



Regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Nourishing Futures: WFP's Humanitarian Response

2024





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# Overview of Humanitarian Needs

Eastern Africa faced widespread and severe humanitarian needs in 2024, driven by the impacts of conflict, extreme weather, socio-economic shocks and multiple disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles, mpox and Marburg. Nearly 62 million people faced acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or worse) and were unable to put sufficient food on their tables, with two countries (Sudan and South Sudan) coordinating responses to Catastrophe/Famine food insecurity levels (IPC Phase 5). Forced displacements continued, with more than 20 million people displaced in the region, by November 2024.

UNOCHA reports that over 9.3 million children are expected to suffer from high levels of acute malnutrition between June 2024 and May 2025 in Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

**Extreme Weather Patterns:** The region faced weather variations such as droughts and floods, which significantly impacted agricultural production and food availability. By the end of 2024, more than 3 million<sup>1</sup> people across the region were affected by floods in Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda. Somalia faced the La Niña phenomenon, leading to drought conditions further exacerbated by conflict in some regions.

**Conflict and Insecurity:** Ongoing conflicts disrupted agricultural activities, supply chains, and access to food, exacerbating hunger and malnutrition in affected regions. The conflict in Sudan led to significant humanitarian crises, leaving half of the population facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) and displacing over 14 million people, both internally and into neighbouring countries. This has resulted in one of the largest displacements globally and one of the worst hunger crises. WFP has been operating in this challenging environment, facing numerous access constraints that have hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Sudan conflict had a ripple effect in neighbouring countries, with increased displacements and movement of more than 2 million people into neighbouring countries – South Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad, Uganda, Libya – already facing heightened humanitarian needs and limited resources.

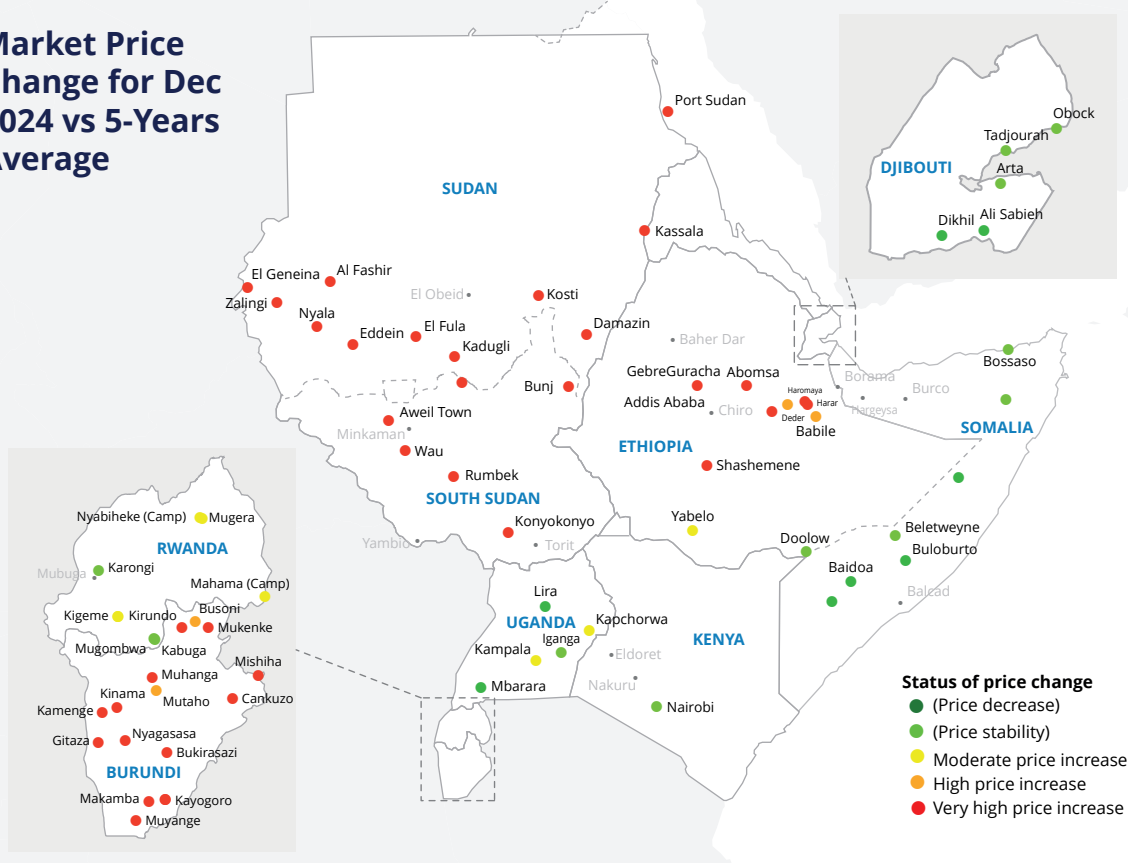
**Unfavourable market conditions:** Eastern Africa faced persistent high inflation and rising living costs, driven by fragile macroeconomic conditions, local currency depreciation, and ongoing conflicts. The annual inflation rate averaged 8.3 % in the first quarter but surged to 21.1 % in the second quarter, peaking at 32.4 % in December. **South Sudan** recorded the highest inflation, exceeding **100 %** from mid-year, while Sudan's inflation soared to 187.8 % by the end of the year. **Ethiopia** and **Burundi** experienced sustained double-digit inflation throughout the year, with food inflation particularly severe in Burundi (**36.9 %**) and Ethiopia (**18.7 %**) by December. The continued depreciation of local currencies across the region contributed to rising import costs, worsening inflation, and economic instability. Conflict-related supply chain disruptions and challenging economic conditions kept food prices unusually high in some countries, particularly Sudan, South Sudan, and Burundi, severely impacting economic access to food. By the end of 2024, food prices in Sudan and South Sudan had surged over 400 % and 200 % respectively, compared to the long-term average, driven by high production and transportation costs.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2024 This figure is based on the Annual Country Reports

<sup>2</sup> All the macroeconomic data referenced here are from respective government websites and official reports.

## Market Price Change for Dec 2024 vs 5-Years Average



Despite funding constraints, WFP continued to strengthen its assurance measures to ensure assistance reaches the right people at the right time, safeguarding effective utilisation of donor resources. In line with supporting governments to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, WFP's interventions focused on:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected people, targeting the most food-insecure residents, refugees, and IDPs.
- Addressing hunger and malnutrition, through integrated nutrition approaches aiming to prevent and manage undernutrition and school feeding support to school going children to support education outcomes and human capital development.
- Enhance the livelihoods and resilience of shock-affected populations by promoting sustainable food systems and climate-adaptive resilience.
- Strengthen government capacities to manage food security, nutrition and climate adaptation programmes.
- Provide common services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners, enabling them to effectively reach vulnerable populations. Common services include the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), supporting humanitarian partners supply chain capacities through the Logistics Cluster, and providing connectivity in complex crises through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).



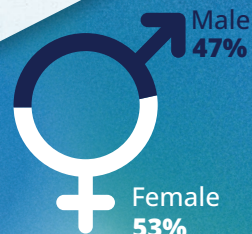
Total number of  
people reached

**33,027,778**



People with  
disability

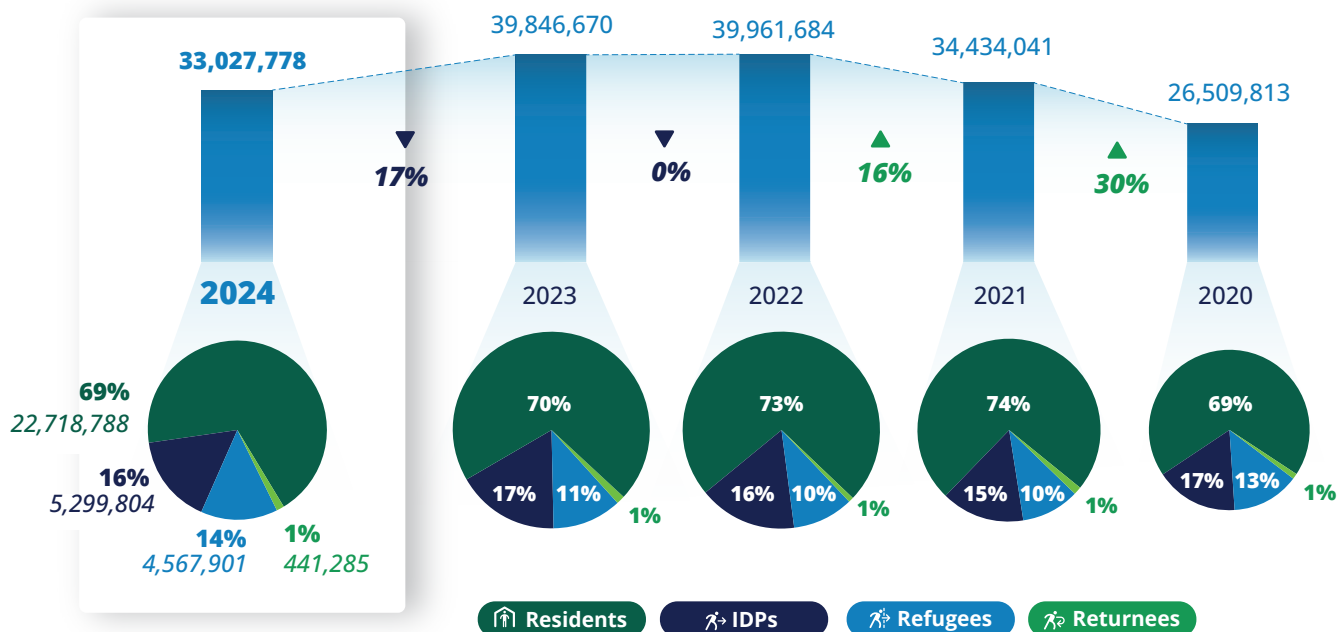
**1,174,908**



Male  
47%

Female  
53%

## Total number of people reached



## Number of people reached by **focus area**



**2,831,909**  
Root Causes







# WFP contribution to the local economy



**USD 6,738,107**  
Value of food procured from smallholder farmers



**11,001 mt**  
Metric tons of food procured from smallholder farmers




**157,245 mt | USD 467,438,259**  
Quantity and value of food purchased locally and regionally



## UNHAS



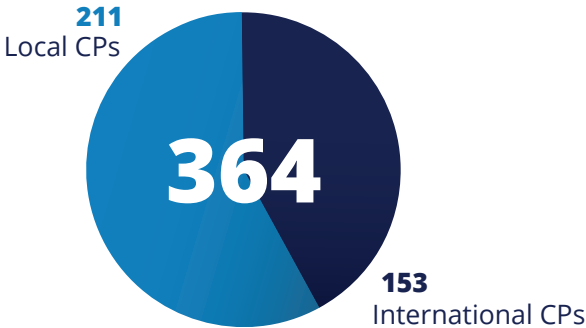
Number of passengers transported regionally  
**108,157**



Metric tons of cargo transported regionally  
**3,336 mt**



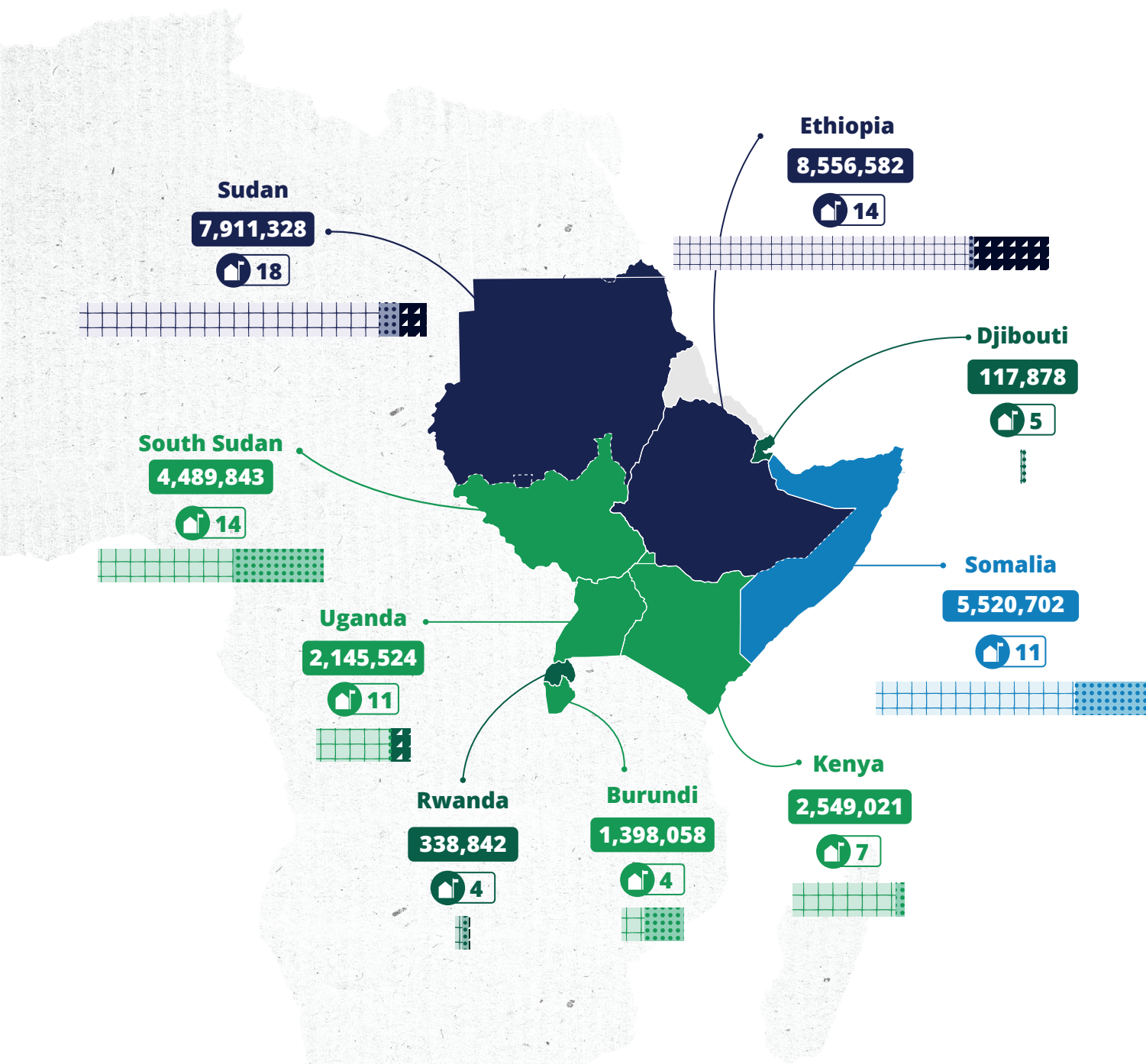
# Total number of partners in WFP Eastern Africa region





