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Update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response (2021)

Executive summary

This paper provides an update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response during 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.

The intersecting and compounding impact of conflict, the climate crisis, the socioeconomic implications of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and the rising cost of living have taken a heavy toll on developing countries, causing economies to contract. The unfolding Ukraine crisis is already resulting in all-time-high food and fuel prices, putting further pressure on the global economy and threatening food security worldwide. Consequently, the latest estimates indicate that in 2022, global economic growth will be modest, at only 2.6 percent.

According to the 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview, forced displacement is at record levels, with more than 1 percent of the world's population currently displaced. This includes 10.5 million Ukrainians who became refugees or were displaced during the first 40 days of the war in Ukraine.

Against this grim outlook, humanitarian needs continue to rise, outstripping available resources. In 2021, the gap between global requirements and funding was the largest ever recorded, at 48 percent. This is very concerning, as estimated funding needs have grown and currently stand at USD 41 billion for 2022.

In 2021, the humanitarian system continued to deliver despite these major challenges, showing resilience and adaptability. WFP and its partners – humanitarian agencies, governments and private sector operators – scaled up their responses, each contributing with its unique expertise and know-how. Through concerted and sustained humanitarian action, affected people received humanitarian, development and peace-related assistance.

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With famine looming over 45 million people in 43 countries, WFP pursued joint initiatives with Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations to advocate famine prevention, including through the High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine created by the Secretary-General in March 2021.

In 2021, WFP provided food assistance to an unprecedented 124 million people. Cash-based transfers continued to represent a key vehicle for strengthening government-to-person payment schemes. Overall, WFP provided a total of USD 2.3 billion in the form of cash, and value or commodity vouchers and invested in strengthening the horizontal and vertical capacity of national social protection systems. Collaboration with other United Nations entities on cash assistance was maintained under the United Nations Common Cash Statement. Furthermore, a model for predictable and accountable cash coordination was adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in March 2022.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee continued to be an important forum for coordination, policy development and decision making, supporting humanitarian actors' collective response. During 2021 and early 2022, the Committee approved three system-wide scale-ups, for Afghanistan, Northern Ethiopia and Ukraine, to enhance the humanitarian response in order to meet drastically increasing needs. To strengthen the Committee's performance, the Deputies Forum was formalized, renamed the Deputies Group and given a clear mandate to drive progress on strategic issues. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of its 2016 policy on protection in humanitarian action and made recommendations to strengthen protection outcomes. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, WFP co-led a task force to boost collective accountability to affected populations.

In 2021, WFP scaled up, through the cluster system, the provision of humanitarian services to facilitate the work of its partners and enable an effective and efficient response in support of affected people. Throughout 2021, WFP continued to strengthen its partnerships with key United Nations entities, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the World Health Organization, and to proactively engage in multilateral forums such as the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

Draft decision*

The Board takes note of the update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response (2021) (WFP/EB.A/2022/5-B).

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

The humanitarian landscape in 2021

1. In 2021, the world moved farther from achieving the goal of zero hunger. The escalation of unresolved conflicts, frequent and severe climate-related disasters, economic setbacks largely due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and more recently the Ukraine crisis are the underlying factors of that trend, driving up humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels.
2. At the beginning of 2021, the Global Humanitarian Overview presented a plan to assist 160 million of the 235 million people in need, at a total cost of USD 35 billion.¹ By the end of 2021, funding requirements had reached nearly USD 38 billion and only USD 17.2 billion had been mobilized; the 10 most underfunded emergency responses received less than half the funding required. As a result, humanitarian needs have continued to grow. At the beginning of 2022, the humanitarian system planned to assist over 183 million of the 274 million people in need, at a total cost of USD 41 billion.²

The “four Cs” and displacement challenges

3. The intersecting and compounding impact of conflict, climate shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living have led to a massive increase in the number of severely food insecure people in the world. Consequently, WFP scaled up its operations and assisted an unprecedented 124 million people in 2021³ while managing 8 Level 3 and 11 Level 2 emergencies and deploying over 200 staff members to 41 countries.

