



World Food
Program USA

STATEMENT OF IMPACT 2023

Introduction



We strive to create a world without hunger.

There are obvious barriers to achieving our vision. Driven by factors such as conflict, the climate crisis and economic conditions, 333 million people experienced severe hunger in 2023.

The food crisis widens existing inequalities within communities. Women and girls are most affected by the crisis.

Hunger almost always affects populations that are already impacted by pervasive poverty and rampant inequality. Limited access to food resources is often the byproduct of injustice, which marginalizes people and societies. The current situation makes our work more important than ever.

Cover Photo: Harira Tahir harvests tomatoes in the Somali region of Ethiopia. WFP distributed wheat and corn seeds to farmers in the community and provided them with training on proper use of seeds to boost agricultural production. *Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde*

Left: Agot and her 2-year-old Angui in their home in Alek, South Sudan. They both receive specialized food from WFP which has helped improve their health. Agot also took part in gardening classes and received seeds to start her own home garden. *Photo: WFP/Samantha Reinders*

World Food Program USA's 2023 Statement of Impact summarizes key events from the year. The examples shared show the global footprint and diversity of the work of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Most importantly, this report is meant to connect you to the people we support. Through each of the programs highlighted in this report, WFP advances access to food and opportunities that help people and communities break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

We believe partnerships are central to our mission to end hunger. We appreciate your generosity and hope that the examples shared in this report remind you of the transformation your support can make in the lives of others.

We are honored to have you as a member of our community as we work together to eliminate hunger for good.

Photo: In Türkiye, Şeyma and her children Ali and Büşra, eat their family meal after a WFP hot meals distribution. WFP provides ready-to-eat food rations, food packages and hot meals to people affected by earthquakes. Photo: WFP/Giulio d'Adamo

Saving Lives in Emergencies





Afghanistan

Nearly 15.3 million people in Afghanistan face severe hunger, driven by decades of conflict, extreme climate shocks and deteriorating economic conditions. In October 2023, multiple earthquakes struck western provinces of Afghanistan, affecting more than 150,000 people. On the heels of this crisis, a recent policy in Pakistan forced undocumented Afghans to leave the country by Nov. 1. Thousands of Afghans have returned to border areas since then.

The lives of women and girls in Afghanistan have drastically changed over the past two years with curbed access to education, work and public life. This has profound effects on their food security. WFP is often the last lifeline for women, who are increasingly being pushed out of society with dwindling options to make a living and feed their children.

The food security situation will likely continue to deteriorate, especially as harsh winter conditions set in. In 2023, WFP reached millions of people with food and cash transfers. **In October alone, WFP reached 4 million people with 54,000,000 pounds of food and \$8.3 million in cash assistance.**

WFP remains committed to its humanitarian mandate and will continue to deliver assistance in spite of a challenging operational environment.

Photo: WFP/Mohammad Hasib Hazinyar

Ukraine

Feb. 24 marked one year since the onset of war in Ukraine. Approximately 18 million Ukrainians require humanitarian assistance, and one in five households is food insecure. The war has devastated rural communities that rely heavily on agriculture.

At the request of the government of Ukraine, WFP established a presence inside the country in March 2022. With the help of donors like you, WFP delivered emergency food and cash assistance immediately.

In 2023, WFP reached nearly 3 million people each month. From working with local bakeries to distributing food at refugee centers in neighboring Moldova, WFP provided food to Ukrainians when they needed it most.

Liudmyla is a mother of three sons. In February 2023 she received a QR code to register her family for cash assistance from WFP. She shared, “Thanks to the WFP support, we were able to purchase a computer for my son’s education.”

Photo: WFP/Anastasiia Honcharuk





Gaza

In October, a new wave of conflict emerged in Gaza. Amidst an escalation of violence, it has become nearly impossible for civilians to access food, water and electricity. Homes, schools, shelters and health facilities have been destroyed. Nearly 1.9 million people — 85% of Gaza's population — have been displaced.

Fulfilling its humanitarian mandate, WFP launched an emergency operation to assist people in Gaza and the West Bank. **Since October, WFP provided food and cash assistance to nearly 1 million people.**

Food is a lifeline for those affected by violent conflict and can help build a pathway to peace. WFP has joined U.N. agencies in a collective call for the violence to end and for adherence to international humanitarian law. A humanitarian ceasefire is essential for keeping civilians and humanitarian workers safe and ensuring food and other supplies are safely delivered to affected communities. The need for peace has never been greater.

