



WFP and Canada: Partnership Against Hunger



World Food Programme

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Canada

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Canada and the World Food Programme

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide. In 2015 WFP reached over 76 million people with food assistance in 81 countries. WFP works to alleviate hunger through food assistance, nutrition support and social safety nets; eliminating the root causes of hunger and poverty through long-term support to sustainable agricultural development and rural transformation for the most vulnerable people. This work would not be possible without the financial support of donors like Canada.

Canada shares WFP's goal: to achieve a world with zero hunger, supporting WFP's mandate to save lives by getting food to where it is needed in emergencies, saving lives in war, civil conflict and natural disasters. After an emergency has passed, WFP provides food to help communities rebuild their shattered lives. Focusing the world's most vulnerable, 62.6 million women and children received WFP food assistance in 2015.

The Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada, is one of WFP's most important

partners and its fourth largest overall contributor for the last five years. Canada has been instrumental in enhancing WFP's commitment to nutrition, maternal and child health, and maximizing the nutritional benefits of food assistance in WFP's development and emergency programmes. In 2015, 7.6 million malnourished children received specialized nutritional support from WFP.

In 2011, Canada committed to multi-year funding support for school meals by signing a five-year Strategic Partnership Framework for \$225 million¹ — WFP's largest such agreement to date. Out of this amount, Canada committed to providing \$125 million in multilateral funds, and \$100 million towards WFP's school feeding programmes over four years (2011-2015). Such predictable funding is essential to WFP's ability to support safety nets like school feeding programmes and long-term recovery, and helps WFP operate more efficiently and effectively. This agreement is therefore a clear demonstration of Canada's support for principled humanitarian action, aid effectiveness and Good Humanitarian Donorship.

Footnotes:

¹ All figures are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.

In addition to the Strategic Partnership Agreement, Canada provides significant funding to other emergency and development programming. In 2014, WFP registered Canadian contributions at over \$389 million and over \$330 million in 2015.

The Government of Canada is committed to making Canada's international assistance more effective, focused and accountable. In 2008, Canada untied its food assistance budget to boost the impact of its funding. These flexible funds give WFP the option to buy food locally, purchasing the required food close to where it is needed, saving on transport costs and also helping to sustain the local economy. In 2014, WFP purchased food to the value of US\$2.2 billion from 92 countries; 81% of this food was procured in developing countries.

Pulses are one of four main items in WFP's basic food basket, along with cereals, oil and salt. Canadian-origin pulses accounted for 17 percent of the 276,006 tonnes of pulses purchased by WFP in 2014, making Canada its second largest competitive supplier of this commodity. Independently of its relationship with the Government of Canada, WFP is

In 2014 and 2015, Canada sustained its support to WFP with contributions registered at over \$389 million in 2014 and \$330 million in 2015, maintaining its position as one of WFP's most important donors.

Thanks to contributions from Canada and other donors, in 2015 WFP was able to:

- Reach over 76 million people with food assistance in 81 countries
- Respond to an unprecedented, six top Level-3 emergencies³
- Provide over 17 million school children with meals in school or take-home rations
- Supply 7.6 million malnourished children with special nutrition support.

looking to strengthen its engagement with Canadian companies, not only with pulses, but to increase buying at competitive prices and quality, across the Canadian food and services business spectrum.



Canada makes sure that people in Dalaweeye village, Niger, receive the necessary cereal intake.

Footnotes:

³ A Level-3 emergency is a complex emergency with widespread social and economic disruption resulting in severe humanitarian crises and food insecurity (WFP L-3 definition used).



Responding to Numerous Simultaneous Emergencies

In 2014 and 2015, WFP responded to more severe emergencies than ever before - in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Nepal and the Ebola-affected countries in West Africa. These crises were exceptional in terms of their scale, complexity and urgency. Canada's generous and timely funding enables WFP to scale-up operations quickly and effectively, while continuing to provide assistance in ongoing emergencies.

