ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

Multiple innovative partnerships to face down a global crisis
2022 IN NUMBERS

160M people reached with life-saving and life-changing food assistance

Over 120 countries and territories with WFP presence

More than 28M people supported through malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes

53% of beneficiaries were women and girls

US$14.1BN in contributions

US$3.3BN in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers

4.8M metric tons of food distributed

88 countries supported through national social protection systems and programmes

23,266 WFP employees worldwide* (87% field-based) [At year-end]
As WFP entered its 60th year of operations, the gap between growing needs and available resources continued to widen, leaving the world facing a tipping point where global food and nutrition needs outstripped the capacity of many countries to prevent excess mortality, secure future stability and build resilient livelihoods. Along with partners, WFP sought to meet this challenge and prevent future shocks from sparking another global food crisis by building on innovations, renewed partnerships and its commitment to excellence.

2022 was the year of the polycrisis. Multiple emergencies overlapped to create the largest and most complex hunger and humanitarian crisis in over 70 years. The economic aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, persistent and escalating conflicts, and the rising number and scale of extreme weather events in what was recorded as the second-warmest year in modern history — with droughts and floods affecting millions in 2022 — combined with the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine to push global food, fuel and fertilizer prices to record highs and spark the worst refugee crisis in a decade.

Needs reached unprecedented levels. Disrupted grain exports from Ukraine threatened to have devastating consequences for many countries already on the brink, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, while lower-income countries faced mounting debt and soaring inflation, with basic food prices becoming prohibitive for many. This resulted in a record 349 million people experiencing acute hunger, with some 772,000 teetering on the edge of famine.

WFP put its Strategic Plan into action by leveraging multiple and wide-ranging partnerships. WFP collaborated with a wide spectrum of partners to deliver emergency food, cash and nutrition assistance, provide logistics services, reinforce national social protection systems, offer climate-adaptive solutions and strengthen the resilience of communities. Working together with governments, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international and local NGOs, international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, academia, think tanks and others, WFP was able to step up and provide vital food and nutrition assistance to nearly 160 million people – a new annual record. In conflict zones, working collectively with the whole UN system, we also successfully negotiated access to provide humanitarian assistance. This helped to prevent food insecurity from reaching catastrophic levels in several countries. This collective effort helped to avert famine in countries such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

Yet, amid pressures to save (even more) lives, WFP and partners also continued to address root causes of hunger, diversifying food security options for the future, building and delivering solutions that seamlessly span the humanitarian, development and climate contexts, and laying down a sustainable pathway to resilience, stability, self-reliance and economic prosperity. This included leveraging national social protection schemes, including school feeding, and strengthening food systems. WFP invested in scalable solutions, working to integrate climate adaptation across its work.
WFP maintained its leadership as a provider of common services for the humanitarian and development community. WFP planes, ships and trucks moved humanitarian supplies and cargo, and more than 390,000 passengers, to hundreds of destinations. At the same time, we continued to adopt a coordinated, scalable and sustainable approach to measure and reduce our environmental impact, in coordination with other humanitarian organizations.

**WFP climate resilience work**

WFP’s experience in managing risks and vulnerabilities through preparedness and early-warning systems meant we could reach over 15 million people, empowering them to prepare for and better mitigate the effects of climate-related shocks. WFP also negotiated microinsurance coverage against losses from weather extremes in 14 countries. Our work in climate resilience was supported through a variety of innovative tools, including remote sensing to predict, map and analyse floods in real time.

WFP leveraged innovations and new ways of working in support of its mandate and the humanitarian sector. WFP’s innovation work spanned its global footprint, as artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotechnology, edge computing and robotics, as well as mainstream innovative products, were deployed in support of our work, reaching over 37 million people worldwide.

**Innovating for humanity**

Our remote-sensing Cloud to Street platform predicts, maps and analyses floods in real time. In 2022, it supported 31 governments and institutions, and enabled the mapping of 169 countries and the monitoring of 500 million people.

