



World Food
Program USA

2021 IMPACT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, several major drivers have contributed to one of the largest increases in world hunger in decades, affecting almost all low and middle-income countries. In 2021, an estimated 811 million individuals – 1 in 10 of the global population – experienced hunger. Hunger negatively affects key development outcomes, with serious and lasting effects for individuals and their families, their communities and their countries. Malnutrition is intimately linked to poverty and poor health outcomes, each contributing to the presence of the other.



A mother and her child receive emergency food assistance in the Afar region of northern Ethiopia.

Hunger and food insecurity are greatest in countries that experience conflict, climate extremes, economic downturn and high levels of income inequality. When one or more of these drivers is present, people's ability to cope and respond to stressors is hindered – resulting in higher levels of hunger. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) holds a leading role in ending hunger and improving global food security and nutrition, working with a diverse range of partners to reach up to 120 million people worldwide in 2021.

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When delivering food assistance to remote communities, the U.N. World Food Programme is deeply conscious of reaching those most disproportionately affected due to factors such as race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, gender, indigenous heritage or disability status. WFP works closely with communities in the design and delivery of its programs recognizing that identities and factors can intersect with one another and create layers of exclusion in terms of access to decision-making, programs, services and positive outcomes. Hunger almost always affects populations that are already suffering from pervasive poverty and rampant inequality. Limited access to food resources is often the

by product of injustice, which marginalizes people and societies, especially women, children, indigenous peoples and minority groups.

The 2021 Impact Report provides an overview of how the U.N. World Food Programme has expanded its global operations to shape food systems worldwide. Through the featured examples, the report shows how the U.N. World Food Programme reaches individuals affected by conflict, climate change and natural disasters, and COVID-19. By integrating food assistance with innovative approaches that build resilience to shocks and stressors, WFP is working with communities to overcome systemic challenges that limit their access to food and livelihoods.



Khem Sreytoch (10), is a student at Angserey Primary School in Cambodia, one of the schools that participates in WFP's School Meals programs.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

FROM EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

Climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events are key drivers behind the recent rise in global food insecurity. Hunger and malnutrition are significantly worse in countries with food systems that rely on rainfed agriculture and experience temperature extremes and where a high proportion of the population depends on agriculture as their main source of income. At least 80 percent of the world's hungriest people live in places prone to natural disasters and environmental degradation.

Since 2009, the U.N. World Food Programme has reached an estimated 13 million people in 39 countries with climate and energy solutions.

WFP aims to ensure that households and communities, and the livelihoods and ecosystems they depend on, become more resilient to climate-related shocks and stressors, with a view towards scalable and sustainable transformation. Since 2009, WFP has reached an estimated 13 million people in 39 countries

with climate and energy solutions. In addition to providing lifesaving food assistance to communities affected by climate change and natural disasters, WFP is working with communities through anticipatory action and innovative programs such as:

H2Grow: Hydroponics is a climate-smart cultivation technique using up to 90 percent less water, 75 percent less space and no soil. H2Grow, WFP's hydroponics initiative, helps people grow food in impossible places. It was started in Peru in 2016 and was one of the first projects supported by the WFP Innovation Accelerator. It is now implemented in nine countries worldwide and directly impacts more than 20,000 people.

The Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) program puts communities at the center of improving long-term food security. Food insecure households that participate in this program receive food or cash in exchange for working on community infrastructure and assets that can increase resilience to climate change. Examples of projects include rehabilitating barren lands, constructing roads, restoring forests and installing irrigation systems. Since 2013, between 10 to 15 million people across more than 50 countries participated in FFA projects, making them stronger in the face of extreme weather. The impact of the FFA program can be tangible and long-lasting, creating healthier natural environments, reducing the risks of climate shocks and increasing food productivity.

Risk Management and Insurance Schemes: As the impacts of the climate crisis become more frequent and intense, farmers are pushed into cycles of food insecurity and poverty when agricultural seasons fail. WFP aims to help smallholder farmers effectively manage risks by incorporating crop micro-insurance schemes that strengthen their ability to deal with climate shocks while improving their ability to reduce and manage threats to their food security.

Prak Sokhom (60), tends to her vegetable garden in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia and supplies local schools with fresh produce for school feeding programs.



With less than \$200 from a WFP-backed microinsurance program, Odile has gained access to a field where she can grow potatoes and other crops in Anjahamahavelo, Madagascar.



Photo: WFP / Alice Rahmoun

COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

SEVERE HUNGER CAUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY CLIMATE CHANGE IN **MADAGASCAR**



In April 2021, WFP warned that the unrelenting, multi-year drought in southern Madagascar would force hundreds of thousands of people to the brink of famine. Unexpected sandstorms buried agricultural land and pastures, undermining people's possibility of securing nutritious foods. It is the only country in the world facing famine-like conditions without the presence of man-made conflict.