Tonnage of food distributed by cooperating partners  
**830,473 mt**

# Country office overview of people reached



## Key

Total number of people reached



Area office /sub office

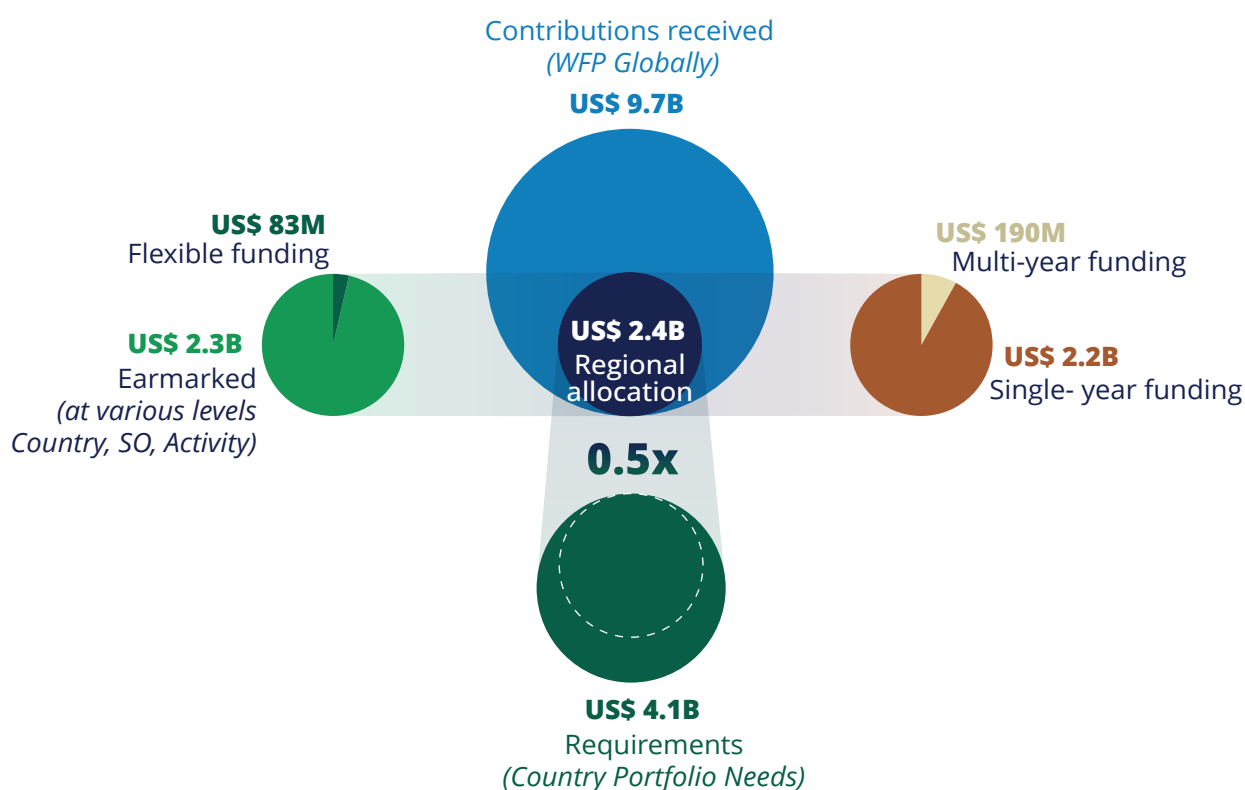
People reached by focus area



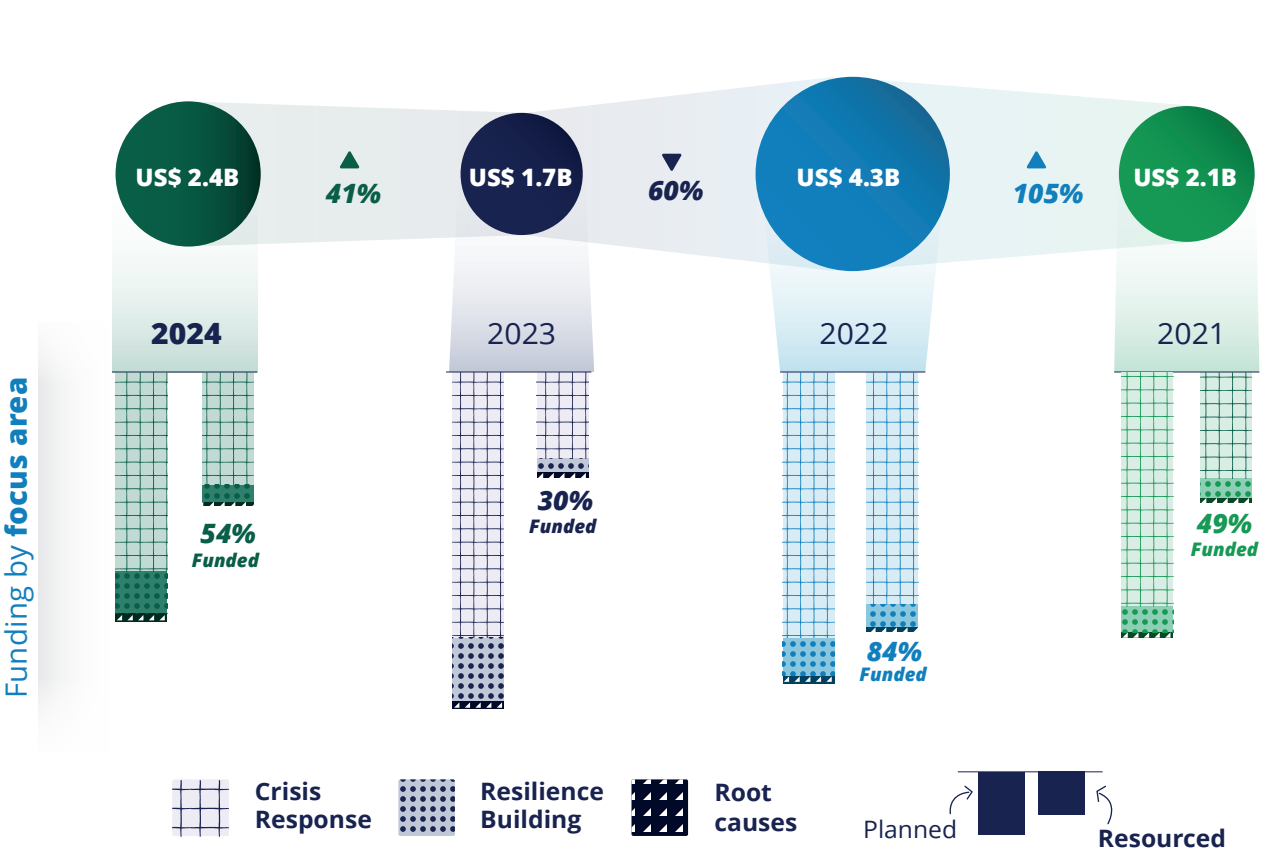
# Funding overview

In 2024, WFP received US\$ 2.3 billion, an increase from the US\$ 1.7 billion received in 2023. The United States was the highest donor, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany, and the European Union. Private sector contributions rose from US\$ 19 million in 2023 to US\$ 26 million in 2024, making it the second highest contribution received from the private sector in the past five years. Although flexible funding declined, WFP received a total of US\$ 83 million, which was instrumental in addressing urgent needs.

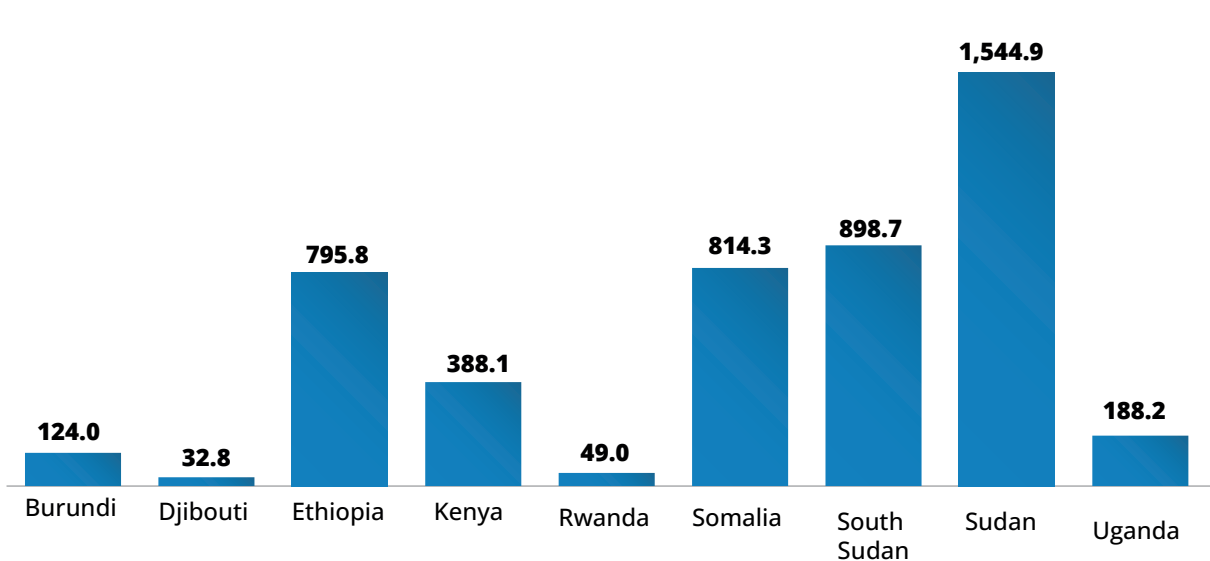
With key donors reducing their development assistance, forecasts for 2025 and beyond remain grim. WFP is broadening its donor base, intensifying engagement with the private sector and foundations, and pursuing innovative finance solutions, debt swaps, and conversions. The WFP is also exploring blended finance and co-financing with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to invest in resilience, climate adaptation, and social protection to enhance impact and sustainability, while leveraging concessional financing to bridge emergency response and long-term development.



# Regional 2024 funding trends



# 2025 Funding needs by country



## Public and Government Donors



## Private Sector Partners



# Delivering humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support to people affected by shocks



## Food assistance to shock-affected resident populations and IDPs



Eastern African countries faced a convergence of humanitarian crises in 2024, including devastating floods in Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, and ongoing conflicts and instability in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, which collectively affected millions of people across the region.

Emergency response constituted the largest component of WFP's operations in the Eastern Africa region, with more than 80% of WFP's resources allocated to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance.

WFP played a critical role in delivering life-saving assistance to more than 22 million people achieving 105% of its planned target. WFP provided general food distributions (GFA) and nutrition support (both preventative and curative) for malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. This included lifesaving support to refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and food-insecure resident populations.

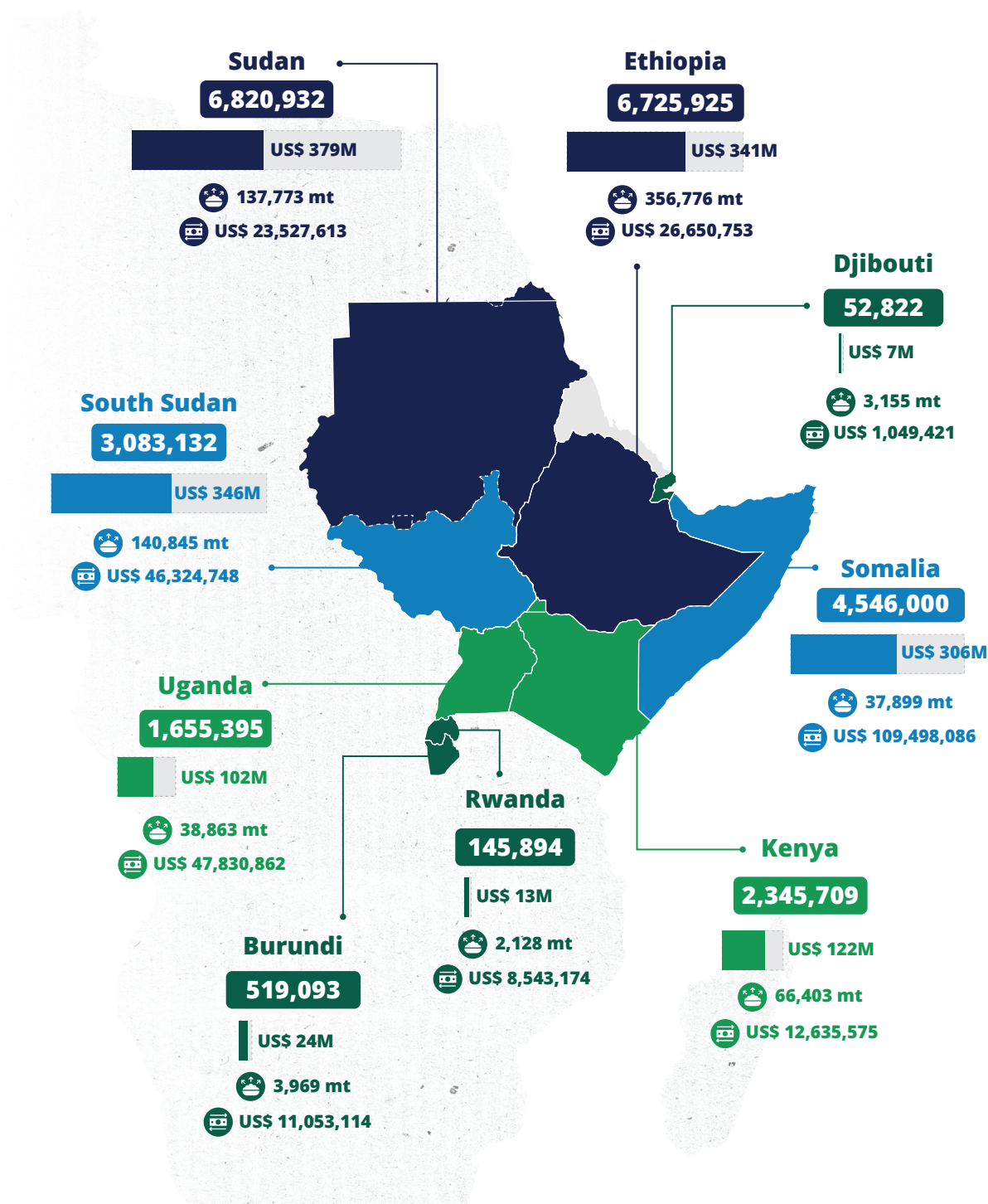
The number of IDPs in the region increased from 17 to 21 million over the year, mainly due to conflicts and climate shocks, resulting in a surge in humanitarian needs across the region. WFP assisted more than 5 million IDPs, exceeding its target by 30% due to an increase in IDPs in Sudan and Ethiopia.

