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Update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response (2023)

Executive summary

This paper provides an update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response in 2023 and the first quarter of 2024.

During this time, the convergence of multiple crises – conflict, extreme climate patterns and economic shocks – drove hunger, eroded livelihoods and entrenched vulnerability, especially in countries worst-hit by food crises.

As of March 2024, as many as 309 million¹ people were facing acute levels of food insecurity in the 72 countries with WFP operations and for which data are available. In these countries, conflict and food insecurity will continue to force populations to leave their homes and livelihoods, further exacerbating their food insecurity. Displacement is projected to continue to grow, with almost 131 million people expected to be forcibly displaced or stateless in 2024, of whom nearly half will be internally displaced.²

Between January and December of 2023, WFP reached an estimated 150 million people with food, cash and commodity vouchers. This is around 10 million fewer people reached than during the same period in 2022.³ For 2024, WFP requires USD 21.1 billion to meet the food and nutrition needs of 150 million people.

¹ This is a decrease compared to the 2023 projections of 333 million acutely food-insecure people. This is largely attributed to a reduction in the number of countries covered by the 2024 estimate. In addition, improvements are reported for some food crises in 2024, while other countries are expected to face further deterioration.

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. [Global Appeal 2024](#).

³ WFP. 2024. [WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2024: Update #10](#).

Focal point:

Mr G.C. Cirri
Director
Geneva Global Office
email: giancarlo.cirri@wfp.org

WFP continued to engage in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system.

As co-leads of the global food security cluster, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations coordinated responses to emergencies and protracted food crises in 30 countries. Intersectoral collaboration was also ensured through other clusters, such as those for nutrition; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; and protection.

WFP also maintained a leading role in supporting the humanitarian community with emergency preparedness, passenger and common services, and logistics and emergency telecommunications support.

Throughout 2023, WFP strengthened its partnerships with other United Nations entities, local and international non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, humanitarian networks and host governments.

Draft decision*

The Board takes note of the update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response (2023) (WFP/EB.A/2024/5-A).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

The humanitarian landscape in 2023

1. In 2023, 333 million people suffered from acute food insecurity across the 78 countries with WFP operations, an increase of 184 million people compared to early 2020 (before the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic).⁴ Of these, 235 million were living in fragile or conflict-affected settings. Over 114 million people were displaced by conflict (including more than 36 million refugees). One in five children globally are currently living through or have fled armed conflict.
2. Global demand for humanitarian and development assistance is very high.⁵ Meanwhile, funding for WFP and the rest of the humanitarian community has returned to pre-pandemic levels following exceptionally generous donations in 2022.
3. Protracted conflicts in Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Ukraine and Somalia, alongside significant escalations in violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Haiti and across the Sahel and severe new conflicts in the Sudan and Gaza, resulted in more civilian deaths in 2023 than in any year since the Rwandan genocide.⁶ Conflict significantly impedes humanitarian operations and access to communities in need, and international humanitarian law is being consistently disregarded and food increasingly weaponized. In 2023, 259 humanitarians lost their lives, a stark increase from 141 in 2022, while 78 were kidnapped and 194 were injured.⁷
4. An estimated 47.3 million people across 54 countries faced emergency or worse food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification/Cadre Harmonisé (IPC/CH) phase 4 or above).⁸ As of March 2024, half of the population of the Gaza Strip (1.11 million people) is expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC phase 5), the most severe level in the IPC acute food insecurity scale, representing an increase of 530,000 people (92 percent) compared with the end of 2023.⁹
5. The climate crisis is escalating at unprecedented speed. The 2023 El Niño event was stronger than any in the previous seven years, causing below-average rainfall and drought conditions in the Dry Corridor countries of Latin America and above-average rainfall and flooding in the Sahel. El Niño is expected to persist through mid-2024, further disrupting global rainfall patterns and affecting harvests worldwide. Meanwhile, failed rainy seasons and drought for the third consecutive year across the Horn of Africa pushed more than 23 million people into severe hunger.

⁴ WFP. 2024. [WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2024: Update #10](#).

