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Update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response (2024)

Executive summary

This paper outlines how WFP, in close collaboration with its partners, continues to deliver life-saving assistance to the world's most vulnerable people. It provides an update on WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response in 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, detailing WFP's role in advancing reforms across the humanitarian sector that seek to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian operations, promote accountability and ensure that no one is left behind.

Throughout 2024, the humanitarian system faced a convergence of escalating conflicts, climate extremes, economic shocks and declining funding. As many as 343 million people faced acute food insecurity in countries with WFP operations; of these, 44.4 million people experienced emergency or worse levels of hunger, including a record 1.9 million people in catastrophic conditions.

WFP played a leading role in shaping, enabling and delivering the global humanitarian response. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, in 2024 WFP's Executive Director became the Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, while the Deputy Executive Director co-led the Deputies' workstream on efficiency and effectiveness. Through the Emergency Directors Group, inter-agency coordination allowed WFP to provide timely needs-based responses in complex emergencies. WFP also supported system-wide efforts through its leadership of key clusters, provision of shared services and investment in data-driven targeting.

In March 2025, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator called for a "humanitarian reset" – a reimagining of humanitarian operations based on three core principles: delivering effective crisis response with limited resources; rethinking how humanitarian work is organized; and shifting power closer to local actors and affected communities. WFP has actively supported this vision, advocating prioritized, context-sensitive humanitarian action.

Focal point:

Ms S. Howard
Director a.i.
Geneva Global Office
email: shannon.howard@wfp.org

WFP continues to contribute to system-wide efforts to improve collective response, including through its cluster leadership, common services such as the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service and humanitarian response depots and engagement in securing operational access and by enhancing security support. WFP invests in ways of identifying those most in need and in assurance measures in order to ensure that targeted people receive their humanitarian entitlements. The organization also generates evidence and shares knowledge as part of efforts to continually refine and improve its operations and those of its partners.

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The humanitarian landscape in 2024

1. Acute food insecurity remained high in 2024, exacerbated by escalating conflicts, disasters, climate-related events and persistent economic challenges. An estimated 343 million people faced acute hunger¹ in countries with WFP operations, with 44.4 million experiencing emergency or worse conditions.² In the Sudan, famine was declared in the Zamzam refugee camp in August 2024 – the first confirmation of famine in seven years, with additional areas at high risk of famine. WFP estimates that a record 1.9 million people endured catastrophic hunger in 2024 in four countries or territories.³
2. In 2024, more than 37.7 million children were acutely malnourished in 26 countries affected by nutrition crises, while 11 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls were undernourished in 21 countries.⁴
3. With 757 million people suffering from chronic food insecurity, the goal of achieving zero hunger on a global scale is becoming increasingly out of reach. One third of the world's population – 2.8 billion people – cannot afford a healthy diet.
4. Conflict remained the main driver of food and nutrition insecurity in 2024, with at least 65 percent of acutely food-insecure people living in fragile or conflict-affected situations.⁵ Compared to 2019, conflict levels have almost doubled.⁶
5. 2024 was the deadliest year on record for aid workers, with 381 aid workers⁷ killed across 20 countries and many more injured, kidnapped, attacked or arbitrarily detained.⁸ Humanitarian access remained severely constrained for WFP and its partners, particularly in the State of Palestine, central Sahel, the Sudan and Yemen, which has undermined the delivery of life-saving assistance.
6. 2024 was also the hottest year on record.⁹ During the 2024 rainfall season, the Sahel and several Asian countries experienced extensive flooding. The impact of El Niño was particularly severe in southern Africa, leading to a regional drought and major shortfalls in staple cereal production. The emerging La Niña phenomenon could exacerbate drought in the Horn of Africa and lead to below-average rainfall in parts of the Middle East and North Africa, and Central Asia.¹⁰

¹ Defined as level 3 or above in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system or Cadre Harmonisé.

² WFP. 2024. [WFP 2025 Global Outlook](#).

³ Defined as IPC/Cadre Harmonisé 5. Food Security Information Network and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2024. [Global Report on Food Crises 2024: Mid-Year Update](#).

⁴ Food Security Information Network and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2025. [Global Report on Food Crises 2025: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions](#).

⁵ WFP. [A global food crisis](#) (webpage).

