

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



# CHANGING LIVES FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Beyond the Annual Performance  
Report 2018 Series



November 2019



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# I. INTRODUCTION



Global hunger has been on the rise, affecting 821 million people in 2018. Conflicts and insecurity which cause people to become displaced have been the main drivers of food insecurity. Weather extremes have exacerbated the downward spiral of food insecurity by impacting agricultural productivity, food production and natural resources. These have led to changes in food systems and the emergence of new challenges to addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable<sup>1</sup>.

## ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY

In line with the vision of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger by 2030, the World Food Programme (WFP) commits in the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to provide the most food-insecure people with opportunities that build their resilience and contribute to productive opportunities over the long term. Under the plan's Strategic Objective 3 (SO3), WFP aims to promote food security by improving the productivity and income of smallholders (Strategic Result 3) and make food systems sustainable (Strategic Result 4). Country Strategic Plans are compared to previous project-based planning fundamental to achieve such results by offering a framework in support of longer-term planning and stimulation of synergies across activities.

## LINKING HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES

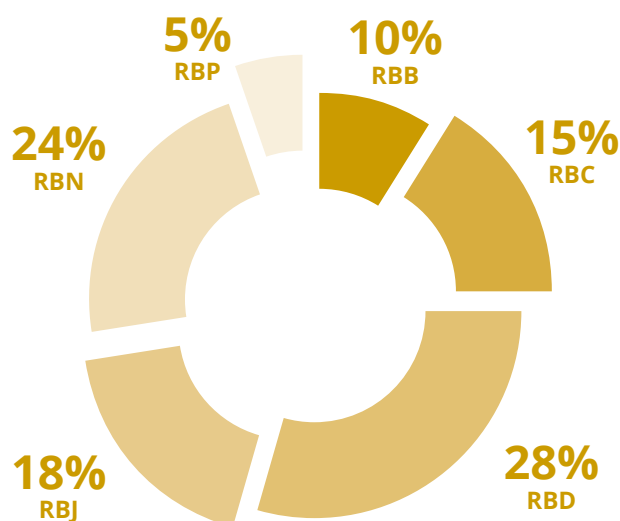
In a context of increasing complexity, WFP builds on its comparative advantage in emergency settings to link humanitarian and development responses. WFP's ability to combine competency in comprehensive food security analysis, livelihood programming, and monitoring with capacity in practical and innovative food supply chain management is also relevant. By investing in sustainable solutions that restore the natural resource base, protect communities against climate shocks and predict extreme weather events, WFP plans to reduce the cost of emergency response.

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

To achieve the desired outcomes under SO3, WFP needs to sustain its investments over the long term. From 2018 to 2021, WFP estimates that an average of around USD 610 million per year would be required to ensure that SO3 activities are implemented at scale to improve the income and food security of smallholders in 59 countries.

Region	Countries (no.)	2018-2021 Needs-Based Plan
Asia and the Pacific (RBB)	8	240 million
Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (RBC)	7	360 million
West Africa (RBD)	18	690 million
Southern Africa (RBJ)	9	440 million
Eastern and Central Africa (RBN)	8	580 million
Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP)	9	140 million

Figure 1: 2018-2021 Needs-Based Plan per Region for Strategic Objective 3 (%)



Changing Lives for Smallholder Farmers aims to highlight the achievements made by WFP in 2018 to support smallholder farmers with opportunities that enable them to transition from being recipients of food assistance to self-reliance. Section II presents the wide range of instruments, activities and platforms used by WFP to tackle the complex constraints facing smallholders. The applicability of these interventions in the field is highlighted through country examples in Section III. Section IV reviews the opportunities going forward. This thematic report presents data acquired from WFP's corporate systems and is complementary to the 2018 Annual Performance Report.

<sup>1</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2019. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf>. Rome.





Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud



## THE ROLE OF SMALLHOLDERS IN ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER

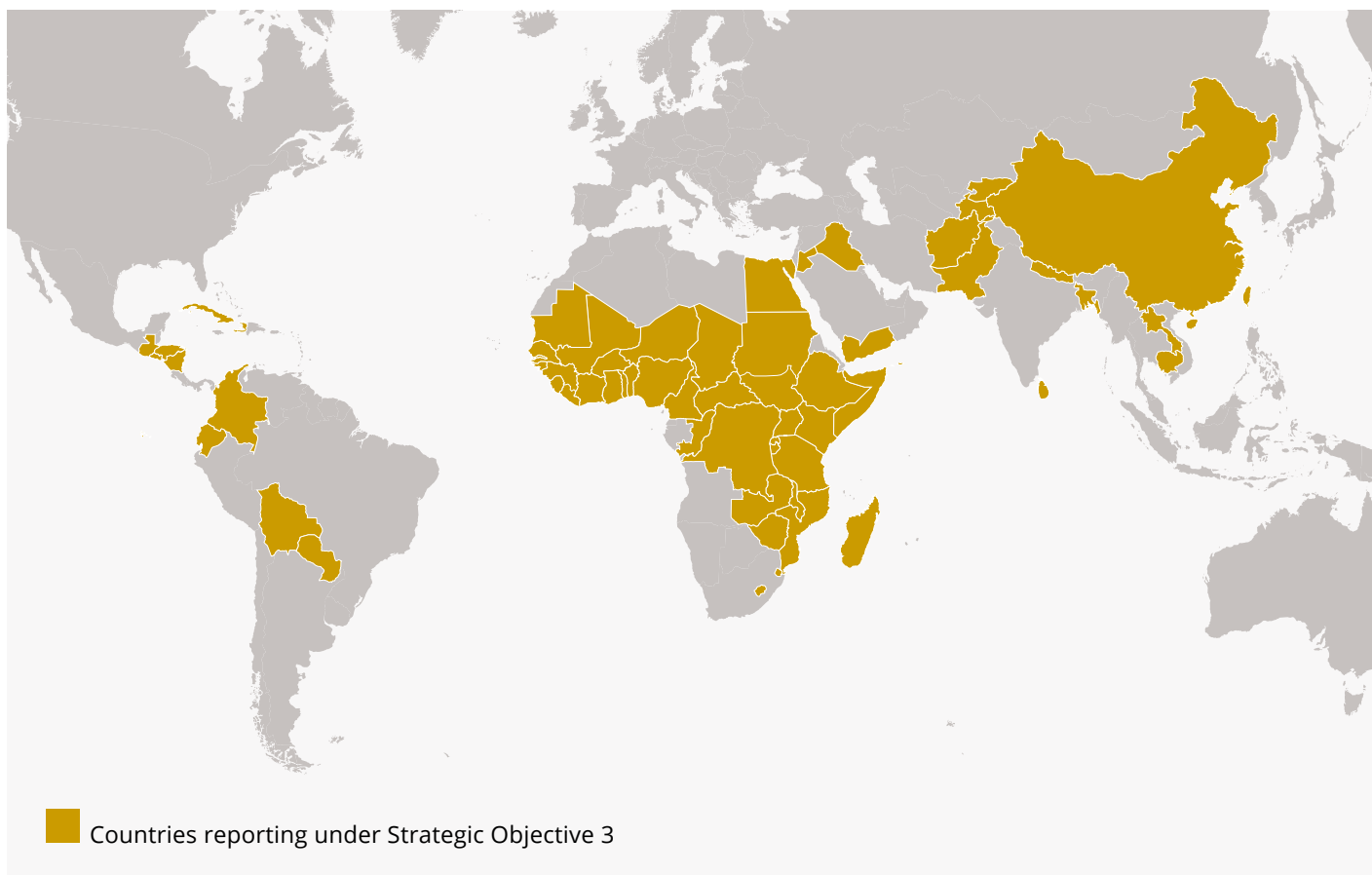
Around 500 million smallholder farms produce more than 80 percent of the food consumed in large parts of the developing world thereby contributing to food security and poverty reduction<sup>2</sup>. While smallholder farmers produce much of the world's food, they face major challenges in profitable market engagement. Due to their physical, economic, social, and political marginalization, most smallholders pursue low productivity, subsistence-oriented livelihoods that support meager and unhealthy diets. Millions of them are therefore chronically food insecure and vulnerable to shocks.

Strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers, whose yields are systematically lower than all other food producers, is critical to reversing the rising trend in hunger. Being the most predominant form of agriculture worldwide, investments in smallholder farms offer great potential to build sustainable agricultural systems that maintain the natural resource base.

## WHO ARE SMALLHOLDERS?

The definition of a smallholder farmer, also referred to in this report as smallholder, is country specific, as there is no unambiguous global definition. Often scale, measured in terms of farm size, is used to classify farmers. For example, smallholders often farm less than a threshold size of 2 hectares. However, in most cases multiple factors characterize farming, and other parameters can be used, including volume of production, source and volume of labour, capital and inputs. For WFP, if a host country has an accepted definition of smallholder farmers under which it collects and reports agricultural data, such a definition is followed whenever relevant<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 2: WFP's global support to smallholders under Strategic Objective 3 between 2018 and 2021**



2 International Fund for Agricultural Development & United Nations Environment Programme. 2013. *Smallholders, Food Security, and the Environment*. [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39135645/smallholders\\_report.pdf/133e8903-0204-4e7d-a780-bca847933f2e](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39135645/smallholders_report.pdf/133e8903-0204-4e7d-a780-bca847933f2e).

3 WFP. 2017. *Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance: A Background Paper for WFP's Strategy for Boosting Smallholder Resilience and Market Access Worldwide*. [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023124/download/?\\_ga=2.136577136.1963678817.1569316063-1294151148.1541749204](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023124/download/?_ga=2.136577136.1963678817.1569316063-1294151148.1541749204). Rome.

WFP has over the past years strengthened the integration of activities that seek to improve households' capacities to better withstand shocks and build sustainable food production. By integrating a range of smallholder activities and expanding partnerships to include the private sector, WFP aims to augment the benefits of each single activity, thereby maximizing the opportunities for increased productivity and income and making food systems sustainable. Geographical coordination and proper sequencing and alignment of activities are key to ensuring transformative change.

The integrated approach aims to assist smallholders in advancing from food insecurity and vulnerability to shocks (step 1 in figure 3) to increased income and food security (step 6) through reduced risk and vulnerability (step 2), increased agricultural productivity (step 3), increased investment and storage capacity (step 4) and increased access to markets (step 5). The steps are not implemented in a linear trajectory; rather, the introduction of activities depends on the context. WFP seeks to apply the integrated approach across all its operations; while several countries have adopted the approach, it is yet to be applied globally.

