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WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2021

Update #1

February 2021

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Introduction

In 2020, the triple threat of conflict, climate change and the socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 drove human suffering to a staggering scale. Today, the outlook is even more concerning. More than 30 million people face emergency levels of food insecurity in 41 countries, dependant on assistance to meet their most basic food needs. Any shock or reduction in humanitarian assistance could push them further into catastrophic hunger. In 2020, famine and famine-like conditions were observed in areas of Burkina Faso, South Sudan, and Yemen, and today an estimated 155,000 people are in situations of famine, suffering extreme deprivation in access to food and critical rates of acute malnutrition and mortality.

The situation is expected to worsen by the end of the year as the capacities of households, communities and governments are already exhausted, unable to cope with further shocks.

As we enter 2021, an estimated 270 million people are in acute food insecurity, or at risk, across 79 countries where WFP operates. In nearly all countries where WFP has real-time monitoring, reliance on negative livelihoods-based coping has increased through 2020. The social and economic fallout of the pandemic is expected to drive an additional 6.7 million children to suffer acute malnutrition, increasing the risk of child mortality by an expected 10,000 deaths per month. And more than 220 million children continue to be affected by school closures; 24 million schoolchildren are at risk of dropping out of school entirely, including up to 20 million girls.

Not only are the needs enormous, but the operating environment is also complex. In addition to the arrival of new COVID-19 variants, in 2021, cases of Ebola Virus Disease are now confirmed in two countries. Meanwhile, deteriorating conflict and security situations are observed in every region where WFP operates. In 8 out of 10 of the world's largest food crises, conflict and insecurity are among the key drivers of acute hunger, challenging humanitarian access. Conflict analysis is key to informing innovative strategies to reach communities trapped by insecurity. As is humanitarian diplomacy to overcome access constraints and enhance accountability, including through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2417 when necessary.

The situation requires urgent action to avert catastrophe and protect past gains in strengthening community resilience. This means:

- 1. Scaling up life-saving food and nutrition assistance** to prevent and mitigate famine and ensure that those further behind are able to meet their essential needs in periods of crisis;
- 2. Reinforcing integrated community-based resilience** to promote recovery including through climate-smart asset development, sustainable livelihood opportunities, smallholder farmer value chains, and the safe return of children to school; and

- 3. Investing in long-term systems recovery and strengthening,** leveraging successful initiatives from 2020 to build back better from the pandemic by supporting stronger national social protection systems, food systems, and supply chains.

Last year demonstrated WFP's readiness to take on new, unprecedented challenges. In 2020, WFP scaled-up to reach more than 100 million people, a record high. Amidst widespread lockdowns, movement restrictions, and bans on group activities, WFP rapidly put in place innovative and flexible delivery mechanisms to ensure assistance reached those in need. Cash-based transfer capacities were reinforced, enabling WFP operations as well as national social protection systems. Real-time food security monitoring was scaled up to track evolving hunger situations and ensure that WFP, partners and governments were alerted to take pre-emptive action to address emerging needs. When the global transport market came to a standstill, WFP provided vital supply chain and logistics services to ensure the continued movement of essential staff and cargo. And when economic downturn risked WFP's resource availability, the organization reinforced new strategic partnerships including with international financial institutes and the private sector.

Today WFP is ready. But the unprecedented response will require unprecedented support. As of January, WFP's 2021 approved Programme of Work stands at US\$ 13.5 billion for more than 109 million beneficiaries. However, these requirements are expected to significantly increase during the year as new assessments come out and new crises drive additional needs.

One month into the year, updated WFP operational planning suggests the target beneficiary figure could quickly surpass 120 million people.

Of immediate urgency is securing the US\$ 4.2 billion funding gap in the coming six months (February to July 2021). Timely, flexible funding is of the essence. Already, millions of refugees, conflict-affected people and migrants are receiving rations half or less of what they need to survive. Upcoming elections in several countries could trigger insecurity and disrupt access to vital assistance and services. And the window of opportunity to pre-position resources ahead of the rainy season is closing for several critical WFP operations, after which delivering life-saving assistance will become more complicated, and more costly.

This WFP Global Operational Response Plan provides government partners, policymakers, humanitarian counterparts and concerned citizens with an update on evolving needs and WFP response priorities.



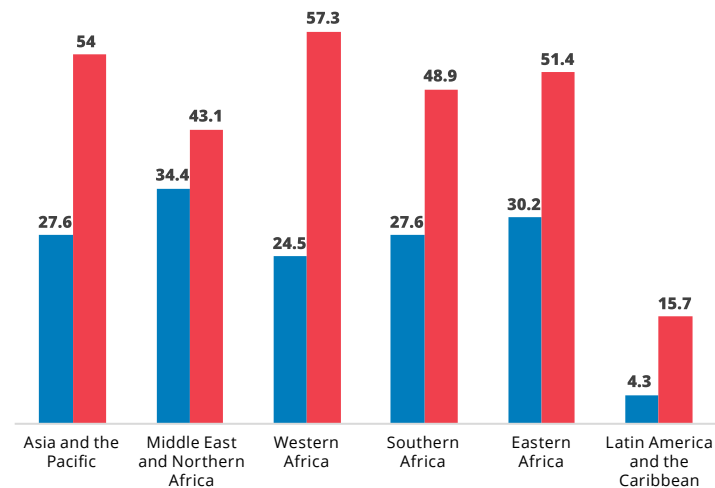
Section 1: Global Food Security Outlook 2021

High food insecurity continues into 2021

Across 79 countries with WFP operational presence and where data are available, up to 270 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure or at high risk in 2021, an unprecedented 82 percent increase from pre-pandemic levels.

Increasing food insecurity

- Early 2020 pre-COVID-19 (people, in millions)
- February 2021 Estimate¹ (people, in millions)



Real-time monitoring starting as early as 2019 confirms the deteriorating trend. In nearly all 38 countries where WFP implements real-time food security monitoring systems, data show: an overall deterioration in household food consumption;

increased adoption of crisis level food-based coping, including skipping meals and reducing the quality of food consumed; and increased reliance on crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies, such as the sale of household productive assets – leaving households more vulnerable in the longer-term.

The alarming food security situation is further confirmed by on-the-ground food security and livelihood assessments, including Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) or comparable analyses in 32 countries. Examples include:

In **Western Africa**, conflict, climate shocks and the compounding economic impact of the pandemic have led to the highest number of acutely food insecure people of any WFP region. Important increases are observed not only in conflict-affected areas, but also coastal countries such as in Sierra Leone, where the number of people in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or higher increased by 150 percent between December 2019 and December 2020.²

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic has had a particular effect on urban areas and compounded pre-existing vulnerabilities: in Afghanistan, an important increase in the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or higher is observed, reaching 42 percent of the population; looking ahead, growing insecurity and La Niña could further escalate needs in the months to come.

In **Eastern and Southern Africa**, years of climate shocks, high inflation and conflict have resulted in high needs, including for large refugee populations. The situation is compounded by important funding gaps, requiring ration reductions of up to forty percent. In South Sudan, assessments at the end of 2020

¹ The new February estimate of acute food insecurity is based on updates for 32 countries, IPC/Cadre Harmonisé analyses or comparable data from April to October 2020. Only new data with population coverage comparable to June figures numbers were considered. In alignment with June estimations, remote data was used in the Latin America and the Caribbean region from January 2021. Since the November 2020 estimate, WFP has reclassified its Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan operations from the Middle East and Northern Africa to the Asia and the Pacific region, while Sudan has been reclassified from the Middle East and Northern Africa to the Eastern Africa region. These reclassifications were considered in this table and figures recalculated for previous rounds.

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases are described as follows: IPC Phase 1 (Minimal), IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine).

project the highest level of people in need of food assistance ever recorded in the country.

In the **Middle East and Northern Africa**, conflict, economic shocks, and reduced funding for humanitarian assistance converge to create conditions for increased hunger: in Syria, recent assessment data shows the highest number of people in acute food insecurity ever recorded, a nearly 60 percent increase compared to the pre-pandemic period.

In 2020, **Latin America and the Caribbean** witnessed the highest relative regional increase in acute food insecurity due to the impact the pandemic on livelihoods and remittances – from 4.3 million in 2019 to 15.7 million today. Increases are observed not only in fragile contexts like Haiti but also confirmed in the Central America Corridor, such as Honduras.

The inter-agency Global Humanitarian Overview released end 2020 predicts a nearly 40 percent increase in people in need of humanitarian assistance this year when compared to pre-COVID targets. Amidst this important increase in needs and global funding gaps, food security coordination will be critical to ensure people are not left behind.

Famine looming for a record number of people

As of February 2021, there are more than 30 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe/Famine (IPC Phase 5) conditions across the 41 countries where IPC/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) data are available.

People in IPC Phase 4 rely on humanitarian assistance and safety nets to meet their basic needs. Nearly 80 percent of the people in IPC Phase 4 or above are located in nine countries – each with at least one million people in IPC Phase 4 or 5: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (with 5.7 million people) and Yemen (with 5.1 million people), followed by Afghanistan, Nigeria, South Sudan, Venezuela, Sudan, Ethiopia and Haiti. Additional countries host more than half a million people in IPC Phase 4, including Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, and Honduras. According to IPC projections for 2021, the situation is expected to deteriorate even further in the coming months as many countries enter their annual lean season when acute hunger and malnutrition peak.

Today, 155,000 people in Yemen and South Sudan are in famine or famine-like conditions – already starving.

In these communities, people suffer extreme deprivation in access to food, critical rates of acute malnutrition, and higher rates of mortality.

The deteriorating trend is cause for global alarm: in 2020, 132,900 people were in situations of famine, already an increase from 84,500 people in 2019.

In areas where famine is observed, decades of underdevelopment, conflict, as well as climate, economic and political shocks have resulted in extreme disruption to food systems and basic services and impeded access to humanitarian assistance.

Deteriorating malnutrition threatens lives and longer-term development

The pandemic had massive consequences for nutrition. **Acute malnutrition among children younger than five is estimated to have increased by 14.3 percent**, driving up the number of children with wasting by an additional 6.7 million and increasing the risk of child mortality due to wasting by an expected 10,000 deaths per month.

In 2021, the pandemic, natural disasters and conflict will continue to threaten maternal and child nutrition, impacting access to healthy diets. Child malnutrition rates are sharply on the rise in countries like Yemen, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, and northern Nigeria. In the Central Sahel, projections show an increase of eight percent of malnutrition cases compared to last year, equivalent to 2.3 million malnourished children in need of life-saving malnutrition treatment. In Madagascar, affected by a yearlong drought, the prevalence of life-threatening forms of child malnutrition is also at a critical level. While in Yemen, acute malnutrition threatens nearly 2.3 million children under five in 2021; 400,000 children under the age of five are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and may not survive if they do not receive urgent treatment.

Drivers of food insecurity and risks ahead in the next six months



Risk of conflict, political instability and related violence

Conflict is the single most important driver of humanitarian needs and, in some contexts, poses challenges related to humanitarian access, further aggravating the food security outlook. In the months ahead, conflict, instability and violence are likely to persist or further escalate including in areas of the Middle East and Central, Southern and Eastern Africa. Recent, postponed or upcoming elections are likely to contribute to insecurity or unrest, such as in Ethiopia where the conflict in Tigray combined with the upcoming June elections could trigger a further escalation of tensions.



Economic risks

Global food prices have been rising continuously since June 2020, last month reaching the highest monthly average price recorded since July 2014. COVID-19 induced losses in labour income, the growing public debt burden and a decline in export commodity prices pose additional economic risks. Risks for currency depreciation and rising inflation are high for countries in the Middle East as well as export-dependent countries on the African continent. In Lebanon, the expected removal of subsidies on food, medicines and fuel is likely to exacerbate dramatic inflation in the prices of basic goods. While in Latin America and the Caribbean, the wider economic fallout risks exacerbating pre-existing economic and political instability across the region.



Natural hazard risks

Years of hurricanes and droughts had already created conditions for vulnerability prior to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Through early 2021, La Niña will continue to cause extreme weather patterns, impacting food production and displacing populations. Areas of Southern and Eastern Africa are likely to be particularly affected by below average rainfall – as are areas of Haiti which are projected to receive a second consecutive poor rainy season. In the Horn of Africa, WFP is also monitoring the risk of desert locust invasion. Finally, the southwestern Indian ocean is entering the peak of its cyclone activity (January - March).

Deepening Understanding of Linkages between Food Security and Conflict

In 2021 WFP will leverage its real-time monitoring to deepen analysis of how climatic shocks and stressors affect food security and the risk of conflict in different contexts – including in the Dry Corridor of Central America. The research will complement WFP's ongoing partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Similar research in recent years is allowing WFP to better understand how food assistance programmes can mitigate the risk of conflict, and assist WFP and partners to advance conflict sensitive programming, such as in the Forest region of Guinea where WFP is launching a joint peacebuilding fund project in 2021.

