



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**

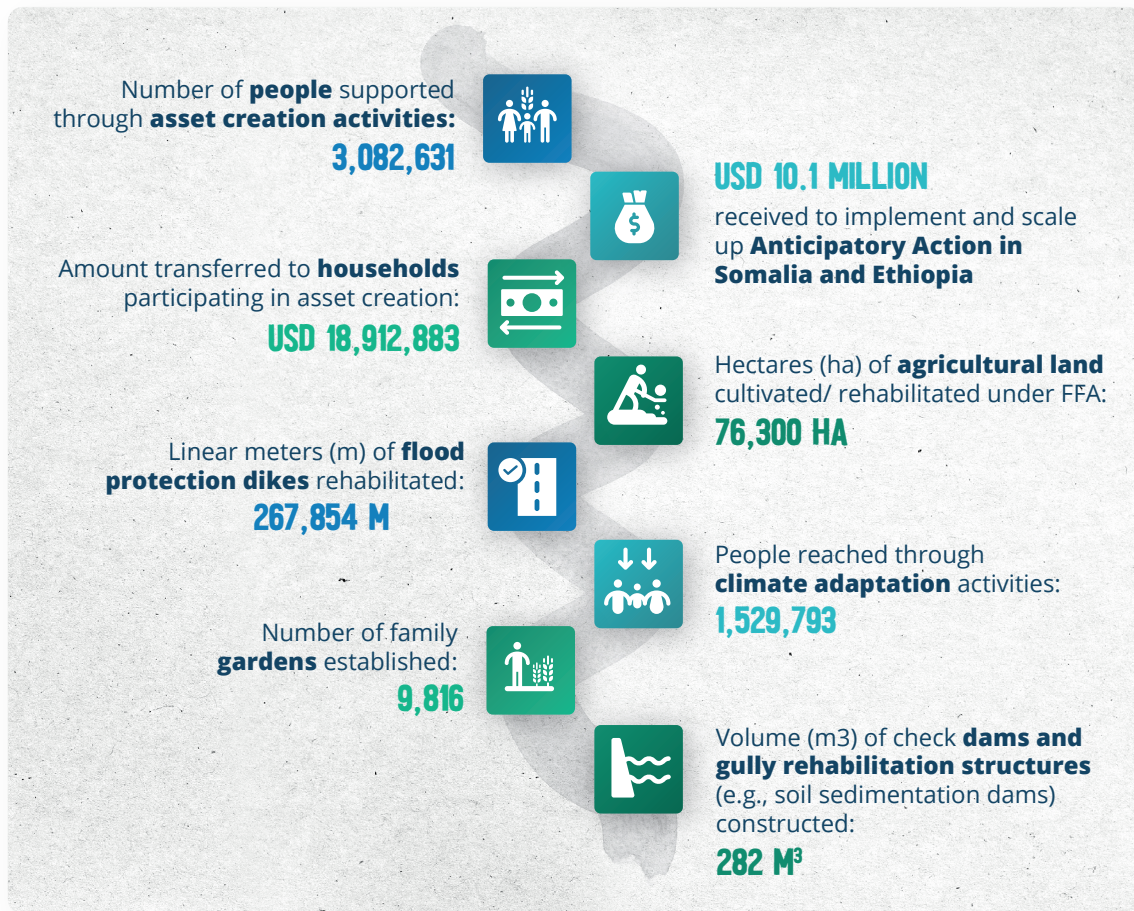
Food Systems

2022 Regional **Achievements and Outlook**

April 2023

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.



WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

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.

A) 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 Action 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**

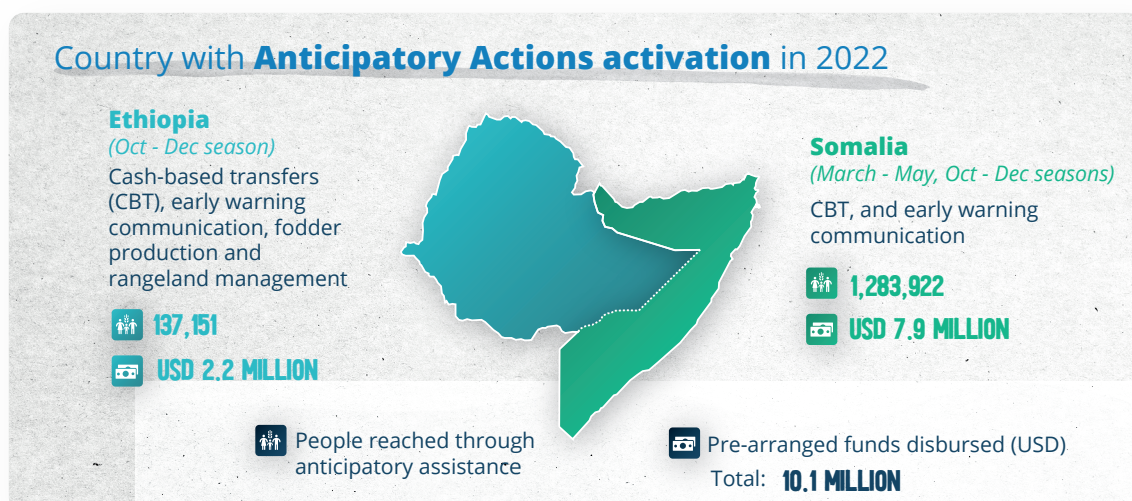
1. Development of Anticipatory Action Plans

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.



A) 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.

B) 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.



WFP/Michael Tweide

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 (PASSAGE)** 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). PASSAGE will be implemented through partnership among 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.



B) 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 safety 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.

C) 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.



D) 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.



WFP/Alessandro Abbonizio

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.



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