School Meal Programme PLUS, an Artificial-Intelligence-powered tool creating school menus that are affordable, nutritious and use locally sourced and culturally acceptable ingredients, reached more than 3 million children in 2022.
2022 also saw unprecedented all-round commitment to turning the tide against hunger. WFP staff, the majority of whom serve in remote and dangerous locations, continued to work with unyielding commitment and dedication. Our steadfast donors and partners, including governments, IFIs, private foundations and individuals, provided a record US$14.1 billion to save lives and stabilize livelihoods, delivering nearly 50 percent more resources than in 2021.

We are truly grateful to all our generous donors in 2022, whose valued support enabled us to reach a record 160 million people. Thanks to innovative fundraising efforts, the private sector became WFP’s fourth-largest donor. However, funding still fell dangerously short of needs, as inflation, supply chain disruptions and other factors increased WFP’s food procurement costs by 39 percent between 2019 and 2022.
Faced with a situation of such magnitude and complexity, stakeholders from across the food and nutrition security sector came together to join forces. Across the globe, WFP works collaboratively with thousands of partners, including governments, the private sector, UN agencies, IFIs and NGOs. Of our 1,000+ NGO partners, 85 percent are local organizations, equipped with long-standing, first-hand knowledge and expertise of the countries and communities we support. By combining and leveraging complementary resources, experience and expertise, our partnerships help us reach the people we serve in the most effective, efficient and tailored manner, reduce costs and find innovative solutions to problems.

**Partnerships in action**

After the eruption of full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022, WFP worked with government authorities and more than 180 humanitarian partners, including local NGOs, to set up operations from scratch and begin distributions in a matter of weeks. Together, we provided food and cash assistance equivalent to 1.3 billion meals to war-affected families, 85 percent of whom were located in areas near the frontlines. More than 18 organizations used WFP’s Building Blocks platform to coordinate cash assistance. The platform uses blockchain technology, which records information in a secure way and can coordinate various humanitarian organizations’ assistance packages.

The savings generated meant that an additional 185,000 people could be reached. Ukraine was one of three countries where Building Blocks was used in 2022, serving in total 4 million people and saving US$3 million in bank fees.

In Sudan, a joint programme with UNICEF sought to provide long-term solutions and address underlying barriers to peace, stability and development for nearly 300,000 vulnerable people. Recent events in the country underline the need for such a collaborative and integrated approach that includes creating sustainable food systems and strengthening community-based networks to address local conflicts and develop trust.
Joint action was key in complex humanitarian scenarios. As conflict, hunger and extreme weather events continued to drive up refugee numbers, support continued to be provided through the UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub, which spans the humanitarian-development spectrum to ensure people can meet their basic food and other essential needs, while at the same time strengthening livelihoods, supporting inclusion and increasing self-reliance. In Mali, the Joint Hub helped improve targeting and community engagement, feedback and appeals.

In many crisis situations, our ability to reach remote and insecure corners of the world came to the fore, enabling us to deliver vital assistance to those most in need. In North Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where all humanitarian operations were previously suspended, WFP was able to operate across conflict lines after humanitarian negotiations by our in-country Security and Access and Humanitarian-Military Interaction teams.

WFP’s logistical strength and expertise was put at the service of the humanitarian community. This allowed a variety of humanitarian actors to continue operating, including in extremely challenging contexts. In 2022, we transported almost 391,000 people from 732 organizations and more than 7,000 metric tons of light humanitarian cargo to 540 destinations, through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot network dispatched 43,900 m³ of relief items and support equipment to 135 countries via five strategically positioned hubs, while the Logistics Cluster provided coordination, information management and access to common services for almost 500 humanitarian partners. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster provided vital technical and information-management support to operations in 11 countries.

WFP and UNHCR set up an independent service – UN FLEET – to help sister UN organizations lease the most appropriate vehicles for their operations and handle procurement, vehicle preparation and shipping. The coordinated approach should cut costs, lower emissions and increase road safety.
Partnering for the future

Along with partners including FAO and IFAD, WFP supported countries in deploying innovative school feeding programmes that also addressed the climate emergency, transformed food systems and reduced the carbon footprint by buying food locally.

