

42nd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 14: United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

Performance Highlights

WFP Annual Performance Reports for the years 2018 and 2019

The following summary provides an overview of World Food Programme (WFP) 2018 and 2019 results and reflects the findings of the two Annual Performance Reports (APRs) discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during the annual sessions in June 2019 and 2020, respectively. The two years of WFP operations covered in this summary reflect the second and third year of implementation of the Integrated Road Map, a change process which included a shift from project-based operations to Country Strategic Plans (CSPs). Since 2013 WFP has mainstreamed reporting on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) into its Annual Performance Report, which had previously been presented separately to FAO and to ECOSOC.

The APRs 2018 and 2019 provide the evidence that demonstrates how and with what means WFP was able to meet the ongoing and increasing challenges faced by women, girls, boys, and men vulnerable to poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, around the world. Management performance and policy and strategic measures put in place to support operations globally are also included in the report. Financial accounting on expenditures against the Management Plan are detailed as well as resource mobilization and fundraising initiatives. The report also provides a section on the issues that will shape WFP's priorities for the year ahead, informed by ongoing and emerging humanitarian and development issues. The WFP Strategic Plan is aligned with Agenda 2030, notably Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 17, as well as all other SDGs, and the corporate results framework frame corporate priorities. All operations were carried out in alignment with corporate strategic results, as articulated in WFP's Management Plan (2017-2021).

WFP, as a voluntarily funded organization, has been able to achieve the reported results due to the support provided by the WFP Executive Board, donors and resource partners. WFP attracted record contributions in 2018, totalling USD 7.2 billion compared with USD 6.0 billion in 2017, and assisted 86.7 million beneficiaries. The USD 1.2 billion increase translated into more meals and food assistance that WFP distributed each day and resulted in the lowest funding gap (28 percent) in years. Yet the funding gap of USD 2.8 billion between the USD 10 billion WFP needed for its planned programmes and the USD 7.2 billion it received masked some large inequalities in humanitarian assistance, particularly *forgotten emergencies*, which generate relatively little political interest and do not make the headlines, with people in those countries suffering disproportionately from these gaps. Capacity strengthening suffers a similar fate, forestalling development gains.

In 2019, record funding levels of USD 8 billion again enabled WFP to effectively reach 97.1 million beneficiaries, the highest number assisted since 2012, while operating in 88 countries. Malnutrition was averted or treated for 10.8 million children and 6.2 million pregnant and nursing women in 2019. Response to Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies was undertaken in 20 countries, the highest annual total ever, including long-standing operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and rapid scale-up of operations in Mozambique in response to the impacts of Cyclone Idai. Roughly two-thirds of WFP's life-saving food assistance went to girls, boys, women, and men facing severe food crises, overwhelmingly as a result of conflict. In South Sudan and Zimbabwe, WFP's ability to quickly ramp up humanitarian assistance helped to avoid famine. After the world's largest humanitarian crisis in Yemen deteriorated early in 2019, WFP nearly doubled its support in some areas despite huge security, access and supply constraints. In the Sudan, WFP became the first United Nations agency since 2011 to be given humanitarian access to Blue Nile State.

WFP's cash-based transfer programmes continued to grow in both scope and application. Providing cash is a powerful and flexible tool to fight hunger and the use of cash-based transfers (CBTs) has increased dramatically. In 2016, 14 million people received USD 880 million of the CBTs. In 2018 and 2019, growth in the use of CBTs in WFP's field operations continued, with a record 27.9 million people receiving USD 2.1 billion worth of transfers. This value represents an increase of more than 140 percent over 2016. CBTs accounted for a large percentage of increases in transfer values in recent years and constituted 45 percent and 48 percent of total transfers in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Total transfers refer to the value of food and CBTs, with capacity strengthening transfers excluded.

In 2019 WFP developed its school feeding strategy for 2020-2030, which sets out how the organization will work with partners to ensure that children living in extreme poverty benefit from school meals. In 2019 WFP invested in the future of more than 17 million girls and boys by partnering with governments to provide school meals, snacks or take-home rations. This support provides a powerful incentive for poorer families to send their sons and – especially – their daughters to school and keep them there. WFP also provided technical and capacity-building support to governments of middle-income countries to enable them to scale up their national school feeding programmes. However, we know that we need to be even more ambitious.

Renewed collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies was consolidated in 2018 and 2019. The Director-General of FAO, the President of IFAD and the Executive Director of WFP continued their full commitment to finding new and innovative ways of working together to help countries achieve the SDGs. Areas of collaboration included climate change, data and statistics, emergency response, food losses and waste, gender equality, nutrition, support to smallholder farmers, resilience, social protection, and South–South cooperation. In the central Sahel region, where vast humanitarian, development and peace challenges collide, combined efforts by FAO, IFAD and WFP, plus international, regional and national partners, government institutions and universities, enabled 1.3 million people to receive a package of support, ranging from school meals to community asset creation, in the first year of the operation. WFP's cost-benefit analysis indicates that investing in resilience programmes can generate a nearly fourfold return over a 20-year period for every dollar spent in the Niger alone.

WFP continued to identify lessons learned to adapt and further improve, acknowledging that 2018 and 2019 were transitional years as operations were shifting over to the Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), an exercise that was concluded in 2020 when all WFP country offices were reporting against CSPs in line with the Integrated Road Map strategic approaches. Results reported in the APRs for 2018 and 2019 demonstrate WFP's success in addressing the lifesaving needs of women, men, boys and girls caught up in emergencies, as well as preparing communities to withstand disasters, and restoring livelihoods in post-crisis environments. With complex conflicts and climate-driven and health-driven emergencies on the rise, the global requirements for WFP's assistance together with its funding needs continue to grow.

Contact:

Jennifer Nyberg
Deputy Director
Corporate Planning and Performance Division
Resource Management Department
UN World Food Programme
Rome, Italy