⁶ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data. 2024. [Conflict Index: December 2024](#)

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

⁸ United Nations. 2025. [‘Attacks on aid workers must end,’ Security Council told](#).

⁹ World Meteorological Organization. 2025. [WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.55°C above pre-industrial level](#).

¹⁰ WFP and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2024. [Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food security: November 2024 to May 2025 outlook](#).

7. As of the end of June 2024, a record 122.6 million people¹¹ were forcibly displaced globally, about double the number of displaced people in 2014 and a 5 percent increase (5 million people) compared to 2023. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), displacement will increase in 2025, as conflict and extreme weather events continue to force communities from their homes.
8. Economic challenges continued to undermine food security in 2024. While the global economy stabilized after four years of overlapping shocks, growth remained weak.¹² In low-income countries, per capita income grew by just 0.8 percent amid escalating conflict and violence.¹³ Trade restrictions surged to five times the 2010–2019 average, often disproportionately affecting poorer countries.¹⁴ In many countries, food prices were still twice as high as before the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.¹⁵ Furthermore, heavy debt-servicing burdens constrained economic activity in many low-income countries, with multiple countries facing debt distress.¹⁶
9. Overall humanitarian funding has steadily declined since 2023, despite humanitarian needs being at historically high levels. In 2025, humanitarian funding faces uncertainty amid a constrained donor environment.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

10. WFP actively engages with the humanitarian coordination mechanisms of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which aim to facilitate collective humanitarian action through the implementation of a coherent, unified response. Led by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, in 2024 the IASC was actively involved in responding to crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the State of Palestine and the Sudan, reaffirming the collective stance of the humanitarian system on access, protection and humanitarian principles. Consistent and responsive support was provided to humanitarian coordinators, reinforcing the IASC's work on fostering unified inter-agency efforts.
11. In January 2024, WFP's Executive Director assumed the role of the IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) and will continue in that role through 2025. In her capacity as champion, the Executive Director's priorities have been threefold: operationalizing a victim/survivor-centred approach; promoting organizational culture change through leadership and partnerships; and supporting continued capacity strengthening across the humanitarian sector. By leading sector-wide PSEAH initiatives, WFP aims to amplify the voices of communities at high risk and advocates coordinated action to address PSEAH challenges.
12. In 2024, WFP's Deputy Executive Director co-led the IASC Deputies' workstream on efficiency and effectiveness alongside the International Rescue Committee. Through the Emergency Directors Group, as well as inter-agency coordination, WFP provided timely needs-based responses in complex situations and to specific emergencies and participated in key emergency missions, for example, in Myanmar, and – in the Middle East and Northern Africa – in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. Furthermore, WFP provided senior-level

¹¹ UNHCR. [Mid-year trends: Key displacement and solutions trends in the first half of 2024](#) (webpage).

¹² World Bank. 2025. [Global Economic Prospects, January 2025](#).

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ WFP's own calculation based on data from Trading Economics. n.d. [Food Inflation](#). This was complemented by the following data: for Gaza, [Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics](#); for Cuba, [Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información](#); for Zimbabwe, [Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe](#); for Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, [WFP DataViz](#); and for Myanmar, [FAO Food Price Monitoring and Analysis \(FPMA\) Tool](#) (accessed 16 January 2025).

¹⁶ World Bank. 2025. [Global Economic Prospects, January 2025](#).

inter-agency support to United Nations resident coordinators, humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams in emergency settings as a way of strengthening the delivery of assistance and support country operations involving multiple agencies.