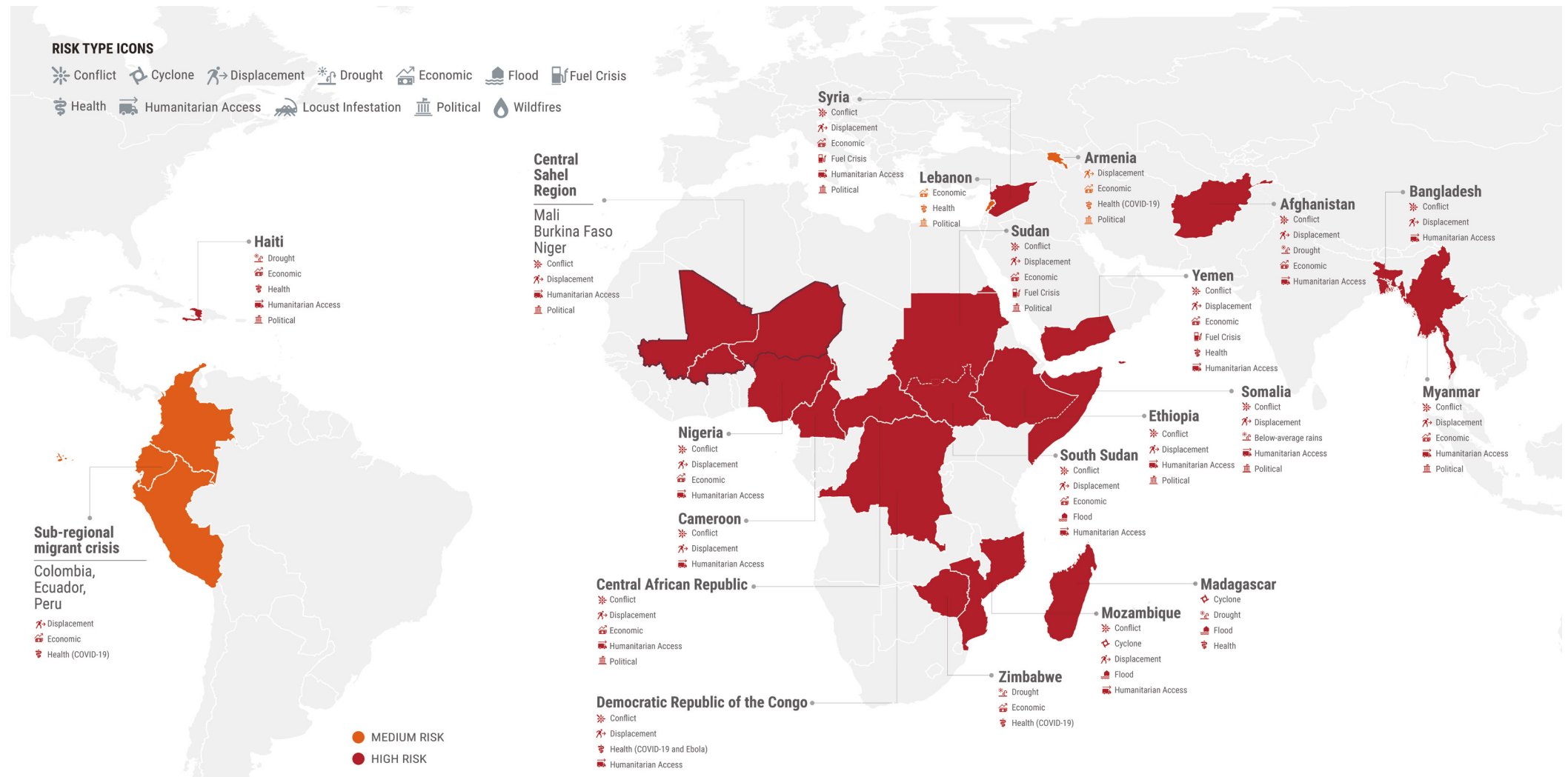


WFP Corporate Alert System: mapping hazards and triggering preparedness actions

WFP's Corporate Alert System (CAS) brings together early warning analysis into a forward-looking snapshot of operations where conflict, political, economic, climate, and health risks are likely to materialize in the coming months, with potential important impacts on humanitarian needs and/or WFP's ability to deliver. WFP applies a no regrets approach to deploying surge capacity, scaling up technical assistance, and leveraging the Immediate Response Account to

pre-position resources where and when needed. In 2020, the CAS triggered the pre-positioning of essential food and surge capacity ahead of an anticipated above average Atlantic Hurricane Season, saving a lead time of three weeks (or more).

As of February 2021, WFP is actively monitoring 21 current or emerging crises featured on the map below. Additional potential risks "on watch," not pictured, could be elevated for corporate attention in the days and weeks, such as Guinea where new cases of Ebola have been confirmed as of mid-February.





Section 2: Operational Context and Update

Operational Plans for 2021

As the compounding impact of the pandemic continues to drive humanitarian needs and risks decades of investment in community resilience and systems, WFP is scaling up.

With an initial target of more than 109 million beneficiaries going into 2021, updated operational plans as of February suggest the WFP's target beneficiary figure is likely to surpass 120 million people in 2021, nearly 20 percent higher than WFP's target of 101 million people from the same time last year. These increases are being captured in ongoing budget revisions (three already submitted since January, and five in progress) and in new Interim/Country Strategic Plans launching this year including for Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Indonesia, Togo, Colombia and Cuba.

Eastern Africa, where the highest numbers of refugees globally are hosted, represents WFP's largest caseload followed by the Middle East and North Africa, where Yemen represents more than half WFP's beneficiary target for the region as of February 2021. Western Africa is the region with the highest relative increase in target beneficiaries, following by Latin American and the Caribbean; these regions are also those reporting some of the most important relative increase in needs due to the compounding impact of the pandemic. Overall, nearly all regions are planning for a further scale-up in WFP direct assistance compared to the targets of 2020.

WFP's response is focused around three primary pillars:

- 1. Scaling up life-saving food and nutrition assistance** to prevent and mitigate famine and ensure that those further behind are able to meet their essential needs in periods of crisis;

- 2. Reinforcing integrated community-based resilience** to promote recovery including through climate-smart asset development, sustainable livelihood opportunities, smallholder farmer value chains, and the safe return of children to school; and
- 3. Investing in long-term systems recovery and strengthening**, leveraging successful initiatives from 2020 to build back better from the pandemic by supporting stronger national social protection systems, food systems, and supply chains.

The majority (approximately three quarters) of WFP's target beneficiaries and budget requirements in 2021 is targeted towards crisis response. In parallel, WFP will continue to scale-up its resilience activities to support recovery and prepare communities for future shocks, aiming to reach more people through its resilience focus area than were reached last year or the year before. And while disproportionality lower in financial requirements, in nearly all countries WFP response plans show continued emphasis on supporting governments' social protection systems through technical assistance, complementary support, and provision of services, such as large-scale food procurement.

Last year demonstrated WFP's readiness to take on new, unprecedented challenges and put in place the foundations for agile response capacities and services which will continue to be required in 2021. In 2020, WFP scaled-up to reach more than 100 million people, a record high.³ The innovative and flexible delivery mechanisms put in place to ensure assistance reaches those in need amidst lockdowns and movement restrictions, will continue to ensure this flexible response capacity in 2021.

³ Final data on achievements will be available May 2021.

Continuing the trend from last year, implementation plans for the next six months show a scale-up in cash-based transfers, 51 percent higher than the same period last year, with plans to implement this modality in 73 countries, up from 64 countries in 2019. As the health response evolves, WFP will retain the capacity to diversify and scale-up vital supply chain and logistics services where required.

Section 4 provides a more detailed summary by country of WFP's response priorities in 2021.

Scaling up life-saving food and nutrition assistance

WFP food and nutrition assistance, whether in-kind or in-cash, plays a critical role in situations where food security is directly threatened by extreme loss of assets and livelihoods, where food systems are broken by conflict, and where food gaps pose risks for increased malnutrition and mortality. WFP food assistance is also a lifeline for populations on the move and for those excluded from traditional social protection systems, including refugees, migrants and internally displaced people.

Crisis response activities represent approximately three-quarters of WFP's planned 2021 response. Requirements are likely to increase over the coming months as WFP scales up to respond to new needs, such as in Ethiopia where WFP is urgently appealing for US\$ 107 million for up to six months to kickstart the response in Tigray, but where needs could endure beyond that period. Similarly, as of February 2021 the Democratic Republic of Congo — already reporting the highest number of acutely food insecure people in the world — has received more than 92,000 new refugees from the Central African Republic and reported the resurgence of Ebola in North Kivu.

Ensuring critical food needs are met during periods of crisis

The primary challenges to delivering the scale of response required to prevent and mitigate severe food insecurity, including conditions of famine, are insufficient resources, access, and unreliable supply corridors:



Sufficient Resourcing

Insufficient resources are the primary obstacle to WFP's ability to mitigate extreme hunger. Initial estimates project that in order to avert the risk of famine for more than 30 million people in IPC Phase 4 and 5 in countries where WFP operates, US\$ 5 billion would be required only to secure daily food requirements; this budget does not include complementary actions such as the malnutrition prevention and treatment proven to save lives in emergency contexts, nor the complementary inputs households need to be able to meet their food and other essential needs (such as productive livelihood assets or health services).

It is of particular concern that operations targeting conflict-affected refugees, internally displaced, and migrants are significantly underfunded in nearly every region.

These groups are among those most affected by the pandemic as they rely primarily on the informal sector and are also those most likely to be left behind in national response plans and vaccination campaigns. In Syria and its neighbouring refugee host countries, pipeline breaks for crisis response operations start as early as this month (Egypt) and from April in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. WFP is having to reduce not only its rations, with people in Syria receiving 1,264 kilocalories per person per day (far below the minimum recommended 2,100 kilocalories), but also the number of people it assists, such as in Jordan where support to 60 percent of target recipients is at risk.

Similar drastic cuts are reported in East Africa, where WFP has been forced to reduce rations by up to 40 percent for refugees, and in Tanzania, where refugees receive less than one-third of their required food assistance ration. In South America, WFP is unable to scale-up to cover the full food security needs of migrants as requested by governments, IOM and UNHCR, including in Colombia where WFP has had to cut food assistance to nearly half the migrant population targeted for support.



Access to Stay and Deliver

Nearly all countries reporting a significant number of people in IPC Phase 4, and all countries with pockets in IPC Phase 5, are affected by conflict and marked by high to extreme humanitarian access constraints. This includes the imposition of bureaucratic impediments, delays in responding to requests, requirements to use armed escorts and direct attacks on humanitarian workers and assets. Despite these challenges, WFP and its partners are making use of conflict and context analysis to better understand situational dynamics and devise adaptable strategies to reach communities caught in conflict and insecurity.

Sustained, predictable humanitarian access is essential to reach those furthest behind and prevent famine-like conditions, as occurred in Burkina Faso in 2020 when pockets of IPC Phase 5 were reported in areas where WFP and partners had been required to suspend operations. In contexts like Burkina Faso, adjusting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the schedule of local markets has allowed WFP to safely reach communities previously inaccessible. While in countries like Nigeria, where access to stay and deliver is extremely challenging, WFP and partners implement Rapid Response Mechanisms to ensure punctual deliveries of assistance until such time that longer-term access is secured. In Haiti, where nearly half of the population faces acute food insecurity, urban gang dynamics and rising socio-political unrest will continue to challenge delivery of humanitarian assistance at the scale required; in 2021, WFP will seek to strengthen understanding of urban environments to inform its access strategy.



Reliable Supply Corridors

Securing supply corridors is critical for the movement of humanitarian assistance as well as more broadly the supply for local markets and commerce. In Central African Republic, where almost half of the country's population is acutely food insecure, humanitarians and the private sector rely almost entirely on a single corridor into the country, highly vulnerable to congestion or closure.

In Syria, where the lead time for the import of food is already four months, cross-border delivery of food assistance – a lifeline to more than 1.6 million people in the northwest – is reliant on UN Security Council Resolution 2449, set to expire July 2021. Within countries, timely delivery of assistance is also a challenge: in South Sudan, where assessment results project the highest number of people in need ever recorded including over 100,000 people in famine-like conditions, pre-positioning of up to 190,000 mt of food ahead of the rainy season in April will be essential to enable humanitarian operations.

Protecting the nutritional status of at-risk groups

The prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition is one of the areas where humanitarian response has consistently saved lives. For this reason, WFP is scaling up its nutrition programming in 2021 **to reach 22 million people with lifesaving malnutrition treatment and prevention packages, 80 percent in emergency settings.**

WFP has experience in scaling up large-scale nutrition programming in crisis and conflict settings, such as in Nigeria and Burkina Faso. This experience is even more critical in settings where access to health services is challenged. In Tigray region in Ethiopia, WFP is launching a large-scale malnutrition prevention programme to support 893,000 children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women. With only one in five health facilities estimated to be functioning in rural areas, WFP's extensive experience in community-based nutrition programmes will be essential. Where existing national health systems cannot reach the most remote communities, WFP will support national governments to scale up delivery of life saving treatment services directly, working to leave no one behind.

In parallel to the delivery of critical community-based nutrition support where required, WFP also partners with governments to lay the foundations for nutritionally resilient communities, studying local markets and consumption patterns to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers to nutritious diets and contributing to nutrition-sensitive national social protection systems. In Guatemala, WFP is supporting the Government's "National Grand Crusade for Nutrition" strategy by procuring nutritious foods and making its digital platforms available to strengthen the programme's reliability and transparency. In Sri Lanka, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Health to improve the local production and quality of supplementary foods, targeting pregnant women, mothers and children under five.

Yemen: Operational challenges collide and risk of famine increases

In Yemen today, 16.2 million people are acutely food insecure, including five million in Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4) and 47,000 in famine or famine-like situations (IPC Phase 5). 2.3 million children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition, including 400,000 at risk of mortality. Funding shortfalls are forcing ration reduction affecting nine million people – more than two thirds of WFP's total target beneficiary caseload. WFP is facing access challenges in reaching high numbers of people experiencing severe food insecurity in areas of Al-Jawf, Amran, and Al Hajjah. Meanwhile, external political factors are making supply chain vulnerable, including for humanitarian imports. The risk of a further expansion of famine-like conditions is high. Ensuring sufficient, timely, flexible funding and securing access of goods and humanitarian staff into and within the country is essential.



Reinforcing integrated community-based resilience

While crisis response will require a large portion of WFP resources in 2021, WFP will continue to build on its extensive experience scaling-up integrated resilience programming to support recovery and prepare communities for future shocks. In most situations, resilience and crisis response activities will be implemented in the same areas and target the same communities – to not only address critical needs today, but also promote resilience for tomorrow. In Madagascar for example, WFP is urgently scaling up emergency food and nutrition assistance to populations in the south affected by severe drought, but resilience-building and community capacity strengthening remain central to WFP's strategy in 2021 to enable the ability to cope with climate shocks in the longer term.

Overall, the resilience focus area represents nearly twenty percent of WFP's requirements for the coming six months, and in 2021 WFP will target as many as 28.4 million people under this focus area.⁴ In addition to scaled-up nutrition programming elaborated earlier, WFP's integrated resilience support includes diversification of livelihoods, asset development, and school-based programmes.

Promoting livelihoods and asset creation

In 2019, WFP assisted more than 10 million people across 50 countries with livelihood and climate-smart asset development activities and targeted support to smallholder farmers. Monitoring data for the first nine months of 2020 show WFP on track to deliver livelihood support at scale despite COVID-19-induced restrictions on movement and group-based activities. In 2021, despite easing lockdown measures in many countries, 77 percent of workers globally are still affected by lockdown restrictions as of January. Poorer households, youth, women, the self-employed, and low- and medium-skilled workers have been disproportionately affected, deepening pre-existing inequalities and exacerbating vulnerabilities.

