

FOOD ASSISTANCE

CLIMATE ACTION

SCHOOL MEALS



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# 2023

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**

**WFP IN THE MIDDLE EAST,  
NORTHERN AFRICA AND EASTERN EUROPE**

NUTRI

ASSET CR

MENT



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**THE INTERACTIVE VERSION**  
of the 2023 Regional Overview of WFP Operations in the MENAEE Region

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**RAYS OF HOPE:**

RBC's 2023 Human Interest Stories Booklet

# Foreword by the Regional Director

In 2023, despite the multiple challenges faced, WFP reached over 36 million people in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe (MENAEE) thanks to its committed staff, its implementing partners, and donors.

WFP responded rapidly to the five onset emergencies in our region in 2023 – the Türkiye-Syria earthquake response; Sudan refugee response in Egypt, the Armenia response to the refugee influx; the Libya flood response; and the emergency response in Gaza. An estimated **43 million people were food insecure in 2023** and the year completed with the regional security situation more volatile than it has been in years triggered by the war in Gaza.

By the end of the year, the entire population of 2.2 million people in Gaza faced alarming levels of acute food insecurity. Four out of five people were displaced, trapped in overcrowded areas and barely accessing aid. In response to this escalating crisis, WFP ramped up its emergency cash and food assistance, supporting over 1.5 million Palestinians across Gaza and the West Bank in 2023, three times higher than planned.

The war in Gaza also is having an economic and social impact in the region, particularly affecting neighbouring countries which already face dire economic situations.

The endless cycle of crises across the region was combined with a **40 percent drop in funding levels last year**. As a result, in most of our operations, WFP was forced to **either reduce the size of assistance** we provide, the **number of people** we reach – **or both**.

This was a reality that extended across the humanitarian community and is not unique to WFP – the needs and the complexity of how and where we operate have soared.

WFP adapted to the new funding reality and aligned its operations to work within country contexts, adhere to WFP principles and further

link with government and other programmes for synergies.

For 2024, the region will aim to reach over 33 million people through its operations in the 15 country offices in the MENAEE region. As part of the 2024 corporate budget replanning exercise, we embarked on a second wave of restructuring in the Regional Bureau. Looking at the context in this region, in consultation with country offices and headquarters, our attention and resources will be to:

- **Respond to humanitarian emergency needs**
- **Shift needs to strengthened government social safety nets and**
- **Reduce needs through large scale high impact climate smart livelihood programmes**

In 2024 and beyond, WFP will continue to do its best to reach the most vulnerable in our region through strengthened partnerships and risk assurance and innovative approaches. To achieve this, I call on continued strong support and commitment from our donors, humanitarian partners, and host governments. For further information on our operations, I invite you to read this regional overview which highlights our achievements in 2023 and plans for 2024.



**Corinne Fleischer**

Regional Director for the Middle East,  
Northern Africa, and Eastern Europe

# WFP REACHED

# 36.2 MILLION

## BENEFICIARIES IN MENAEE IN 2023

**52% FEMALE**  
**48% MALE**

**3.5 M PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**1.3M MT FOOD DISTRIBUTED**

**US\$945 M CASH TRANSFERRED**

**US\$34.1 M COMMODITY VOUCHERS PROVIDED**

**BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY RESIDENCE STATUS**

**1.02 M RETURNEES**

**6.3 M IDPs**

**3.6 M REFUGEES**

**25.7 M RESIDENTS**

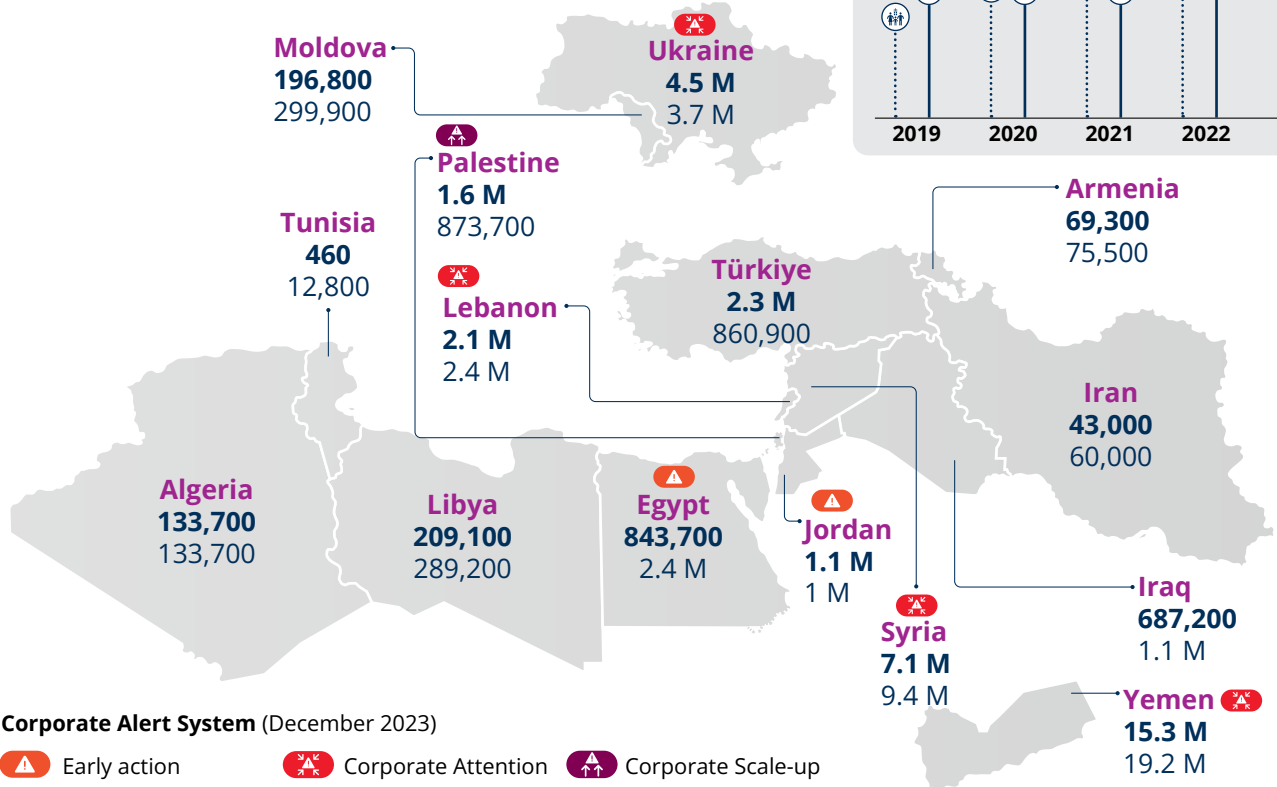
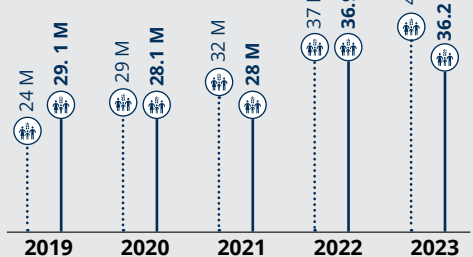


## 2023 REGIONAL OPERATIONS

**Reached Beneficiaries in 2023 - 36.2 M**

**Planned Beneficiaries 2023 - 41.8 M**

### RBC Beneficiaries Trend (2019 - 2023)\*



Corporate Alert System (December 2023)

▲ Early action    
 ▲▲ Corporate Attention    
 ▲▲▲ Corporate Scale-up

\* all data reflects only the current 15 active operations

# 2023: A YEAR OF NEW ONSET EMERGENCIES

FEB

 **TÜRKIYE**



## TÜRKIYE/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE (6th of February 2023)

WFP response started  
**48 HOURS**  
after the earthquake

**2.2 M**  
beneficiaries reached (Feb-Aug)

Family food packages in camps; hot meals and RTE rations in communities; e-vouchers, multi-purpose cash and early recover support. Support to 7 mobile kitchens for municipalities and governorates.

**US\$80 M** needed  
100% received

 **SYRIA**



WFP response started  
**IMMEDIATELY**  
after the earthquake

**2.8 M** beneficiaries reached (Feb-June)      **1.7 M** beneficiaries reached (Jul-Dec)

RTE rations, hot meals, date bars, fortified biscuits and lipid-based nutrition supplements. Supported rehabilitation of 8 bakeries and provision of logistics and TEC services to partners.

**US\$150 M** needed  
65% received

APR

 **EGYPT**



## SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE

WFP response started  
**2 WEEKS**  
after the conflict

**+160,000**  
beneficiaries reached


Date bars, multi-purpose cash. Supported partners' assistance with CBT platform, nutrition screenings and logistics services.

**US\$8 M** needed  
60% received

## FUNDING & NEEDS

Across all new onset emergencies, WFP planned to assist people in need through ~**US\$1 billion**, out of which **US\$0.6 billion** was received for emergency responses.

## ACTUAL

 **6.4 M** PEOPLE ASSISTED (18 percent of total assisted people in 2023)

SEP

## ARMENIA

### REFUGEES INFLUX RESPONSE

WFP response started **3 DAYS** after influx

**58,000** beneficiaries reached

RTE rations, hot meals and family food parcels

**US\$16.8 M** needed  
45% received

## LIBYA

### STORM DANIEL RESPONSE

WFP response started **48 HOURS** after storm

**126,000** beneficiaries reach

Food parcels, fortified biscuits, and cash transfers and support to bakeries.