13. The Assistant Executive Director for Programme Operations co-chaired the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG), leading time-bound task teams aimed at guiding and supporting humanitarian action in the following areas: centrality of protection, accountability to affected people, preservation of the humanitarian space, humanitarian-development collaboration and links to peace, and localization. During the year, she and her co-chair from the Norwegian Refugee Committee reformed OPAG's ways of working in order to better connect policy guidance with action in the field, before handing over to new co-chairs – from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children – in 2025.
14. Upon taking office in November 2024, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator requested that the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator prepare high-level recommendations for improving the efficiency of the humanitarian system and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). They responded with proposals for a simplified and more efficient humanitarian system,¹⁷ which they put forward in December 2024.
15. Amid a global contraction of humanitarian funding in the first quarter of 2025, the Emergency Relief Coordinator outlined a bold agenda for systemic reform (a "humanitarian reset"¹⁸) in a letter to IASC Principals on 10 March 2025.
16. **The humanitarian reset** reimagines humanitarian operations in terms of three strategic priorities: delivering effective crisis response with limited resources; rethinking how humanitarian work is organized; and shifting power closer to local leaders and affected communities.
17. To support this vision, the Emergency Relief Coordinator set out ten actions to be taken within an ambitious timeframe. Tasks were allocated across the IASC structure, with the goal of delivering prioritized, targeted and efficient humanitarian response operations. Through its contributions under the various workstreams, WFP aims to facilitate operational responses and strategic decision making, ensuring that all life-saving needs were communicated effectively through continued reporting on the number of people in need.
18. **Humanitarian programme cycle.** According to the Global Humanitarian Overview 2025, USD 47.4 billion in funding is needed to assist 189.5 million people (of a total of 305.1 million people in need).¹⁹ As of 31 March 2025, only USD 3.05 billion has been received – less than 7 percent of the funding required.²⁰ In March 2025, as part of the humanitarian reset, humanitarian country teams were asked to prioritize their appeals to focus on those that addressed the most severe and urgent needs, with the goal of safeguarding life-saving assistance and protection activities, and streamlining coordination to ensure the most effective use of limited resources.
19. WFP supports the development of achievable and prioritized humanitarian response plans that reflect realistic operational and funding projections. The organization has contributed to conversations around scope and boundaries of humanitarian assistance, emphasizing

¹⁷ J. Egeland and J. Msuya. 2024. [Proposals for a simplified and more efficient humanitarian system](#).

¹⁸ OCHA. 2025. [The humanitarian reset](#).

¹⁹ OCHA. 2024. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025](#).

²⁰ OCHA. 2025. [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025, March Update](#). Figures correct at 31 March 2025.

the need for practical responses grounded in humanitarian principles. WFP has consistently advocated an approach that leverages the proven methodology of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), whereby all individuals classified as facing IPC phase 3 or worse food insecurity are reflected in the humanitarian needs overviews. Such an approach promotes consistent, transparent and evidence-based targeting of humanitarian assistance. As planning for the 2025 humanitarian programme cycle begins, WFP is promoting a shift towards more prioritized and context-sensitive response planning methods.

20. To reprioritize its operations in a way that is consistent with the humanitarian principles, WFP is equipping its country offices and partners with tools for and guidance on reassessing needs and targeting in real time. In doing so, WFP aims to ensure that food security responses remain focused, relevant and evidence-driven, even when conditions change. WFP's operational and technical leadership in data collection and analysis are central to these efforts, which will contribute to the prioritized and context-sensitive response planning that will be essential to ensuring that humanitarian action remains as effective and sustainable as possible in a resource-constrained environment.

Enabling collective response through cluster leadership, WFP-led common services and on-demand service provision

21. WFP facilitates collective humanitarian response by providing essential shared services that enhance efficiency, safety and coordination across the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). With its partners, WFP also supports the coordination of efficient, reliable and system-wide support through its leadership of the logistics cluster and emergency telecommunications cluster, and its co-leadership of the food security cluster, while also ensuring the role of "provider of last resort". Additional opportunities to reduce duplication and costs and support humanitarian response continue to be identified. By investing in interoperable platforms and solutions, WFP works to strengthen the operational backbone of the humanitarian system, resulting in a collective response that is more agile, accountable and fit for current challenges.
22. In 2024, the **food security cluster** – co-led by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – coordinated responses to emergencies and protracted crises in 27 IASC-activated settings, including one new cluster activation in Lebanon. Cluster partners supported 88 million people with food, agriculture and livelihood assistance, reaching 78 percent of the 113 million people targeted with funding of USD 6.6 billion (43.9 percent of the USD 15 billion requested for the cluster globally).²¹ Worldwide, the cluster supported coordination for 1,700 partners, of which 80 percent were local or national actors. In 2025, the food security cluster is committed to optimizing its operations including through the transition and deactivation of clusters where possible, as occurred in Honduras in 2024. A comprehensive review of the relevance and structure of country-level food security coordination mechanisms will be conducted in 2025.
23. **Logistics cluster.** Over the past 20 years of leading the logistics cluster, WFP has played a critical role in ensuring coordinated logistics responses that enable the delivery of life-saving food, medical equipment, water and sanitation, shelter and other essential supplies and services to millions of people facing the most challenging of crises. In 2024 alone, the logistics cluster supported over 1,100 partners across 46 countries, fostering collaboration, addressing critical supply chain gaps, optimizing the use of resources and reducing duplication to deliver aid with greater efficiency, timeliness and impact. Notably, 55 percent of those partners were national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or national governments. The cluster's work included continued engagement in the humanitarian