The U.N. World Food Programme reached over 700,000 people through monthly food and cash distributions and supplementary food programs to prevent and treat acute malnutrition in children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women.

Over 1 million people in southern Madagascar are facing high levels of acute food insecurity. In response to a rapidly deteriorating situation, the government and the U.N. World Food Programme reached over 700,000 people through monthly food and cash distributions and supplementary food programs to prevent and treat acute malnutrition in children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women.

In addition to general food distribution programs, WFP is working closely with the government to develop an integrated plan for hunger hotspots. This includes rehabilitating community infrastructure and strengthening local crop value chains in support of school feeding programs. WFP's programs also provide training to smallholder farmers, encouraging communities to adapt their farming strategies. For example, WFP works with farmers so they can plant more drought-tolerant crops such as cassava, sorghum and millet instead of corn.



Photo: WFP / Alice Rahmoun

Tsaniraha and her family in Anivosoa, Madagascar. Cash assistance from WFP enables them to purchase essential food products.

COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

LEADING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN HAITI



A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on August 14, 2021 in the southwestern part of the country. The country has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world – more than half of its total population is chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children are chronically malnourished. Underlying drivers of this situation include extreme poverty, frequent natural disasters and political instability. On the 2020 Climate Risk Index, Haiti is third among the countries most affected by severe weather events, which destroy crops and further exacerbate hunger.

WFP has worked in Haiti since 1969, supporting those affected by various natural disasters with food assistance, linking farmers to markets, and providing cash assistance and long-term skills-based support to families. Given Haiti's propensity to natural disasters, WFP integrates emergency preparedness and disaster risk-reduction across programs and supports government officials and humanitarian actors with logistics, transportation and telecommunications services, and prepositions stocks of essential food items. This ensures that immediate assistance is delivered at the onset of a disaster.

In the aftermath of this most recent earthquake, WFP worked with Haitian authorities on the frontlines to meet the population's urgent needs. As a leader in disaster response, WFP provided emergency food assistance to injured and displaced people, transportation and logistics support to health sector and humanitarian actors and conducted assessments of affected areas. Thanks to the prepositioned stocks across the country, the U.N. World Food Programme was able to act swiftly and reached 187,660 people in the affected departments with food assistance and cash-based support.

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WFP distributed food assistance to individuals affected by the earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti.



Photo: WFP / Alexis Masciarelli



COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA



Sustainable livelihoods strengthened resilience and self-reliant communities are WFP's priorities in Central America. Countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are highly vulnerable to climate-related disaster risks due to geographical location and frequency of

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climate extremes, including droughts, excessive rains and severe flooding. People's livelihoods are very climate-sensitive, with more than 1 million families relying on subsistence farming as a source of income. Moreover, levels of poverty, inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition are alarming, particularly among rural populations and Indigenous peoples. What was once seasonal hunger is becoming an almost permanent condition in the region, triggering large-scale human displacement and migration – with those left behind being mostly the elderly, women and children.

Resilience programs in Central America provide technical and financial support to communities so they adapt their production practices and crops to climate change, enabling them to generate more income and withstand extreme climate events. Multi-year programs with smallholder farmers in Central America help communities harvest water and build irrigation systems, greenhouses and nurseries. Farmers work to harvest a variety of crops year-round and have also integrated other agricultural and handcrafted products such as poultry, fisheries, honey and hammocks.

In one of the projects supported by WFP in El Salvador, Salvadoran farmers have turned one of the driest strips of land in their community of Cacaoopera into a green haven.

Erick Galeas poses with his son Dilan in San Miguel, Honduras. In a country where a large portion of the population rely on agriculture, severe and continuous drought continue to exacerbate chronic food insecurity.

Photo: WFP / Julian Frank

“MANY OF THE PROGRAMS IN COUNTRIES LIKE GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR CENTER AROUND RESILIENCE PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH THE RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE THEY NEED TO WITHSTAND SHOCKS WHEN THEY HAPPEN AND BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. I FELT IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR ME TO VISIT THIS REGION AND SEE FIRSTHAND THE EFFECT THAT OUR PROGRAMS HAVE IN LIFTING UP COMMUNITIES.”

- Barron Segar, World Food Program USA President and CEO reflects on visit to Guatemala and Honduras in July 2021.

