

WINDOWS TO CHANGE



World Food
Programme

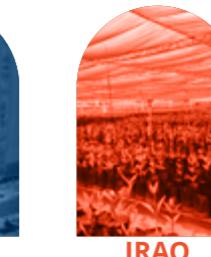


WINDOWS TO CHANGE

Selected stories of WFP beneficiaries in 2024 in the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Eastern Europe

Navigating the Windows

Every window, a story from a different country where WFP operates in the region



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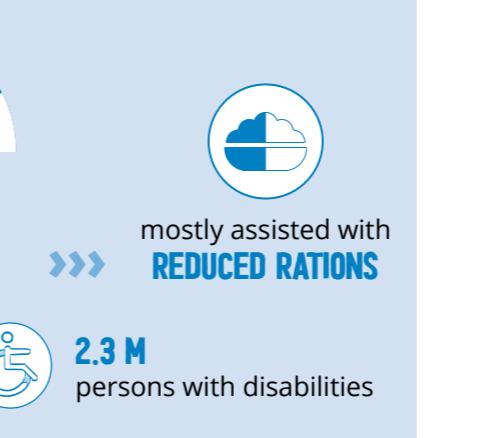
EGYPT
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2024 in Numbers

In the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Eastern Europe



WFP, a lifeline for



supported through



Beneficiaries included



15.7 MILLION residents



3.7 MILLION refugees



2.3 MILLION internally displaced persons



429,651 returnees



18.7 MILLION people received emergency food



308,166 people empowered with assets and Livelihoods opportunities



1.7 MILLION Treatment for people

1.2 MILLION Prevention for people

128,393 smallholder farmers assisted



54,817 people protected against climate shocks

Restoring Lives

Through Food, Hope and Stability

A story from **ARMENIA**



Following the refugee crisis in September 2023, which displaced more than 115,000 people, WFP expanded the use of food cards to enable refugees to purchase necessary food items from regular markets. This assistance was complemented by nutrition awareness and financial literacy training, addressing structural challenges related to malnutrition and financial management.

Narine's household was among those benefiting from this dual support. Her family faced daunting challenges upon their arrival in Armenia and struggled to meet their food needs. The food card helped them purchase essential items and stock up on basic food commodities, providing her family with much-needed security.

"We received AMD 303,000 (approximately USD 750) via the food card," Narine shared.

“THIS TIMELY SUPPORT DURING OUR INITIAL MONTHS WAS CRUCIAL...”

... Before receiving the card, we had to wait for state aid, and after paying for rent and utilities, little was left for food. We often had to buy food on credit and reduce portion sizes.”

WFP's support extended beyond financial assistance, fostering a network of care through the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and with World Vision implementing psychosocial support. Due to this holistic approach to humanitarian assistance, Narine and her children, beyond food support, also received tools to manage the stress and anxieties of displacement. **“I am grateful for the chance to connect with other families facing similar challenges. Sharing experiences and supporting one another has been truly helpful,”** she noted.

Narine's daughter Nadya found relief in Child-Friendly Space (CFS) sessions offered through the project. The sessions provided young refugees with a safe environment to express themselves and bond with peers.

“I do not have new friends here yet, but I like attending the sessions very much,” Nadya said. **“In one session, we learned about recognizing emotions, which helped me understand my feelings better and manage them.”**

Immediate financial relief through the food card, combined with ongoing psychosocial support, has enabled thousands of refugees to focus on rebuilding their lives and planning for their new future.

IN ARMENIA,
WFP reached
Narine among a total of



99,281

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$11 Million spent

52%
female

48%
male

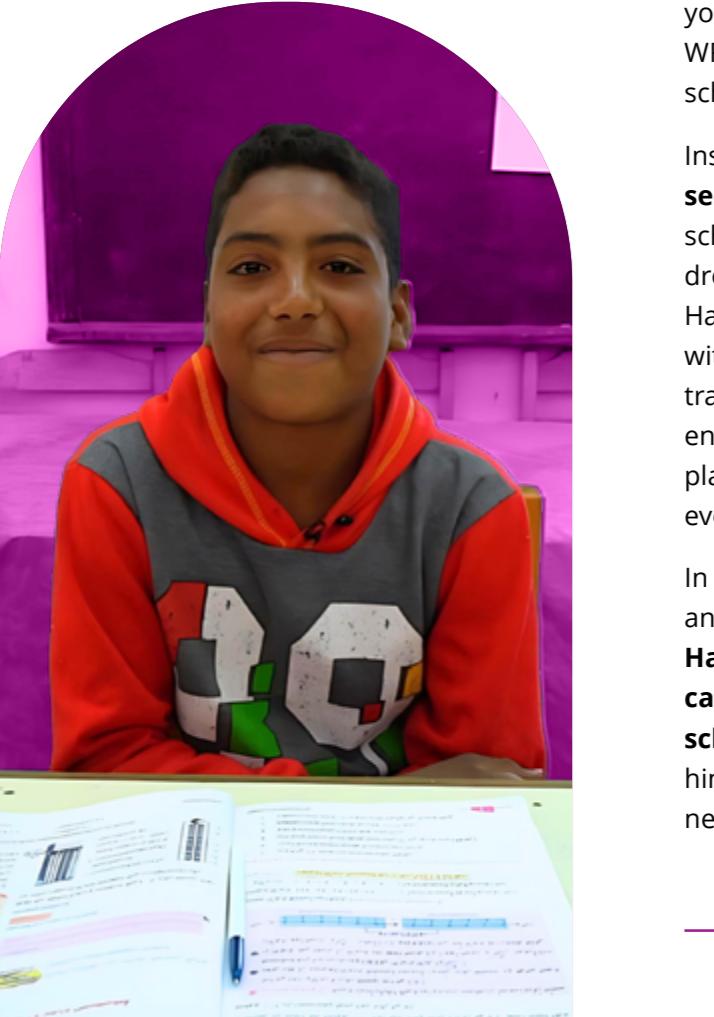
Read more about
WFP operations
in Armenia in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



WFP's Impact in Egypt

Empowering Lives, Nourishing Futures

Stories from EGYPT



From Farm to Classroom

Hassan was not your typical student! With a passion for farming, he dropped out of school at an early age to help his father on the farm. But everything changed when his younger sister shared her excitement that WFP's new interactive screen had arrived at school.

Inspired, **Hassan decided to give school a second chance.** Once back at the community school that prioritizes accepting school dropouts and other vulnerable children, Hassan channeled his love for farming and, with the school administration's support, transformed an empty plot at the school entrance. He cleared the land and started planting molokheya (mallow), cucumbers, and even tomatoes.

In addition to merging his dream of farming and his new dedication to his education, **Hassan is very thankful to receive WFP's cash assistance, which is conditional to his school attendance.** The assistance allows him to contribute to his household's basic needs while also continuing his education.

"I want to be a successful farmer," Hassan said, determined

WITH EDUCATION AND HARD WORK, I KNOW I CAN ACHIEVE MY DREAM OF OWNING MY OWN FARM ONE DAY.

His words are a testament to the power of education and the potential of young minds to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

From Humble Beginnings to a Flourishing Business

Ghada's life took an unexpected turn during a regular day picking up her son from community school in Aswan. As she waited for him, she heard from the teacher about a training programme offered to women interested in starting their own micro-business in the village. Deciding to take the leap, **Ghada enrolled on WFP's entrepreneurial training, learning how to make liquid soap at home.** She started small, making few quantities and using tree branches to mix. Neighbours loved her products; she seemed to have unlocked a gap in the local market!

Through word-of-mouth, the demand for her products began to triple, and production jumped from 30 to 120 gallons of liquid soap in just a matter of months. To meet the increased demand, her husband helped her in the delivery and production of the soap due to **Ghada's rheumatoid arthritis.**

Ghada and her husband, now partners, dream of expanding their products beyond Aswan.

GHADA'S JOURNEY, FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO BRAND ASPIRATIONS, IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF RESILIENCE...

... and to the possibility of changing gender norms in rural societies.



IN EGYPT,

WFP reached Hassan among a total of



837,372

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$61 Million spent

53% female

47% male

9,346 persons with disabilities

Read more about WFP operations in Egypt in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



WFP's Impact in Egypt (continued)

Tagen Hawawshi: From Dish to Dream!

Three young men from Sohag governorate, Mohamed Abdelal, AbdelHady Ali and Mohamed Hany, shared a lifelong dream of opening a unique restaurant. After years of friendship and planning, they discovered a hospitality training programme on Facebook, powered by WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and the private sector. To their surprise, all three were accepted.

“THIS EXTENSIVE TRAINING FELT LIKE A BIG PUSH TOWARD OUR GOAL.”

said Abdelal. They learned about housekeeping, restaurant service, and kitchen management, gaining valuable experience and confidence.

“This training gave us experience and confidence in the kitchen more than we ever gained in all these years of working,” Hany added.