Different interventions were utilised to deliver emergency food assistance, including in-kind food, cash, value vouchers through private sector retailers, hot meals, digital cash transfers and business-to-business (B2B) assistance, linking wholesalers to local small-scale retail outlets. These interventions allowed WFP to assist in complex contexts based on the most appropriate response.

Through rapid response, targeted relief, and the integration of early recovery where feasible, WFP sought not only to meet immediate needs but also to strengthen the resilience of communities facing recurrent and compounding crises.

However, funding and access constraints limited WFP's ability to reach the affected population, leading to deepened food insecurity in some areas. Despite these obstacles, WFP's innovative approaches, prioritisation measures and strong partnerships helped mitigate the impact of these challenges, ensuring that critical support reached those most in need.

## People reached in crisis response by country



### KEY

Number of **people** reached crisis response



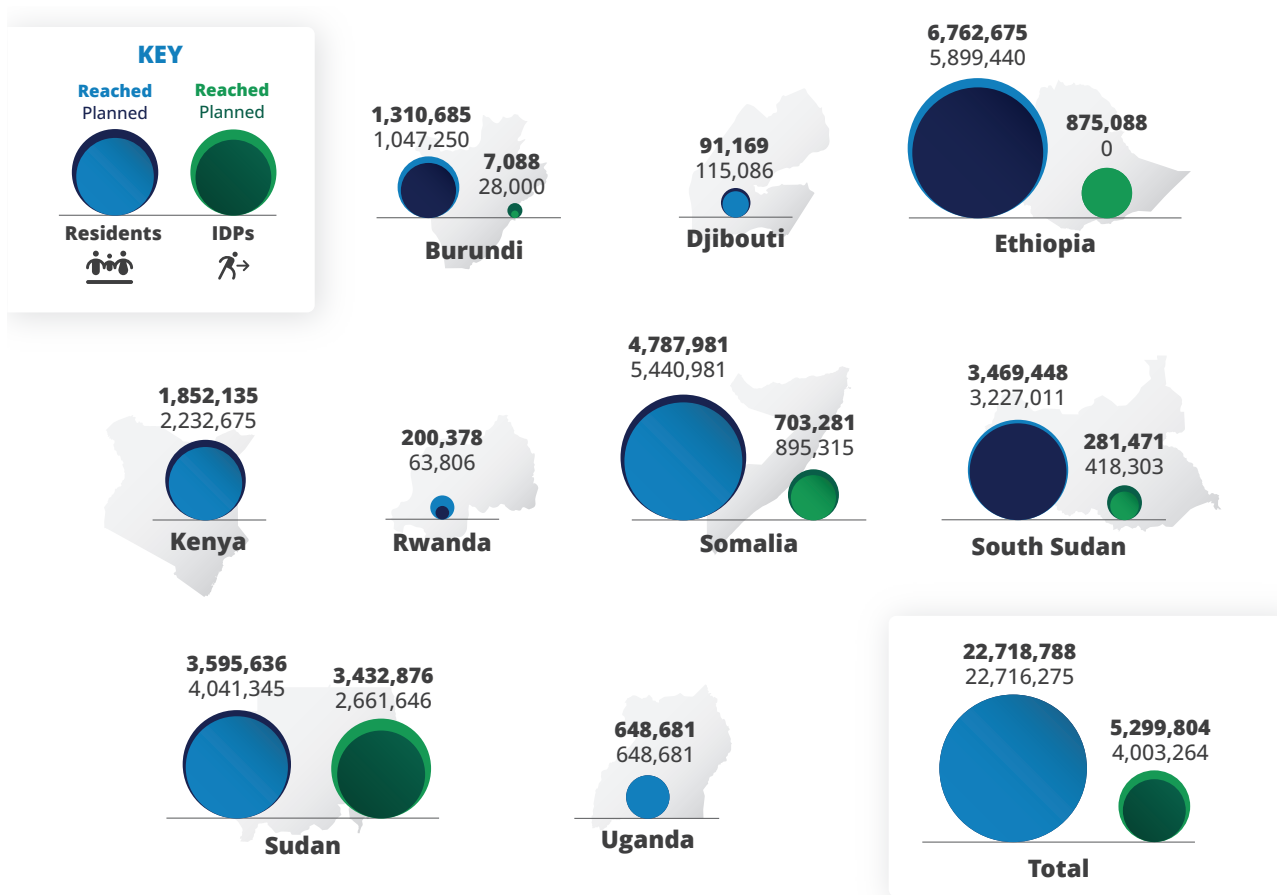
Crisis response expenditures  
US\$ Millions



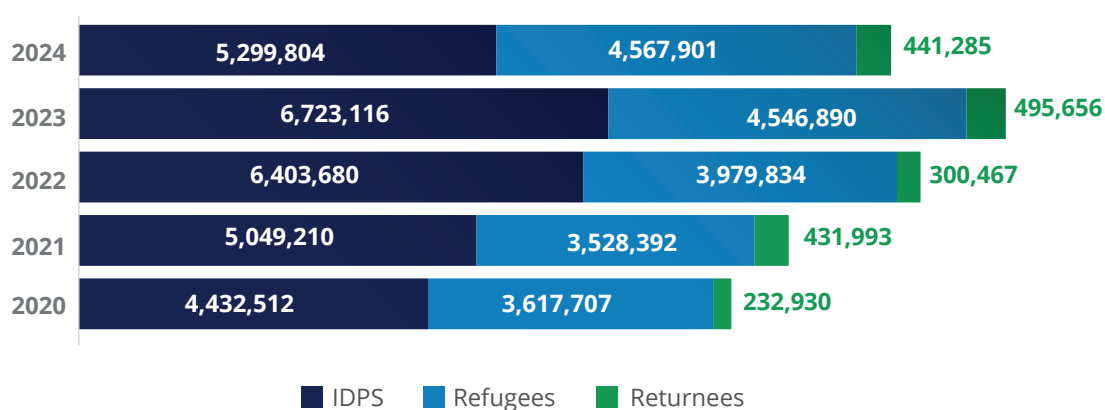
Total **MT of food** distributed



Total **cash** distributed in US\$



## Crisis response trends in Eastern Africa (2020-2024)



## Focus on country office



In Sudan, WFP assisted 7.9 million people despite access challenges. Of these, 6.1 million people (77%) benefited from emergency life-saving general food assistance, exceeding the target by 26% as the needs increased due to conflict and floods. Where market conditions allowed, WFP utilised cash-based transfers (CBT), reaching more than 1.7 million people in hard-to-reach locations with US\$ 53.8 million in assistance, marking a tenfold increase from early 2024. WFP partnered with local partners to provide hot meals to approximately 357,000 people in Khartoum, one of the epicentres of the conflict, through community kitchens operated by Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) and other community-based organisations. These community kitchens became a lifeline for millions of people, harnessing local capacity, expertise, and extensive reach to deliver food assistance where it was needed most.



In South Sudan, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to new arrivals at the entry border points, during transit, and at final destinations. WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to over 452,000 new arrivals in South Sudan, at the entry border points, during transit, and at final destinations in 2024.



In Somalia, funding cuts led to scaled-down humanitarian food assistance, with targets reduced from 4.5 million to 3.6 million people and nutrition support from 2 million to 1.7 million. Despite such constraints, WFP reached 3.3 million people with humanitarian food assistance, 88% of the annual target, though 60% lower than in 2023. WFP also launched its early recovery and livelihood support programme in Galmudug, Puntland, and Jubaland States, marking a significant milestone in efforts toward transitioning communities from relief to recovery and resilience.



In Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda, WFP focused its limited resources to the most vulnerable by prioritising assistance based on household needs. In Ethiopia, WFP's relief response reached 4.1 million crisis-affected individuals, a 28% decrease compared to 2023, but surpassing the 2024 target by 17%. Additionally, 801,000 refugees received support with US\$ 5.2 million distributed, including to newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Benishangul-Gumuz and the Somali region. WFP improved efficiency and accountability through rough digital registration of nearly 10 million people and the introduction of biometric verification together with UNHCR, while community feedback mechanisms improved community engagement.

## Refugee response



In 2024, WFP's refugee response was marked by a dynamic and adaptive approach in the face of growing humanitarian needs, constrained resources, and ongoing regional crises. Refugee populations have progressively increased from 4.5 million in 2021 to 5.4 million at the end of 2024, mostly due to conflicts, instability, and climate-induced displacement across borders. In 2024, WFP reached over **4.6 million refugees**, covering about **95% of the planned target**.

To manage limited resources effectively, WFP adopted a vulnerability-based targeting strategy in Uganda and Rwanda, prioritizing more assistance for the most at-risk individuals. Food rations were scaled accordingly, with higher rations allocated to newly arrived and severely food-insecure refugees, while less vulnerable groups received reduced or, in some cases, no assistance.

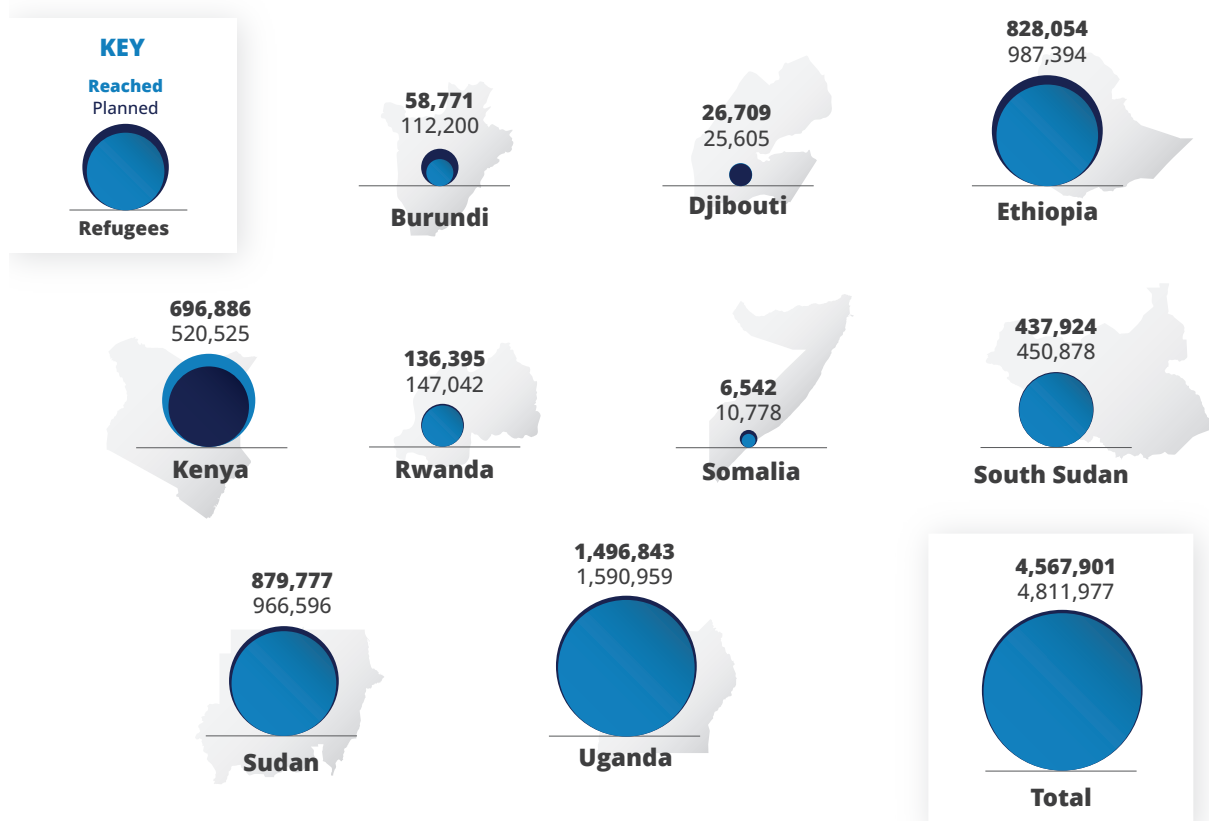
Cash-Based Transfers played a central role in the refugee response, expanding in scale and coverage. By offering recipients greater flexibility to meet their basic needs and stimulating local markets, CBTs also proved in many cases to be more cost-efficient and logistically adaptable than in-kind food distributions.

WFP focused on integrating self-reliance models that aligned humanitarian and development objectives. This was achieved through promoting self-reliance among refugee households through livelihood support initiatives to facilitate transition from dependency to self-reliance for refugees. These included vocational training, financial literacy programmes, and cash assistance aimed at helping people transition towards sustainable income generation.