The success of this approach relies on the understanding that no single activity is sufficient to increase smallholder income and production and strengthen sustainable food systems. As the conceptual model highlights, the sequential layering of different activities facilitates the sustainable transformation of smallholders from being subsistence farmers, who are highly vulnerable to shocks and stressors, to being surplus producers who are integrated into local and regional market systems and are resilient to shocks.

Activities that support such transformations include the provision of the appropriate food, cash, insurance, equipment, information and knowledge to smallholders together with appropriate technologies and capacity development of farmers' organizations. Support for capacity and systems strengthening to local and national governments similarly serve to build smallholder capacity.



### STEP 1

## FOOD INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY TO SHOCKS



### STEP 5

## INCREASED ACCESS TO MARKETS

- Capacity strengthening of farmers' organizations
- Stimulation of buyers' (WFP, private sector, government institutions) pro-smallholder purchasing ability



Figure 3: Six steps of WFP's integrated approach



**STEP 2**  
**REDUCED RISK  
AND VULNERABILITY**

- Delivery of food assistance
- Creation of productive assets
- Provision of microinsurance services



**STEP 3**  
**INCREASED AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTIVITY**

- Provision of agricultural inputs
- Training on agricultural practices
- Provision of climate information and energy services



**STEP 4**  
**INCREASED INVESTMENT AND  
STORAGE CAPACITY**

- Establishment of saving groups
- Provision of long-term access to formal credit
- Support on household storage and post-harvest handling



**STEP 6**  
**INCREASED INCOME  
AND FOOD SECURITY**

## STEP 1



### FOOD INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY TO SHOCKS

Smallholders' income and food security are constrained by a range of factors that limit their access to technology, finance, information, knowledge and markets. In many regions, smallholders are rendered increasingly vulnerable to shocks by climate change interacting with population growth, seasonal volatility in prices of key goods (especially staples) and physical displacement and commercial disruption due to conflict and civil strife. Smallholders represent a majority of households likely to be strongly impacted by structural challenges that will intensify in the coming years – including climate change, water scarcity and natural resource degradation. In many contexts, sustainable growth and inclusive structural transformation cannot be achieved without significant productivity growth in smallholder agriculture.

## STEP 2



### REDUCED RISK & VULNERABILITY

Productive assets help smallholders restore the natural resource base thereby reducing the exposure of smallholders to shocks while microinsurance transfers the risk and associated cost of major shocks to insurance companies.

#### Creation of productive assets

As part of the first step in transitioning smallholders from a state of recurrent vulnerability to shocks and hazards and food insecurity, WFP works with them to rehabilitate degraded agricultural land. Asset creation provides them with the skills and inputs to protect and adapt their farms from natural shocks by reducing erosion, enhancing soil fertility, improving water availability and promoting conservation agriculture techniques. WFP provides targeted food-insecure smallholders participating in the asset creation programme with cash, food or voucher transfers to ensure that immediate food needs are met during periods of reduced availability or access to food. In 2018, beneficiaries in 89 percent of WFP operations reporting on the Asset Benefit Indicator, indicated benefits such as increased or diversified production, reduced hardships, improved physical access to markets and/or basic services and improvement in the natural environment from enhanced livelihood asset base.



Photo: WFP/Marco Fratini

#### KEY TYPES OF ASSETS THAT TRANSFORM DEGRADED LANDSCAPES

WFP's Food Assistance for Asset programmes, carried out in partnership with governments, communities and civil society, assist communities to transform degraded and infertile land into centres of agricultural production. Asset creation aimed at rehabilitating degraded land includes:

- water harvesting measures such as wells, ponds and irrigation schemes to improve water accessibility throughout the year;
- physical structures such as hillside terraces for soil and water conservation; and
- soil fertility management and biological soil conservation techniques such as crop diversification and composting to prevent land degradation.



## Provision of microinsurance services

Building on risk reduction achieved through asset creation activities, WFP introduced risk transfer mechanisms in the form of microinsurance for smallholder farmers. This protects households from having to resort to negative coping mechanisms in the event of shocks, by providing timely payouts at the onset of the shock. In addition, insurance promotes household investments as insurance payouts can provide a guarantee to credit providers against loans. The insurance is index-based and payout to farmers is triggered, when the index falls beyond a predetermined threshold. Smallholders access the insurance products by engaging in asset creation or other activities such as conservation agriculture. Opportunities have also been made available for smallholders to contribute themselves to the payment of the insurance premium with potential support from host government or other donors.

## Key achievements in 2018



**122,500 HECTARES**

OF DEGRADED FARMLAND  
REHABILITATED



**87,000 FARMERS**

IN SIX COUNTRIES PROVIDED  
WITH MICROINSURANCE

TOTAL SUM INSURED USD 10.3 MILLION

VALUE OF PREMIUMS USD 1.7 MILLION

## ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, a strategic partnership that was launched between WFP and Oxfam America, combines four risk management strategies: improved natural resource management through asset creation and improved agricultural practices (risk reduction), microinsurance (risk transfer), increased investment, livelihoods diversification and microcredit (prudent risk taking) and savings (risk reserves). Surveys have shown that insurance payouts were mainly used to cover basic needs and livelihood investments. After several seasons of bad harvests, R4 farmers were able to maintain their food security compared to others exposed to the same risks.



Photo: WFP/Carla de Gregorio

Photo: In Khoutiacoto, Senegalese farmers are attending a training on the concept of microinsurance.