⁵ The [December update of the 2023 global humanitarian overview](#) indicated that USD 56.7 billion was needed to assist 245.2 million of the 363.3 million people in need. Funding received reached USD 21.8 billion or 38 percent of the required amount. Despite significant efforts to address the surge in humanitarian need, the disparity between the need and the funding provided reached the unprecedented level of USD 35 billion.

⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2023. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2024](#).

⁷ [Aid Worker Security Database](#), 2024.

⁸ WFP. 2023. [WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2023: Update #9](#).

Note: The slight reduction compared to the June estimate of 345 million acutely food-insecure people is primarily due to reduced geographic coverage of the estimate and methodological adjustments. Updated data for some of the major food crises remain pending, including those in Ethiopia, Yemen, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

⁹ IPC. 2024. ["GAZA STRIP: Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people, half of Gaza, experience catastrophic food insecurity"](#).

6. Global food prices remained high in 2023 – the food price index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stood 16 percent above pre-COVID-19 levels in February 2024.¹⁰ While most food prices came down from 2022 highs, rice prices rose, reaching a peak in early 2024.¹¹ Trade disruptions, most notably the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, fuelled market uncertainty.

The collective efforts of the humanitarian system

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

7. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) principals held regular and ad hoc meetings to discuss major humanitarian crises such as those in Ukraine, Gaza, the Sahel and Myanmar. They made strategic and policy decisions with system-wide implications. During the reporting period, the IASC principals issued six statements calling for humanitarian action, humanitarian access and the safeguarding of people in need and humanitarian workers and assets. These statements addressed conflicts in the Sudan, several situations in Gaza and the crisis in the Central Sahel.
8. In January 2024 WFP's Executive Director became the IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment. In her new role and following a comprehensive review process that included insights from an IASC external review of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the IASC 2022–2026 strategy, the Executive Director set forth three main priorities: the implementation of a victim- and survivor-centred approach; the promotion of changes in organizational culture through leadership and partnerships; and support for capacity building across the sector.
9. The Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer led engagement with the IASC Deputies Group on a range of issues, including prioritization and boundary setting, climate action and humanitarian response to internal displacement. The Deputy Executive Director co-led the group's work on humanitarian financing alongside the International Rescue Committee. Under this workstream WFP and the International Rescue Committee focused on improving collective efficiency, cost effectiveness and private sector resourcing.
10. WFP continued to play an active role in the IASC, co-chairing its operational policy and advocacy group together with the Norwegian Refugee Council and providing policy and operational support to country teams.
11. WFP participated in the IASC emergency directors group, which advised and followed up on strategic and operational issues requiring urgent collective action, system-wide resource mobilization and targeted field support to sustain or scale up humanitarian responses. WFP participated in key emergency missions¹² and in the directors group's peer-to-peer support project, which provided senior level inter-agency support to United Nations resident coordinators, humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams across emergency operations to strengthen the delivery of assistance and country operations across agencies.
12. WFP's co-chairing of the [IASC task force on accountability to affected people](#) underscored its dedication to enhancing accountability in humanitarian operations. This included supporting the development of a collective accountability to affected people framework to facilitate coordination among resident coordinators, humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams, United Nations country teams and other stakeholders. Prioritizing actions outlined in the framework enabled WFP and partners to better address

¹⁰ FAO. 2024. [World Food Situation](#).

¹¹ FAO. 2024. [FAO Rice Price Update](#).

¹² In Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen.

the needs of crisis-affected populations, fostering transparency and efficacy in humanitarian aid.

13. WFP continued to participate in the IASC humanitarian programme cycle steering group, including in multi-year strategic discussions on programme cycle reform aimed at streamlining the planning, coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance. This work included reviewing updated guidance for country teams, supporting the roll-out of an updated joint intersectoral analysis framework and compiling the 2024 global humanitarian overview while simplifying its format.

