



TAHA LAYLA OMAR
SARWA KHALED THERESE
OMAR DMITRO IANINA NISREEN
OFIK MONA LAYLA HUDA
AYŞENUR LIZA MANSOUR

RAYS OF HOPE

16 STORIES OF PEOPLE
WFP HELPED IN 2023

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTHERN AFRICA
AND EASTERN EUROPE



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP REACHED

36.6 MILLION

BENEFICIARIES
IN MENAEE IN 2023

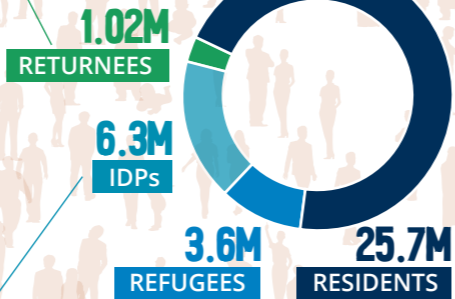


USD 3 BILLION

EXPENDITURES
IN 2023

52%
FEMALE
48%
MALE

BENEFICIARIES
REACHED BY RESIDENCE
STATUS



BENEFICIARIES REACHED
BY PROGRAMME AREA

- 31.9M UNCONDITIONAL RESOURCE TRANSFERS
- 1.9M TREATMENT OF MALNUTRITION
- 34,000 SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURAL MARKET SUPPORT PROGRAMMES
- 4.7M SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMES
- 2.1M PREVENTION OF MALNUTRITION
- 500,900 ASSET CREATION AND LIVELIHOODS
- 137,400 ACTION TO PROTECT AGAINST CLIMATE SHOCKS

Read more about
WFP operations in
MENAEE in 2023 [here](#)



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WFP ARMENIA



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WFP EGYPT



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WFP ALGERIA



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WFP IRAN



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WFP EGYPT



16

WFP JORDAN



14

WFP IRAQ



18

WFP LEBANON



20

WFP LIBYA



22

WFP MOLDOVA



24

WFP PALESTINE



26

WFP SYRIA



28

WFP TUNISIA



30

WFP TÜRKIYE



32

WFP UKRAINE



34

WFP YEMEN

WFP ALGERIA

ELECTRONIC CASH TRANSFERS FOR WOMEN

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is always looking for ways to improve food delivery to those most in need. At the long-established refugee camps near the town of Tindouf in south-west Algeria, thousands in the community are dependent on WFP's assistance to cover their daily food needs.

At the refugee camps, WFP introduced and scaled-up the use of electronic vouchers to ensure more efficient distribution of food to pregnant and breastfeeding women (paper-based records were replaced by a new digital system). These women who are now enrolled on WFP corporate system SCOPE (Support for Cash Operation) and received PIN-protected smart cards preloaded with e-vouchers.

But how does it work? The system is implemented through the whole assistance cycle, from the recording of the beneficiary in the platform to their voucher activation and the redemption at retailer's level. Both health centers and contracted retailers have terminals called mobile point of sale (MPOS) to record the transactions and the purchase of food items. WFP staff are also able to monitor closely the overall levels of activity on the SCOPE platform to ensure that the distribution programme is working effectively.

The automation of the process streamlined the distribution to beneficiaries, as well as the follow up and payment to retailers. **The current use of the electronic voucher has also increased the choice to beneficiaries on how and when to redeem their assistance following the consumption preferences.** So how are beneficiaries finding the new system? So far, after the scale-up from paper to electronic vouchers by WFP team, the response has been very positive.

Ghalia El-Haj Haboob lives in the Boujdour camp, which is the only home she's ever known. Now her three children are growing

up there too. Life in the camps isn't easy. The harsh and isolated desert environment limits work and other economic opportunities, leaving women like Ghalia highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. Despite almost 40 years of uninterrupted assistance, some 30 percent of the camp population are food-insecure.

Helping to tide Ghalia and her family by the equivalent of US\$19 in monthly cash assistance, WFP targeted some 8,600 pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Tindouf area. The money — via electronic payment, or e-cards that are topped up every month — allows the women to buy the food they need in 61 contracted shops that are spread across the five camps.

Before the e-card, Ghalia received paper vouchers that she could exchange for food in the camp shops. The system transitioned to electronic payments, as part of an effort to make WFP's assistance to Sahrawi refugees simpler and more efficient.

That's happened through WFP's corporate beneficiary enrollment system known as SCOPE, which removes much of the administrative overhead. This new way of working has also increased people's choice in how and when they can redeem their assistance, according to their own preferences.

"It's much better than the paper vouchers, it's very practical," says Ghalia, who was initially worried the system wouldn't work. "I just have to present the card to the shopkeeper to get the food I need."

[Read more about WFP in Algeria in 2023 here](#)

The shopkeepers in the camps are happier too. "Everything is now automated and very efficient," says Deihan Said Nani, who runs a small shop in one of the camps. "All the transactions are recorded centrally through the SCOPE terminal, so we save a lot of time on administration. No more calculations based on lots of paper vouchers!"

Now that everything is done electronically, it's also easier for WFP teams in the country monitor what is being purchased - and intervene when they notice, for example, that few women are buying foods that are

especially nutritious. "I am very grateful to WFP and to all the donors for their continuous generous support," Ghalia says.

WFP's assistance programmes to Sahrawi refugees in Algeria has been made possible with the help of donors like the European Union (through its Humanitarian Aid Department), the US Bureau of Humanitarian Aid (BHA), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).



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"I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO WFP AND TO ALL THE DONORS FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS GENEROUS SUPPORT"

GHALIA

FROM OWNERSHIP TO HANDOVER

With strategic investments and a resolute commitment to assisting the most vulnerable and food insecure, WFP in Armenia brings together people, communities and institutions to design and implement effective food security solutions. **WFP follows a partnership approach that emphasizes co-creation, co-financing, innovation and shared implementation responsibilities.** In 2023, this resulted in the handover of a transformative school meals programme, which after long-term support by WFP, is now being financed and implemented by the government, reaching more than 100,000 school children every year with healthy and nutritious meals.

Another example is the 'food card' developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and other ministries. In 2023, WFP reached nearly 7,000 people with the food card with very positive feedback. The food card functions like a regular debit card but is restricted for purchase of food and it cannot be cashed. This enables WFP to provide dignified assistance, allowing beneficiaries to purchase their own food, while also supporting the local economy. The food card is not designed solely for WFP, instead, the objective is that it will be handed over to the government as a national social assistance modality targeting food insecurity and malnutrition.