As outlined in Section 4, across nearly all its countries of operation WFP is scaling-up investments to develop community assets and livelihoods in rural and urban areas, with particular attention to women and youth. In Afghanistan, WFP covered the food needs of as many as 354,000 people across 19 provinces in 2020 through its asset creation and skills training projects, disbursing more than 13,000 mt of food and nearly US\$3.4 million. In 2021 WFP will further scale-up asset creation activities including the rehabilitation of irrigation channels before the planting of the summer/spring season. *For more on asset creation, see the Spotlight on Scaling up resilience in the Sahel.*

WFP's livelihood programmes are adapted to the contexts in which it operates, and post-pandemic recovery also included opportunities to strengthen digital livelihoods by increasing

activities that enhance human capital, such as marketing skills and technical job-specific trainings, connecting people to the digital economy and the future of learning and work. For example, through WFP's EMPACT programme, vulnerable people are being connected to learning and earning opportunities offered by the digital economy, thereby increases their chances for employment and ensuring more sustainable livelihoods. Since 2016, EMPACT has trained over 7,000 people, positively impacting the lives and livelihoods of 33,000 refugees, IDPs and vulnerable populations in Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Kenya.

Supporting the safe return to schools

When governments closed schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 1.6 billion children were left out-of-school and 370 million children stopped receiving school meals, sometimes the only nutritious meal they receive daily. By December, 39 billion in-school meals had been missed out globally.

Since early 2020, the priority for WFP has been to support countries to adapt their programmes and, when it was safe to do so, to resume the vital health and nutrition services children receive at school, including school feeding. To this end, WFP supported governments in 57 countries to adapt their school meals programmes during COVID-19-induced school closures, using take-home rations, cash transfers or food vouchers to provide a valuable interim solution for millions of children and their households. For example, in Sri Lanka, WFP and the Government distributed take-home rations to support 80,000 primary school children, combined with measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 including a hygiene campaign, provision of Personal Protecting Equipment (PPE) for staff, and construction of hand-washing facilities in schools.

Today, school doors are still closed in 80 countries affecting 220 million children; 24 million schoolchildren remain at risk of dropping out of school due to continued school closures, reversing progress made in school enrolment in recent decades. In 2021, WFP will continue enhancing its support to governments to safely reopen schools and restore access to school meals when the situation allows.

WFP aims to reach 19.9 million schoolchildren in 2021, up from 17.7 million targeted in 2020. With schools reopening in Cambodia in early 2021, WFP is providing nutritious hot meals but will maintain a contingency to shift to take-home rations in case of closures; in parallel, WFP is working with the Government on policies, guidance and infrastructure enhancement to ensure a safe school environment. While in Cote d'Ivoire, where at the end of 2020 residents fled the western regions fearing volatile security around the elections, WFP has now gradually resumed food deliveries to re-start school feeding activities as households return. Beyond the immediate priority of supporting safe return to schools, WFP continues its efforts to scale-up coverage of national school meal programmes and including in humanitarian settings and to support the transition to nationally owned school feeding programmes.

⁴ Note: The beneficiary target should not be considered as a unique number. A beneficiary may be assisted under both WFP's resilience focus area (e.g. with school meals) as well as with targeted food assistance as part of WFP's crisis response.

To this end, in 2021 WFP will increase investment in technical support to governments by seven percent. WFP will launch a Research Consortium on School Health and Nutrition with the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Finally, WFP will build a coalition of partners with regional bodies such as the African Union, UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, private sector and NGO partners.

Building resilience in the Sahel

In 2018 WFP launched large-scale integrated resilience programme across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Working in partnership with communities and governments, the programme aims to catalyse lasting change. This means bringing degraded land back to life through asset development, getting children back to school, investing in healthy diets for mothers and children, creating jobs for youth, and contributing social cohesion through participatory planning.

Amidst a global pandemic and deteriorating security situation, WFP adapted its delivery modalities to maintain support. Between September 2019 and August 2020 WFP was able to: assist more than 1.2 million people; support 1,200 schools; rehabilitate and treat 31,000 hectares of degraded land; and rehabilitate or build more than 300 ponds, 100 wells and 66 boreholes.

In 2021, WFP will strengthen partnerships including with UNICEF for water and sanitation, promote community outreach for nutrition (eg community sessions on optimal breastfeeding successfully implemented in Mauritania), invest in income generation and “green” jobs (including micro-enterprises for compost production), scale up innovative technologies (eg digital “School Connect” platform in Niger), and reinforce conflict-sensitivity and inclusion of IDPs.



Investing in long-term systems recovery and strengthening

The global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic must effectively address the pandemic’s socioeconomic impact as well as the underlying vulnerabilities and inequalities it has exacerbated in order to be durable and protective. WFP’s [Socio-economic Response and Recovery Programme Framework](#) is guiding WFP’s longer-term programming, providing a flexible framework for WFP to support affected communities, national governments and partners to build back better.⁵ Many of the elements of the frameworks have already been touched upon, such as WFP’s increasing investments in technical assistance to support nationally owned school meal programmes, and the increasing role WFP is playing to support nutrition-sensitive national social protection systems. This section expands on these and other areas where WFP will leverage the experience and partnership built during the COVID-19 response to contribute to longer-term hunger solutions.

Supporting national social protection systems

Social protection has been a vital part of country-level responses to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, as more than 200 countries and territories adopted over 1,400 measures to cushion the shock of the pandemic. Governments in 65 countries have called upon WFP to help to introduce new social protection measures, or to strengthen or adapt existing ones in response to COVID-19, recognizing WFP’s longstanding contributions to social protection in most of the countries where it operates.

Looking forward, WFP will continue to provide technical advice and guidance to national actors and/or deliver elements of social protection programming on their behalf. Efforts are made to maximize the complementarity of WFP’s own COVID-19 emergency response interventions with national social protection, including by sharing knowledge, innovation and lessons learned. For example, in Malawi, WFP is supporting the government to transfer cash to 850,000 people for six months through the national social protection system, designed in a way that can be used far beyond the COVID-19 crisis. In Peru, WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development for the reopening of community kitchens and the design of a new food voucher assistance scheme.

Strengthening food systems

The economic consequences of the crisis are having a direct impact on people’s ability to access food. Working on both food demand and supply sides, WFP is supporting governments and partners to identify and address food system risks and disruptions, while working to analyse the long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

⁵ WFP, 11 January 2021. The [Socio-economic Response and Recovery Programme Framework](#) is the evolution of the [WFP’s Medium-term Programme Framework](#) published in June 2020.

For example, in Guatemala, WFP facilitated the procurement of food commodities to support the government in reaching over one million affected households and in 2021 WFP will build on this partnership to support national relief programmes as well as the “National Grand Crusade for Nutrition.”

In Kenya and Zambia, WFP, in partnership with CGIAR (the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) is enhancing governments’ food systems by analysing the impact of COVID-19 on food production, supply, and market systems – and providing policy and programme recommendations.

In Bangladesh, WFP is leveraging technology and innovation to link smallholder farmers to rural and urban markets. In parallel, WFP is building upon its experience with public-private sector alliances to strengthen targeted engagement at global level with the private sector on post-harvest losses, access to finances and agricultural inputs, and the integration of smallholder farmers into private sector supply chains to enable inclusive, longer-term food systems strengthening.



CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

In 2020, WFP supported households to navigate the economic fallout of the pandemic by providing cash-based transfers amounting to US\$ 2.1 billion across 67 WFP country offices, up from 64 countries in 2019. Two-thirds of the total cash transferred was in emergency settings. WFP also supported 37 governments to implement cash-based responses to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis for their populations.

As economic hardship continues to reduce access to food for millions in 2021, WFP will continue to work with governments and partners to support vulnerable groups to secure their essential needs while investing in longer-term safety nets and financial opportunities. In 2021 WFP aims to transfer US\$ 3.8 billion to assist nearly 48 million people across 73 countries, if resources allow. In Sudan, with support from the World Bank, WFP plans to reach up to 600,000 households with cash-based assistance by May 2021 in support of the Government programme. In Palestine, WFP is working with UNRWA on a multi-layer cash assistance approach for refugees and non-refugees in Gaza, building on lessons learned from the 2020 pilot. And in Uganda, WFP is partnering with UNHCR to strengthen the financial security of refugees by introducing innovative banking solutions coupled with financial literacy training.

Market, price, and currency monitoring will be essential components for enabling the delivery of appropriate cash-based responses in 2021. In Lebanon and Zimbabwe, where WFP has been scaling up to meet the increase in needs generated by economic crises, elevated levels of inflation for food and other basic goods will require close monitoring for cash-based interventions. In Myanmar, WFP is closely monitoring the socio-political situation as disruptions to banking services could risk delaying delivery of cash-based transfers.



PROVIDING GLOBAL COMMON SERVICES

In response to the severe impacts to global supply chains and commercial transport markets caused by COVID-19, in 2020 WFP leveraged its extensive supply chain capacity and logistics expertise to support the health and humanitarian community by quickly putting in place a Common Services structure designed to be flexible and driven by partner requirements. Over 10 months, WFP: transported more than 28,000 passengers to 68 destinations ensuring the vital movement of health and humanitarian workers from 424 organizations; dispatched more than 145,500 m3 of COVID-19 response items to 173 countries on behalf of 72 organizations – including the resupply and pre-positioning of large quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical health items which are enabling preparedness for additional waves of the virus today; and as part of its role as co-lead of the aviation arm of the UN Medevac Cell, carried out 96 medical evacuations ensuring duty of care for frontline humanitarian and health responders.

As the global transport situation and needs evolved over the course of the pandemic, WFP adapted its services. While initially WFP focused on air transport due to the urgent need for critical COVID-19 cargo, as in-country availability of items improved WFP increasingly leveraged sea freight allowing for more cost-efficient services. And as global transport markets stabilized in many areas in recent months, WFP scaled down its services where commercial capacity became available. As of February 2021, WFP continues its global passenger flights to locations which remain without viable international commercial alternatives, including: Yangon, Vientiane, Dili, Nadi and Port Moresby in the Asia-Pacific region; Asmara in the East Africa region; and Antananarivo in the Southern Africa region. Based on current demand, US\$ 4 million is urgently required to ensure passenger services can continue as needed until mid-year.

Today, service provision represents the largest area of growth within WFP Supply Chain. The experience of the past year demonstrated WFP's capacity to put in place a global supply chain structure, including end-to-end supply chain management and data analytics, if and when required, and strengthened relationships with governments, sister UN agencies, the NGO community and the private sector. Looking ahead, WFP will maintain the flexibility to scale-up services if and when the situation requires. As of February 2021 WFP, is expanding its infrastructure at critical hubs to meet potential temperature sensitive storage and transport needs for the next phase of the response, and any future health responses.



Section 3: Urgent funding appeal

Funding and resourcing

As of early January, WFP's approved 2021 Programme of Work for 2021 is US\$ 13.5 billion ranging across WFP's three priorities to save lives, support recovery and build back better, and enable inclusive social protection and food systems. **WFP urgently requires US\$ 4.2 billion to cover its funding gap for the coming six months (February - July 2021).⁶ Securing funds early is critical given the current reductions in food assistance and the lead time to deliver in complex areas.**

Going into 2021, the current funding forecast is estimated to be US\$ 7.8 billion, just over half of the current programme of work. This gap is made more concerning when considering that WFP total requirements are expected to only increase: currently, assessments are underway to inform needs including post-hurricane crop assessments underway in the Central America Corridor, and recent food security and livelihood assessments coming out of Syria.

Regional Summary⁷

	PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB-JUL 2021)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB-JUL 2021)	% NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS
Asia and the Pacific	640	308	48%
East Africa	1,915	1,154	60%
Latin America and the Caribbean	329	182	55%
Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa	2,152	1,311	61%
Southern Africa	885	571	65%
West and Central Africa	1,102	637	58%
TOTAL	7,023	4,163	59%

⁶ Note: the six-month requirements and shortfalls in this section reflect data as of 02 February 2021.

⁷ Additional breakdown by country can be found in Section 4.

Flexible funding is critical for WFP to be able to preposition commodities especially in complex supply corridors and operations, to implement timely preparedness actions in anticipation of an imminent risk identified through the Corporate Alert System, and to expedite the rapid delivery of cash and food assistance when a shock occurs. In addition to time-saving pre-positioning ahead of the Atlantic Hurricane season, WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) enabled rapid response to natural disasters, such as ensuring the initial food needs of 60,000 people affected by severe floods in Sindh province, Pakistan. In Mozambique, IRA was instrumental to allow WFP to sustain and scale-up life-saving assistance Cabo Delgado region, as the number of persons internally displaced assisted by WFP rapidly rose from 18,500 in January 2020, 350,000 by October.

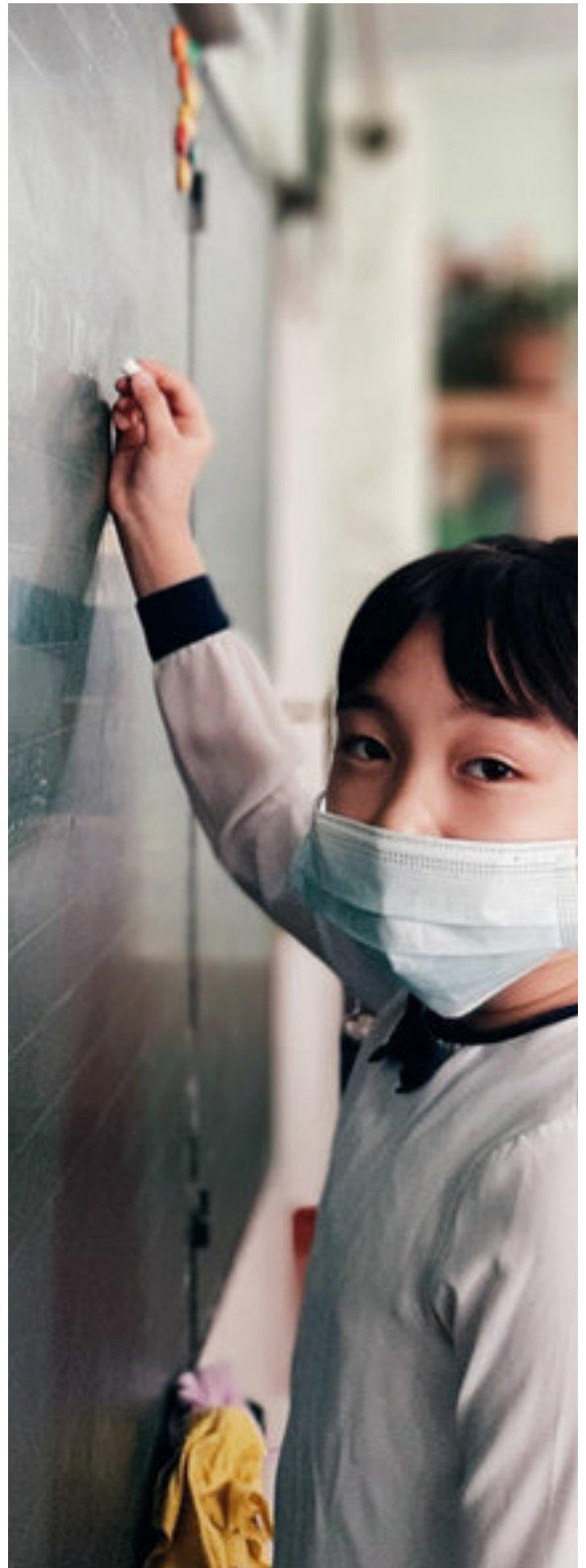
The IRA is an essential mechanism to allow WFP to rapidly kick-start a scale-up, but it remains limited. Today, the number of internally displaced in Cabo Delgado has further doubled, reaching 670,000 people as of February 2021. With a shortfall of nearly 80 percent as of early February, WFP's ability to respond is at risk.