Together with UNFPA and UNICEF, we delivered on the Breaking Barriers to Education initiative in Chad and Niger. This addressed key barriers to schooling for girls, by providing fortified school meals and targeted services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence, as well as mentoring and coaching. Over 127,000 children and adolescents were reached in 2022. WFP also strengthened its strategic partnership with Education Cannot Wait: the first global, multilateral fund dedicated to education in emergencies. This included adding school meals as a priority intervention in its new Strategic Plan – paving the way for more financing for programmes in fragile countries. Our partnership with Global Partnership for Education – the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries – saw an increase in its financing for school meals for priority countries, work with WFP on joint advocacy at the global level, and research into new and innovative financing opportunities.
In the face of the multilayered, multidimensional polycrisis at hand, the international community came together to provide a powerful and unified response with practical solutions, placing food and nutrition security at the heart of the global political agenda. The result was compelling and coordinated advocacy for action at the highest level, the like of which the world had rarely seen before.

Black Sea Grain Initiative

Negotiations brokered by the United Nations and Türkiye in July, to resume shipments of Ukrainian and Russian grain and fertilizer into global markets, enabled WFP to transport more than 380,000 metric tons of wheat through various Black Sea ports. A further agreement was struck between the Russian Federation and the United Nations, to send fertilizer from Russian producers to developing countries. The UN Secretary-General asked WFP to transport 20,000 metric tons of fertilizer, produced by the Russian company Uralchem and donated to the Government of Malawi, in November 2022. WFP is immensely grateful to the many donors who stepped up with swift and unwavering support to generously fund the additional purchase, transport, programme and distribution costs, so that WFP could reach those in need through the grain initiative.
G7 leaders meeting in Germany in June 2022 agreed an additional US$4.5 billion to protect the world’s most vulnerable people from hunger and malnutrition. Further support came from the Global Alliance for Food Security – an alliance jointly convened by the G7 Presidency and the World Bank Group to catalyse an immediate and concerted response to the unfolding global hunger crisis – which launched a Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard in November to fast-track a rapid response.

WFP’s efforts to ensure the effective functioning of food supply chains across its broader operations, in response to the global challenges linked to the war in Ukraine, received a major boost in July 2022, following the approval of a decision by World Trade Organization Member States to exempt our humanitarian food purchases from export restrictions.

Political will was also stepped up in climate action. In a significant development, and after decades of advocacy, world leaders attending the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt in November agreed to establish a loss and damage fund to compensate vulnerable countries on the frontlines of the climate crisis. With a multi-nation committee due to report back to COP28 in December 2023 on how the fund will be developed, WFP will advocate for solutions that protect local communities and assist them in avoiding dependence on debt or repeated assistance.

**Grand Bargain shows its value with cash model**

WFP joined forces with donors, NGOs, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and other UN agencies, to develop a cash coordination model that will enhance the effectiveness of this vital component of social protection. The approach – born out of The Grand Bargain between large donors and organizations for improved humanitarian action – includes greater involvement of national and local groups in cash programmes, and closer involvement of, and accountability to, crisis-affected people. A global Cash Advisory Group including WFP was created to support country-level cash working groups transitioning to the new model by March 2024, with OCHA and UNHCR as Secretariat.
National governments were front and centre in driving activities to curb hunger and promote development in their countries. In support of this, IFIs stepped up as fundamental players. At the start of 2022, IFIs joined forces to announce an action plan to help combat rising food insecurity. Institutions including the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pledged to bring their financing, policy engagement, technical assistance and knowledge to address the rapidly escalating crisis, in a fast-tracked and scaled-up approach. In May, the World Bank announced a US$30 billion food and nutrition security package, including US$12 billion for new projects to respond to the food crisis. This was in addition to US$748 million previously set aside to address needs mainly in crisis hotspots. In September, the IMF approved a temporary Food Shock Window – under its emergency financing instrument, the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument – with additional funds for countries facing urgent balance-of-payment issues.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS LEAD ON RESPONSE EFFORTS
National governments recognized WFP’s value added in the humanitarian and development space, in addressing hunger and malnutrition. Governments chose WFP to implement US$647 million worth of agreements with IFIs. More than 80 percent of these were for crisis response, though the activities themselves demonstrated how WFP’s expertise spans the humanitarian and development spectrum. In total, WFP signed US$1 billion in contributions and service provision agreements from IFI sources in 2022 – compared with US$20 million in 2019.