South Sudan

Protracted conflict is forcing millions of people into hunger in the world's newest country. With critical support from Canada of \$57.5 million, WFP reached more than 2.5 million people in 2014 and about 2.6 million people in 2015, using humanitarian assistance to help stabilize food insecurity. While the situation remains highly volatile, it is critical that relief efforts are sustained.

Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

The outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa in 2014 was one of the largest global public health crises in recent history, with over 27,000 cases and 11,000 lives lost in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The impact on individuals, families and communities remains devastating. With Canada's contribution of \$13.5 million WFP was able to provide critically-needed food to around 3 million people, supporting affected families while reducing the risk of spreading Ebola by restricting unnecessary movements during a period of intense transmission.

With an additional \$12.5 million from Canada, WFP also provided the wider humanitarian community with logistics, storage, resource-procurement and transport, while the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) moved humanitarian staff and cargo within and between the three most affected countries and regional hubs. Since September 2014, UNHAS has transported more than 18,000 humanitarian responders and 138 metric tons of light cargo throughout the Ebola-affected region.

Nepal Earthquake

On April 25, 2015 a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal killing more than 8,000 people. Just three weeks later, a quake of similar strength near Mount Everest brought further challenges to the people of Nepal and the humanitarian community. The mountainous terrain and sheer remoteness of the affected communities led to an immensely taxing operation. Yet in the first three months, WFP managed to reach nearly 2 million people with urgently-needed food assistance — using roads where possible, porters where necessary, and helicopters when there was no other option.

Canada's overall contribution of \$7.5 million to Nepal allowed WFP to respond to immediate needs, as well as maintaining WFP's complex logistical operation which, in turn, supported the entire humanitarian community, establishing a network of logistical hubs and providing a fleet of trucks and helicopters. As the emergency phase came to an end, Nepal's porter network and experienced mountaineers were engaged to reach high-altitude areas in need. The operation provided livelihoods to guides and porters who would otherwise have been without an income; it has helped restore the vital trail network and deliver life-saving supplies.



A Nepalese boy eats rice distributed by WFP.

Conflict in Iraq

Conflict across vast swathes of the country in the summer of 2014 caused widespread internal displacement and overwhelming humanitarian needs. Since the beginning of the crisis, Canada has provided over \$23 million in support of WFP reaching an average of 1.5 million people per month in all 18 governorates, including hard-to-reach areas. WFP's response focuses on those affected by the conflict, providing emergency rations designed for people on the move who do not have cooking facilities. For families who are temporarily settled and are able to cook, WFP provides a one-month family ration that includes basic food essentials. Blanket supplementary food with high nutritional value has also been provided to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and young children. Where food is available in the market, WFP distributes cash to affected people in exchange for work such as clearing debris and preparing fields for the planting season.



Displaced girl in Shariya receives her family's monthly food rations from WFP.

The Syria conflict goes into its 5th year

In 2014 and 2015, the Syria response remained WFP's largest and most complex emergency worldwide.

Access to basic needs including food, water, electricity and medical supplies has been interrupted in areas witnessing armed activities. A growing number of household earners have become unemployed and soaring food and fuel prices across the country have also exacerbated the situation. In response, WFP – in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and 23 other local organizations– is providing monthly food assistance to over four million Syrians inside Syria and 1.5 million refugees in neighboring countries.

Hundreds of thousands of families have fled the violence in their country and have taken refuge in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt. Humanitarian assessments in these countries showed that food is a top priority and WFP is responding to refugees' needs with food distributions and innovative food vouchers. Host countries are also affected by the burden of the refugee crisis. And, thanks to the food e-card system, WFP has injected more than US\$1 billion into these local economies and helped create thousands of local jobs in the food retail sector and at the same time provided choice and dignity to refugees.



This would not be possible without the flexible funding from donors like Canada.

WFP aimed to reach vulnerable children with additional ready-to-eat supplementary products to treat and prevent malnutrition. These products come in the form of nutrient spreads such as Nutributter for children aged 6-23 months and Plumpy'doz for children aged 6-59 months.

Canada's significant contributions - amounting to \$93.5 million in 2014 and 2015 has made them one of WFP's top donors in the region.