## STEP 3



### INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

WFP has put in place a set of mechanisms that assists smallholders in applying good agricultural practices and enhance their adaptability to climate change in order to improve their production capacity.

#### Provision of agricultural inputs

Increasing productive capacity and transferring risk contribute to increased and diversified agricultural production of smallholder farmers, thus leading to improved food availability. As smallholders improve their agricultural production beyond subsistence levels, they require more agricultural inputs. WFP works with the private sector, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other United Nations agencies to improve the timeliness and availability of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment.

#### Training on good agricultural practices

The provision of agricultural inputs is combined with trainings, aimed at improving the capacity of farmers in using the inputs and adopting good agricultural practices to increase their productivity. WFP and partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and government extension officers work with smallholders on two main areas: conservation agriculture strategies and intercropping to support long-term sustainable production of crops. The purpose is to introduce farming practices adapted to the local conditions, thereby protecting the soil from erosion and degradation, improving soil quality and biodiversity and helping preserve natural resources, while optimizing yields and improving the diversity of food at household level.

### Provision of climate information services

In addition to protecting smallholders from climate shocks through risk transfer mechanisms, WFP enhanced access to tailored weather and climate information for vulnerable smallholders. Being able to access easy-to-understand and timely information allows communities to take better decisions and better manage climate-related shocks, leading to greater food security. For example, tailored agro-meteorological advisories are shared with food-insecure communities through dedicated radio programmes and mobile phone messages. Agricultural extension workers have also been trained to interpret and communicate relevant climate information to rural audiences.

#### IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF FARMERS IN NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua, a country highly exposed to natural hazards, WFP supported smallholders with the provision of trainings on good agricultural practices and climate change adaptation at both farmer organization and household level. By adopting several training methods, including workshops and field-based trainings, farmers acquired solid knowledge in areas such as soil and water conservation, minimum tillage, use of drought-resistant seeds and reforestation. As a result, in 2018, 89 percent of farmers applied at least two environmentally-friendly techniques to produce their crops, widely exceeding the 50 percent target established for the project. Improving the productivity of Nicaraguan smallholder farmers was part of the broader Smallholder Agricultural Market Support programme aimed at increasing the productivity, quality of produce and market access of 3,000 smallholders through farmers' organizations.



## Provision of energy services

WFP fosters market-based solutions that bring energy products and services - such as efficient cook stoves, solar appliances and cold chain equipment - to food-insecure communities. Engaging with private sector, governments and end-users, WFP enables energy services to improve lives for households and power productive activities to create jobs and development. Access to energy is essential at every stage of the food supply chain (production, processing and preservation) and opens new economic opportunities in rural areas that strengthen the livelihoods of smallholders.

In food production, energy access facilitates the use of more efficient land clearing and preparation, irrigation and harvesting techniques. In addition, energy systems can power food processing tasks, such as milling, grinding and pressing to extract oils and essences. Similarly, energy-powered storage and handling, such as refrigeration, smoking and drying, reduce post-harvest loss and improve food quality, thereby increasing the availability of nutritious foods at the household level while enabling farmers to control the timing of crop sales. Even charging mobile phones is crucial to receive weather forecasts and access mobile banking services, credit and insurance.

## Key achievements in 2018



**200,000 FARMERS**

STRENGTHENED THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN 31 COUNTRIES, WITH THE PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND TRAININGS



**4,000 SMALLHOLDERS**

GAINED ACCESS TO CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES



Photo: WFP/Eliseo Arauz

Photo: In the municipality of Quilali, in Nicaragua's dry corridor, Ivania Acuña is holding the freshly harvested bean pods from her plot. Despite the effects caused by drought in that area, Maria stands happy and proud because she managed to harvest for her family's consumption and sales.

## STEP 4



### INCREASED INVESTMENT AND STORAGE CAPACITY

Access to credit through savings groups encourage investments in land and livelihood diversification while the provision of storage facilities increases income opportunities by reducing post-harvest losses.

#### Establishment of savings groups

Through individual and group savings, farmers can build a financial base that provides a buffer for short-term needs. This enable households to better cope with shocks, increase their investment capacity, improve production and diversify their livelihoods. Group savings can be loaned to individual members of the community with particular needs, providing a self-insurance mechanism for the community. Savings can also be accumulated in-kind, for example through cereal banks which allow farmers to stock surplus yields.

#### Support on household storage and post-harvest handling

Improved household storage is required to ensure that smallholders are able to keep their produce safe until the moment of sale and enable them to sell their surplus production at the most favourable conditions, when prices are higher. This implies supporting smallholder farmers to improve their capacity in storing products, accessing proper storage technologies and handling products properly to keep food safe until sale. WFP combines the provision of storage equipment with trainings on post-harvest management techniques to help farmers reduce their post-harvest losses.

Working with governments, NGOs, United Nations agencies and the private sector, WFP provides smallholder producers with hermetically sealed storage technologies; these involve putting the crops into sealed containers to stop the movement of air and moisture between the outside atmosphere and the stored crops. The system can be used for paddy, milled rice and other cereal crops such as corn.