Somalia was among the top ten government donors to WFP activities. Using US$135 million from the World Bank, the Government and WFP reached 183,000 rural families with nutrition-linked cash transfers – to be expanded to a further 20,000 urban families in 2023 – and provided emergency cash transfers to 155,000 drought-affected families. The principal recipients of all cash transfers under the Government-led Baxnaano safety net were women, who received their money through digital payments. This commitment to economic empowerment and financial inclusion resonated with WFP’s drive to support the unleashing of women’s economic power as the best way to achieve gender equality and lift millions of people out of poverty and food insecurity.

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**Government of Pakistan and WFP work together for better mother and child nutrition**

In Pakistan, we partnered with the Government to address high levels of mother and child malnutrition, which had been compounded by the impact of mega-monsoon rains and extreme heatwaves on food production and availability. WFP worked through the national social safety net to deliver an integrated package of nutritious food, health, supplementary cash and other support. The Government provided WFP with US$204 million to implement the multi-year programme, with an aim to reach 1.7 million women and children over the next three years. WFP also worked through the national social safety net, in collaboration with other UN agencies and partners, to deliver additional health and nutrition services and ensure a coordinated, multisector approach. By December 2022, the project had been implemented through 247 facilitation centres in 102 districts.
National governments also increasingly recognized the importance of school feeding for their countries’ development and economic perspectives. They were active players in school feeding, with low-income countries receiving WFP technical assistance increasing their domestic funding for school meals from 27 percent in 2020 to 41 percent in 2022. WFP support enabled governments to assist 107 million children through national programmes.

In Rwanda, WFP helped the Government design and roll out a national programme that was supporting 3.8 million children by 2022, up from 640,000 two years earlier. This resulted in the Government meeting early a 2021 commitment to achieve universal school meals coverage within two years. In Honduras, where COVID-19 and drought worsened malnutrition levels, WFP supported the Government in reviving the national school meals programme to reach 1.3 million children. In Benin, WFP’s support meant that 70 percent of the food bought for school meals was locally grown.
The School Meals Coalition

A prime example of strategic partnership in action, the Coalition grew to 74 countries and 76 partner organizations during its first full year. It was supported by over 80 stakeholders including major UN agencies and development partners. With WFP as Secretariat, the country-led coalition increased global investment in school meals from US$43 billion in 2020 to US$48 billion in 2022 – with 99 percent of that funding coming from national governments’ own budgets. This broad, multilateral approach meant that 418 million children benefited from school meals worldwide – 30 million more than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Strong political will, channelled through the coalition, was key to this resurgence.
The investment made so far in our Private Sector Strategy since 2020 is bearing fruit. Over half a billion dollars was secured this year from the private sector – our highest-ever total and more than double the initial 2022 forecast. The strength of the private sector in driving WFP’s operations with rapid and flexible funds was highlighted in Ukraine, where it represented the second-largest donor of funds. Individuals provided WFP with over US$104 million in 2022, up from US$91 million the previous year. This included US$23.7 million from our ShareTheMeal app and US$8.9 million from high net-worth individuals.