Photo: Mostafa eats freshly baked manakish made with wheat flour and olive oil that his parents received in their WFP food basket. The WFP basket is a crucial and sustainable source of sustenance for vulnerable families. Photo: WFP/Ali Jadallah

Syria

Malnutrition rates among mothers and infants in Syria rose at a speed never seen before in 2023. In some parts of the country, one in four mothers were malnourished and 28% of all children's growth was stunted. Currently, nearly half of all Syrian households are unable to meet their daily caloric and nutritional requirements.

The effects of malnutrition have lifelong repercussions. For children, malnutrition can cause weight loss, stunt growth and affect cognitive development. For pregnant mothers, it can cause anemia and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. When breastfeeding, it can make it more challenging for mothers to replenish nutrients and meet dietary needs.

That's why WFP works hard to provide mothers and children with the right nutrition at the right time. **WFP supported over 300,000 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and infants across all 14 governorates.**

***Due to funding shortfalls, WFP was forced to reduce the size of its food assistance operations in Syria by the end of 2023.*

Photo: Salwa became malnourished while pregnant with her second child Mohammed. She recovered with the help of treatment and vouchers for food from WFP. Photo: WFP/Hussam Al Saleh





Sudan

In April, conflict erupted in Sudan and the humanitarian situation quickly deteriorated. The onset of violence exacerbated the country's ongoing hunger crisis. Nearly 18 million people faced severe hunger in 2023.

The ongoing clashes have threatened Sudan's agricultural production, as violence has moved to areas known as Sudan's breadbasket. The cost of a local food basket is 47% higher than before the conflict, and the Sudanese pound has lost 38% of its value. This has diminished people's purchasing power and hindered their ability to purchase food.

The dynamics of the conflict are complex, which makes it challenging for humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance to affected people. Despite access issues, WFP provided food, nutrition assistance and resilience support to 5.2 million people across 17 of Sudan's 18 states.

The magnitude of the conflict has triggered record levels of displacement beyond the country's borders. Those crossing borders often arrive in remote areas where humanitarian access is constrained. In addition, many of these areas are already food insecure, which increases tension between host communities and displaced populations. Nearly 1.3 million people have fled to Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt and South Sudan. **WFP provided 1.2 million people who fled to neighboring countries with food, cash and nutrition assistance.**

Photo: This year, Etimad, her mother and her siblings fled the conflict Sudan. They now live in Egypt and receive cash assistance from WFP. *Photo:* WFP/Gabrielle Menezes

Ethiopia

Over the past two years, millions of people in Ethiopia have faced conflict, displacement and drought. The combination of these factors has contributed to growing food insecurity — today nearly 15.1 million people need emergency food assistance.

In Ethiopia, WFP launched a revamped approach to register people for food assistance. **By the end of 2023, WFP reached around 3 million people in drought- and conflict-affected areas in the Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray Regions.** This includes food distribution to nearly 900,000 refugees, including those recently displaced from Sudan. WFP provides people with cereal, beans, vegetable oil and salt.

Photo: At the Qoloji IDP camp in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, WFP uses QR codes to register and manage food distributions for people like Abdulahi Abdi. Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde





Democratic Republic of the Congo

Hunger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is primarily driven by conflict, which has internally displaced more than 6.1 million people. Families are often forced to abandon their homes and land, where they could previously make an income. Those who are displaced face a range of protection issues, high levels of hunger, and limited access to health and education services.

While food and cash assistance help families meet their immediate needs, WFP invests in skills development programs. In Kabalo, WFP supported men and women with literacy training. The training brought together various tribes and helped foster social cohesion among groups that are involved in intercommunal conflict.

After the training, participants are encouraged to launch small businesses, which they run to support their families. **Across the country, WFP supported nearly 70,000 people with skills training — 57% of whom were women.**

Photo: At the Kasumbura Literacy Center, students take part in literacy and math lessons. Photo: WFP/Benjamin Aguandia

South Sudan

Achal Chand is the head of nutrition for WFP in South Sudan. Below, she shares her background and insights on her humanitarian career.

“I was born in Fiji, in the Pacific Islands, and I grew up seeing poverty and food insecurity around me. As I grew up, I think somewhere in the back of my head, I wanted to give back to the community. And humanitarian work, especially with an agency that’s on the frontlines like WFP, is one of the ways I can do that. That was my greatest motivation.

There are three things that keep me going. The first is that I believe in WFP’s mandate, and I know that what we are doing is making a difference in the lives of the people we are trying to assist. I think there is no greater motivation than trying to make someone else’s life better than our own.

The second is that I have a fantastic team. The third is that I’m also aware of the life that I come from, and that has helped me stay grounded and make sure that I’m able to give back.