Aya is one of the 60,000 children living in the Zaatari camp, in Jordan, south of the Syrian border.



Berhane Workie receives 'Super Cereal Plus' treatment for her moderately malnourished twins.

Ethiopia

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought in some regions, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño in decades, caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. Acute malnutrition has risen sharply, and one quarter of Ethiopia's districts have been officially classified as facing a nutrition crisis. Canada is helping to address food insecurity among Ethiopians and refugees, including those affected by El Niño. In 2015, Canada contributed \$25 million to enable WFP to support around 1.5 million food insecure people in six regions of Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray). These beneficiaries are part of the 10.2 million people identified as acutely food-insecure, and will receive wheat, maize, beans and vegetable oil.

Yemen

In Yemen, millions of people have been cut off from food, water, electricity and other essentials. The situation has been rapidly deteriorating since 2014, compounded by severe fuel shortages which are pushing people into hunger. Initial findings show that southern Yemen has the highest number of food insecure people in the country. Yemen already had one of the highest child malnutrition rates in the world. Around half of all children under five are stunted - too short for their age as a result of malnutrition. With help from contributions from Canada of \$17.5 million, WFP reached 1 million people on average each month since the conflict erupted. WFP was able to scale up operations in October 2015, and assisted more than 2.5 million people across the country.



Humanitarian Logistics Base in Djibouti

Enhancing regional supply chains

Canada is the main sponsor of the newly operational WFP humanitarian logistics hub near Djibouti's port in north-west Africa that will serve both WFP operations and the wider humanitarian community. By delivering cost-effective, high-quality, sustainable infrastructure tailored to local constraints, WFP is helping to ensure the continued success of programmes in the region.

Canada's \$19 million investment in the hub revolutionized the way WFP operates and responds to humanitarian needs in the Horn of Africa.

The project:

- Enhances regional supply chain efficiency;
- Augments regional humanitarian response capabilities;
- Strategically aligns regional port operations; and
- Strengthens local logistics systems and port capacities.

The hub consists of offices, training facilities, grain management and quality control buildings, a check point, weighbridges, a storage yard for containers, two pre-engineered steel warehouses of 6,000 and



A view of the harbour in Djibouti.

2,800 m², and silos for 40,000 metric tons of bulk cargo. Of the total 186 government counterpart trainees, 45 were trained in warehouse management, 30 were trained in small crane and forklift driving, and 101 were trained in heavy vehicle diving. Women accounted for 44 percent of those trained. These facilities will generate considerable savings and enable WFP to move food more efficiently and effectively to its operations in Ethiopia, northern Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

Safe, reliable transportation to the most remote regions of the world

In times of natural disaster and conflict, communities can easily become displaced, isolated and left without access to food, water and shelter. A rapid response can save lives and air transport is often the only way to quickly move humanitarian supplies and personnel where they are needed.

In Mali, even at the best of times, poor infrastructure and washed out roads in the rainy season make access to remote communities a constant challenge for humanitarian workers. Add to that the ongoing security concerns of recent years, and humanitarian access can become very difficult.

Thanks to committed partners like Canada, UNHAS has been able to provide regular flights to irregular destinations throughout Mali. Flights to remote, difficult-to-reach areas not only make it possible for humanitarian workers to expand their reach, but also allow partner countries like Canada to monitor the results of their projects.

"Here in Mali, the Canadian embassy staff have used UNHAS services to travel to field sites to monitor our projects and speak with the individuals and communities reached, which is essential to ensuring that we are achieving development results." Marc-André Fredette, Ambassador, Canadian Embassy, Mali.

Giving Refugees a Choice: Digital Cards

WFP's work with cash-based transfers includes digital e-cards that can be exchanged for food in local supermarkets, as well as more traditional cash transfers.

In countries neighbouring Syria — Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey — refugee numbers continue to rise. People who are struggling to feed their families are provided with WFP vouchers, cash transfers and digital e-cards which can be redeemed for food items or "spent" in selected shops. This innovative system is used to tackle hunger in places where food is available in the marketplace, but people who are poor cannot afford it.

