

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia

What is FFA?

The most food-insecure people often live in fragile and degraded landscapes and areas prone to recurrent natural shocks and other risks. Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) is one of WFP's flagship initiatives aimed at addressing the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, voucher or food transfers while helping improve their long-term food security and resilience.

The concept is simple: people receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs while they build or boost assets, such as constructing a road or rehabilitating degraded land, that will improve their livelihoods by creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impact of shocks, increasing food productivity, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.

The integration of FFA into wider Productive Safety Net approaches – as in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan or Sudan – supports productive asset creation for food-insecure communities during the lean season, and has the potential to play a key role in longer-term social protection strategies in countries affected by chronic food insecurity and protracted crisis.

FFA Types of Activities

- Household-level assets, such as fuel-efficient stoves;
- Natural resources development and management, including dams and community forests;
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential through terraces, irrigation canals, etc.;
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure, such as granaries;
- Skills development trainings related to asset creation, management, and maintenance.

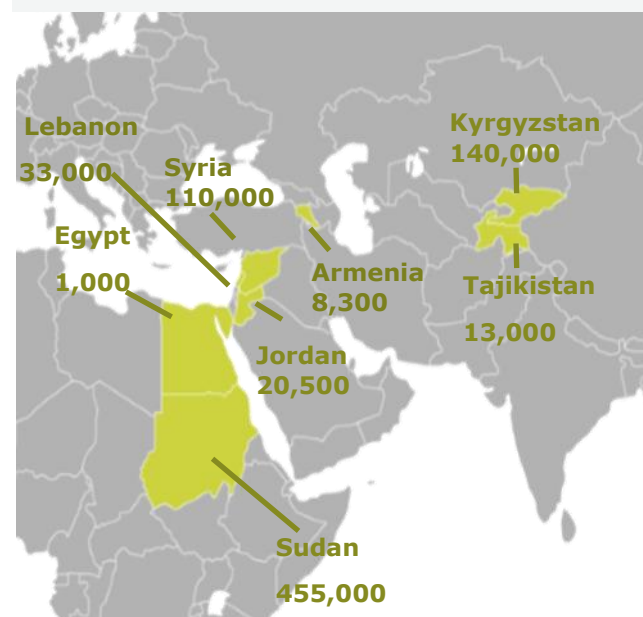
In each community, WFP aims to integrate multiple types of FFA activities with local government development plans and other WFP and partner interventions (including UN partners FAO and IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

2017 achievements in the region

In 2017, **800,000** people directly benefited from FFA programmes in **10 countries**. Key achievements include:

- **92,000** hectares of land rehabilitated
- **70** water ponds, shallow wells and fish ponds built
- **80 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed
- **1,200 hectares** of forest planted/rehabilitated
- **33,000 people** trained on environmental protection and livelihood support.

2017 FFA beneficiaries in the region



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WFP in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Frequent natural disasters are major causes of food insecurity in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. Destroyed livelihoods, as well as agricultural infrastructure and assets, negatively affect agricultural production and impede access to food, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Several other factors, including the small size of farms; limited access to equipment and to microfinance; poor farming practices; and inadequate post-harvest storage, contribute to limited productivity in the agricultural sector. As a result, Kyrgyzstan depends on imports of basic food commodities, especially wheat. Social infrastructure and services are lacking and fragmented, especially in rural areas, and existing social protection schemes and learning opportunities are limited.

Reducing disaster risks and increasing resilience, while strengthening the productive asset base and supporting skills-building to boost agricultural production and processing, is crucial to promote sustainable development.

WFP builds community resilience to natural disasters and climate change through improvement of rural infrastructure and strengthening of early warning systems and emergency preparedness.

To boost the coping capacities of the rural population, WFP supported the implementation of mitigation infrastructure at the community level. Infrastructure measures included: projects on riverbank reinforcement with gabions; construction or rehabilitation of mudflow canals; and planting trees in landslide-prone areas. Since 2010, this mitigation infrastructure has been instrumental in protecting lives and livelihoods, as well as other community infrastructure such as houses and access roads, from floods and mudflows.

WFP complements this mitigation infrastructure through activities to strengthen the capacities of local authorities and community members, such as awareness-raising initiatives including training and information materials on disaster risk management.

WFP also supports the creation or rehabilitation of key rural infrastructure and community-prioritized assets, including irrigation networks, bridges and internal roads, which contribute to foster local socio-economic development through enhanced agricultural production, strengthened community capacities, and accelerated economic empowerment of the most vulnerable, particularly women.

Another focus is strengthening productive safety net mechanisms that accelerate economic empowerment of vulnerable households. Productive safety net schemes focus on mobilization of vulnerable communities to create a sustainable and resilient asset base as well as on income-generating activities.

This innovative and effective tool of social protection enables vulnerable populations to acquire new skills and sustainable incomes while contributing towards poverty reduction and the socio-economic development of poor and vulnerable communities.

To date, WFP with partners has supported over 2,700 projects aimed at improving agricultural infrastructure to enhance agricultural production. Examples include:

- Improvement of rural and agricultural infrastructure: construction and rehabilitation of roads, irrigation networks, drinking water systems, and water reservoirs.
- Enhancement of agricultural production: training on improved agriculture, marketing, value chain development, and food processing, as well as projects on vegetable and fruit gardening and fodder production.
- Processing of food and other agricultural produce: WFP provides targeted communities with processing equipment for fodder production, wool carding, and food processing.
- Vocational training: sewing courses, bakery and culinary courses; welding and electrician training; furniture production training; and other skills training.
- Disaster mitigation projects: construction of gabion nets to reinforce riverbanks, and construction and rehabilitation of mudflow canals and dams.
- Income-generating activities: development of fisheries and vegetable and fruit gardens; apiculture; and other activities.



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