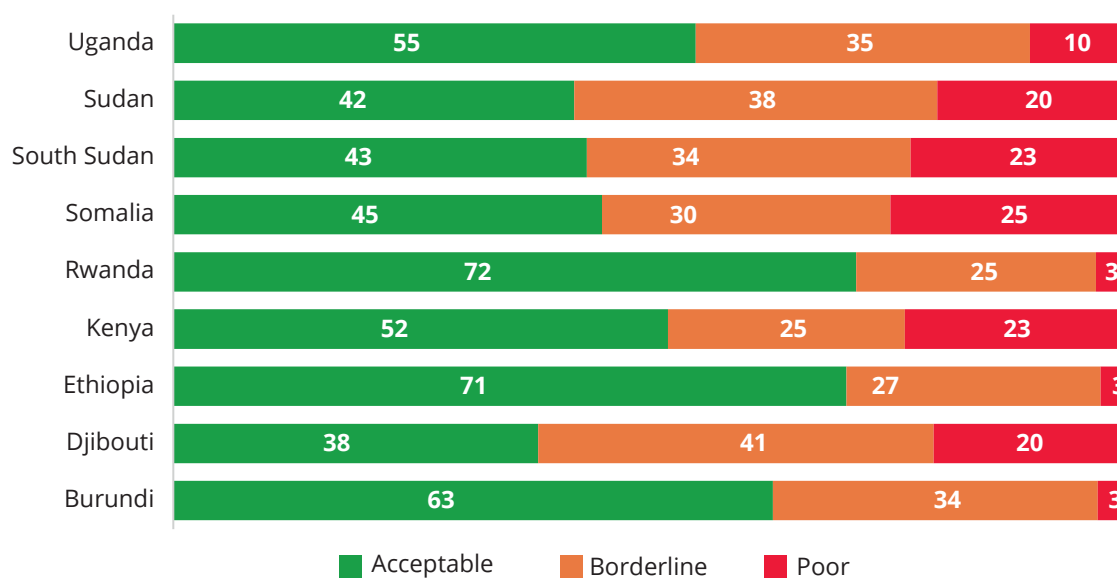
Faced with funding shortfalls, access constraints, and inflation, WFP employed innovative solutions to enhance efficiency. Digital tools like biometric registration and beneficiary management platforms improved targeting and accountability. Mobile money and agency banking strengthened financial inclusion among refugees and reduced transactional overheads.

Food assistance to refugees is facing funding challenges, forcing WFP to adjust food basket rations to reflect the new funding realities. The funding outlook for 2025 remains dire; without urgent and sustained additional funding, WFP will be compelled to further reduce assistance to refugees, resulting in households adopting stress-level coping strategies such as reducing meals, borrowing, relying on debts, and selling assets—mechanisms that undermine their ability to cope with future shocks and heighten their vulnerability. WFP urgently appeals to its donors and partners to increase support and prevent a deepening humanitarian crisis across the region.

## Refugees reached with assistance by country

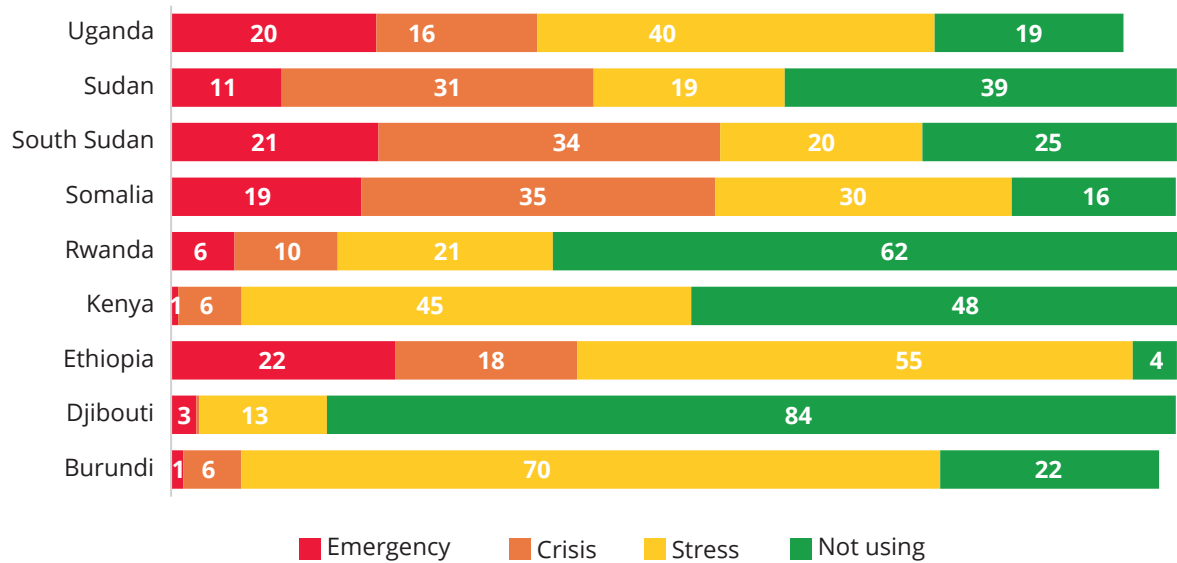


## Food consumption levels across the region (2024) for refugees



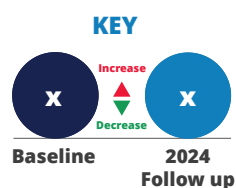
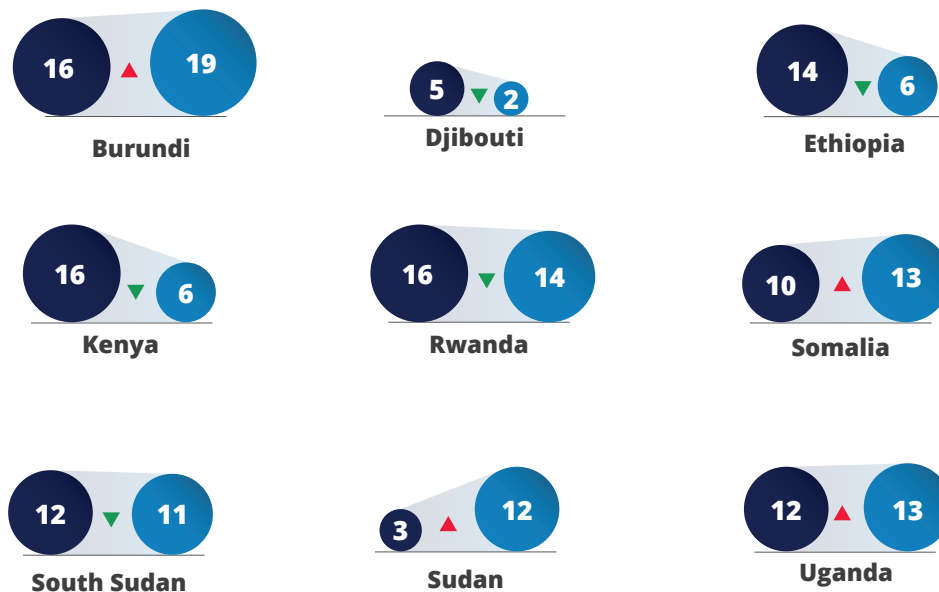
Data source: WFP monitoring

## Livelihood coping strategies for food security across the region (2024)



Data source: WFP monitoring

## Livelihood coping strategies for food security across the region (2024)



Efforts towards  
improved nutrition



## Overview nutrition response



In 2024, malnutrition remained a concern in the Eastern African region, driven by a complex of vulnerabilities including high levels of food insecurity, conflicts/fragility, food price volatility, and unaffordability of quality diets. More than 9 million children under five and 4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women suffered from acute malnutrition. WFP worked with Governments and partners to deliver an integrated nutrition package to combat malnutrition through three pathways:



Combating malnutrition in humanitarian crises;



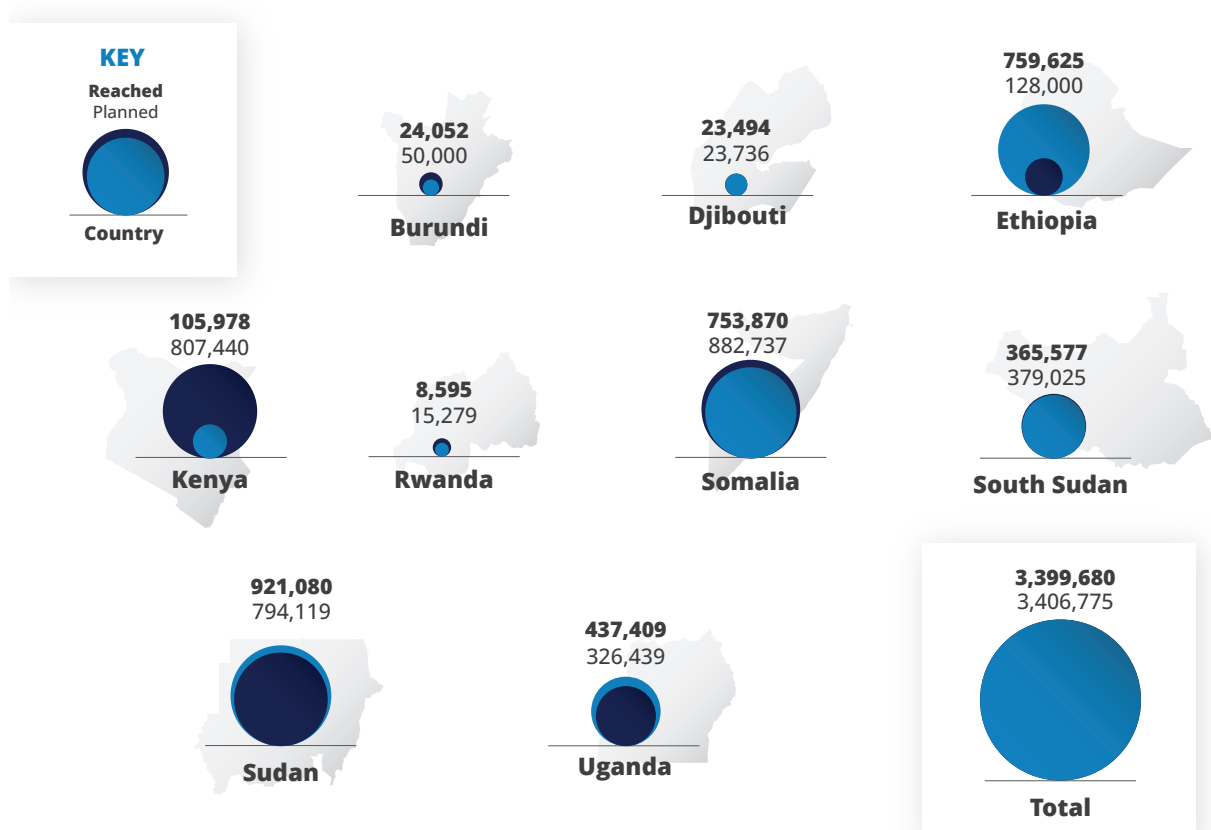
Improving diets of the most at risk; and



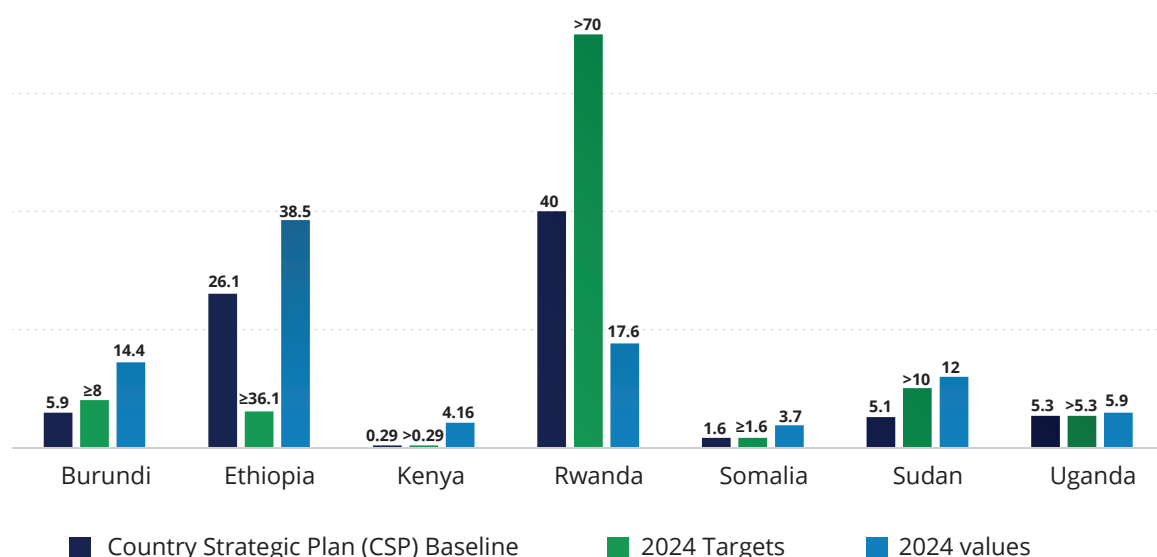
Strengthening systems and enabling equitable access to healthy and nutritious diets.

## Prevention of malnutrition

WFP's prioritised prevention as a cost-efficient measure to address malnutrition, reaching 3.4 million women and children with nutrition support to prevent malnutrition. This was complemented by SBC aiming to promote optimum feeding practices for children, WASH, and the consumption of healthy diets. Where possible, WFP partnered with UNICEF, supporting joint integrated nutrition programme linking participants with resilience initiatives to address the underlying causes of malnutrition and ensure a continuum of care.