Conflict

4. With almost 60 percent of the world’s 811 million hungry people living in areas affected by armed violence, conflict is the single greatest challenge to achieving zero hunger by 2030.⁴ Global peace, as measured by the Global Peace Index, has deteriorated in four of the last five years.⁵ Conflict affects crop production, drives herders off pasturelands, forces people out of their homes, hampers trade flows and prevents markets from functioning properly, thus destroying people’s livelihoods and leaving millions without enough to eat. The devastating impact of conflict on food security is often also felt outside of conflict areas, with disrupted food systems and transport networks affecting food exports and imports, as exemplified by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Climate crisis

5. In 2021, the economic cost of climate-related disasters was estimated at USD 329 billion. Four such disasters required responses costing over USD 20 billion each.⁶ Drought conditions were reported in several countries and regions across the globe, from Afghanistan to Madagascar to the Horn of Africa, crippling agricultural production, devastating livelihoods and forcing people from their homes. The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season generated 21 named storms – the third highest number on record – and marked the sixth consecutive above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, an unprecedented sequence.⁷

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2020. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2021](#).

² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2021. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022](#).

³ WFP. 2022. [WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2022 – Update #4](#).

⁴ WFP. [Food assistance, a step to peace and stability](#).

⁵ Institute for Economics and Peace. 2021. [Global Peace Index 2021: Measuring peace in a complex world](#).

⁶ Aon. 2021. [2021 Weather, Climate and Catastrophe Insight](#).

⁷ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2021 [Active 2021 Atlantic hurricane season officially ends](#).

6. In southern Madagascar, three years of consecutive droughts led to severe hunger, with nearly 14,000 people pushed into Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 5 (famine/catastrophe).⁸ Meanwhile, heavy rains and flooding damaged land, property and critical infrastructure, leading to loss of lives in Brazil, Iraq, the Niger and South Sudan.
7. Climate shocks are having a greater impact on women and girls because of their greater reliance on threatened natural resources for their livelihoods and their higher representation among the poor.⁹

Coronavirus disease 2019

8. Despite the vaccine breakthrough in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to slow the global economic recovery, while rising inflation and record debt constrain countries' ability to address renewed challenges.¹⁰ Poorer countries are struggling the most to recover from the pandemic's economic fallout due to their lack of access to vaccines and lower capacity to finance economic stimulus measures. The World Bank estimated that 97 million more people were living on less than USD 1.90 a day in 2021 compared to pre-pandemic levels, due to the repercussions of COVID-19.¹¹ Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and food insecurity.¹² Gender-based violence and gender inequality also increased, threatening to reverse much of the progress made in previous years.

Cost of living

9. With lagging economic growth, high food prices and low household purchasing power, compounded by the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, food has become unaffordable for millions, prompting a devastating increase in hunger and malnutrition.
10. The Ukraine crisis is leading to a rapid worsening of the global economic outlook. Before the outbreak of the war, global economic growth was projected to slow to 3.6 percent in 2022, from 5.5 percent in 2021.¹³ Currently, average economic growth is projected to further shrink to 2.6 percent in 2022.¹⁴
11. Furthermore, as Ukraine and the Russian Federation account for 30 percent of the world's wheat exports, 20 percent of its maize exports and 76 percent of its sunflower supply, disruptions in the production of those commodities will drive prices up, affecting millions already hard hit by high food prices in their own countries.
12. Higher food and oil prices are also significantly increasing the cost of WFP operations, already accounting for an additional USD 71 million per month.

Displacement

13. By mid-2021 the number of forcibly displaced persons worldwide had reached a historical high, surpassing 84 million,¹⁵ with 1 percent of the world's population displaced at the end of the year.¹⁶ Eighty percent of displaced people live in countries affected by conflict, acute

⁸ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. [Madagascar \[Grand South\]: Food Security and Nutrition Snapshot | July 2021](#).

⁹ United Nations. "Women...In the Shadow of Climate Change".

¹⁰ WFP. 2022. [Food security implications of the Ukraine conflict](#).

¹¹ World Bank. 2021. [COVID-19 leaves a legacy of rising poverty and widening inequality](#).