²¹ Food Security Cluster. [Response Achievements of the Food Security Cluster, 2024](#) (webpage).

response in the Gaza Strip to support the humanitarian sector in bringing in and distributing vital supplies. The cluster also facilitated 246 convoys worldwide, including in areas of active conflict in Lebanon and the Sudan, and cross-border convoys from Chad (for the Sudan), Egypt, and Jordan (for the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Arab Republic). Throughout 2024, WFP logistics cluster teams responded to more than 5,429 requests for common logistics services, facilitating the transportation of 300,000 m³ of cargo and storage through which 200,000 m³ of relief items were delivered in hard-to-reach areas. To strengthen preparedness, WFP supported national authorities in eight countries in leading emergency supply chain coordination. Over 460 individuals from more than 150 organizations received in-person training, with 6,000 more enrolling in online courses.

24. Responding to 10 emergencies in 2024, the **emergency telecommunications cluster** provided internet connectivity and security communications services to 10,542 humanitarian responders from 145 organizations. The cluster's work included preparedness activities designed to strengthen national information communications, technology capacity and disaster resilience in Botswana, Malawi and Rwanda, and in the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The "connectivity as aid" project, which provides internet access, life-saving information and digital skills training to crisis-affected communities in the Sahel, expanded its services to Dori, Burkina Faso, in August 2024. In 2024 alone, more than 4,900 people accessed services at the two centres. To further support humanitarian operations, the cluster delivered nine training courses focused on enhancing emergency deployment skills, reaching 187 humanitarian responders across West Africa.
25. In 2024, **UNHAS** carried out 44,796 flights to 394 destinations, transporting 355,033 aid workers and partners and 4,925 mt of humanitarian cargo. Overall, 612 organizations were supported, and 663 medical evacuations and 792 security relocations were carried out. These efforts resulted in uninterrupted humanitarian access in some of the world's most challenging settings. In light of funding constraints, UNHAS has undertaken efficiency measures, including fleet optimization (with its fleet reduced from 77 to 61 aircraft as at 1 April 2025), contract revisions and reductions in ancillary costs such as those associated with fuel and ground handling. UNHAS continues to be a vital, cost-effective and rapidly deployable solution for humanitarian access. WFP is actively working to secure sustained, predictable funding for the service.
26. Through **UN Mobility**, WFP manages the largest inter-agency vehicle fleet within the United Nations system, comprising over 8,850 vehicles – including 992 armoured vehicles – and 6,728 drivers, serving 4 million clients in 111 countries to date, including 1.9 million in 2024. Currently utilized by 18 United Nations entities, UN Mobility delivered USD 8.1 million in savings in 2024, and annual potential savings are expected to reach between USD 15 million and USD 20 million, should the solution be fully rolled out across the United Nations system.
27. Since 2017, the digital **United Nations booking hub** gateway has been simplifying arrangements in relation to travel, accommodation, facilities and other services for over 5.9 million users from 18 United Nations agencies in 119 countries. In 2024, the United Nations booking hub delivered USD 14.2 million in efficiency gains, generated through digitalization and the automation of processes, time savings, cost avoidance and cost recovery through service sharing. The hub provides users with access to UNHAS flights, United Nations guesthouses and hotels that are compliant with United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) standards, United Nations vehicles and more than 30 service points, contributing to fast, secure and cost-effective operations.
28. A joint initiative by WFP and UNHCR, **UN Fleet** delivers efficient and cost-effective access to the leasing of light vehicles across the United Nations system. Since its launch in October 2022, UN Fleet has expanded as a result of growing trust in and reliance on the

service it provides. It now serves 19 United Nations entities, with 833 vehicles leased or ordered in 91 countries. A business case by BIG²² highlighted the substantial financial benefits if UN Fleet were to be adopted throughout the United Nations system, with estimated recurring annual savings of between USD 17.3 million and USD 28.2 million, and one-time savings of between USD 25 million and USD 69.5 million. On average, this translated to savings of between USD 10,876 and USD 13,594 per vehicle over a five-year life cycle.