### Key achievements in 2018



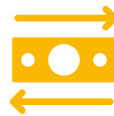
**275,000 FARMERS**

SUPPORTED TO INCREASE STORAGE EQUIPMENT AND CAPACITY



**50,000 FARMERS**

GAINED ACCESS TO SAVINGS GROUPS



**31,000 FARMERS**

FACILITATED WITH ACCESS TO LOANS IN FIVE COUNTRIES



## STEP 5



### INCREASED ACCESS TO MARKETS

As production increases and households are able to produce quality marketable surplus, WFP helps smallholders gain access to farmers' organizations in order to aggregate production and channel it to formal buyers, including the private sector, government institutions and WFP itself.

### Capacity strengthening of farmers' organizations

In collaboration with cooperating partners, WFP works to strengthen the capacity of farmers' organizations to organize themselves and effectively manage their members, improve their governance capacity and facilitate their official registration, access to financial services and agricultural inputs. Farmers' organizations are also supported on the post-harvest handling and processing. This improves their capacity to store and transport commodities and adds value to their produce by converting a crop into a more valuable commodity for sale in local and regional markets. With trainings on marketing skills, WFP and partners help farmers' groups to improve their bargaining power and engage with formal buyers, supporting them in the identification of market opportunities, development of business plans and compliance with contracts.

### Improving buyers' pro-smallholder purchasing ability

On the demand side, WFP seeks to stimulate a stable market for supported farmers by strengthening its own and other buyers' pro-smallholder purchasing ability. Internally, WFP seeks to improve corporate procedures for procuring from smallholders, strengthening tracking and payment mechanisms and improving the logistics and the sourcing strategies and plans. All these activities will be included in WFP's upcoming policy on local food procurement. With the implementation of this policy, WFP aims to boost its local procurement, including from smallholder farmers, in the coming years.

Externally, WFP conducts outreach and strengthens the capacity of private and institutional buyers to purchase more effectively from smallholders. By leveraging its long-standing expertise in procurement, logistics and sourcing, WFP strives to influence other buyers' capability to engage with smallholders in ways that are beneficial for them, using smallholder-friendly modalities such as contracts and payment mechanisms.

In addition to fostering the linkages between smallholders and buyers, WFP invests in improving physical access to markets through the construction, extension and rehabilitation of roads, trails and bridges to connect smallholder producers with local, regional or national traders.

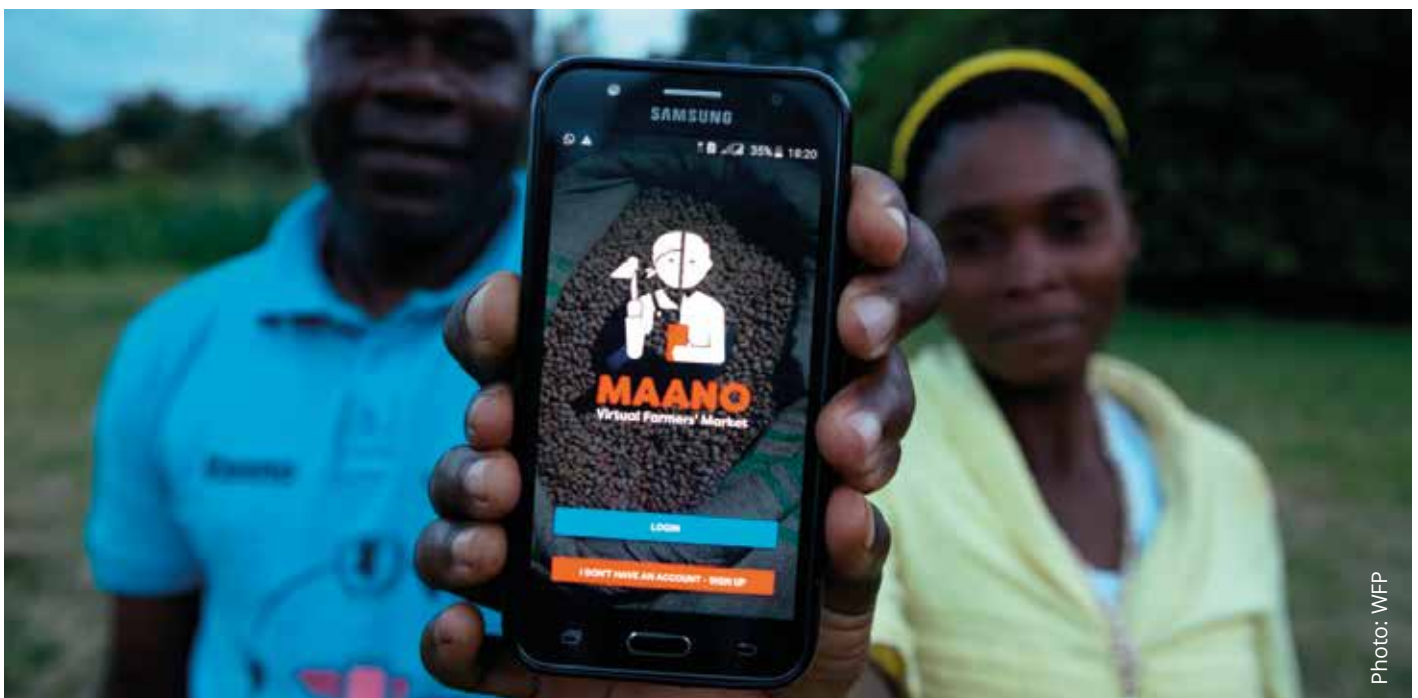


Photo: WFP

Photo: In Zambia, the Maano app has provided a platform whereby smallholders can sell their crops at fair prices to local buyers.