With the support of eight other partners,



Abdelal, Ali, and Hany opened “**Tagen Hawawshi**” in Sohag, a restaurant serving delicious pasta, and Hawawshi, a popular Egyptian street food made with bread stuffed with seasoned ground beef. **On their opening day, they were overwhelmed by demand, foreshadowing great success!**

From Refugee to Restaurateur

Uprooted from her life in Syria, Abeer, a mother of two, arrived in Egypt in 2016.

The war had left her with the daunting task of rebuilding a life in a new country. Teaching her profession back home, was not readily transferable under Egyptian labour laws. Discouraged but determined, **Abeer** felt a familiar warmth flicker within - her love for Syrian cuisine; it was a thread connecting her to her heritage.

However, the path to turning this passion into a career seemed unclear. That's when an opportunity emerged –

“WFP’S CULINARY TRAINING PROGRAMME, EMPOWERING REFUGEES LIKE ABEER...”

... through **vocational trainings** to help secure jobs and a steady income.

Abeer eagerly seized this opportunity. With each lesson, **Abeer’s** confidence grew, transforming her passion into a powerful tool for building a new future.

Today, Abeer’s journey has grown into a success story. She not only holds a prestigious job at a restaurant, proudly showcasing the vibrant flavours of Syria to

a wider audience, but she’s also embarked on a new venture – preparing and selling her own homemade meals. **Abeer’s story is a testament to the transformative power of WFP’s programmes. It’s a story of resilience, of rediscovering a passion, and ultimately, of building a fulfilling life in a new land.**



IN EGYPT,

WFP reached Abeer among a total of



239,000
refugees assisted in 2024

During the year, WFP scaled up its General Food Assistance through monthly unconditional cash-based transfers to refugees and crisis-affected people from nine nationalities (Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia) following the Sudan conflict.

Read more about WFP operations in Egypt in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



WFP Assistance

A Lifeline for a Family in Need

A story from IRAN



In Saveh settlement, a community in central Iran, **Ghonche Nazari** works tirelessly to provide for her family. In her thirties, Ghonche is a devoted mother of six children, juggling the daily demands of her household alongside the challenges of supporting her ageing husband, who is only able to work two days a week.

**LIFE IS TOUGH, SHE SAYS.
BUT THIS SUPPORT MEANS A
LOT TO US.**

For Ghonche and her family, assistance from the WFP has been nothing short of a lifeline. The family benefits from a combination of wheat flour and cash transfers that help them meet their basic needs. Three of Ghonche's children are also part of WFP's school-based programmes, which include daily school feeding and cash incentives. These initiatives not only provide nourishment but also encourage the children to stay in school and focus on their education.

"We don't have anything else to rely on," says Ghonche. **"The wheat flour helps me bake bread for my family, and the cash allows us to buy other necessities. Knowing my children receive meals at school and some cash support gives me peace of mind."**

WFP's school feeding programme ensures Ghonche's children have the energy to learn and grow. For the mother of six, education is the cornerstone of her hopes and dreams. **"I only have one dream: to see my children thrive and live a better life than this,"** she says with a determined smile.

The challenges for families like Ghonche's are immense. Limited income and rising living costs mean that many refugee families in Saveh settlement struggle to make ends meet. However, WFP's assistance provides a crucial safety net, ensuring that vulnerable families have access to food and the opportunity to build a better future for their children.

Ghonche remains steadfast in her resolve, drawing strength from her children's resilience and the support her family receives. **"Life is hard, but with this help, we can get through the days. It means the world to us."**

Her story is a testament to the impact of humanitarian assistance in fostering hope and dignity among the most vulnerable communities. **For Ghonche and her family, every grain of wheat, every cash transfer, and every meal at school symbolizes the promise of a brighter tomorrow.**

IN IRAN,

WFP reached
Ghonche among a total of



33,872

beneficiaries
assisted in 2024

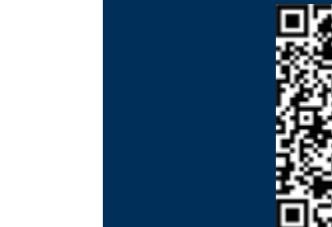
US\$7 Million spent

49%
female

51%
male

271
persons with
disabilities

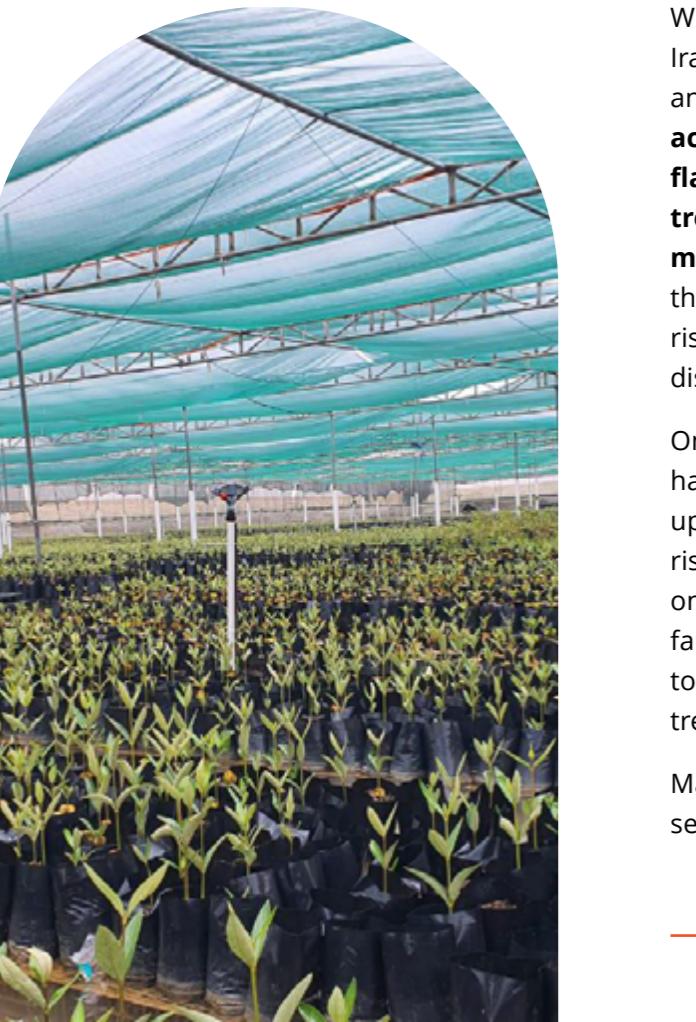
Read more about
WFP operations
in Iran in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



Mangroves: Basra's Guardian

A new Visitor of Basra: A Tale of Mangroves and Renewal

A story from **IRAQ**



A new Visitor of Basra: A Tale of Mangroves and Renewal

A story from **IRAQ**

Basra has been the city of palms for centuries, its towering palm trees lining the Shatt al-Arab, providing shade and sustenance. But today, a new guardian has arrived—the mangrove.

WFP, in partnership with the Government of Iraq and the University of Basra, is leading an ambitious initiative to **plant mangroves across 20,000 hectares across the tidal flats in Khor Al-Zubair. So far, 400,000 trees have been planted, to reach 90 million over five years.** This project is more than reforestation—it is a shield to combat rising salinity, dwindling water supplies, and displacement risks.

Once rich in rivers and agriculture, Basra has suffered from prolonged droughts and upstream water diversions. Sea levels are rising, pushing saltwater inland and leaving once-fertile lands barren. Generations of farmers now face an uncertain future, forced to abandon their homes. Even the iconic palm trees struggle against the encroaching salinity.

Mangroves, however, thrive where land and sea meet. Their roots filter salt, stabilize

shorelines, and act as natural barriers against erosion and storms. WFP's project is not just planting trees; it is planting resilience. These trees will provide habitat for marine life, revitalize fish stocks, and offer sustainable livelihoods to local fishers.

Beyond ecological benefits, the initiative fosters socio-economic growth. Community engagement ensures that active participation of local community members, job skills training, renewable energy projects, and sustainable resource management are integral to this initiative, helping communities adapt to changing environmental realities.

The impact extends to climate action. Over 30 years, these mangroves will sequester an estimated **9 million mt of CO₂.** As climate change threatens food security, these trees offer a tangible step toward mitigation and adaptation.

A New Chapter for Basra

As the first mangrove seedlings take root, they signal a new era. The palm trees remain the heart of Basra, but now they have a companion - a forest of resilience and

renewal - together, they are guardians of the land and sea.

WFP'S COMMITMENT GOES BEYOND MANGROVES.

Through carbon markets, climate-smart agriculture, and disaster risk reduction, WFP is introducing sustainable solutions to Iraq's climate challenges, ensuring long-term impact and scalability.

Harnessing Nature for Sustainability: WFP's Constructed Wetland Project in Sulaymaniyah

The University of Sulaymaniyah recently celebrated World Zongaw Day, named after the Kurdish word for wetland, highlighting its Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) project. This initiative, developed in partnership with WFP and the university's Colleges of Engineering and Environmental Sciences, is Iraq and the Kurdistan Region's first successful artificial wetland model. It presents an innovative solution to growing water scarcity.