The impact of the food card is reflected upon by Ofik, an 80-year-old grandmother residing in Charentsavan, a town where one in four families grapples with food insecurity. **Ofik became the face of hope when she received a WFP food card, describing it as "a big help" that afforded her the dignity to choose healthy options. In her words, "Someone extending a hand means the world to people like me. Little things matter — they bring hope and show that we are not alone in this big world."**

As winter approaches, Ofik's gratitude echoes through her community, where WFP's support has not only provided immediate food assistance but also accelerated economic transformation. Recognizing the untapped potential for agricultural development, WFP, hand-in-hand with local communities, addressed challenges faced by farmers. With limited agricultural land, many struggled to diversify crops and enhance profitability. Enter Angela Hovhannisyanyan, a female farmer whose life changed with WFP's initiative. **"We knew our land could be good for growing beans. WFP gave us high-quality seeds and taught us how to farm better. Now we can grow more crops and sell them for more money," she exclaims.**

Yervand Malunts, the Administrative Head of Khndzoresk village, expresses gratitude for WFP's investment, saying, **"Investing in the community and bringing in new machinery gave our people hope for the future."** WFP's engagement in Syunik is comprehensive and includes provision of high-quality seeds and drip irrigation to over 400 smallholder farmers, 52 percent of which were women. But these farmers were not passive recipients; they are active leaders and participants. WFP support was not a mere handout; it's a story of ownership and responsibility. Farmers, armed with new-found knowledge and resources, are making substantial profits, inspiring neighboring farmers to explore modern technologies. It's a ripple effect of empowerment and success, resonating far beyond the fields.

Ofik is one of **69,291** beneficiaries reached by WFP in Armenia in 2023

Read more about WFP in Armenia in 2023 [here](#)

"THEY BRING HOPE AND SHOW THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS BIG WORLD."

OFIK



NAVIGATING THE SUDAN CRISIS

The Sudan crisis which erupted on 15 April 2023 has brought about political turmoil, and financial insecurity, compelling a considerable number of people to flee their homes and seek refuge outside their country. Among the destinations sought by those escaping the crisis, Egypt stands out as a primary choice. As a neighboring nation, Egypt has become a host to a growing number of Sudanese people, providing shelter and assistance, to those escaping the ravages of the crisis.

In response to the Sudan Crisis, WFP quickly developed an innovative enrollment tool that transforms the way assistance is provided during crises. Previously, the process of receiving assistance involved prolonged waiting time for beneficiaries to register and provide personal information needed for their entry into the system. **Recognizing the need for a more agile and responsive approach, WFP introduced an enrollment tool that allowed for 21,000 beneficiaries to register and receive their assistance in just three minutes as opposed to a few hours.** Sudanese mostly seek urban settings where the Sudanese community is already formed and therefore, they mostly sought Cairo, Aswan and Alexandria. WFP implemented the emergency cash assistance in these governorates accordingly. In addition to the cash assistance, more than 13,000 people transitioning from Sudan into Egypt received ready-to-eat rations as of June 2023.

The enrolment tool¹ is consistently being used to register more beneficiaries and provides a user-friendly interface and functionalities that redefine the speed at which assistance can reach those who need it. Unlike conventional registration processes that could take weeks, this enrolment tool operates in real-time, ensuring that data is collected, identities are verified, and assistance is provided all in one go. Making use of the adaptable nature of the tool, WFP ensured its accessibility to sister UN agencies and partners. This enabled them

to efficiently and effectively reach the most vulnerable with timely assistance.

Mona, a doctor from Khartoum, shares her experience with the enrolment tool, emphasizing its efficiency: **'It took us about half an hour from entering the room until we got the card. It doesn't take a long time to finalize the registration process using the enrolment tool.'**

Beyond immediate relief, WFP's unrestricted cash assistance contributes to the often-overlooked aspect of humanitarian assistance – its impact on local economies. By allowing individuals to redeem cash assistance in their local markets, WFP's cash assistance becomes a catalyst for economic resilience. It stimulates economic activity, supports local businesses, and fosters sustainable recovery. This approach not only addresses urgent needs but also lays the foundation for long-term community resilience.

Mona is one of **160,000** Sudanese refugees reached by WFP in Egypt in 2023

Read more about WFP in Egypt in 2023 [here](#)



“IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TIME TO FINALIZE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS USING THE ENROLMENT TOOL”.

MONA

IRRIGATING FOR A BETTER LIFE

In Southern Egypt, livelihoods of **90 percent of smallholder farmers depend on the income they make out of cultivating their small plots of land** (of less than 0.4 hectares), generating an average monthly income of EGP 3,000 (USD 97)¹. With diminishing land quality and the effects of climate change, farmers have to resort to over-exploiting water and use of fertilizers to safeguard their agricultural produce, hence their livelihoods. Limited access to vital resources and opportunities, coupled with conservative cultural norms, further restricts the potential of these rural communities, particularly among women.

Previously, irrigation systems in Egypt relied mainly on an open water canal with natural soil, which caused several challenges such as weed overgrowth and extensive loss of water. Farmers also struggled with high diesel consumption and cost, as they operated water pumps for extended hours to overcome water distribution challenges. This, in turn, led to excessive evaporation and leakage of water and in some cases resulted in disputes among farmers in terms of irrigation sequence and the allocation of water for each individual farmer's plot.

Together, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and WFP introduced **at village level modern irrigation techniques that were more efficient and reliable. Mud water canals were lined with cement to minimize water seepage and allow for better control of water distribution.** Pressure pipes were also installed to shield the water from sun exposure, reducing evaporation and protecting the land on both sides of the canal by eliminating leakage issues. This improved the efficiency of the irrigation process and promoted a more sustainable use of water resources and reduced the need for extended operating hours, resulting in significant fuel consumption savings. Enhanced irrigation techniques have also reduced the financial burden faced by

farmers. With these cost-effective measures, farmers have witnessed a decrease in their expenditure on water resources, ultimately leading to improved financial stability and increased profitability.

Furthermore, the installation of a clean water source has been beneficial for the whole community. Previously reliant on questionable water sources, **the improved irrigation systems now ensure a steady supply of clean and safe water for all agricultural needs.** This boosts the overall health and well-being of the community members and plays a crucial role in safeguarding the quality and safety of the produce grown.

Perhaps, one of the most significant impacts of the introduced solution is the resolution of conflicts that once arose over irrigation schedules. With the new irrigation system in place, such conflicts have dissipated, replaced by a sense of cooperation among community members. **The availability of a fair and equitable system for irrigation scheduling has fostered a positive and collaborative environment**, promoting unity among the farmers.

WFP continues supporting farmers by improving the quality of their crops using the latest agricultural techniques and helping them overcome many challenges they have been facing. In Luxor, smallholder farmer Mohamed Kamal says, "the heat always struck and damaged our land and productivity was always very low. Using the new seed varieties helped us improve the quality of our crops. They impacted our land and households." Under WFP and the Government's rural development programme, farmers like Mohamed are empowered with the know-how and resources to increase their production.

The programme, which was initiated in 2013, is implemented through multi-year and multi-donor funding, allowing WFP to remain active in 145 villages. Between July and December 2023, WFP worked in 14 villages, benefiting about 554 smallholder farmers and upgrading 14 canals in 4 governorates.

WFP reached
720,789

beneficiaries in Egypt in the period from July to December 2023

Read more about WFP in Egypt in 2023 [here](#)



HARMONY AMIDST HARDSHIP

In the heart of Bani Najjar refugee settlement in Gotvand city of Khuzestan, Iran, Layla, an Afghan woman in her thirties, found herself navigating the complex tapestry of life as a displaced person.

For over three decades, WFP has stood by and supported vulnerable refugees in the settlements. Layla and her two children were amongst those who found relief and support in the multifaceted approach WFP had crafted, addressing not only immediate food needs but also seeking to empower children by encouraging them to attend school.