**US\$6.5 M** needed  
100% received

OCT

## PALESTINE

### GAZA CONFLICT RESPONSE (ongoing)

WFP response started **48 HOURS** after conflict occurred

**1.1 M** beneficiaries reached

RTE rations, family food packages, cash, hot meals through community kitchens, lipid-based nutrition supplements and SBCC support for PBWG. Support to partners through CBT platform, logistics and ETC services

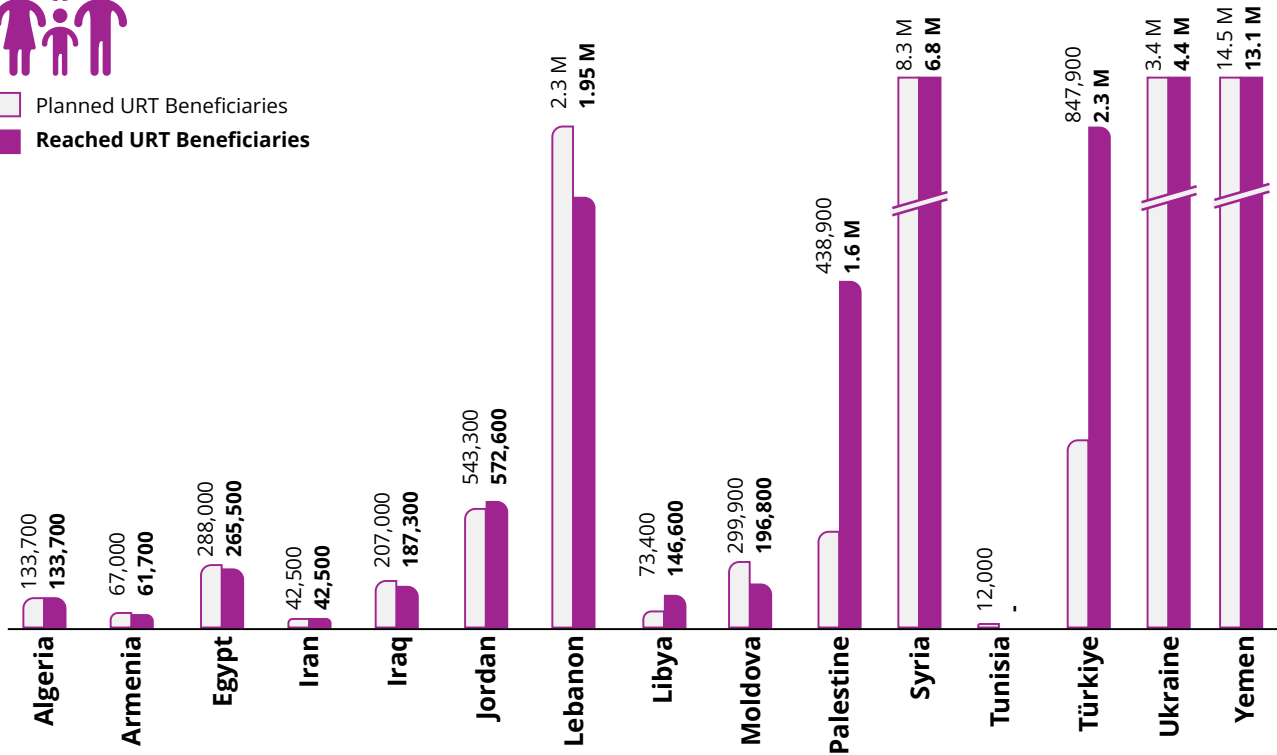
**US\$740 M** needed  
74% received

# Delivering Food Assistance

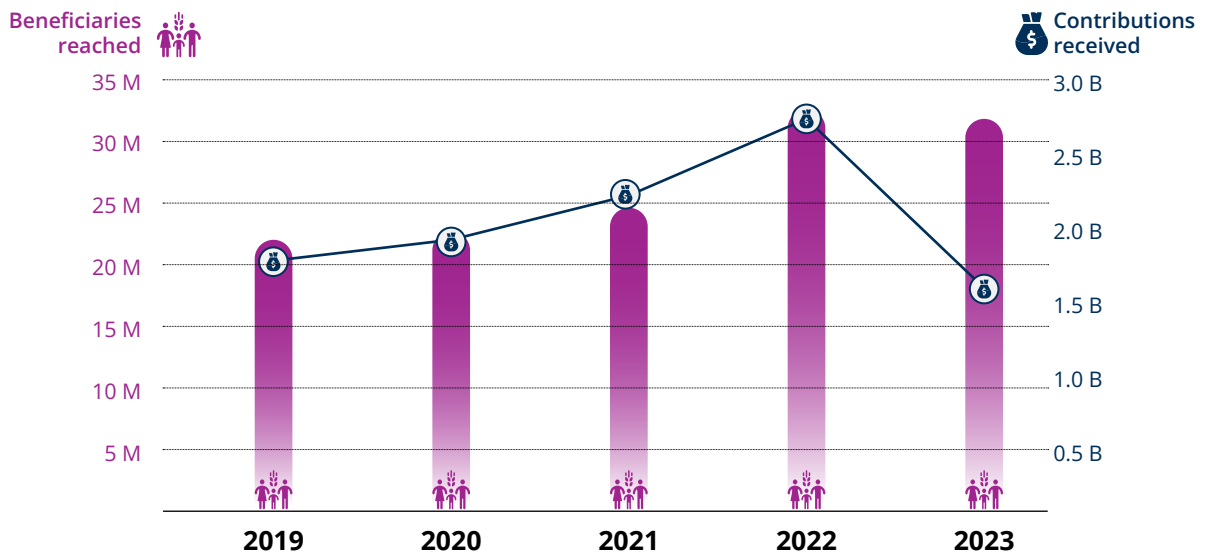
Unconditional resources transfer (URT) represented the **LARGEST COMPONENT** of RBC operations benefiting **32 MILLION** food-insecure people.



□ Planned URT Beneficiaries  
■ Reached URT Beneficiaries



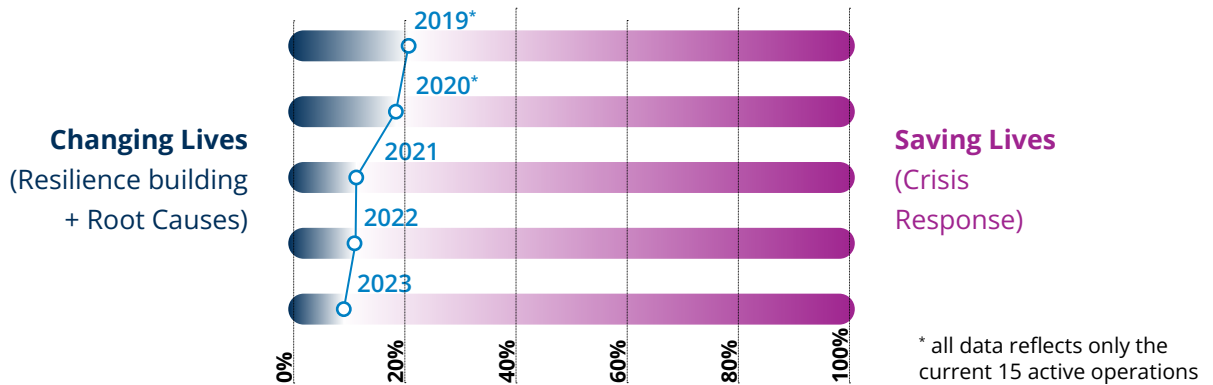
In a region prone to **MAN-MADE AND NATURAL CRISES AND HAZARDS**, this has been **the trend for the past 5 years**, despite dwindling funding.



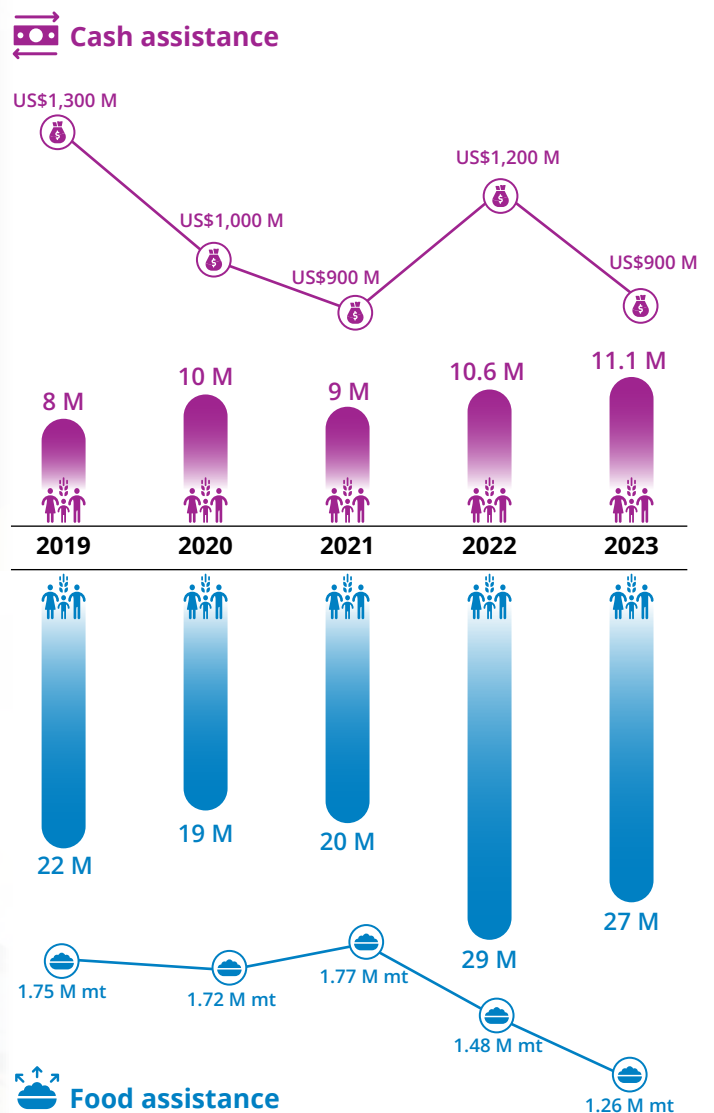


## WFP RBC OPERATIONS LARGELY ADDRESSED CRISIS RESPONSE

Over the past five years, due to the increasing number of emergencies experienced, our focus across the region continued to be on **“saving lives”** operations as compared to operations under **“changing lives”**. The trend of assistance shows beneficiaries were provided with **more food than cash** given the complexities of their contexts. However, due to severe funding shortfalls, every person supported was receiving **less food** and **lower cash** amount across the years.



## OVERALL REGIONAL CASH AND FOOD ASSISTANCE



\* Beneficiaries of food and cash assistance might overlap and should not be summed up

# Climate Action and Resilient Food Systems

## PLAN

In 2023, WFP planned to assist **3.8 million people** through **US\$558 million**.

## FUNDING

The region **received US\$210 million** for Climate Action and Resilient Food Systems activities.

## ACTUAL

 **876,000** PEOPLE BENEFITED

 **US\$103 M** SPENT

## OUTCOME

WFP interventions contributed to reducing carbon emissions, increased agricultural productivity, enhanced community resilience, and promoted sustainable livelihoods. This successfully harnessed the potential annual food production of **~US\$145 million** annually in food value for assisted communities and households facing food insecurity and the threat of climate-change in the MENAEE region. This is equivalent to WFP's provision of full food rations to **~3 million beneficiaries** monthly for 12 months.