¹² International Monetary Fund. 2021. [July 2021 World Economic Outlook Update](#).

¹³ World Bank. 2022. [The Global Economic Outlook in five charts](#).

¹⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 2022. [Trade and development report update: Tapering in a time of conflict](#); and [Ukraine war cuts global growth prospects by 1%](#).

¹⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2021. [Refugee Data Finder](#).

¹⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2021. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022](#).

hunger and malnutrition, many of which also face climate and other disaster risks. The World Bank estimates that climate change could force 216 million people to migrate within their countries by 2050. Moreover, sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced populations remained in short supply in 2021 due to unresolved and escalating conflicts in many countries.

14. The war in Ukraine has triggered one of the fastest-growing population displacements and a humanitarian crisis without precedent in Europe's recent past. In just the first month of the conflict, more than 10 million people were displaced, either within Ukraine or as refugees.¹⁷

The humanitarian system's collective efforts

Famine prevention

15. In 2021, the humanitarian system was confronted with crises that had pushed an unprecedented number of people to the brink of famine.
16. WFP continued to call within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and with its non-governmental organization (NGO) partners for action against famine and initiatives to promote the upholding of United Nations Security Council resolution 2417.
17. With the aim of mobilizing the resources and capacity needed to avert famine for millions, the United Nations Secretary-General created a dedicated [high-level task force to prevent famine](#), under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and with the participation of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and other IASC members.
18. In April 2021, WFP joined other humanitarian actors to promote an [open letter on famine prevention](#), led by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. The letter, signed by 260 humanitarian organizations, was inspired by the [call for action to avert famine](#) previously issued by WFP and FAO.
19. WFP also welcomed the [G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact](#).¹⁸
20. The transition event of the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2021 substantive sessions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council focused on preventing the looming risk of multiple famines and addressing rising acute food insecurity. In addition, WFP and FAO organized a side event sponsored by Ireland, Switzerland, the United States of America, OCHA and NGOs to highlight the urgency of averting famine.
21. WFP leveraged all available forums to advocate famine prevention, including the yearly interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food during the 46th session of the [Human Rights Council](#).
22. At the request of several NGOs, WFP and its partners launched the [Famine Prevention and Mitigation Compact](#) at the WFP 2021 annual partnership consultation. Through this advocacy initiative, WFP and its international and local NGO partners commit to spearheading collective efforts to tackle the global hunger and nutrition crisis in 2022 and bringing urgent attention to the 45 million people who may face starvation if their needs are not urgently met.

¹⁷ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2022. *Ukraine Emergency: UNHCR Operational Response Delivery Updates*; and *UN High Commissioner for Refugees calls for immediate end to Ukraine war, which has uprooted over 10 million people*.

¹⁸ WFP. 2021. *WFP welcomes commitment to famine prevention by G7; calls for swift action to prevent widespread catastrophe*.