Living with her brother after making the difficult decision to leave her husband, who is battling addiction, **Layla's life became intricately tied to the monthly cash transfer from WFP.** This financial support became her lifeline, enabling her to meet the basic needs of two of her children, Mohammad 11 years old, and Elyas, two years old, and secure a measure of stability in their otherwise turbulent lives. The nature of the assistance recognized the diverse challenges faced by refugee families, allowing Layla the flexibility to prioritize her family's most pressing needs using the cash she received.

"I didn't just leave a home; I escaped a cage of despair. Leaving behind an addict husband and domestic abuse; this was the only choice for our survival. **In the uncertainty of starting over, WFP's assistance was more than just food. It was my beacon of hope. I had nothing to feed my children, but I had to leave.**" Layla says with tearful eyes.

WFP's food assistance covers 100 percent of the needs for women-headed households and 80 percent of the daily food needs for food-insecure men-headed households by providing them with in-kind wheat flour, vegetable oil and cash to buy food items through debit cards. WFP's impact extended beyond Layla's

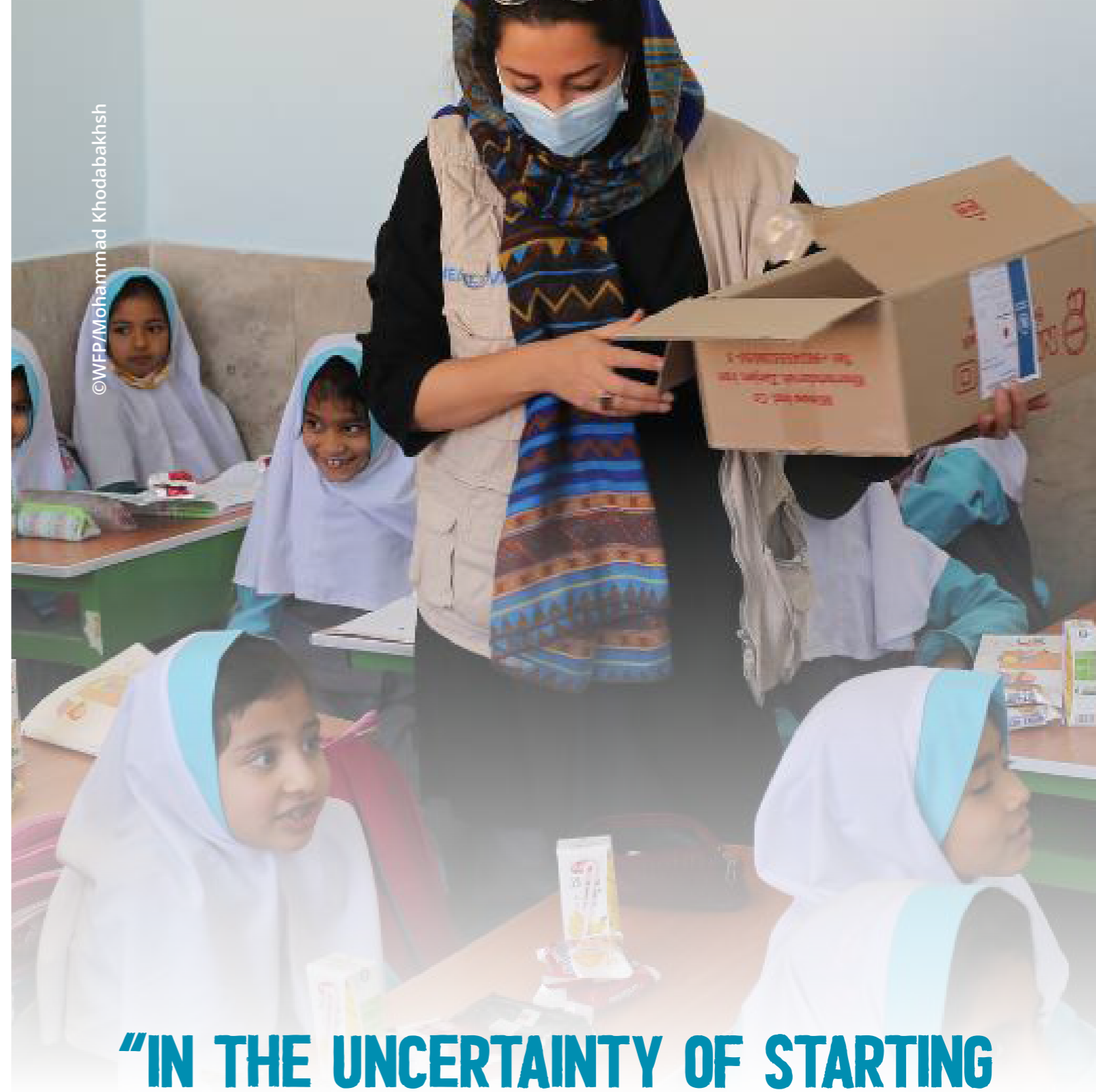
immediate family. Her older son Mohammad attends school with the added benefit of WFP's school feeding programme. The introduction of nutritious school snacks not only incentivized regular attendance but also addressed the critical intersection of education and nutrition.

The school became a sanctuary for Mohammad, who desire to become a teacher, a place where his hunger for knowledge was met with some nourishment. **Layla, despite the challenges she faced, found comfort in knowing that her child was not only receiving an education but also enjoying the nutritional support that came with each school day.**

Confronted with adversity, Layla's narrative stands as a testament to the strong spirit of humanity. The support extended by WFP has not only been a lifeline for Layla and her children but for countless others facing similar challenges.

Layla is one of
43,069
beneficiaries reached
by WFP in Iran in 2023

Read more about WFP in Iran in 2023 [here](#)



"IN THE UNCERTAINTY OF STARTING OVER, WFP'S ASSISTANCE WAS MORE THAN JUST FOOD. IT WAS MY BEACON OF HOPE."

LAYLA

HARVESTING HOPE

In the heart of Salahaldin Governorate in Iraq, a transformative initiative was introduced into the lives of Huda, Taha, and Omar, bringing positive changes to each of them and their families. In 2023, WFP embarked on a project that would breathe life into the fields of small-holder farmers across the region as part of its commitment to empower local communities.

Huda, Taha, and Omar and their families faced the devastating consequences of displacement in 2014 that forced them to leave their home in Ishaqi and relocate within Balad and Kirkuk. Their agricultural practices were disrupted, and their dreams of a thriving farm seemed to fade away. **As they were recovering in the aftermath of conflict, their lives changed when they received a drip irrigation system to help them improve crop irrigation practices.**

With the support of WFP, the three families reclaimed three donums of land: cucumber, cowpea, watermelon, eggplant, and sunflower seeds were sown with determination, symbolizing not only the rebirth of the land with the promise of a vibrant harvest but also the resilience of the community. The drip irrigation system proved to be a game-changer, efficiently utilizing water resources, and mitigating challenges posed by water scarcity and climate change so farmers could cultivate with consistency throughout the year.

As crops flourished under the diligent care of **Huda, Taha, and Omar's families**, the harvest season became a celebration of more than just agricultural success. It marked the restoration of self-sufficiency and financial stability. The income generated from the sale of their produce empowered them to dream beyond the confines of their rehabilitated land.