The hardest part is not having enough resources to meet the needs that exist. I’ve seen that in so many countries. In South Sudan, it’s exceptionally challenging because we have so many people in need, and we don’t have the resources. Deciding who to prioritize based on greatest needs or finding where to cut or assistance is difficult.

South Sudan is a really challenging context. It’s complex in terms of access to different populations. The whole country has less than 150 miles of paved roads, so we have challenges getting food to the communities. We also have challenges around receiving enough funds to be able to assist everybody in need. So, we are having to constantly adjust our priorities.

Every little bit helps, and it’s the supporters of WFP that keep us going, that keep the communities going. Any kind of support is valuable support. It makes a difference to the lives of human beings. And we are very thankful to the people who are supporting WFP. Your contribution really makes a difference.”

Photo: WFP/Samantha Reinders



Changing Lives



Rwanda

In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 60% of women work in agriculture. They are the largest contributors to the region's agricultural sector but face systemic challenges in their access to farming inputs such as seeds, tools and finance.

WFP centers women and girls as part of its food systems work in East Africa. WFP is one of the region's largest food buyers, which is why our programs work with women to ensure they have the training, tools, financial resources and access to markets they need to boost agricultural production. This includes strengthening small-scale farmer cooperatives, improving access to finance and predictable markets, implementing initiatives to reduce post-harvest losses, and providing access to inputs and services for an improved quality of crops. WFP also links farmers to potential commercial buyers, as well as to government-led programs of fortified blended food for nutrition and homegrown school meals.

In Rwanda, agriculture represents one-third of the country's economy. WFP supports the government of Rwanda in strengthening the agriculture sector, boosting crop production and incomes, and improving the food and nutrition security and the quality of life of Rwanda's rural population.

Photo: Nyirabagenzi Beatha is a member of Twitezimbere-Nyabombe cooperative and works in her field in Kayonza District, Rwanda. Photo: WFP/Arete/Fredrik Leneryd

Mozambique

In Mozambique, one in 10 adults is affected by HIV. This is the eighth highest prevalence in the world. Since 2020, WFP and its partners have worked together to offer medical support and training opportunities at a roadside wellness center known as BlueBox. The center sits on the side of the Beira Economic Corridor, which is a critical hub in Southern Africa linking Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to the Beira Port on the Indian Ocean.

The project's main objective is to provide healthcare access and disease prevention, especially for key population groups vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections. Services at BlueBox include testing and treatment for STIs, malaria, HIV and tuberculosis; counseling on sexual and reproductive health; malnutrition screening; nutrition counseling; information on HIV transmission; and sessions on positive gender relationships.

WFP also provides women seeking care from BlueBox with income-generating opportunities and training on skills such as hairdressing, sewing and cooking. Participants receive business skills training and were encouraged to create savings groups, which strengthen women's economic opportunities.

*Photo: Women take part in vocational training programs and received support to launch their own businesses.
Photo: WFP/Denise Colletta*





Venezuela

WFP is committed to the principle of leaving no one behind. WFP works to ensure its programs include and address the rights of people with disabilities. School meals are one of WFP's signature programs and serve as an important incentive for parents to send their children to school.

In Venezuela, WFP distributes school meals to nearly 14,000 students each day. Students and their families and school staff are provided with take-home rations. Through the schools, WFP can also reach out with food and other assistance to families of people with disabilities, which are often headed by single women or the elderly. This support provides some relief for the family budget and allows overworked caregivers to care for themselves as well.

For 52-year-old Luis Enrique, the school meals were an incentive for him to go to school. The program prompted his 72-year-old father to enroll him in school for the first time in 2023. His father shared, "I was convinced that I could give him everything he needed at home. But not anymore," he says. "Especially the food." He added, "I had a hard time leaving him alone, but now I appreciate it. School is good for him. I should have done it much earlier, but it's never too late."

Photo: WFP/Marianela González

Somalia

In emergencies, girls are often the first pulled from school. School meals serve as an important incentive to keep them in the classroom. A 25-cent meal reduces the likelihood of young girls entering early marriage and/or pregnancy. In the long term, evidence shows that girls who complete their secondary education are healthier and can access better employment opportunities. Just a single year of secondary education can translate into a 25% increase in wages later in life.

WFP's school meals program in Somalia is implemented in partnership with the government of Somalia. The meals provided are a vital safety net for households — particularly during lean seasons and times of crisis when children are likely to be pulled from school.

Since 2020, the program has been based fully on the homegrown school meals model: Schools receive vouchers to purchase nutritious food from WFP-contracted retailers and farmers' cooperatives. This model not only provides schoolchildren with diverse and nutritious food and increases access to education, but it also provides small-scale farmers with new markets for their produce. Investment in school meals programs strengthens local food systems, boosts local economies and stimulates agricultural development.