## Children 6-23 months who receive a minimum acceptable diet

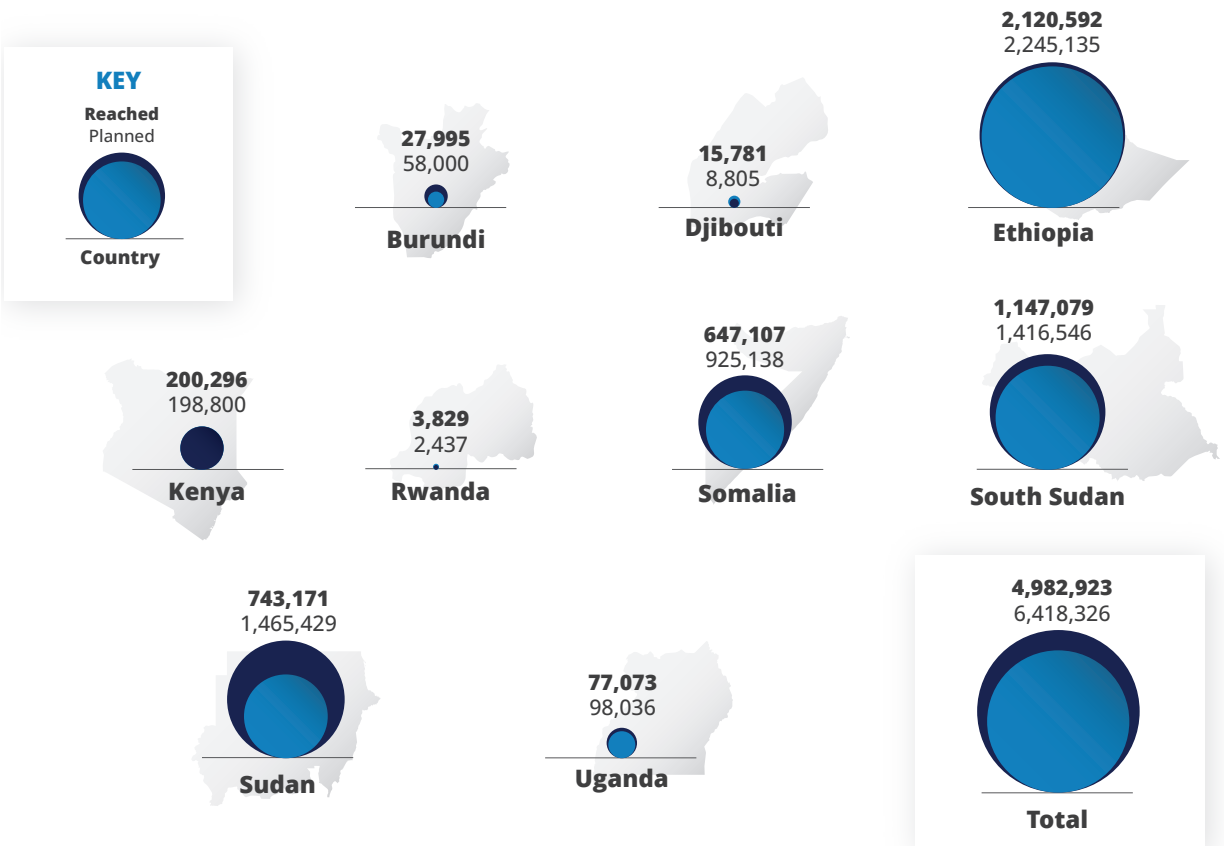


# Nutrition response in emergency response

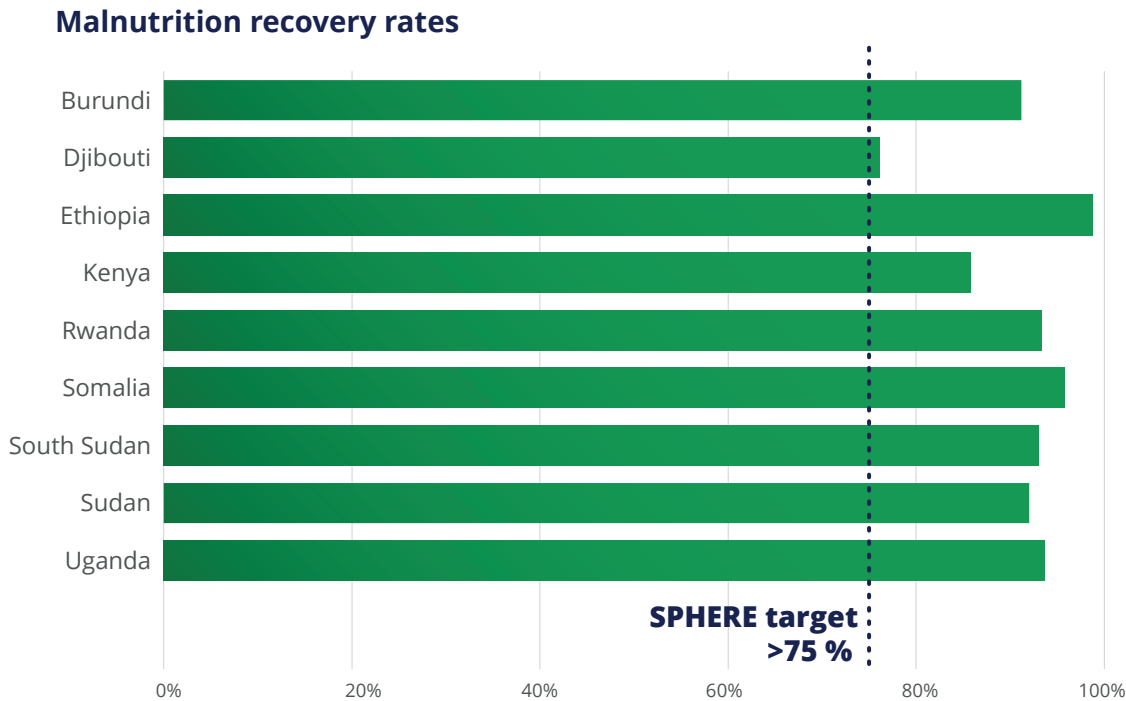


In 2024, WFP reached nearly **5 million children under 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in the** Eastern Africa region, with specialised nutritious foods for the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). This represented **78% of the planned target**, but only **half of the total population in need**, reflecting ongoing **funding shortfalls** in several contexts. Despite these constraints, WFP made notable progress in both management and prevention efforts, complemented by strong investments in **Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)**, reaching **over 2.7 million people**.

## People reached with supplementation of Moderate Acute Malnutrition



Across the region, WFP’s programme recorded high recovery rates, consistently meeting or exceeding SPHERE<sup>3</sup> standards for MAM management. In countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda performance was particularly high with effective coordination, integration of services, and alignment with national health systems contributing to the success of these programmes.



Preventive nutrition support was also widely implemented, especially through Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programmes, reaching more than 3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five years. These efforts were often reinforced by capacity building for health workers and community-level SBC, which improved awareness on nutrition and dietary practices and contributed to increased dietary diversity among targeted populations.

WFP also piloted innovative approaches such as fresh food voucher schemes for the prevention of wasting in Ethiopia and last-mile delivery systems for nutrition supplies in South Sudan, working closely with the Ministries of Health to improve programme integration and scale-up of these approaches. Several countries made headway in policy development supported by WFP’s technical assistance, including the adaptation of the 2023 WHO Guidelines on the prevention and management of wasting in countries such as Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan, as well as the increased national ownership of MAM programmes which are strongly embedded within the national health systems.

However, limited funding impeded scale-up and duration of interventions in multiple countries, leaving significant coverage gaps. Insecurity, poor infrastructure in remote areas and constrained access and particularly in conflict-affected areas, continued to limit the scale up and coverage of nutrition interventions.

3 Recovery rate >75%, Defaulter rate <15% and Death Rate <3%

**WFP school feeding:**  
nourishing minds,  
building futures

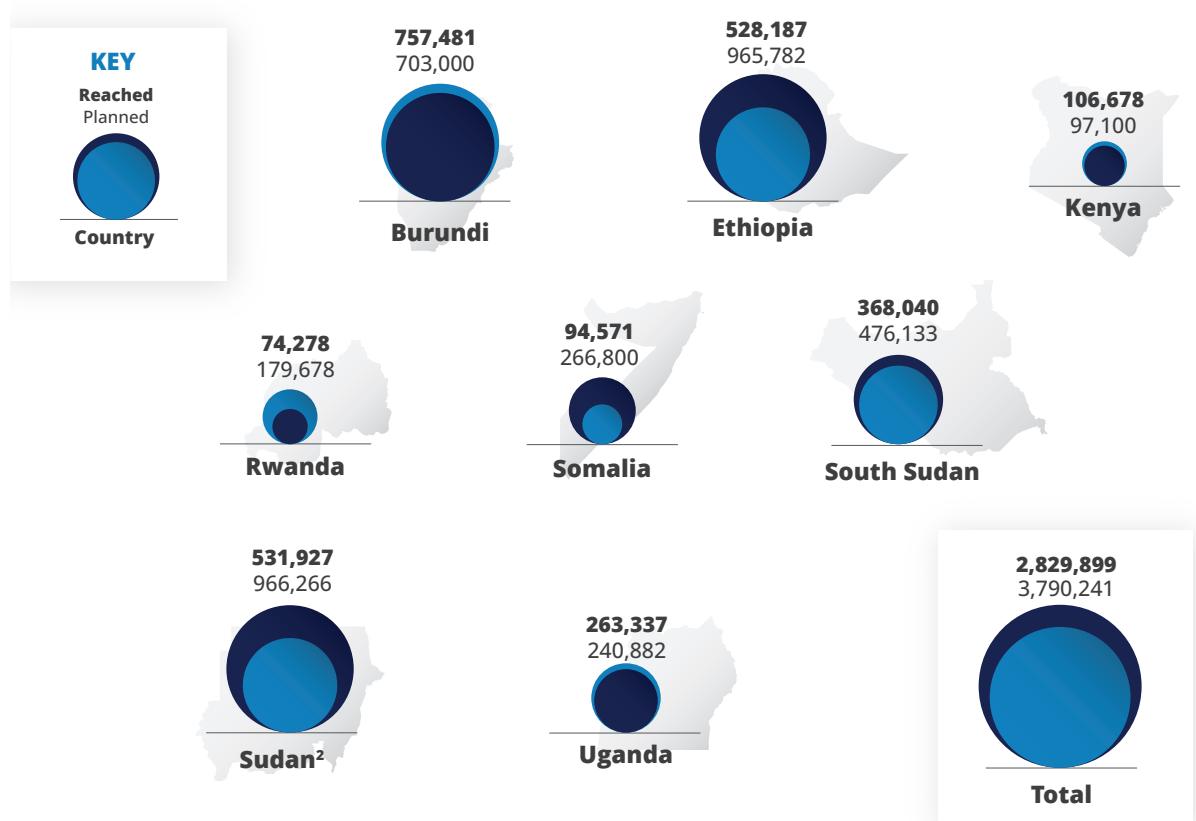




WFP school feeding programme is a critical safety net for vulnerable communities, addressing immediate hunger and nutritional needs of children while contributing to learning outcomes, human capital development, agriculture, and supporting local economies. As a key partner to the governments, WFP provided technical assistance in implementing and delivering high-quality school meals and supported advocacy efforts to promote the school feeding programme in the region. WFP continued to support national governments to expand and scale up their school feeding programmes. Notably, all nine governments in the region are now fully subscribed to the global School Meals Coalition. The regional School Meals Coalition, formed in 2023, has continued mobilising member states towards stronger and sustainable school feeding programmes.

In 2024, 2.8 million school-going children received school meals, achieving 75% of the target. The low coverage was due to funding constraints, which led to scaling down school feeding in Somalia and reducing school rations in Uganda. Ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia and Sudan further hindered access to education for thousands of children. However, national governments have seen increased funding to school meals, indicating a positive trajectory of sustainable, nationally owned school meals programmes. Additionally, the region has witnessed a growing interest in Home-grown School Feeding (HGSF) approaches from different actors, including foundations, traditional donors and governments. For example, the region is hosting a multi-country HGSF integrated Project implemented in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. This project will be used to demonstrate how HGSF can be used as a catalyst for local food systems transformation.

## Total number of school children reached in 2024



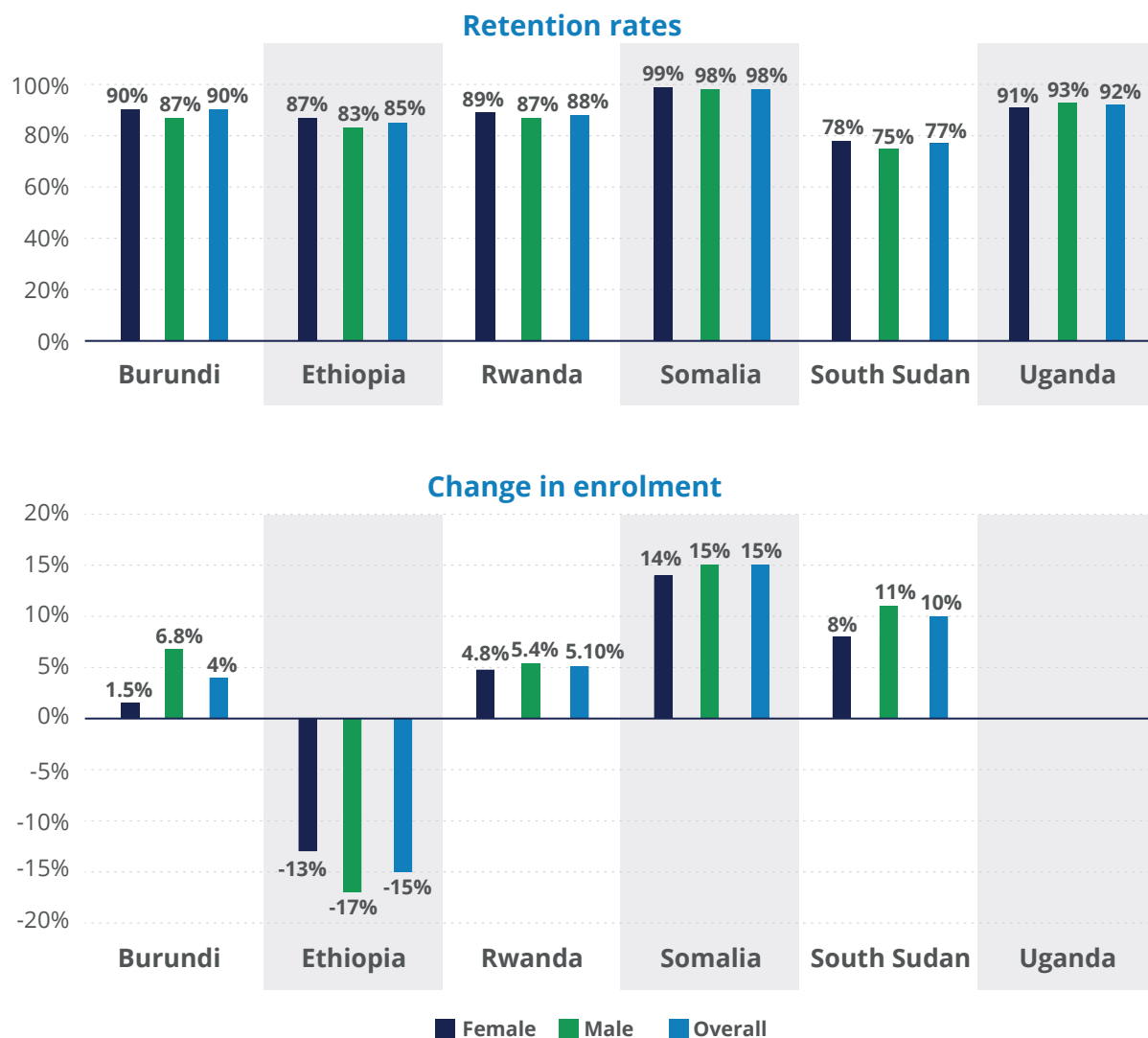
## School feeding outcomes

School meals contributed to increased enrolment in most countries. In **Ethiopia**, enrolment declined in conflict-affected areas due to displacement. However, a value-for-money study in Ethiopia revealed the programme still yielded remarkable results—children receiving school meals gained up to 40% more school years, equivalent to 2.7 additional years, and were 2.6 times more likely to stay in school. Additionally, school meals accounted for 7% of annual household expenditures and 9% of food expenditures.