With new prosperity, the families outlined plans. The dream of rebuilding their homes now stood within reach, and the vision extended to expanding their farming operations. Funds would be directed towards securing resources for the upcoming planting season, ensuring not just food security but a sustainable and flourishing livelihood.

The families acknowledged the pivotal role played by WFP and its donors in pursuing a path toward a future where the seeds of transformation could yield a harvest of hope for generations to come.

Huda, Taha and Omar are three of
687,207
beneficiaries reached
by WFP in Iraq in 2023

Read more about WFP in Iraq in 2023 [here](#)



©WFP/WFP Iraq

'THE HARVEST SEASON BECAME A CELEBRATION OF MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURAL SUCCESS.'

EMBRACING HOPE AMIDST HARDSHIP

For over a decade, Sarwa's life in the Zaatari camp has been about resilience in the face of uncertainty. As a single mother raising two children amidst a sprawling expanse of caravans, her life mirrors the struggles faced by many other Syrian refugees living in the camp.

Reflecting on the past, Sarwa recalls a time when assistance provided more than just the basics for survival. **"We had choices," she reminisces. "We could afford various foods. But today, we carefully pick essentials, hoping they will last until the next assistance arrives."**

The recent reductions in WFP's monthly food assistance have cast a long shadow over Sarwa's family. "It's our main source of sustenance," she says, her voice tinged with concern. "I live in constant fear of a message informing us that assistance might stop due to insufficient funding. Without it, survival feels impossible."

The uncertainty around her children's future is always on Sarwa's mind. **"Their education is my only hope. I push through each day, ensuring they attend school, hoping that one day their education will help them lead a life where they won't have to depend on anyone."**

However, the limitations are evident. "My heart breaks when they ask for fruits—a simple request, yet one I cannot fulfil," Sarwa shares. "They long for an apple or a banana to take to school, but we have none to give."

Sarwa leaves the camp whenever a chance arises for her to work as a daily labourer on agricultural lands near the camp. This additional work offers a glimmer of hope, although temporary, as she strives to supplement the family's income.

The harsh winters bring a new set of challenges. "We struggle to keep warm, expenses skyrocket, and hunger is a constant companion. We're confined to our caravans, trying to make two meals a day suffice for us all."

After living in the camp for over a decade, Sarwa is eager for change. "We wake up each day hoping for a positive shift, a glimpse of a better future," she says. "But despite the hardships, we've learned to adapt."

Amidst the uncertainty, Sarwa emphasizes the importance of sustained support. **"The recent reductions in assistance have hit us hard," she acknowledges. "But thanks to donors, there's still a glimmer of hope. Their ongoing support is a lifeline, reminding us that there's goodness in the world."**

For Sarwa, endurance is key. "I hold onto hope that things will get better. We might be facing unimaginable challenges, but we are strong and resilient. We've learned to navigate this difficult journey, finding comfort in the safety this camp provides."

Her story, mirror that of many others in the Zaatari camp, and is a tale of perseverance in the face of challenges. As she continues to on this journey, Sarwa embodies the resilience of a mother striving to provide for her family despite overwhelming odds.

Sarwa is one of
1,102,608
beneficiaries reached
by WFP in Jordan in 2023

Read more about WFP in Jordan in 2023 [here](#)



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**"BUT THANKS TO DONORS,
THERE'S STILL A GLIMMER
OF HOPE. THEIR ONGOING
SUPPORT IS A LIFELINE ..."**

SARWA

ECHOES OF HOPE

In Lebanon, where the tight grip of regional tensions and economic woes shape daily life, **WFP remains a pillar of support amidst the multiple ongoing crises.** The economic crisis has driven food prices in Lebanese pounds to surge a staggering 201 times in the last four years, with the local currency's depreciation severely impacting the purchasing power of the people.

WFP in Lebanon now extends its assistance to 2.1 million people monthly, reaching over 1.3 Syrian refugees and 840,000 Lebanese, including 86,000 people with disabilities. WFP's commitment goes beyond immediate relief; it aligns with a vision to build resilience for existing social protection systems and leaving behind strengthened national programmes and food systems.

In the bustling streets of Beirut, where echoes of economic struggle now resonate, **Therese**, a sole caretaker for her family of five, shares the impact of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) led by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Monthly cash assistance provides her with a sense of stability. Therese's heartfelt testimony echoes the stark reality faced by many, where the choice between medication and meals is a daily, agonizing dilemma. **"The feeling of going to bed hungry has become all too familiar," confesses Therese.**

The reach of WFP extends to over a million Syrian refugees with cash and food assistance. For those who fled their homes in search of normalcy, this assistance offers a lifeline. **Khaled**, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon, speaks of the importance of this assistance in restoring dignity amidst displacement and uncertainty. **"I care about my children and their future. I want to be there for them as they pursue an education. I don't want them on the streets. They're my only concern. WFP's cash assistance helps me with everything. I use it for food, water, my children's diapers and sometimes to even pay for electricity."**

WFP also collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to provide school meals for 100,000 children. Lebanon, with WFP's support, has joined the global School Meals Coalition, aiming to ensure that every child can receive a healthy and nutritious meal in school by 2030. It's a step toward nurturing not just bodies but also minds. **"WFP provides us with nutritious snacks that include peanuts, fruits, or milk. We were used to having chocolate or chips every day. Now, these snacks help our energy levels at school," says Sleiman**, a student at a WFP-supported public school in the Bekaa Valley.

While food insecurity is projected to rise in the coming months, food parcel distributions have proven to be a lifeline for over 300,000 people. **Alida**, reflecting on the stark change in her once-bustling home, says, **"I was always used to having the house full of people, and I used to love cooking for them; now, gathering the family for a meal has become a luxury."** WFP food distributions help alleviate the burden of food costs and is instrumental in freeing up resources for other essential needs as 57 percent of the minimum wage today in Lebanon goes towards covering food needs.

WFP's impact in the country extends to the grassroots as well, empowering local businesses and farmers through livelihoods programs. **Najla**, the head of "Khayrat Beqaouna," a cooperative supported by WFP says, **"WFP's assistance has significantly enhanced our productivity"**. By fostering collaborations with local farmers, WFP is not just providing assistance; it is aiming to empower the journey from farm to table.

The climate crisis hasn't spared Lebanese farmers either. **"I've been farming for 30 years. It's a family tradition. This summer was the hottest I can remember. Heatwaves hit hard, causing crop losses," says Hussein**, a farmer from Chmestar, Bekaa. **"There's nothing better**

than being a farmer but rising costs of farming essentials drove me to find another job. WFP's assistance helped me buy much-needed fertilizers, ensuring a better harvest."

The voices of Therese, Najla, Alida, Hussein, Sleiman, Khaled, and countless others reflect the complex reality in which WFP currently operates. Their stories are a constant reminder of what WFP aims to achieve; strengthened national programmes that cushion the impact of the crises the country is going through and a resilient food system empowering local communities.

Therese, Najla, Alida, Hussein, Sleiman, Khaled are few of

2,140,255

beneficiaries reached by WFP in Lebanon in 2023

Read more about WFP in Lebanon in 2023 [here](#)

"WFP'S CASH ASSISTANCE HELPS ME WITH EVERYTHING..."

KHALED



AGRITECH – EMPOWERING FARMERS

The southern region of Libya has a rich history as an agricultural hub with abundant natural resources. However, the region's dry and harsh environment, as well as the lack of regular electricity and access to water, make it difficult for communities dependent on agriculture to sustain their livelihoods. In response, WFP continues to implement initiatives to boost local agriculture and raise the standard of living of the local population.

“The electricity is often cut off, and when that happens, the irrigation in the farms stops, leading to a halt in production. This, in turn, leads to dry land and also causes a lot of challenges,” said Abubaker Al-Sunousi, an elderly farmer in Al-Kufra who is visually impaired. “The electricity was cut off for almost six months, and the whole farm was ruined because of the lack of electricity and water,” he added.

In 2022, WFP began piloting the sustainable agriculture project “AgriTech”, which began with an assessment of 700 farms in the towns of Al-Kufra and Al-Rubyana, two oases in southeastern Libya, based on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessment of value chains and added value of agricultural commodities in southern Libya in 2021. Several smallholder farmers were supported with the installation of 25 solar-powered water pumps and four solar-powered cooling containers on their land to improve crop yields.

In 2023, building on the successes of 2022, WFP worked with its local NGO partner and local authorities to scale up the project by installing 15 solar-powered water pumps, four solar-powered cooling containers and two smart irrigation systems using the latest Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in Alkufra, which are also solar-powered and equipped with sensors to monitor temperature, humidity

and soil moisture. Amounting to a 401.1 kWh energy yield, this project represents the largest installation of alternative energy productive assets in Libya.

As a result of these initiatives, more than 100 households and 500 individuals in Al Kufra and Al Rubyana have benefited from improved access to water and storage facilities, and 75 farmers have been trained to improve their skills, ensuring the sustainability of the project.

When asked about his production after the project, **Abubaker said: “The well is now working well since the installation of the solar pump. I used to lose a lot of crops, but that is no longer the case. My production has increased, which has also resulted in better income generation for me and my family.”**

Both municipalities have managed to improve climate adaptation and resilience to shocks and stressors, saving nearly 600 tons of CO2 emissions and 36,000 liters of water per day.

The AgriTech initiative is part of WFP Libya's Livelihoods and Resilience efforts in the South, which aim to improve employability, stimulate economic growth and promote resilient and adaptive agricultural development in the region.

Abubaker is one of
209,118
beneficiaries reached
by WFP in Libya in 2023

Read more about WFP in Libya in 2023 [here](#)



**“MY PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED,
WHICH HAS ALSO RESULTED IN
BETTER INCOME GENERATION FOR
ME AND MY FAMILY”.**

ABUBAKER

MOLDOVA A SAFE HOME FOR DMITRO

Dmitro Polovich, a 23-year-old man from Mykolaiv, is a powerlifting champion from Ukraine, currently residing at **one of 52 Refugee Accommodation Centers (RAC) assisted by WFP, in Chisinau, Moldova.**

Despite weighing only 52 kilos and having an active disability, Dmitro achieved remarkable success in powerlifting within just a year of intensive training. He managed to lift almost 90 kilos, a tremendous feat considering his previous inability to sustain even 2 kilos continuously. Through his participation in multiple competitions, he rose to become a national champion among athletes without disabilities. His training was overseen by Anna Kurkunina, a three-time world powerlifting champion in female competitions. Dmitro is currently training at a gym in Chisinau, receiving online support from Anna, who remains in Ukraine.

In addition to his weight achievements, Dmitro is a skilled IT programmer. As a freelancer, he specializes in video editing and undertakes various IT-related tasks. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support of his mother, Iana (45), who said that Dmitro is strongly organized and committed to everything he does.

Dmitro was diagnosed with a disability when he was a year old. He has two siblings, Maxim, six, and Anastasia, 13, who are also in Moldova, are enrolled in Ukrainian educational institutions and are pursuing their studies online.

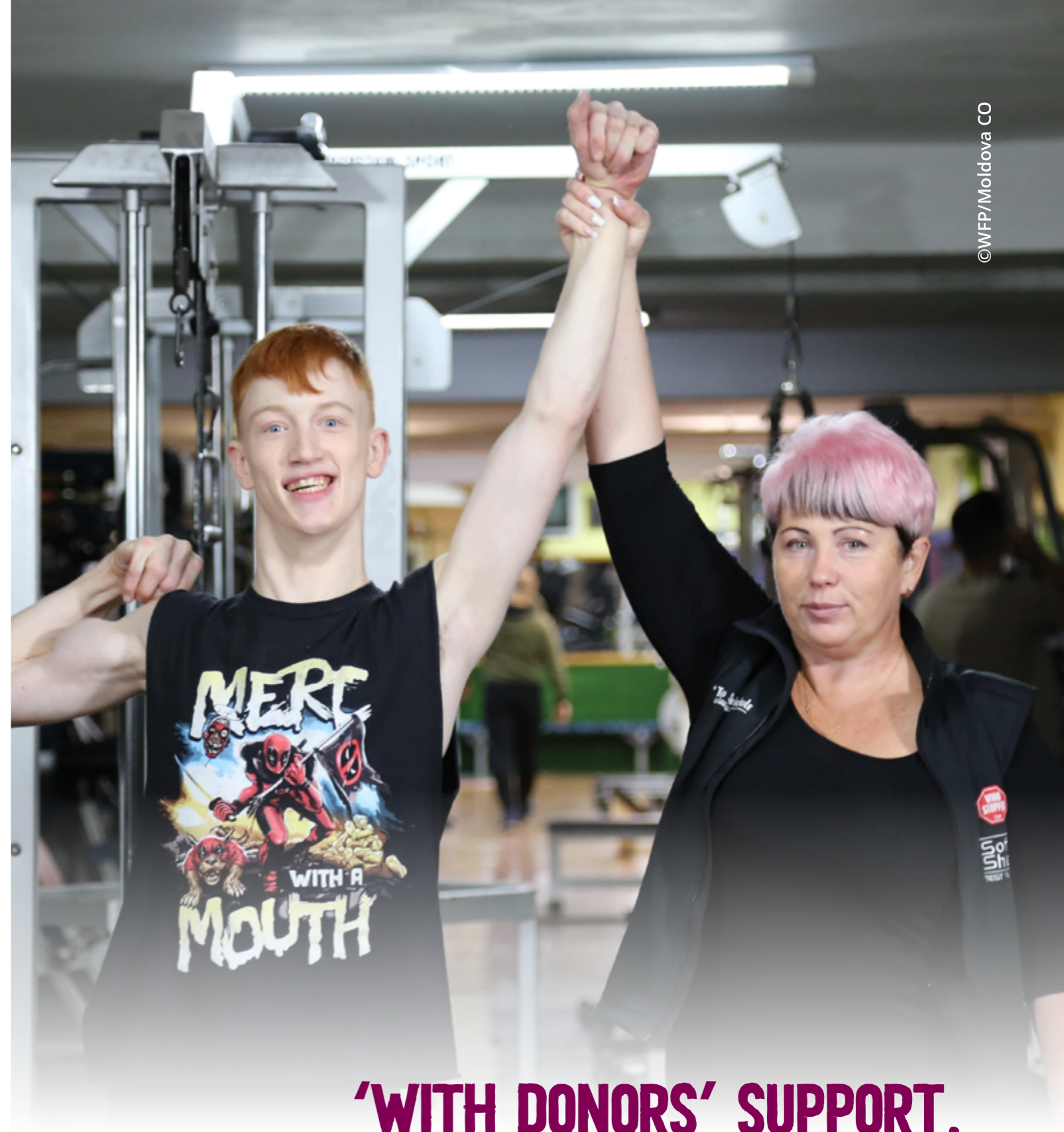
Iana's commitment extended well beyond her family's needs. Faced with the outbreak of war, she left behind her life in Ukraine, arriving at the Refugee Accommodation Center in Chisinau with only two bags. Her primary motivation was to ensure her children's safety. Despite the separation from her husband in Ukraine, she holds onto the hope of reuniting

with him after the conflict subsides, as their bond and love remain strong.

