



Food assistance for Assets (FFA) for Resilient Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean

What is FFA?

The most food-insecure people often live in degraded landscapes prone to recurrent natural shocks.

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) is one of the WFP's flagship initiatives aimed at addressing most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, voucher or food transfers and improving their long-term food security and resilience.

The concept is simple: women and men receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs, while they build or boost assets 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.

Gender is central to the purpose, delivery and results of FFA programming and has the potential to promote shared power, control of resources and decision-making between women and men. FFA as part of the regional resilience focus is linked with social protection programmes, disaster risk reduction and nutrition.

FFA types of activities

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

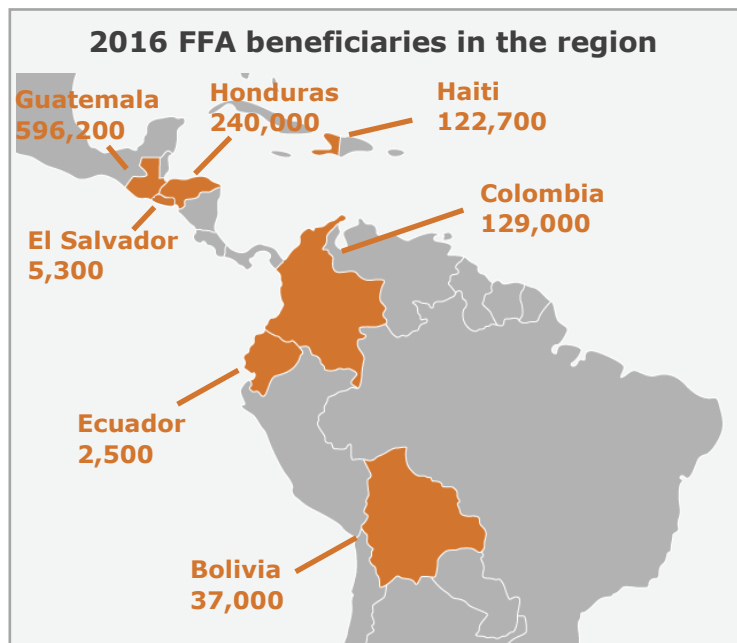
Using participatory needs/context analysis, WFP aims to integrate various types of FFA activities identified with communities and aligned with Government and partners' interventions fortifying each other's impact.

2016 achievements in the region

In 2016, more than **1 million people** directly benefited from FFA programmes in **7 countries**.

Key 2016 achievements include:

- **43,300 women and men** took part in trainings on livelihood support, agriculture, farming and Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
- **48,000** hectares of land rehabilitated
- **3,350 water** ponds, shallow wells, and fish ponds built
- **4,100 kilometers** of feeder roads constructed or repaired
- **1,800 hectares** of forest planted or restored





Examples of implementation of FFA in Latin America and the Caribbean

Guatemala

In rural Guatemala, recurrent droughts and tropical storms make it difficult for many families to meet their food needs year round. In response, WFP began to work during the 1990s with government and partners on participatory watershed rehabilitation using FFA.

The government provided technical expertise while WFP provided food to enable women and men to participate in various soil and water conservation and reforestation activities, and crop-diversification trainings. Community involvement from the planning phases was essential to ensure ownership and sustainability of the investments made.

Through multi-year involvement, communities improved their food security and land productivity, increased their income, and diversified their agricultural production for their own consumption, for sale and even export. Most importantly, they are now better able to withstand major climatic events,

from the devastating hurricane Mitch back in 1998, to more recent events. During the past four years the region has experienced consecutive droughts. The communities that benefited in the past from FFA programmes have proven to be better equipped to withstand these droughts.

A recent WFP study in Guatemala showed the positive impact of FFA on women's empowerment and nutrition. Currently WFP is working with the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) to expand FFA interventions and related activities both in terms of scale and duration in the Dry Corridor of Central America. Continuity of assistance through appropriately planned, timed and sequenced interventions in target areas can transform the lives of people and communities and increase resilience to shocks.



Ecuador

In Ecuador, a large part of the communities in Pichincha province and Jubones river basin are exposed to chronic hunger and malnutrition, land and ecosystem degradation, and more intense climate-induced disasters that severely impact food production. WFP and the Ministry of Environment are implementing a project that aims at strengthening the resilience to climate change and food security of 120 food insecure and vulnerable communities.

The project includes integrated FFA activities to increase adaptive capacity to climate change and variability as well as trainings to increase community-level knowledge on climate change and food insecurity related risks. The activities are identified through community consultations and focus on securing access to water and protecting livelihoods from weather-related shocks.

The project has helped stabilize hill slopes at risk of landslides, restore forest and vegetative cover to conserve water and reduce erosion in moorlands and forest areas, and improve agricultural practices to conserve water and maintain or increase yields to adapt to climate threats. At the community level this project has contributed to local and social ownership as well as women's empowerment through access to market and increased income.

