



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Executive Board
Annual session
Rome, 23–26 June 2025

Distribution: General

Agenda item 8

Date: 10 June 2025

WFP/EB.A/2025/8-F

Original: English

Operational matters

For information

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Update on food procurement

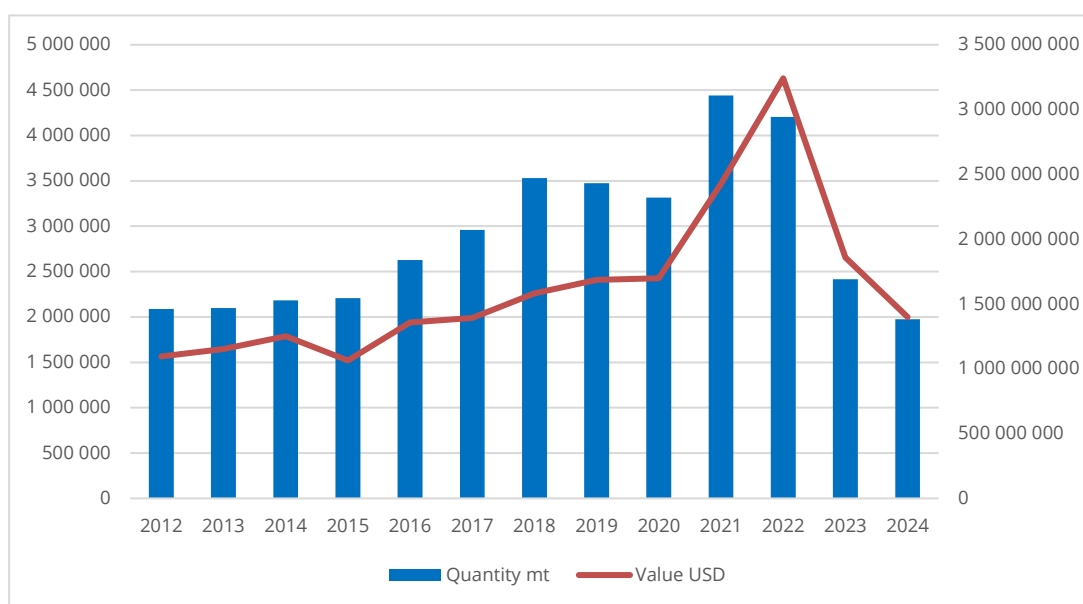
WFP food procurement in 2024

1. In 2024 WFP procured **1.97 million mt** of food worth **USD 1.4 billion**. This was a decrease of 18 percent in total volume and 25 percent in value with respect to 2023; the decline was due to a significant decrease in WFP funding. Approximately 98 percent of the volume of food procured in 2024 was for WFP operations, while the remaining 2 percent (40,579 mt) was procured by WFP acting in a service provision capacity on behalf of national governments.
2. The quantity of food purchased by WFP in 2024 was the lowest in the last 12 years (figure 1). Procurement purchasing fluctuates with funding, as shown by trends in recent years. In 2022 WFP secured USD 14.2 billion in funding and procured 4.2 million mt of food, compared to 2023 funding of USD 8.5 billion and 2.4 million mt of food procured. Most WFP operations carried out fewer procurement activities in response to critical cuts in funding, with some halving monthly rations or halting certain assistance programmes altogether.