Global clusters and support for the humanitarian community

23. In 2021, the food security cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, coordinated the food security response in emergencies and protracted crises in over 30 countries through 1,200 partners, more than half national and local organizations.
24. The cluster partners reached over 105 million people, 15 percent more than in 2020. Cluster funding requirements reached a record high of USD 14 billion but resources received remained unchanged, at USD 5.5 billion. A lack of adequate funding affected major operations, such as those in the Central Sahel, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and cluster partners were forced to either reduce the amount of assistance provided or reduce the number of people assisted. With a grim funding outlook for 2022, cluster partners will continue to struggle to provide essential assistance to affected populations.
25. In 2021 the food security cluster was formally activated in Myanmar (August 2021) and Madagascar (December 2021). In these two countries the number of people assisted by the cluster doubled compared to 2020 (from 20 million to 40 million). In early 2022, the cluster was activated in Ukraine to provide life-saving assistance.
26. During 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, the logistics cluster, led by WFP, supported 15 country and regional operations working with more than 400 partners. Overall, the logistics cluster answered more than 4,800 requests for common logistics services, facilitating the transportation of 88,000 m³ of humanitarian cargo and the storage of 175,700 m³ of relief items.
27. In 2021, 23 United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations were conducted, covering 24 countries, including Equatorial Guinea, where operations were discontinued in September 2021. The service transported 338,150 humanitarian, development and diplomatic passengers and 6,300 mt of light cargo. Where COVID-19 flight restrictions on commercial operators were still in place, WFP continued to offer its global air passenger service to 68 regular destinations, transporting 33,598 health and humanitarian workers.
28. Across its six hubs, the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot network dispatched 41,380 m³ of relief items worth USD 88 million to 148 countries on behalf of 44 partners.
29. In 2021, WFP supported storage management and global transport for World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 emergency procurement initiatives, involving the distribution of 9,000 m³ of personal protective equipment and respiratory items, worth USD 12 million, to 56 countries. WFP, as a leader in humanitarian logistics, continued to make its supply chain expertise and assets available to the wider humanitarian community. In Somalia, WFP supported the Ministry of Health, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in transporting the first COVAX vaccine doses from Nairobi to Mogadishu and from there onward to 11 in-country destinations using the UNHAS fleet. In South Sudan, WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health used UNHAS flights to transport 40,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to 25 remote locations. WFP also supported COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia, the Sudan, Timor-Leste and Yemen. As part of the COVID-19 medical evacuation system, WFP has been co-leading the aviation arm of the United Nations medical evacuation cell with the Department of Operational Support. By October 2021, WFP had conducted 153 of the 313 medical evacuations recorded.

30. Following the resumption of commercial transport to pre-COVID-19 levels in 2021, WFP gradually reduced the provision of services to the humanitarian community; however, with the uncertainty stemming from the pandemic's various waves, WFP is maintaining its strategic supply chain capacity to meet unforeseen partner needs in future health emergencies.
31. The emergency telecommunications cluster, led by WFP, provided connectivity to 10,440 humanitarian workers from 290 organizations in 2021. The cluster and its partners were present in 10 emergencies to enable humanitarian coordination and ensure affected people's access to information. Emergency preparedness mechanisms at the national and local levels were enabled in countries such as Bhutan, Madagascar and Mozambique and in the Pacific islands region. The new emergency telecommunications cluster chatbot – artificial intelligence software that interacts with affected people – is empowering communities in Ecuador, Iraq and [Libya](#) and is being adapted for use in Ukraine. Additionally, the chatbot supports joint common feedback mechanism services, enabling estimated savings of USD 2.9 million. In the Central African Republic and Libya, the cluster continues to share COVID-19 country-specific information with affected populations, while in Bangladesh and Yemen it ensures connectivity services in quarantine and treatment centres. In early 2022, the emergency telecommunications cluster and its partners reconnected communities and responders after the earthquake and tsunami in Tonga and set up critical communications services amid the conflict in Ukraine.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

32. The new United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, appointed in 2021, launched a review of IASC priorities and structures for the next biennium. WFP participated in the discussions and pressed for greater clarity on the roles and interlinkages of the various IASC bodies. The process concluded at the end of 2021 with the establishment of five IASC task forces.¹⁹ WFP will continue to co-chair the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group with the Norwegian Refugee Council, focusing on accountability and providing policy and operational support to field teams.
33. The IASC principals continued to hold regular and ad hoc meetings to discuss critical situations in places such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, the Sahel Region, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, with a focus on, among other things, advocacy, protection, humanitarian access and resource mobilization. The IASC principals continued to be supported by the Emergency Directors Group, which also resumed in-person field missions in 2021. The WFP Director of Emergencies participated in field visits to Ethiopia (July 2021) and Afghanistan (February 2022). WFP also took part in an IASC "[Peer-2-Peer](#)" mission to South Sudan, in March 2022, to support the humanitarian coordinator and the humanitarian country team in strengthening collective humanitarian assistance and protection.
34. The IASC Deputies Forum, renamed the IASC Deputies Group, was formalized to act as a decision making platform to drive action on key strategic issues, focusing on, among other things, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment; racism and racial discrimination; review of the humanitarian response in the context of internal displacement settings; climate change; humanitarian financing; cash; gender; and additional issues as requested by the IASC principals.

