

174th Session of the FAO Council

Sub-Item 17.2: Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2022

The World Food Programme (WFP) performance highlights summarized below reflect the findings presented in the organization's 2022 Annual Performance Report (APR). The APR 2022 was discussed and endorsed by the WFP Executive Board during its Annual Session in June 2023.

Throughout 2022, the world experienced the worst food crisis in decades, driven by conflicts, weather extremes, rapid inflation, the macroeconomic repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The resulting strain on global and national food systems contributed to catastrophic levels of food insecurity and unprecedented humanitarian needs. WFP estimates that in 2022 up to 349 million people were acutely food-insecure in 79 countries with WFP operational presence, an increase of almost 200 million people compared with pre-pandemic levels. WFP's five largest operations accounted for roughly 44 percent of the total needs assessed, with food assistance needs in Afghanistan quadrupling by the end of 2022. Increased food procurement costs (39 percent higher than in 2019) meant reaching those in need with urgent life-saving action was even more challenging.

WFP and its partners reached almost 160 million people, 25 percent more women, girls, boys and men in 2022 than in 2021. This figure greatly exceeds the 12 percent average annual increase in number of beneficiaries assisted during the previous five years. WFP distributed nine percent more in-kind food (4.8 million metric tonnes) and 40 percent more in cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers (USD 3.3 billion). In the context of record food and fuel price inflation and a sharp increase in needs, WFP stretched its resources and prioritized assistance to a larger number of people by reducing the size of rations or the duration of assistance.

WFP managed five corporate scale-ups and 23 corporate attention emergencies in 2022 and worked with its many partners to deliver emergency food, cash-based and nutrition assistance, reinforce national social protection systems and strengthen the resilience of communities. This support contributed to averting famine in countries such as Afghanistan and Somalia. In response to record levels of food insecurity, WFP increased by 24 percent the number of beneficiaries it reached through general food assistance to more than 113 million people. Globally, 28 million people, primarily mothers and children, benefitted from WFP's malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes, receiving nearly 312 000 mt of food (95 percent of which was specialized nutritious foods), and USD 55.3 million in cash-based transfers. Through its school-based programmes, WFP worked with governments in 59 countries to reach 20 million children directly, nearly half of whom were girls, with nutritious school meals and snacks or take-home rations, 29 percent more than in 2021. As part of WFP's work on lessening the impact of future crises, WFP assisted 9.9 million people through asset creation and livelihood activities, almost 3.4 million people through climate insurance or anticipatory actions, and nearly 845 000 people through its smallholder agricultural market support programmes.

Donors reacted to the unprecedented needs by increasing their contributions to WFP to USD 14.1 billion, nearly a 50 percent increase over 2021. Similar to previous years, while the 10 largest donors accounted for 86 percent of the contributions, WFP made progress in diversification of its funding base through partnerships with national governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, United Nations and thematic funds, as well as through an increase in flexible funding. Expenditures continued to be concentrated on humanitarian responses (crisis-related programmes accounted for 86 percent of total 2022 expenditures). While overall direct expenditures increased by 34 percent, to USD 11.6 billion in 2022, in countries such as Yemen, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo direct expenditures decreased from 2021 despite increasing needs. This was likely due to the growing complexity and severity of the global operational environment, with new emergencies emerging and escalating in 2022 in places such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Somalia and Ukraine which affected WFP's ability to respond given the resourcing context.

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