The ICW project goes beyond wastewater treatment. It integrates the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, using phytotechnology to address environmental challenges while enhancing agricultural productivity. Treated

wastewater is repurposed to support agriculture and aquaculture, enriching soil fertility with reclaimed nutrients, providing purified water for irrigation, sustaining fish farming, and even generating biogas from organic sludge for clean energy production.

Constructed wetlands are engineered ecosystems that replicate natural wetland functions, using plants, soil, and microorganisms to purify wastewater. The University of Sulaymaniyah's ICW features Vertical Subsurface Flow (VSSF) and Horizontal Subsurface Flow (HSSF) wetlands, designed to efficiently treat wastewater while promoting biodiversity and ecological balance.

Beyond environmental and agricultural benefits, the ICW serves as a learning hub for students, researchers, and the community. It aligns with the university's sustainability goals and provides a replicable model for other regions facing wastewater challenges.

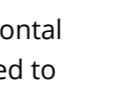
By fostering collaboration, raising awareness, and promoting sustainable practices, the Zongaw ICW initiative paves the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for Iraq.

IN IRAQ,
WFP reached



81,993
beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$30 Million spent

 **51%**
female

 **49%**
male

 **6,091**
persons with disabilities

 **11,000**
people supported through climate-adapted assets, agri-practices, and livelihoods

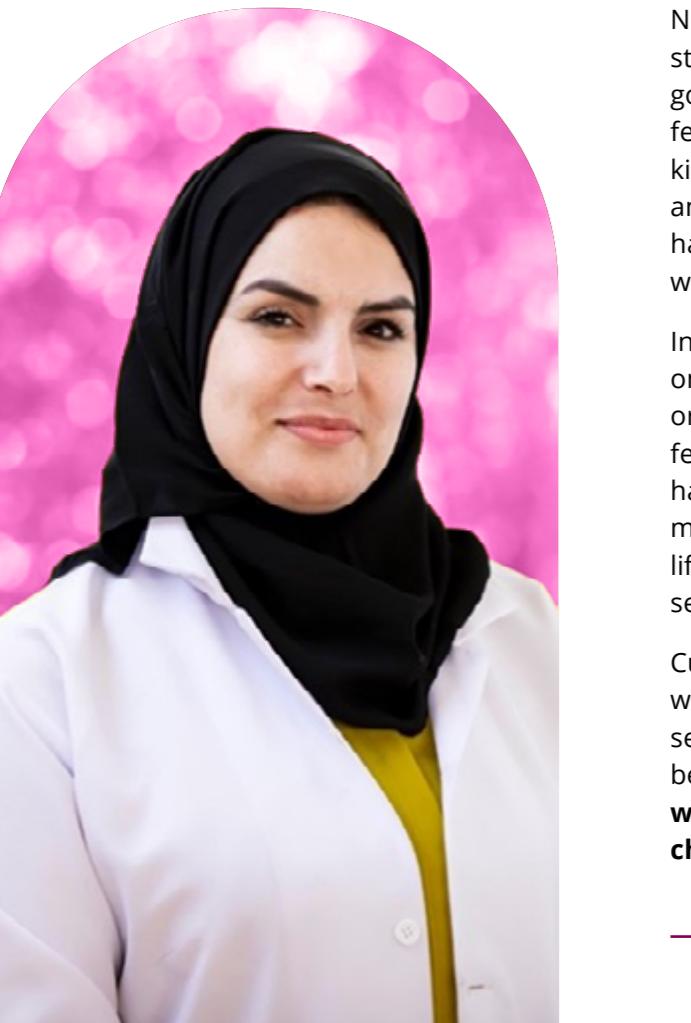
Read more about WFP operations **in Iraq in 2024** in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



Empowerment through Every Meal

Kitchens to Classrooms: Empowering Women, Nurturing Futures

A story from JORDAN



Kitchens to Classrooms: Empowering Women, Nurturing Futures

A story from JORDAN

In the heart of Ramtha governorate in northern Jordan, a community-based kitchen supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) empowers women and catalyses the local economy. Producing 13,000 school meals daily as part of the National School Feeding Programme, it stands as one of ten kitchens across six governorates preparing healthy meals to feed schoolchildren in poverty pockets. This kitchen has become a symbol of resilience and progress, employing over 30 women who have embraced newfound skills and roles within their community.

In the early morning light, Shireen steps onto a bus provided by the community-based organization running the kitchen. Alongside fellow women, she is heading to a place that has redefined her life. For Shireen, a single mother of four, this job offered a lifeline—lifting her from a history of uncertainty and self-doubt.

Cultural norms had once confined her to the walls of her home, discouraging her from seeking work. However, this opportunity became her turning point. **"At first, it was just a way to provide food for my children,"** Shireen recalls, her voice brimming

with gratitude. **"But now, it's my source of strength. Today, I am a woman who conquers fears and leads her destiny."**

Shireen is one of approximately 250 women employed across these kitchens. Beyond wages, they gain invaluable training in food handling, safety, and hygiene. Registered under social security, they embrace economic independence and newfound confidence. **"I am proud to say I support my children's education. My eldest daughter is graduating this year,"** she shares.

I WANT MY STORY TO INSPIRE EVERY WOMAN NOT TO LET FEAR OR SOCIETAL NORMS HOLD THEM BACK.

The kitchen's ripple effect extends far beyond its walls. Every day, its workers ensure that 90,000 vulnerable Jordanian and refugee children receive freshly prepared, nutritious meals. Local ingredients—18 mt of fruits and vegetables alongside freshly baked pastries—are sourced from nearby farmers, processed with care, and delivered in recyclable

packaging to schools.

Abdelsalam, Shireen's 11-year-old son, beams as he talks about the meals his mother helps prepare. **"I love the bananas in the lunch bag—they give me energy for soccer after school! and the pastries are so tasty,"** he says with a shy smile. Shireen adds, **"Seeing my son healthy, happy, and excited to learn gives me the greatest joy. I know I am making a difference not just for him but for so many other children."**

Haitham, who transports meals from the kitchen to schools, describes his role with pride. **"I am not just delivering meals; I am delivering hope,"** he says. **"Knowing these meals help kids stay in school and learn better motivates me every day. It is not just a job—it is a mission."**

Sultan, a local banana farmer, speaks of his involvement. **"When I see my produce going to school meals, I know I'm part of something bigger,"** he says. **"It's more than just selling produce—it is helping kids grow strong and supporting my community."**

The kitchen is a cornerstone of WFP's locally driven approach. It bolsters the livelihoods of 300 local farmers across 16 farms, 90 workers across five bakeries, 90 transporters, and 10 community-based organisations while strengthening supply chains and fostering local economic development.

A recent impact evaluation conducted by WFP in collaboration with the World Bank revealed profound effects on schoolchildren and kitchen workers. Regular nutritious meals enhance children's school attendance, dietary diversity, and overall energy levels. Among women working in the kitchens, the findings demonstrate increased income and savings, a greater willingness to remain employed, and more openness among male spouses regarding women's employment, resulting in higher overall life satisfaction.

The Ramtha community-based kitchen epitomises WFP's commitment to sustainable development. By investing in women's skills and capacities, WFP transforms individual lives and uplifts entire communities. With every meal, every story, and every breakthrough, this initiative illustrates the extraordinary potential of empowerment and opportunity.

The World Food Programme in Jordan has been supporting the Ministry of Education in implementing the National School Feeding Programme since 2013. Within the framework of the National School Feeding Strategy (2021-2025), the aim is to gradually expand the reach of the healthy meal model, implemented in collaboration with the Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS), to 500,000 students by 2030.

IN JORDAN,
WFP reached
Shireen among a total of



940,132
beneficiaries
assisted in 2024

US\$125 Million spent



50%
female



50%
male



28,017
persons with
disabilities

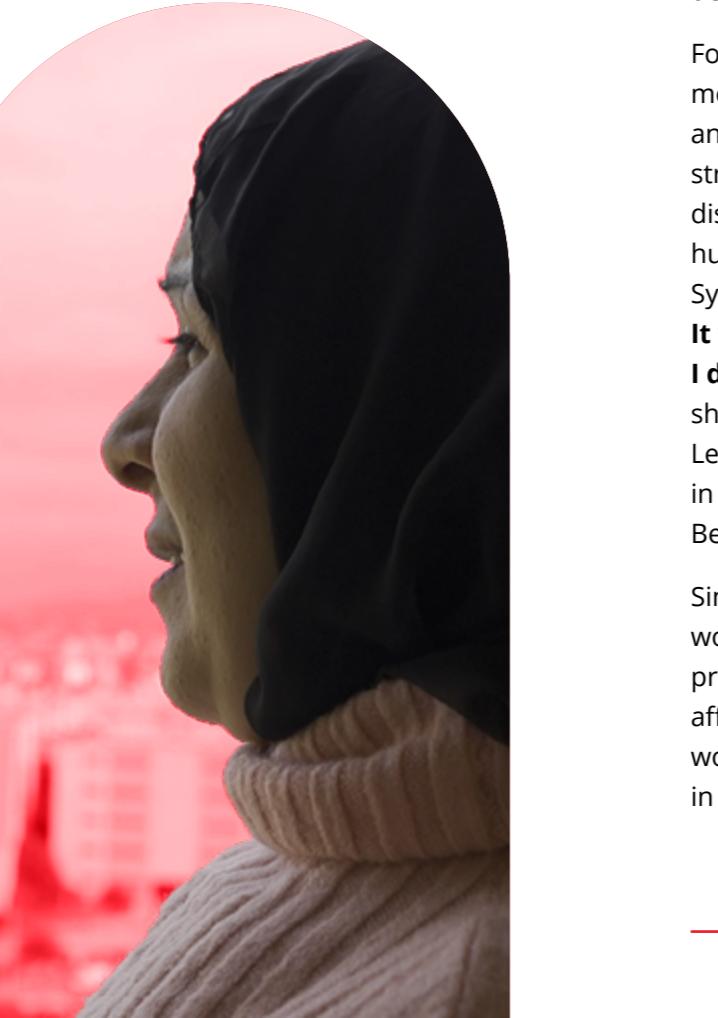
Read more about
WFP operations
in Jordan in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



