



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP refugee assistance

Food Cities – Emergency Food Planning

24 November 2021



WFP'S ROLE IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

As part of our mandate, WFP provides assistance whenever 5,000 refugees or more are hosted in a given country.

WFP is responsible for food assistance through unconditional transfers (in-kind or cash-based), nutrition assistance, and collaborates with UNHCR and others in supporting livelihood opportunities for refugees whenever feasible

REFUGEE NUMBERS

UNHCR STATISTICS

As of 2020, 82.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced, including 48 million IDPs

The vast majority (86 percent) are hosted in developing countries, usually neighbouring the countries of origin

More than two thirds come from only five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar

WFP AND REFUGEES

WFP works in large refugee operations.

Not all refugees are in camps, not all refugees need assistance. Local communities and host countries often shoulder the bulk of refugee support and assistance

In 2020, WFP reached about 10.5 million refugees worldwide, with a similar figure being assisted in 2021.



A young person with dark skin, wearing a bright yellow long-sleeved shirt and a colorful headband, is shown from the chest up. They are looking down with a focused expression at a large green leafy plant, possibly a vegetable, which they are holding or tending to. The background is a clear blue sky. The overall image has a low-angle, close-up feel, emphasizing the person's work.

WFP'S ROLE IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

THE ROLE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS

All UN agencies operate in any given country at the request of, and in collaboration and assistance to the Government

Host Governments, within the limits set by international law, establish the framework and regulations for hosting and assisting refugees and Persons of Concern in their territory

Any UN assistance is planned and set-up in co-ordination with the Government and within the national framework

HOW WE DO IT

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS – IN KIND

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

WFP provides regular monthly transfers of in-kind food to refugees registered by UNHCR, comprising a standard basket of food items calculated to cover a daily 2,100 Kcal intake per person

Since its foundation in 1961, WFP has developed its supply chain capacity to source, transport and dispatch food worldwide with high standards of quality and efficiency

The food basket's basic components are cereals, pulses, oil, salt, adapted to the extent possible to the local preferences. When the situation requires it, highly nutritious fortified flour may be added to the basket to prevent malnutrition

Food is sourced locally whenever possible – otherwise within the region or internationally



HOW WE DO IT

CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Wherever possible, based on market and other assessments, direct cash transfers or food/value vouchers are given to refugees instead of food

Cash-based assistance allows users to purchase a larger variety of foods of their choice and better diversify their diets while enhancing dignity and saving time that can be spent for other productive activities

Cash injections into local markets represent an important contribution to local economies, boosting trade, creating jobs, and thus contributing to positive relationships between refugees and host communities

Cash-based assistance may take advantage of technological solutions like mobile money, pre-paid debit cards, blockchain technology, etc.



In 2016, WFP and partners launched the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) – an innovative humanitarian cash programme supporting more than 1.7 million vulnerable refugees in Turkey



- **Existing social safety net structures** and nationwide social welfare office coverage to support programme implementation
- Integration of **database system** with government stakeholders to **cover programme needs** (implementation, monitoring, reporting and data collection)
- Assistance model through existing **single platform (Kizilay Card)** and timely transfer of multi-purpose cash assistance to beneficiaries (monthly transfer plus quarterly top-ups)
- **Strong coordination and joint setting of strategic direction** between ESSN partners (Turkish Government, Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), WFP, ECHO)
- WFP and Cooperating Partner TRC co-located offices for rapid roll-out, implementation support and knowledge exchange through **Joint Management Cell (JMC)**
- Activities **to reach mobile populations** and for **advocacy** with local authorities
- Strategic **beneficiary communications** (social media, SMSes, printed materials, 168 call center, website) **and regular engagement** through outcome and process monitoring, comprehensive vulnerability monitoring exercises and Focus Group Discussions)
- **Embodiment of the Grand Bargain and localization agenda** with progressing shift of responsibilities to national stakeholders → ESSN successfully handed over to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in March 2020

At its peak the ESSN supported 45% of the registered refugee population in Turkey to meet their basic needs

Refugee households benefiting from the ESSN showed better results than non-beneficiary households

HOW WE DO IT

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Nutrition assistance is part and parcel of WFP emergency work, and widely needed in refugee programmes

Specific activities depend on the context and nutritional status of the refugee and host populations but usually include:

- Nutrition screenings and regular surveys to assess nutritional status
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through the provision of calorie-dense specialised nutritious foods and behaviour change communications for caregivers. MAM treatment can be provided to children under 2, children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women and girls, depending on the situation
- Prevention of MAM

In some countries, nutrition support is also provided in the form of vouchers or cash-based transfers



HOW WE DO IT

SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES



- School meals are a flagship WFP activity, usually run in stable development settings
- For children living in fragile and conflict-affected areas and refugee settings, school feeding can become an essential safeguard by contributing to a sense of normalcy and educational continuation.
- School meals provide a range of benefits to children, keeping them in school, improving nutrition and increasingly becoming an opportunity for integrated services and education



HOW WE DO IT

LIVELIHOODS

- Wherever possible, WFP supports UNHCR's work in helping refugees build livelihoods and income opportunities
- This can be through agricultural support, employment in WFP assistance, training including financial literacy with cash-based assistance, and even business opportunities



HOW WE DO IT

LISTENING TO REFUGEES

- In our work, it is crucial to understand what our beneficiaries need and how we can best support them
- This means that we rigorously monitor and evaluate our operations but it goes beyond that
- All WFP programmes are informed by our protection, Accountability towards Affected Populations, and gender equality and women's empowerment strategies



FUNDING

- WFP is entirely funded through voluntary contributions by governments, private sector and individuals
- In recent years, displacement continued to increase and is almost always a protracted situation
- Maintaining a constant flow of resources to refugee operations is extremely difficult and WFP is often forced to reduce assistance



JOINT PROGRAMME EXCELLENCE AND TARGETING HUB



Thematic areas



Accountability to
affected people



Assessment and
analysis



Targeting



Programme and
policy



Data and systems
interoperability



Learning

Aims of the Joint Hub:

- Improve quality of joint programming leveraging comparative advantages
- Build awareness globally of and implement the WFP/ UNHCR global frameworks
- Document learning, challenges and impacts of lack of funding to meet basic needs and support self-reliance
- Increase cross-fertilization between operations
- Build-off of and leverage existing joint initiatives

CASH-BASED REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN UGANDA

A video-presentation



DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

PROCESS

- Refugee statistics
- Verification - Litigation
- Accountability to Affected persons; Complaints & feedback mechanism, community engagement
- Market facilitation
- Robust M&E system



PARTNERSHIPS

- Government
- UN Agencies
- I/NGOs, CBOs, Private sector, FSP
- Community structures



MODALITY

- In-kind
- Cash-based transfers/Vouchers
- Capacity strengthening e.g. Financial Literacy
- Complementary activities - Livelihoods

Thank you!