29. **WFP provision of common services and on-demand services.** Over the period covered by the report, WFP supported 145 governments and humanitarian actors by managing 456,583 mt of cargo, providing storage, transport, fuel and food procurement services in 44 countries. Cash transfer services supported United Nations partners and NGOs in 52 countries, including through a government-to-person payment service for Lebanon's social safety net project, which allowed for the transfer of USD 80.3 million to 166,000 households. WFP provided food procurement services to nine governments, procuring 133,075 mt of food to support their in-country programmes. Furthermore, WFP supported the Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Committee in procuring 50,000 mt of wheat, valued at USD 35 million, and the Government of Malawi in procuring 23,000 mt of maize, valued at USD 20 million.
30. In 2024, WFP supported the World Health Organization (WHO) in 14 countries through its on-demand services, managing logistics including the delivery of 8.2 million litres of fuel in Yemen and storage services in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Nepal. WFP's United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot network provided WHO with procurement and pre-positioning services, while the joint INITIATE project convened 20 partners to drive innovation in health emergency logistics. Joint simulation exercises under Project Apollo²³ in Guinea and Malawi tested national capacities to respond to health emergencies, thus reinforcing inter-agency coordination and supply chain preparedness. WFP also remained an active contributor to key global platforms led by WHO, including the World Health Assembly and the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, and WFP tracked negotiations on a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness.
31. In 2024, WFP facilitated the delivery of 6.1 million health products and 2.1 million long-lasting insecticidal nets through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria across countries including Angola, Cameroon and Mali. In Liberia alone, 2.7 million health products reached 193 locations, benefiting over 4.3 million people and demonstrating WFP's critical role in the last-mile delivery of essential health services.

Grand Bargain – turning commitments into collective action

32. The Grand Bargain continued to bring together donors, United Nations entities and international and local NGOs, as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2024, seeking to achieve tangible outcomes for localization, participatory approaches²⁴ and quality funding. In response to the constrained funding environment, the Grand Bargain Ambassadors are working together to ensure that the needs of people affected by crisis continue to guide collective efforts – now and in the future.
33. Through Grand Bargain discussions, WFP advocated high-quality unearmarked funding and realistic risk-sharing as prerequisites for achieving system-wide transformation.

²² Business Innovations Strategic Results Group of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

²³ More information available in [Malawi project Apollo overview](#) video.

²⁴ See IASC. [A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives](#) (webpage).

34. As a co-champion of the Grand Bargain caucus on scaling up anticipatory action – alongside Germany, OCHA and Save the Children – WFP helped to secure the collective endorsement of a new benchmark: at least 5 percent of all humanitarian funding should be allocated to anticipatory action, with systems in place to track investments and strengthen coordination with development and climate actors and national actors.
35. In March 2025, as part of the wider humanitarian reset, the Assistant Executive Director, Partnerships and Innovation Department was endorsed by the signatories to make progress towards goals in relation to localization and high-quality funding as part of a caucus focused on concrete measures formulated in the context of the humanitarian reset.

Improving collective response

36. WFP is investing in **localization** to better support the most vulnerable people through stronger, more equitable partnerships with national and local actors. In 2024, nearly 60 percent of WFP's operational funding to cooperating partners was channelled through national and local organizations:²⁵ a clear sign of progress towards the Grand Bargain commitments. WFP also began developing its first-ever localization policy, alongside a capacity strengthening strategy for local partners. These efforts are grounded in extensive consultations with stakeholders, including national and international NGOs, community-based organizations, other United Nations entities, donors and Member States.
37. At the heart of the WFP's localization approach is a shift from transactional arrangements to collaborative partnerships. Special emphasis is placed on community-based organizations representing women, young people, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups who are a part of crisis-affected communities and serve as first responders; WFP also works with local food systems actors, including the private sector. An implementation plan will accompany the localization policy and will address core challenges faced by local actors, including predictable multi-year funding, overhead support and risk sharing.
38. In 2024, WFP worked with 927 NGO partners, and nearly two thirds of WFP's assistance on the ground was implemented by or jointly with NGO partners. Of these partners, 85 percent were national or local. WFP deepened its engagement with partners through structured dialogues with InterAction and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, increased NGO participation in WFP Board sessions, and co-designed its 2024 annual partnership consultation with NGO partners.
39. In 2024, WFP and UNICEF launched a programme called **Joint Action to Stop Wasting**, aimed at preventing and treating child and maternal wasting in 15 humanitarian settings. The initiative focuses on co-located services, maternal nutrition and local food solutions, combining WFP's food systems expertise with UNICEF's health systems leadership.
40. **Integrated HIV/AIDS response.** As a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, WFP supports people living with HIV/AIDS in crisis-affected areas. In 2025, WFP launched a new HIV/AIDS strategy – Feeding Health²⁶ – to deliver more targeted, context-specific support in countries with a high HIV/AIDS burden, helping them to adapt to conflict, climate and economic shocks.

