



WFP & Finland Partners against Hunger

September 2014



World Food Programme



**MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND**

Foreword



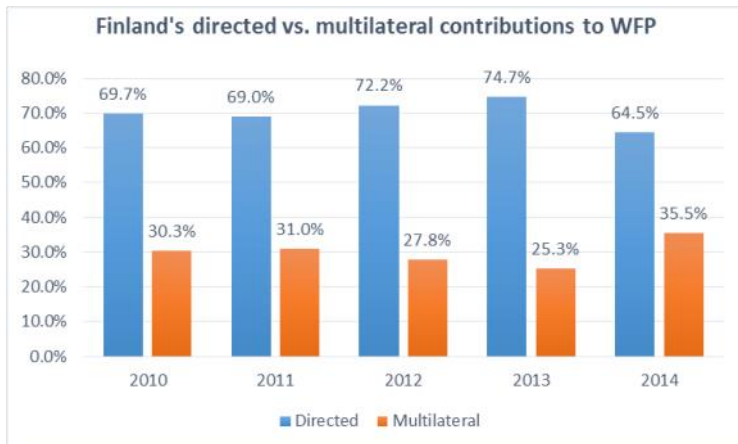
At a time of multiple humanitarian crises, the World Food Programme (WFP), is more dependent than ever on partners such as Finland, to help us respond quickly and effectively to the needs of millions of people exposed to natural disasters and conflict.

Whether in conflict-affected South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Gaza, Iraq or Syria, or in climate-impacted Ethiopia, WFP provides food to the most vulnerable - undernourished mothers and children and families - left with nothing after escaping violence.

Finland's generosity enables us to save people's lives and livelihoods in emergencies and build their resilience to withstand shocks afterwards.

Thanks to Finland's flexible and predictable multi-year commitment of €29 million, we are able to respond to the needs of vulnerable people using innovative tools that increase dignity and efficiency (see story opposite).

When I'm asked what "Good Humanitarian Donorship" means – I point to Finland as an example!





A cloud with a silver lining

Lebanon has the highest number of Syrian refugees from the four-year conflict. The strain on both host populations and refugees is immense, but in 2012, WFP introduced a programme that benefits both sides: the e-card system which has injected US\$264 million so far into the local economy.

More than 700,000 refugees can use these e-cards in any of the 300 contracted shops to buy food whenever they need. The e-card allows them to diversify their diets by choosing fresh food such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products and eggs, which are not included in traditional food rations but are available at shops like Supermarket Zaher in Akkar, northern Lebanon.

The owner, a 50 year-old Lebanese man, Zaher Khodr is delighted: "The electronic card system is efficient. Payments are made without delay in exchange for the food that Syrian refugees buy and I have the cash I need to keep the shop furnished and ready, helping others but also benefiting myself. Sales increased by 70 percent and I hired two young Lebanese men to help me cater to the growing number of customers, both Syrians and Lebanese."

Multilateral funds have been used in support of this programme.



South Sudan on the brink

Under a harsh sun, women stand with baskets on their heads, accompanied by sleeping or crying babies, waiting patiently for their food rations. An old woman lies in the thick mud, chewing on wild grass, while another rubs her stomach in hunger. Leaving their burned homes behind them, these families have fled conflict many times, living in the bush and surviving on wild grasses and vegetables. Many women report being raped and assaulted as they walk through dangerous areas in search of food.

"The situation is alarming and worsening, if the violence does not stop, the consequences will be catastrophic," Finland's Development Minister, Pekka Haavisto said after his government decided to increase humanitarian assistance in South Sudan by €4 million, with €1.2 million going to WFP.

Funding from international donors like Finland, has enabled WFP to expand its presence in the area of Koch to support food and nutrition activities.

From April 2014 onwards, with the crisis pushing an already beleaguered people towards a hunger catastrophe, WFP has managed to deliver food to 600,000 people, by air as well as along the river Nile from Juba to Malakal and Melut.



Strife-torn Central African Republic

The continuing crisis across the Central African Republic (C.A.R) rarely features in mainstream media, but violence and displacement are a daily routine for its citizens.

The prettiness of the capital, Bangui, is long gone - the main road is now called *Boulevard de la Mort* (Death Boulevard). Muslim families are stuck in an enclave, PK5, because they risk death if they try to leave. Christians are equally fearful.

Fatimatou Djara is one of more than 100,000 people who have sought refuge in Cameroon this year. A widow who spent all her money escaping with her three children, Fatimatou now finds she is dependent on WFP food assistance, having previously run a market stall.

She regrets that her two girls are not going to school and that they sleep in the same room as 21 other people. But she is thankful they are away from the fighting and have food to eat every day. As for the sectarian violence, she is unequivocal: "It's stupid, we used to live together in peace."



Building resilience among farmers in Ethiopia

In view of increasing risk from climate change, the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) enables vulnerable rural households to strengthen their food and income security. It combines four strategies: better resource management through asset creation, insurance, livelihoods diversification, and microcredit and savings.

In 2014, R4 reached over 25,000 farmers in Ethiopia, and aims to scale up to at least 30,000 by 2016. The first evaluation shows the initiative is helping improve farmers' resilience. Insured farmers save more than double those without any insurance, and they invest more in seeds, fertilizer and productive assets, such as plough oxen. Farmers in one cluster of villages tripled their grain reserves compared with uninsured farmers. Women, who often head the poorest households, achieve the largest gains in productivity, through investing in labour and improved tools for planting.

"This year the rain came very late and ended early, so we got very little from our harvest. For me, this insurance is like saving: you put in your money now and you get it back when the rain is bad and the crops don't do well," said Gebre Michael Geday, a farmer from Abraha Atsbaha village.

Working for WFP... in Afghanistan!

by Sanna Juntunen, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

The two big challenges for us here are insecurity - which restricts travel around the country - and raising awareness and resources for WFP, which is entirely voluntarily funded. It's not easy when more acute emergencies grab the headlines. What I enjoy most about my job is taking donors to visit WFP projects "in the field".

Meeting and talking with beneficiaries, WFP staff and our cooperating partners show us the difference we are making in people's lives - and it's really motivating! I love being able to support the world's largest humanitarian organization (even when desk-bound in Kabul) feeling that I'm doing a little to help improve the lives of vulnerable Afghans who look to WFP for food assistance.



Sanna Juntunen (right) with her colleague Julie Martinez on top of the old Russian built silo, next to the new Strategic Grain Reserve that WFP provided in Kabul.

Finland sponsors Junior Programme Officers (JPOs) at WFP

There have been 15 JPOs between 2006-2014; five Finnish JPOs are currently supporting Country Offices in Afghanistan and Kenya, the Food Security Cluster, and Emergency Preparedness and Policy and Programme Divisions at WFP HQ in Rome, Italy.

For further information, please see: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeId=15196> and also at <http://www.cimo.fi/jpo>

Timo Pakkala is currently on secondment from WFP to UNDP. He is the UN Pakistan Resident Coordinator.



The Finnish Crisis Management Centre (CMC) with expertise in emergency preparedness and response, has a strong partnership with WFP. It provided an in-kind donation in June for Jordan, valued at €112,000. CMC also assisted WFP in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. KITOS Finland!

The United Nations World Food Programme provides food assistance to more than 80 million people in 75 of the world's poorest countries each year. Its operations reach some of the most remote, dangerous and neglected areas of the world. WFP's unique role as the United Nations' frontline agency addressing hunger would not be possible without the financial support and flexible resources provided by donors such as Finland.



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