Holding onto Hope in Lebanon

Nada Prepares for Twins in the Shadow of War

A story from LEBANON



Nada, a 33-year-old nurse from Taybeh in southern Lebanon, dreams of returning home. Newly married, she had just prepared her house to welcome guests in celebration when conflict erupted, turning her joy into despair.

For over a year, **Nada** has been displaced, moving across Lebanon with her husband, and staying with family, friends, and strangers willing to host them. Recently, after discovering she was pregnant with twins, her husband urged her to cross the border to Syria, fearing nowhere in Lebanon was safe. “**It was a long journey but after two weeks, I decided to come back no matter what,**” she returned to stay with her husband in Lebanon. They are now displaced in Aramoun in Mount Lebanon, 22 kilometres away from Beirut.

Since 2019, Lebanon has faced one of the world’s worst economic crises. With food prices soaring, many families can no longer afford even basic meals. The situation worsened with the escalation of hostilities in September, which displaced 1.6 million

people and left countless homes destroyed or uninhabitable.

Nada’s husband, who previously had steady work, now earns a living as a painter on a daily-wage basis. “**No one knew where we would be safe,**” Nada said, reflecting on the uncertainty of their journey.

Expecting twins, Nada is aware of the importance of nutrition and medical care. “**I am trying to avoid sugars and junk food,**” she said. Her doctor recommended supplements, including iron, folic acid, and magnesium, to support her health and that of her unborn children. Despite assistance from her husband’s cousin to cover medical bills, Nada worries about the cost of a potential C-section. “**It costs so much more,**” she said, highlighting the financial pressures that weigh heavily on her family.

More than a million people in Lebanon were already struggling to put food on the table before the recent conflict.

SINCE 2021, NADA HAS RELIED ON WFP’S FOOD ASSISTANCE.

Initially receiving in-kind food assistance, her family was temporarily moved to the

emergency cash assistance programme covering both a food and non-food component, like thousands of other families on the move who couldn’t be reached with in-kind food assistance.

In 2024, WFP in collaboration with the Government of Lebanon supported 2.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.58 million marginalized Lebanese and Syrian refugees and 752,000 people affected by the latest conflict.

IN LEBANON,
WFP reached
Nada among a total of



2.3 MILLION
beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$382 Million spent

 **51%**
female

 **49%**
male

 **93,400**
persons with disabilities

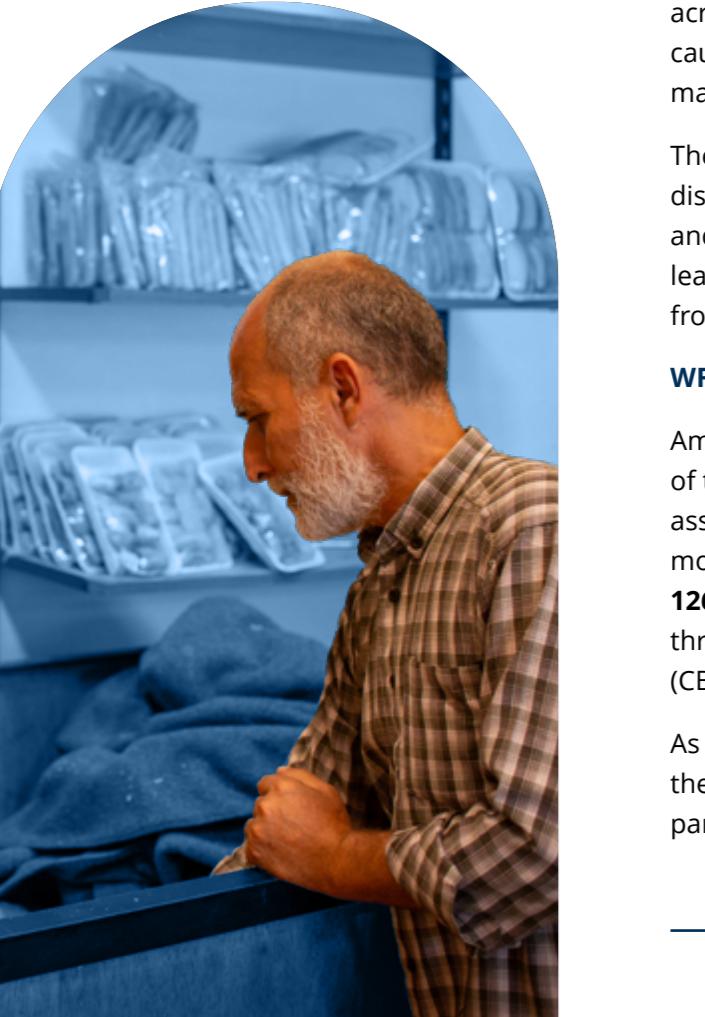
Read more about
WFP operations
in Lebanon in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



The Bakery's Resilience

Rising from Derna's Storm

A story from LIBYA



A Storm of Devastation

In mid-September 2023, the coastal area of northeastern Libya was struck by Tropical Storm Daniel, a catastrophic event that unleashed torrential rains and flash floods across several cities and towns. The storm caused a devastating human toll and forced many residents to flee their homes.

The socio-economic impact was profound, disrupting the provision of essential goods and services, and exacerbating food prices, leaving communities struggling to recover from the destruction.

WFP's Support for Recovery

Amid this crisis, WFP was at the forefront of the UN response, mobilizing emergency assistance within 48 hours. Over the three months, WFP provided crucial support to **126,000 people affected** by the floods through in-kind and cash-based transfers (CBT).

As part of its early recovery activities in the storm-affected area of Derna, WFP, in partnership with the Derna Chamber of

Commerce and generous funding from the German government, provided critical machinery and equipment to more than 30 damaged bakeries.

From May 9 to 13, WFP conducted a mission to Derna to meet the beneficiaries of the bakery rehabilitation project and youth business grants. **Through this initiative, 32 bakeries received essential equipment**, including ovens, mixers, moulds, and generators, enabling them to reopen and enhance their production capacity.

Voices of Resilient Bakery Owners

One of the local beneficiaries, Mustafa Al-Jibani, the owner of Al-Jibani bakery, shared his experience: **"The tragedy struck us at 3 a.m. The amount of water was very terrible, leading to the complete destruction of the bakery, with the loss of cars and buildings. After a while, the international organisation contacted us, and we agreed to receive the necessary equipment to operate the bakery".**

With a brand-new moulder in the background, Mustafa expressed his delight: **"We received**

the full needs for our bakery, with its modern machinery and equipment, which elevated the bakery's performance and its capacity."

Al-Jibani shared that previously, the bakery used to operate with machines which can be considered manual, and with humble performance. However, after receiving WFP's support, the bakery was restored even better than before and it is now producing bread, and pastries, and is fully working.

THANKS TO THIS NEW SUPPORT, BESIDES BREAD, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO MAKE NEW PRODUCTS SUCH AS SWEET AND SALTY PASTRIES.

Mustafa explains.
"We were also able to increase the capacity of the bakery, going from 3 workers to 6, operating on the different machines and products, which also increased the productivity and hence better financial profit of the bakery." He adds.

Rebuilding Local Communities

To further support the recovery of the local food system, WFP provided electricity generators to **17 of the rehabilitated**

bakeries in Derna, addressing the need for a stable power supply to meet the rising demand. Quality checks confirmed that all **37 bakeries are operational now with the new equipment**, supporting the livelihoods of their owners.

Through these initiatives, WFP is not only helping communities recover but also laying the foundation for a more resilient local food system in the aftermath of Storm Daniel.