²⁵ Note that as per WFP's corporate indicator, this figure includes the value of food and cash resource transfers for beneficiaries distributed through partners.

²⁶ WFP. 2025. *Feeding Health, the last mile on HIV – WFP's global strategy 2025–2030*.

Scaling access and civil-military coordination to facilitate humanitarian operations

41. Drawing on its unique operational and coordination expertise, WFP remains committed to investing in capacities related to access and humanitarian-military interaction (HMI) in order to strengthen the collective humanitarian response. WFP promotes a cross-functional approach to humanitarian access, working through technical functions such as supply chain, HMI, risk management and security. It engages closely with local communities and leverages its full capacity to overcome access challenges for its own operations and those of its partners. In 2024 in the Sudan, WFP used emergency response rooms to deliver hot meals in Khartoum and developed a business-to-business model to assist people in hard-to-reach areas of Darfur. In the Gaza Strip, WFP has intensified its work with communities and bakeries to reach a larger number of affected people.
42. In Mali and the Niger, WFP has strengthened front-line capacity through workshops on access and HMI for staff and partners. In South Sudan and the Sudan, it deploys a range of supply chain solutions, while in hard-to-reach areas in countries such as Burkina Faso and Haiti, UNHAS provides critical air support. Furthermore, the HMI Unit has also collaborated with the risk management, security and supply chain functions to provide bespoke guidance and support on the use of armed escorts in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Niger. This work will inform ongoing IASC discussions on humanitarian access and principled humanitarian action.
43. In complex emergencies – including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the State of Palestine, the central Sahel and the Sudan – WFP has used its comparative advantage by facilitating dedicated humanitarian access and deploying HMI experts to support field operations and coordination efforts. To address persistent access challenges in conflict-affected areas such as in the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, WFP mobilizes its access and HMI teams, along with the global rapid response team, to advocate and coordinate across agencies. For example, in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Yemen, HMI teams continue to work with WFP Security, WFP Aviation, OCHA and UNDSS to improve interactions between parties involved in various conflicts, thereby ensuring that they are notified of facilities and staff movements (including flights). This helps WFP to achieve its goal of staying and delivering, even in the most dangerous settings.
44. In 2024, WFP HMI teams led inter-agency civil-military coordination, supporting OCHA in providing guidance on humanitarian notification systems, the use of armed escorts and operational planning for services such as UNHAS. WFP also led two inter-agency HMI training sessions in the Netherlands and Panama, engaging staff from WFP, other United Nations entities, international NGOs, peacekeeping missions, donor organizations and militaries.

Enhancing security support for the collective humanitarian effort

45. Recognizing that partnerships are key to ensuring the safety of humanitarians, especially in a time of increasing risks, WFP is investing in collective security and preparedness across the humanitarian system. As a top contributor to the United Nations Security Management System, WFP plays a critical policy role, shaping common security services and contributing to key updates, including revisions to the security risk management manual. A major focus for 2024–2025 is the ongoing to the United Nations Security Management System review, which will examine the roles and responsibilities of the system going forward.
46. WFP also plays a leading operational role in high-risk settings. In the Gaza Strip, Haiti and southern Lebanon, it helped to develop “acceptable risk” frameworks for movement approvals across air, sea and road, aligning risk management and accountability across United Nations actors. WFP has also supported emergency evacuations and redeployments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gaza Strip, Haiti and the Sudan.