¹⁹ The task forces will focus on counter-terrorism and bureaucratic and administrative impediments; accountability to affected populations; centrality of protection; localization; and humanitarian-development collaboration and its links to peace. [IASC Structures 2022-2023](#).

35. In 2021 and early 2022, the IASC activated three system-wide scale-ups, for Afghanistan, Northern Ethiopia and Ukraine, to enhance the humanitarian response in view of drastically increasing needs.²⁰ A temporary inter-agency operation centre was set up in Geneva to ensure timely coordination and information sharing for the humanitarian response in Ukraine.
36. Collective efforts included the production of additional guidance for critical humanitarian issues, such as ["Understanding and Addressing Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments to Humanitarian Action: Framework for a System-wide Approach"](#), to which WFP contributed. Guidance to support humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams in addressing the [impact of sanctions and counterterrorism measures on humanitarian operations](#) was also issued.
37. After the publication of the inter-agency humanitarian evaluation on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, WFP actively contributed to a companion piece [on mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into the humanitarian-development-peace nexus agenda](#). In March 2021, the IASC launched an inter-agency evaluation of the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation report is due in September 2022.
38. A review of the implementation of the IASC protection policy was undertaken and generated recommendations on how to strengthen protection outcomes. The findings focused on the need for conceptual clarity through practical guidance; collective responsibility; participation of local actors; and integration with development, peace and human rights partners.

Early warning, early action and readiness group

39. The IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) Group, comprising 17 United Nations entities and NGOs, is coordinated by WFP and OCHA. It provides early warning and analysis on emerging humanitarian risks, which are shared with the IASC Emergency Directors Group and relevant resident and humanitarian coordinators to spur preparatory action.
40. In 2021, the EWEAR Group issued early warnings for the tropical cyclones in Madagascar and the catastrophic third consecutive dry season in the Greater Horn of Africa. Most recently the Group, led by WFP, produced a comprehensive analysis of global debt distress risks in 2022. The analysis was shared with the resident and humanitarian coordinators of the most at-risk countries. The EWEAR Group is now issuing concise monthly briefs, thus making its alerts timelier.
41. WFP sought to strengthen the EWEAR Group's links with the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative to galvanize donor attention and support for responses highlighted in its early warnings while enhancing partnerships with the broader humanitarian community.
42. The EWEAR Group also manages a community of practice for sharing and improving methodologies for forecasting the impact of conflict and economic and natural hazards, including through the use of geospatial analysis.

Internal displacement

43. Following the launch of the [report of the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), WFP proactively engaged in the process of reviewing the humanitarian system's collective responses to internal displacement, focusing on the system's role in life saving and protection, evidence-based results and the challenges posed by the current funding architecture for addressing protracted internal displacement crises. WFP has been

²⁰ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2022. [IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Activations and Deactivations](#).

suggesting that the review focus on conflict, which continues to be a major driver of displacement.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment

44. In 2021, the IASC principals continued to prioritize protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment (against affected populations or persons) through increased leadership and collective responsibility, as well as inter-agency collaboration on tools and resources for use in the field.
45. WFP maintained support for cooperating partners in ensuring adequate standards and mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. Under the United Nations Protocol on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Allegations involving Implementing Partners, WFP and other IASC members developed a resource package to assist country offices in operationalizing the United Nations Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment. Pilots were conducted in Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, WFP has been working to include the PSEA capacity assessment in the [United Nations Partner Portal](#).
46. WFP continued to invest in local capacity building to strengthen PSEA coordination and outreach. WFP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Translators without Borders worked on the “PSEA at the Frontline” project, designed for frontline workers such as contractors and small NGO partners. The project is expected to be launched in 2022 for global inter-agency use.
47. WFP continued to use the Clear Check database to identify former WFP employees dismissed for having committed sexual exploitation and abuse, or sexual harassment and to screen potential candidates. In addition, WFP actively contributes to the Chief Executives Board for Coordination task force on addressing sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations system, co-leading the workstream on improved reporting of sexual harassment and administering the annual survey of United Nations system entities.