The family with Dmitro benefit from three hot meals provided daily by the RAC. They feel adequately fed with good variety of tasty food and with sufficient portions for each. With donors' support, WFP continues to provide food assistance in RACs across Moldova, making sure that the essential needs of Ukrainians and champions like Dmitro are met so they can face the challenges along the way.

Dmitro is one of **196,806** beneficiaries reached by WFP in Moldova in 2023

Read more about WFP in Moldova in 2023 [here](#)



'WITH DONORS' SUPPORT, WFP CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE IN RACS ACROSS MOLDOVA'

THE YEAR THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN

Bisan lives in a tent in the courtyard of what was a school-turned into a UN-shelter with thousands of people. “I wish the war ends, and never returns. And if we go home, even if it’s destroyed, I wish I can take my belongings from it.”

If she had been asked a few months earlier, her answer might have been different. There is no shortage to a nine-years old wishes. But in Gaza, nothing is the same as it was.

By the end of 2023, an unthinkable war left over a million people displaced, homes destroyed, and Gaza’s entire population in crisis levels of hunger. Immediately, WFP’s response shifted from resilience building to emergency food assistance for thousands of displaced families in UN shelters, informal camps, and within host communities. WFP staff on the ground worked tirelessly despite sharing the same fate of hunger, displacement, and loss as the people they served.

Here is a glimpse into the lives of the Gazans.

Hind, native of Gaza, chronicled life in Gaza for weeks. Below, she shares her story of displacement, the loss of her home, days without food, losing hope and finding it again.

“We have officially run out of food. People in Gaza city do not even have the freedom to search for food. Anyone who moves would be risking their lives.

We are starving. We are trapped. We are under non-stop explosions, airstrikes, artillery shelling, gunboat fire. Everything, everywhere, all at once.”

Khaled, Siham and their eight children lived in their home for over 20 years, surrounded by a garden of fig and date trees. They built it with their own hands, every stone and every tree,

as they dreamed it would be a haven for their children.

The day, Siham left Khaled in the living room and walked to the kitchen. The next moment, the house was hit, and Khaled was sent to the hospital with injuries. A few days later they returned to the house to find it in rubbles, except for one room where they decided to stay in, till today.

There is no food in their home. For days, Khaled and Siham went with nothing to eat to leave the little they had for their children. **With WFP assistance, they now heat canned beans over a fire and eat together amidst the rubble of what used to be their home.**

Layla.

“My daughter was strong and healthy. Look at her now...she is a skeleton,” said Layla as she pointed to her daughter who had lost too much weight during the war. With a heavy heart, Layla recounts the harrowing journey her family has endured since the onset of the war. What began as a brief departure from their home in Gaza, carrying a few belongings and some hope, has spiraled into an endless quest for safety and sustenance that haunts Layla and her family. Days have stretched into weeks, weeks into months, and each passing moment marked by relentless grip of hunger and agony. On a lucky day, Layla waits in line to receive a meal, prepared by the community-led kitchens WFP supports in Gaza. “I always tell the cook that we have a large family,” she explained. “And she’s kind enough to give us enough for everyone to eat.”

The single meal they receive each day has been their only source of food - a temporary reprieve and a fleeting respite from the constant pangs of an empty stomach.

Adnan.

“We risk our lives and come to work every

day because people need us. People walk long distances to arrive here and buy something to eat, the least we can do is be there for them,” Adnan works at one of the WFP-contracted shops in Gaza, where people are able to redeem their voucher for food items.

He has continued to show up every day from the very beginning, even as supplies dwindled with no way to restock them. “I worry that my people will starve,” he said. While most Gaza’s shops have run out of basic food supplies, WFP continues its support by channelling food parcels through its network of shops, reaching people faster and empowering shop owners to stay open until the private sector is back on its feet.

Another staff member from Gaza shared her thoughts.

“Before the war, WFP reported that more

than 1 million Palestinians in Gaza were food insecure. Today, we, our families, and all Gaza are food insecure. Even as we try to ensure hungry, conflict-affected people have food, we ourselves have barely anything to eat.”

Palestinians have been suffering for decades, but the scale and speed of unfolding of the current Gaza crisis is unprecedented. For the people, and for everyone involved in the humanitarian response struggling to meet ramping needs, the world had turned upside down.

Bisan, Hind, Khaled, Seham, Layla and Adnan are a few of

1,573,493

beneficiaries in Palestine in 2023

Read more about WFP in Palestine in 2023 [here](#)



EARTHQUAKE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Following the February earthquakes, a huge **need for urgent humanitarian assistance was immediately reported** with 600,000 people estimated as being internally displaced.

In the immediate hours after the earthquakes, WFP began programming and moving food commodities from within its network of 12 warehouses to affected areas as well as mobilizing prepositioned food stocks. WFP also sourced additional relief stocks such as fortified biscuits, mobile storage units and power generators from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai.

WFP leveraged its existing network of partners in the affected areas to swiftly respond to the needs of vulnerable displaced people with the most appropriate and effective means of assistance. For instance, WFP's cooperating partner in Aleppo was able to quickly transition the kitchens used to produce school meals to serve meals for people displaced in shelters.

Between February and June, **WFP provided emergency food assistance that required no cooking to affected families, including ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to 500,000 people, and 1.2 million meals to internally displaced people in shelters and communities.** WFP also distributed date bars and lipid nutrient supplements (LNS) alongside the RTEs in affected government-controlled areas to provide the newly displaced populations with the optimum number of calories. In northwest Syria, WFP provided fortified biscuits that are high in protein and supplemented with a premix of vitamins and minerals for an additional nutritional support to quake-affected people.

In addition to the immediate emergency food assistance, **WFP provided food assistance each month** to the 2.8 million most vulnerable people in earthquake-affected areas (February

to June), and to prioritized 1.7 million people from July to December due to funding shortfalls.

WFP also **rehabilitated eight earthquake-affected bakeries** and provided 700 metric tons of yeast to support bread production in earthquake-affected governorates.