La Casa de Oro (the Gold House) is a greenhouse that integrates hydroponic technology to facilitate intensive farming with minimal water. The project equips communities with the technical know-how for this form of agriculture, renewable energies, fertigation (injecting fertilizers) and hydroponics while providing access to their local market. From constructing the greenhouse to learning about facilitating varied diets, supporting smallholder farmers shows how building self-reliance and access to markets can change lives.

Similarly, a group of women subsistence farmers in El Salvador established a cooperative to weave hammocks to sell after climate change destroyed their crops. The Women with Hope project allowed women to turn a traditional craft into a business, enabling them to sell their handwoven hammocks in national and international markets. Cooperative participants created a savings and loan system, allowing members to withdraw cash and apply for loans to cover expenses and unforeseen circumstances, such as medical emergencies. In the midst of the pandemic, the cooperative also opened a shop to supply the community with essential food items. “We are women with hope, here and everywhere,” says Elba, one of the cooperative participants.



Photo: WFP / Gabriela Cladellas

Cristino proudly shows the cucumbers grown in the greenhouse in Cacaopera, El Salvador.

Elba works as a subsistence farmer and is treasurer of Women with Hope, a cooperative born of the efforts of a group of women who joined together to weave hammocks to sell after climate change destroyed their crops.

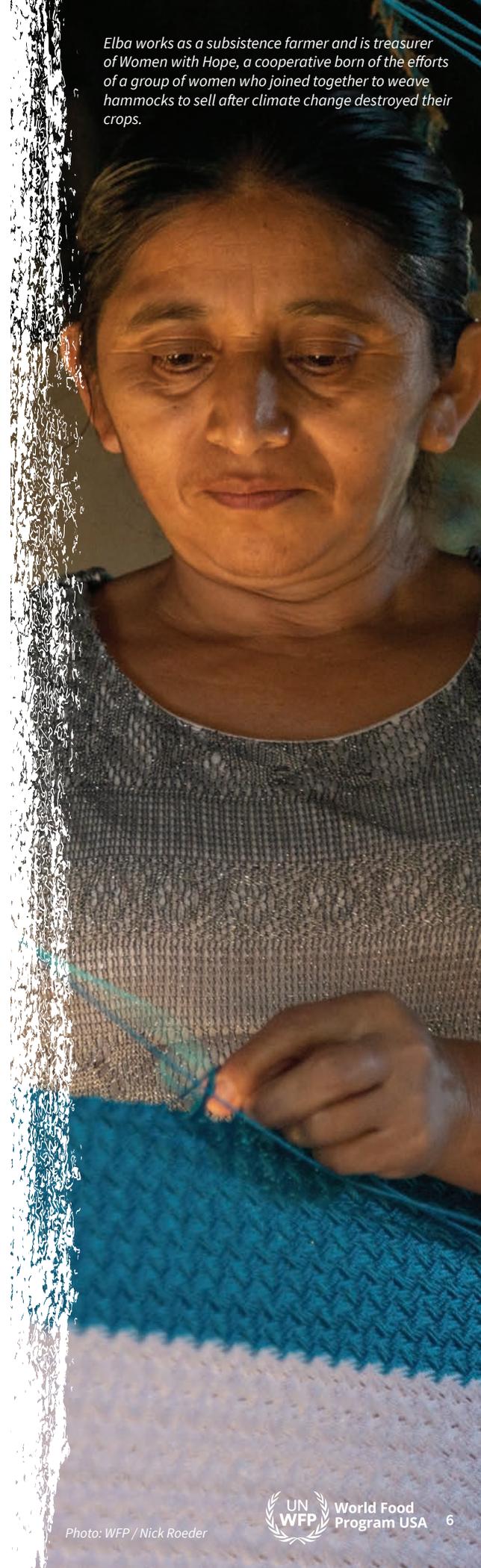


Photo: WFP / Nick Roeder

COVID-19

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO REDUCE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic and related economic fallout continue to impact people's food access in 2021. After nearly a decade of progress, the number of hungry people has nearly doubled in large part due to loss of income and wages. Women, youth and informal workers have been especially impacted by job loss, leading to increased food insecurity in both urban and rural areas.



9-year-old Belyse serves school lunch to her class in Nyamagabe district, Rwanda.

The continued spread of COVID-19 continues to threaten millions of people already affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, and the effects of conflict and other disasters. To minimize the impact of the pandemic on the 120 million people it intends to serve this year, WFP is adapting its programs to ensure communities continue to receive the assistance they need. Below are ways WFP supports communities as they continue to navigate COVID-19:

LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY:

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, is the U.N.'s air service. When the pandemic began, UNHAS transported frontline humanitarian workers, COVID-19 vaccines, personal protective equipment, emergency health kits, ventilators, face shields and surgical masks to enable healthcare workers as they provide essential medical services for communities. In 2021, WFP continues to provide logistics support for the international humanitarian community.

CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE:

In some contexts where WFP operates, food is available locally but people lack the financial resources to purchase it. Cash-based transfer programs enable people to meet their immediate needs while contributing to longer-term objectives such as digital financial inclusion (DFI) and women's economic empowerment. Cash assistance also strengthens local economies and allows families to make choices that improve their nutrition and well-being. Conditional on their design, programs using cash-based transfers (CBTs) can also lead to equitable and empowering impacts for women, men, girls and boys when combined with skills training, social behavior communication change and access to social services.

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Chifundo, 18 months and his uncle, Wyson, attend a nutrition clinic at Mtendere Community Hospital in Mtendere, Malawi.



Dialla Diarra, receives WFP cash transfers with her mobile phone in Niore du Sahel, Mali.

Photo: WFP / Ana Buitron

As of September 2021, WFP's expertise in cash-based assistance allowed for the rapid transfer of \$1.3 billion in money and food vouchers to individuals and families in 67 countries. The most cash assistance has been transferred in Yemen, and four other countries account for more than 50 percent of all U.N. World Food Programme global cash-assistance: Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan, Somalia and Bangladesh. WFP also works with governments to provide guidance and technical assistance as they design and deliver cash-based assistance through social protection systems and government-to-person payment schemes.

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DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION:

Cash programs, whether delivered by WFP or government programs, can be a starting point for Digital Financial Inclusion. Cash payments may provide first-time access to accounts (bank and mobile money) and financial services to unbanked and underserved populations and their businesses who are otherwise left behind by formal financial institutions. Opportunities for economic autonomy have the potential to ease the burdens of COVID-19 and build the agency of individuals and families. The transformative potential of DFI lies in the belief that women's economic empowerment is a step in the process that leads, over time, to more substantive and influential participation and leadership within their households and communities.

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PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT:

WFP and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched a partnership in March 2021 to propel women's economic empowerment through DFI. The collaboration is a first-of-its-kind, focusing on how cash programs (humanitarian cash transfers or government cash programs) can best be designed, digitized and directed to women to ensure their inclusion in the formal economy. Running through mid-2023, the initiative has a global learning agenda and a specific focus on seven countries: Haiti, Somalia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Uganda, Jordan and Dominica.

WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding program supports the Government of Rwanda to provide daily nutritious school meals and complementary activities to an estimated 79,000 primary schools students in 108 schools across the country.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS:

The closure of schools disrupted school feeding programs worldwide. Currently, an estimated 187 million children are missing out on school meals, 49 percent of whom are girls.

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WFP works with national governments and other partners to find alternative solutions to reach schoolchildren with meals. Examples of program adaptations include modifying in-person school meals to take-home meal kits, cash-based transfers to schoolchildren's families, and working with smallholder farmers to supply

children and families with nutritious meals. Over the next 10 years, WFP will work with governments and institutional partners to ensure that 73 million children living in extreme poverty in 60 countries are reached through school feeding programs.

Since WFP's inception in 1961, long-term investment in school meal programming has resulted in the transition of these programs to more than 40 governments. Governments take on these programs and commit financial and technical resources to ensuring their full implementation. This year, WFP put school feeding in the hands of the Cambodian government after more than 20 years. WFP has increasingly worked with the Government of Cambodia to strengthen technical capacities to lead a nationally owned home-grown school meals model where ingredients are sourced from local farmers, which encourages community ownership and strengthens local economies.

Every \$1 invested in school meals is equal to a \$10 return on investment, resulting in higher educational outcomes for children and providing a boost to local livelihoods and economies. School feeding also creates jobs — 2,000 for every 100,000 children fed. School meals programs can be one of the most impactful interventions to support children's health and educational outcomes. WFP interventions that combat child hunger, poverty and multiple forms of malnutrition can play a key role in getting children back to school and keeping them enrolled after the crisis caused by COVID-19. Studies have linked school meals to increased school enrollment and attendance, especially for girls and disadvantaged children. For girls, the importance of school feeding cannot be overstated: they go to school and stay there longer, and child marriage rates and teen pregnancies decrease.

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CONFLICT

USING FOOD ASSISTANCE AS AN ENTRY POINT TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

By 2030, it is estimated that up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor could live in areas affected by fragility, conflict and violence. Conflicts drive over 80 percent of humanitarian needs, and protracted conflict is the main driver of six of the 10 worst food crises – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Northeast Nigeria and South Sudan. Many of the people WFP supports are fleeing conflict and have been forced to abandon their land, homes and jobs, ultimately resulting in higher levels of hunger.



Photo: WFP / Mohammed Nasher

Sarah Al-Ameri is a WFP Logistics Assistant in Sana'a, Yemen. Yemen is WFP's largest operation by number of individuals reached by emergency food assistance, nutrition support, school feeding and livelihoods programs.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving millions of lives through emergency food assistance and cash-based programs in conflict-afflicted countries. The U.N. World Food Programme was grateful to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2020, in recognition of its efforts to combat hunger, promote peace in conflict-affected areas, and to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war.

There is evidence that food security interventions may help to address potential long-term drivers of conflict and mitigate and prevent violence. Examples of such programs include livelihood support to increase agricultural productivity, programs to rehabilitate natural resources and immediate humanitarian food assistance.

While these programs may contribute to peace in the longer term, violent escalation of conflict in the short term may exist. The following examples show ways the U.N. World Food Programme is working in conflict-affected communities:



Photo: WFP / Annabel Symington

Ali, 5, accompanies his father, Abdulwahad, to collect their monthly food assistance in Marib Al Wadi district in Yemen.



Northern Ethiopia: Since conflict erupted in November 2020, as many as half a million people have been displaced in northern Ethiopia. Over 70 percent of the people in the region live in rural areas, and their displacement interrupted planting season. As the intensity of conflict increased, infrastructure in rural and urban areas suffered significant damage and crops, livestock and water sources have been destroyed. The Government of Ethiopia

estimates that 5.2 million people need emergency food assistance in northern Ethiopia.

WFP has provided emergency food assistance to over 2.5 million people in the Tigray Region and launched a feeding program to assist up to 875,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

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Syria: Levels of food insecurity in Syria are the worst since the war began in 2011. An estimated 12.4 million Syrians are food insecure, amounting to nearly 60 percent of the population who do not know if they will eat tomorrow. The number of food insecure Syrians increased by 4.5 million in just the last year. These rising levels of hunger are attributed to multiple

factors, including the economic decline caused by COVID-19, increasing food prices and depreciation of currency. WFP currently reaches almost 5 million people with monthly food assistance. Each month nearly \$2.0 million in cash-based assistance is distributed to more than 150,000 people and an estimated 508,100 children receive in-school fortified snacks.

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CONTINUED

Ghada Helwan, a 40-year-old mother of four, has been a part of WFP's food processing unit livelihoods project in Syria since January 2021.



Photo: WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

Afraah holds her son Basel in the family's tent in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Aden, Yemen.



Afghanistan: Afghanistan is a high-intensity conflict country, and worsening levels of violence affect the security and livelihoods of millions of families. 22.8 million

Afghans are hungry today, including 3.2 million children at risk of malnutrition. WFP has supported 600,000 internally displaced Afghans since the beginning of the year, many requiring immediate food assistance. The food security situation will likely continue to deteriorate, and rates of hunger are set to rise higher. So far in 2021, the U.N. World Food Programme delivered food and nutrition assistance to 10.2 million women, men and children, including those recently displaced by fighting. In anticipation of high food needs and further disruptions to supply chains, WFP prepositioned food and other stocks at strategic border points in Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. WFP increased its supply chain and logistics capacity to enable the delivery of up to 40,000 metric tons of food each month until the end of this year.

Conflicts drive over 80 percent of humanitarian needs, and protracted conflict is the main driver of six of the 10 worst food crises – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Northeast Nigeria and South Sudan.



Yemen: Six years of conflict and economic decline have taken a devastating toll on children and families in Yemen. An estimated - 16.2 million people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition and are in need of humanitarian assistance. Today, the cost of a food basket is more than double what it was in July 2018. In response to ongoing humanitarian needs, WFP expanded food assistance in Yemen's worst hunger hotspots to stabilize the situation and prevent families from slipping into famine conditions.

In 2021, WFP has provided 12.9 million people with emergency food assistance including 3.3 million children and mothers who received malnutrition treatment and prevention services. School feeding programs are reaching 1.5 million children, particularly in areas that have been most affected by the conflict.

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THANK YOU

None of this effort would be possible without your generous support and commitment to ending global hunger. It is because of partners like you that the United Nations World Food Programme can continue to work with communities and respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our times in ways that not only save but change millions of lives around the globe. Thank you for being part of the solution to end hunger!



Zelanjae, 77, receives general food support from WFP in Amboropotsy, a drought-affected community in Madagascar.

Photo: WFP / Tsiory Ny Aina Andriantsoarana



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Program participants in Rwanda build community terraces and assets to increase local resilience to natural disasters and climate-related shocks.

Photo: WFP / John Paul Sesonga