**VIRTUAL FARMERS' MARKET APP**

In recent years, WFP has been exploring ways to build on technology and digital innovation to connect smallholders to markets. Virtual Farmers' Market (VFM) is an app-based e-commerce platform where farmers' surplus and buyers' demand for crops are advertised and traded. It provides a transparent, open and trustworthy space for smallholders and buyers to negotiate fair prices and deals. The app was piloted in Zambia in 2017 with the name Maano, meaning 'Intelligence' in the local language. WFP trained 103 ambassador farmers and to date Maano has been used by 5,449 farmers. The share of women farmers participating in VFM amounted to 39 percent in 2018, demonstrating the value of the app in enhancing market access and economic empowerment of women. WFP is currently building on the lessons learned with the development of Maano and other app-based solutions to develop an integrated digital platform that will enable smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods by facilitating their access to diverse services, including agricultural inputs, price and weather information, capacity and market opportunities.

**Key achievements in 2018**



**54,000 MT**

PROCURED FROM SMALLHOLDERS IN 29 COUNTRIES, FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF USD 31 MILLION



**3,174 FARMERS' GROUP**

(500,000 FARMERS) SUPPORTED WITH MARKET ACCESS INITIATIVES IN 31 COUNTRIES



**170,000 FARMERS**

FARMERS SUPPORTED WITH TRAININGS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MARKETING CAPACITY



**553 FARMERS**

VIRTUALLY LINKED TO 29 TRADERS IN ZAMBIA



**553 MT**

OF CROPS (VALUED AT USD 181,000) TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE VFM APP



**10,200 KILOMETRES**

OF FEEDER ROADS CONSTRUCTED, REHABILITATED OR EXTENDED, ALONG WITH ONE BRIDGE AND 1,300 KILOMETRES OF TRAILS, TO FACILITATE SMALLHOLDERS' ACCESS TO MARKETS



## STEP 6



### INCREASED INCOME AND FOOD SECURITY

Working with smallholders through an integrated response serves as a platform whereby more sustainable action can be taken towards achieving food security and Zero Hunger. The layering of complementary activities assists smallholders in gradually improving their income and food security through reduced risk and vulnerability, and increased agricultural productivity, investment, storage capacity and access to markets. The approach enables smallholders to build sustainable food production and economically benefit from their land through market engagement. This will enable them to invest in other assets that help them build resilient livelihoods.

### Systems strengthening for sustainable transformation of smallholders' livelihoods

In addition to working directly with smallholders in more than 50 countries, WFP works in parallel with governments and market actors to strengthen the systems that underpin the successful transformation of smallholders' livelihoods using the integrated approach. Three examples of WFP's work with national governments, market systems and local authorities are summarized below.

**Forecast-based Financing** is a mechanism whereby early actions at community and government level are pre-planned based on credible forecasts and are funded and implemented before a climate shock. These actions minimize smallholders' losses and damages caused by climate hazards and reduce the subsequent need for humanitarian assistance. Therefore, WFP is collaborating with national and local government institutions to identify early warning indicators and thresholds and is developing Standard Operating Procedures, so early action can be taken at government and community level. WFP is also working with national meteorology/hydrology services and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society to strengthen in-country weather forecasting capacities and integrate their early warning systems into national preparedness plans.

**Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA)** is a consortium of six agriculture-focused organizations, formed to collaborate with the private sector to make markets work better for farmers. Along with Alliance's other global members, WFP helps smallholders receive relevant information, investments and support from seed to market, so they can produce and sell marketable surplus and increase their income. In 2018, FtMA operated in four countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia) supporting 142,000 farmers of which 45 percent

were women. By fostering the link between the farmers and 58 private sector partners, ranging from agricultural input suppliers to financial institutions, crop loss insurance providers and buyers, WFP aims to strengthen the local market systems beyond WFP's interventions. In this way, WFP promotes the sustainability of the activities implemented to support smallholders.

The **ARC Replica**, supported by WFP and other humanitarian partners, is an insurance product with the objective to expand climate risk insurance coverage to more people and improve the effectiveness of emergency humanitarian response in vulnerable African countries prone to climate risks. The insurance mechanism was developed based on the African Risk Capacity (ARC) to assist member states in the African Union to improve their emergency preparedness and response capacity for climate risks, including through innovative finance mechanisms and climate risk insurance. ARC Replica operational plans for emergencies are developed in consultation with – and endorsed by – governments and outline the complementary response measures to be implemented in case insurance payouts are triggered by a large-scale climate shock.

### Key achievements in 2018



## 13 COUNTRIES

PROVIDED SERVICES THROUGH FORECAST-BASED FINANCING



→  
FTMA



## 24.5 USD MILLION

WORTH OF BEANS, MAIZE, SORGHUM AND SOYBEANS SOLD TO COMMERCIAL BUYERS THROUGH FTMA



PILOTED ARC REPLICA IN MALI AND MAURITANIA



Photo: WFP/Bachre Bahajj

## BACKGROUND

With more than 80 percent of Malawi's 18 million population dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the economy was heavily hit by the El Niño-caused drought in 2015/2016. Population growth has led to degradation of landscapes from overexploitation resulting in an increase in the frequency of floods and drought. Furthermore, food production in 2017 and 2018 was affected by crop pest attacks from fall army worm.

## INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO BUILD FOOD SECURITY

In response to chronic food insecurity and subsistence farming practices, WFP designed an integrated package of activities aiming to transition communities from relief assistance to self-reliance and resilience in terms of food and nutrition security. Asset creation activities were introduced to Malawi in 2014 with a systematic approach and gradually expanded to support 170,000 households (reaching 1.2 million people) by 2018. Efforts to increase food and income security for households at risk of climatic shocks were further strengthened with the piloting of the integrated risk management programme in 2015. Starting with 1,700 farmers engaged in asset creation, different components of microinsurance, climate adaptation techniques, access to climate information and financial services were gradually introduced and reached around 37,000 households by 2018. The program during its first phase from 2015 to 2018 contributed to improve households' food security status and resilience capacity. The majority of participants engaged in asset creation and climate risk management increased their savings capacity and access to credit (75 percent and 97 percent of households respectively) and 88 percent of households improved or maintained their ownership of assets.



## WORKING WITH SURPLUS PRODUCERS

In 2018, the integrated approach was combined with support to post-harvest loss management and skills to assist with farming decision making. Similarly, the promotion of market access support was introduced among surplus-producing farmers to help them sell their produce to WFP and local traders. For example, WFP helped farmers gain access to the warehouse receipt system through which they were able to store their produce safely, access credit and sell at times of more favourable market conditions.

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

WFP engaged in a partnership with the Malawi Red Cross Society to coordinate efforts on forecast-based financing in the events of both droughts and floods. By establishing early warning systems and partnering with national meteorological agencies, WFP provided assistance to households before the occurrence of climatic shocks. WFP also worked closely with local institutions to provide capacity strengthening opportunities on multi-sectoral and multi-year planning, as well as on programme design and implementation.

## WEATHER INSURANCE DURING DROUGHT

Catherine Thomas, a resident of Msaka in Malawi, insured her crops against drought through WFP and Oxfam America's R4 Rural Resilience Initiative. "I had never heard about weather insurance. I only knew about vehicle insurance," said Cathreen. "Last year, I harvested ten bags of maize, but this year, it did not rain for twenty-five days during the rainy season, so I am only expecting to harvest two bags of maize," she added. For this shortfall, she received 38,000 Malawi Kwacha (USD 55) as compensation. Catherine insured her crops against drought, paying for her premium by digging water retention structures on her land. "It's a relief for my family. I am planning to use the payout to buy seeds which I will plant in my newly irrigated fields", she added.

## Key achievements in 2018



# 12,000 HECTARES

OF LAND CULTIVATED



# 1,242,915 CUBIC METERS

OF COMPOST GENERATED FROM RECYCLED ORGANIC MATTER AND APPLIED TO OVER 23,600 HECTARES OF LAND



# 93,000 VEGETABLE GARDENS

DEVELOPED AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL INCREASING ACCESS TO DIVERSIFIED AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS



# 37,000 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

FACILITATED WITH ACCESS TO MICROINSURANCE. OUT OF THESE, 22,000 PARTICIPATED IN VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN GROUPS, ENABLING THEM TO SAVE OVER USD 399,000 AND ACCESS LOANS WORTH USD 109,000



# 29 FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

LINKED WITH 93 SCHOOLS UNDER THE HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPLY OF VEGETABLES, LEGUMES AND MAIZE



# 250 MT

OF MAIZE VALUED AT USD 60,000 PROCURED FROM SMALLHOLDERS

CASE STUDY ON ZIMBABWE



Photo: WFP/Ashley Baxstrom



## BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, Zimbabwe has been exposed to economic instability, political turmoil and climatic shocks, forcing 63 percent of its 16 million population below the poverty line. Eighty percent of the population derives a significant proportion of their income from livestock and agriculture mostly rainfed, leaving them vulnerable to climate shocks, high agricultural input costs, post-harvest losses, fragmented and inefficient markets, and an under-performing economy.

## PLANNING FOR INTEGRATED RESPONSE

Following the humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought in 2015/2016, WFP presented in its Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) a broad strategy on how to tackle the root causes of food insecurity. A multi-year integrated approach was put in place to target smallholders and build their resilience against climate-related shocks. Over the five-year implementation period, WFP is planning to reach 11,000 households.

Careful planning was undertaken during the first year of the project to lay out a realistic vision for the integrated approach, leading to the development of strong programme capacity, coordination mechanisms with partners and government counterparts and a monitoring framework to gauge resilience achievements. In 2018, 500 households were targeted in Masvingo district, where following community-based planning processes, WFP assisted food-insecure households in:

- creating soil and water conservation structures to reduce farmers' risks to climate shocks by increasing their natural resource base and raising their incomes;
- promoting agricultural practices and use of drought-tolerant seeds to improve yields and adaptation to climate change;
- establishing village savings and loans groups to stimulate investments and act as a buffer during shocks;
- protecting farmers' investments through microinsurance against major drought events; and
- promoting smallholders' access to markets through financial education and business trainings.

Despite the economic instability in Zimbabwe, participants maintained their wealth and food security status during 2018. Positive results were also noticed in: i) women's empowerment through village savings and loans groups, which gave them the opportunity to manage funds and take decisions at household level; ii) improved nutrition and income generation through the set-up of vegetable gardens, chicken runs and bee-keeping; and iii) better adaptation to climate shocks through the introduction of drought-tolerant crops, which are also expected to be purchased by WFP after harvest.

