

WFP's resilience programmes are part of the solution to the global food crisis. In the context of recurrent humanitarian emergencies, building resilience and strengthening food systems helps address the root causes of hunger, reduces humanitarian needs and improves livelihoods.



CHANGING LIVES



Building resilience and fixing food systems to achieve zero hunger

THE CHALLENGE

Today, as many as 828 million people are facing hunger worldwide. A record 349 million people across 79 countries are confronted with acute food insecurity. Ecosystem degradation, conflicts, economic shocks, climate extremes and soaring fertilizer prices are creating a food crisis of unprecedented proportions, deepening the vulnerability of already fragile populations and reversing recent development gains.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We must act now to invest in solutions that reduce humanitarian needs and contribute to food security and nutrition, stability and peace for all. The alternative is an uncertain future for millions of people.

It is proven that resilience programming can reduce the impact of humanitarian crises.

A USAID study – focussed on droughts in the Horn of Africa – estimates that US\$1 invested in resilience and early response saves US\$3 in emergency relief.

In Niger, half a million people who had benefited from previous WFP integrated resilience activities did not require food assistance when severe drought struck in 2022. Evidence suggests they had become resilient enough to face climate shocks without external support.

Strengthen partnerships and collaboration

Partnerships are vital for impactful and sustainable programmes, since no single actor alone can build resilience across all sectors of society. WFP works in partnership with governments, the private sector, NGOs and other UN agencies – in particular FAO, IFAD and UNICEF – to reinforce each's other impact.

WFP has created the Livelihoods Assets & Resilience Academy, to bring together a network of African Universities and build a critical mass of national and regional resilience

DRIVERS OF VULNERABILITY SHOCKS AND STRESSORS



WFP's contribution to resilient food systems

Contributions of key stakeholders to resilient food systems (governments, private sector, associations/NGOs, UN, academia)

experts who can share their knowledge and skills within their own communities.

Scale up integrated resilience programmes

Building resilience effectively and achieving sustainable change requires integrated programmes – a set of activities that are multi-year, multi-disciplinary, adaptable to the context, flexible enough to accommodate resources as they become available, and scalable.

In many countries, WFP's assets creation and livelihood activities (Food Assistance for Assets [FFA] and Food Assistance for Training [FFT]) are the foundations of integrated resilience programmes. They combine assistance that can address immediate food needs with activities to restore productive assets and community infrastructure – including rehabilitating degraded lands back to their agricultural potential, agroforestry, and skills training, among others. Asset creation – such as soil and water conservation, irrigation, planting trees to protect communities from extreme weather events or building infrastructure – helps communities prevent, absorb and adapt to shocks. It simultaneously improves food production and creates jobs. However, FFA's full potential is really achieved in combination with other programmes involving support to farmers, school meals, nutrition

prevention and treatment, social protection, anticipatory actions and institutional capacity strengthening, among others.

Building resilient food systems

It is not always possible to introduce several programmes at once. In fragile contexts, an entry point may involve strengthening weaknesses along the food system to make them more flexible and adaptable to shocks. In addition to FFA and FFT, further support to smallholder farmers and local food procurement are two of our approaches.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS)

Making a food system more resilient involves protecting, recovering or strengthening critical parts of the food journey. We help smallholder farmers, men and women, to increase their productivity and incomes by connecting them to markets, improving their bargaining power through aggregation, helping them adopt regenerative practices, promoting indigenous and climate resilient crops, helping them adopt regenerative practices, promoting indigenous and climate resilient crops and reducing their post-harvest losses.

Procure locally

Local and regional food procurement can be

FFA ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



Almost 10 million people benefited from FFA and FFT programmes in **52 countries**



232,000 hectares of land rehabilitated



6,500 water ponds (ponds, shallow wells, weirs, dams) constructed or rehabilitated



3,700 kilometers of feeder roads constructed or repaired



114 bridges and culverts constructed or repaired



115,000 social and community infrastructure constructed or rehabilitated

used to inject money into local economies, while reducing the costs of humanitarian operations, supporting local markets and food systems, and reducing import dependencies. In 2022, WFP locally procured more than 2.2 million metric tons of food – 50 percent of the total we bought worldwide.