Operations of highest concern (February 2021)

A reflection on last year's funding allocation shows that some country operations continue to receive chronically less attention than others. For example, while food insecurity is increasing dramatically in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan, these countries receive 15 times less funding than others relative to the level of people in need of food assistance.

Given the scale of the projected funding gap in 2021, and the urgent six-month appeal for US\$ 4.2 billion, this section identifies WFP operations of highest concern as of February 2021: the operations are those where the severity and scale of acute food insecurity, the scale of WFP's programme of work, and the urgency of WFP funding gaps, intersect, and where immediate funding is required to prevent a deteriorating situation. As of today, 26 operations are highlighted as in most urgent need of funding.

The list is not exhaustive. Across all WFP's more than 80 operations, funding gaps affect all or some part of its programme. Section 4 provides additional details by country on WFP's response plan and funding requirements for the coming six months.



OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN

(FEBRUARY 2021)

AFGHANISTAN

BURKINA FASO

COLOMBIA

ETHIOPIA

KENYA

MADAGASCAR

MOZAMBIQUE

MYANMAR

NIGERIA

SYRIA

UGANDA

YEMEN

ZIMBABWE

BANGLADESH

CAMEROON

**CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

EL SALVADOR

HAITI

HONDURAS

LEBANON

NIGER

PALESTINE

SOMALIA

SOUTH SUDAN

SUDAN

The operations identified are those where the severity and scale of food insecurity, the scale of WFP's programme of work, and the urgency of funding gaps, intersect. The operations on the left column meet all the three criteria while the operations on the right meet a subset.



Section 4: Regional Overview



Asia and the Pacific

A combination of factors is compounding food insecurity in Asia and the Pacific. COVID-19 continues to impact economies in particular the informal sector in urban and peri-urban areas, and the increased unemployment and income losses due to the pandemic are making it more difficult for vulnerable households to afford nutritious food. Extreme weather events including flash floods, landslides, tropical cyclones and drought, are displacing populations, impacting food production and driving prices higher. Meanwhile, conflict continues to cause displacement and disrupt food security and livelihoods. Combined, pressures from COVID-19, climate shocks and conflict have contributed to a 90 percent increase in the number of acutely food insecure people in the region, reaching an estimated 54 million people.

Looking ahead: the potential impact of La Niña between January and April may bring further distress to poor families in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

54M



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 308M

48%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT

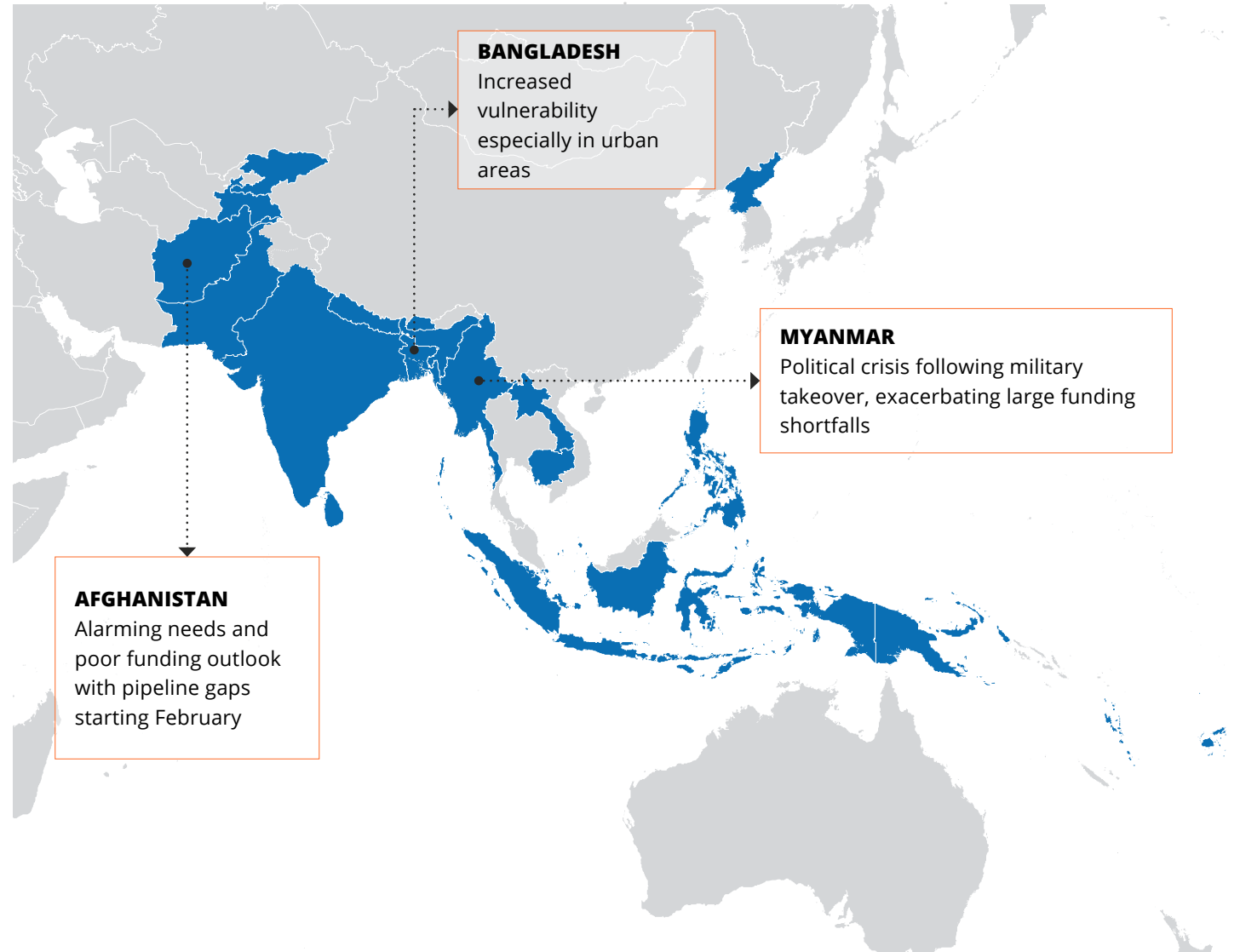


OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, MYANMAR

ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 2: BANGLADESH, MYANMAR



**ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**
SUMMARY OF WFP RESPONSE PLAN 2021

		PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Afghanistan	Nearly 17 million people (42 percent of the population) face emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 or higher. In 2021, WFP will ramp up its assistance to 13.2 million people in need of food and nutrition support across the country, including emergency food assistance to 5.5 million people in IPC Phase 4, displaced populations and recent returnees. WFP will build the resilience of food-insecure households through asset creation and vocational training, and support improved nutrition for children, pregnant and lactating women. WFP will support the Government's shock-responsive social safety net, early warning and climate change adaptation, and strengthen value chains for wheat and soya.	234.12	147.65	63%
Bangladesh	In 2021, WFP will continue to provide life-saving food and nutrition support to 870,000 Rohingya refugees and 184,500 Bangladeshis in host communities. WFP is piloting and scaling up innovative solutions in response to the pandemic, including blockchain technology. WFP is also offering incentives for beneficiaries in urban areas to use cash for nutrition-sensitive purchases, linking smallholder farmers to rural and urban markets, and delivering in-kind food assistance (including fortified biscuits) to people's homes in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.	195.28	70.48	36%
Bhutan	WFP will continue to assist the Government to respond and recover from COVID-19, including supporting smallholder farmers to increase production, link to markets and reduce post-harvest losses. WFP will continue to strengthen national disaster and pandemic management capacity with a focus on enhancing national coordination structures, earthquake modelling, research, data preparedness, logistics and food security. Moreover, WFP is working on improving children's diets and helping rural communities to stay healthy during the pandemic with innovative solutions including PLUS school meals.	0.87		0%
Cambodia	In 2021, WFP will continue to support the Government's social assistance programmes for poor and vulnerable people affected by the pandemic and other shocks. In addition to providing cash-based transfers, WFP will focus on enhancing national capacities for shock-responsive social protection and evidence generation on the impact of COVID-19. With the re-opening of schools from January 2021, WFP will provide nutritious hot meals with a contingency to shift take-home rations in case of closures; in parallel, WFP will work with the Government on policies, guidance and infrastructure enhancement to ensure a safe school environment.	9.46	0.08	1%
DPRK	The interim Country Strategic Plan has been extended to the end of 2021. WFP plans to continue its assistance to pregnant and lactating women, children in nurseries, beneficiaries in paediatric wards, hospitals and boarding schools as soon as restrictions on domestic and international travel permit.	25.55	2.56	10%
India	WFP will continue to support the Government's food-based safety nets, instrumental during the COVID-19 crisis, and will also support the local production of fortified supplementary foods for vulnerable groups by working with women's micro-enterprises. WFP will focus on research and evaluation around food security, women's empowerment, gender and inclusion. Capacity strengthening for national NGOs, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and south-south and triangular cooperation are also priorities.	2.06		0%
Indonesia	In 2021 WFP will continue to support the Government-led COVID-19 response in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan coordinated by the United Nations Country Team. WFP will provide technical assistance to enhance the National Logistics Cluster's capacity to coordinate and respond to COVID-19 and natural hazards, strengthen information management and communication, and enhance guidelines and training materials for community-based volunteers in support of the government's pandemic response. In addition, WFP will continue technical assistance to enhance utilization of early warning for adaptive social protection systems.	1.42	0.58	41%
Kyrgyzstan	The pandemic and recent political unrest have increased poverty and affected Kyrgyzstan's already-strained socio-economic situation, marked by reduced economic activities, decreased remittances, price spikes and a growing fiscal gap. In 2021 WFP is scaling up its cash-based transfer support while also maintaining a focus on enabling the Government response. WFP's productive safety net interventions are addressing the heightened needs by improving people's food security and nutrition.	7.11		0%

Lao People's Democratic Republic	In 2021 WFP will continue supporting the Government in implementing its COVID-19 response. Together with cooperating partners, WFP will provide food assistance to returning migrants at Government-run quarantine centres; the food assistance package comprises three meals per day distributed to approximately 1,300 daily beneficiaries at a monthly cost of US\$ 300,000. WFP is actively seeking additional funding to allow feeding to continue beyond March 2021 and to respond to evolving needs.	9.42	1.83	19%
Myanmar	WFP will continue to provide life-saving food and nutrition support to about 350,000 people displaced or otherwise affected by conflict, while stepping up assistance to those worst affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, particularly in urban areas. WFP will support the social protection system, while continuing to invest in school feeding and asset creation activities. Common Services including humanitarian flights will continue, subject to funding and permission, until commercial flights resume.	49.71	44.01	89%
Nepal	WFP will continue to gather data and provide analysis of vulnerability and migration induced by COVID-19 in Nepal. Informed by this evidence, WFP will assist families affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic through green asset creation as well as malnutrition prevention activities for children and mothers. Additionally, WFP will continue its support to the national logistics cluster to store, transport and handle emergency medical relief supplies throughout the country.	19.54	1.47	8%
Pacific Island Countries	WFP will continue to support eight Pacific governments with mVAM household-level food security assessments. With commercial airline operations still limited, WFP will continue to operate the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service. The Pacific Office will try to maintain its support to Pacific governments in preparedness and response to cyclones and other extreme weather events, despite border restrictions across challenging to travel between Pacific countries for the implementation of regular activities.	7.41	2.08	28%
Pakistan	In 2021 WFP will align crisis response, resilience, preparedness and livelihood activities, support girls' education, and enable nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection. WFP will enhance data analysis and assessments and support food systems. WFP will also strengthen engagement with provincial authorities at the technical and policy level to further tailor its response to specific contextual challenges. Increased emphasis will be put on partnering with the host government, international financial institutions and development banks, amidst a reduction in traditional donor funding.	55.43	30.13	54%
The Philippines	WFP will continue to assist the Government's response to COVID-19 by providing transport and equipment, helping to monitor the Social Amelioration Programme and provide advice about food security and nutrition. WFP is also implementing a cash-based emergency response benefitting communities affected by typhoons and COVID-19, while maintaining its capacity strengthening and peacebuilding activities to improve the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable.	6.59	2.28	35%
Sri Lanka	WFP plans to continue providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to improve the production and quality of the supplementary food 'Thriposha' for pregnant mothers and children under 5. Additionally, WFP plans to help boost the Ministry's preparedness capacities with better data visualization and information mapping in the context of public health in emergencies, including for the COVID-19 response.	5.10	2.37	46%
Tajikistan	With drought forecast due to La Niña, WFP is ready to respond to government requests for assistance in response to extreme weather events. WFP plans to expand its COVID-19 response through livelihood support, take-home rations for school children, and nutrition programmes. WFP is also working to strengthen Government disaster risk reduction and emergency response capacities and is supporting a national platform to monitor food security and nutrition. Resource mobilization will remain a priority, as significant funding constraints exist for all activities.	9.84	2.04	21%
Timor-Leste	WFP will continue its support to the Government across a range of initiatives, including the universal <i>cesta basika</i> (basic basket) programme, food price monitoring, and pilots on home-grown school feeding and rice fortification. WFP is also in discussions with additional ministries and bodies on strengthening preparedness and response systems to local emergencies.	1.27		0%



Eastern Africa

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

51.4M



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 1.2B

60%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT



OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, UGANDA



ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 3: SOUTH SUDAN



In 2021, conflict, insecurity, displacement, natural hazards, and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, will continue to drive substantial food insecurity across East and Central Africa. As per the 2020 Global Food Crisis Report, three of the world's eight largest food crises were from this region – Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan – all of which saw their situation deteriorate in the past year due to increased conflict, insecurity, flooding, the most severe locust invasion in decades, and COVID-19.