47. In conflict settings such as Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen, WFP works with UNDSS and OCHA on access and deconfliction, playing a key role in country-level access cells in terms of negotiating and maintaining humanitarian access.
48. To support duty of care, WFP provides safety and preparedness support to the wider humanitarian community, offering SSAFE²⁷ and medical training when possible. With donor support, in 2025 WFP aims to scale up this work and align them with its commitments to localization.
49. WFP is contributing to UNDSS discussions aimed at defining more flexible shared approaches to security management across the United Nations system.

Assurance

50. In an operational environment characterized by high risks, reprioritization and policy-related uncertainty, assurance has become an even greater corporate priority for improving accountability and transparency and embedding a culture of integrity, risk management and assurance throughout WFP.
51. Established in 2023, WFP's global assurance project has been a model of good assurance. The comprehensive measures put in place through the project – including a global assurance framework, improvements in specific areas of country operations and country-specific augmented assurance plans²⁸ – give the greatest possible confidence that all WFP assistance will reach the people served by the organization. WFP has made significant progress on assurance: through the global assurance project, on average 31 country offices managing high-risk operations have implemented more than 80 percent of their augmented assurance plan activities. Notable achievements include improvements in identity management, digital distribution, deduplication and secure data transfer. WFP is implementing a comprehensive plan to roll out the global assurance framework to all country offices by 2026.
52. WFP codified four global assurance standards through an Executive Director's circular released in June 2024. They apply to all WFP operations and require WFP to do the following: consult with and listen to the people it assists, while respecting their privacy; know who is being assisted, and at the end of every cycle, who received assistance and who did not; know that its in-kind assistance is safe and know where it is – from origin to distribution; and maintain operational independence. WFP is investing in country office capabilities to meet the four standards, developing better guidance and offering more tools. The organization believes that assurance is a non-negotiable cost of doing business.
53. In 2024, WFP made it a priority to strengthen risk management in the area of sexual exploitation and abuse by building cooperating partner capacity for safe and accountable programming. A key initiative was the global learning workshop on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in partnerships, organized in collaboration with the Implementing Partner Protocol Working Group. WFP also led the roll-out of the United Nations PSEA capacity assessment for implementing partners and joined a PSEA working group to improve United Nations engagement with commercial partners.

²⁷ Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments.

²⁸ WFP initially prioritized its 31 highest-risk operations for implementation of the global assurance project in 2024. These included operations in Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Operations in Libya were initially part of this group but subsequently removed from the list owing to a change in the focus of the operations and reduction in the size of the country office.

54. In 2024, WFP finalized the development of the people-centred framework on accountability for results, a results-oriented accountability tool designed to track the contribution of WFP's commitments and resources to advancing people-centred outcomes. The framework has been embedded in the process used to formulate country strategic plans from 2025.
55. WFP launched a data-streamlining initiative with Catholic Relief Services to jointly support WFP's cooperating partners in managing beneficiary data efficiently while safeguarding privacy, including when handling duplication and data sharing.
56. New tools – including a partnership management map and minimum assurance standards – will be launched in 2025. WFP's Partner Connect system, now active in 29 countries and expanding globally, will enhance transparency, accountability and access for a diverse network of local actors.

Evidence generation and knowledge-sharing

57. Throughout 2024, WFP leveraged partnerships, evidence and technical leadership to promote early joint action across humanitarian, development and peace sectors. By convening actors, generating timely data and investing in anticipatory systems, WFP continued to support global efforts to prevent famine and mitigate food crises.

Evidence generation and thought leadership

58. WFP closely monitors acute food insecurity among the most vulnerable people, playing a central role in the IPC and Cadre Harmonisé processes. In areas with limited access, WFP employs remote data collection methods to ensure that needs are accurately assessed and properly addressed.
59. In 2024, WFP provided the majority of food security outcome indicators used in IPC processes. In 2025, it is collaborating with the IPC global support unit to improve famine classification, enable analysis in hard-to-reach areas and enhance data disaggregation.
60. In 2024, WFP advanced its sustainable responses to food crises through its leadership in the Global Network Against Food Crises and the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus Coalition. In this context, WFP engaged with key partners such as FAO, the European Union, the United States of America, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme. Coordination was further strengthened with initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, and the Committee on World Food Security.
61. In partnership with Tufts University's Feinstein International Center, WFP co-led a series of high-level policy dialogues around the theme of "preventing famine in a changing world". The series culminated in the development of a global famine prevention framework and strengthened engagement with the United Nations Security Council through a partnership with Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Governance.
62. With support from University College London and the Famine Review Committee, WFP piloted a process for collecting mortality data through phone surveys in the Gaza Strip. This initiative provided non-trauma-related mortality estimates needed for IPC calculations.
63. WFP and World Vision collaborated to provide evidence on the impact of ration cuts on communities and food security.

Addressing global trade and food access

64. Together with FAO and the World Bank, WFP briefed the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization, highlighting the impacts of rising acute food insecurity, particularly for net food-importing developing countries.

65. WFP remains the Government of Ukraine's technical partner in the Grain from Ukraine initiative, facilitating food shipments to countries in Africa and the Middle East, including the Syrian Arab Republic. A localized version – Grain from Ukraine for Ukraine – uses local grain for national relief efforts. This supports domestic operations and stabilization efforts that benefit conflict-affected communities.

Peace, security and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

66. In 2024, in both open and closed sessions, WFP briefed the United Nations Security Council on conflict-driven hunger crises in the Gaza Strip, Haiti, the Sudan (Zamzam refugee camp) and Yemen. In doing so, WFP reiterated its support for the implementation of resolution 2417. WFP also co-organized high-level events at the European Humanitarian Forum 2024 and the Geneva Peace Week, using the opportunity to highlight the link between conflict, hunger and peace along with Member State partners, including Switzerland.

Early warning for high-quality early action

67. In 2024, as part of its role within the IASC Emergency Directors Group, WFP engaged in "horizon scanning" to help to prioritize early humanitarian action. In collaboration with FAO, WFP released two editions of the *Hunger Hotspots* report (June and November 2024), which highlighted rising food insecurity across 22 countries driven by conflict, climate and economic shocks – including fallout from the crisis in the Gaza Strip and the impacts of La Niña.
68. WFP led or co-led the Early Warnings for All initiative in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique and Nepal. Through its anticipatory action programmes, WFP supported national meteorological services in 44 countries.
69. Under the joint FAO-WFP anticipatory action strategy, WFP contributed to anticipatory action training packages, Central Emergency Response Fund frameworks and after-action reviews with the Southern African Development Community and regional partners.
70. In 2024, WFP – together with partners and affected communities – prepositioned food and supplies in high-risk areas, resulting in faster, more cost-effective responses. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Sudan, early stockpiling ahead of floods protected access and cut delivery delays. In Haiti, pre-hurricane prepositioning allowed WFP to reach communities quickly and helped to reduce the use of harmful coping strategies.

Cash coordination

71. Through the global Cash Advisory Group, WFP collaborated with United Nations entities, NGOs and local actors on the new IASC cash coordination model, leading to the development of a quality cash coordination framework. WFP also developed guidance for reporting on multi-purpose cash in humanitarian response plans, which was approved in 2024. The Cash Advisory Group is set to launch capacity-building training in 2025.

Accountability to affected people and protection

72. In 2024, alongside the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance, WFP co-chaired the IASC Task Force on Accountability to Affected People. With UNHCR, IFRC and UNICEF, WFP also co-led the IASC Working Group on Collective Feedback Mechanisms, helping to develop and finalize the IASC Standards for Collective Feedback Mechanisms, which were endorsed by IASC's Operational Policy and Advocacy Group and published in January 2025.
73. WFP supported the implementation of the IASC Centrality of Protection Action Plan. To this end, WFP co-organized an inter-agency workshop with FAO and InterAction to enhance the system-wide internalization of protection principles, fostering collaboration between humanitarian actors and donors.

74. WFP contributed to the development of the new strategic plan for the global protection cluster and co-led a policy lab at the Global Protection Conference, focusing on integrating cross-cutting issues into humanitarian responses and strengthening collaboration among protection actors.

Looking forwards

75. WFP will continue to contribute to the humanitarian reset. In doing so, it aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian system in reaching the most vulnerable people. In collaboration with partners, WFP will strengthen collective approaches to ensure that assistance is delivered to the communities it serves in a timely, principled and accountable way.

Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HMI	humanitarian-military interaction
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPAG	Operational Policy and Advocacy Group
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
PSEAH	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization