



World Food Programme Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

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, vouchers or food transfers and improving 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.

FFA activity types

- Natural resources development and management;
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral and fisheries potential;
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure (schools, granaries, etc.);
- Skills development training related to the creation, management and maintenance of assets.

In each community, WFP aims to integrate multiple types of FFA activities with government strategies and other WFP and partners' interventions, including UN partners such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

How we do it

Five factors are crucial for the success of FFA across livelihood types, geographical contexts, and countries:

- 1 Putting communities and people at the centre:** community ownership lies at the heart of FFA programmes through community level participatory planning that empowers and provides a voice to the most vulnerable people in making the decisions, implementing and managing the assets created.
- 2 Enhancing partnerships and complementary interventions:** different assets and complementary interventions from partners need to be integrated and scaled-up for greater impact.
By using WFP's innovative Three-pronged approach (3PA) to planning and programming, WFP encourages governments, NGOs, technical experts and communities to work together to structure long-term, locally tailored solutions. And by joining forces with partners – including sister UN agencies like FAO, IFAD and UNICEF – WFP can be more effective and reach more people.
- 3 Understanding the local context,** landscape and livelihoods to select the right assets.
- 4 Making sure technical standards for assets created are met:** to ensure that assets are sustainable and can withstand the exposure to climate and other shocks.
- 5 Strengthening local and government institutions' capacities to achieve SDG 2:** government institutions need to be in the driver's seat.

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FFA's main benefits

- Empower local communities and vulnerable groups through participatory planning
- Improve access to food for the most vulnerable and food-insecure people in times of need
- Reduce disaster risks and build resilience to shocks
- Contribute to long-term environmental and livelihood benefits
- Promote gender equality, women's empowerment and improved nutrition
- Strengthen local and government institutions' capacities to ensure sustainability of the investments made

2016 achievements at a glance

- **10.1 million people** directly benefited from FFA programmes in **52 countries**
- **137,300 hectares** of land rehabilitated
- **5,200 water ponds**, shallow wells, and fish ponds built
- **11,000 kilometers** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **8,100 hectares** of forest planted
- **189,200 people** took part in trainings on environmental protection and livelihood technologies.

FFA and the SDGs

FFA is a powerful tool in efforts to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2** on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. FFA restores degraded landscapes, expands the availability and diversity of food produced and consumed locally, and ensures that local food production and income-generating activities can continue through shocks and crises.

In addition, due to the range of activities FFA includes, asset creation, combined with partners' efforts, contributes to **SDG Goal 5** on gender equality; **Goal 6** on water and sanitation; **Goal 12** on responsible consumption and production; **Goal 13** on climate action; **Goal 15** (sustainable forest management, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and reducing biodiversity loss), and **Goal 17** on partnerships to support the implementation of the SDGs.