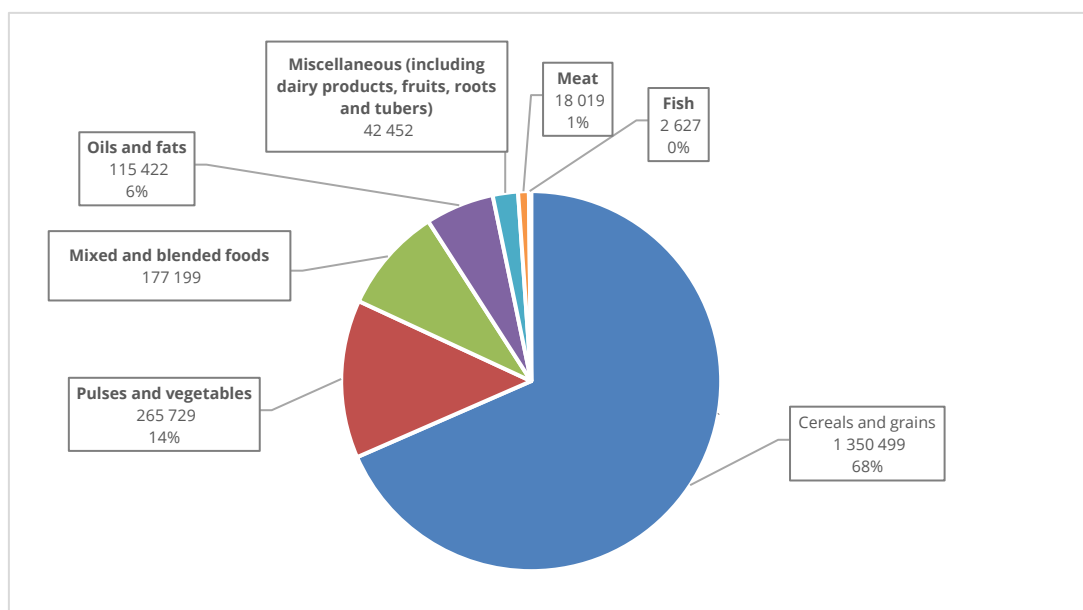
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Figure 1: WFP food procurement, 2012–2024

3. **Cereals** remained the largest category of food procured by WFP by volume, accounting for 68 percent of total food procured. This was followed by **pulses**, which accounted for 14 percent. These percentages are similar to those of 2023, when cereals represented 71 percent of total food procured and pulses, 10 percent.

Figure 2: Food procured in 2024 by category (mt)

Main countries of origin

4. About **72 percent** of the volume of food procured by WFP in 2024 was sourced from countries where WFP is providing assistance.

5. Approximately **67 percent** of the volume of food procured (**1,321,984 mt**) was sourced from least-developed, lower-income and lower-middle-income countries, thereby supporting developing economies.¹

TABLE 1: WFP FOOD PROCUREMENT BY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE CATEGORY, 2024				
Development Assistance Committee category	Quantity		Value	
	<i>mt</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>USD</i>	<i>%</i>
Least-developed	575 369	29.16	338 571 150	29.16
Low-income	114 874	5.82	44 797 803	5.82
Lower-middle-income	624 987	31.68	515 038 856	31.68
Upper-middle-income	455 478	23.08	326 805 964	23.08
Developed	202 400	10.26	175 156 302	10.26
Total	1 973 110	100	1 400 370 077	100

6. **Ukraine, Kazakhstan** and the **United Republic of Tanzania** were the most competitive sources of cereals in 2024. The volume from the United Republic of Tanzania reflects the amount of local and regional procurement undertaken by the country office in that country for its own operations and for regional responses such as the El Niño response. By using local and regional sourcing WFP was able to provide assistance to more beneficiaries at lower cost in a challenging funding environment.

TABLE 2: TOP 10 WFP SOURCE COUNTRIES, 2024				
Origin country	Quantity		Value	
	<i>mt</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>USD</i>	<i>%</i>
Top 10 countries	1 109 922	56	751 207 869	54
Ukraine	272 873	14	109 557 747	8
Kazakhstan	173 059	9	64 043 277	5
United Republic of Tanzania	148 046	8	54 130 725	4
Türkiye	136 911	7	114 456 729	8
Pakistan	109 421	6	161 035 384	11
Egypt	67 904	3	73 680 500	5
Sudan	66 249	3	36 427 797	3
Belgium	53 419	3	55 699 009	4
Russian Federation	43 799	2	40 464 188	3
Jordan	38 242	2	41 712 513	3
Others	863 187	44	649 162 208	46
Total	1 973 110	100	1 400 370 077	100

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2025. *DAC List of ODA Recipients: Effective for reporting on 2024 and 2025 flows*.

Supporting countries of operation through procurement

7. WFP's local and regional food procurement policy has been mainstreamed and implemented across all WFP operational regions, following a successful pilot in 2020 in three regions. The policy has a dual focus: supporting governments by promoting localized, cost-efficient procurement; and strengthening local food systems. This allows WFP to increasingly integrate procurement with programme activities, focusing on nutrition and resilience and linking smallholder farmers to markets in order to empower and provide equitable benefit to all the people it serves.
8. In 2024 **about 1.4 million mt of total food procured (72 percent)** was sourced in countries where WFP had an operational presence. In line with the local and regional food procurement policy, WFP procured food in countries with reported surplus stocks in order to minimize the risk of price increases and economic shocks.