A similar study conducted in Burundi demonstrated equally impressive results, showing a 5.1% higher graduation rate, a 1.5% lower repetition rate, and a 3.6% lower dropout rate compared to schools without school meals. Furthermore, school meals accounted for an average of 8 percent of household consumption expenditures and up to 14% of household food consumption, with 10% of the food consumed sourced from smallholder farmers' cooperatives. An Impact Evaluation conducted in South Sudan also demonstrated a positive impact of school feeding on education outcomes (EGRA- Early Grade Learning Assessment) with intervention schools performing significantly higher (40.5%) compared to non-intervention schools (33.8%) the results showed girls in intervention schools outperforming boys in non-intervention schools (37.5% vs.32.7%).

4 Indicators waived for the reporting in 2024.

## School feeding outcomes in WFP supported schools <sup>5 6</sup>

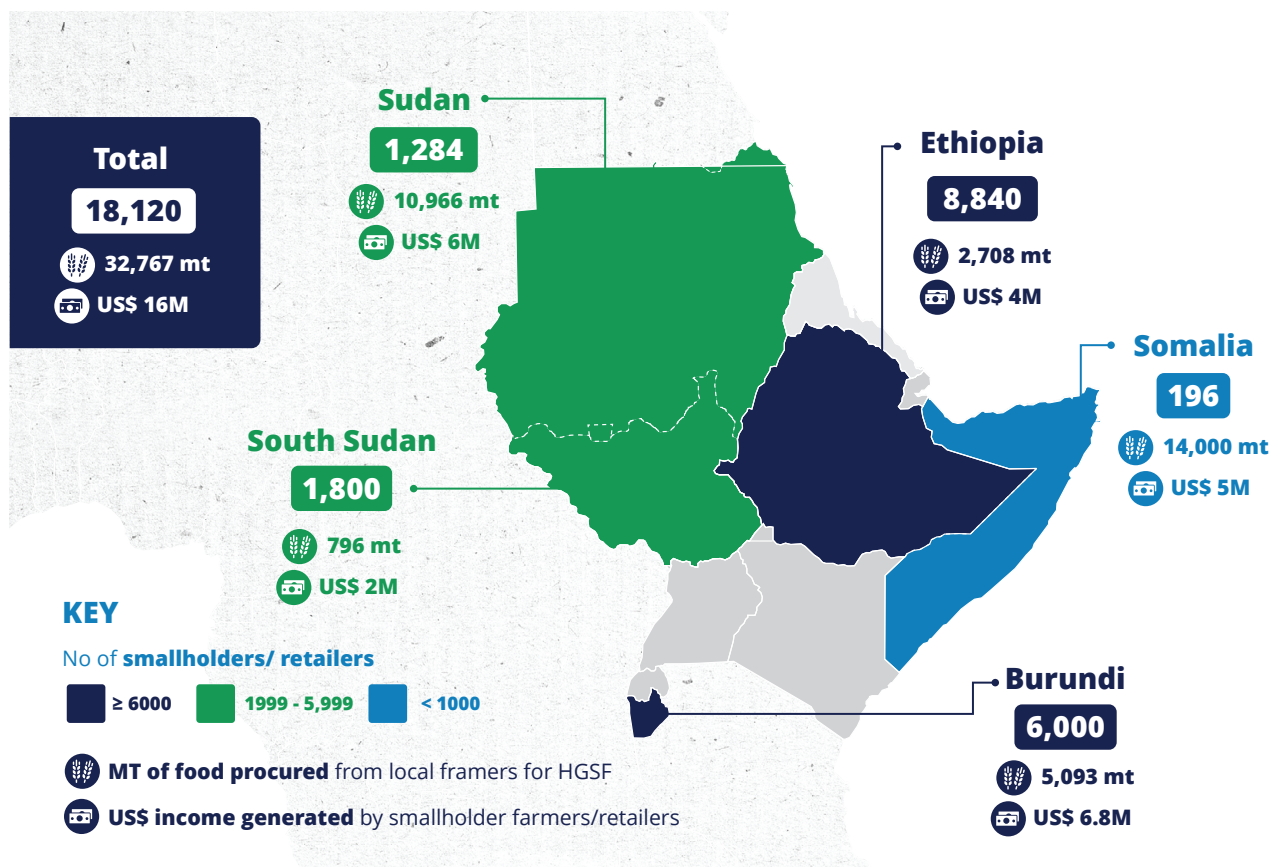


<sup>5</sup> Kenya and Djibouti programs have been handed over to the Government

<sup>6</sup> Indicators for Sudan waived for the reporting in 2024.

## School meals contribution to agriculture and food systems

WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding Programme contributed to improved nutrition and stimulated the local economy by procuring locally produced foods from smallholder farmers and local retailers. Implemented in eight out<sup>7</sup> of nine countries in the region, HGSF sourced over 32,000 metric tons of food from more than 18,000 farmers, injecting nearly US\$ 16 million into local economies. In Uganda, WFP partnered with national agricultural institutions to introduce Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes in 140 schools. Parents also received vines to plant at home, enhancing household nutrition and boosting incomes, demonstrating the power of community-led, locally driven school feeding solutions



## Progress toward national ownership

WFP is transitioning from direct implementation to enabling countries to implement and scale up school feeding programmes. Significant efforts have been made in Kenya, Rwanda and Djibouti, where the Government is leading implementation, fostering sustainability and local ownership. Government domestic contribution towards school feeding continued to increase, signifying increased political will and commitment towards school feeding.

- **Burundi** allocated US\$ 9 million, tripling its previous allocation, with US\$ 7.5 million transferred to WFP for implementation.
- **Rwanda** has allocated US\$ 72 million to its National school feeding programme, benefiting 4 million school-going children. The programme has rapidly expanded from covering 796,256 students in 2019 to achieving universal coverage of more than 4 million children by 2024.
- **Ethiopia** contributed US\$ 85 million. The national programme reached 7 million children in 2024, a 55% increase from 2023.

## School meals coalition

By the end of 2024, all nine countries had joined the school meals coalition, reaffirming their commitments to sustainable, nationally owned school feeding programmes. WFP played a pivotal role in advocacy efforts, supporting national and regional forums in Rwanda and Kenya that brought together leaders and stakeholders to shape the future of school feeding while fostering learning and experience sharing.



## **Institutional support**

WFP supported policy and strategy development in Somalia, Uganda, and Rwanda. Somalia finalized its School Feeding Policy Manual; Uganda advanced development of a national policy; and the Government in Rwanda approved the National School Feeding Strategy and a Financing Strategy developed with WFP to ensure sustainable programme funding over the next decade.

## **Complementary programmes for holistic impact**

WFP also collaborated with the Ministry of Health, I/NGOs, communities, and other UN agencies to implement complementary interventions alongside school feeding programmes through geographic convergence. These interventions included increasing access to water, hygiene, deworming, and micronutrient supplementation.

To enhance safe access to fuel and energy, WFP equipped schools with energy-saving stoves and improved kitchen facilities such as school storage facilities, kitchens, and feeding shelters.

## **Working with communities and local actors in school feeding**

Community engagement has been central to the success and sustainability of school feeding programmes. WFP trained local actors, including parent-teacher committees, community education committees, and Ministry of Education staff on food handling and programme management. In Rwanda, the government also sought innovative financing solutions for school feeding by partnering with local private sector entities to roll out the “Dusangire” (Let Us Share Lunch) campaign, which enabled community contributions towards school meals via Mobile Money, raising US\$ 250,000 by year-end. In Uganda, WFP partnered with national agricultural institutions to introduce Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes in 140 schools. Parents also received vines to plant at home, enhancing household nutrition and boosting incomes, demonstrating the power of community-led, locally driven school feeding solutions.



Support to expanding  
social protection coverage



## Technical support to the Governments to strengthen national social protection systems

### Burundi:



Integration of **8,000 refugee** households into the national safety net programme.



**US\$ 507,568** in bi-monthly mobile cash transfers.

### Djibouti:



General food assistance to **13,000 people** during the lean season.



Cash-based transfers totalling **US\$ 508,474** to **7,500 individuals**.

### Ethiopia:



Over **570,000 people** assisted in 2024 through post-conflict support in Tigray under the Shock-Responsive project component of the Productive Safety Net Programme.



Rolled out of **biometric ID registration** in Somali region to support improved targeting and identity management.



### Kenya:



Expansion of social protection coverage to **1.7 million households**.



Technical assistance for registering **500,000 new households**.



Technical assistance in drafting social protection legislation and launching the Kenya's National Social Protection Policy.

### Somalia:



**1.2 million people** reached with cash assistance under the Safety Net for Human Capital Project.



**219,000 flood-affected** people assisted through shock-responsive safety nets.



### South Sudan:



**US\$ 1.2 million** in cash transfers to **14,000 people**.



**1,400 individuals** received vocational and business skills training.



Facilitation of technical consultations on South Sudan's draft Social Protection Policy.

### Sudan:



**US\$ 85 million** SANAD Emergency Crisis Response Safety Net launched.



Undertook lessons learned documentation on safety net programming in the conflict and violence context of Sudan.

### Uganda:



Transition of NutriCash programme to national systems.



Over **16,000 vulnerable people** reached through NutriCash, including in refugee-hosting districts.



Enhancement of Uganda's Single Registry, now covering **2.6 million people**

A key issue for social protection in Africa is limited coverage. In 2024, Governments in the region continued to make investments towards expanding coverage of their national social protection programmes. To support these efforts, WFP remained a key partner, providing technical support to governments for scale-up of the programmes and implementing complementary programmes to fill specific gaps and inform systems strengthening.



**Ethiopia:** In Tigray's post-conflict setting, WFP filled critical capacity gaps under the Shock-Responsive Safety Net Project, a component within the PSNP, ensuring the continuity of social protection coverage for vulnerable populations. Acting as a third-party implementor in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia and the World Bank, WFP provided technical support to both federal and regional authorities in the planning, design, and implementation of the response. Leveraging its logistics expertise and presence in hard-to-reach areas, WFP delivered food assistance and early recovery support to over 570,000 people in 2024 bringing the total reached since mid-2023 to 1.3 million. This effort played a vital role in maintaining social protection delivery amid institutional recovery.



**Kenya:** Kenya is committed to expanding social protection coverage from 1.2 million to 2.5 million households by 2026. WFP provided technical assistance to the Government of Kenya to register and enrol an additional 500,000 households into the national safety net programme, increasing coverage to 1.7 million households.



**Burundi:** WFP strengthened its partnership with the Government of Burundi to expand the reach of national social protection to refugee populations. In collaboration with the Ministry of National Solidarity and ONPRA, 8,000 refugee households were integrated into the Merankabandi II safety net programme. WFP provided bi-monthly mobile cash transfers totalling US\$ 507,568 to 3,386 households (99% of the target) in Bwagiriza and Nyankanda camps, helping to meet food and basic needs. Each household received six bi-monthly mobile money transfers of US\$ 25 for food and essential needs.



**Djibouti:** To support government efforts to expand coverage, WFP complemented the Programme National de Solidarité Familiale (PNSF) by providing general food assistance to 13,000 people during the lean season and cash-based transfers totalling US\$ 508,474 to 7,500 extremely poor individuals in Djibouti City. The Fresh Food Voucher pilot implemented with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Health to improve dietary diversity was expanded from 800 households to 2,225 households, each receiving an additional DJF 5,000 (US\$ 28) monthly top-up to the DJF 10,000 (US\$ 56) under PNSF for nine months.



**Somalia:** Under the Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP), WFP delivered social assistance on behalf of the Government of Somalia, reaching 1.2 million people (99% of the target) across 14 payment cycles, while building national capacity for eventual transition of responsibilities to the relevant national institutions. The programme prioritised women to promote financial inclusion and targeted households with malnourished children using a nutrition-sensitive approach and behaviour change communication. WFP also reached 219,000 flood-affected people using the Unified Social Registry data laying the foundation for a scalable model targeting 540,000 people in future climate shocks.



**South Sudan:** WFP continued to implement its complementary urban safety net initiative, ongoing since 2016, helping lay the foundation for future national scale-up. In 2024, WFP provided US\$ 1.2 million in cash transfers to 14,000 people in Juba and Aweil, supporting basic needs during the lean season. Over 1,400 individuals received vocational and business skills training, and 28 women-led savings groups mobilised US\$ 29,000. A mobile money pilot with the State Ministry of Gender reached 5,000 people, demonstrating a scalable, risk-reducing delivery model. An operational review concluded in 2024 produced lessons to inform the design of future government-led safety nets.



**Sudan:** WFP responded to the collapse of government-led social protection services amid ongoing conflict by partnering with humanitarian actors to fill critical coverage gaps, including in the hard-to-reach and access-constrained locations. A key initiative was the launch of US\$ 85 million Sudan SANAD Emergency Crisis Response Safety Net, co-designed with the World Bank to deliver cash transfers to meet urgent food needs while laying the groundwork for future recovery. WFP also gathered risk and vulnerability data to inform both immediate humanitarian safety nets and long-term resilience efforts, and documented lessons from past large-scale safety net projects to guide future programme design.



**Uganda:** WFP concluded direct implementation of the NutriCash programme, focusing on consolidating delivery and transitioning activities to government and partners and preparing for integration into Uganda's national social protection programme. The programme reached over 16,000 vulnerable people including pregnant and breastfeeding women, children, elderly refugees, and youth in eight refugee-hosting districts as well as in Karamoja and the Southwest regions, laying the foundation for further coverage expansion and integration into Uganda's national system. Complementary interventions improved dietary diversity, supported teenage parents with skills and startup kits, and enabled early assistance to 8,500 households in Karamoja ahead of drought, showcasing the model's effectiveness of anticipatory action and for national scale-up.



Strengthening Resilience  
and Adaptive capacities  
against Climatic shocks



## Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAM)

WFP's SAM interventions are fostering inclusive, resilient food systems across Eastern Africa. In 2024, WFP empowered more than 900,000 smallholder farmers, helping them to boost productivity, optimise productivity by reducing post-harvest losses, aggregation support and market linkages, and enhance incomes while reinforcing WFP's local procurement, influencing public and private buyers to adopt pro-smallholder business models and long-term food and nutrition security efforts. The programme also supported government efforts to institutionalise home-grown school feeding, influence public and private buyers to adopt local procurement (pro-smallholder business models) and link farmers to structured markets.