IN LIBYA,

WFP reached Mustafa among a total of



221,259

beneficiaries assisted in 2024
US\$15 Million spent



Read more about WFP operations in Libya in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



Saving Lives, Changing Lives

Valeriu and Nina story: Moldovan Pensioners supported by WFP

A story from MOLDOVA



Valeriu and Nina story: Moldovan Pensioners supported by WFP

A story from MOLDOVA

Valeriu's life has been defined by resilience and dedication after an explosion left him severely injured and claimed his brother's life. He and his wife Nina, both pensioners, have seen their vulnerability worsen due to the war in Ukraine, which has significantly increased the cost of basic needs in Moldova.

Along with 49,237 other households with a member born before 1945 receiving less than MDL 3,000 (approximately USD 165) monthly pension, Valeriu and Nina have received WFP's 2023-2024 winter cash top-up assistance. The top-up complements the state pensions, which remain significantly below the gross national average earning of MDL 12,200 per month (**approximately USD 655**).

Following a request from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) and through strategic partnership with other United Nations Agencies working in Moldova, in 2023-2024 WFP implemented the second edition of a winter cash top-up to vulnerable populations identified by the MLSP. This support, coordinated and distributed by WFP, represented a balanced response to significant needs affecting vulnerable Moldovans and social cohesion. During the 2023/2024 cold season reporting period WFP was able to provide such cash assistance to 68,585 unique beneficiaries.

During a WFP house visit, Nina and Valeriu confirmed the benefits of WFP's assistance. They specified the cost of medicines as particularly stressful. Relying only on their

Valeriu and Nina's pensions are not always sufficient to cover living expenses, especially during wintertime when utility costs increase, negatively affecting their capacity to meet basic needs including food. In 2023, the average monthly consumption expenditure of the population was estimated at more than **MDL 4,400 per person (approx. USD 240)**, representing an increase of 13 percent over 2022.

pensions, without any additional household income, WFP provided

"MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF" TO COVER FOOD AND MEDICINE COSTS.

Along with 71 percent of vulnerable Moldovan households who received the support, Valeriu and Nina would have fallen below the extreme poverty line without WFP's cash assistance.

WFP's 2024 perception survey, conducted following the cash delivery, revealed a high degree of beneficiary satisfaction, with a rating of 9.7 out of 10. Results indicated that most recipients used cash assistance for food, utilities, and health care. Ninety-three percent reported that the aid improved their living conditions and reduced stress.

The effects of the war in Ukraine have had a severe impact on vulnerable groups in Moldova, including the elderly population. The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 4.6 percent in 2022, recovering by 0.7 percent in 2023.

In 2022, natural gas prices increased 221 percent over 2021, falling again by only 18 percent in 2023. In 2023, the food price index fell by 20 percent but after a 30 percent increase between 2020 and 2022. Absolute

poverty rates increased in 2023 affected 31.6 percent of the population, 42 percent live in rural areas.

The distribution of cash transfers was facilitated through WFP's financial service provider, the state-owned Posta Moldovei, which has over 1,450 branches across the country. This extensive national coverage significantly enhances financial inclusion, especially for vulnerable individuals in rural areas with limited access to financial services.

Raisa, the head of the Posta Moldovei center in Hincesti, the capital of a central-western region sharing a border with Romania, a population of more than 70,000, joined the enterprise two years ago and contributed to the distribution of the 2023/2024 cash assistance. Raisa said more than 250 beneficiaries received cash transfers from WFP in Hincesti.

To ensure access from all identified beneficiaries to this assistance, **Posta Moldovei made it possible for the cash transfer to be delivered to the residence of beneficiaries immobilized for reasons of health and unable to go to the post office to collect the cash.** Over 60 beneficiaries in Hincesti benefited from this mobile service.

IN MOLODOVA,
WFP reached
Valeriu among a total of



86,885

beneficiaries assisted in 2024
US\$14 Million spent

 **69%**
female

 **31%**
male

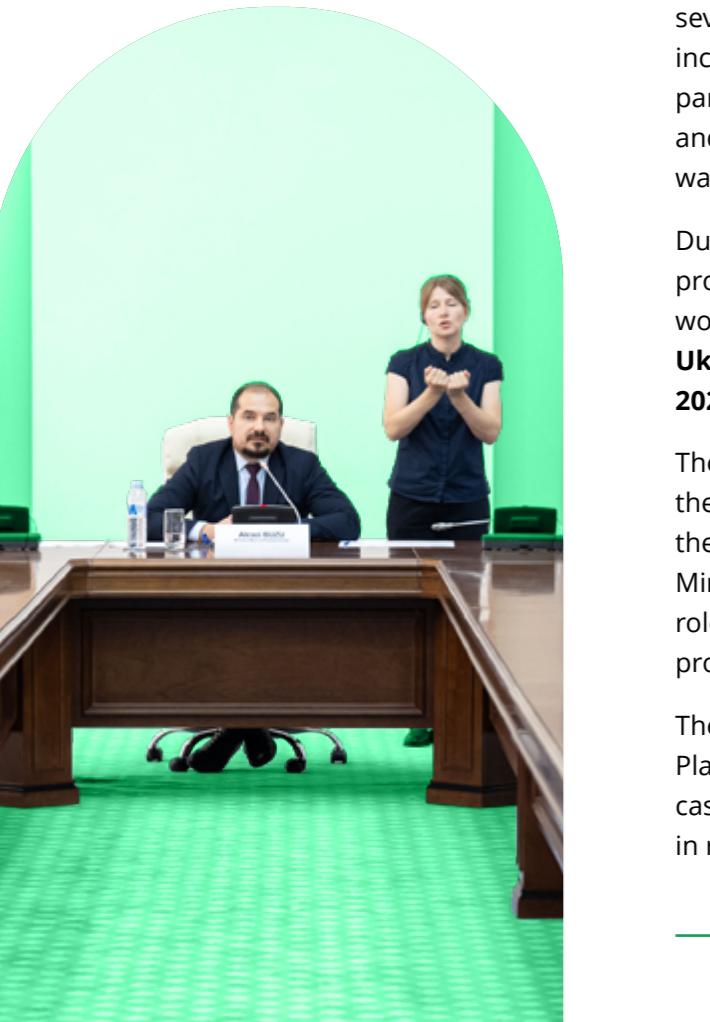
Read more about
WFP operations
in Moldova in January & February
2024
in the MD01 Annual Country Report
[here](#)



Enhancing Emergency Response

Strengthening Moldova's social protection resilience

A story from **MOLDOVA**



To enhance its ability to respond effectively to crises, the social protection system must be transparent, accountable, and efficient.

ic of Moldova is a small country
en economy that has experienced
cks in recent years. These events
health impacts of the COVID-19
the droughts in 2020 and 2022,
ial and economic effects of the
ine.

lict, Moldova has the highest
of Ukrainian refugees per capita
–5.2 percent, with over 127,000
refugees remaining in December

an refugee crisis, along with
the economic impacts of COVID-19 and
the conflict in Ukraine, has underscored the
importance of Labour and Social Protection's
role in financing crisis response and social
resilience.

through the Refugee Response in coordinating large humanitarian programmes with international agencies related to the war in Ukraine.

vide a more
nd accessible
well as to
ILSP has sought
engthening
ity of its social

**ED ITS
REFORM
STANCE**

access to social
ART reform (a
e in Romanian:
tență socială
stabil la servicii

d an assessment
k-responsiveness
n programmes.
l opportunities

ss-sectoral collaboration
and the Ministry of Internal
Affairs in the context of delivering
cash transfers.

ndation was to convene
orkshop to review and
ngs from previous emergency
and best practices
n the field of social protection,
employed during the COVID-19
the Ukrainian refugee
kshop brought together
s from various Government
peer exchange and cross-
ning. Active engagement and
change enabled participants to
address common challenges,
ach other's strengths, thereby
re comprehensive and
tions to problems.

In collaboration with the UN Nations Agencies, and other partners, WFP has continued its initiatives aimed at strengthening the delivery of government social assistance. The assistance is in line with the efforts of the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the priorities of the 2025-2026 RRP.

RESTART Learning Lab initiative, the MLSP, the WFP has co-signed a statement aimed at enhancing the social

tance system through line workers responsible for assistance. The League has approximately 70 members working in this field. The League supports RESTART reform as well as application to join the European Union, emergency planning and other forms.

is capacity-strengthening. It is part of Strategic Risk Country Strategies. The objective includes training, construction and rehabilitation activities, technical support and cash assistance for vulnerable households, thereby enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations.

In collaboration with the UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR National Committees, NGOs, and other partners, WFP has continued to implement measures aimed at strengthening government social assistance programs. Assistance is in line with the priorities of the 2024 Refugee Resettlement Program and the priorities for the 2024-2026 RRP.

IN M
WFP re

WFP reached all 10 districts in the country.



94,
benefi
assisted

US\$23 Millio



The logo consists of a stylized white icon of a person sitting in a wheelchair, facing right. The person's arms are raised in a 'V' shape. Above the head is a small circle representing an eye or a lightbulb. To the right of the icon, the text "INAIL" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

[Read more](#)
WFP opera

in Moldova from March-Dece
2024

in the MD02 Annual Country Report
[here](#)



WFP Lifeline for War-Torn Gaza

WFP Offers Lifeline Amid War-Torn Gaza

A story from PALESTINE



Throughout 2024, as war and displacement reshaped every aspect of life in Gaza, families endured extreme hardship – loss of loved ones, homes destroyed, and the daily struggle to find food.