Cash coordination

48. In 2021, 34 percent of WFP food assistance was provided in the form of cash and value and commodity vouchers, totalling USD 2.3 billion, 9 percent more than in 2020.
49. The signatories of the [United Nations Common Cash Statement](#) have made significant progress in joint programming, procurement and interoperability. Since 2019, they have harmonized cash transfer mechanisms in 25 countries, conducted a 20-country survey on procurement to inform further harmonization and created a common procurement registry for FAO, IOM and the United Nations Population Fund.
50. WFP worked with more than 50 countries on their government-to-person payments schemes, including by strengthening national social protection systems to expand reach and, when needed, delivering cash through WFP’s own payment systems as a service to governments. In Burundi, Haiti, Lebanon, Saint Lucia and Somalia, WFP worked closely with international financial institutions on the design and implementation of government-owned cash-based programmes. Discussions on expanding this partnership to other countries are under way.
51. Within the Grand Bargain, WFP has been active in the caucus on cash coordination, working with donors, United Nations entities, NGOs, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and local actors to define a new model for predictable and accountable coordination. The model envisages the establishment of a global cash advisory group and the formalization of cash working groups at the country level. Accountability for the coordination of cash will rest with OCHA in non-refugee emergency settings and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in refugee settings, with

cash working groups reporting to the relevant inter-cluster or inter-sector group. For existing cash working groups, a phased transition plan will be prepared by the cash advisory group by the end of September 2022 and will be reviewed two years after being implemented.

Joint needs assessments and innovative platforms

52. In 2021, WFP continued to participate in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Global Steering Committee, the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Group and the Food Security Information Network.
53. WFP expanded and strengthened its remote real-time hunger monitoring ([HungerMap LIVE](#)) to cover over 90 countries, making data available to all its partners to inform joint analysis. The platform was further refined to provide sex- and age-disaggregated data for certain food security indicators.
54. WFP conducted the large majority of needs assessments jointly with governments and partners. Furthermore, WFP contributed to the [2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report, along with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF and WHO, as well as to the [2021 Global Report on Food Crises](#), involving 16 partners. WFP also conducted essential needs analyses, including the development of minimum expenditure baskets across operations, in collaboration with partners and in-country cash working groups.

Policy on integrated assessment and planning

55. WFP remains engaged in the review of United Nations integration and revisions to the United Nations' policy on integrated assessment and planning, approved in 2013. WFP is fully committed to the integration of United Nations country work wherever it is applicable and allows the humanitarian space and its principles to be maintained.

Accountability to affected populations

56. In 2021, WFP continued to be part of the IASC [results group on accountability and inclusion](#), which provided technical support, guidance and tools to humanitarian actors through the [IASC Accountability and Inclusion Resources Portal](#) and the [IASC Accountability and Inclusion Service Directory](#), which strengthen accountability to affected populations (AAP) at the country level. Other developed tools include the [AAP Framework](#) and the [results tracker](#), which will be tested and operationalized at the country level in 2022.
57. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, WFP co-led an IASC task force to advance recommendations and prioritize collective AAP. The task force, consisting of representatives of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and civil society at the global and country levels, consulted more than 150 people, including members of affected populations, donors, practitioners and representatives of coordination forums. The outcome was a proposal for IASC members to advance collectively in strengthening system-wide AAP in the next three years. The IASC principals issued a statement on the centrality of collective AAP to principled humanitarian action, based on the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group's recommendations for strengthening system-wide accountability.

Gender

58. WFP remained engaged in the advisory group of the IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap). In 2021, GenCap completed the implementation of reforms aimed at strengthening its field-level impact, the sustainability of results and the prioritization of support to align with system-wide response priorities. Efforts were made to ensure that the deployment of gender advisors is guided by country needs, with the endorsement of humanitarian country teams. So far, WFP has benefited from the greater predictability and

sustainability linked to the deployment of gender experts under the new road map. With GenCap deployments now providing support for humanitarian operations for up to three years, WFP will continue to participate in GenCap in 2022 and beyond.