In Kenya, WFP supported over 88,000 smallholder farmers, 52% women, across 14 counties to improve productivity and market access. Partnering with government and private actors, interventions focused on aggregation, value addition, post-harvest handling, and financial literacy. Through the Agricultural Market Support Programme, farmers supplied 2,900 mt of commodities to structured buyers, including WFP.



In Somalia, SAMS reached 13,700 smallholders, emphasizing women's empowerment. Training in climate-smart agriculture, post-harvest handling, and cooperative management boosted productivity and cooperative capacity. Farmers sold 246 mt of commodities, while WFP procured 2,675 mt locally.



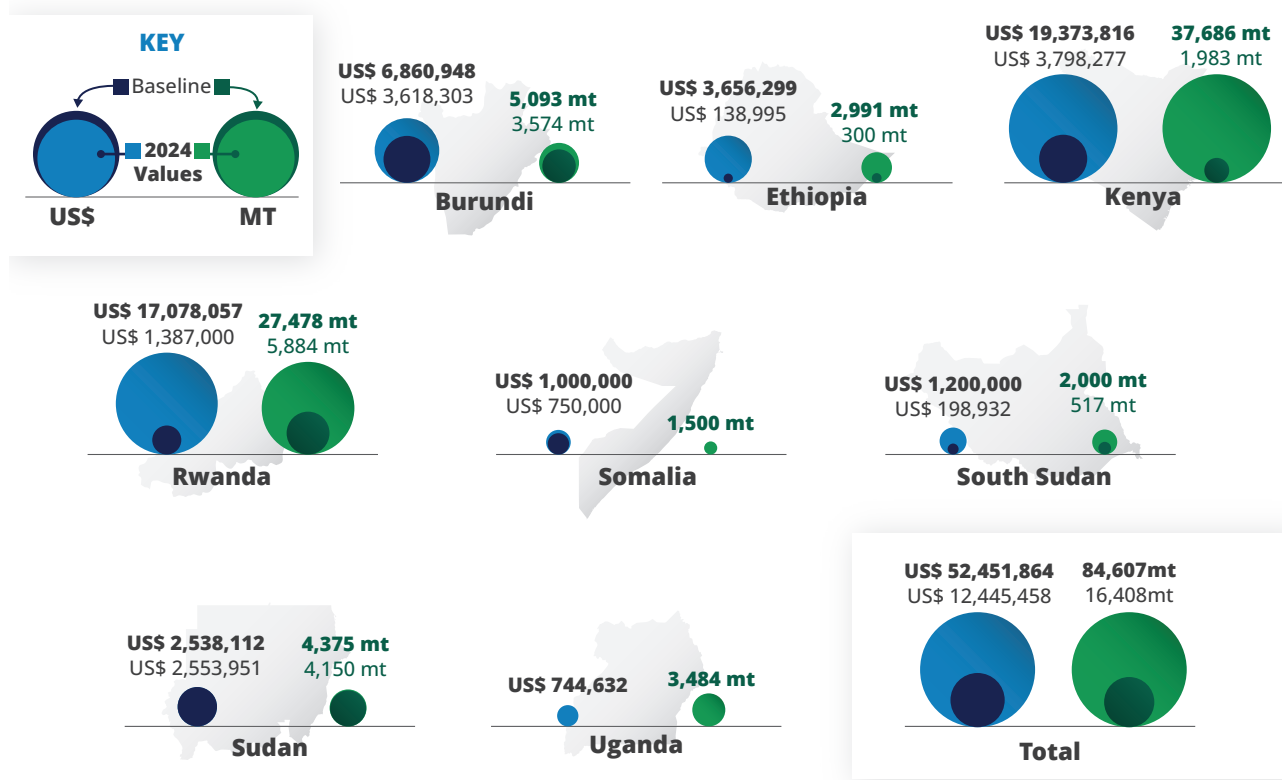
In South Sudan, WFP supported over 26,000 smallholders (62% women) through agronomic training, financial literacy, and infrastructure rehabilitation. WFP procured 3,360 mt of food from farmer organizations. In Sudan, despite access constraints, SAMS supported over 14,000 smallholders in production, marketing, and cooperative management. WFP procured 1,900 mt and expanded partnerships in Darfur and eastern Sudan.



In Uganda, 68,000 smallholder farmers across 15 districts received training and market access, selling over 4,700 mt of food and earning nearly US\$ 1.5 million, triple the 2023 figure. A new Self-Reliance Model in five refugee settlements targeted 10,500 households, combining livelihood skills, financial literacy, and cash transfers to reduce aid dependency.



## Value (US\$) and volume (mt) of Smallholder sales through WFP-supported aggregation systems



Data source: WFP outcome monitoring surveys

## Asset creation

Across the region, WFP made significant strides in building resilience and restoring livelihoods for food-insecure and shock-affected communities, despite challenging conditions and funding gaps. In South Sudan, over 393,000 people, more than half women, benefited from asset creation and livelihood support. Communities built or rehabilitated 350 km of roads, 80 km of dykes, and 164 water points, improving market access and water security. Over 28,000 hectares were cultivated with staple and climate-resilient crops, and 1.2 million m<sup>2</sup> converted to vegetable gardens.



In Sudan, WFP reached over 127,000 people with tailored livelihood support despite insecurity and daunting access constraints. Interventions focused on restoring productive capacity through climate-smart agriculture, tools, and land preparation to revive local food production.



In Somalia, where conflict and climate shocks undermine resilience, WFP supported nearly 80,000 people in 2024 through asset creation and livelihood support. Investments included 59 climate-resilient assets: boreholes, greenhouses, wells, and irrigation systems across 17 districts, boosting food production and water access. Irrigated land increased by 30%, restoring degraded areas.



In Kenya, WFP implemented transformative models across ten arid and semi-arid counties through 41 climate-resilient food system hubs, serving over 330,000 participants. These hubs, co-led by county governments, integrated local production, value addition, and market access, embedding sustainability into food systems.



In Ethiopia, WFP supported climate-vulnerable areas like Afar, Somali, and Oromia by establishing or restoring water catchments, irrigation schemes, and soil conservation systems. These assets were reinforced by training on sustainable land management and agricultural diversification.



In Burundi, communities built soil conservation barriers, seed nurseries, and roads to reduce flood and drought impacts. Village Savings and Loan Associations saved US\$ 428,000 and issued US\$ 452,000 in loans, boosting microenterprises and the economic sustainability of assets.

## Helping communities mitigate the impacts of weather-related shocks



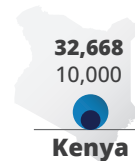
Number of people covered by an insurance product through risk transfer mechanisms supported by WFP

610,760  
525,050



Ethiopia

32,668  
10,000



Kenya

62,916  
62,916



Sudan

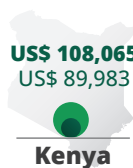
Total US\$ value of premiums paid under risk transfer mechanisms supported by WFP

US\$ 996,613  
US\$ 1,210,504



Ethiopia

US\$ 108,065  
US\$ 89,983

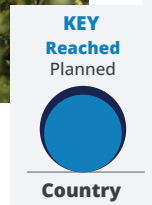


Kenya

US\$ 500,000  
US\$ 500,000



Sudan



WFP's response focused on providing effective and scalable solutions to help food insecure communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from weather related shocks and stressors such as drought and floods. WFP implemented climate risk management including forecast based financing and disaster risk financing .

In 2024, WFP implemented Disaster Risk Financing solutions at meso and micro levels, aimed towards enhancing smallholder farmers' and pastoralists' food security and resilience to extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall. Similarly, WFP continued to work with the Governments of Somalia and Sudan on the macro insurance programme known as ARC Replica, which aims to avail pre-

arranged financing to complement sovereign risk insurance by the governments under the African Risk Capacity Pool (ARC). These initiatives contribute to broader risk management, aligning with government social protection and climate adaptation strategies. WFP also strengthened institutional capacities to design and scale sustainable insurance models linked to early warning and seasonal forecasts.

## Focus on Inclusive Risk Financing

One of WFP's flagship risk financing interventions is the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) which combines four different risk management strategies: risk reduction, insurance (risk transfer), livelihood diversification (prudent risk taking) and savings (risk reserves).

In Ethiopia, to protect crops from extreme weather, WFP aligned its crop insurance scheme with the Government's Input Voucher System (IVS), providing enrolled farmers with seeds and fertilizer. In Amhara, 247,000 farmers enrolled in crop insurance, while 4,300 agro-pastoralists enrolled in livestock insurance. A historical US\$ 868,345 insurance payout was provided to farmers who suffered losses from reduced rainfall during the 2023 Meher season.

In Kenya, WFP provided 7,880 smallholder farmers in Makueni and Kitui counties with crop insurance. The sustained 30% contribution of farmers toward insurance premiums demonstrates a growing appreciation of insurance as a climate resilience tool. WFP reached 6,823 pastoralists in arid counties with the Index-Based Livestock Insurance, which protects livelihoods from severe drought impacts. WFP leverages World Bank-funded DRIVE project to access partial premium financing (80%), with willing pastoralists contributing 20%.



## Beating the storm: how WFP's anticipatory actions are saving lives before disaster strikes



**US\$ 6M**

in anticipatory cash assistance

**228,000 people** supported  
with anticipatory action  
through cash

**2+ million people** reached  
with early warning messages

Partnerships with national  
meteorological services and  
specialized technical climate  
institutions both regional and  
global (ICPAC and IRI) enhanced  
forecasting systems

Across Eastern Africa, the threat of extreme weather events e.g floods, and droughts, is no longer a question of *if*, but *when*. In 2024, WFP stepped up its anticipatory action efforts, helping vulnerable communities anticipate and prepare for predictable climate shocks, not just react to them.

By focusing on anticipatory action, WFP is not only protecting lives but also reducing the burden on humanitarian response, saving humanitarian resources. In total, US\$6 million was invested in anticipatory cash delivered to 228,000 people, and over 2 million people received early warning information across the region, enabling them to protect their livelihoods and food security before a shock occurs.

WFP also collaborated with national meteorological agencies and specialized technical climate institutions both regional and global (ICPAC and IRI) to strengthen government forecasting and early warning systems. These partnerships enhanced national capacities for prediction and analysis, ensuring advisories reached those at risk in time, enabling them to make critical decisions—whether to move livestock, store food, or prepare for displacement—before a crisis unfolded.

## Country highlights



### Somalia

Building on the 2023 anticipatory achievements, WFP, in collaboration with Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and ICPAC, monitored weather forecasts and activated the flood anticipatory action plan when trigger thresholds were met. WFP provided US\$ 1 million in anticipatory cash transfers to 80,000 people, representing a 27% achievement against the target due to moderate flooding compared to 2023. Early warning coverage expanded dramatically, reaching 1.9 million people via radio, mobile alerts, and community leaders, up from 440,000 the previous year. Monitoring data showed that those receiving anticipatory action support had better food security and adopted fewer negative coping strategies.



### Burundi

WFP and partners supported the development of a roadmap for the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. Leveraging on South-South cooperation, WFP, in partnership with Madagascar's National Office for Risk and Disaster Management, supported the establishment of a situation room aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of disaster management. In partnership with ICPAC, WFP trained staff from the Burundi Geographic Institute (IGEBU) on Weather Research and Forecasting, hydrological forecasting and the development of flood-related anticipatory action plans, enhancing the country's preparedness for disaster events related to extreme rainfall and water shortages. Together with the Burundi Red Cross, WFP trained 60 local Disaster Risk Reduction Committees to strengthen local disaster risk reduction capacities and early warning systems.



### Ethiopia

In anticipation of La Niña-induced drought, WFP, in collaboration with the Somali Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) reached 525,700 people with early warning advisories and 64,086 individuals with multipurpose cash across 3 districts. WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ethiopian Disaster and Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) to improve disaster early warning systems, including through LEAP tools.



### Uganda

Meanwhile, in Uganda, WFP worked with the Uganda Meteorological Authority and district governments in Karamoja to design an anticipatory action plan including identifying triggers and thresholds for drought response. Although pending final stakeholder reviews, these plans have ensured the groundwork is set to ensure faster, more effective action when droughts strike in the future.