WHY WFP?

WFP's global footprint means we are perfectly placed to implement resilience solutions at scale. In 2022, we reached 160 million people – of whom 85 million were women and girls – and had a presence in over 120 countries and territories. WFP has unrivalled expertise and experience in responding to rapid and slow-onset disasters, and can facilitate a transition between humanitarian response and development assistance. Our presence in fragile contexts gives WFP a comparative advantage, given the scarcity of development partners in many of the remote locations where we operate.

1 Demonstrated experience in designing and implementing solutions for achieving food security in the long term

WFP takes a long-term view that combines humanitarian intervention and development at all levels of the food system: from preserving the natural-resource base – soil and water – to food production, value chains, markets and consumption. Additionally, we have extensive experience in preparedness, establishing early-

warning and anticipatory-action systems and safety nets to safeguard development gains in the face of shocks. WFP's role in transition and development contexts is informed by, and aligned to, local contexts, policies and strategies of countries benefiting from our assistance. This often includes requests from local governments made specifically to WFP, to shift from emergency assistance to longer-term solutions.

2 To date, WFP has carried out resilience programmes in dozens of countries where we operate

In Malawi, integrated resilience activities have reached more than 530,000 people, indirectly benefiting entire communities. Landscapes have been restored, access to water has improved and agricultural production has diversified, as have income sources. Over 20 million trees have been planted, and 42,000 hectares of degraded land have been rehabilitated since 2017. An independent evaluation confirmed that WFP interventions had helped communities adapt to a changing climate and allowed them to break out of the cycle of hunger. The number of participants depending on humanitarian assistance had decreased by 60 percent, while some 95 percent of respondents reported higher crop production. Nine out of ten felt better prepared to face natural disasters.

3 Putting governments and communities in the driver's seat for maximum impact, including in scale-up and

sustainability

WFP uses a “[Three-Pronged Approach](#)” for designing, planning and implementing resilience programmes. This means working with governments and communities, and building new multi-stakeholder partnerships by joining forces with other UN agencies, technical experts and communities to design locally tailored solutions for resilience. To design multi-year, multi-sectorial plans, we look at how our actions can complement national government and partner strategies. We help strengthen national capacity to manage disaster risks, and work directly with local research institutions. Communities are at the heart of our asset-creation programmes, as we use a “from the bottom up” tool to ensure they have a strong voice in setting priorities and ownership in implementing and managing the assets created.

4

Ability to deliver emergency responses and connect them to development, along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

WFP is present in the most fragile contexts and, from the onset of emergencies, can connect responses to recovery and beyond, promoting long-term solutions that build resilience, help reduce the need for humanitarian assistance, and create a strong foundation for peace by reducing social tensions. This can be seen in our ongoing Integrated Resilience Programme in the Sahel. According to a recent study by the International Food Policy Research Institute, WFP’s resilience activities facilitated gender dialogue, contributed to women’s empowerment and reduced migration.

INTEGRATED RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL

SINCE
2018

 **5 COUNTRIES**
Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali,
Mauritania and Niger

more than **220,300** HECTARES 
REHABILITATED

IN
2022

almost **3M** 
PEOPLE
reached

more than **860** INTEGRATED
RESILIENCE SITES 

BOOSTING RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL 8 KEY OUTCOMES

1. Stable or improved food consumption despite various shocks and stressors
2. Improved access to key natural resources like land and water
3. Better protection against climate hazards and restored environments
4. Healthier and more diverse diets
5. School feeding as an incentive to keep children at school
6. Reduction of daily hardships and improved access to basic social services
7. Improved social inclusion, empowering women and youth
8. A buffer to instability and strengthened social cohesion

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