In 2021, WFP will prioritise social protection programmes to protect the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable demographics affected by the economic backlash of COVID-19. Significant funding will be needed to assist more than four million refugees and eight million internally displaced persons in the region, whose assistance is marred by chronic resource shortages.

REGIONAL

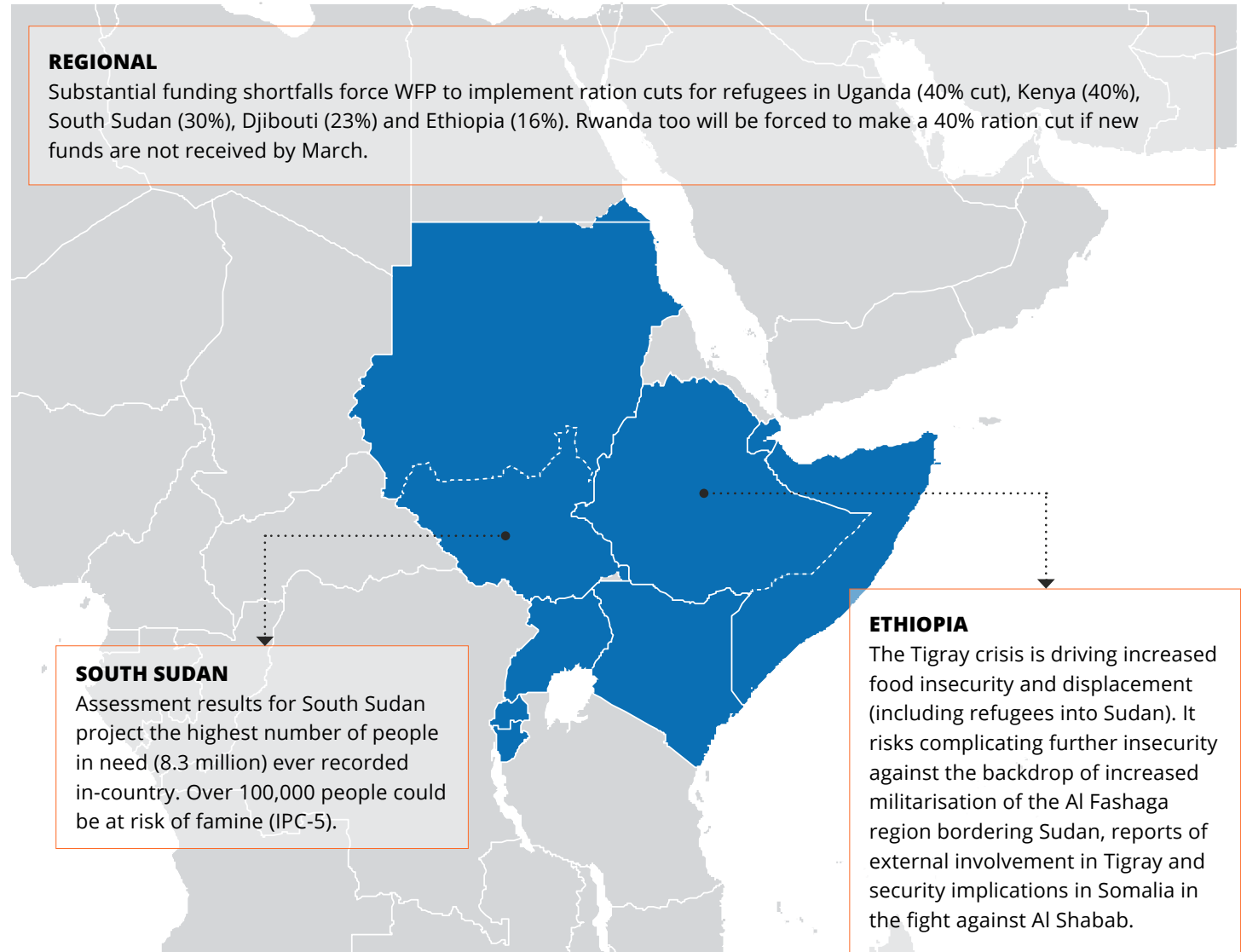
Substantial funding shortfalls force WFP to implement ration cuts for refugees in Uganda (40% cut), Kenya (40%), South Sudan (30%), Djibouti (23%) and Ethiopia (16%). Rwanda too will be forced to make a 40% ration cut if new funds are not received by March.

SOUTH SUDAN

Assessment results for South Sudan project the highest number of people in need (8.3 million) ever recorded in-country. Over 100,000 people could be at risk of famine (IPC-5).

ETHIOPIA

The Tigray crisis is driving increased food insecurity and displacement (including refugees into Sudan). It risks complicating further insecurity against the backdrop of increased militarisation of the Af Fashaga region bordering Sudan, reports of external involvement in Tigray and security implications in Somalia in the fight against Al Shabab.



EAST AFRICA	SUMMARY OF WFP RESPONSE PLAN 2021	PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Burundi	WFP will continue its support to refugees and vulnerable local populations through in-kind food and cash-based transfers, along with the provision of emergency food assistance and repatriation packages to an increasing number of returnees from Tanzania and Rwanda. Working closely with the Government, WFP will also continue prioritizing nutrition and school meals programmes in 2021.	46.14	24.57	53%
Djibouti	In 2021, WFP will continue to assist refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and vulnerable households in rural and urban areas through unconditional in-kind distributions and SCOPE cash transfers. Due to insufficient resources, refugees are receiving 70 percent of their required rations, urban vulnerable population are receiving 50 percent less oil than planned, and planned nutrition activities for children under five are on hold. Where the health situation requires, WFP continues to adopt COVID-19 sensitive delivery mechanisms, distributing two-month rations to refugees. In collaboration with the Government, WFP will also continue a last round of cash vouchers to an additional 7,600 vulnerable households registered in the social registry in Djibouti city and county towns.	13.73	4.45	32%
Ethiopia	In 2021, WFP will continue to support four million vulnerable Ethiopians and refugees by providing emergency relief assistance (in-kind food, specialized nutritious foods, and cash-based transfers), implementing resilience building activities, and supporting the Government's Productive Safety Net Programme. In addition to procuring 200,000 mt of food for the Government's food assistance programmes, WFP is scaling its response in Tigray including general food assistance, nutrition programming, and common logistics services. Humanitarian access, elections in June, and drought will remain important challenges against increased humanitarian needs due to mass displacement. Funding constraints will continue to challenge WFP's response: today, refugees are receiving only 84 percent of planned rations.	330.89	224.12	68%
Kenya	WFP is complementing the Government's COVID-19 response in Kenya through its urban response, targeting vulnerable people affected by the loss of income due to COVID-19 in Nairobi's informal settlements and Mombasa County. In 2021, WFP will also resume school feeding activities. Together with FAO, WFP will continue implementing programmes to support smallholder farmers, such as through irrigation schemes for groundnuts production. WFP is also closely monitoring the desert locust situation and stands ready to adjust and scale up response as necessary. Due to resource constraints, refugees are receiving only 60 percent of planned rations.	127.93	77.12	60%
Rwanda	In Rwanda, WFP is prioritizing life-saving support to Congolese refugees, Burundian refugees and returnees. Due to a lack of resources, a 60 percent ration reduction is expected to start in March and 100 percent reduction from July unless additional contributions are received. School meal activities have resumed and support to children will continue throughout 2021. WFP faces significant funding shortfalls, and additional resources are required to continue providing critical food and nutrition assistance – including for refugees. WFP will also continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and other partners to provide technical assistance for the expansion of social protection amidst COVID-19.	25.10	9.82	39%
Somalia	WFP plans to provide lifesaving food assistance to 1.9 million people in 2021 through food and cash transfers to mitigate the impact of recurrent and multiple shocks including food and nutrition crises, widespread insecurity, political instability, underdeveloped infrastructure, and natural hazards such as drought and floods – all in the wake of the pandemic. In addition, WFP will continue partnering with the Government to provide quarterly cash-based mobile transfers to over 200,000 people through the national safety net programme. Currently, all relief beneficiaries are receiving 50 percent less cereal due to resource constraints.	367.77	210.95	57%

South Sudan	WFP will prioritize lifesaving food and nutrition assistance across emergency, nutrition and livelihoods programmes, including to people at risk of falling into famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 5. Prepositioning of 190,000 mt of food is underway to enable delivery ahead of the April rainy season. While food assistance in priority areas is marred by violence, subnational conflict and flooding, WFP will continue working with the Government to maintain humanitarian access and expand its target caseload, resources permitting. Securing resources upfront is critical to enable operations, including timely prepositioning. Currently, all people of concern are receiving only 70 percent rations due to funding constraints.	505.58	274.55	54%
Sudan	In 2021, WFP will continue to provide life-saving food through in-kind, cash-based transfers, and nutrition assistance to respond to needs resulting from insecurity in the Darfur region, Ethiopian refugees fleeing violence from Tigray, high inflation and sustained increases in food prices. With support from the World Bank, WFP's general food assistance and food assistance for assets programmes have been revised upwards from October 2020 to ensure that beneficiaries continue to receive an adequate level of assistance, aiming to reach up to 600,000 households with cash-based assistance by May 2021. WFP will prioritise support for the Government of Sudan's Family Support Programme, which ultimately aims to provide direct cash-based assistance to some 80 percent of families amidst the current challenging economic circumstances.	356.33	204.82	57%
Uganda	Since 2020, WFP has been providing food assistance to 1.2 million refugees in Uganda despite ration cuts due to financial constraints. In the first months of 2021, rations will be further cut back to 60 percent as a result of insufficient funds. Unless new contributions are received, these rations will be further cut to 55 percent starting from June. In 2021 WFP will continue its collaboration with the Ministry of Education to provide take-home rations to school children. Together with UNHCR, WFP will continue its cash assistance to urban refugees using mobile money and over-the-counter cash. In 2021, WFP will seek to strengthen the financial security of refugees by introducing innovative banking solutions coupled with financial literacy training.	141.41	123.16	87%



Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2020, the Latin America and the Caribbean region experienced the highest relative increase in acute food insecurity of any WFP region as the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic compounded the effect of consecutive droughts, the most active Atlantic hurricane season ever recorded, the second largest global migration crisis and political instability. As of February 2021, an estimated 15.7 million people are acutely food insecure (or at risk) across WFP countries of operation, including 2.1 million migrants.

Looking ahead to 2021, critical elections in Haiti and Nicaragua and economic reforms in Cuba, present a risk for instability – while millions of people affected by back to back Tropical storms in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras will require sustained emergency and livelihood support through the next harvest. In Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, 3.2 million migrants and refugees, of which almost half are irregular, continue to be severely impacted by COVID-19, closure of borders and limited opportunities for integration.

Ongoing scale-up of WFP programmes in 2021 to respond to the deteriorating food security situation could further increase requirements, including in Haiti and Central America.

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

15.7M



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 182M

55%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT



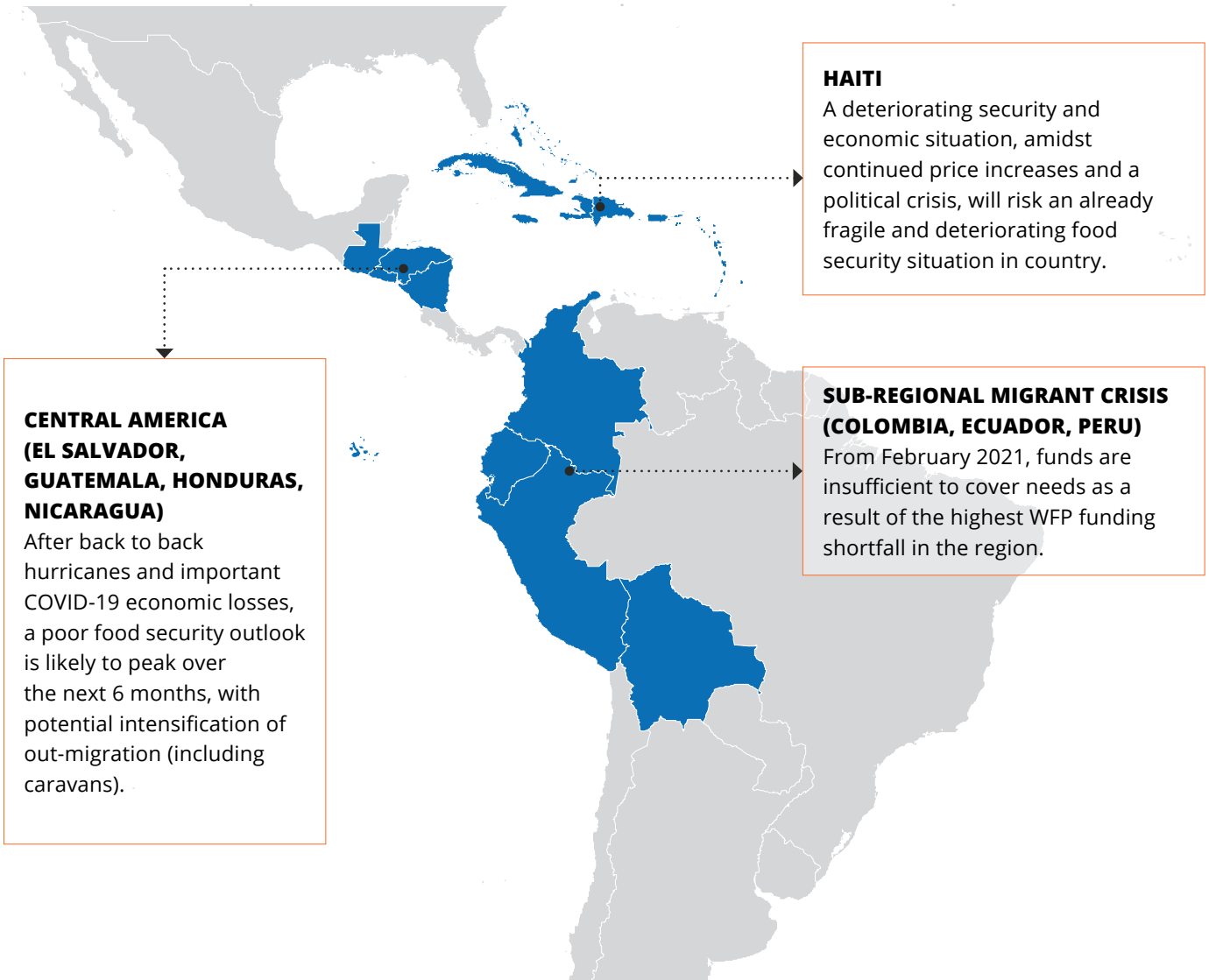
OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

COLOMBIA, HAITI, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR



ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 2: SUB-REGIONAL MIGRANT CRISIS: COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PERU



**LATIN
AMERICA
AND THE
CARIBBEAN**
SUMMARY OF WFP RESPONSE PLAN 2021

		PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Bolivia	Bolivia has been significantly affected by political instability and the socio-economic effects of the COVID 19 crisis, with an estimated 1.4 million people in severe food insecurity. The number of COVID-19 positive cases have doubled since 2020 and the country is about to enter another political cycle with the upcoming municipal and departmental elections in March. WFP continues to provide support to self-isolation centres as well as rural areas and indigenous settlements affected by climatic events through recovery and resilience interventions.	1.94	1.46	75%
English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean	COVID-19 continues to have significant socio-economic impacts on populations within the Caribbean, leading to loss of livelihoods and increased food insecurity. WFP has scaled up support to governments through technical assistance and cash-based transfers with an emphasis on strengthening responses through social protection systems. WFP will continue to support digitalization, targeting and monitoring, among other areas. WFP is providing technical assistance to strengthen capacities in emergency preparedness and response readiness at the sub-regional and national levels.	12.48	12.48	100%
Colombia	Given current funding forecasts, WFP will likely be required to reduce support to Venezuelan migrants, victims of violence and COVID-19-affected populations, despite increasing needs among these groups. WFP will maintain its resilience-building and economic integration activities to strengthen livelihood opportunities for vulnerable populations and maintain its support to the Government through capacity strengthening and direct implementation in the areas of social protection, school feeding and nutrition. The socio-economic impact of COVID-19, increasing migrant influx and growing violence will remain key challenges in 2021, compounded by insufficient humanitarian funding.	3.91	91.43	81%
Cuba	WFP will scale up food assistance through social protection programmes, prioritizing elderly people, pregnant women and children under 2. To enhance emergency response capacities, a ready-to-eat product will be included in the pre-positioned stocks and the Civil Defence's national and provincial multi-hazard situation rooms will be supported. WFP will also continue to contribute to the socioeconomic recovery strategy by through support to local food systems and livelihoods.	112.56	0.53	14%
Dominican Republic	COVID-19 continues to impact local populations through loss of livelihoods and increased levels of moderate and severe food insecurity. WFP will continue distributing nutritious foods through national primary health care programmes, targeting 100,000 vulnerable individuals. WFP will also scale-up nutritional assistance, distribution of food kits and cash-based transfers, targeting 208,000 people. WFP will sustain its capacity augmentation initiatives in support of national social protection programmes in areas such as assurance, retail supply chain, and transfer composition and will continue to provide logistics and telecommunications services.	4.63	2.98	64%
Ecuador	WFP provides logistics coordination in support of the emergency response and technical support to strengthen shock responsive social protection capacity. WFP also attends populations in human mobility and Ecuadorians severely impacted by the pandemic while supporting smallholder farmers to encourage self-sufficiency and rebuild the livelihoods of affected populations. The influx of Venezuelan nationals through the borders with Colombia and Peru and the border closure in Peru, to prevent illegal entry of migrants, will remain an important challenge to humanitarian assistance.	35.12	11.78	34%

El Salvador	In 2021, WFP will scale up its cash-based support to people affected by COVID-19 pandemic and climate emergencies as well as its livelihood support programmes to foster recovery, resilience building and climate change adaptation. Initiatives for disaster risk reduction and a greater focus on capacity strengthening and technical assistance to governmental institutions will also be prioritized in 2021. Activities focused on the reduction of violence, migration, nutrition and support to smallholder farmers' access to markets, are likely to be drastically reduced due to funding shortfalls despite research and evidence showing the positive contribution of WFP programmes in these areas.	15.26	15.26	100%
Guatemala	2.7 million people are food insecure in Guatemala following the pandemic, recurrent droughts, and two back to back tropical storms. WFP plans to assist 1.3 million of the most severely affected population through scaled up distributions of in-kind food and cash-based transfers. WFP is also supporting the Government-led relief programmes, as well as the "National Grand Crusade for Nutrition," through the procurement of food commodities and supplementary nutritious foods, and by making available its digital platforms to strengthen the reliability and transparency of these programmes.	11.65	4.94	42%
Haiti	The September 2020 food security update (IPC) showed a deteriorating situation due to the impact of COVID-19, ongoing socio-political turmoil, and below average harvests in 2020 for a consecutive year. In 2021 WFP will scale up emergency response to provide direct food assistance to 900,000 people in need of life-saving assistance, alongside the significant reinforcement of its safety net and resilience activities to sustain livelihoods and safeguard nutrition, all the while mitigating further emergency food assistance needs. UNHAS services will be maintained if funding is secured. The 2021 planned scale-up to address the deteriorating food security situation in country is enabled by traditional donors as well as new IFI partnerships secured since 2020. In 2021 WFP is launching research with SIPRI and FAO on to understand how food security programmes contribute to peace and social cohesion.	70.40	7.60	11%
Honduras	2.9 million people face IPC Phase 3 food insecurity in Honduras, which was hit by two back-to-back hurricanes at the end of 2020. In the coming months WFP will assist 383,000 hurricane-affected people through cash-based transfers, commodity and value vouchers (depending on beneficiary preferences and market conditions). An imminent budget revision to WFP's crisis response component will include an increase in capacity strengthening activities for Governmental and Implementing partners.	30.20	24.00	80%
Nicaragua	In 2021 WFP plans to assist 485,500 people, including populations impacted by hurricanes Eta and Iota who remain in need of assistance during recovery of assets and livelihoods, as well as smallholder farmers impacted by COVID-19. WFP recovery support will include livelihoods kits through service delivery. Additionally, WFP will scale up assistance in the dry corridor, reaching additional subsistence farmers, whose livelihoods are recurrently impacted by climatic shocks. Regular activities will continue as planned, including school feeding, support to smallholder farmers in productive areas, and capacity strengthening to government institutions.	17.90	3.10	17%
Peru	As the COVID-19 second wave hits the country, WFP will sustain and scale-up its cash-based food assistance, mainly to Venezuelan migrants who cannot access the national social protection schemes. Logistics support to the Government's response for vulnerable households will continue being a top priority. As Zero Hunger emerges as a key policy for the national agenda, WFP will continue with its advocacy, evidence generation and capacity building approach related to food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk management.	12.93	6.37	49%



Middle East and Northern Africa

There are 43.1 million¹ people facing acute food insecurity across the Middle East and North Africa. Protracted conflict and economic instability combined with COVID-19 undermined food security across the region, mainly in Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, where food prices soared following the depreciation of local currencies and elevated inflation. Loss of earnings and reduced remittances (-20 percent) following lockdowns and return migration decreased households' purchasing power.

The sharp fall in global oil prices (-35 percent from 2019) and demand (-1.9 million barrels) coupled with a decline in tourism revenues (-57 percent) placed additional fiscal strains, limiting governments' capacity to implement assistance policies targeting the neediest.

Following a regional economic contraction of 10 percent last year, socio-economic challenges will endure in 2021 undermining food security and access to basic needs.

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

43.1m



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 1.3B

61%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT



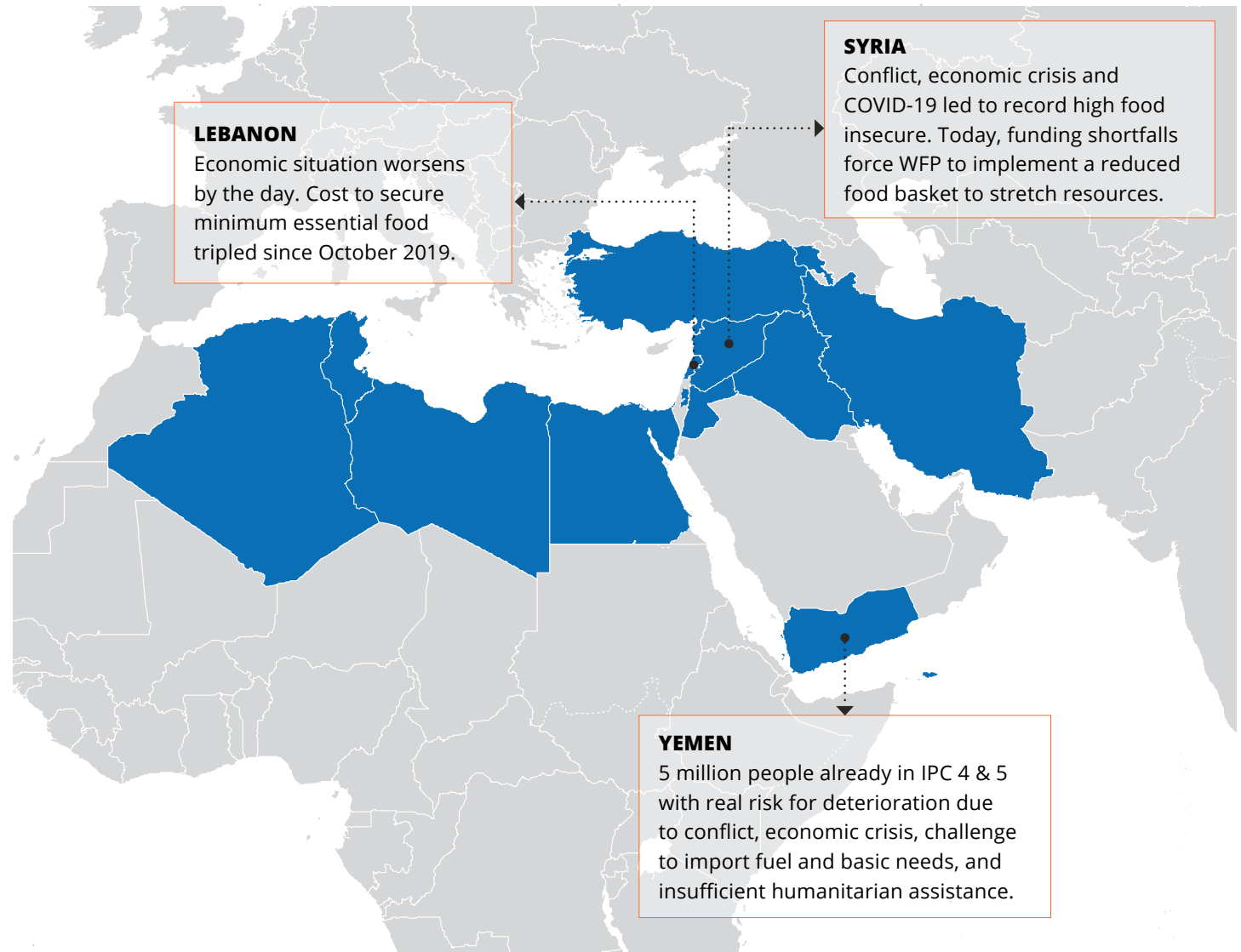
OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEBANON, PALESTINE, SYRIA, YEMEN



ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 2: IRAQ, LIBYA, SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE
LEVEL 3: YEMEN, SYRIA



¹ For the Middle East and Northern Africa, the estimate considers all countries in the region except Iran and Morocco.

**MIDDLE
EAST AND
NORTHERN
AFRICA²**
SUMMARY OF WFP RESPONSE PLAN 2021

		PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Algeria	WFP will continue providing food assistance to help meet the basic food and nutrition needs of the Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf and improve their nutrition status through activities that are nutrition sensitive and gender responsive. WFP will maintain its broader support to tackle malnutrition and the high prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and girls, while new livelihood activities will enhance the opportunities of women and men, and young people.	9.62	6.53	68%
Armenia	The food security situation in Armenia continues to be affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis-induced displacements of the last quarter of 2020. In 2021, WFP will provide cash assistance for up to 54,000 spontaneous arrivals and 20,000 members of the host community to support their access to food and nutrition security. WFP has been monitoring the food security situation since June and is about to launch its third assessment to inform assistance provision.	9.15	7.12	78%
Egypt	In collaboration with the Government, WFP will deliver emergency support in areas of high food insecurity and/or with a high concentration of refugees, asylum seekers, and affected host communities. WFP will provide assistance via cash-based transfers, and also complement assistance through national programmes including job creation for women and youths, vocational training, rural development support, and nutrition support for vulnerable communities, particularly in rural areas most affected by the pandemic. Through digital innovation, WFP will support greater access to information for vulnerable communities.	58.65	47.88	82%
Iran	WFP has been requested by the Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to act as co-lead with WHO for a humanitarian corridor to facilitate the procurement and delivery of mainly medicine and eventually food commodities into the country in the event of further tightening of sanctions.	2.39	0.83	35%
Iraq	Food assistance through cash-based transfers to IDP and refugee in-camp residents will continue. Resilience activities will drive the transition from humanitarian to development efforts through the expansion of food for asset activities, urban livelihoods and EMPACT in food insecure areas. Capacity strengthening activities will be undertaken in support of the Government and partners, including School Feeding activities and support to the national Social Protection system at both policy and operational level, including efforts to modernize data processes of the Public Distribution System.	88.20	36.11	41%
Jordan	COVID-19 exacerbated the vulnerability of all vulnerable populations in Jordan, especially refugees. WFP will therefore increase support to refugee households including the newly vulnerable and provide dedicated assistance to in-camp beneficiaries in quarantine. For the host population, WFP continues its partnerships with the Government developing the National Food Security and School Feeding strategies as well as enhancing national safety nets and disaster risk reduction approaches through technical support. WFP will also continue to implement school feeding, innovation and resilience activities.	131.00	74.58	57%
Lebanon	In 2021, WFP will expand unconditional cash assistance to reach over one million Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities per month. In addition, WFP is significantly expanding its assistance to vulnerable Lebanese households through the National Poverty Targeting Programme, in response to the economic crisis and COVID-19 (with in-kind assistance transitioning to cash assistance), and the implementation of the Emergency Social Safety Net programme jointly with the World Bank and the Government.	260.65	79.50	31%

² Not highlighted in table: In Morocco WFP supports capacity strengthening of national institutions to implement an enhanced school meal programme that improve food security, nutrition and social protection (CSP 2019-2021)

Libya	WFP is continuing to assist food-insecure and vulnerable people including crisis-affected internally displaced people, returnees, non-displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants living in urban settings, through the provision food assistance including through electronic commodity vouchers. WFP is enabling livelihoods such as through an Agriculture Value Chain project with UNDP and maintains regular data collection through mVAM and the Migration Pulse to inform response efforts.	18.85	10.90	58%
Palestine	WFP is prioritizing continued food assistance to the 346,000 pre-COVID 19 beneficiaries, while also assisting some 25,000 newly registered beneficiaries in Gaza. WFP is working with UNRWA on an aligned multi-layer cash assistance approach for refugees and non-refugees in Gaza. A monthly cash top-up of US\$ 20 per person is provided to strengthen the purchasing power of poor households to access essential services, in addition to food vouchers or in-kind food assistance. This approach builds on lessons learned from the current pilot on Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance targeting the poorest households. The new approach considers the limited donor funding and aligns with the national cash programme run by the Ministry of Social Development.	37.87	41.23	100%
Syria	Following 10 years of crisis, food insecurity was significantly exacerbated since 2019 through a combination of factors including the regional economic and banking crisis, direct and knock-on effects of COVID-19 on food security and the agriculture sector, devastating wildfires and other climate-induced shocks. The annual Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment shows a steady increase in the estimated food insecure population from 7.9 million people in 2019, to 12.4 million people based on latest December 2020 assessment. With imminent pipeline breaks on horizon, WFP is already implementing a reduced basket to stretch its current resources; with a four-month lead time to import food into the country, timely and predictable contributions are critical.	591.93	377.69	64%
Tunisia	WFP is continuing to focus on strengthening Government capacity to improve the quality and sustainability of the National School Meals Programme as a key safety net for the most vulnerable households. WFP will continue to provide technical assistance and policy advice to the Ministry of Education and its Office of School Services, which WFP has supported since its inception in 2015.	0.33		0%
Turkey	In 2021 WFP, together with its partners, will strengthen its focus on livelihood programmes to equip refugees and vulnerable members of the host community with vocational skills and widen their employment prospects. WFP aims to not only expand to more provinces but also include new sectors to reach more refugees. WFP will maintain its e-voucher assistance to nearly 56,000 refugees living in six camps in the country's southeast to ensure in-camp residents are able to meet their basic needs.	49.30	39.90	81%
Yemen	WFP plans to complete a beneficiary retargeting and registration exercise for some 4.2 million people in the South and nine million in the North, with food assistance efforts hampered by lack of funding that will affect nine million people, more than two-thirds of the total 13 million people who WFP already struggles to reach. UNHAS has received confirmation to establish a permanent hub in Addis Ababa serving the response. With the lifting of the travel ban for transit passengers through Amman, UNHAS is working to secure blanket clearance for humanitarian air operations.	889.21	583.94	66%



Southern Africa

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

48.9M



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 571M

65%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT



OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

DRC, MOZAMBIQUE, MADAGASCAR, ZIMBABWE

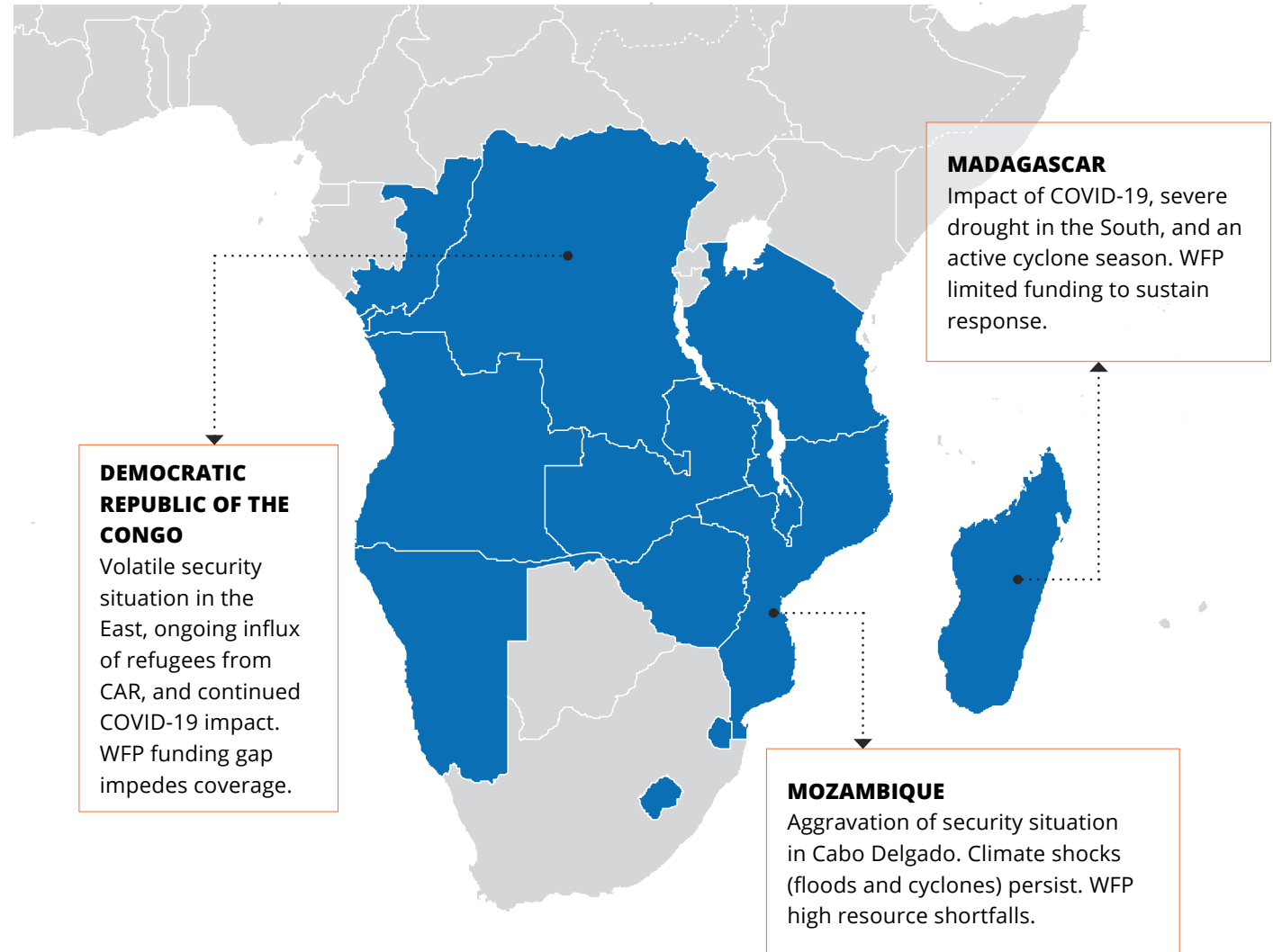
ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 2: MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE
LEVEL 3: DRC



As of February 2021, 48.9 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure (or at risk) in the Southern Africa region, with a significant upsurge owing to the cumulated effects of conflict, displacement, economic instability, COVID-19, and recurring climatic shocks. 2021 will likely see a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, with a surge in COVID-19 cases, aggravation of conflict in Northern Mozambique and Eastern DRC and forecast for yet another below-average rainy season.

While WFP sustained and scaled up its operational footprint to face such unprecedented challenges, Southern Africa has one of the highest percentages of unmet needs and net funding requirements for the next six months – impeding WFP’s ability to scale up to the level required to address the growing hunger situation.



SOUTHERN AFRICA		SUMMARY OF WFP RESPONSE PLAN 2021		PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Angola	WFP will continue assisting Congolese refugees with basic food and nutrition requirements, while supporting repatriation when possible and promoting refugees' self-reliance interventions. WFP will continue supporting the Government through technical assistance interventions, mostly funded by the World Bank, in the areas of vulnerability assessments, school feeding and on-demand supply chain services. WFP will also continue supporting health authorities and partners to scale up nutrition activities, including through the procurement of specialized nutritious foods, training of health providers and support to fortification initiatives.	3.84	0.04	1%		
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Already hosting the largest number of food-insecure people in the world, DRC increasingly suffers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (over 92,000 as of February 2021), the aggravation of conflict in the East and humanitarian access challenges. As the complex humanitarian crisis continues to unfold, WFP will sustain and adapt its response to ensure conflict sensitive life-saving assistance is provided, while promoting capacity strengthening of Government institutions and leveraging opportunities to contribute to stability and peace. The resurgence of Ebola epidemic is a matter of high concern for DRC and the region.	397.03	208.15	52%		
Eswatini	WFP will continue to provide food and cash transfers to the COVID-19 and drought-affected populations, including people living with HIV, children, pregnant and lactating women, and orphans. Building on the work carried out in 2020, WFP will also continue to support the Government in improving food and nutrition security and creating safety nets for the most vulnerable people, including through the home-grown school meals approach.	6.85	4.05	59%		
Lesotho	WFP will continue its efforts to support the most vulnerable people in urban areas who are affected by the impact of COVID-19, assisting households with vulnerable children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those in the informal sector in most at-risk urban councils, while also expanding food-assistance-for-assets to mitigate the impact of livelihood disruptions and to support recovery. This approach will also be complemented by the continued collaboration with the Government and partners on strengthening early warning systems against future shocks.	16.80	4.35	26%		
Madagascar	Urgent action is required to avert pre-famine like conditions in Madagascar, which has been hit by the worst drought in five years. 1.35 million people have been left with nothing to eat and spiralling rates of severe malnutrition have also been observed and are putting children's future at stake. WFP will focus on the provision of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations affected by climatic shocks, including the ongoing severe drought in the South and an active cyclone season in the Northeast, as well as the cumulative effects of the pandemic. Resilience-building and capacity strengthening activities will remain part of WFP's strategy aiming to support household livelihoods and resilience to climate shocks in the long term. Funding shortfalls present a major impediment.	39.54	34.87	88%		
Malawi	WFP will continue supporting the Government and partners in harmonizing the urban COVID-19 response and the ongoing lean season response in rural areas. Areas of support will include price monitoring and vulnerability assessments to better understand how COVID-19 and its associated mitigating measures are impacting market access and food security, as well as to help inform response modality discussions. Critical support, including assistance to refugees, nutrition prevention, school feeding take-home rations and livelihood activities, will continue to be reinforced.	34.89	2.15	6%		

Mozambique	WFP will further expand its role as a provider of life-saving support and enabler of the humanitarian response in Mozambique in 2021, particularly to those affected by the aggravating security situation in Cabo Delgado and climatic shocks, including the effects of cyclone Eloise and flooding. WFP will continue to strengthen its partnerships to mitigate humanitarian constraints in Cabo Delgado, sustain advocacy for the Humanitarian Principles, and will continue to support national social protection and emergency preparedness systems. Sustained funding remains a critical impediment for WFP operations in Mozambique.	166.69	132.40	79%
Namibia	WFP continues to play an important role as a technical partner to the Government, facilitating the development and transfer of knowledge and supplementing the Government's food security and nutrition programmes. Upon request of the Government, in 2020 WFP also assisted drought-affected populations and the urban poor, given the severity of the drought and the limited national resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP's primary focus for 2021 remains in capacity strengthening, particularly in the area of national food safety nets.	1.78	3.12	100%
Republic of the Congo	WFP will maintain its support to the most vulnerable populations in coping with various shocks, which include the catastrophic floods over the past two years, the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19, and the aggravation of the security situation in the Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo, with increased influx of refugees and asylum-seekers. The collaboration with the Government and partners will also continue to be a key area of focus for strengthening national social protection and emergency preparedness capacity.	22.86	21.24	93%
Tanzania	In 2020, refugee rations had to be cut to 68 percent due to pipeline breaks. Prolonged low ration levels are concerning for a refugee population that is fully reliant on WFP food assistance as a result of encampment policies and restrictions on income generation and farming within the camps. Life-saving assistance to refugees, as well as continued food security monitoring through mVAM to guide the lean season response will need to be sustained. WFP will continue to promote innovative approaches to the food security and nutrition challenges faced by the country.	33.89	18.76	55%
Zambia	WFP will continue to assist the most vulnerable, support the country's safety net mechanisms and provide on-demand logistics support as required throughout 2021, as the country prepares to face challenges in various fronts. These include: the acceleration in the spread of COVID-19, the weakening of public finances and deterioration of the purchasing power, the increase in the number of Congolese refugees in country, and political tensions ahead of the general elections in August.	6.55	0.14	2%
Zimbabwe	The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate with the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19, persistent economic challenges, and climatic shocks (e.g. prolonged droughts). As the country approaches the peak of the lean season in the first months of 2021, WFP is sustaining and scaling up its assistance to the most vulnerable, both in rural and urban areas – though funding shortfalls remain a key constraint. Collaboration with the Government and partners will continue to be strengthened in support of national social protection and resilience-building efforts.	154.23	141.82	92%



Western Africa

At the start of 2021, West and Central Africa is facing multiple and fast unfolding crises that drive up humanitarian needs and require scaled-up WFP responses. At the back of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impact, several countries are experiencing an upsurge in insurgency and violence resulting in forced displacement, disruption of livelihoods and operational and access challenges. In countries like Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR and Burkina Faso, WFP is responding to the emergency food needs of growing displaced populations.

Conflict-affected countries and countries facing chronic vulnerabilities are hit the hardest by food insecurity. Across the region, 57.3 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure or at risk to become acutely food insecure. Alongside scaled-up crisis response, WFP is continuing to leverage its footprint to invest in community recovery and integrated resilience programmes – reinforcing climate-smart asset creation activities, resuming (where interrupted) community-based nutrition activities and school-based support, and investing with governments in social protection systems.

NUMBER OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE
(ESTIMATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

57.3M



6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
(FEB-JUL 2021)

US\$ 637M

56%

OF 6-MONTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT



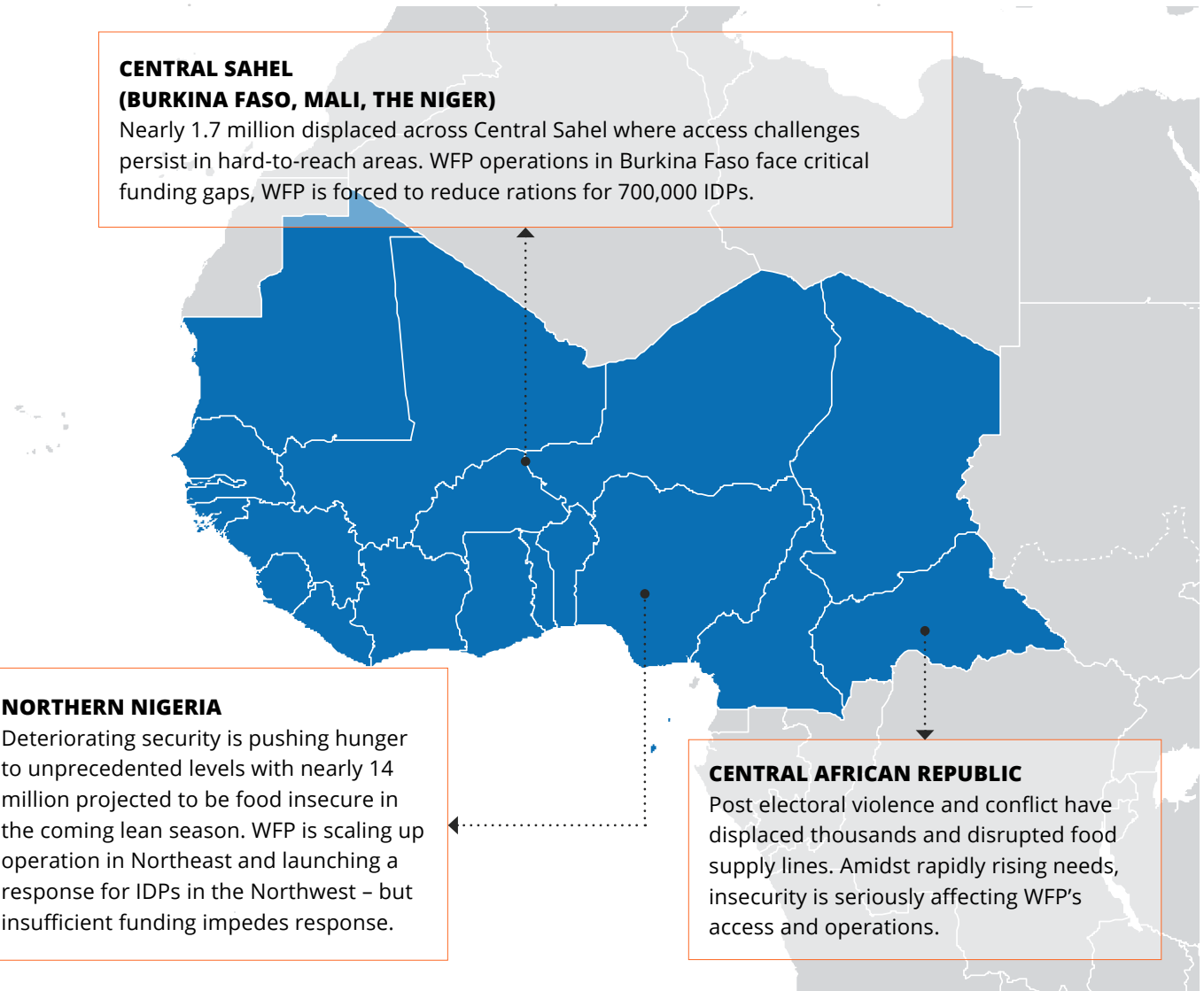
OPERATIONS OF HIGHEST CONCERN
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CAR, NIGER, NIGERIA



ACTIVE LEVEL EMERGENCIES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

LEVEL 2: CAR, NW/SW CAMEROON
LEVEL 3: CENTRAL SAHEL, NE NIGERIA



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY	PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (FEB -JUL)	6-MONTH % OF NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (FEB - JUL)
Benin	In 2021, WFP will continue to support the Government in implementing a national integrated school feeding programme as an entry point to promote education, health, and nutrition outcomes within targeted schools and communities. In addition, WFP will continue to treat malnutrition and address the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations in line with national protocols. Also, crisis response activities expanded in 2020 to address the increasing needs due to COVID-19 and recurrent floods will be continued, alongside technical assistance and capacity-strengthening to local and national institutions in the areas of early warning food security monitoring systems.	10.64	1.48	14%
Burkina Faso	In Burkina Faso, WFP reached over two million people in 2020 – and in 2021 WFP aims to increase its target beneficiaries to 2.5 million people to meet growing needs. WFP emergency response includes assistance to internally displaced populations, host families affected by the crisis, Malian refugees residing in the Sahel region, and food insecure people during the lean season. In the next six months, WFP aims to assist some 700,000 IDPs each month, and since December 2020 WFP has scaled-up its cash-based transfer nearly half of the assistance provided; however, insufficient funding will mean families do not receive the level of assistance required to meet their needs. Insecurity continues to drive displacements and remains a key challenge to access the most vulnerable populations.	155.69	113.86 ¹	73%
Cameroon	Cameroon continues to be confronted by three main and complex crises: the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin in the Far North, the consequences of the refugee influx from the Central African Republic in the East, and hostilities between non-state armed groups and security forces in the North West and South West regions resulting in continued displacements. These crises are now compounded by the pandemic, eroding resilience and extending vulnerability. WFP will continue in 2021 to respond effectively to augmented needs, with a focus on unconditional assistance with food and cash transfers coupled with enhanced malnutrition prevention in targeted areas.	72.72	34.72	48%
Central African Republic	In 2021, WFP will continue its efforts in combating hunger by reaching the most vulnerable people including internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and host families with food and nutrition assistance, as well as the people on the brink of acute food insecurity due to COVID-19 compounding effects. Given the context, WFP's programmes will maintain a strong focus on meeting crisis needs all the while investing in individuals and communities through community-based nutrition programming and investments in resilience and prospects for longer-term sustainable development including support to smallholder farmers and urban livelihood opportunities including for youth. Furthermore, WFP will continue to provide critical logistics, telecommunication, and air transport services to the humanitarian and development community to efficiently implement their activities. In the immediate, WFP is focusing on adapting operations to reach newly displaced persons due to the post electoral crisis. Securing supply of essential needs into the country remains a challenge, exacerbated by insecurity.	90.09	63.79	71%
Chad	In 2021, WFP will continue to provide food assistance to the refugee population, including Sudanese in the East, Central Africans in the South and Nigerians in the province of Lac, in addition to the internally displaced persons around Lake Chad and Chadian returnees in the province of Lac and the South of the country. WFP will pursue assistance provided during the lean season when food insecurity is the highest in the country. WFP will continue its efforts to invest in capacities and resilience, focusing on enhanced nutrition of children and pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, school-based programmes, and longer-term asset development and livelihoods strengthening for men, women and youth.	154.99	57.72	37%

¹ NOTE: 2021 scale-up plan not yet reflected in resource requirement

Côte d'Ivoire	In 2021, WFP operations will continue to focus on development interventions to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance education achievements and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas of the nation, known to have higher concentration of food insecure and vulnerable populations. WFP will also pursue its emergency response to provide immediate relief to persons displaced following the October 2020 election – all the while investing in prospects for stability and recovery: WFP's school-based and livelihood programmes in the western regions resumed timidly as residents who fled the region due to volatile and political and security situation, have begun to return – and today food deliveries are allowing schools in the affected areas to restart their school feeding activities.	13.60	11.23	83%
The Gambia	In 2021, the WFP-supported home-grown school feeding programme will continue to cover over 112,000 children as part of the country's largest social safety net – all the while providing a steady income for smallholder farmers. A combination of activities contributes to enhanced nutrition, including through treatment of malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women, social and behavioural change communication, and support to local rice fortification. WFP will continue efforts to strengthen national capacities including in areas of emergency response and social protection, all the while supporting initiatives on forecast-based financing. During the lean season WFP will provide food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations.	8.29	6.95	84%
Ghana	In the early months of 2021 WFP will continue programs to assist vulnerable households affected by the pandemic together with the national agency for social and economic inclusion. In 2020, school feeding will continue in over 1,200 schools that have now reopened, and food for asset activities will take place in several parts of the country. Food and nutrition assistance will be provided to the most affected populations during the lean season. WFP is also launching a joint peacebuilding fund project in the Forrest region in 2021.	11.20	10.49	94%
Guinea	In the early months of 2021, WFP will continue programs to assist vulnerable households affected by the pandemic together with the national agency for social and economic inclusion. In 2021, school feeding will continue in over 1,200 schools that have now reopened, and food for asset activities will occur in several parts of the country. Food and nutrition assistance will be provided to the most affected populations during the lean season. WFP is also launching a joint peacebuilding fund project in the Forrest region in 2021.	9.00	6.98	65%
Guinea-Bissau	In the first half of 2021 WFP will assist 1,000 households through its flood response. WFP will continue its home-grown school feeding programme for 180,000 in over 800 schools and support smallholder farmers and asset creation. In parallel, WFP will retain its capacity strengthening support to government institutions and carry out a countrywide food security survey. In the first months of 2021, WFP will be revising its programme targets to extend support given the increased vulnerability created by the socio-economic fallout of COVID-19.	10.66	4.09 ²	45%
Liberia	WFP will deliver assistance to the 1.5 million Liberians affected by the COVID-19 outbreak under the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme in 2021. WFP is also launching assistance for Ivorian refugees in Liberia who fled following elections in 2020. At the same time, WFP plans to scale-up its school feeding programme to cover 90,000 children in Maryland and Nimba counties with daily on-site school meals through locally procured food commodities – in turn support local food systems. In 2021, WFP Liberia seeks to expand the use of cash-based solutions in its programs.	11.27	5.23	46%
Mali	WFP plans to assist 1.4 million people in Mali including assistance to internally displaced populations (IDPs), host families affected by crisis, and food insecure people during the lean season. Preparations for food distributions in 2021 include the dispatch of contingency coupons to conflict-affected zones to maintain rapid and effective operational capacity. Due to the escalation of insecurity in northern and central regions, 30,000 people are internally displaced per month and access constraints continue to pose significant challenges in some areas. Where the security situation allows, WFP continues to invest in integrated resilience programming focusing on rural livelihood and asset development, enhanced nutrition, and school-based programming.	121.06	39.91	33%

² NOTE: 2021 scale-up plan not yet reflected in resource requirement

Mauritania	WFP will continue providing emergency assistance and nutrition services to Malian refugees in Mauritania supporting graduation towards self-reliance. In 2021, WFP will work to strengthen national social protection systems through capacity building and complementary programming. As schools reopen in 2021 following pandemic-induced closures, WFP will restart school feeding activities and asset creation programmes will be implemented in several zones of the country to contribute to resilience. WFP Mauritania will continue to provide on-demand services to humanitarian community and ensure access through the UNHAS operation.	20.05	14.63	73%
Niger	WFP aims to reach nearly 3 million beneficiaries in 2021. WFP's emergency response assists refugees, IDPs and host communities in Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi regions. In areas of chronic food insecurity, WFP supports resilience with an integrated package of assistance in cooperation with the Government. In response to the economic impact of COVID WFP also implements a component of the joint WFP/UNICEF Adaptive Social Protection project. In 2021, insecurity and access constraints continue to affect operations, including crisis response activities and access to resilience sites.	171.99	106.74	62%
Nigeria	As of February, WFP plans to assist 1.7 million people in Nigeria in 2021. While most of these beneficiaries are in the Northeast, as required, assistance will be expanded beyond including to internally displaced persons in Northwest, refugees in the South, and/or vulnerable populations urban hotspots affected by COVID-19. While promoting access to food, WFP will also support improved nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women. In addition, in 2021 WFP will increase its investment in capacity strengthening and policy coherence. WFP has reinforced its Common Services for the Humanitarian Community, introducing a new activity for On-demand Service Provision, which will enable WFP to provide contracted delivery solutions to organizations.	202.11	133.58 ³	66%
São Tomé and Príncipe	WFP will continue to enhance national capacities for autonomous implementation of a sustainable national school meals initiative and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes, leveraging the home-grown school meals approach to stimulate national food value chains and smallholder farmer access to markets. In addition, WFP will maintain support to the Government COVID-19 response plan, including for some 5,000 vulnerable schoolchildren from the Government-run school feeding programme who have been targeted by the Ministry of Education to receive take-home rations during confinement and school closures.	0.27	0.27	98%
Senegal	In 2021, WFP will continue to work closely with national authorities to strengthen capacities for food security assessment and analysis and actively support development of and complement national response plans as the lean season approaches. The WFP-supported school feeding programme is set to cover 235,000 children in over 1,200 schools. Integrated nutrition and resilience activities will target the most vulnerable and food insecure departments of the country to build individual, household and community resilience.	10.49	10.25	98%
Sierra Leone	Recent assessment shows an alarming deterioration in the food security situation: more than 1.3 million are projected to need food assistance from June. WFP will scale-up assistance to cover almost 900,000 vulnerable persons in 2021 through a combination of activities. Following pandemic induced closures, schools have reopened, and WFP's school programme has restarted. Resilience activities, such as food for assets and support for smallholder farmers, will also continue in several districts of Sierra Leone. WFP will maintain its capacity to respond to unforeseen disasters in 2021 in case new needs arise.	25.57	13.69 ⁴	54%
Togo	In 2021, WFP plans to provide institutional support to the Government in food and nutrition security and emergency preparedness and response, while also strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment. Within its social protection plans, the Government has prioritized school feeding as an important safety net, and WFP will support the Government to strengthen the national programme and its links to smallholder farmers. In addition, WFP will implement crisis response activities as part of the COVID-19 response, maintaining emergency assistance to an estimated 150,000 people through cash-based transfers. Further planned assistance will provide a healthy food basket to 10,000 flood affected people, refugees, internally displaced persons and pregnant and lactating women affected by the neighbouring crisis in the Central Sahel.	2.23	1.45	65%

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