Global food crisis and famine prevention

14. WFP advanced sustainable solutions to food crises through its leadership in partnership platforms such as the Global Network Against Food Crises and the Fighting Food Crises Along the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus Coalition. Core members included FAO, the European Union, the United States of America, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme. In addition WFP increased its participation in other food crisis initiatives such as the Group of Seven global alliance for food security, the Group of Twenty hunger and poverty alliance, the United Nations Secretary-General's high-level task force on preventing famine and the work of the United Nations famine prevention and response coordinator, among others.
15. During the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2023 session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), WFP, along with Italy, the United States of America, Kenya and FAO, emphasized the issues of food security and famine prevention. This session highlighted the importance of enhancing humanitarian aid and United Nations coordination. Notably, WFP addressed a high-level panel on food insecurity and, jointly with the United States of America, Kenya, Italy and FAO, planned a side event on the global food crisis, with over 200 attendees.
16. WFP also continued to work with the wider humanitarian community to ensure a steady supply of grain and other food products to consumers worldwide under the Black Sea Grain Initiative until its discontinuation in July 2023. From the adoption of the agreement in July 2022, more than 30 million mt of grain and other foodstuffs were delivered to 45 countries, helping to push global food prices down.

Global clusters and support for the humanitarian community

17. In 2023 the global food security cluster supported 134 million people with food and agricultural and livelihood assistance through coordinated response plans in 28 countries. Required funding was USD 18.4 billion but only 38 percent of that amount (USD 7.1 billion) was received, compared with 61 percent in 2022.
18. The food security cluster adopted a strategic plan for 2023–2025 to guide its activities and strengthened intersectoral collaboration on nutrition; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; and protection. In 2023 the cluster scaled up advocacy at the local, regional and global levels, co-sponsoring side events at the 2023 ECOSOC session¹³ and participating in the 2023 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks.
19. In 2023 the global logistics cluster led efforts in 44 countries involving 934 humanitarian partners and stakeholders, of which 574 were national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The most visible part of this crucial coordination was the scale-up of services, including the facilitation of convoys in Chad and the Sudan and in Egypt for the

¹³ WFP and others. 2023. [Protection Risks & Food Insecurity: Strengthening Community-led Solutions to Complex Crises](#).

emergency response in Gaza, as well as the provision of common storage facilities in Türkiye. Throughout 2023 the cluster answered more than 4,400 requests for common logistics services, facilitating the transportation of 74,174 m³ of humanitarian cargo and the storage of 123,000 m³ of relief items.

20. Consultation and engagement with the logistics partner community increased in 2023. Eight national disaster management agencies were supported with capacity strengthening in relation to logistics preparedness to enable them to lead national emergency supply chain coordination. As part of a project on [environmental sustainability in humanitarian logistics](#), WFP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Danish Refugee Council and Save the Children International have, to date, provided dedicated environmental specialist support across 34 countries (24 countries in 2023 alone), reaching over 215 organizations, raising awareness about the environmental impact of humanitarian logistics and providing tailored solutions and guidance to partners.
21. The Importation and Customs Clearance Together working group addressed import and customs clearance challenges in 15 humanitarian aid operations.
22. In 2023 the global emergency telecommunications cluster provided connectivity to 9,195 humanitarian workers from 360 organizations responding to 12 emergencies. Its work included preparedness activities designed to strengthen national information communications, technology capacity and disaster resilience in Benin, Ghana, Malawi and Togo and the Latin America and Caribbean and Pacific regions. A cluster project to provide services for communities in the Sahel region launched its first telecoms centre, in Diffa. More than 2,000 people, 63 percent of them women, have used the centre.
23. In 2023 the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) ensured the continuity of aviation services for the humanitarian community, reaching 437 locations, including remote and inaccessible areas. UNHAS transported over 380,000 aid workers and 4,900 mt of critical cargo from 653 organizations, including national and international NGOs and United Nations partners. UNHAS also enabled special flights for needs assessments, project monitoring and high-level and ad hoc missions. In 2023 it undertook 689 life-saving medical evacuations and 867 security evacuations.