Peace and the nexus

59. Within the framework of Security Council resolution 2417, WFP and FAO jointly issue a twice-yearly update of [Monitoring Food Security in Countries with Conflict Situations](#) for the United Nations Security Council members. The report provides analyses of countries where conflict and insecurity are the primary drivers of acute food insecurity.
60. WFP has participated in efforts to map existing tools and guidance on the pillars of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus through the IASC, the “DAC-UN dialogue”,²¹ the Global Network Against Food Crises and the [Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration](#).
61. Within IASC results group 4 on humanitarian-development collaboration, WFP and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies continue to manage a community of practice. Following WFP’s adherence to the [recommendation on the humanitarian-development–peace nexus](#) issued by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development in 2020, WFP and the United States began co-chairing the DAC-UN dialogue, focused on the implementation of the recommendation. The dialogue led to the launch of the “Nexus Academy” in February 2022, aimed at improving the capacity of actors across the humanitarian-development–peace nexus through a set of tailored modules. WFP also works with the Global Network Against Food Crises to tackle the root causes of food crises and promote sustainable solutions through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the nexus.
62. WFP continued to mainstream humanitarian–development–peace nexus approaches, at both strategic and operational levels, ensuring alignment with the development priorities of national governments and those set out in United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks.

Localization

63. The localization of aid and strengthening of partnerships with local actors continued to gain prominence in inter-agency discussions and multilateral forums such as the IASC and the Grand Bargain.
64. WFP supports the localization agenda throughout its operational portfolio. In 2021, WFP consulted affected communities and local and international partners extensively in the development of its new strategic plan for 2022–2025 following a whole-of-society approach. Another milestone was reached in June, when an official consultation between the WFP Executive Board and over 30 of WFP’s local and international NGO partners was held to collect feedback on how to improve collaboration.
65. Finally, the United Nations Partner Portal allowed small and national NGOs easy access to a wide range of partnership opportunities posted by United Nations entities, enabling them to compete on an equal footing with international NGOs when responding to calls for proposals. The platform also provided WFP country offices with a broader view of cooperating partners available at the national level and their comparative advantages.

²¹ The DAC-UN dialogue is an initiative launched following the “Partnership for Peace” high-level roundtable on the humanitarian–development–peace nexus, held in October 2020 among members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and representatives of United Nations entities.

Access and humanitarian-military interaction

66. The WFP Humanitarian-Military Interaction Unit complements the OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Section in enabling civil-military coordination at the operational level globally, regionally and in-country. Collaboration has been active in Haiti, Lebanon, Mozambique and Nigeria. Thanks to joint efforts, assistance – such as food, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene kits – was transported on behalf of the humanitarian community in Nigeria, while an inter-agency emergency response was facilitated in Northern Mozambique, reaching conflict-affected populations for the first time in over six months.
67. In November and December 2021, WFP commenced a review of the UNHAS deconfliction notification process for the Syrian Arab Republic. Following consultations with parties, WFP's humanitarian-military interaction team contributed to streamlining the notification process for UNHAS flights, now led by WFP.

Food systems summit

68. The 2021 United Nations food systems summit aimed to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals through a food systems approach tackling the interconnected challenges of hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality. The summit resulted in over 150 country commitments to transform national food systems worldwide, stemming from national dialogues involving local stakeholders.
69. Several coalitions co-led by WFP emerged from the summit process, including the [School Meals Coalition](#), the Fighting Food Crises Along the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Coalition, the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance, the Social Protection for Food Systems Transformation Consortium, the Resilient Local Food Supply Chains Alliance and the Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All, as well as coalitions focusing on gender, indigenous people and agroecology. These coalitions are in the process of consolidating membership, developing governance structures and building workplans.
70. WFP continues to engage with countries in their efforts to develop “national pathways” to sustainable food systems. At the global level, WFP is supporting the inter-agency Food Systems Coordination Hub by outposting a senior national pathways manager.

Partnership in focus

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

71. WFP and UNHCR held their annual high-level meeting to discuss strategic directions and review operational issues and challenges. The two agencies reiterated their commitment to collaborate on the long-term self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees. To that end, both agencies intend to leverage their working relationship with international financial institutions.
72. In December 2021, UNHCR convened the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting to review progress on the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees in terms of strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries. WFP provided an update on the pledges made at the 2019 Global Refugees Forum, showcasing its role as a strategic partner providing food and nutrition assistance to people of concern and host communities.
73. WFP and UNHCR continued to support the [Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub](#), which offers strategic and technical support for the implementation of operational joint commitments, including on assessments and targeting, self-reliance programming, AAP and data systems, to enhance refugee outcomes.