Cash-based transfers reduce the cost of transporting and storing food as well as benefiting the local economy, as recipients

"spend" their vouchers in local markets. People often prefer cash and vouchers to traditional food assistance, because family members can buy what they prefer — often including fresh eggs and vegetables — items that are not usually included in WFP rations.

Canada, one of the largest donors to WFP's regional operations, provides flexible funding to help WFP deliver pioneering and valuable assistance to refugees. With the support of partners like Canada, WFP's cash and voucher programmes have injected a total of US\$1.1 billion into the local economies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.



Syrian refugee uses WFP vouchers to purchase food at designated shops in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.

Canada supports WFP school meals

Studies show it is more difficult for children to learn without adequate food and nutrition. Many households put their children to work rather than send them to school. However a daily nutritious school meal is a strong incentive to enroll children in school and keep them there. In 2014 and 2015, Canada was able to help ensure that the next generation reaches its full potential through contributing more than \$116 million to WFP school meals programmes. Canada's multi-year funding commitment to school meals ensures predictable funding in countries that are in critical need of support.

In 2015, over 17 million children benefited from WFP school meals programmes. The activities often prioritise girls, permitting them to gain an education even in societies that traditionally exclude them from schooling. It costs just \$0.25 to provide a nutritious meal and in some cases, a monthly take-home ration is distributed to vulnerable students, such as girls, providing them with cooking oil or a sack of wheat to share with their family. These extra rations are an additional source of income for poor families and are particularly useful during the lean season when food is expensive and scarce.

Where possible, food is purchased locally which benefits local farmers and the whole community, which means the programme is more likely to be maintained. Linking small-scale farmers to WFP school meals programmes helps support rural economies and makes such projects more sustainable.



In view of these clear benefits, WFP now conducts these home-grown school meals activities in more than 20 countries.

Canada supports Haiti National School Meals Programme

Canada's contribution of \$20 million towards WFP Haiti's support for the National School Meals Programme will enable WFP to provide approximately 225,000 students with daily school meals over the next two years.

In addition to developing the government's capacity to operate a nationally-owned school meals programme by 2030, Canada's contribution will help WFP develop strategic partnerships with the Micronutrient Initiative and the Haitian Ministry of Health to reintroduce micronutrient supplements into school meals to combat malnutrition in school age children. With Canada's support, locally-grown fresh foods is added to school meals, while working toward augmenting local production of cereals and pulses by farmers through co-operatives and associations. Furthermore, the contribution helps reduce environmental degradation through the provision of fuel efficient stoves, and continue WFP's work to strengthen government capacity leading to full government ownership of the programme.



Distributing locally-sourced foods through school meals

Thanks to donors like Canada, WFP is able to help link local agricultural production to school meals, Home Grown School Feeding (HGFS) capitalizes on the traditional benefits of School Feeding programmes and multiplies advantages for rural communities. HGFS contributes to the diversity and freshness of the food basket served in schools, which can improve students' nutritional intake. Micronutrient powders can also be added to the school meals to combat micronutrient deficiencies as needed. Strengthening the nutritional value of the school meal is one of the ways in which nutrition-sensitive agriculture can play a critical role in contributing to larger social protection initiatives.

In Honduras, school meals help improve schoolchildren's food security and nutritional intake by providing them with diversified menus containing a variety of micronutrients (essential vitamins and minerals) based on local habits. School meals in Honduras now incorporate locally-produced vegetables, fruits, eggs and dairy products, most of which are produced by smallholder farmers, as well as fortified maize flour produced on the national level.

Maximizing the Nutritional Impact

A nutrition objective is key for WFP school meals programmes in contexts where significant micronutrient deficiencies are found among school-age children, especially lack of iron — as shown by a prevalence of anaemia in over 40% of school-age children. Adding multi-micronutrient powder, also known as "Sprinkles," to a meal is a good way to improve the vitamin and mineral content of the meal, particularly where foods are locally procured or a meal is composed of cereals such as rice that are difficult to fortify. The programme is also carried out alongside deworming and other complementary activities where appropriate.