Focus areas

Early warning for early action – leadership in humanitarian early warning

24. In 2023, the WFP and FAO continued to advocate for collective attention to situations where hostilities and actions of involved parties adversely affected food security, contrary to international humanitarian law and United Nations Security Council resolution 2417 (2018).
25. WFP continued to lead the IASC early warning, early action and readiness group, along with other United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other NGOs, providing analyses of emerging humanitarian risks and early action recommendations for the IASC emergency directors group.
26. Jointly with FAO, WFP released two editions of its [Hunger Hotspots report](#), providing early warning of acute food insecurity in May and October 2023 and describing the outlook for the following six months. The October edition identified 18 hunger hotspots in 22 countries where food security was expected to deteriorate significantly. *Global Hotspots* series has become an important tool for advocating anticipatory action and a forward-looking complement to the *Global Report on Food Crises* series and is highly regarded by international financial institutions, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Central Emergency Response Fund, think-tanks and media organizations.

Internal displacement

27. Internal displacement is becoming a more prominent policy issue as needs increase¹⁴ and durable solutions remain elusive. In this context, several global initiatives are in motion to facilitate collaboration on solutions.
28. The IASC commissioned an [independent review of humanitarian response to internal displacement](#), which was conducted by the Overseas Development Institute. Aligned with the Secretary-General's action agenda on this issue,¹⁵ the Secretary-General's high-level panel on internal displacement recommended that the review be commissioned. In March 2024 the Overseas Development Institute issued its final report on the results of the review, which called for the enhancement of IASC's leadership, coordination and advocacy, with the aim of addressing the needs of internally displaced persons more effectively and guaranteeing their protection. WFP participated in the review process and is engaged in the development of a management response.
29. The Secretary-General's special adviser on solutions to internal displacement worked with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in 15 pilot countries on the concept of government-led, development-financed, inter-agency supported approaches to internal displacement.
30. Building on the action agenda and the internal displacement review, the High-Level Committee on Programmes established a working group on displacement to develop a proposal for a system-wide approach to internal displacement for consideration by the committee at its 48th session, in October 2024.
31. As part of the action agenda, WFP developed a proposal outlining how its field presence; data analytics capacity; cash, social protection and resilience programming; and strategic partnerships with governments and others contribute to internal displacement solutions.

Localization

32. In 2023 WFP channelled 31.1 percent of contributions through national and local actors, thereby exceeding its Grand Bargain commitment of 25 percent¹⁶. This was the highest percentage recorded since 2016.
33. Building on the work of a cross-divisional team in 2023, WFP's Executive Board approved the development of a corporate policy on localization to provide overall strategic direction for WFP's localization efforts. The policy is to be presented to the Board at its 2025 first regular session. As part of the policy formulation process, WFP will be consulting with national and subnational governments; local, national and international NGOs; other United Nations entities; IASC bodies, including clusters and the task force on localization; and academics.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

34. Identifying, mitigating and managing sexual exploitation and abuse risks among cooperating partners and strengthening their capacity is a priority area for WFP, which continued to play a lead role in relevant inter-agency efforts in 2023.

¹⁴ The number of internally displaced persons – 71.1 million at the end of 2022 – is the highest figure ever recorded and represents a 60 percent increase over 2021.

¹⁵ The United Nations Secretary-General issued an [action agenda on internal displacement](#) aimed at resolving situations of internal displacement through collective action to identify durable solutions, prevent displacement and ensure that displaced populations are assisted and protected.

¹⁶ This figure excludes funds directed to local organizations subcontracted by WFP's international NGO partners.

35. Since June 2023, each partner organization registered on the [United Nations Partner Portal](#) will must complete a PSEA capacity assessment. The assessment is a digital tool on the portal that was launched during a side event of the 2023 ECOSOC humanitarian affairs segment, alongside inter-agency training held at the World Health Organization (WHO). The launch was a key step towards harmonization and coordination among United Nations entities in the effort to manage sexual exploitation and abuse risks with partners and protect communities.