## SAVINGS MECHANISMS IN THE FACE OF ECONOMIC INSTABILITY

The macro-economic situation in Zimbabwe, characterized by high inflation rates and shortages of cash, posed severe challenges to the project. By encouraging savings in mobile money and supporting smallholders to invest in commodities and income generating activities, the use of village savings and loans groups was adapted to fit the local conditions. This exemplifies the applicability of the approach even in difficult contexts.

## LINKING SMALLHOLDERS WITH BUYERS

In areas where farmers consistently produce a surplus, WFP worked in 2018 with local traders to improve their capacity to purchase from smallholders and meet WFP's quality and procurement requirements. Conditional tenders requiring 20 percent of the commodity to be sourced from smallholders were launched, resulting in 1,003 mt of white sorghum being procured from local traders who purchased from smallholders. Direct purchases from farmers who received trainings on collective marketing and post-harvest management amounted to 65 mt.

## TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Musavingeyi Masapi and Tendai Maronwe live in the Chebvute village, Masvingo District, where they and other community members have built a dam and fish ponds, set up vegetable gardens, tree nurseries, and apiculture and raised poultry. In addition, the community benefited from financial education and the introduction of financial services. Through knowledge transfer, they learned basic principles of operating farms as a business, how to market products and the significance of achieving balanced nutrition at the household level.

Musavingeyi Masapi (right in photo) is enthusiastic about the project "People were no longer interested in small grains, but now we know that small grains are our big asset". Small grains such as sorghum and millet are more drought tolerant than normal maize and enable farmers to harvest even in periods of scarce rainfall. Tendai Maronwe (left in photo), a participant and trainer of trainers in the village savings and loans group, is adamant about the increased empowerment that the project gave her and many other women: "Now the elders see that we are busy with our village savings and loans groups, they respect us, and they borrow from us".

CASE STUDY ON NIGER





## BACKGROUND

High food insecurity led WFP in 2018 to declare a high-level emergency response for the Sahel region during the lean season (June to September). With four out of five Nigeriens relying on rain-fed agriculture, climate variability posed a serious risk to national food production. Between 2014 and 2018, an average of almost 6.8 million people were considered chronically food insecure. Niger has a population of 21.5 million people and with a growth rate of 4 percent per year, one of the highest in the world, demographic pressure along with conflict in neighbouring countries also posed a risk to national food security.

## ASSET CREATION AS A PLATFORM FOR INTEGRATED RESPONSE

To support smallholders in improving agricultural productivity, WFP supported 250,000 households between 2013 and 2017 by giving them the skills and tools required to build and restore assets. Building on lessons learned during the previous four years, WFP scaled up its multi-actor, multi-sector resilience building efforts in 2018 to include an additional 200,000 households. Programme design identified through national, regional and local planning processes was undertaken in coordination with the government and efforts were made to institutionalise the planning tool and make it applicable to all organisations contributing to building resilience in Niger.

## USING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FOR INCOME GENERATION

Sani Mahame lives in Rinawa village, Zinder, with his wife and three children and participated in the Rome-based Agencies' Resilience Initiative. He received agricultural inputs and trainings from FAO and IFAD and participated in WFP's asset creation activities, for which he also received food assistance. "Thanks to this project, I was able to increase my agricultural and vegetable production, buy more land through improved income generation, and I was able to acquire very useful knowledge about how to make compost from residues. The support of the project put an end to my 15 years of migration, and I am now able to stay in my village", Sani said.

## MULTI-YEAR INTEGRATED RESPONSE BY ROME-BASED AGENCIES

In 2018, the Resilience Initiative, implemented in partnership with FAO and IFAD, targeted ten sites across two of Niger's Communes de Convergence to enhance resilience between 2018 and 2022. The communes are part of the government-led multi-sector strategy, Les Nigériens Nourissent les Nigériens, which aims to create programmatic, thematic and geographical synergies among stakeholders to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities. In 2018, the Resilience Initiative assisted beneficiaries with a combined package of unconditional lean season assistance, distribution of agricultural inputs, support to strengthen community-based committees and establishment of farmer field schools. Multi-year funding for joint resilience building efforts enhance opportunities to achieve self-reliance through improved institutional and individual capacity strengthening, timely delivery of assistance and improved planning.



III. LOOKING FORWARD

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Photo: FAO/IFAD/WFP/Eliseo Arduiz

## **BREAKING DOWN SILOS**

WFP committed in its Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to scale up its contribution to achieve food security under SO3 by improving smallholder productivity and incomes (Strategic Result 3) and building sustainable food systems (Strategic Result 4). In efforts to provide smallholders with opportunities to improve income and food security, WFP will continue to create synergies between programmes to offer a more holistic set of instruments, activities and platforms. This will go alongside efforts to advocate for multi-year funding to build sustainable food security outcomes.

## **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

WFP will continue to emphasise collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies to serve smallholder farmers with a complementary approach that enable them to gain access to technology, finance, information, tools, knowledge, and markets. Innovative approaches already piloted in 2018 will be brought to scale to serve the wider community and partnerships with private companies, particularly in the tech industry, will be strengthened to offer new solutions to the challenges faced by smallholders. Building multi-sectoral partnerships will continue to play a key role in achieving food security in an increasingly complex context.









Photo: WFP/Alexis Masciarelli

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