Streamlining the local and regional food procurement policy

9. In 2024 the local and regional food procurement policy was implemented in 26 countries in all six regions, ensuring uniform prioritization of local and regional benefits across WFP programmes and operations. Local and regional procurement accounted for **over 59 percent** of WFP food procurement by volume.
10. Pro-smallholder farmer purchases increased from 3.8 percent by volume in 2023 to **4.4 percent** in 2024. Of this, WFP's Southern Africa region accounted for the largest share at 36 percent, followed by the Western Africa region at 32 percent, the Eastern Africa region at 12 percent, the Latin America and the Caribbean region at 11 percent, the Asia and the Pacific region at 5 percent and the Middle East, Northern Africa and the Eastern Europe region at 3 percent.
11. In 2024 country offices increasingly implemented pro-smallholder farmer purchases by switching from indirect to direct contract modalities. **Madagascar** is an example of the success of this policy, as the country office scaled up its purchasing to a total of 5,300 smallholder farmers, who provided around 6,000 mt of food for WFP-supported programmes in the country. Notably, nearly 50 percent of those farmers were women. With the launch of a home-grown school feeding programme the country office used local procurement to support smallholder farmers, contributing to development goals and the country office's 2024–2029 country strategic plan outcomes. By the 2024/2025 school year, the programme had grown to cover 530 schools, compared with 106 schools in 2023.
12. There is great potential to scale up implementation of the local and regional food procurement policy in more countries through a more locally focused approach to procurement, including the replacement of imported commodities such as split peas, beans, sorghum and maize with local production. During 2024 WFP also increased local purchases of **specialized nutritious foods**, which accounted for 53 percent of total purchases made through local suppliers in 2024, an increase from 48 percent in 2023. Of the 14 suppliers of specialized nutritious foods in 2024, 10² were local or regional specialized nutritious food suppliers. The sustained use of local suppliers enables faster delivery by reducing lead time because production is closer to the people in need; it also supports local economies.
13. WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund continued to work together to raise awareness of producers of lipid nutrient supplements and their production capacities among a wider audience, with the aim of increasing support for WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund's nutrition objectives, and to enhance the visibility of the expected demand

² There are local producers of specialized nutritious foods in Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda and South Africa.

for the supplements by both organizations. This collaboration extended to the quality management process for auditing and clearing suppliers and to incident management.

Enabling responses to unfolding emergencies

14. In 2024 the proportion of food that WFP procured for ongoing emergencies remained relatively stable, representing about 34 percent of the total, compared with 36 percent in 2023 (see table 3). During the same period, country offices managing emergency operations also drew 989,504 mt from the Global Commodity Management Facility.

TABLE 3: VOLUME OF FOOD PROCURED IN 2024 ACCORDING TO EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATION, 2024	
Emergency classification	Volume (mt)
Corporate attention (13 countries)	327 007
Corporate scale-up (6 countries)	339 066
Total	666 073

15. Procurement for WFP's emergency response efforts prioritized Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. For emergency response, the common food basket items include rice, bulgur wheat, white beans, vegetable oil, iodized salt and wheat flour.
16. To ensure timely and effective response, WFP successfully pre-positioned various commodities in key corridors, through close coordination between regional bureaux, headquarters and local offices. For example, at the onset of the Lebanon crisis, WFP used stocks from Egypt and Jordan to supply the country office, while for its operations in the Gaza Strip, WFP pre-positioned stocks in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the State of Palestine to allow deliveries to begin swiftly once access to the Gaza Strip was granted.

An increasingly coordinated approach to procurement

17. With a network of procurement experts strategically located near key markets, WFP's procurement activities are well positioned to support the organization's approach to empowering country offices, thereby strengthening responsiveness and impact across its supply chain.