**ACTION TO PROTECT AGAINST CLIMATE SHOCKS**

**293,000 PEOPLE REACHED**



**Egypt**  
229,000 reached



**Palestine**  
2,155 reached



**Iraq**  
55,925 reached



**Syria**  
2,955 reached



**Jordan**  
2,958 reached



**SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURAL MARKET SUPPORT**

**54,240 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**



**Algeria**  
5,220 participants



**Iraq**  
2,511 participants



**Armenia**  
717 participants



**Syria**  
15,000 participants  
(75,000 beneficiaries)



**Egypt**  
30,338 participants



**Tunisia**  
459 participants





## ASSET CREATION AND LIVELIHOODS

### 500,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED




 **Armenia**  
6,705 participants

 **Libya**  
846 participants

 **Egypt**  
379 participants

 **Syria**  
1,395 participants

 **Iraq**  
35,821 participants

 **Türkiye**  
13,507 participants

 **Iran**  
600 participants

 **Yemen**  
414,638 participants


 **Lebanon**  
27,821 participants




## LAND REHABILITATED/ BENEFITING FROM IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURES

### 19,200 HECTARES

 **Algeria**  
10 ha

 **Lebanon**  
530 ha

 **Armenia**  
880 ha

 **Syria**  
12,138 ha

 **Iraq**  
3,687 ha

 **Yemen**  
1,220 ha

 **Jordan**  
738 ha



## REHABILITATION/ CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE/ IRRIGATION CANALS

### 230 KILOMETERS

 **Armenia**  
25 Km

 **Syria**  
25 Km

 **Iraq**  
7 Km

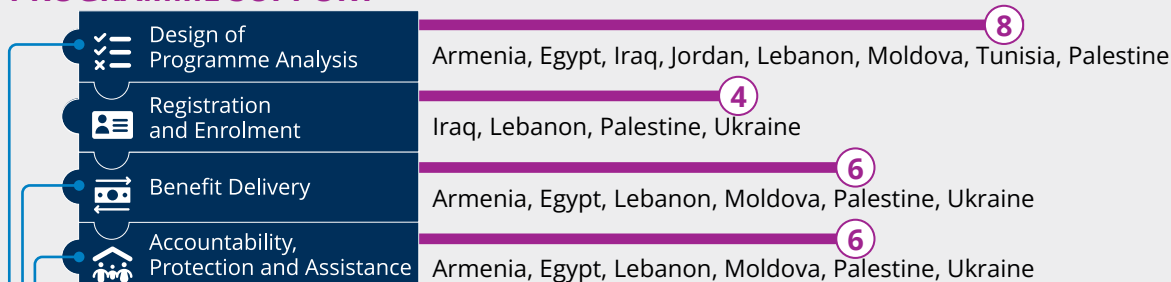
 **Yemen**  
116 Km

 **Lebanon**  
54 Km

# Strengthening Social Protection

WFP has two interlinked priorities in social protection: Safeguarding people's ability to meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs, and, helping manage risks and shocks.\* In 2023, in the MENAEE region, WFP engaged with the key social protection building blocks: **programme support**, **system architecture**, and **knowledge and learning**, as shown below with **examples**.

## PROGRAMME SUPPORT



**Lebanon e.g.** 840,000 Lebanese, including 86,000 people with disabilities reached monthly with CBT.

**Ukraine e.g.** Over 400,000 - displaced, elderly, and persons with disabilities - received cash from Complementary Social Benefits Programme.

**Armenia e.g.** Technical assistance to enhance the shock responsiveness of the social protection system. 9,818 people (52 percent women) supported with food cards for their food security.

## SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



**Lebanon e.g.** Over 500 Ministry of Social Affairs staff strengthened their practice knowledge and of gender equality and social inclusion.

**Iraq e.g.**

- Supporting efforts towards developing a single registry.
- Support to digitalize the PDS to help save up to 30 percent in expenditure and better target most marginalized.

## KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING



**Jordan e.g.** Capacity-strengthening to NAF, including 75,000 home visits to validate NAF household data.

**Egypt e.g.** Capacity Strengthening of 3,500 community workers to raise awareness and provide counselling services to 2.1 million women on maternal and child nutrition.

\* WFP Social protection Strategy (2021) - [LINK](#)

# Investing in School Meals

## PLAN

In 2023, WFP planned to assist people through **US\$324 million**.

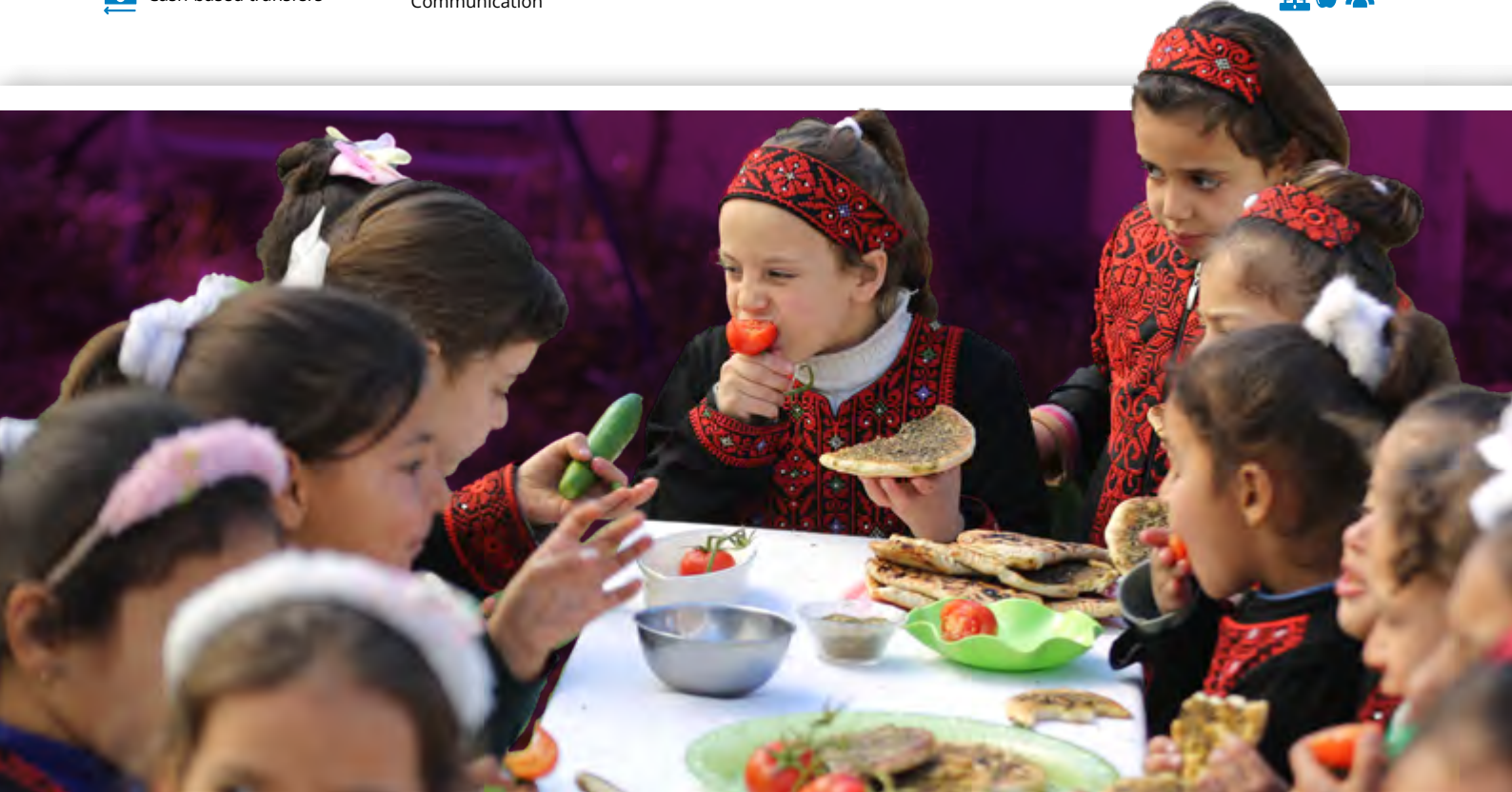
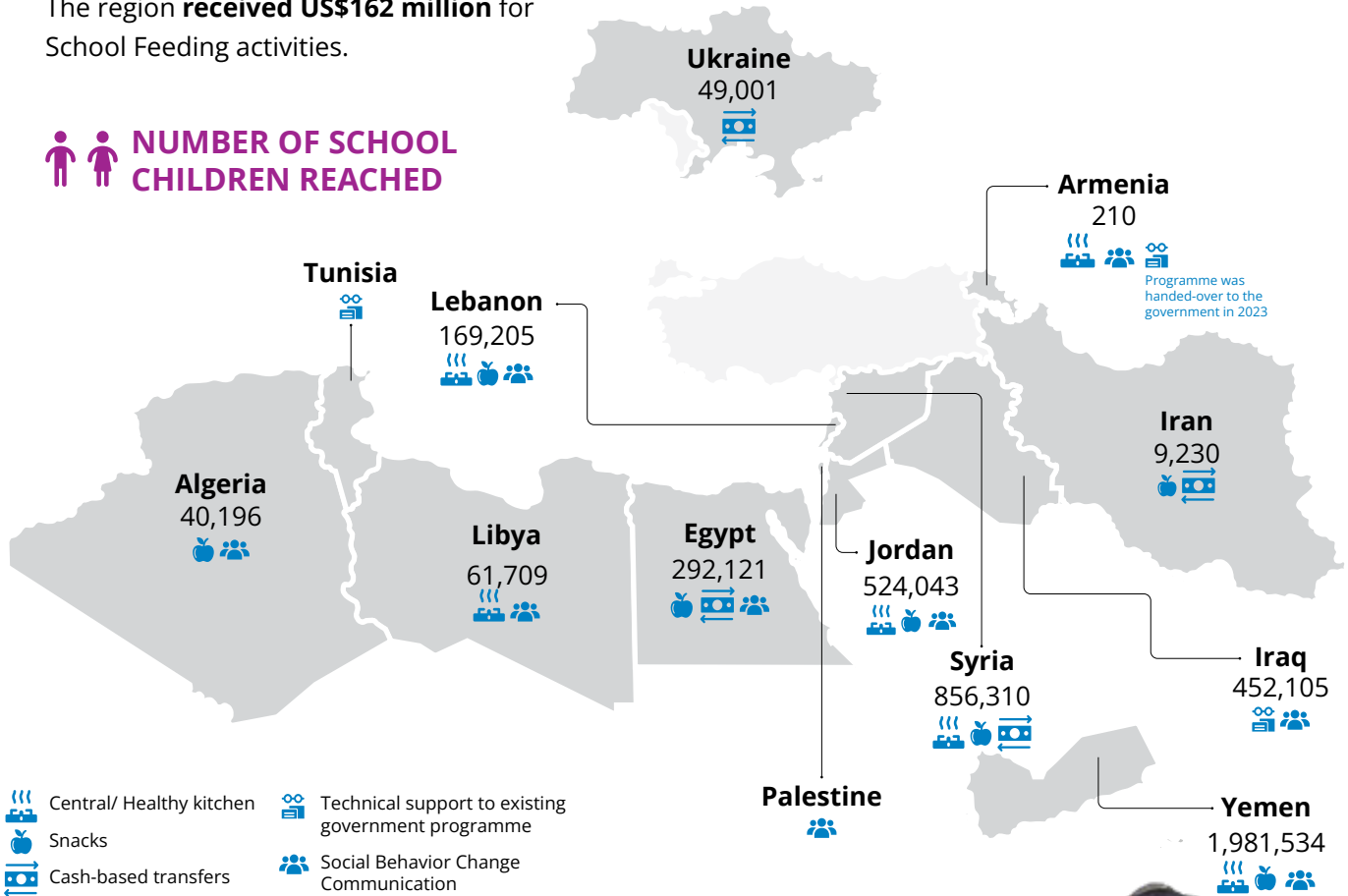
## FUNDING

The region **received US\$162 million** for School Feeding activities.

## ACTUAL

**4.7 M** SCHOOL CHILDREN REACHED  
**US\$108 M** SPENT

## NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN REACHED



# Nutrition Support

## PLAN

In 2023, WFP planned to assist people through **US\$425 million**.

## FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

The region **received US\$181 million** for Nutrition activities, **85 percent of which has been spent**.

### Prevention of Malnutrition

 **2.1 M reached**  
3 M planned

### Treatment of Malnutrition

 **1.9 M reached**  
2 M planned

### Algeria

 **22,664**  
23,100

 **1,663**  
3,900

### Egypt

 **61,715**  
30,000

### Palestine

 **3,554**  
2,200

### Syria

 **341,548**  
598,800

 **129,583**  
50,000

### Ukraine

 **61,333**  
80,000

### Yemen

 **1,573,305**  
2,236,428

 **1,767,598**  
1,911,858

Percentage of  people reached out of  planned



# Boosting Partnerships

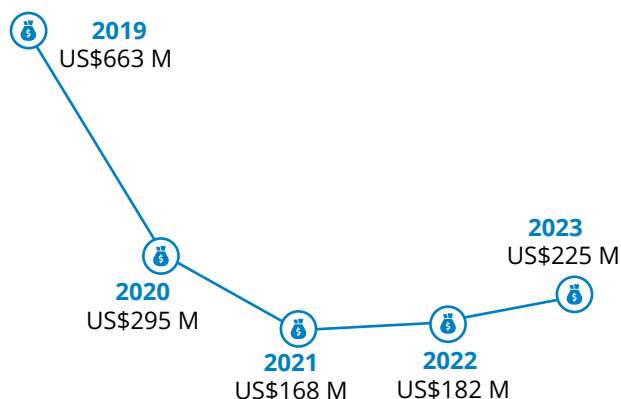
To achieve more sustainable outcomes WFP continued to strengthen its existing partnerships and develop new ones. In 2023 WFP in the MENAEE region collaborated with:



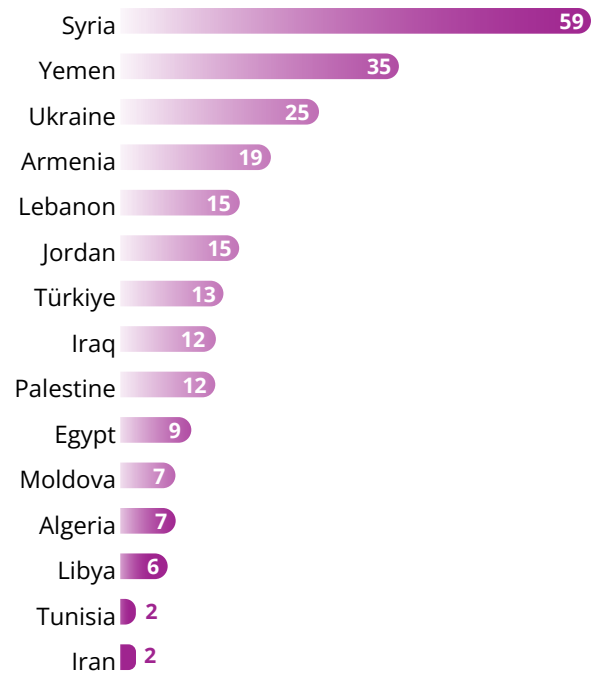
**76 percent** of in-kind food distributions were implemented by local NGOs, a **jump of 10 percentage points** compared to 2022;

**59 percent** of cash distributions were done by local NGOs, an **increase of 4 percentage points** compared to 2022.

## RBC PARTNERSHIPS EXPENDITURES BY FISCAL YEAR



## 2023 COOPERATING PARTNERS



# Listening to People we Assist

To ensure resources are directed towards those who need them most, beneficiaries' feedback is used to identify corrective actions:

- 12 of country offices** mainstreamed **Protection and AAP** in their CSPs
- 12 functional Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM)** in the region
- 14 of country offices** completed **community engagement surveys**
- 93% of country offices** have SOP for the handling of **referrals and sensitive cases**
- 86% of country offices** cited **CFM staff had been trained** to process sensitive cases

# Supporting Humanitarian Partners

## On-Demand Services

### PLAN

In 2023, WFP planned to assist **hundreds of partners and partners' beneficiaries** through **US\$375 million** with On-Demand Services.

### FUNDING

The region received **US\$315 million** out of the planned **US\$375 million** for on-Demand services

### OUTCOME

WFP played a key enabling role in the humanitarian response in the region through the provision of:

- **Logistics Cluster,**
- **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service,**
- **Cash-Based Transfers, and**
- **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.**


### ACTUAL


 **US\$230 M** SPENT

 **107,061 MT** **LOCALLY PROCURED** for WFP operations in the region

 **US\$175 M** SPENT for food

transportation and superintendent

 **72,858** distinct shipment transaction

 **65** **WAREHOUSES** directly and indirectly managed by WFP but used to store WFP commodities.

## LOGISTICS CLUSTER

 **US\$10 M** spent

 **420** partners

 **60** Mobile Storage Units (MSUs)

 **Palestine**  
**US\$1.6 M**  
**18 MSUs**  
**178 partners**

 **Ukraine**  
**US\$3 M**  
**107** inter-agency convoys  
**16,118 m<sup>3</sup>** cargo facilitated on behalf of  
**22** partners

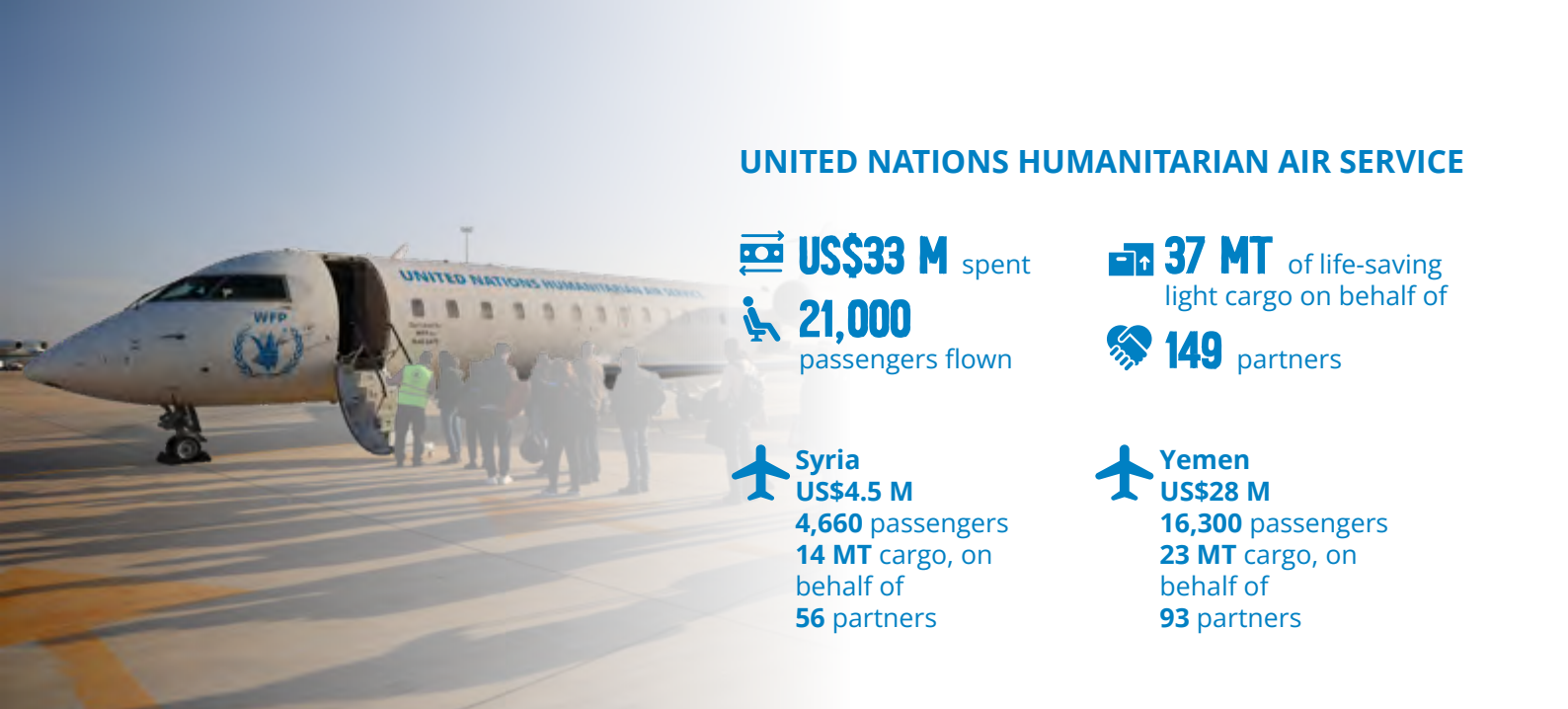
 **Türkiye**  
**US\$1.2 M**  
**3,519 m<sup>3</sup>** cargo stored  
**24 MSUs**  
**3,200 m<sup>2</sup>** storage capacity delivered

 **Yemen**  
**US\$1.7 M**  
**79** partners supported  
**17 MSUs** loaned to  
**7** partners

 **Syria**  
**US\$3 M**  
**52** humanitarian partners  
**14,650 litres** fuel to 6 partners  
**5,700 m<sup>2</sup>** storage space to 7 partners







## UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE

**US\$33 M** spent

**21,000** passengers flown

**37 MT** of life-saving light cargo on behalf of

**149** partners

**Syria**  
**US\$4.5 M**  
**4,660** passengers  
**14 MT** cargo, on behalf of  
**56** partners

**Yemen**  
**US\$28 M**  
**16,300** passengers  
**23 MT** cargo, on behalf of  
**93** partners



## CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

WFP facilitated cash-based transfer of

**US\$171 M** on behalf of its partners

**Jordan**  
US\$9 M

**Syria**  
US\$169,000

**Lebanon**  
US\$82.2 M

**Ukraine**  
US\$223,000

**Palestine**  
US\$79.9 M



## EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CLUSTER

**US\$4 M** spent

**Libya**  
**US\$0.2 M**  
After Storm Daniel Flood, WFP deployed equipment for field connectivity, internet, and helpdesk support

**Türkiye**  
**US\$0.4 M**  
**132** humanitarian partners supported in earthquake's immediate aftermath

**Syria**  
**US\$0.3 M**  
**720** humanitarian workers from **16** UN partner organizations supported

**Ukraine**  
**US\$1.3 M**  
**~1,800** communication devices reprogrammed

**Yemen**  
**US\$1.9 M**  
**2,400** humanitarian workers supported

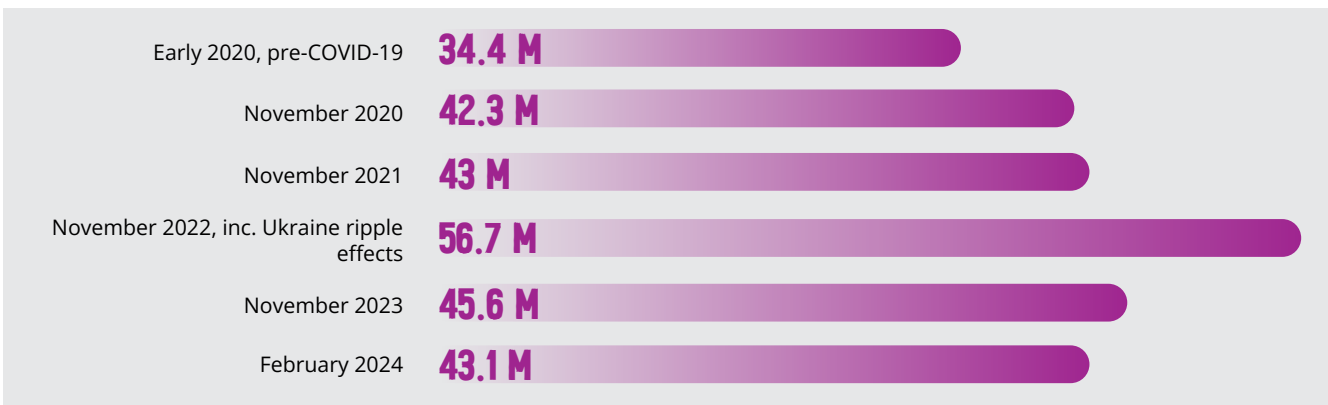
# Food Needs Skyrocketed

In 2023, the MENAEE region faced severe socio-political and economic instability. **Though the number of food insecure people in the region had decreased compared to 2022, it remained higher than pre-COVID levels, with 45.6 million food insecure by end 2023.** Of this total over half a million people in Gaza have been projected to be facing catastrophic famine-like conditions (IPC Phase 5), the most severe level in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale, since December 2023 through September 2024, amidst the ongoing escalation. Moreover, almost 11 million people across the region are in IPC Phase 4 or above

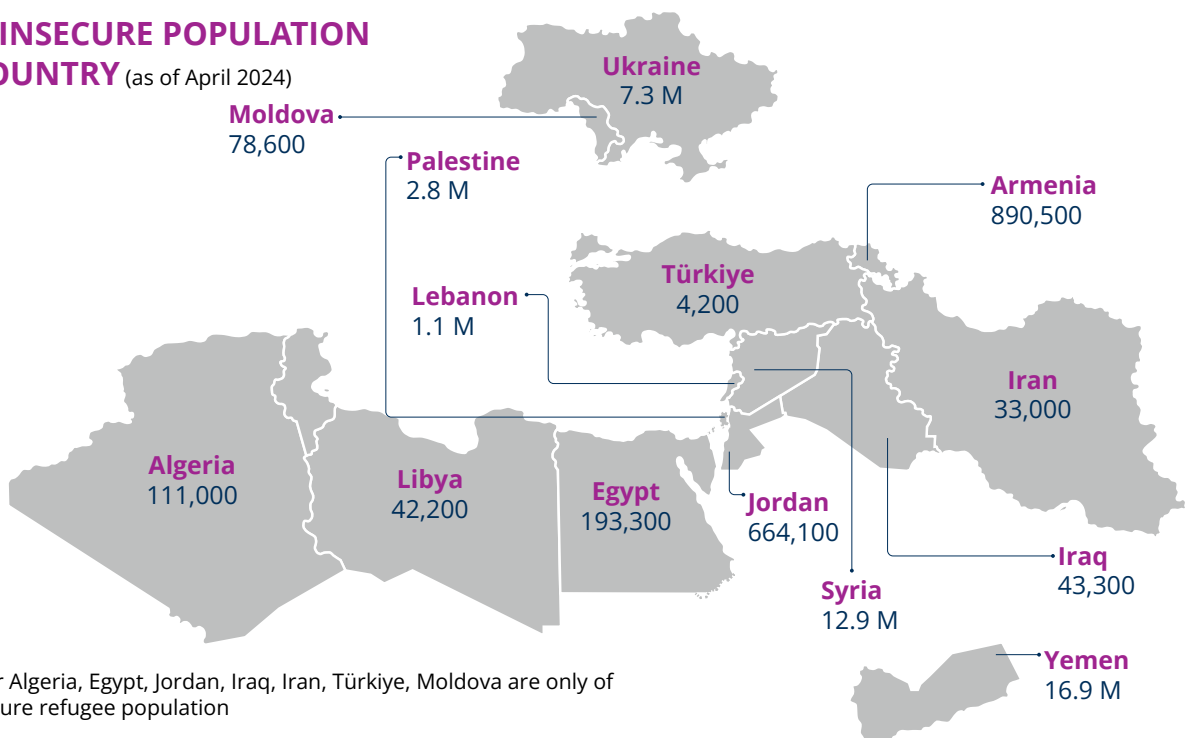
(Emergency). The ripple effects of the Gaza conflict had exacerbated critical economic and food security situations in countries across the region.

A dire funding situation meanwhile compelled WFP to prioritize critical assistance, with severe implications for affected communities in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, due to funding shortfalls, WFP was forced to cut rations and/or reduce the number of people receiving food assistance in critical operations such as Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY REMAINS HIGH



## FOOD INSECURE POPULATION PER COUNTRY (as of April 2024)



Figures for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Türkiye, Moldova are only of food insecure refugee population

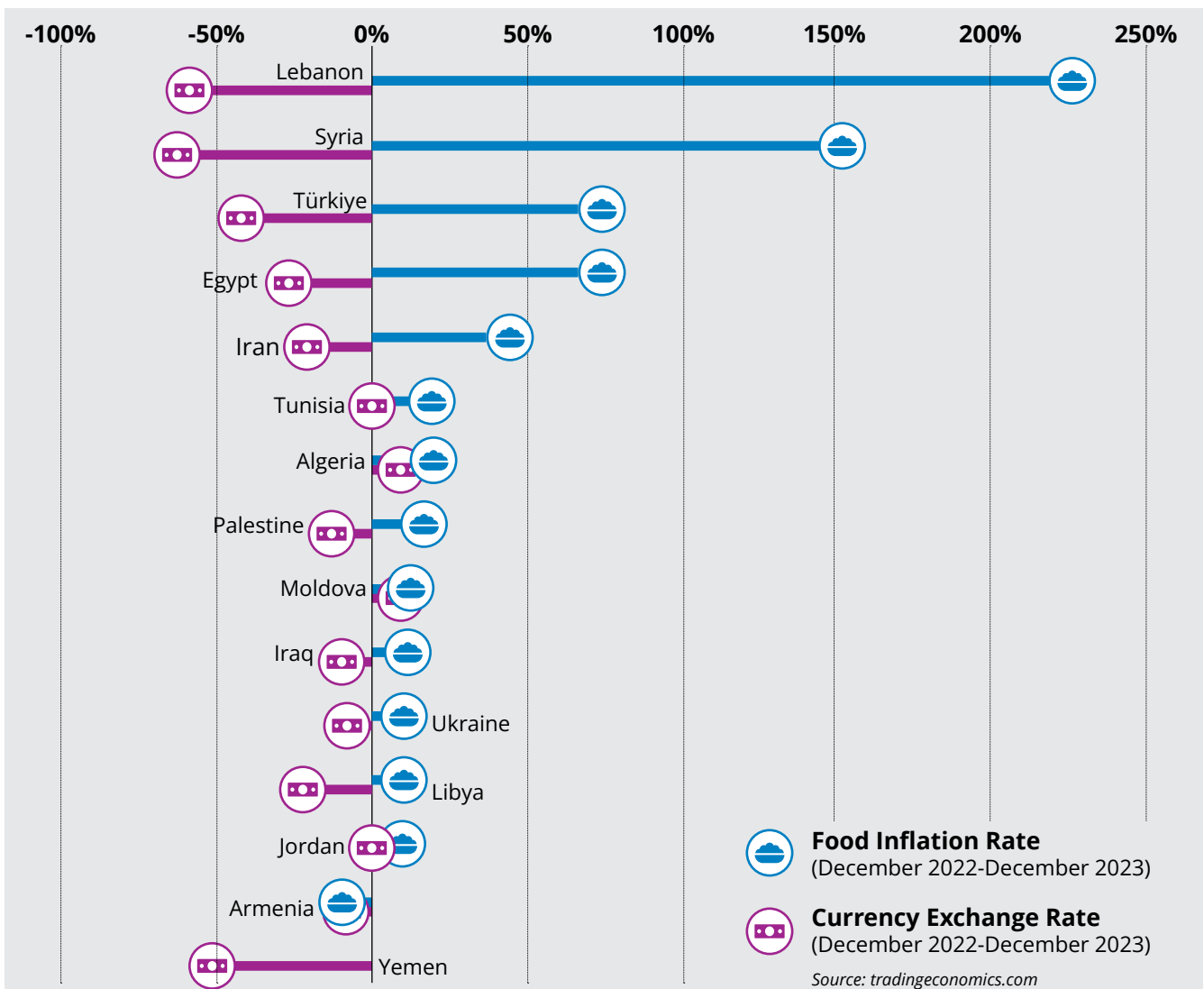
## FOOD INFLATION AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

**The combination of high food inflation and plummeting currencies affected millions of people**, especially those living in countries already grappling with conflict and instability. Food prices spiked, making it increasingly difficult for families to afford essential food like bread, rice, and vegetables. World Bank data shows that four countries in the region experienced food inflation exceeding 60 percent during 2023.