PRIVATE SECTOR STEPS UP WITH VITAL RESOURCES

The role of the private sector as a key development partner is particularly relevant in the nutrition space. WFP’s efforts to mobilize and engage with the sector include acting as co-convenor of the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Business Network, whose over 1,500 business members (predominantly small- and medium-sized enterprises) are committed to addressing malnutrition through their business models.
and practices. WFP also advocates for business engagement in support of national nutrition priorities.

Strategic private partnerships also allowed us to increase funding for, and the impact of, our programmes and operations. Taste and nutrition company Kerry Group worked with WFP to support vulnerable dairy farmers in Burundi, equipping them with skills to increase production and incomes, while improving nutrition in schools and communities. By the end of 2022, Kerry had helped train hundreds of farmers in Burundi’s Gitega province, while unlocking regular access to nutritious, locally sourced milk for 3,100 schoolchildren.
Renewing and nurturing long-standing partnerships is crucial for sustaining resources and innovative approaches for impact. WFP's 15-year partnership with the health, nutrition and bioscience company Royal DSM was renewed for a further three years, to continue a global scale-up of WFP's fortification programmes – one of the most scientifically proven and cost-effective ways of tackling micronutrient deficiencies on a large scale, which WFP is implementing in 40 countries. Partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, WFP leveraged national social protection to promote the in-country fortification agenda in Ethiopia through a US$5 million grant. At the end of 2022, we also welcomed a US$10.7 million grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to help vulnerable children in Benin, Ghana, Honduras and India gain better access to nutritious food through school meal programmes – including through a focus on fortified foods.

Further forms of sustainable and innovative financing were essential as needs continued to escalate and funding struggled to keep pace. Pioneering mechanisms deployed by WFP include SheCan, which combines crowdfunded capital from individual “impact” lenders with WFP's donor funds to finance microloans that drive women’s economic empowerment. The model was launched in Zambia, Rwanda and Peru, where it reached more than 10,000 people.
Partnering for a greener WFP

In support of WFP’s efforts to increase the environmental sustainability of its operations, global packaging and paper company Mondi helped enhance the packaging used in our humanitarian programmes, so we could deliver more safe and nutritious food to more people in need, while preventing food loss and waste and curbing our carbon footprint.
Rolling back a global food and nutrition crisis of this magnitude requires continued, intensive and collective action and political will. This is a multilayered crisis that demands a multidimensional response, involving smart, agile and intelligent coordination among all parties. Only in this way can we mitigate the impact of conflicts, address the climate crisis, keep food commodities moving freely and support national governments in putting the right safety nets in place.

The disastrous impacts of climate, conflict, rising costs and economic instability on the global food security situation are here to stay. The existing depth of political support and engagement for rapid and effective action must be carried forward, including advocacy at the highest levels that provides a voice to people in the most fragile and vulnerable settings.
The cost of failure is millions of people who rely on WFP’s assistance having their only lifeline snatched away. WFP will continue to push for collective solutions and collaborative measures that both enable an impactful response and drive more fundamental change – from negotiating access to insecure areas, to urging political commitment from all parties to peace initiatives and to the climate targets that will be further addressed at COP28 in late 2023. WFP knows it can count on the continuing assistance of our long-standing donors, but will work relentlessly to identify and secure new funding opportunities.

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The role of national governments will be crucial. They should be further encouraged to prioritize actions that meet people's immediate food and nutrition needs, with IFIs continuing as vital partners who can help finance the national programmes required for sustainable change. WFP stands ready to further support these efforts, using six decades of experience and global reach to help implement programmes that also build resilience and arrest the destructive cycle of recurring hunger.

Partnerships, efficiency and innovation will continue to be our guiding stars. To repel this historic tide of hunger, WFP will continue to work hand-in-hand with UN agencies and NGOs, Member States and actors from across multiple sectors. We will seek efficiency gains at each turn, so that every single dollar goes as far as possible. We will seek new donors, increasing private sector funding as well as alliances with companies equipped with the technology to make our humanitarian operations as cutting edge and efficient as possible, building on an innovation culture that fully harnesses the power of science and data. We will further continue leading from the front in strengthening
real-time analysis of hunger and vulnerability, achieving the highest standards of funds stewardship and accountability, and managing the vast logistics services required to move humanitarians and cargo to wherever they are required, including in the most remote and fragile environments.