Cash coordination

36. In 2023, 39 percent of WFP food assistance was provided in the form of cash and value and commodity vouchers with a value of USD 2.9 billion, corresponding to an 11 percent decrease in the share of food assistance provided through these modalities compared to 2022. This decrease is the result of reduced funding, the suspension of cash-based transfers as a result of conflict and liquidity issues experienced in certain countries.¹⁷
37. Through the global cash advisory group, WFP continued to work with other United Nations entities, NGOs, the CLAP Network, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local actors on the implementation of the new IASC cash coordination model. The cash advisory group developed global standards and key performance indicators for effective, predictable and accountable cash coordination. WFP developed guidance for reporting on multi-purpose cash through humanitarian response plans. The guidance is currently under review and will be approved in 2024. The cash advisory group continued to work with the donor cash forum on a resourcing plan for cash coordination, focusing on locally led coordination.
38. The World Bank and WFP worked to incorporate WFP market functionality assessment data into the World Bank Global Alliance for Food Security dashboard to enhance policy coordination and inform financial responses to food crises and support for resilience building. WFP's relationship with local market and supply chain actors has been key to its response to emergencies such as the recent earthquake in Türkiye, when it provided 3,600 food parcels within the first 24 hours of the disaster.

Boundary setting, joint needs assessments and innovative platforms

39. As a key IPC partner, WFP provided the main data for food security outcome indicators in most of the IPC exercises in 2023. WFP remained involved in the development of IPC guidance materials, contributed to the various working groups and supported the expansion of IPC in the major food crises of 2023. In 2023 WFP played a key role in rapidly establishing the IPC in Gaza, providing key outcome indicators for the analysis within less than two months of the start of the crisis. In 2024 WFP will continue to engage with the IPC's global support unit to enhance famine classification, improve analysis for locations with limited access and improve data disaggregation.
40. The [UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub](#) provided comprehensive technical and coordination support to nine countries: Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the hub spearheaded the development and global launch of a UNHCR-WFP joint analytical framework, equipping country operations with essential tools to enhance their understanding of forcibly displaced individuals' capacity to meet their basic needs. In 2023, the joint hub piloted the use of the framework in South Sudan and Zimbabwe, as well as in Egypt in preparation for planned data collection in 2024. The joint

¹⁷ Bangladesh, Jordan and the Central African Republic experienced reductions in funding. In addition, the Sudan cash-based transfer operation was suspended for an extended period in 2023 due to the impact of war; Ukraine experienced a decrease in cash-based transfer operations due to programmatic priorities and a transition to other activities; and the Niger faced cash liquidity issues leading to fewer cash transfers than planned.

hub continued to identify, document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned from collaborative efforts within WFP and UNHCR, including through high-level events held in Brussels (at the European Humanitarian Forum), Geneva (at the UNHCR Executive Committee) and Rome (on the margins of the second regular session of the WFP Executive Board).

41. The global food security cluster supported the development of a new joint and intersectoral analysis framework methodology (JIAF 2.0) for the intersectoral analysis of humanitarian needs to inform humanitarian needs overviews and humanitarian response plans beginning with the 2024 humanitarian programme cycle. New tools and methodologies for calculating the number of people in need, estimating need severity and conducting intersectoral analysis were developed and rolled out in 2023.
42. Moreover, the global food security cluster provided guidance and support to country teams in their efforts to navigate the boundary setting agenda and advocated that prioritization and targeting be done in a consultative way, with no predetermined caps or geographical areas of intervention mandated from the global level.
43. In 2023 the logistics cluster promoted innovative technological initiatives and engaged in increased collaboration. The cluster's [logistics information exchange \(Log IE\)](#) interactive mapping and information platform was refined to improve the provision of near-real-time access to critical information on physical access. Log IE dynamic mapping was adopted for 22 operations.