Furthermore, **WFP supported humanitarian efforts responding to the earthquakes through the provision of logistic and emergency telecommunication services** to humanitarian organization providing assistance to earthquake-affected people, including the **transshipment of commodities to the non-government-controlled parts of northwest Syria.**

A testimony by an earthquake survivor:

Nisreen is from Aleppo in northern Syria. She and her three children have had a life full of loss and tragedy to say the least. Her husband was killed in the conflict in 2016. The family has since been displaced multiple times and when they finally returned to Aleppo, their home was flattened by the earthquakes. Nisreen and her children thankfully survived.

"We were still at the beginning of our lives, and we were planning to do the best for our children" said Nisreen with a desperate voice.

"I am alone now, with no one to support me or the children. I stayed with my family for a while so they help me take care of my children, but they can barely make their own living, so I returned to my house" she added.

Then, the earthquake came, and Nisreen found herself, once more, all alone with three children to protect. "I didn't know what to do. I grabbed the three of them in both hands and ran down the stairs. We were literally a few meters away from the building's entrance

when we heard a loud terrifying sound. We turned to see what happened. The building collapsed! The kids stared at the rocks and were all covered with dust, I was in shock, but suddenly looked around and thanked God they all survived." Nisreen narrated. "We stayed in a school that was turned into a shelter for a couple of weeks, and we totally relied on food assistance (supported by WFP). There were also sandwiches coming every morning for the

children, that was literally the only hope we had at that time." She added.

Nisreen is one of
7,139,531

beneficiaries reached
by WFP in Syria in 2023

Read more about WFP in
Syria in 2023 [here](#)



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"... WE TOTALLY RELIED ON FOOD ASSISTANCE (SUPPORTED BY WFP) [...] THAT WAS LITERALLY THE ONLY HOPE WE HAD AT THAT TIME."

NESREEN

AMEL'S JOURNEY TO RESILIENCE

Amel's journey to becoming a thriving agriculturist in Tozeur exemplifies resilience, determination, and a deep connection to the land. As a young woman navigating various professions, Amel faced challenges and transitions, ultimately finding her calling in agriculture and becoming an inspiration to her community.

Born and raised in Tozeur, Amel's educational journey led her to study geometrical topography. Dissatisfied with her initial career path, she ventured into journalism and radio reporting on regional news, showcasing her commitment to raising awareness about Tozeur's unique challenges and opportunities.

In 2021, Amel's father's passing prompted her to rediscover the untapped potential of her land. Fueled by a newfound determination, she delved into agriculture, planting diverse crops, raising livestock, and embracing apiculture. During community consultations of the Adaptation Fund Concept Note development in Tozeur, WFP Tunisia discovered Amel, whose passion for farming and dedication to climate awareness deeply aligned with the project's goals of sustainable oasis management.

Not content with conventional gender norms, Amel became a beacon for women in Tozeur's agricultural sector, advocating for their active involvement to bolster food security. Through her tireless efforts, she not only challenges societal expectations but also underscores the vital role of women in sustainable agriculture.

Amel emphasizes the harsh realities of climate change on Tunisian lands. From fluctuating water salinity to the looming specter of drought, she paints a stark picture of the challenges facing farmers. She remains a steadfast advocate for sustainable farming practices, stressing the urgent need for collective action to mitigate these impacts.

Her journey serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of embracing one's roots and actively contributing to sustainable agriculture. Through her unwavering dedication, she embodies the resilience needed to navigate the complexities of climate change and agricultural sustainability. Her story not only highlights the importance of individual commitment but also underscores the collective effort required to build a resilient community and secure a brighter future for Tunisia.

"IN THE SOIL, WE FIND NOT JUST SUSTENANCE BUT THE SEEDS OF A BRIGHTER AND MORE SECURE TOMORROW"

AMEL



WFP reached

459

beneficiaries in Tunisia in 2023

Read more about WFP in Tunisia in 2023 [here](#)

SERVING HOPE IN CRISES



There is nothing more rewarding for a humanitarian organization than observing its programmes synergize and assist people in their pursuit of survival and solidarity.

WFP experienced this in the aftermath of the deadly earthquakes that claimed over 50,000 lives in Türkiye in 2023. The 'saving lives and changing lives' motto was embodied in a singular case after the earthquake.

Ayşenur Kaya, a 20-year-old physiotherapy student with a strong will, immersed herself in WFP teams on the ground in Kahramanmaraş, the hardest-hit area, tirelessly distributing food to thousands of people. Actively assisting chefs in various cooking phases, she showcased her knowledge, experience, and, above all, the determination to endure. Although she initially wanted to pursue a healthcare career, Ayşenur's outlook changed as she realized the deep impact of cooking in helping others.

Before the earthquakes, Ayşenur pursued her culinary passion by participating in WFP's Chef Assistant training under WFP's flagship livelihood programme, the Socioeconomic Sustainability and Empowerment Programme (SES). The programme has been providing vocational and on-the-job training since 2019 throughout the country, benefitting around 5,000 Turkish nationals and Syrian refugees with over 15 courses, from chef assistance to food packaging.

As earthquakes claimed lives and displaced many, Ayşenur remained at the epicenter in Kahramanmaraş.

"Reaching out to others is a way for me to cope with the situation, a sense of purpose, let's say. I realized this during the chef assistant WFP's training course before. It was full of learning but, more importantly, provided something crucial: I can literally support the others and help them. Everyone has a different way to help; apparently, mine was cooking" Ayşenur says.

"Genuine empathy and understanding are paramount. It's essential for programmes to consider our real needs and Chef Assistant training was designed accordingly. When the reality hit and I was working side by side with WFP team on the ground, I realized that I was well equipped to solve any problems that could occur. Solidarity is vital for survival; work becomes more than just a necessity; it becomes a source of sustenance against adversities," Ayşenur emphasized.

After the earthquakes, in collaboration with over 60 municipalities, WFP extended critical food assistance, reaching nearly 1.6 million quake-affected individuals across Türkiye. Balancing also with online exams, Ayşenur devoted her time to work in a soup kitchen supported by WFP. In doing this, she was able to use her SES training to skillfully undertake tasks such as cutting, slicing, and serving meals.

WFP's emergency response concluded in early June 2023, effectively assisting the Government of Türkiye in meeting the immediate food needs of the affected population. Generous support from Canada, the European Union, Germany, Kuwait, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, UN CERF, USAID, and Korea enabled WFP to promptly provide vital assistance within the three-month emergency response period following the quakes.

With the emergency phase behind, WFP swiftly launched an early recovery program in 11 provinces, offering quake survivors relief and opportunities for vocational and on-the-job training.

2,273,550

beneficiaries were reached by WFP in Türkiye in 2023

Read more about WFP in Türkiye in 2023 [here](#)



©WFP/Giulio d'Adamo

" IT WAS FULL OF LEARNING BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROVIDED SOMETHING CRUCIAL: I CAN LITERALLY SUPPORT THE OTHERS AND HELP THEM."