Early years are crucial

Research shows that good nutrition is especially important in the early years of life for physical growth and mental development. That is why a large part of WFP's nutrition work focuses on young children, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers. WFP also employs



tailored nutritional approaches for other vulnerable groups, such as people living with HIV and children orphaned by AIDS. It is vital that every child receives adequate nutrition during the first 1000 days of life because the lack of proper nutrition during this critical period can have a detrimental effect on the child's ability to grow, learn and eventually rise out of poverty.

Canada is a global leader in supporting nutritional interventions around the world and continues to work with WFP to improve programmes that increase access to healthy and nutritious food, especially for women and children.

Malnutrition in Somalia

With Canada's support, WFP addresses rising rates of malnutrition in Somalia. This child has been diagnosed with moderate malnutrition. He will now receive treatment as part of WFP's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme through Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Clinics, which provide nutritious foods to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition in breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women and children under five.





Through the P4P programme, rural women in Guatemala learn how to become successful commercial farmers.

Taking local purchase one step further

Canada was a founding partner of WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, enabling WFP to try new ways of leveraging its purchasing power to support agricultural and market development in developing countries. With Canada's backing, during the pilot period, P4P supported over half a million smallholder farmers to gain a foothold in formal markets. Partnerships were built to increase important investments in smallholder-friendly products and services, including agricultural inputs, extension services, post-harvest losses, quality control, financial services and credit. The pilot showed that with the right investments and strong partnerships we can improve the abilities of smallholder farmers to earn and produce more while also catalysing pro-smallholder changes and building the "soft infrastructure" of markets. The private sector has responded positively, providing smallholder farmers with vital services and beginning to buy from them more directly.

In fact, WFP bought US\$148 million worth of food directly from smallholder farmers, mainly through farmers' organizations – who have also

engaged with other formal buyers, selling at least US\$60 million worth of staple crops to markets such as millers, seed companies, agribusiness, government-run school feeding programmes, national food reserves and hospitals.

In many countries P4P-supported smallholder farmers have been linked to millers and other processors who buy their surplus crops for the production of fortified foods such as flour blend and high energy biscuits. In Guatemala, a project under the Scaling up Nutrition movement is linking smallholder farmers to agro-industry companies that supply processed nutrient-rich food to WFP for distribution to at-risk populations. A similar project is carried out in Afghanistan, where P4P provides support along the entire value chain – from farmers to local millers and processors. Locally-produced wheat and soya are used in the production of fortified flour, high-energy biscuits and lipid-based nutritional supplements. Smallholder farmers have also been linked to private sector millers and processors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda.

Meet George Stroumboulopoulos: Canada's Ambassador against Hunger

George has been working with WFP since 2011, raising awareness for WFP's work and the issues surrounding global hunger.

George has travelled to WFP's field operations to see how our programmes are changing the lives of the people affected by disasters. Following the devastating floods in 2010, he went to Pakistan in February 2011 and spoke to the local communities who, with tools and knowledge from WFP and our partners, were able to rebuild their irrigation systems and pathways while WFP provided food to their families.

In Haiti, the government aims to build a universal school meals programme that primarily uses locally purchased food. WFP supports the Haitian National School Meals Programme and is developing strong links

between local agriculture and schools.

In November 2011, when George visited l'Ecole Nationale de Tabarre, bags of rice produced in the south of Haiti and purchased with Government of Canada funds showed that the Haitian government's objective is a reality in some of its schools.

"With Canada's support, WFP is working on increasing the quantity of local purchases for school meals. You can see this benefits the whole community as well as strengthens the sustainability of the school meal programmes."



George Stroumboulopoulos, critically-acclaimed broadcast veteran, past host of both CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight and Hockey Night in Canada and host of The Strombo Show.

Want to learn more about WFP's work around the world? Join our online community to receive monthly e-mails telling you how Canada is helping to achieve a world with ZERO Hunger. Over 50,000 Canadians are already part of our community!

Join today at wfp.org/join-canada



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