TABLE 4: FOOD PROCUREMENT BY PURCHASING OFFICE, 2024				
Purchasing office	Value		Quantity	
	USD	%	mt	%
Headquarters	637 050 457	45	1 043 229	53
Regional bureaux	107 949 805	8	98 479	5
Country offices	655 369 816	47	831 402	42
Total	1 400 370 077	100	1 973 110	100

18. In 2024 the Procurement Service continued to implement a transformation project aimed at optimizing processes, enhancing the skills of the workforce and digitizing end-to-end processes. The service implemented a “category management” approach to procurement, wherein it grouped similar products and services into categories to improve buying decisions, maximize efficiency and improve market partnerships. It also led stakeholder engagement initiatives resulting in the development of strategies for these categories. An end-to-end procurement digital solution, SmartSourcing, was rolled out in 2024, reflecting WFP’s prioritization of and investment in strengthening its processes for continued efficiency gains.

Ensuring environmental sustainability

19. In alignment with WFP’s environmental policy, and the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of that policy, WFP aims to reduce its environmental impact by working with its suppliers to incorporate environmental considerations into its operations and to leverage optimization initiatives, such as efforts to reduce WFP’s carbon footprint and reduce waste.

Reducing WFP’s carbon footprint

20. WFP has developed a portal called ECODASH – the Environment and Carbon Optimization, Decision and Analysis Support Hub – which will help country offices to plan their food baskets while considering their carbon footprints, including from various transport options. This tool is currently being used at headquarters, while a pilot project has been completed in Haiti and a trial in Nigeria is planned.
21. WFP measures changes in its environmental footprint by looking at reductions in its food procurement carbon dioxide emissions. Such reductions can be the result of commodity substitutions, which seek to lower environmental footprints while also taking cultural acceptance and nutritional suitability into account. For example, sorghum and millets are often locally produced and considered to be climate-resilient commodities.
22. In 2024, WFP was also able to reduce its estimated transportation carbon footprint by 4.3 percent per metric ton, from 2023 levels, as a result of increased local procurement.

Promoting sustainable packaging and foods

23. WFP works with food manufacturers, inspection companies and inter-agency partners to ensure the use of high-quality packaging, thus minimizing waste and loss along the value chain.
24. WFP is working on alternative durable packaging, including industrial bags for staple foods and recycled materials such as vegetable oil bottles and cartons. In line with localization and sustainability efforts, WFP is also exploring local alternatives for sourcing non-food items used in warehouses. In 2024, for example, the Cameroon country office assessed a local supplier offering pallets made from recycled materials. WFP is looking to transition to such sustainable local solutions gradually, which will facilitate the proper disposal and recycling of used items, reintegrating them into supply chain operations as part of a circular economy approach.

Oversight

25. In 2024 the Procurement Service continued to provide oversight and guidance at headquarters and in the field through joint oversight missions and compliance checks. Cross-functional supply chain missions carried out in **Burkina Faso** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** allowed WFP to strengthen support for field operations. In addition, the Procurement Service facilitated knowledge exchanges to equip staff with procurement expertise, reinforcing compliance across field operations and business units at headquarters.

The way forward

26. In 2025 the Procurement Service will continue to strengthen and adapt its strategy for the above-mentioned procurement categories, implement the transformation project referred to in paragraph 18 above and further refine global procurement priorities, in line with the funding forecasts for 2025. As part of the “one global headquarters” model the service is exploring the optimal placement of experts to support cost-effective and efficient procurement that meets country office needs.

ANNEX

Additional information on commodities procured

Category	Commodities
Cereals	Barley, buckwheat, bulgur wheat, maize, maize meal, oats, pasta, rice, sorghum/millet, wheat, wheat flour
Pulses and vegetables	Beans, canned pulses, canned vegetables, chickpeas, lentils, peas, split lentils, split peas
Mixed and blended	Biscuits, BP-5 emergency rations, date bars, high-energy biscuits, lipid-based nutrient supplements, Super Cereal, Super Cereal Plus, Vitatol, wheat and soy flour
Oils and fats	Olive oil, vegetable oil
Others	Canned beef, canned chicken, canned fish, other canned meat, cassava flour, dried fruits, fresh tubers, halawa, iodized salt, micronutrient powder, plain dried skimmed milk, pre-packed food rations, processed tomato, spices, sugar, tea, UHT milk, yeast