Lebanon and Syria faced triple-digit food inflation at 220 percent and 144 percent, respectively.

Currency values in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Türkiye and Egypt depreciated between 20 and 60 percent over the past 12 months alone. As purchasing power declines, a

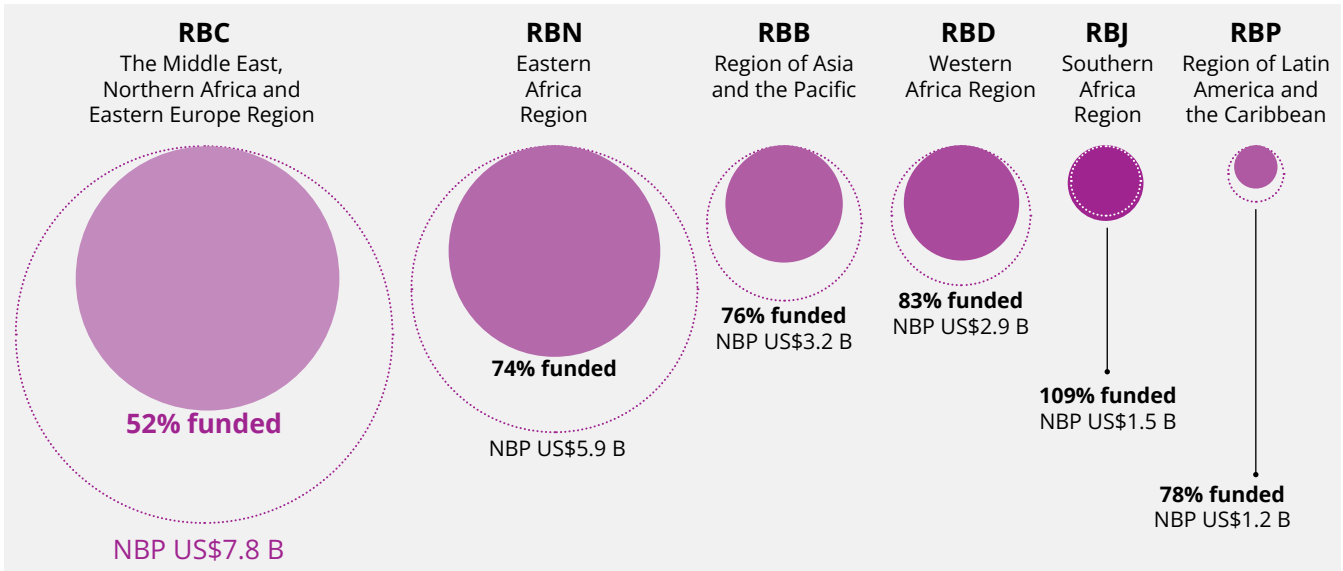
higher number of households struggle to uphold their standard of living due to stagnant incomes and shrinking purchasing power. Food production in the MENAEE region was curtailed by both conflict and a deepening climate crisis. The region faced prolonged droughts, heat waves, wildfires, flooding, erratic rainfall, and landslides. These environmental challenges reduced cultivated areas and cut food production in countries like Iraq and Syria. Together with the effects of conflicts, they posed significant threats to food security in the MENAEE region during 2023. The consequences of these crises may extend across generations, impacting vulnerable households and communities in the years to come.



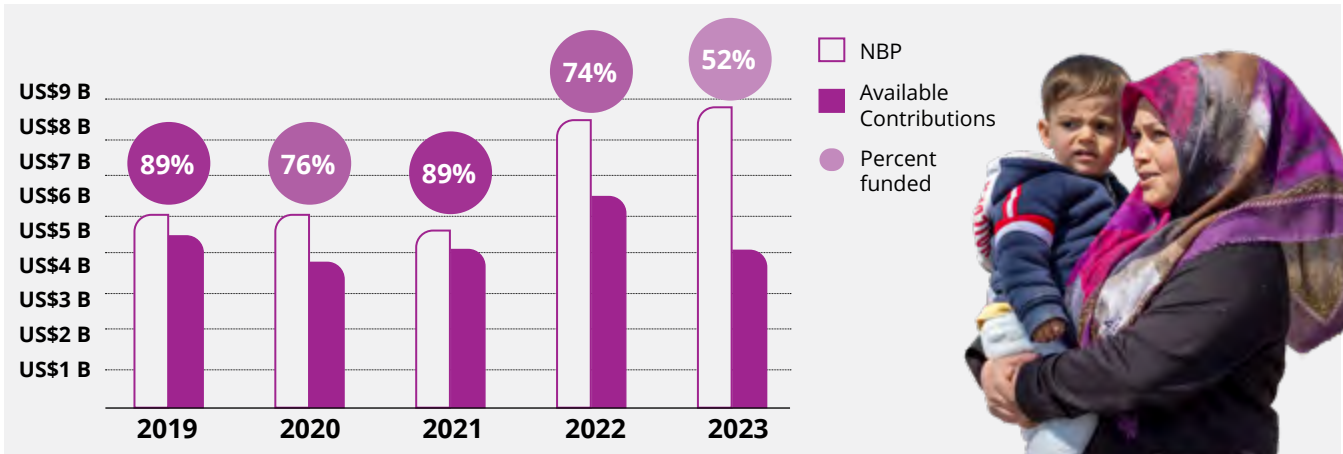
# Funding Dwindled

## REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Soaring food needs increased MENAEE/RBC's needs-based plan (NBP) requirements to **US\$7.8 million** making it the region with the largest needs among the other WFP regional bureaux. However, Against the NBP, RBC's share of funding was the lowest amongst all regional bureaux.



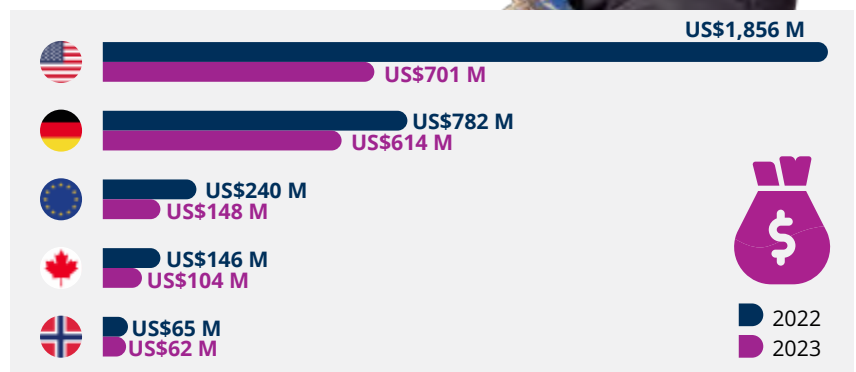
**43 percent decrease** in 2023 funding received (US\$2.1 billion) compared to 2022 (US\$3.7 billion).



## TOP 5 DONORS

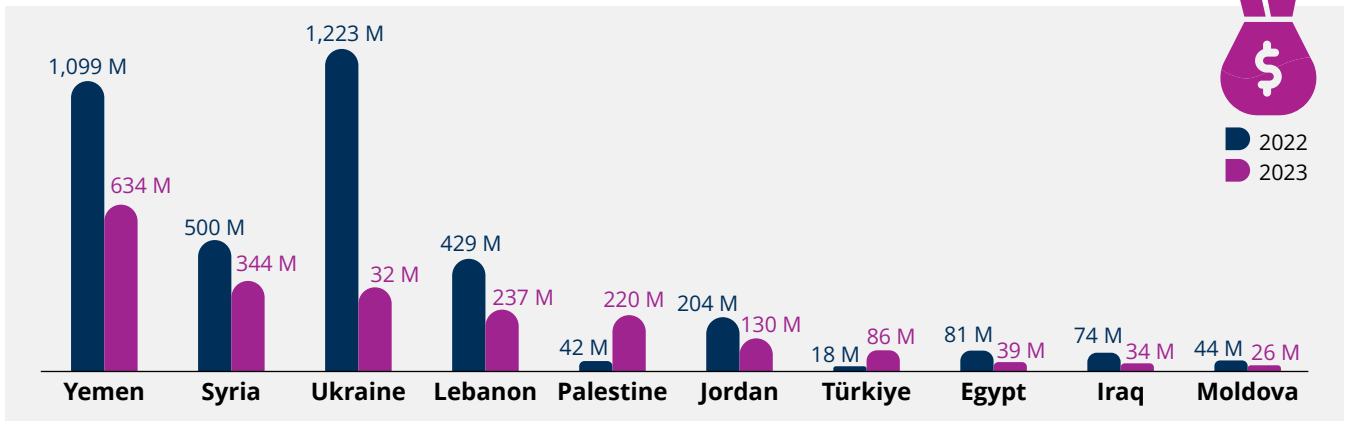
**48 percent drop** in contributions received from RBC top five donors in 2023 (US\$1.6 billion), compared to 2022 (US\$3.1 billion).

USA funding fell by 62 percent, GCC by 26 percent (-94 percent compared to 2021) and Germany by 21 percent.



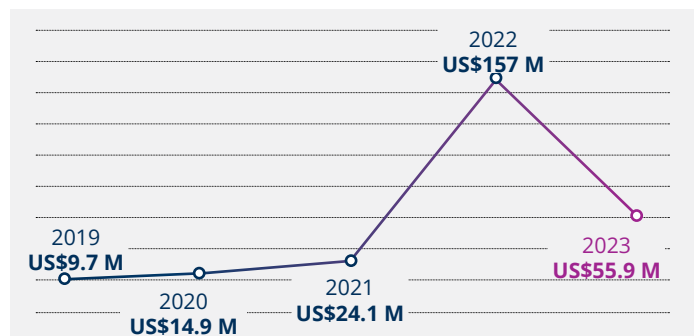
## TOP 10 RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

In 2023, RBC experienced **51 percent and 44 percent reduction** in funding in two of its largest operations, namely Yemen and Syria, compared to the previous year. While most of the countries faced significant decreases in their funding levels - particularly Ukraine (-74 percent) and Lebanon (-45 percent), Palestine, Türkiye, Algeria and Armenia managed to increase their funding levels because of the various crises in their countries. Overall medium and small operations were better funded than large ones.