Amidst the conflict, WFP remained on the ground, working tirelessly to ensure that food reached those who needed it most. Whether through parcels that became a lifeline, bread through bakeries, nutrition supplements, or hot meal kitchens. WFP provided assistance to two million people across Gaza.

Two million stories. Here are some of them:

Grieving while struggling to put food on the table

In a makeshift camp in Deir El Balah, **Nadia Hijazi** lives in a cold tent with her only remaining daughter and extended family. Two months ago, a missile destroyed her home, taking the lives of her four other children. The family's journey to search for safety was marked by uncertainty and hardship.

For months, **Nadia's family** has relied on WFP's canned food parcels, which she collects after hours of standing outside in line, shivering from exposure to the elements.

Adults often forgo meals, to save what little they have for the children. **"My daughter wakes up, and I search for something to feed her, but there is none. I give her a loaf of plain bread to keep her full,"** Nadia shared.

The arrival of WFP food parcels has brought some relief to the family.

“Now, I will feed everyone with it.”

she said. **"We all live together and eat together."**

Fighting to keep malnutrition away from her loved ones

In a crowded distribution centre in South Gaza, **Shayma** holds her five-year-old son's hand tightly as they wait for food under the heat of June. Her older son had already surrendered to malnutrition, a heartache she couldn't bear to repeat. **"There's nothing I can feed him,"** pointing to her child, **"nothing I can do for him here,"** Shayma said. Hunger still looms over her family, she decided to leave the city and evacuate to

southern Gaza to save the rest of the family. A journey that she thought would bring a better future.

She arrived at Khan Younis with nothing in her hands, hoping to find assistance. **"I come to get the nutrition supplements from here once a month. They help me ensure my kids are sustained nutrition-wise,"** she shared. Like thousands, Shayma's words reflect countless parents in Gaza, where malnutrition and hunger threatened the lives of their children during the course of the war.

Stability to Survival

For Suliman and Nour, life changed overnight. Displaced multiple times, they eventually returned to their crumbling home in Khan Younis – it was their last option left. Suliman worked at an ice cream factory, but when it was destroyed, so was his livelihood.

"The war exposed my family to hunger and degradation I worked my life to protect them from," he shares.

Now, their children spend hours each day standing in long lines for water, bread, and WFP-supported hot meals, carrying food back home through the October rain. Like many families in Gaza, this couple relies entirely on WFP's food aid. **"If we don't stand in line for hot meals, we will not eat,"** Suliman says.

WFP's Lifesaving Support

Amid the severe humanitarian crisis

WFP continues to provide a lifeline for

families in Gaza. Food parcels, designed

to meet essential nutritional needs with

minimal cooking, remain a critical source

of sustenance for families like **Nadia's,**

Shayma's, and Suliman's.

WFP's interventions help millions

withstand the crisis, offering not just

sustenance, but a measure of stability and

hope.

IN PALESTINE,

WFP reached
Nadia among a total of



2.1 MILLION

beneficiaries
assisted in 2024

US\$519 Million spent

 50%
female

 50%
male

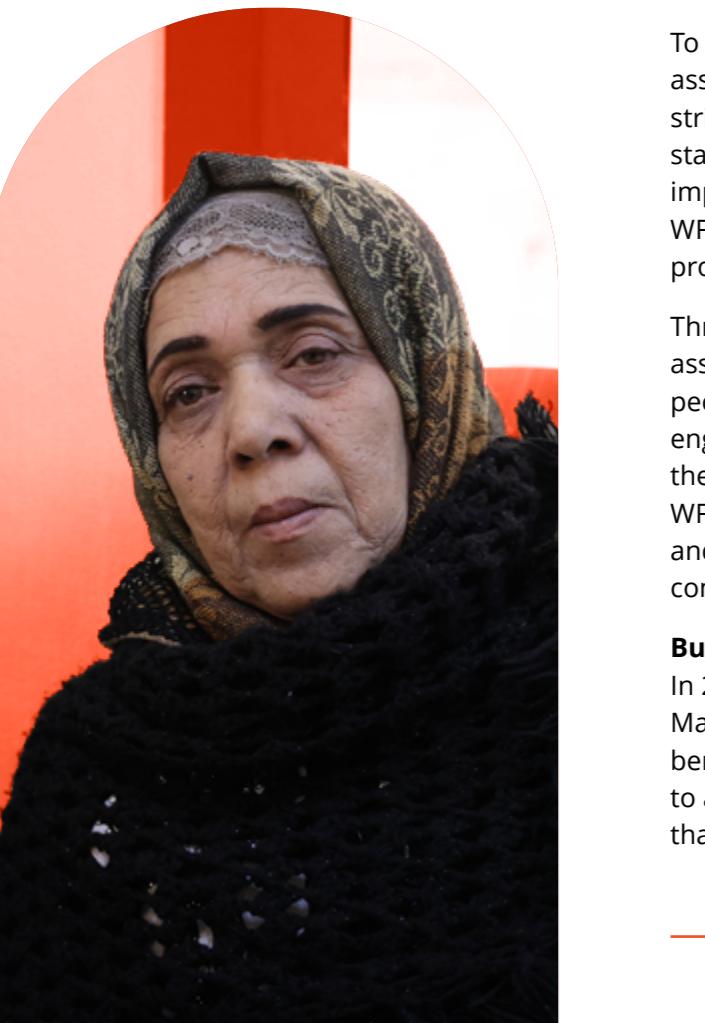
 148,222
persons with
disabilities

Read more about
WFP operations
in Palestine in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



Better Assurance

A story from SYRIA



In Syria, where humanitarian needs reached record levels and humanitarian funding is steadily declining, it is becoming increasingly crucial to ensure that **the right people receive the right assistance at the right time.**

To achieve this, WFP invested in its assurance measures and made significant strides towards meeting global assurance standards. From the design phase through implementation of the new TFA programme, WFP ensured people were at the centre of the process.

Through rigorous targeting, WFP prioritized assistance for the most food insecure. A people-centred approach has been adopted, engaging communities and consulting them on targeting and programme design. WFP leveraged all channels to maintain and enhance two-way communication with communities.

But WFP needed to know who it will serve. In 2024, WFP Syria launched an Identity Management (IDM) Strategy to identify beneficiaries and utilise their personal data to assist them. Through IDM, WFP ensures that the right people receive the assistance

they are entitled to, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability to affected populations and donors.

To ensure efficient and responsible data collection, WFP gathers only the minimum essential data, thereby enhancing privacy protections and reducing organizational risk.

Digitized beneficiary registration

WFP has leveraged technology to efficiently safeguard and manage beneficiaries' identity data. A trusted corporate-approved system has been developed to collect, handle, deduplicate and securely store beneficiaries' personal information. To date, WFP has registered over 850,000 people in the TFA programme through the system, while adhering to data minimization and protection principles. WFP Syria also piloted digital tracking of in-kind assistance distribution to ensure that assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries, with full roll-out expected in 2025.

In the field

WFP team met Wahiba at the registration centre in Jaramana, Rural Damascus, where over 50 people were being registered daily to

receive WFP assistance. Wahiba, a 53-year-old woman, is the legal guardian and caregiver of her two granddaughters. After their father passed away during the crisis in Syria and their mother left the country to remarry, Wahiba took on the responsibility of raising them alone. Speaking about the challenges she faces while trying to provide for her granddaughters, Wahiba said:

"They remind me so much of their father, my son, and I keep telling myself, no matter what happens or how harsh life gets, I will raise these girls and see them grow up and thrive." Her voice shakes with tears as she continues, **"I wish I could give them everything they need, like many of their friends have..."**

...BUT THE BEST I CAN DO IS LET THEM AT LEAST CHOOSE WHAT THEY WANT TO EAT AND PICK THE FOOD THEY HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF, USING THE ASSISTANCE CARD.

Wahiba provided her information to WFP's cooperating partner's registration team. Registering her details took only ten minutes, saving time for the staff to process many others who are equally or more severely

vulnerable. After her information was entered into the system, it was verified to ensure accuracy, uniqueness and eligibility, and an assistance card was later issued in her name.

Ahmad, a staff member of the cooperating partner, explained the digital registration process:

"Unfortunately, as many Syrians are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, we receive a large number of people daily seeking support from WFP. With the current digital process, it has become much easier to identify eligible people based on the criteria set by WFP. The margin of error is now minimal because the process is clear and user-friendly. Registration takes between five to ten minutes, depending on the complexity of the case, allowing us to process the maximum number of people each day. This would not have been possible without the digitization of the registration process."