Photo: At the Sinujiif primary school in Puntland State, Somalia, Mushtaq Cisman receives two school meals every day.

Photo: WFP/Samantha Reinders





Madagascar

Madagascar is among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate disasters, which is a key driver of food insecurity in the region. Nearly 2 million people — over one-third of the south's population — experience severe hunger.

Investing in rural development has the potential to transform communities that depend on agriculture in Madagascar. The Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) program provides remote communities with vital infrastructure services including solar-powered hubs, a sustainable water source and online health check-ups — all of which greatly improve people's quality of life. These scalable solutions help communities build food security as well as their resilience to climate shocks.

Sambezee gathers red cactus fruit with her infant. During the drought, people relied on cactus fruit to feed their families. WFP's RRT initiative makes water more easily accessible for the use of hydroponics and drip irrigation systems and provides small-scale farmers with a source of food and income.

Photo: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

Bangladesh

As part of our mission to end world hunger, WFP puts cash specifically into women's hands. Our cash programs can be a starting point for financial inclusion — meaning women can access their own accounts and money, allowing them to purchase essential food items and invest in their families' health and education. They also gain decision-making power in their homes, which can help shift traditional gender roles and norms.

In Bangladesh, WFP provided Sharmin Begum with cash while she was expecting her youngest child. The cash allowed her to pay for her children's school fees and purchase nutritious food for them. With WFP's support, they can now afford various vegetables and fruits. They have also learned about a balanced diet and the importance of consuming nutritious food.

Photo: WFP/Saikat Mojumder





Niger

In Niger, 80% of the population lives in rural areas, but limited access to farmland and water are challenges for growing food. WFP supports people in building community assets such as gardens and water catchment systems and restoring barren farmland. These projects help boost food production and families' incomes.

Harira Soumana runs a WFP-supported garden in Sokorbé, Niger. The produce that is grown serves two purposes: One-fourth is sold in local markets, and the other three-fourths are for the community members. She shared, "Before, no crops could grow on the soil of this field. We took the time to put organic fertilizer and irrigate soil. Today, we can harvest food."

Over the past five years, WFP has reached over 3 million people across the Sahel region (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad) with a package of integrated activities to build resilience to climate shocks and stresses.

Photo: WFP/Richard Mbouet

Guatemala

Small-scale farmers in Guatemala represent 80% of all farmers in the country. Due to structural inequities and deeply engrained gender norms, women in Guatemala face barriers to accessing land, credit and agricultural tools. Increasingly frequent weather extremes also put the livelihoods of farming families at risk.

WFP unlocks the potential of small-scale farmers in Guatemala by connecting them to markets and providing them with training, tools and climate information. Additionally, nearly 9,000 farmers have been insured by a WFP microinsurance program. Payouts are triggered ahead of predicted weather extremes, so families can act early to protect themselves and their assets.

WFP supports small-scale farmers across 130 rural communities in Guatemala, and over 50% of those WFP supports are Indigenous people and 80% are women.

Photo: Maria and her daughters, Petronila and Elena Lucrecia, in their family field near their home in Quiché, Guatemala. Through WFP's insurance program, Maria's harvest is protected from climate extremes like hurricanes. *WFP/Giulio d'Adamo*





Colombia and Ecuador

The impacts of the climate crisis are felt along border areas between Colombia and Ecuador. Deforestation and pollution have contributed to the loss of mangroves, an ecosystem that is rich in biodiversity and a source of food and income for Awa and Afro-Indigenous communities. WFP is working alongside communities to rehabilitate the ecosystem.

The program is rooted in upholding traditional knowledge, such the use of natural and organic farming practices, which nourish soil and benefit clear waterways. Participants maintain nurseries where they can grow native plants and species that can then be reintroduced in areas that are degraded. This ultimately helps promote the conservation and recovery of the forest ecosystem and mangroves.

To enhance agricultural production, WFP also provides community members with training on approaches such as climate monitoring and early warning systems, which allow people to anticipate and better withstand climate shocks.

Photo: In Tumaco, Colombia two community members care for plants at a WFP-supported nursery. Photo: WFP/Daniel Torres

Thank You

Your generosity in 2023 made a profound impact on the lives of millions facing hunger worldwide.

With your unwavering support, WFP provided lifesaving food and cash assistance in emergency settings while laying the foundation for sustainable development through investments in school meals, support to small-scale farmers and climate-related programs. Know that together, we can end hunger.

Photo: Ammar Saeed is a WFP-supported beekeeper from Tarim, Hadhramout in Yemen.

Photo: WFP/Mehedi Rahman





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