Supporting Humanitarian  
Response through  
effective supply chain



## Lifelines in the Sky: how UNHAS keeps hope flying across Eastern Africa



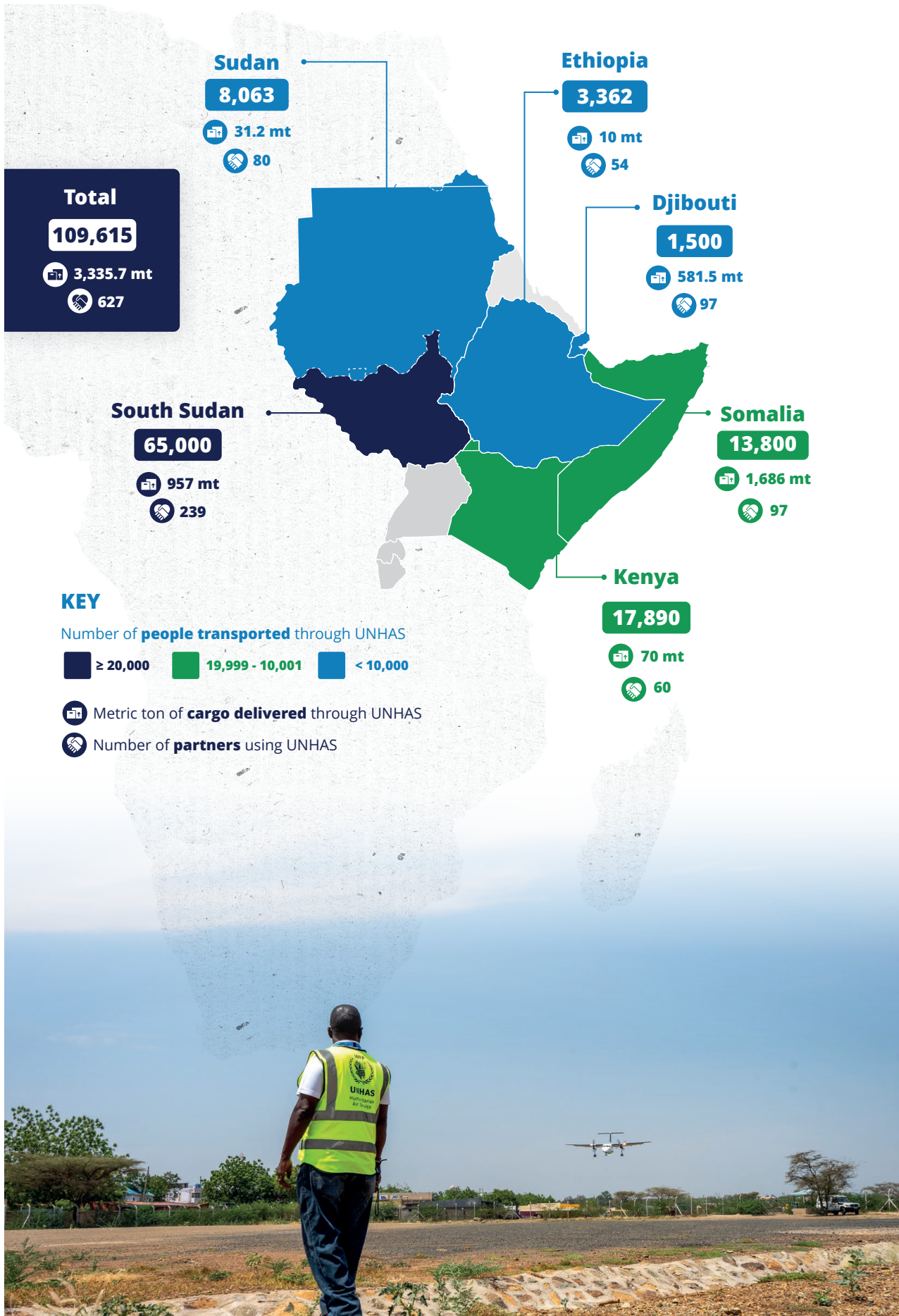
The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), operated by WFP, provided vital air transport across East Africa, enabling life-saving assistance in conflict zones, flood-stricken regions, and remote communities with no commercial alternatives. With a user satisfaction rate of 97%, UNHAS served over 627 humanitarian organisations in 2024 alone, transporting 108,000 humanitarian staff, delivering more than 3,300 mt of supplies, conducting evacuations, and ensuring access where no other options existed.

UNHAS's role was particularly crucial in conflict-affected countries. In Sudan, despite intense fighting and bureaucratic hurdles, UNHAS sustained critical airbridges from Nairobi and Amman to Port Sudan. When regional instability forced a shift, the team swiftly relocated operations to Cairo. November marked a breakthrough as UNHAS launched long-awaited domestic flights to Kassala and Dongola, drastically cutting travel time for humanitarian staff and goods. These new routes laid the groundwork for future expansions to Kadugli, Damazine, and parts of Darfur.

In neighbouring South Sudan, where poor infrastructure leaves vast regions inaccessible, UNHAS remained the sole means of air transport for humanitarian responders. It supported over 239 organisations, enabling them to reach remote communities with life-saving aid.

UNHAS also played a pivotal role in disaster response. In Somalia, helicopters and cargo planes delivered flood relief, including boats and emergency supplies. The team conducted 119 special flights and carried out seven medical evacuations. Meanwhile, in Kenya, UNHAS responded to El Niño floods by flying 11 emergency helicopter missions, delivering nearly 10 metric tons of aid to 36 cut-off villages.

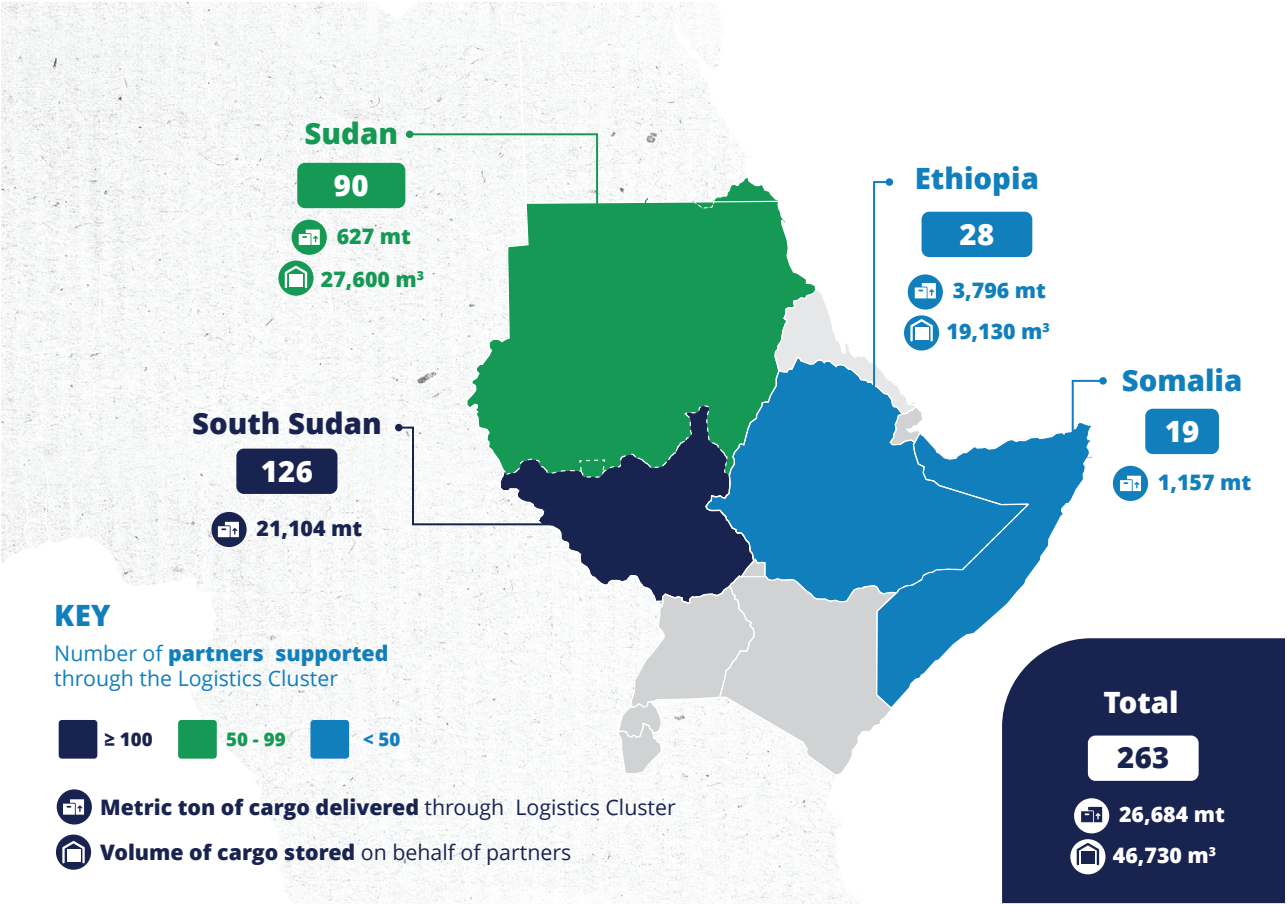
Beyond transport, UNHAS invested in long-term safety and access: rehabilitating local airstrips, training personnel, and providing safety equipment to ensure continued humanitarian access in the toughest of conditions.



# Logistics cluster



In the face of conflict, climate shocks, and access constraints, the Logistics Cluster remained a vital enabler of humanitarian response across Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, and Sudan in 2024. By coordinating logistics services, mobilising expertise, and strengthening national systems, the Cluster ensured aid reached those who needed it most—swiftly, safely, and efficiently. WFP supported xx partners, through coordinating logistics information, coordinating convoys, unlocking access, building local capacity, and providing storage and transport, supporting partners to deliver life-saving assistance to people in crisis.



## On-demand services

In 2024, WFP delivered vital on-demand logistics services across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, supporting humanitarian operations and strengthening local capacities.



**Djibouti:** WFP handled 31 service requests from 12 partners, transporting and storing 1,100 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo worth US\$ 1.3 million. WFP supported agencies like UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF by delivering critical supplies to Djibouti and Yemen. Despite instability in the Red Sea, WFP maintained reliable logistics operations, safeguarding the humanitarian pipeline.



**Ethiopia:** WFP provided 50,000 mt of wheat to the government, delivered 166,334 litres of fuel to 19 partners, and supported local procurement for school feeding programmes in Tigray and Afar, aligning with efforts to boost the local economy.



**Somalia,** WFP transported 1,503 mt of aid and stored 3,438 mt, supported health facility upgrades and cold chain training. Accountability measures were reinforced through inventory audits, while digital innovations improved real-time tracking and supply management.

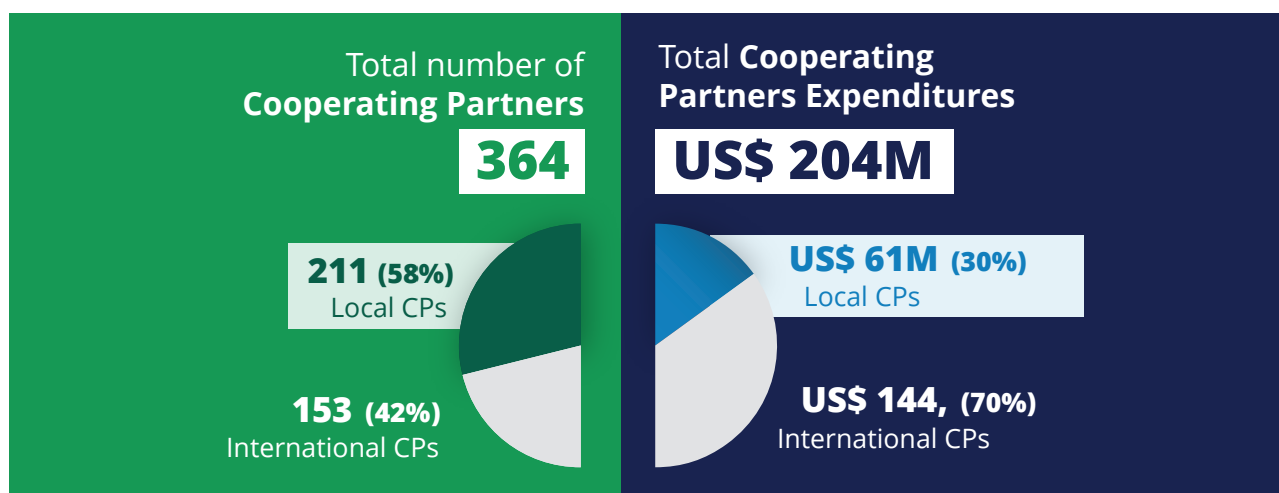


**South Sudan:** WFP served as a key logistics and technology enabler for 28 partners. WFP moved 2,172 metric tons of humanitarian cargo and leased 8,328 m<sup>2</sup> of warehouse space, generating US\$ 4.7 million in revenue to sustain operations. The team maintained over 350 radios and expanded satellite coverage to support safe and effective field communications. WFP also led digital transformation by scaling up mobile money, registering 1.2 million people biometrically, and deploying advanced fraud prevention tools to protect aid integrity.



# Delivering through Cooperating Partners





## Strengthening impact through strategic partnerships

In 2024, WFP continued to drive humanitarian impact across Eastern Africa by partnering with 364 Cooperating Partners (CPs), including local, national, and international NGOs, academic institutions, government bodies, National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and UN agencies. This broad network strengthens WFP's ability to deliver timely, context-specific, and impactful support.

Nearly 90% of WFP's operations are delivered in collaboration with CP's, underscoring their vital role in achieving humanitarian and development outcomes. Behind this number lies a powerful shift toward smarter, more strategic collaboration. With 991 partnership agreements signed, a 4% reduction from the previous year. WFP Country Offices continued to streamline operations to enhance efficiency. For example, South Sudan consolidated activities into single agreements to optimise Field Level Agreement costs, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of its operations.

## Local partners, local solutions

WFP's partnerships with local NGOs have been key in reaching populations in conflict affected areas, leveraging their grassroots presence, local expertise, and proximity to affected. Of all CPs, 58% (211) were local organisations, while 42% (153) were international. Local CPs also accounted for nearly 30% of total CP expenditures, surpassing the Grand Bargain commitment of channelling at least 25% of funding to local actors. This reflects WFP's continued efforts to ensure local organisations have access to humanitarian resources and decision-making spaces.



In Sudan, Khartoum, one of the epicentres of the Sudan Conflict, WFP partnered with Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs), and other community-based organizations to provide hot meals to approximately 357,000 people through community kitchens. These community kitchens became a lifeline for millions of people, harnessing local capacity, knowledge, and partnerships to deliver food assistance where it was needed most.



In Somalia, WFP established a key two-year partnership with the Somali NGO Consortium (SNC) to strengthen the capacity of local partners, in areas such as targeting and identity management to optimise programme delivery and greater impact. These partnerships are laying the groundwork for more inclusive, sustainable solutions.

## Strengthening assurance in CP management for high-risk operations

In 2024, WFP strengthened assurance in CP management across high-risk operations, in line with the global assurance standards. All Country Offices conducted Cross-Functional CP Onboarding and increased coverage of spot checks for CPs. Notably, Somalia exceeded its initial target of 65% partner coverage, achieving 95% coverage through spot checks in 2024. These efforts have improved oversight and addressed potential risks and control issues effectively.

Digitization efforts have been a game-changer in improving financial oversight and operational effectiveness. The Partner Connect tool rolled out in all five high-risk countries—Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan—has streamlined partner distribution reporting, strengthening monitoring mechanisms and enhancing data accuracy. Additionally, all high-risk countries are using the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) for partner selection, ensuring greater transparency and reliability in partnership decisions.

Sustaining these improvements is becoming increasingly challenging as funding gaps widen. Despite these challenges, WFP has integrated global assurance project across all operations and invested in training, and digital tools to ensure that assistance reaches the right people most effectively and

## Looking ahead: a policy for people-centred partnerships

To solidify its commitment towards localisation, WFP is developing a Localisation Policy, which will outline the intended impact of strategically investing in relationships with local actors to enhance sustainable food security and nutrition outcomes. Grounded in WFP's people-centred approach, the policy prioritises the needs and experiences of diverse communities facing acute and chronic food insecurity. Further, it seeks to strengthen engagement with local actors through mutually beneficial capacity-strengthening and capacity-sharing initiatives, ensuring that those closest to the crisis are also central to the solution.





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