Accountability to affected populations

44. WFP co-chaired the [IASC task force on accountability to affected people](#) with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance. WFP and the alliance also engaged with donors to enhance humanitarian accountability and ensure that programmes were informed by continual interaction with affected people.
45. Through the task force WFP worked on collective community feedback mechanisms in line with the IASC's guiding principles and operational standards for feedback data. In 2023 WFP engaged in collaborative efforts with the inter-agency forums in Afghanistan, Mozambique and the State of Palestine. In addition around 30 WFP country offices supported an inter-agency community feedback mechanism as part of WFP's commitment to partnership and collective action in humanitarian response.
46. WFP also adapted the IASC-recommended taxonomy and analytical framework, enhancing interoperability and collaboration in collective forums and improving referral opportunities. Country offices with standardized community feedback mechanism systems, including those in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Ukraine and soon, Colombia, are well equipped to enhance engagement in inter-agency forums.

Gender

47. As a result of WFP's significant efforts to mainstream gender, the gender and age markers of 26 country strategic plans submitted to the Executive Board in 2023 were 3 or 4.
48. WFP collaborated with the other Rome-based agencies through two joint programmes on developing knowledge for humanitarian practitioners. In addition, a research document on "Unequal Access: Gendered Barriers to Humanitarian Access" was published in May 2023 and identified and analysed gendered barriers to humanitarian aid in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Case studies documented how cash assistance contributes to women's economic empowerment.

49. In her role as IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, WFP's Executive Director involved the organization in the United Nations [Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict network](#). WFP also played a leadership role in the endorsement of the Committee on World Food Security's voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

Peace and the humanitarian–development nexus

50. In 2023 WFP briefed the United Nations Security Council in both closed and open meetings linked to WFP's work on Security Council resolution 2417. In April 2023 WFP and FAO briefed the Security Council on their [joint biannual monitoring of food security](#) in countries where conflict was triggering increased food insecurity. This update and further outreach by WFP's New York office led to the issuance of a white note with reference to resolution 2417 on the situation in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti for consideration by the Security Council. WFP was then invited by Security Council members to again brief the Council during an informal interactive dialogue on the white note and the countries in question, which was held in July 2023.
51. In 2024 WFP and FAO issued an ad hoc joint monitoring report on the State of Palestine and the Sudan for the Security Council. This was followed by an informal briefing for Council members hosted by the co-focal points for resolution 2417, Guyana and Switzerland. Additional white notes were issued to the Security Council on both crises, and WFP was asked to address the Security Council.
52. WFP also sought to strengthen work under resolution 2417 by organizing with FAO and ICRC a workshop for Council members hosted by Switzerland and Guyana in New York. This was followed by a workshop organized by WFP at Fordham University with academics, Member States, NGOs and other United Nations entities to discuss progress under the resolution and next steps.
53. WFP's strategic plan for 2022–2025 commits the organization to implementing the humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach as a cross-cutting priority. WFP is promoting long-term integrated programmes that layer, sequence and bundle mitigation and prevention actions across the nexus in a manner that allows people, over time, to stand on their own feet and be more resilient in the face of sudden shocks.
54. WFP continued its strategic leadership of nexus-related inter-agency and multilateral forums. In 2023 WFP co-chaired a United Nations dialogue hosted by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and participated actively in the IASC task force on humanitarian-development collaboration and its linkages to peace and the United Nations Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration.

Access and humanitarian–military interaction

55. Through its Operational Access and Humanitarian–Military Interaction unit, WFP worked at the global, regional and country levels to facilitate humanitarian access in 2023.
56. As a founding member of the global access working group, WFP worked to bring together partners to address access challenges. Inter-agency training, including on-site humanitarian–military interaction training, was developed to strengthen the capacity of staff, partners and civil–military stakeholders to handle civil–military coordination and access challenges in the field and to ensure principled humanitarian operations.
57. Throughout the year WFP also scaled up field-based operational capacity through increased training and staff presence, contributing to collective humanitarian efforts that supported access to affected populations.