Food security is the bedrock of any successful strategy to reduce poverty and support sustainable development. It is not enough to postpone famine. We need to banish it by working in unison to address the underlying causes of hunger and by equipping communities and countries with the means to emerge from poverty and harness their vast human capital and potential. Working together and in partnership, we can consign this global food and nutrition crisis to history and chart a path to a world with zero hunger.
We are hugely grateful to all of the donors and partners who put their trust in WFP and enabled us to reach more people than ever, during a year of extraordinary challenges. Thank you.

Figures in brackets represent flexible funding within overall total.
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Order of donors by total contribution

* Excluding CERF
People seek refuge from heavy monsoon rains that struck Pakistan from mid-June. Hundreds of thousands of people were left without access to food, clean water, shelter or basic healthcare. WFP/Haris Khalid

Mariam receives a monthly WFP food basket containing wheat flour, vegetable oil and pulses, as part of WFP's food assistance to nearly 13 million people in Yemen. WFP/Ahmed Basha

Olena receives a WFP food box from a Ukrainian Red Cross volunteer in Druzhkivka city, Donetsk oblast. WFP partnered with the Ukrainian Red Cross to distribute food boxes to approximately 1,500 war-affected people each month in Druzhkivka. WFP/Antoine Vallas

Alina and her daughters Milana, aged 5, and Violette, 1, outside their home in Chernihiv, Ukraine, which was damaged by a missile strike. She receives food vouchers from WFP so the family can afford to eat, with food prices rising 22 percent since last year. WFP/Antoine Vallas

Children queue for lunch at Gudele West Primary School in South Sudan. WFP's school meals allow children to learn and perform better, broadening their educational opportunities. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

The WFP-chartered MV Antheia carries wheat grain from the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk to the Turkish port of Samsun, for milling into wheat flour and onward transport to WFP operations in Afghanistan. Such shipments were made possible by the Black Sea Grain Initiative. WFP/Turkish Government

A woman receives cash assistance at a camp for internally displaced persons in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. WFP/ Michael Castofas

Ayan attends the WFP-funded Kabasa Health Center for a check-up of her 15-month-old daughter Mushtaq and to pick up nutritional supplements. Ayan and her family fled to Dolow in Somalia to escape Al-Shabaab and unrelenting drought. WFP/Samantha Reinders

Abdul and Hajani Sattar with their children Abdul Jabba, 12, Muhammad Umer, 3, og Sawira, 5, and baby Shaikila, 40 days old. The family, from the Sindh province of Pakistan, receive money under the BISP Nahonuma programme, which they spend on food and clothes for their children. WFP/Marco Frattini

Students enjoy a hot meal at a public elementary school in Fingninkanmè, Benin, as part of WFP school-meal activities. The school was one of five to receive almost 3 metric tons of maize provided by Gbenonkpo smallholder farmers’ cooperative. WFP/Richard Mbouet

WFP staff check off milk cartons in Burundi, where WFP school meals include a strong emphasis on sourcing locally from smallholder farmers. WFP/Arrete/Fredrik Lerneryd

In Syria, Tara eagerly eats lunch with her parents and brother at their home in Latakia. WFP/ Lina Alqassab

Boxes of high-energy biscuits are carried across the Bandarban Sangu River in Bangladesh. WFP provided support to the Government with at-home biscuit distributions for Bangladeshi children, while school were closed during the COVID-19 outbreak. WFP/Sayed Asif

Hason Ara Begum, a participant in WFP's livelihoods programme for the host community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, prepares an eggplant curry lunch with vegetables collected from her farm. WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

Deborah Suc (right), who belongs to the Poqomchi' people and is currently a field technician, works with local communities in the municipality of San Cristóbal, department of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. WFP/Nelson Pacheco

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