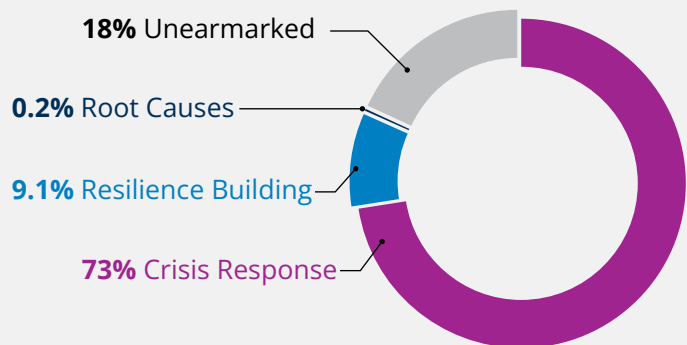
## PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING

**64 percent decline** in private sector funding in 2023 but it remained a vital contributor to the several emergency responses in RBC, where the top five recipients were Palestine (US\$21 million), Syria (US\$12 million), Ukraine (US\$8 million), Türkiye (US\$5 million) and Yemen (US\$4 million).



## CONTRIBUTIONS BY FOCUS AREA

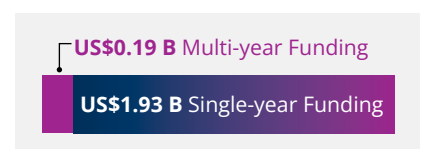
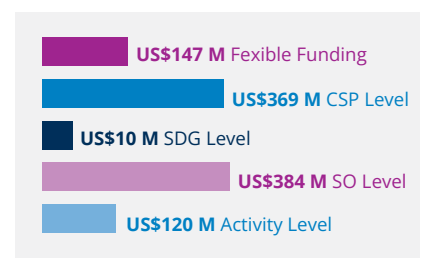
73 percent of RBC contributions were allocated to the crisis response activities, confirming the trend for the last 5 years.



## EARMARKING LEVEL

**91 percent of funds received by RBC were single-year contributions** against a relatively small amount of multi-year contributions. As country offices in the region are scaling up their resilience portfolios, multi-year contributions are particularly needed to support long-term planning and sustainability of interventions.

The majority of contributions to the region were earmarked at activity level, with a very little portion being entirely flexible. More flexible allocations would significantly assist country offices in addressing the most pressing needs and bridge urgent funding gaps.



# Assistance was Reduced

## Prioritization Measures and Impact

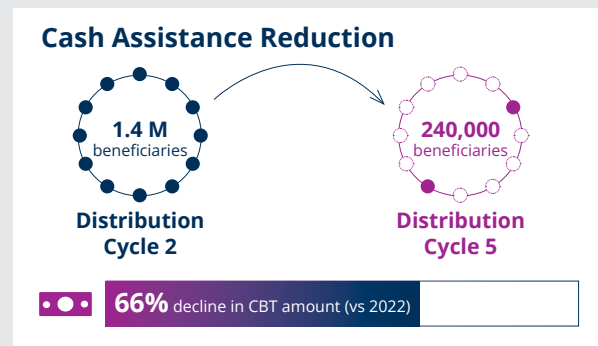
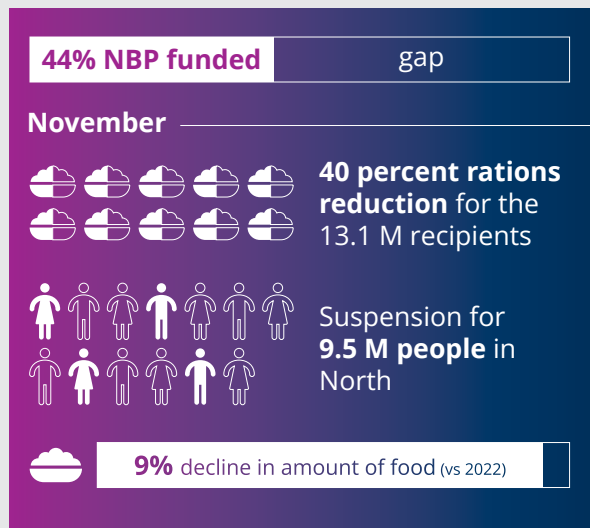
Throughout 2023, funding was not keeping pace with mounting needs in the region.

The provision of general food assistance, the largest component of RBC operations in the region, was gravely affected. Major RBC operations had opted to reduce the amount of the food ration or cash amount distributed and/or decrease the number of people benefitting from WFP assistance based on evidence-based, context-specific and tailored

retargeting and prioritization approaches. During the second half of the year, Yemen and Syria country offices were forced to pause their assistance to around 11.5 million people altogether, representing 50 percent of their total needs-based caseload for 2023.

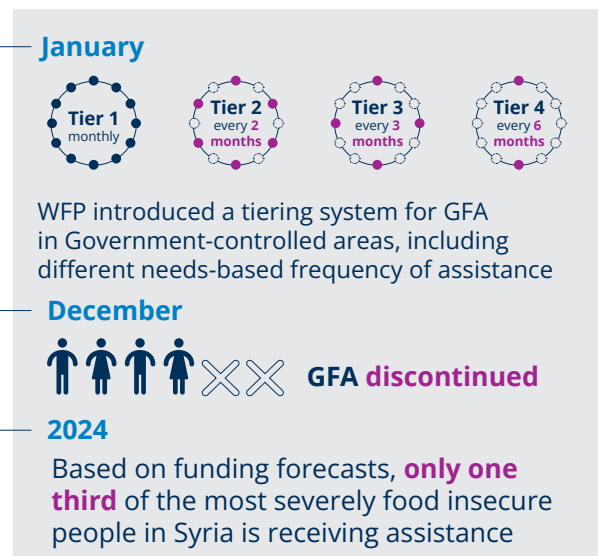
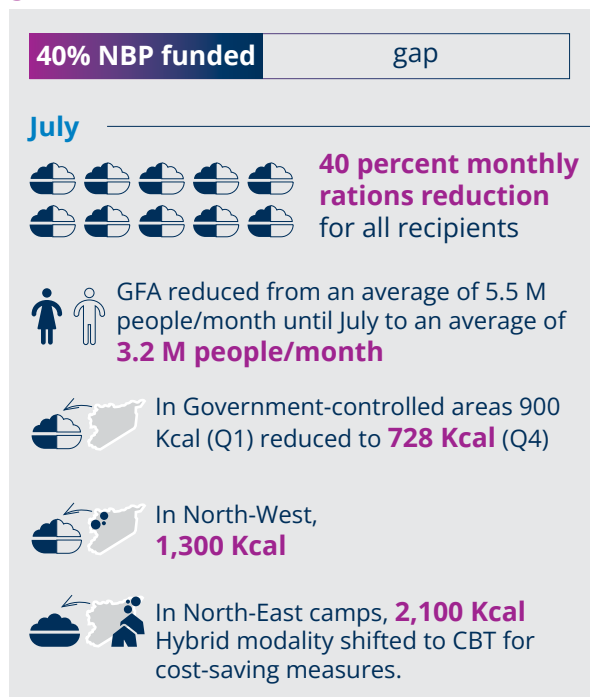
Below is a snapshot of funding reduction impact on RBC key operations with focus on GFA.

### YEMEN



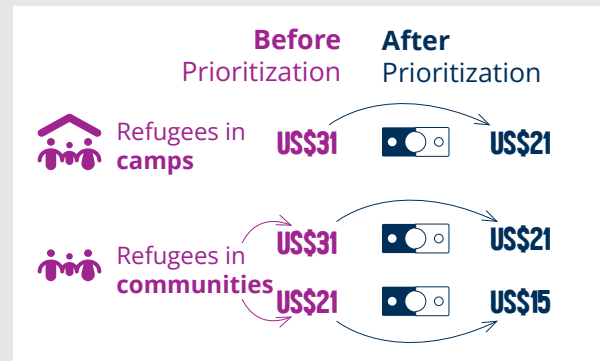
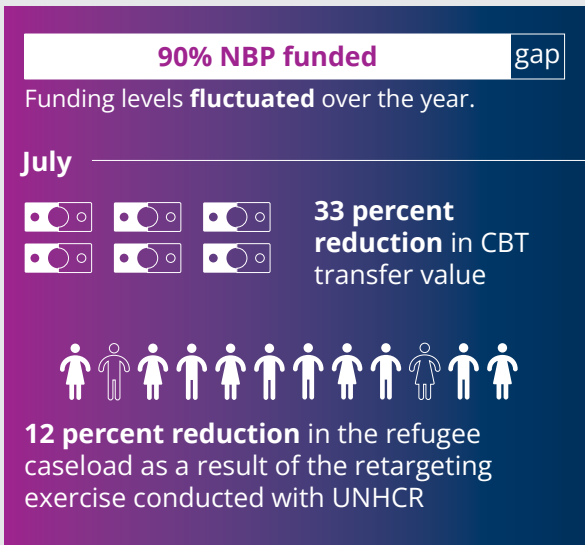
The proportion of surveyed beneficiary households experiencing **severe food deprivation** increased significantly from **23 percent in November 2023 to 38 percent in February 2024**.

### SYRIA



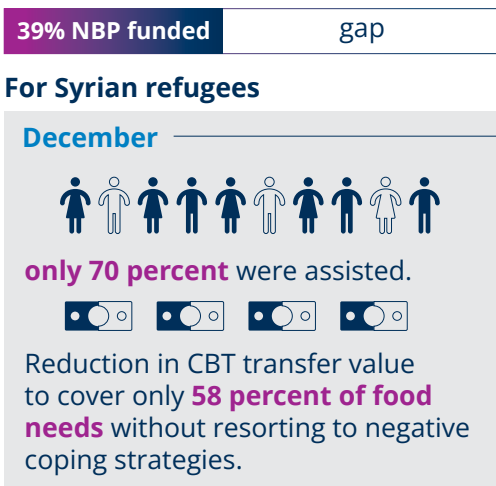
By December 2023, WFP saw an **11 percent increase** in the number of households with **insufficient food consumption** and a **16 percent decrease** in dietary diversity.

## JORDAN



**Severely food insecure** beneficiaries in camps reached **21 percent in Q1 2024 compared to zero prior to the assistance reduction**. They extensively resort to harmful coping strategies with long-term impact.