He further emphasized the importance of data privacy: **"Data privacy is crucial in this process. We begin by informing beneficiaries about the purpose of gathering their information, assuring them that their data will remain confidential and accessible only to WFP and the employees handling the registration. After we receive their consent, we proceed with the registration."**

IN SYRIA,
WFP reached
Wahiba among a total of



3.6 MILLION

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$151 Million spent



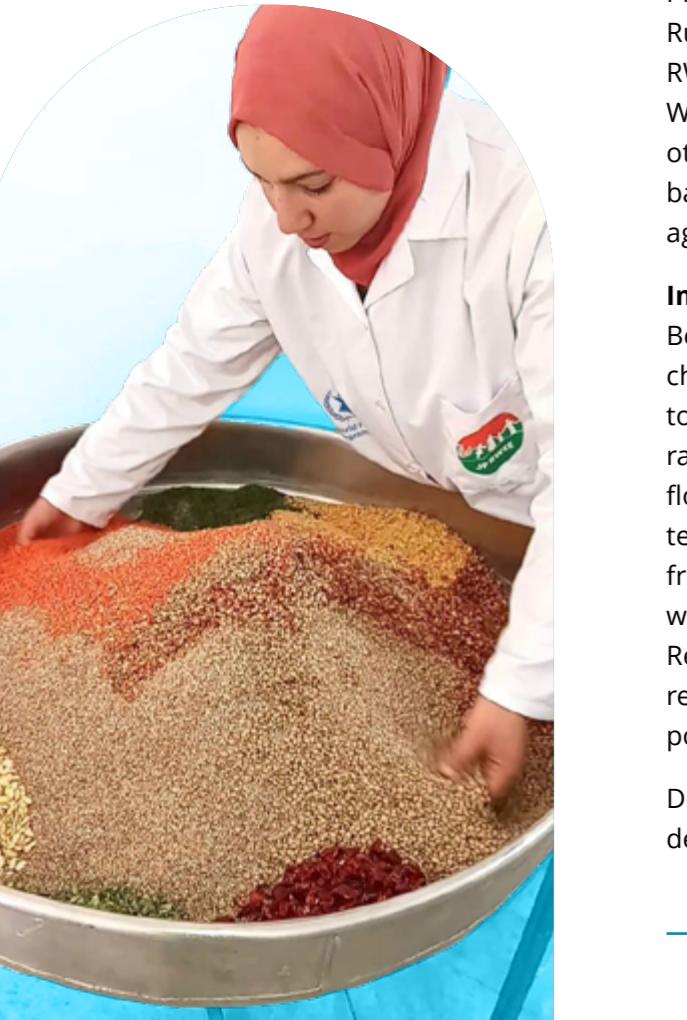
184,103 persons with disabilities

Read more about WFP operations in Syria in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



Imen's Path to Economic Growth

A story from **TUNISIA**



Imen, a member of the Professional Agricultural Organization (OPA) Nissa Sabra in Chbika, Kairouan Governorate, is an example of the transformative power of economic empowerment. Through the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE)—implemented in collaboration with WFP, FAO, IFAD, and UN Women—Imen and other rural women have overcome significant barriers to build sustainable livelihoods in the agro-food sector.

Imen's journey with OPA began in 2019. Before the intervention, she faced immense challenges—working in isolation, struggling to process and sell products made from raw materials such as cereals, barley, and flour. Limited access to proper processing techniques meant her goods, including dried fruits, vegetables, and spice-based products, were often spoiled due to inadequate storage. Reaching markets was another hurdle, requiring long, exhausting trips to selling points in Kairouan city.

Despite these difficulties, Imen remained determined. **"I don't have another option—**

whether I succeed or I succeed," she said, embodying the resilience of rural women.

With support from WFP and JP RWEE, OPA Nissa Sabra received modern agro-processing equipment that improved their work. This choice was determined through the standard WFP "Community Based Participatory Planning" approach whereby OPA members were invited to jointly identify their priorities in terms of training and equipment. Imen, who once worked under harsh conditions at home, now has access to essential tools such as electric and solar-powered dryers, drastically improving product quality and efficiency.

In addition to equipment, the project provided specialized training in key areas such as pre-transformation techniques, including selection and storage of raw materials and hygiene and safety in the food processing industry. These skills enhanced production standards and packaging quality, enabling Imen and her fellow members to confidently market their products to a wider audience.

Today, Imen is no longer just a local producer—her products have reached international clients. Leveraging social media, she promotes her business, expands her customer base and increases visibility.

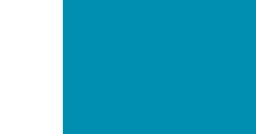
Now we can package and brand our products with pride. The equipment and training gave us confidence, and our sales are growing.

she shared.

The success of Imen and the women of OPA Nissa Sabra extends beyond individual achievements. With improved access to markets, resources, and knowledge, they no longer struggle with transportation, storage, or sales barriers. Instead, they operate efficiently, working with greater ease and economic stability.

IN TUNISIA,

WFP reached Imen among a total of



1,174

beneficiaries assisted in 2024
US\$2 Million spent

 **90%**
female

 **10%**
male

Read more about WFP operations in Tunisia in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



A Recipe for Success

WFP's SES Programme transforms lives

A story from TÜRKİYE



Busra and Vedat are among the students who attended the chef assistant course under WFP Türkiye's SES Programme and were later placed in internships. Four years later, Busra became a sous chef and Vedat is a chef de partie. Both were at the forefront during the banquet of the President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Istanbul on 22 April, overseeing the döner station.

"Before attending the chef assistant courses, I felt like I could not advance in the sector. During the training, I learned stock control, preparation of the order list, work discipline and kitchen organization," says Vedat. **"I now have a very good network and I know the technical side of the job."** For Busra, who could not afford culinary arts courses financially before, the SES Programme was an unforgettable experience and opportunity.

EARNING A PROFESSION HAS HELPED ME OVERCOME MY ANXIETIES. MY SELF-CONFIDENCE INCREASED AND I BECAME STRONGER FINANCIALLY.

Since 2021, WFP Türkiye implemented the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, which concluded in October 2024. Combining vocational training (VT) and applied/on-the-job training (ATP), the programme supported participants with a conditional monthly stipend during VT to ensure retention and mitigate short-term income loss. Upon graduation, participants undertook three months of ATP, earning minimum wage while applying their skills, gaining sector exposure, and familiarizing themselves with workplace environments. The SES Programme aimed to ensure that its participants secured long-term employment, enabling them to have a self-sufficient, dignified life with reduced

dependence on social assistance, and increase social cohesion by bringing refugees and host community members together while meeting the need for qualified labour force in certain sectors, such as IT, hospitality, manufacturing.

In 2024, WFP implemented the SES Programme in 12 provinces and supported 7,500 beneficiaries (47 percent of its target), reaching **30,851 individuals** since the start of the programme. **Over 50 percent of 2024 beneficiaries were women and 42 percent were refugees.** Overall since the launch of the programme, **54 percent of participants were women (higher than the target of 50 percent) and 41 percent were refugees.**

Aligned with Türkiye's national systems and capacities, the SES Programme was implemented in partnership with the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), NGOs, chambers of commerce and industry and private sector companies in targeted provinces. These partnerships facilitated participant outreach and selection, vocational training, job-matching, monitoring, and logistical support. By engaging in the private sector, particularly through chambers of commerce and industry, WFP effectively identified labour market needs and adapted sectors and vocations to ensure responsiveness to market demands.

IN TÜRKİYE,

WFP reached
Busra among a total of



56,205

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$15 Million spent

 50% female

 50% male

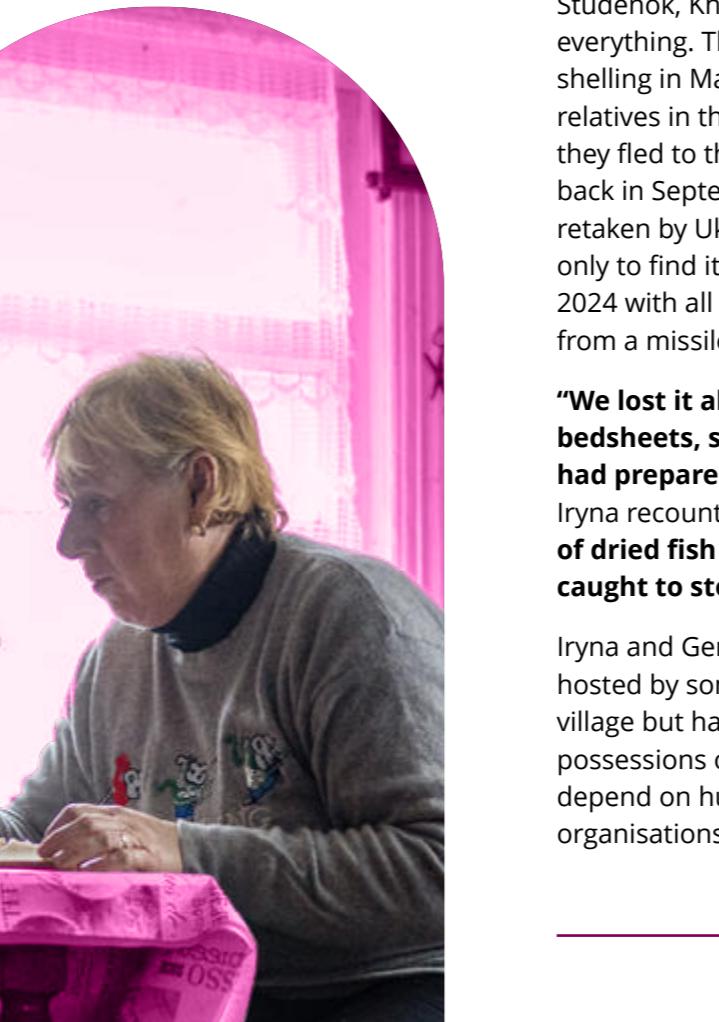
 2,230 persons with disabilities

Read more about WFP operations in Türkiye in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



From Loss to Resilience

A story from UKRAINE



Iryna and Gennadiy from Studenok, Kharkiv, lost their home twice during the war. Now, they depend on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Iryna and her husband, Gennadiy, from Studenok, Kharkiv region, have lost everything. Their house was damaged by shelling in May 2022, killing several of their relatives in their cellar, just a few days after they fled to the Poltava region. They came back in September, when the village was retaken by Ukraine, to rebuild their house - only to find it burnt to ashes again in August 2024 with all their belongings after a direct hit from a missile.