Cereals

1. Cereals remain the largest category of food procured by WFP in volume (68 percent) and value (42 percent) – marginally the same as in 2023. Within this category, fortified wheat flour remained the top commodity procured but total volume procured fell by 32 percent in 2024 (from 455,317 mt to 317,806 mt). The purchase of rice fell by 3 percent, sorghum remained at the same level and maize and maize meal marginally increased.
2. In 2024, total maize purchased was about 182,029 mt, with about 97 percent being white maize. About 54,000 mt was sourced from smallholder farmers, who provided 16 percent of white maize purchases. Most of the white maize is sourced and consumed within the Eastern Africa region, with the United Republic of Tanzania supplying the largest volume (about 55 percent).
3. The volume of rice purchased in 2024 was 302,917 mt compared with the 311,217 mt procured in 2023. The main countries of origin were the Republic of Korea, Myanmar and Pakistan. The volume procured in 2024 included 100,000 mt purchased under a tied contribution from the Government of the Republic of Korea – an increase from the 50,000 mt purchased in 2023. The price of rice remained significantly high in 2024 due to the export ban for non-basmati rice imposed by India, the largest global exporter of rice. This ban was imposed in response to increased domestic prices and fears of the potential impact of El Niño in crucial rice-growing areas. This affected the global market price of rice. The ban was lifted in September 2024, which triggered an immediate reduction in global rice prices.

Pulses

4. In 2024, pulses accounted for 13 percent of food procured by volume, compared with 10 percent in 2023; with 265,729 mt procured at a value of USD 233 million. Split peas were the most purchased commodity within this category, with 105,796 mt procured at a value of USD 50 million. The purchased volume of split peas increased in 2024, mainly driven by emergency responses. WFP used food supply agreements internationally and mainly sourced vendors from Türkiye. Through these agreements a total of 38,443 mt was procured in 2024 at a value of USD 17,558,047, saving USD 322,992.

Specialized nutritious foods

5. Specialized nutritious foods, which include lipid nutrient supplements and fortified blended foods, accounted for 18 percent of the total expenditure on food procurement, falling from 22 percent in 2023. This change is mainly the result of large stocks available in the Global Commodity Management Facility hubs from 2022–2023 and funding constraints, which led to a reduction in actual purchases.
6. In 2024 WFP purchased 148,000 mt of specialized nutritious foods valued at USD 250 million (7.5 percent of the total volume of all food procured and 18 percent of the procured food value), compared with 192,000 mt valued at USD 412 million in 2023 (8 percent of the total volume of all food procured and 22 percent of the procured food value).
7. There was a continued decrease in funding allocated to the procurement of specialized nutritious foods (USD 250 million in 2024 compared with USD 412 million in 2023, representing a 39 percent reduction in actual value of purchases).
8. WFP used its expanded supplier base and enhanced supplier capacity to strategically meet its demand for specialized nutritious foods. This, in addition to its strategic stocks, reduced lead times for lipid nutrient supplements and fortified blended foods from around four months to two or three months from the creation of a purchase request to the commodity being made available at the port of discharge, depending on the shipping transit time.

Vegetable oil

9. In 2024, WFP procured 115,398 mt of vegetable oil valued at USD 168.3 million. This is a reduction of 3 percent from 2023. The vegetable oil primarily consisted of sunflower oil (65,255 mt) mainly sourced in the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Ukraine, and fully sustainable, RSPO SG certified,³ palm olein (36,777 mt) purchased from Indonesia and Malaysia.
10. Reductions in delivery lead time (of approximately two weeks) have been achieved using early dispatch clauses in the headquarters food purchase contracts for palm olein. The Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa initiated several purchases with regional suppliers through the Global Commodity Management Facility.

Sugar

11. In 2024, WFP procured 13,840 mt of sugar valued at USD 1 million. This was about 110 percent less than in 2023, possibly because, in addition to general funding constraints, the main operation (in the Syrian Arab Republic) had previous stocks of the commodity. A total of 4,262 mt of sugar was mainly sourced from Morocco (Brazilian sugar refined in Morocco) and 3,531 mt from Ukraine.

³ In the context of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), "Segregation (SG)" refers to a supply chain model where RSPO-certified palm oil products, sourced from certified growers, crushers and smallholders, are kept physically separated from non-certified palm oil throughout the entire supply chain.