74. The hub supported 11 UNHCR-WFP country offices on data sharing practices. It carried out 10 joint assessments and facilitated the completion of five targeting and prioritization exercises in Cameroon, Jordan, Mauritania, Rwanda and Uganda. It also promoted joint work on AAP in seven countries, ensuring community participation in targeting and prioritization decisions.
75. In Rwanda, UNHCR and WFP collaborated on an evidence-based operational shift from blanket to needs-based targeted food assistance for refugees in camp settings based on a system of three categories of vulnerability that allows more efficient and effective use of resources, with a full food assistance package provided to the most vulnerable refugees.
76. The hub has also documented best practices of UNHCR-WFP collaboration and developed a joint learning module on the UNHCR-WFP Joint Targeting Guidance.

International Organization for Migration

77. WFP continued to collaborate with IOM. A two-year joint WFP-IOM action plan for strengthened crisis response and preparedness for 2022–2023 is being developed. The areas identified for joint collaboration include cash assistance, data collection and tracking, policy and logistics.
78. WFP continued to support the United Nations Network on Migration, set up by the Secretary-General to assist national governments in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and is closely monitoring the preparations for the International Migration Review Forum to ensure that it adequately reflects WFP's contribution.

World Health Organization

79. WFP continued to engage with and support WHO on pandemic preparedness, response and recovery via the principal-level United Nations COVID-19 Crisis Management Team and the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies. WFP is also a member of the WHO-led Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

International Committee of the Red Cross

80. WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross have a longstanding partnership. An exchange of letters, updated in 2004, frames their collaboration and provides for complementary activities to coordinate food assistance programmes for victims of conflict while preserving each organization's independence in carrying out its mandate. In 2021, WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross revised their technical agreement on the exchange of food commodities, providing for increased agility in responses and flexibility for country offices.

Global Fund

81. In 2021, WFP supported the Global Fund and eight of its implementing partners by delivering 22,476 m³ of life-saving health items, including HIV and tuberculosis medicines and 5.3 million mosquito nets, to seven fragile and conflict-affected countries. This partnership has been hailed as a prime example of how intersectoral collaboration can save lives through a mid-term-oriented approach.

World Bank Group

82. In 2021, WFP significantly expanded its collaboration with international financial institutions and its support for governments, further building on developments in the previous year. In particular, the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund have been increasingly focusing on fragile countries threatened by conflict and violence, securing more financial resources and seeking partnerships with humanitarian actors.²²
83. WFP was also able to increase its engagement with the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. While contractual engagements in 2021 were still largely focused on human capital development and social spending, WFP is increasingly shifting its focus to diversify its work to strengthen government preparedness and response, as well as food systems. As a result, country offices are working with international financial institutions to support governments in expanding shock-responsive safety nets, joint analysis of the risks inherent in local food systems and anticipatory action frameworks.

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation

84. As a strategic partner of the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, WFP continued to support frontline negotiators in some of the most difficult humanitarian operations, where access to populations in need is a major challenge. The partnership is being used to build the capacity of WFP and cooperating partner staff to negotiate humanitarian access without compromising the safety of people in need or the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation has to date trained over 300 WFP staff in frontline humanitarian negotiation skills.

²² The World Bank has increased its support for countries affected by fragility and conflict from USD 3.9 billion in fiscal year 2016 to USD 15.8 billion in fiscal year 2021.

Acronyms

| | |
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| AAP | accountability to affected populations |
| COVID-19 | coronavirus disease 2019 |
| DAC | Development Assistance Committee |
| EWEAR | Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GenCap | Gender Standby Capacity Project |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| NGO | non-governmental organization |
| OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| PSEA | protection from sexual exploitation and abuse |
| UNHAS | United Nations Humanitarian Air Service |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| WHO | World Health Organization |