

179th Session of the FAO Council

Subitem 13.2: Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2024

This Annual Report reflects World Food Programme (WFP)'s results presented in the organization's 2024 Annual Performance Report (APR), which was discussed and endorsed by the WFP Executive Board during its annual session in June 2025.

In 2024, WFP and its partners delivered assistance to more than 124 million people, despite restrictions on access to people in need, the underfunding of relief operations and various operational constraints that severely undermined humanitarian action. Facing severe funding shortfalls, like all humanitarian agencies, WFP was forced to prioritize the most urgent, life-saving needs.

Levels of acute food insecurity remained very high in 2024, driven by new and escalating conflicts, the impact of *El Niño*, and persistent economic challenges. An estimated 343 million people faced acute hunger in 74 countries, with 44.4 million people being at "emergency" levels of food insecurity, or worse, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification¹. A record 1.9 million people endured catastrophic levels of hunger in five countries (Haiti, Mali, Palestine, South Sudan and the Sudan), where refugees returning from the Sudan to South Sudan faced famine-like conditions.

During the year, WFP secured total annual revenue of USD 10.4 billion, of which USD 9.8 billion² were voluntary contributions, representing 54 percent of operational requirements³ that totalled USD 18.2 billion.

WFP secured USD 1.09 billion in flexible contributions – equivalent to 11 percent of total revenue – which were essential in enabling rapid, adaptive action in underfunded emergency responses. Unearmarked contributions totalled USD 498 million. WFP also mobilized USD 1.2 billion in multi-year contributions, and it raised USD 336 million from the private sector.

Highly unpredictable contributions led to severe trade-offs, including the imposition of ration reductions and the scaling back of programmes in key operations, resulting in significant reductions in the number of beneficiaries assisted, causing severe impacts on people and requiring very difficult decision-making with regard to the targeting and prioritization of interventions.

Total direct expenditures amounted to USD 8.4 billion, with 85 percent being allocated to transfer costs, underscoring WFP's continued focus on achieving impact and efficiency. Crisis response accounted for 78 percent of all direct expenditures, demonstrating a strong focus on immediate life-saving action in emergencies and other highly vulnerable settings.

Amid record levels of humanitarian needs, the organization's ability to adapt and deliver was reinforced through the results achieved under its corporate high-level targets, which provide a benchmark for measuring WFP's performance in contributing to global humanitarian and development outcomes.

WFP reached 90 million people through emergency operations, and it met or exceeded its targets for systems strengthening, resilience and enabling services. Progress in emergency response and nutrition was constrained by access challenges and funding limitations.

A total of 16.1 billion daily rations were delivered, at an average cost per beneficiary of USD 51 per year, or USD 0.45 per day.

Throughout the year, WFP advanced the roll-out of its global assurance project: a top corporate priority for improving accountability and transparency and embedding a culture of integrity, risk

¹ This means that vulnerable people were facing emergency or catastrophe/famine levels of food insecurity, at phase 4 or phase 5 in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

² This figure includes monetary and in-kind contributions, but excludes other revenue from the provision of mandated and on-demand services, currency exchange differences and other returns on investments.

³ Approved country portfolio needs as at 31 December 2024.

management and assurance throughout WFP. Strengthened assurance measures were rolled out in the “highest risk” country offices, with the expectation that these measures would be streamlined in 2025 across all global offices.

All the above resulted in the organization achieving mixed performance against its programmatic outputs.

The 2024 APR also shows progress against the seven management results established in the corporate results framework for 2022–2025. Overall, WFP achieved the targets set for six of the seven management results⁴: it demonstrated strong institutional adaptability amid escalating global challenges; it showed its commitment to operational excellence and strategic focus; it leveraged partnerships and innovation to deliver critical assistance, reinforcing its role as a pivotal player in addressing global food insecurity. While critical progress was made in reinforcing surge capacity, leveraging private sector engagement and advancing digital transformation, challenges remained in diversifying the funding base and securing predictable, flexible resources for delivering on long-term goals.

Ms Wendy Bigham, Chief Financial Officer and Director ad interim, WFP

⁴ The seven management results under the corporate results framework for 2022–2025 are effectiveness in emergency, people management, engage in effective partnerships, effective funding for zero hunger, evidence and learning, leverage technology and leverage innovation.