Climate

58. WFP participated in the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to advocate for people, especially marginalized groups, on the frontlines of the climate crisis and position the organization as a partner and solution provider for local climate action. WFP played a crucial role in supporting the development of the [Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#), a landmark commitment to accelerating investment in building climate resilience in “highly vulnerable countries and communities, particularly those threatened or affected by fragility or conflict, or facing severe humanitarian needs”.
59. WFP’s climate change policy is currently being updated and will be presented for approval at the 2024 second regular session of the Executive Board. This update is being closely aligned with an update of WFP’s resilience policy, which is also due to be presented for approval at the same Board session.¹⁸ The first informal consultation with the Board on the climate change policy update was held on 11 April 2024.
60. One of the recommendations deriving from the [2022 internal evaluation](#) of WFP’s climate change and disaster risk reduction and management policies was to reposition disaster risk reduction and management across the organization in order to better mainstream it in relevant institutional policies, processes and programmes. Disaster risk reduction and management remains a central priority for WFP because of the profound impacts that disasters have on food-insecure and vulnerable populations worldwide. Reducing humanitarian needs in an era of increasingly frequent disasters requires a combination of long-term prevention and adaptation efforts and short-range disaster preparedness, risk reduction and protection initiatives.
61. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is a key partner for WFP and participates in disaster risk reduction and management global policy processes such as the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and its associated senior leadership group on disaster risk reduction for resilience. As part of the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework in 2023, WFP made commitments with regard to implementing the [recommendations of the senior leadership group](#).

Food systems

62. A “[stocktaking moment](#)” on progress in the work called for during the 2021 United Nations food systems summit took place in July 2023 and represented an opportunity for the global community to review progress on food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP led the work on resilient food systems, working with governments and partners to highlight solutions, evidence and case studies.
63. WFP-supported coalitions highlighted progress and partnerships with multiple sectors and stakeholders, most notably the [School Meals Coalition](#), for which WFP serves as the secretariat and for which USD 200 million in new financial commitments were announced during the stocktaking moment.
64. Following the stocktaking moment, the Secretary-General called for a greater focus on food systems as a key means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted the need to align food systems and climate policies and plans. WFP stands ready to support this effort with analysis and practical action, especially in service of the world’s most fragile communities.

¹⁸ The updating of WFP’s climate change policy was recommended in the [2022 evaluation](#) of its 2017 climate change policy, which found that climate action continued to be mainstreamed across the organization and that climate change programmes addressing food security and nutrition had grown significantly.

Grand Bargain

65. WFP is participating in the latest iteration of the Grand Bargain, which focuses on participation, localization, quality funding and sector-wide transformation such as anticipatory action, multi-stakeholder collaboration and innovative financing. WFP is a co-champion of the Grand Bargain caucus on scaling up anticipatory action with Germany, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Save the Children and other members including the European Union, FAO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Oxfam and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The caucus aims to address challenges in scaling up anticipatory action, focusing on securing funding commitments for scaling up coordinated anticipatory action and providing recommendations for improving coordination and cooperation at the international, national and local levels.

Partnerships and global processes

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

66. WFP has a long-standing and robust collaboration with UNHCR on refugees and other forcibly displaced populations in over 41 countries.
67. The second [Global Refugee Forum](#) took place in December 2023 in Geneva and brought together global stakeholders to reflect on learning over the past four years in implementing the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) and efforts to support the inclusion and self-reliance of refugees. The forum identified significant potential for closer engagement with host states to move forward commitments to increasing agricultural livelihoods and inclusion both in food systems and the wider economy. During the forum, WFP co-led with UNHCR, FAO and the Government of Norway the adoption of a [multi-stakeholder pledge](#) on agriculture, food systems and food security to galvanize support for agriculture and food systems transformation as a critical element of building self-reliance for refugees and host communities.
68. WFP worked closely with UNHCR on developing approaches to managing, both at the operational level and through strategic advocacy, resource constraints and the impact of shortfalls. As part of this, WFP committed to allocating at least 20 percent of unearmarked multilateral contributions to operations supporting refugees.
69. In addition, a joint protocol on information sharing is being finalized on the basis that better information sharing will make it easier to anticipate, communicate and respond to changes in assistance levels and to support evidence-based advocacy.

International Organization for Migration

70. WFP recognizes the importance of collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and expanded its partnership with IOM across a range of areas to advance efforts and maximize efficiency and programme effectiveness, thereby ensuring better outcomes for those served by the two organizations. A joint two-year workplan was designed in March 2023 and is now being reviewed and refined.