AYŞENUR

REVITALIZING FOOD SYSTEMS

The war in Ukraine severely impacted food security, disrupting global food supply chains and contaminating vast agricultural lands in Ukraine with mines and explosive remnants, causing casualties among farmers and households. **The conflict led to a significant decrease in production and income for rural communities.**

Agricultural Mine Action

According to the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine's strategy for demining of agricultural lands, 470,000 hectares of agricultural land is suspected to be contaminated by explosives, which led thousands of farmers and rural households to reduce or stop food production. According to the rapid damage and needs assessment, Ukraine production decreased by 37 percent in 2022 compared to pre-war levels [1]. Without rapid action, many households and small-scale farmers will be unable to resume cultivation, which will have a broader regional repercussion and undermine Ukraine's ability to recover. The population's reliance on humanitarian assistance or temporary social payments has increased due to the destruction of private houses and mine contamination.

WFP and FAO embarked on a joint initiative in 2023, aimed at restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities in Kharkiv oblast. This project addresses the severe consequences of the war on food security, focusing on mine action to unblock small-scale farmlands and household plots. **The main objective is to release agricultural land for productive use by assessing the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance, clearing the lands where required, rehabilitating soils, and providing direct support to small farmers and rural families to help restart food production and restore livelihoods.**

Operations were established in Kharkiv oblast, which accounts for 34 percent of all victims of explosive ordnance in Ukraine. During the year, with the technical partner Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), 3,499 hectares of land were analysed through non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey covering 75,325 m² of land, and the provision of 650 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions for 23,081 beneficiaries. The project also procured three locally manufactured mine rollers (of which one was received during 2023), augmenting local technical capacity while supporting the local economy. In 2024, the project aims to expand activities within Kharkiv and in Mykolaiv oblasts.

Local Economy

In the face of challenging circumstances in Ukraine, WFP continued to maximize its contribution to the rehabilitation of Ukraine's economy through local sourcing, by increasing the share of locally sourced food to 80 percent.

The operation has strategically partnered with local retailers, bakeries, suppliers, and cooperating partners. WFP's value voucher programme in Kherson from February to July incentivized supermarkets to reopen in the area, and allowed later in the year for WFP to persuade the same retailers to open in other frontline areas such as Donetsk. WFP's shift in procurement from large bakeries to smaller local bakeries along the frontline as well as procurement of locally fortified vegetable oil and wheat flour for the humanitarian assistance are examples of generating demand, so that local businesses have the means to remain active, reviving local market system. The provided Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) guidance and supplementary equipment also strengthened local capacity. In the identification and selection of cooperating partners, local partners with expertise continue to be prioritized. Unrestricted cash transfers to over 2 million people, many of

whom live close to the frontline also contribute to the stimulation of local markets. All these efforts led to an estimated USD 400 million investment into the local economy in 2023 (USD 1.1 billion since the beginning of the operation in 2022).

The Black Sea Initiative and Grain from Ukraine

The Black Sea Initiative (BSI), which facilitated the transport of commodities and contributed to global food market stability, was suspended in mid-July. This suspension has raised concerns globally, emphasizing the profound implications for the grain market and food-insecure populations worldwide. Between January and July 2023, the BSI facilitated the export of 16.6 million metric tons of agricultural commodities, with 344,867 metric tons of Ukrainian wheat for WFP, supporting operations in Yemen, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and other emergencies, as well as contributing to global food market stability.

Through the Grain from Ukraine (GFU) initiative, more than 170,000 mt of Ukrainian grain supported countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Yemen in 2023. The first GFU shipment since the suspension of BSI was on 30 December from Türkiye with 25,000 metric tonnes of wheat destined for Nigeria. This initiative will continue in 2024.

WFP's operational strategies will continue to bolster local food producers and systems, focus on diversifying export corridors, and strengthen partnerships to improve overall efficiency and accountability.

4,480,695

beneficiaries were reached by WFP in Ukraine in 2023

Read more about WFP in Ukraine in 2023 [here](#)



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CHANGING LIVES

Despite facing a myriad of challenges, the support provided by donors in 2023 allowed WFP to reach one in two people in Yemen. This is a snapshot of some of the people whose lives were changed by WFP over the course of the year.

In Ta'iz, **Mansour** has struggled to secure a stable income. He is under pressure to make ends meet in the face of ongoing conflict, skyrocketing food prices and limited access to basic services. **"I have a large family with many children, and I used to work hard to provide for all of them. However, it is difficult to find decent work now due to the war"**. He is among the 27,000 households WFP supports in Ta'iz governorate with food through its general food assistance programme. **"Our livelihoods are disrupted, and we are dependent on the food aid we receive. We are very grateful for the assistance. We hope that our country becomes stable, which will improve everyone's living conditions."**

Mona (31) lives with her husband and four children in a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ma'rib. The family was forced to flee their home due to the war, and the trauma of multiple displacements has caused Mona to miscarry twice. Mona dreams of stability for her children, yet life in a camp is anything but: **"I took this child to the clinic, where they said she has malnutrition. It was heartbreaking to see my child suffering like this"**, Mona recalls her life when she was first displaced. **"Praise be to Allah, I am now taking care of her nutrition and helping her gain weight and good health"**. **"The war has had a harmful impact on my children. The thought of losing them fills me with fear. I pray for their safety above all else. I wish for them to be shielded from all evil and the ravages of war."**

Her three youngest children are enrolled in WFP's nutrition assistance programme, where

they receive supplementary food to keep malnutrition at bay. This has brought some peace of mind and stability to their lives. It has also helped them save some money that will allow them to build a more secure future for their children. **"I want to build a house for them and ensure they receive a good education. Money would enable me to provide them with good food, books, and everything they need"**. Since coming to the camp, Mona's husband has been able to find work. Although irregular, the extra money along with support received from WFP has made their lives easier.

Marina, a 9-year-old student in Aden, has lived her entire life in the ongoing conflict. Soaring food prices have left her family struggling to secure three meals a day. **"The hardest thing for me is coming to school on an empty stomach. I can't concentrate in class, and I can't play with my friends."** Under WFP's school feeding programme, and as part of the Healthy Kitchen project, Marina and 28,000 other children across Yemen now receive freshly made meals at school each day. The project has not only given Marina and her family one less meal to worry about, but it has given Marina energy and hope. **"When they [WFP] provide me with a meal, my activity increases, and I often achieve the highest rank in school [...] This meal motivates me to come in the morning, helps me focus on my studies."**, she says. **"In the future, I want to become a pediatrician to help other children."**

For **Liza** (25), the WFP-supported skills training she receives through WFP's resilience and livelihoods programme has been **"an opportunity to stand on my own feet to work."** After enrolling in a culinary programme, she now makes and sells baked goods from her home in Aden and caters events such as weddings.

For a long time, Liza's family of six was relying on her husband's salary only. However,

growing food prices meant that some days they could not afford essentials like milk and diapers for their ten-month-old daughter. Their financial situation has improved significantly with the added income from her business, and Liza is proud of all that she has accomplished so far.

"I have managed to achieve something big in my life." Liza says. She plans to scale up in the future, **"being able to create this food in my small kitchen is truly beautiful."**

Liza, Marina, Mona and Mansour are a few of

15,289,041

beneficiaries reached by WFP in Yemen in 2023

Read more about WFP in Yemen in 2023 [here](#)

"THIS MEAL MOTIVATES ME TO COME IN THE MORNING, HELPS ME FOCUS ON MY TEACHERS, AND GIVES ME ENERGY"

MARINA



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