## LEBANON



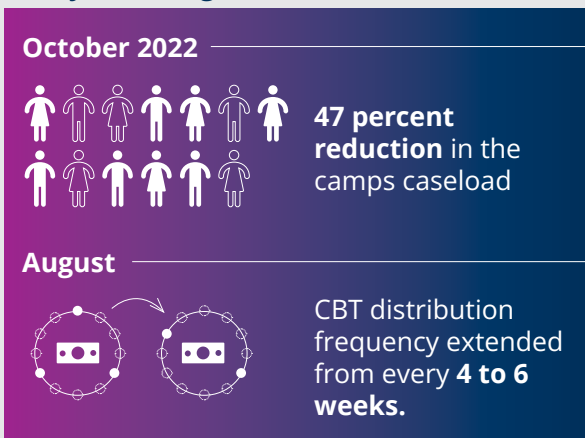
### For Lebanese households



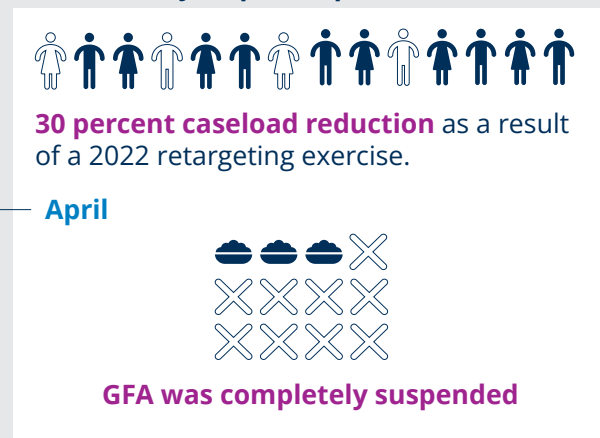
Following a **retargeting exercise** conducted in the second half of 2023, Lebanese recipient households will be reduced by **50 percent starting January 2024**.

## IRAQ

### For Syrian refugees

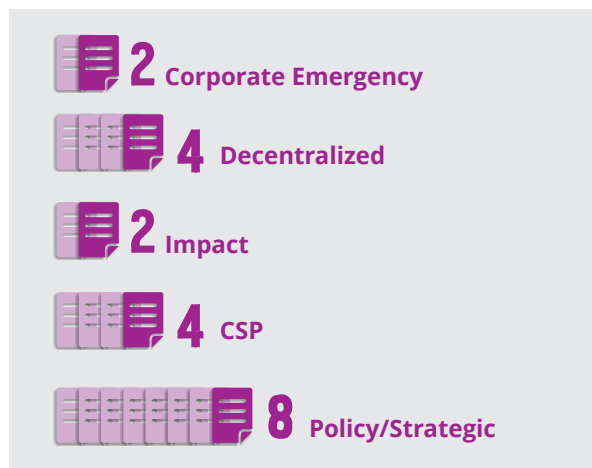


### For internally displaced persons



# Learning from Evaluations

## COMPLETED/ ONGOING EVALUATIONS IN 2023



As part of its commitment to evidence generation and learning, RBC benefited in 2023 from a number of evaluations commissioned by headquarters and by country offices intended to better understand the results of WFP's work with partners and direct beneficiaries across WFP's full portfolio of interventions.

The Office of Evaluation began three Country Strategic Plan evaluations in **Iraq, Syria** and **Türkiye** and two corporate emergency evaluations in **Yemen** and **Ukraine**. Two impact evaluations are currently ongoing in **Lebanon** and **Jordan** in the areas of school-based programme and optimizing humanitarian interventions. RBC country offices were involved in three completed WFP-wide policy evaluations: one focused on disaster risk reduction and climate change featured **Egypt**, another on WFP's role in peacebuilding in transition settings included **Iraq**, and a third on WFP's Policy on Country Strategic Plans covered **Lebanon** and **Yemen**. Additionally, there are two ongoing policy evaluations: one related to WFP's Emergency Preparedness Policy featuring **Egypt, Yemen, and Iraq**, and another concerning WFP's Environmental Policy included **Yemen**. Furthermore, **Iraq** and **Türkiye** were showcased in a recently completed strategic evaluation that assessed WFP's efforts in protecting against sexual exploitation and abuse. There are two ongoing strategic evaluations: one focusing on WFP's support to refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants displaying **Egypt**; another evaluating

the mid-term progress of WFP's Strategic Plan in **Lebanon** and **Iraq**, among other country offices.

Across RBC, country office-commissioned evaluations were completed in **Iraq** (livelihood and climate adaptation activities) and begun in **Armenia** (home-grown school feeding), and **Lebanon** (social protection). Key findings from Iraq evaluation confirmed that activities in the areas of food aid for assets, emergency cash for work, support to urban livelihoods and women's empowerment had largely been delivered, providing short to medium-term benefits to most beneficiaries. Going forward, the evaluators recommended better targeting of WFP's work with the most vulnerable beneficiaries and more attention to local government ownership of WFP activities to strengthen long-term sustainability. All evaluation reports in 2023 (4 evaluations completed covering Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen) were independently rated satisfactory or highly satisfactory.

## EVALUATION BY PROGRAMME AREA

The thematic areas covered by completed and ongoing DEs are presented in below.



Looking ahead, a key success in 2023 was the finalization of an [updated RBC Regional Evaluation Strategy 2023-2030](#) which aims to strengthen the culture of evaluation in RBC and increase the availability and use of evaluative evidence in decision-making and adaptive management. Implementation of the Strategy will focus on strengthening country office capacity to design and manage evaluations as well as improve the ways evaluation findings are shared to support strategy development and adaptive management.



# 2024 Way Forward

**Continued hostilities, widespread infrastructure destruction and mass displacement in Gaza, persistent insecurity across the region, unprecedented climate hazards and stagnant economies will further exacerbate food insecurity situation in many MENAEE countries in 2024.**

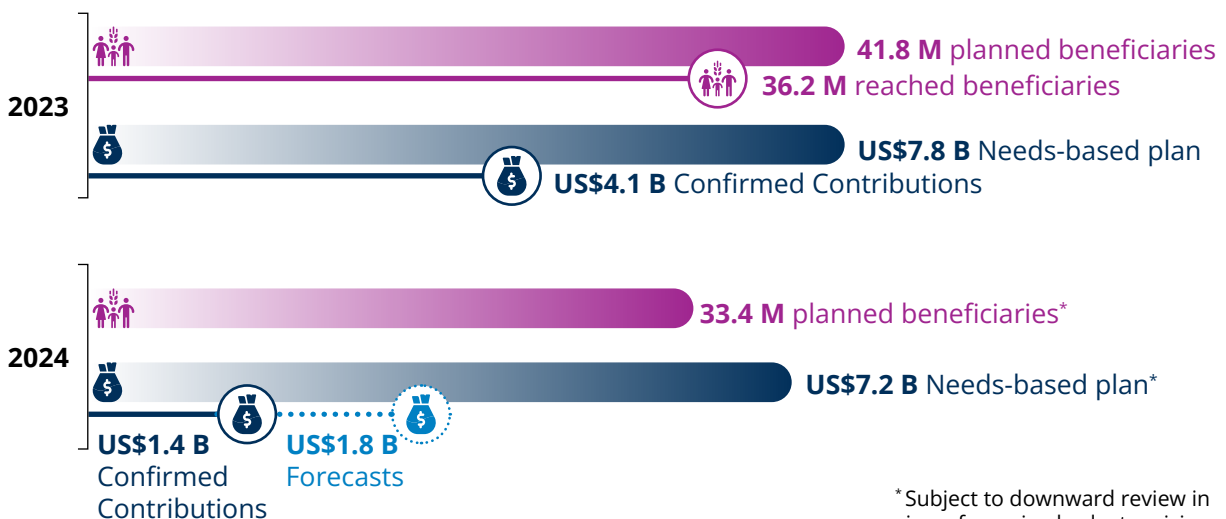
In a context of increased humanitarian needs and declining funding, WFP remains unwavering in its commitment to save lives and assist those most vulnerable and furthest behind. It continues to work closely with Governments, leveraging its partnerships and global expertise, to enhance social protection systems responsiveness against shocks. In a region that is growing dryer and hotter, WFP is also supporting countries to tap into new climate funding opportunities to strengthen their resilience against the knock-on impacts of climate change and improve their food systems. It also helps smallholder farmers be better prepared against climate shocks through local innovative solutions, revitalizing their livelihoods and boosting their agriculture yields.

**At the core of WFP priorities in MENAEE in 2024 lies the implementation of WFP global Assurance Action Plan to ensure that eligible individuals receive assistance safely and without interference.** Among 31 country offices identified as high-risk globally, eight are in the region: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. In line with WFP global assurance standards and minimum measures, these country offices have conducted fraud risk assessments and

devised context-based and comprehensive action plans including costed mitigation “end-to-end” measures to enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability of their delivery systems. With a funding requirement of 29 million for the region, country offices will focus on strengthening five key areas: management of cooperating partners, monitoring and community feedback mechanisms, targeting approaches, identity management practices and supply chain processes.

**In 2024, WFP requires US\$7.2 billion, 37 percent of WFP global requirements, to save and change the lives of 33.4 million food-insecure and vulnerable people across the MENAEE region.** Based on the current trends, WFP RBC expects to receive lower funding in 2024, compared to 2023. Funding shortfalls have already forced Yemen and Syria, RBC largest operations, to pause large-scale assistance and prioritize the most vulnerable with their limited resources available, affecting around 11.5 million beneficiaries in these countries: eventually two out of five beneficiaries have lost access to life-saving assistance due to prioritization. Other country offices are also reducing their caseloads and amount of assistance given the lack of adequate funds.

**WFP assistance provides a lifeline for millions of acutely food insecure. Funding remains crucial to prevent further assistance cuts and avoid pushing people in already extremely dire conditions into even deeper food insecurity.**



# List of Acronyms

<b>AAP</b>	Accountability to Affected Populations
<b>CBT</b>	Cash-based transfers
<b>CFM</b>	Community Feedback Mechanism
<b>CO(s)</b>	Country office(s)
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategic Plan
<b>DI</b>	Disability Inclusion
<b>ETC</b>	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
<b>EPR</b>	Emergency Preparedness and Response
<b>FFA</b>	Food for Assets
<b>GFA</b>	General Food Assistance
<b>GFD</b>	General Food Distribution
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>Kcal</b>	Kilocalories
<b>LNS</b>	Lipid-based nutrient supplements
<b>MENAE</b>	Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe
<b>MPC</b>	Multi-purpose Cash
<b>mt</b>	Metric Tonnes
<b>NAF</b>	National Aid Fund (in Jordan)
<b>NBP</b>	Needs-Based Plan
<b>NFI</b>	Non-Food Items
<b>PBWG</b>	Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls
<b>PDS</b>	Public Distribution Service
<b>PSEA</b>	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>PwD</b>	Persons with disabilities
<b>RBC</b>	Regional Bureau in Cairo
<b>RTE</b>	Ready-To-Eat
<b>SAMS</b>	Smallholder Farmers
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>SR</b>	Strategic Result
<b>TEC</b>	Telecommunication Engineering Center

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For more information,  
contact us at:  
[RBC.OIM@wfp.org](mailto:RBC.OIM@wfp.org)  
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