



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Skills for Livelihood Opportunities (SLO)

Global Proposal 2026 - 2030

DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS: A GLOBAL IMPERATIVE FOR FOOD SECURITY

Investing in livelihood diversification options beyond agriculture is paramount to ensuring food security, especially with 58% of the global population living in urban areas, displacement numbers skyrocketing, and 1.2 billion young people in developing countries reaching working age in the next decade while only 420 million jobs are expected to be created.

This is particularly true for individuals with **limited or no access to natural resources**, such as **women, youth and forcibly displaced communities** - including internally displaced people (IDPs), migrants and refugees. For the latter in particular, they often lack land rights or live in urban or semi-urban settings where they

cannot rely on agriculture for their food security. Furthermore, communities' and households' **climate sensitivity** - which gauges their livelihoods' vulnerability to climate change - is increasing, as people overly rely on agriculture, fisheries, lacking alternative livelihoods and institutional support for diversification.

Current responses often remain fragmented, underfunded, and short-term. This underscores the urgent need for coordinated, long-term investments in people's economic empowerment for food security and to strengthen people's resilience against shocks, including the ones related to climate. By **helping landless individuals gaining access to income-generating opportunities and timely food assistance**, WFP's Skills for Livelihood Opportunities (SLO) effectively addresses these gaps.

July 2025

WFP'S VISION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES

As WFP's flagship human capital development initiative, SLO programme **empowers communities by strengthening their resilience and improving food security**. We achieve this by providing vital food assistance while supporting people's self-reliance through dignified income opportunities.

By 2030, WFP aims to **upskill 2 million vulnerable individuals and reach 6 million people across 40 countries** through SLO interventions. This will be achieved through strong partnerships with national governments in the Global South, UN partner agencies, local and international civil society and, crucially, the private sector. WFP is increasingly **partnering and co-creating interventions with local businesses to achieve scale and provide concrete income prospects**. Through such partnerships, WFP not only supports food-insecure individuals but also **catalyzes local economic growth**, generating a multiplier effect allowing WFP to continuously expand its reach.



Skills for Livelihood Opportunities (SLO)

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Current implementation relies on strong foundations and encouraging results over the past few years:



Since 2020, WFP's SLO programme has **supported nearly 3 million people** across its operational areas in 32 countries.



Since 2020, WFP has **upskilled almost 800 thousand people** supporting their economic mobility and food security, with market based upskilling programmes and access to labor market.



In 2024 only, WFP reached 800 thousand people with food assistance (more than 341,000 directly trained) across 32 countries; 54% were women and 32% forcibly displaced individuals.



On average **52% of participants engage in income generation activities thanks to WFP support**



Through the programme, WFP also distributed more than 22 million USD and 1900 metric tons of food.

WFP plans to build upon these successes, further strengthening its role in:

- **transitioning people out of humanitarian assistance;**
- supporting communities and individuals in protracted as well as recent **displacement crises;**
- addressing food insecurity and livelihood diversification in **urban settings;**
- further tailoring the programme to the **specific needs of young people, vulnerable women, forcibly displaced communities and people with disabilities.**

WFP's approach is twofold:

- **investing in corporate technical capacity** to best respond to the food security and livelihoods needs of marginalized groups and,
- **strengthening the role of key partners**, such as national authorities tasked with technical education provision, social affairs and labor, civil society but most importantly, the **local private sector** to improve the economic mobility of marginalized communities.

EXPECTED RESULTS (2026-2030)

Doubling down on efforts to implement market-driven upskilling programmes and economic self-reliance actions is expected to lower the need of recurrent humanitarian interventions, especially in the context of climate change and help achieve the following by 2030:

- **6 million people improved their food security:** during the technical training phase, through the provision of timely food transfers, SLO beneficiaries have a stable or improved food security status, with poor food consumption dropping on average, by half every year.
- Two million **people with improved job/business skills** through market-driven upskilling programmes, of whom **at least 50% are women, 50% young adults, and 10% people with disabilities**.
- **1 million people with access to self- or wage-employment:** to support concrete chances to access new income, at least 50% of the people trained will also be supported with business financial capital, labor market connections, hands-on opportunities such as an internship, etc.
- **50% of people trained yearly benefit from dignified and diversified livelihoods** by engaging in income generation within 6 months from the support received, reducing humanitarian needs and transitioning people away from the dependency on WFP support.

- In **displacement settings**, WFP commits to include further refugees and IDPs, supporting their self-reliance and transition off dependency on food transfer.
- **Global technical support delivered**, including training through regional and country offices, field supervision, and technical assistance to 40 COs over five years.
- **Global impact body of evidence**, learning outputs, and donor-facing documentation demonstrating ROI of economic self-reliance strengthening action on humanitarian needs reduction.

HOW TO GET THERE

Shifting from short-term or isolated interventions to integrated and long-term programming, SLO will be implemented through a multi-year layering and sequencing of emergency assistance, transition programming, and livelihood development actions.

While covering people's most immediate food needs, **WFP interventions build the basis for economic self-reliance, reducing the dependence on humanitarian assistance** and strengthening local capacities for sustainable recovery.

Areas of intervention will be selected following food insecurity, labor market analyses criteria, as well as climate sensitivity trends, to define livelihood opportunities that are **responsive to labor market gaps and less sensitive to climate variability and shocks**. The program will focus on marginalized **urban dwellers, individuals in displacement settings, and rural non-farming communities**, who lack access to an arable land, or who've lost everything during forced displacement.

Countries will be supported through oversight, technical expertise and normative guidance from WFP's Global HQ, including through trainings, manuals development, and implementation toolkits. Interventions will be planned following **integrated resilience approaches linking**

other WFP interventions such as Ecosystems, Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods programme, Youth in Work and Social Protection.

This approach will rely upon close collaboration with local governments, NGOs, and UN partners. Key stakeholders will include UNHCR, IOM, ILO, as well as refugees, women, youth and people with disabilities networks, and most importantly, the local private sector.

Key interventions, from recovery to resilience, include:

- Food transfers provision;
- Market-driven training: vocational, digital, soft, entrepreneurship skills;
- Active labor market measures: financial capital and start-up kit for business; internships and job-placement, job fairs, networking events, etc.;
- Through MoUs signing, system level actions for livelihood diversification:
 - Local private sector engagement and capacities strengthening;
 - Technical assistance to Government ministries;
 - Partnership with key civil society;
- Protection concerns integration.

FOCUS ON EVIDENCE

Evidence generation is a top priority within the five-year implementation timeframe. The main goal is to build and share actionable, credible, and scalable evidence of SLO's impact on decreasing the humanitarian load and improving self-reliance, resilience, and

livelihoods. This will be achieved by:

- expanding a consistent SLO monitoring and reporting framework, reaching at least 40 countries.
- creating dedicated monitoring log-frames for SLO interventions, to be adopted by country offices.
- carrying out ad-hoc longitudinal impact studies in at least 5 flagship countries (cost-benefit and ROI analysis) to showcase progress over the multi-year implementation.



TARGETS AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS



WFP aims to reach

**6 MILLION
PEOPLE in
40 COUNTRIES**



Cost per CO:

**9.5 MILLION
USD PER YEAR
including HQ
support**

CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE SERVICE (PPGR)

World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,

00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131

wfp.assetcreationandlivelihoods@wfp.org

Photo page 1: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

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