"We lost it all: spoons, forks, clothes, bedsheets, shoes, as well as the food we had prepared in the cellar for the winter", Iryna recounts. **"We had more than 100 jars of dried fish in the cellar that my husband caught to stock up on food. It's all gone."**

Iryna and Gennadiy were welcomed and hosted by some friends living in the same village but had to start from scratch with no possessions or savings. They now mostly depend on humanitarian assistance from organisations like WFP, particularly in the

winter when food, electricity and heating expenses increase.

WFP distributes food kits and ready-to-eat food rations, primarily in hard-to-reach areas near the frontline where commercial supply lines are disrupted and access to food is unreliable. Food kits typically comprise wheat flour, pasta, oats, canned beans or meat, sunflower oil, sugar and salt. WFP buys approximately 84 percent of this food inside Ukraine and works with local bakeries to deliver bread.

Iryna has been working for the social services centre in her village for 17 years but makes a meagre income. Her husband was a railway worker but is now retired and cannot work.

"We got married in 1991, and that was a difficult time," Iryna says. "There were few job opportunities. We started to build our house the same year, and in 1993 we moved to the new house with a two-year-old daughter.

My husband knew how to do everything himself; he knew how to build.

We built stairs, a fence, and a sauna, and gradually, we progressed. Then we bought a car. We also had home animals: pigs, ducks, chickens, and we had bees. My husband loved working with bees. We had 15 hives and we even sold honey to the neighbouring village. But after the occupation, when we came back, there was only one hive.

Bees also cannot live in this noise and chaos."

Iryna is 52 years old now and said that at the start of 2022, she never imagined that the war could yield so much tragedy. "We saw the war on TV - Bucha, Kyiv. And we didn't realize how quickly it would spread. But on the 3rd of March (2022) they bombarded Izium (the nearest city), and on 18 March our electricity substation was hit and all power was gone. In April, Yaremivka was occupied, and by the end of April, our village started getting shelled."

She explains that everyone told them to leave when the village was getting shelled, but that many did not want to abandon their houses with nowhere to go. **"Not everybody had savings or relatives to stay with. "Iryna is grateful for the support she receives from WFP and other organisations, particularly as the couple prepares for winter. "Slowly, we are collecting the basic necessities for this winter, she says".**

**I HOPE ONE DAY WE'LL
ABLE TO RESTORE OUR HOUSE
AGAIN WHEN THE WAR ENDS.**

IN UKRAINE,
WFP reached
Iryna among a total of



2.9 MILLION

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$368 Million spent

 **59%**
female  **41%**
male

 **561,824**
persons with disabilities

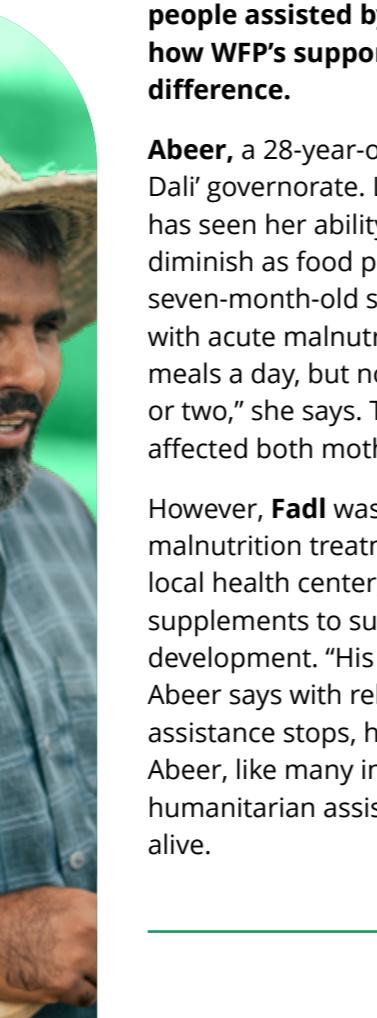
Read more about WFP operations in Ukraine in 2024 in the Annual Country Report [here](#)



To Stay and Deliver

"My life is taking a good turn"

A story from **YEMEN**



WFP has been present in Yemen since 1967 and continues to stay and deliver for the people of Yemen. Despite challenges, WFP support remains vital for millions of people, and continues to change lives across Yemen. These four stories from people assisted by WFP in 2024 illustrate how WFP's support is making a tangible difference.

Abeer, a 28-year-old mother, lives in Ad Dali' governorate. Like so many others, she has seen her ability to provide for her family diminish as food prices skyrocket. Abeer's seven-month-old son, Fadl, was diagnosed with acute malnutrition. "We used to eat three meals a day, but now we're lucky if we get one or two," she says. The lack of nutrition has affected both mother and child.

However, **Fadl** was enrolled in WFP's acute malnutrition treatment programme at a local health center, receiving nutritional food supplements to support his growth and development. "His condition is improving," Abeer says with relief, "but I worry. If the assistance stops, he could get sick again." Abeer, like many in Yemen, relies on humanitarian assistance to keep her family alive.

Amira (45) has faced many challenges. Forced to flee her home, she now lives in a camp for internally displaced persons in Ta'iz with her seven children. The camp conditions are tough, with too many people and not enough resources. Amira's husband, often too ill to work, tries to make ends meet by riding a motorcycle for small jobs. The family struggles to afford even basic items like vegetables and flour.

WFP food assistance has been crucial for them. "If this food basket continues monthly, instead of buying wheat or rice if I find money, I will buy them clothes for school or something else for them to eat," Amira says. WFP assistance has also allowed her children to return to school. Before receiving WFP support, they spent their days collecting bottles to sell to afford food. Now, they can focus on their education.

In the aftermath of Cyclone Tej, **Mohammed**, a 41-year-old farmer from the countryside of Al Maharah governorate, found himself with nothing. His farm, once his livelihood, had been destroyed. Left with no income, Mohammed didn't know where to start. But WFP's Food to Resilience (FuTuRe) project gave him the tools he needed to rebuild. He received seeds, fertilizer, and cash to help restore his farm. Now, months later, Mohammed's land is producing again. The income from his crops has brought stability to his family. "We've managed to rebuild our lives, and it's all because of this support."

MY LIFE IS TAKING A GOOD TURN.

he says. Implemented under WFP's resilience and livelihoods programme, WFP's FuTuRe project works to transition people away from humanitarian assistance where possible, giving participants an opportunity to build self-sustaining livelihoods.

For **Abdullah**, an 11-year-old boy in Aden, hunger was a constant challenge when in school. "In the past, we didn't receive meals, and we often felt hungry, dizzy, and tired, which made it hard to concentrate on the teacher," he recalls. Abdullah's family, like many others in Yemen, struggled to provide enough food. But WFP's Healthy Kitchens projected has made a significant difference, providing daily meals at school.

"When we started receiving school meals, I felt full and did well in school. I concentrate on the lessons. I come to school with enthusiasm because I get this meal," Abdullah explains. The meals have improved his ability to focus and stay active. "The best things in the meals are the bean sandwich, bananas, and cucumbers," he adds. A reminder that, with WFP's help, his future is brighter. The Healthy Kitchens project, implemented under WFP's school feeding programme, assisted 35,000 children like Abdullah in 2024.

IN YEMEN,

WFP reached
Abeer among a total of



8.6 MILLION

beneficiaries assisted in 2024

US\$596 Million spent

50%
female

50%
male

1.2 MILLION
persons with disabilities

Read more about
WFP operations
in Yemen in 2024
in the Annual Country Report
[here](#)



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WINDOWS TO CHANGE

Selected stories of WFP beneficiaries in
2024 in the Middle East, Northern Africa,
and Eastern Europe

Booklet prepared by
Operational Information Management Team -
Regional Bureau in Cairo



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