World Health Organization

71. In July 2023, on the margins of the food systems summit stocktaking moment in Rome, a pivotal meeting occurred between WFP's Executive Director and the Director-General of WHO. This meeting underscored the significant cooperation between the two organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was facilitated by a memorandum of understanding, the COVID-19 global humanitarian response plan and their involvement in the work of the United Nations crisis management team on COVID-19, which was wrapped up in mid-2023.

72. Launched in 2021, [INITIATE²](#) is a joint effort by WFP and WHO to boost global health emergency preparedness. In 2023, a simulation at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi tested INITIATE²'s infectious disease treatment module. Seventy-five people from 25 organizations participated, with the aim of enhancing emergency response efficiency. This critical feedback will refine INITIATE² strategies for ensuring better global readiness for infectious disease outbreaks.
73. WFP is actively involved in a consultation held by WHO to shape the latter's forthcoming fourteenth general programme of work, which is scheduled for adoption by the World Health Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. Both before and during the consultation WFP made significant contributions aimed at enhancing the connection between food security, nutrition and overall health sector strategies. WHO recognized WFP's strategic involvement and contributions, notably incorporating WFP's terminology and data into the programme of work.
74. WFP and WHO continued their partnership through IASC and on key issues via the Member States Working Group on Enhancing WHO's Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All, and the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. In addition WFP engaged in the World Health Assembly session and WHO Executive Board meetings, emphasizing the need for integrated food, nutrition and health interventions in emergencies.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

75. In 2023 WFP partnered with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 23 countries.¹⁹ WFP invested USD 61 million in these partnerships, with 77 percent allocated to the partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent.

NGO partnerships

76. WFP fostered continuous and transparent dialogue with consortiums and NGO partners, engaging in discussions covering a spectrum of operational intricacies and strategic imperatives. This exchange of insights ensured a collaborative approach to challenges and opportunities within shared humanitarian efforts.
77. The challenges facing the humanitarian system in seeking to respond to increased humanitarian needs while facing a significant funding crisis constitute a common concern that was voiced in various forums. WFP organized a series of interactive webinars and workshops with NGO staff at the global and country levels to ensure broad awareness of critical updates to WFP's standard field-level agreement.
78. WFP actively engaged both local and international NGO partners in planning and successfully executing [WFP's annual partnership consultation in 2023](#). The event featured dynamic and participatory discussions on pivotal topics, including humanitarian response in complex emergencies, climate action in fragile and vulnerable contexts, partnerships to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and collective advocacy to avert food crises.
79. In August 2023 WFP issued a directive making the use of the United Nations Partner Portal compulsory for all WFP operations. This platform provides a standard framework for assessing due diligence and selecting NGO partners.

¹⁹ Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

Global Fund

80. In 2023 WFP supported projects financed by the Global Fund in six African countries: Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Liberia and Mauritania. In doing so, WFP reached 13,046 delivery points and delivered 19.6 million long-lasting insecticidal nets and 4.4 million packing units of health items with a total value of USD 87.7 million.

World Bank Group

81. In 2023 the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund actively sought strategic partnerships with humanitarian actors like WFP in order to leverage their comparative advantages.
82. In 2023 and into the first quarter of 2024, amid increased demand for resources and persistent resource constraints, WFP deepened its collaboration with international financial institutions to address an unprecedented humanitarian crisis spanning countries and regions such as Gaza, the Sudan, the Sahel and Ukraine. At an institutional level, WFP collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund involved comprehensive data and knowledge sharing to facilitate the alignment of programmes, with a particular focus on enhancing institutional capacity to support the most vulnerable, especially in fragile settings.

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations

83. In collaboration with ICRC, WFP is a strategic partner to the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations, which supports frontline negotiators in some of the most difficult humanitarian operations. As part of this collaboration the centre trained 6,250 humanitarian professionals in 2023. The 2024 training plan includes WFP staff from offices in Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and up to seven locations in the Middle East, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe region.

Acronyms

COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
NGO	non-governmental organization
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization