, in 2022, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, and Sudan collaborated with organizations for people with disabilities which helped to ensure that WFP reached the furthest behind. Further, WFP also ensured the inclusion and access of marginalized groups in activities.



In Ethiopia, to enhance disability inclusion in programming even further, WFP developed a contextualized guideline on how to mainstream disability in its programmes.

In Djibouti, WFP supported the development of a joint work plan with organizations of people with disabilities to strengthen advocacy for disability inclusion in humanitarian and development assistance.

In Burundi, WFP ensured that all the data collection tools included questions that assessed and tracked household and disability status.

In Uganda, WFP continued its collaboration with UNHCR on prioritization, whereby beneficiaries received food assistance depending on their level of vulnerability.

In Rwanda, WFP operated a mobile daycare platform to facilitate the inclusion of women participants who were breastfeeding and/or had children under three years of age. This ensured that children were not left unattended to while their mothers were participating in food for asset activities. Thus, mothers were also supported to participate more easily, with the assurance that their children were safe.

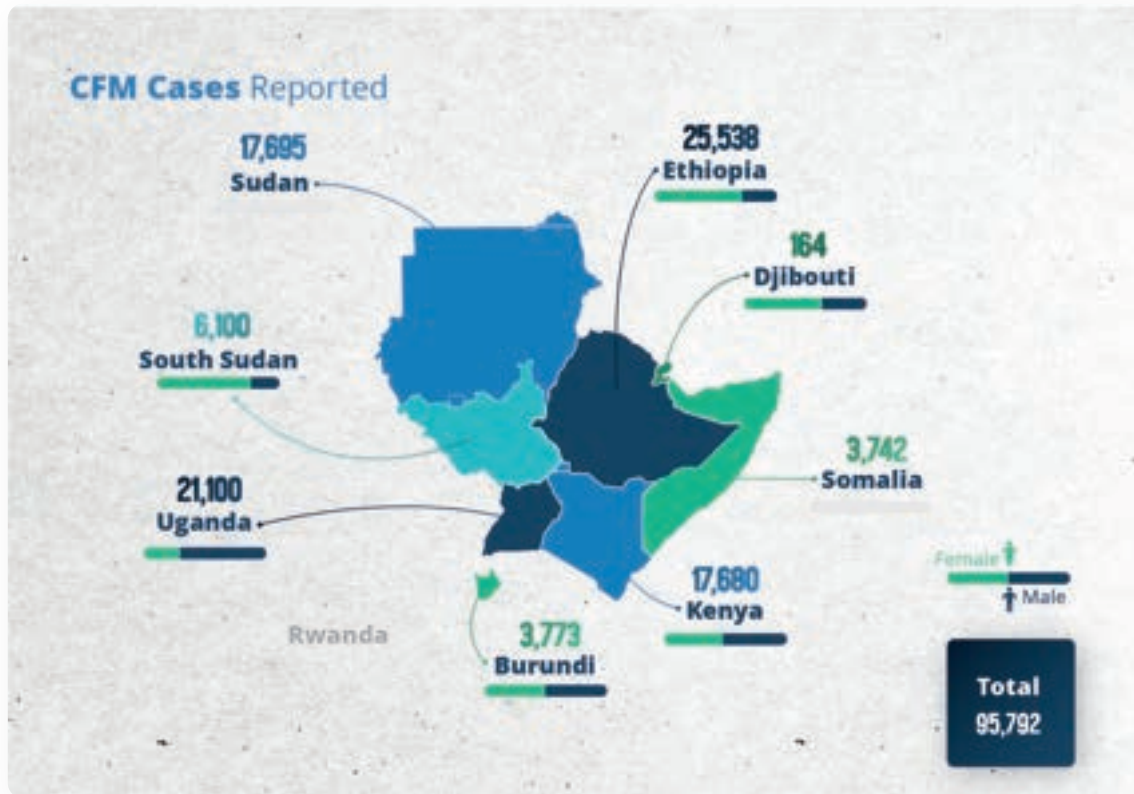
In Sudan and Ethiopia WFP developed posters in the local languages and shared the posters at distribution sites, making information more accessible and more understood.

Ensuring Accountability to Affected Populations

In all the nine country offices in the Eastern Africa Region there exist a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) which includes toll-free hotlines, WFP call centres, frontline staff, suggestion boxes, field monitoring, and help desks at distribution and validation sites. These have ensured accountability to the affected population by collecting beneficiary feedback, documenting, and addressing raised concerns promptly. In addition, these channels are used to inform beneficiaries of WFP programmes. In 2022, over 95,792 cases were collected through the country offices' CFM channels. Most of the cases were resolved within a short time frame.

- **In Sudan**, WFP disseminated key messages on WFP programmes and activities to over 2 million beneficiaries, mostly those affected by conflicts to ensure that beneficiaries were aware of WFP programming.
- **In Kenya**, WFP conducted more than 40 bulk short message service (SMS) campaigns, targeting over 1.3 million beneficiaries in refugee, relief, and resilience programmes with information on WFP assistance.
- **In Burundi**, a total of 34 awareness creation sessions on CFM were conducted, reaching approximately 290,000 beneficiaries (147,900 women).





Participation and Empowerment

As part of participation and empowerment of the people WFP serves, country offices consulted with beneficiaries on any program changes, promoted self-protection capacities, and assisted people to claim their rights. In **South Sudan**, for instance, 659 consultations were conducted, reaching 11,768 affected people to record their preference for cash or in-kind modality before designing the interventions. In addition, to ensure that the people that WFP serves are put at the centre of decision-making on key programme elements, in **Sudan**, WFP carried out national-wide community consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, mainly in the form of focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Over 7,500 stakeholders (both women and men) were consulted and these included beneficiaries, community leaders, distribution management committees, host communities, local authorities, and minority groups such as persons with disabilities and elderly people.

Outlook for 2023

The Regional Bureau protection and accountability team will continue to work with the country offices to apply good practices across a range of life-saving and life-changing activities. Areas of focus will include the creation of community engagement action plans, ensuring a risk-informed approach to emergency preparedness and response, CFM enhancement, and referral pathway mechanisms across country offices. Several country offices will carry out protection analysis and assessments in 2023, and the country offices will continue mainstreaming disability inclusion and engaging with marginalized groups.

GENDER



WFP/Arrete/Fredrik Lerneryd

WFP's New Approach to Gender Programming: Gender Transformative Approach

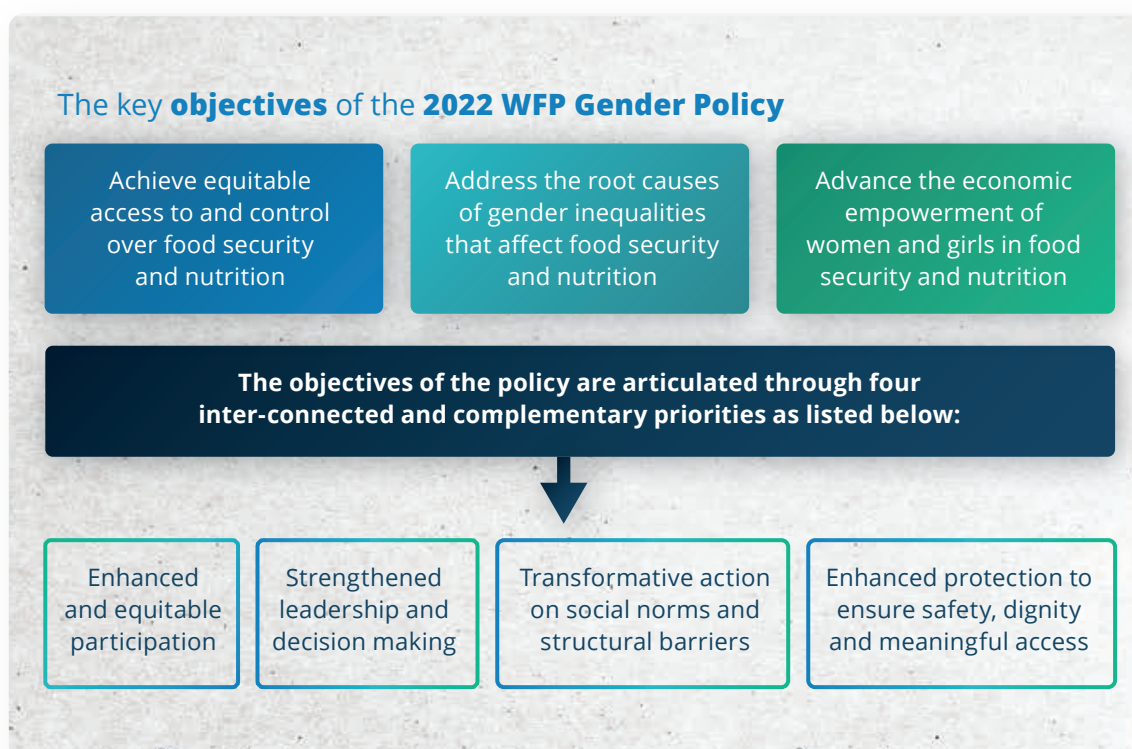
Gender Transformative Programming

Gender equality and women's empowerment are key to achieving Zero Hunger. WFP works with partners and governments to ensure everyone has equal opportunities, access to resources, and a voice in the decisions that shape their households, communities, and food security. Women play a vital role in the global food system, accounting for 60 percent to 80 percent of the total agricultural workforce in East Africa; However, persistent gender inequalities within food systems are widely documented and play a critical role in perpetuating food insecurity.

WFP's new 2022 WFP Gender Policy aims to explicitly address the root causes of gender inequalities by embracing gender transformative approaches. In line with this, WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa has begun to make the necessary shifts in gender programming, from gender sensitive approaches to gender transformative approaches.

Gender transformative approaches focus on transforming unequal and harmful gender norms and relations at a much deeper level compared to other approaches that have previously been applied. The Gender transformative approaches challenge (and positively transform) entrenched gender norms, biases, behaviours, values, and stereotypes to nurture meaningful gender equality that is lasting and sustainable, including truly equitable shared power, control of resources, decision making and support for women's rights, agency, and empowerment.

Gender transformative work focuses on thinking beyond the individual woman or a group of women, to understand and acknowledge the larger social systems these women live in and address the root causes that perpetuate gender inequality in their lives. Such inequality can take many forms, from household to institutional level, but all these forms have at their foundation a set of fundamental beliefs, values, behaviours, and norms that create the problem of gender inequality in the first place – and continue to perpetuate it over time, generation after generation.



Key Achievements

1. Evidence Generation to Inform Gender-based Programming Better

Gender evidence-based programming was a priority for the region. WFP conducted robust gender analysis for different programmes in South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda. The analysis helped to understand nuanced gender and power dynamics in communities and households, and how these dynamics influence access to, benefits from, and participation in WFP activities and interventions.

2. Job Creation for Youth at the Nexus of Gender, Food Systems and Innovation

In 2022, WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa began the operationalization of a 5 year-long partnership with the Mastercard Foundation to strengthen food systems through job creation for young people, particularly young women, in select agriculture value chains in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. This programme has opened new opportunities for WFP to work with the youth at the nexus of gender, food systems and innovation in a way that empowers smallholder farmers by reducing post-harvest losses and increasing their access to markets, which will create employment opportunities for young women and young men along the selected value chains.

To inform the programme design, supported countries commissioned gender-responsive value chain analyses that sought to identify specific gender and age roles as well as barriers that contribute to the economic exclusion of young women and young men in the agriculture sector. Some of the key barriers identified include lack of access to/degree of control over assets (personal assets, household assets, shared community assets); poor access to/degree of control over other resources and opportunities (such as education and training); (iii) limited access to finance (such as savings, credit, banking, and mobile money), start-up capital, financial literacy and business development and management skills.

Moreover, the findings of the value chain analysis, dialogue sessions during integration workshops with key stakeholders in Uganda and Kenya, field mission consultations with the youth in Kenya, and existing literature on youth participation in agriculture from Rwanda recognized that the youth are not a homogenous group. Critical intersectional variables such as age, marital status, disability status, and socio-economic class affect how young women and young men access resources, participate in development activities and gain benefits from different undertakings in their communities.

To address these barriers in programme implementation, WFP country offices are seeking to partner with specialized gender transformation partners. These partners will support WFP and other cooperating partners to adopt a gender transformative approach in the programme, applying methodologies such as the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) that seeks to address the root causes of gender inequalities by addressing unequal power relations at the household level, for gender transformative results.



3. Key International Events

International Women's Day (8 March)

WFP joined the rest of the world in the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March 2022. An all-staff event was organized, and colleagues added voice to the global call to action **#BreakTheBias**, challenging one another to collectively contribute to a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination in the workplace.

The theme for the event was *Gender Equality for a Sustainable Tomorrow*, a salient topic for WFP as a leading food systems actor. It was aimed at highlighting the role and participation of women in climate solutions, while illuminating the fact that women and girls are disproportionately affected by extreme climatic disasters.

16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence (25 November - 10 December)

WFP joined other UN agencies and partners to commemorate 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), from 25 November (International Day of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day). The theme for the campaign in 2022 was *"UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls"*, the most pervasive violation of human rights worldwide.

WFP recognizes that food insecurity and GBV are deeply intertwined, and that gender inequality and power dynamics are a root driver of food insecurity. The different needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys in our operations must be assessed, analyzed and addressed. The Regional Gender and Protection Teams put together a staff debate session, inviting colleagues to be champions against GBV by volunteering to debate motions on this topic. The all-staff debate provided a great opportunity for colleagues to reflect on the topic of GBV- its various forms and the role of WFP in preventing GBV in its programmes, and broaden their awareness and knowledge of disability inclusion in response to the remarks made by WFP's Global Disability Inclusion Advisor who was in the region at the time of the event.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE



WFP/Aréte/Fredrik Lerner/d

Introduction

WFP extensive footprint and expertise in Eastern Africa are key to supporting government work towards achieving Zero Hunger. WFP's Eastern Africa Region comprises over 6,200 employees (38.8 percent being women as of Quarter 4, 2022), supporting WFP operations in increasingly challenging environments in 10 country offices.

The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa Human Resource (HR) function is a strategic business partner supporting humanitarian response in the region. The HR function provides this support by building and empowering an agile, diverse, talented, and engaged workforce that works to save lives and change lives in the region. This is done with the recognition that employees, regardless of their roles, and through the strength of their diversity, are the most important and valuable resource driving the organisation's mission.

In the region, 86 percent of WFP employees are locally recruited with 62 percent of employees serving in emergency designated duty stations in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and some parts of Northern Kenya.

WFP's People Policy provides a coherent and overarching corporate framework for excellence in people management and establishes mutual accountability among the organisation's leaders and employees. The HR function has continued to empower WFP employees to fulfil their commitments and achieve the high-performance standards articulated in the WFP People Policy.

2022 **Priority areas** with high-impact outcomes

1

Enabling people management excellence with the aim of enabling and equipping leaders with the mindset, skills and behaviours that put people management at the centre of WFP's culture and act as role models in promoting a respectful work environment.

2

Leading the **implementation of Critical Corporate Initiatives**, a three-year critical resource specifically designed to support excellence in people management, and the required organizational change by strengthening organizational capacity to establish, operationalize and absorb identified corporate and cross-functional change-driving activities.

3

Building the next generation of humanitarians in the region by spearheading the development of **WFP's future talent today through internship programmes** that are geared towards equipping youth from the Eastern Africa region with employability skills relevant to the humanitarian sector.

4

Supporting country offices to **deliver in emergencies through people.**

Delivering through **People in Emergencies**

The year was challenging due to unprecedented economic shocks, the worsening drought and floods catastrophe, and the global food crisis. Thanks to the support from WFP donors, WFP scaled up its response in the Horn of Africa to avert the drought situation in collaboration with governments and partners.

To support the emergency scale-up operation, the Regional Bureau's facilitated the effective resourcing of country office operations in line with corporate guidelines to ensure that the right emergency staff emergency profiles were in place at the right time. In total, HR processed more than 90 emergency scale-up requests within the region as well as support to the Ukrainian crisis where a number of staff from the region were at the forefront leading the emergency operations.

Enabling People **Management Excellence**

WFP delivers through people at the centre of the humanitarian operations. Several leadership development programmes were implemented in 2022 to build professional capacity of its leaders for increased engagement, and personal and professional effectiveness, and to broaden understanding of WFP mandate locally and internationally.







With a focus on building current and next-generation humanitarian leaders, a total of **188** leaders from the region were enrolled in the various leadership programmes.



Critical Corporate Initiatives: People Policy Initiatives

The Critical Corporate Initiatives is a three-year critical resource specifically designed to support excellence in people management, and the required organizational change by strengthening organizational capacity to establish, operationalize and absorb identified corporate and cross-functional change driving activities.

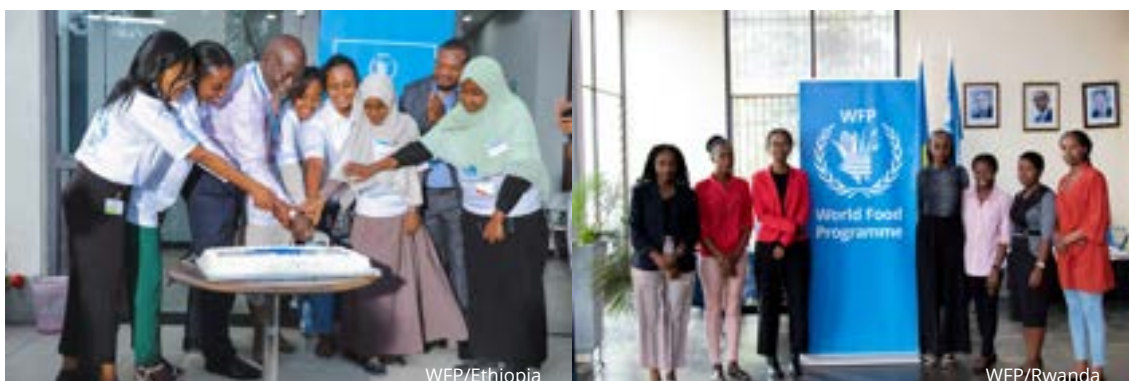
In 2022, the Regional Bureau rolled out various People Policy initiatives across the various Country Offices including:

SOMALIA		Green Talent Programme where 15 graduates were selected to an incubation programme to take on National Officers role inside Somalia.
SOUTH SUDAN		Staff Bursary Programme where the organization sponsored 70 staff to undertake upskilling through graduate studies in local and international universities in the 2022/23 academic year.
RWANDA		Female Internship programme where 10 female interns were hired across the Head office and the field offices.
SUDAN		Women Internship Programme where 32 interns were onboarded in the country office and area offices/ field offices.
DJIBOUTI		Persons with disabilities and a female internship programme where 5 female interns, 3 of whom are persons with disability, were hired.
ETHIOPIA, KENYA & UGANDA		Disability Inclusion 'Hiring Beyond Labels' programme, where 4 employees who are persons with disabilities were hired in each of the country offices.

Building the **Next Generation of Humanitarians** in the Region

Through internship programmes, WFP provided opportunities to more than 100 students/ graduates drawn from across communities in the Eastern Africa Region to augment their studies and career development with the humanitarian and development sectors, while contributing to WFP's mission of saving and changing lives.

Thus, through the internship programmes, WFP also developed young talent in its programmes, built its employer brand, and subsequently attracted qualified female candidates in male-dominated roles. WFP offered them placements that contribute to workforce diversity and gender equality at all levels.



WFP/Ethiopia

WFP/Rwanda

STAFF WELLNESS



WFP/Martin Karimi

A year of unprecedented needs in the Regional Bureau of Eastern Africa led to increased demands on WFP staff. In response to this, the Region's Wellness team took action to increase its presence and reach to ensure that employees have better knowledge of how to care of their physical and mental health, and that access to healthcare services continues to improve.

In 2022, the Wellness Team comprised of **30 medical and mental health professionals**, with some of the largest country operations having their own emergency medical team, and national and international staff counsellors available. A total of 134 WFP staff were trained as Wellness Support Volunteers. Under the guidance of Staff Counselling, these volunteers champion wellness in their duty stations by initiating wellbeing activities and projects.

Services provided for staff included more than **2000 medical clearances** and **23 medical evacuations**. With the shadow of COVID-19 shrinking, staff counsellors were able to get back out to the field to bring in-person psychosocial support to more than 40 field offices. A wide range of trainings, webinars and psycho-education sessions were rolled out both remotely and in-person, on topics ranging from stress management, and building resilience, to basic life support training. Wellbeing App pages have been published for every country in the region with a wealth of information to empower staff to care for their mental and physical health.

In order to know where the gaps in health care services lie, the medical team carried out **health risk assessments in Kenya, Burundi, and Somalia**. Meanwhile, body mass index (BMI) machines were installed in the Regional Bureau and in a number of country offices. In addition, COVID-19 antigen tests were provided for staff in the Regional Bureau. In South Sudan, funding from the Headquarters Wellness allowed for the new wellness activity/training spaces in 3 Area Hubs as well as in Juba.

Leading the Way in Staff Wellness

In 2022, the Eastern Africa Regional Bureau became the first Bureau in WFP globally to recruit a dedicated Family Liaison Officer to assess and respond to the needs of families. Family focus groups in Kenya and Sudan provided fresh insights into the challenges that often face WFP staff and their families, such as geographical separation. New **Family Liaison Outreach Communities (FLOCK) groups** were set up in a range of locations, providing opportunities for families to meet for fun activities and gatherings where they could feel welcomed and supported. A UN celebration day in Khartoum, led by the Sudan FLOCK, was attended by 400 staff, partners and children from WFP and other agencies.

Supporting and promoting the needs of women in WFP was also a focus of 2022 with innovative group sessions for women set up in Ethiopia and Somalia, and women's spaces created in Somalia Field Offices. Staff counselling co-facilitated Women's Safety and Awareness Training in South Sudan and other country offices, providing a unique opportunity for women to come together in a female-only space to learn and share in a safe environment.

Responding to **New Challenges**

Increasing sensitization to emerging health risks was an important activity for Wellness in 2022. In addition to reviewing the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wellness team also responded to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, focusing on preparedness and psychological coping skills, not just in Uganda, but also in neighbouring countries.

In the light of conflicts in the region and the absence of health care facilities in some locations, Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support Training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was funded by the Regional Bureau in order to equip 34 UN medical staff from Headquarters and across East Africa with the skills to provide critical care for patients before they can reach medical facilities.

Challenges

Inadequate medical facilities in some locations where WFP staff work remain a key challenge and may require further expansion of emergency medical assistance teams and roving medical officers. As the Eastern Africa Bureau Wellness team looks to promote health-seeking behaviours in 2023, through campaigns on cardiovascular disease and on pre-cancer screening, creative solutions will need to be found to ensure all staff have access to screening facilities and to specialist support, when necessary, wherever they are located.

While the number of staff utilizing Wellness services, including staff counselling, continues to grow, ensuring all employees know about the support that is available and how to access it remains a priority.



ACRONYMS

AA	Anticipatory Action	LRFPF	Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy
AAP	Anticipatory Action Plan	MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Aid	MT	Metric Ton
CBT	Cash Based Transfers	NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
CERF	United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund	NOURISH	Nutrition Outcome Response and Information System Hub
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework	NSR	National Single Registry
CSP	Country Strategic Plan	OEV	Office of Evaluation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	PLHIV	People living with HIV
DRR	Disaster Risk and Reduction	PNSP	Productive Safety Net Programme
EAP	Early Action Protocol	PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts	RBN	Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa – Nairobi
ESR	Enhanced Single Registry	RUSF	Ready to Use Supplementary Food
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets	SFSP	Sudan Family Support Program
FSQ	Food Safety and Quality	SIIE	Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia
GALS	Gender Action Learning Systems	SMC	School Meals Coalition
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	SNF	Specialized Nutritious Foods
GPE	Global Partnership for Education	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
HOA	Horn of Africa	UNCBPF	United Nations Country-Based Pooled Funds
GBV	Gender Based Violence	UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
HGSF	Home Grown School Feeding	UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
GPE	Global Partnerships for Education	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IDP	Internally Displaced People	USD	United States Dollar
IFI	International Financial Institution		
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross		
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development		
ILO	International Labour Organization		
LODA	Local Administrative Entities Development Agency		

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