



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# OFFICE OF FOOD FOR PEACE

FISCAL YEAR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





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# MESSAGE FROM FFP DIRECTOR TREY HICKS



PHOTO CREDITS: WFP

I joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) in Fall 2018, towards the end of a challenging year for those aiming to reduce food insecurity; hunger was on the rise for the third consecutive year, largely due to the results of conflict.

Over the past few years while serving in Congress, I became passionate about the United States' humanitarian assistance work, in particular emergency food assistance. I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of crises. During my trip to the Burma/Bangladesh border—where more than 700,000 Rohingya fled persecution in Burma and crossed the border to Bangladesh—I saw how our work is really reaching those who need it most. From mothers who need nutritional advice to raise healthy babies to families who need to find work so they can feel like they are contributing to society while earning wages. Since joining FFP, I gained a deeper understanding and newfound respect for the transformative impact we can have on the communities we serve; and I appreciate even more the work USAID does to mitigate risks and reduce suffering.





For example, we have continued to reach the most vulnerable and chronically food insecure people in war-weary Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen. And in late 2017 and 2018, we started responding to new crises. In Venezuela, a severe political and economic crisis has led to severe shortages of food and medicine, which drove millions of people to flee to neighboring countries. We've also continued to tackle the underlying causes of hunger and poverty, to help individuals and communities on their path to self-reliance.

I have absorbed much since joining the office; seeing it for myself every day has reinforced my faith in the programs and the team that puts food assistance into action.

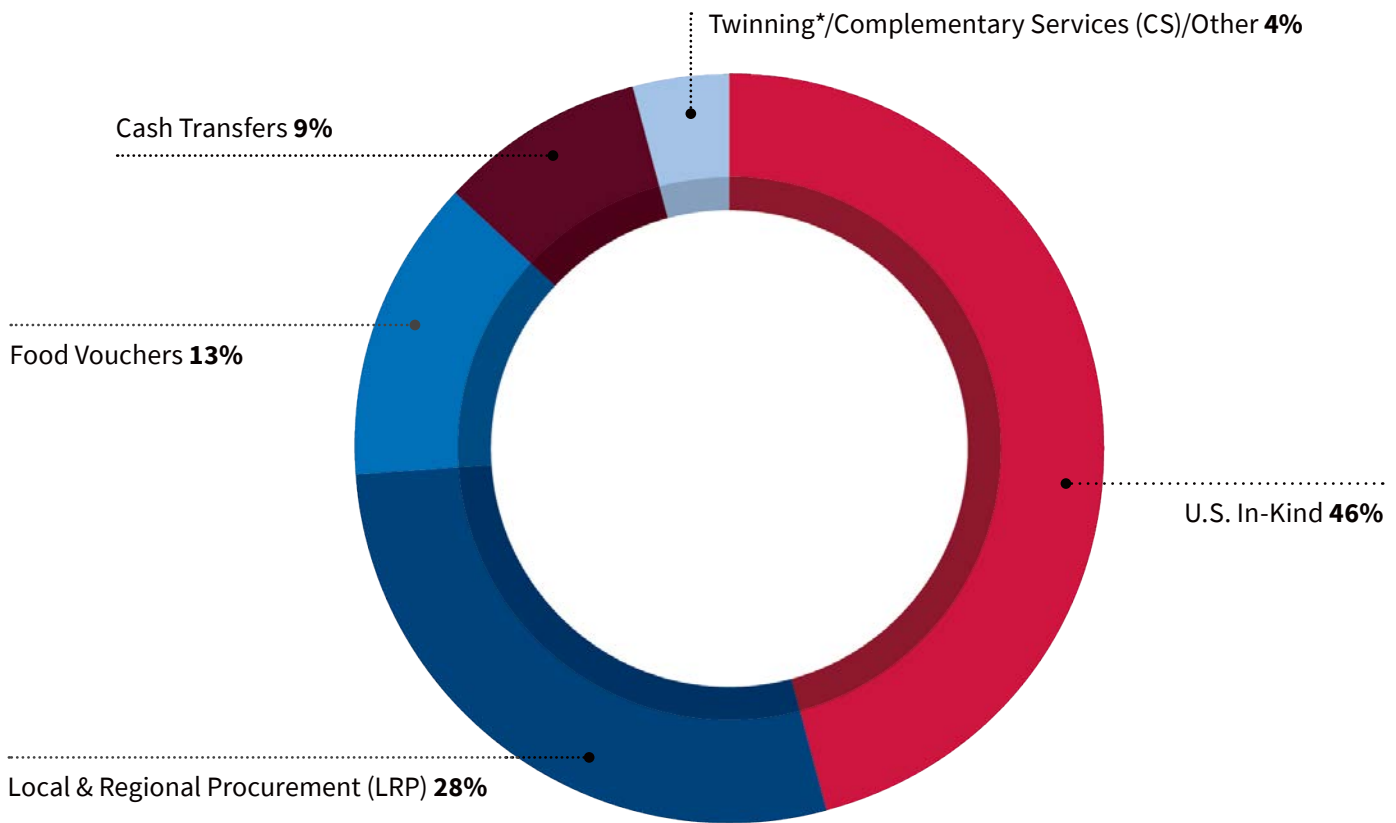
Given the continuing large scale needs around the world, our efforts in the coming year to unify and elevate U.S. humanitarian assistance—food and non-food—will be critical to help people not only survive crises and take their first steps towards recovery, but also to eventually become self-reliant.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trey Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Trey Hicks, Director, Food for Peace

# FISCAL YEAR 2018: BY THE NUMBERS

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, we reached more than **76 million beneficiaries in 59 countries.**



*\*Twining: an initiative that leverages U.S. and other donor contributions to food crises by encouraging host governments to commit resources to their own population.*

## FOOD BY FUNDING ACCOUNT:

Total Development Food Assistance	Value (\$ million)	Metric Tons (MT)
Title II	\$350,634,073	254,275
Community Development Funds	\$80,000,000	-
Total Emergency Food Assistance	Value (\$ million)	Metric Tons (MT)
International Food Relief Partnership (Title II)	\$11,644,214	2,561
Emergency Food Assistance (Title II)	\$1,428,882,041	1,209,931
Emergency Food Security Program (IDA)	\$1,843,348,837	1,032,323









PHOTO: WFP

**“USAID and its allies continue to work toward a world where parents do not worry about their children going to bed hungry.”**

Matt Nims, FFP Deputy Director



## GENERAL UPDATES



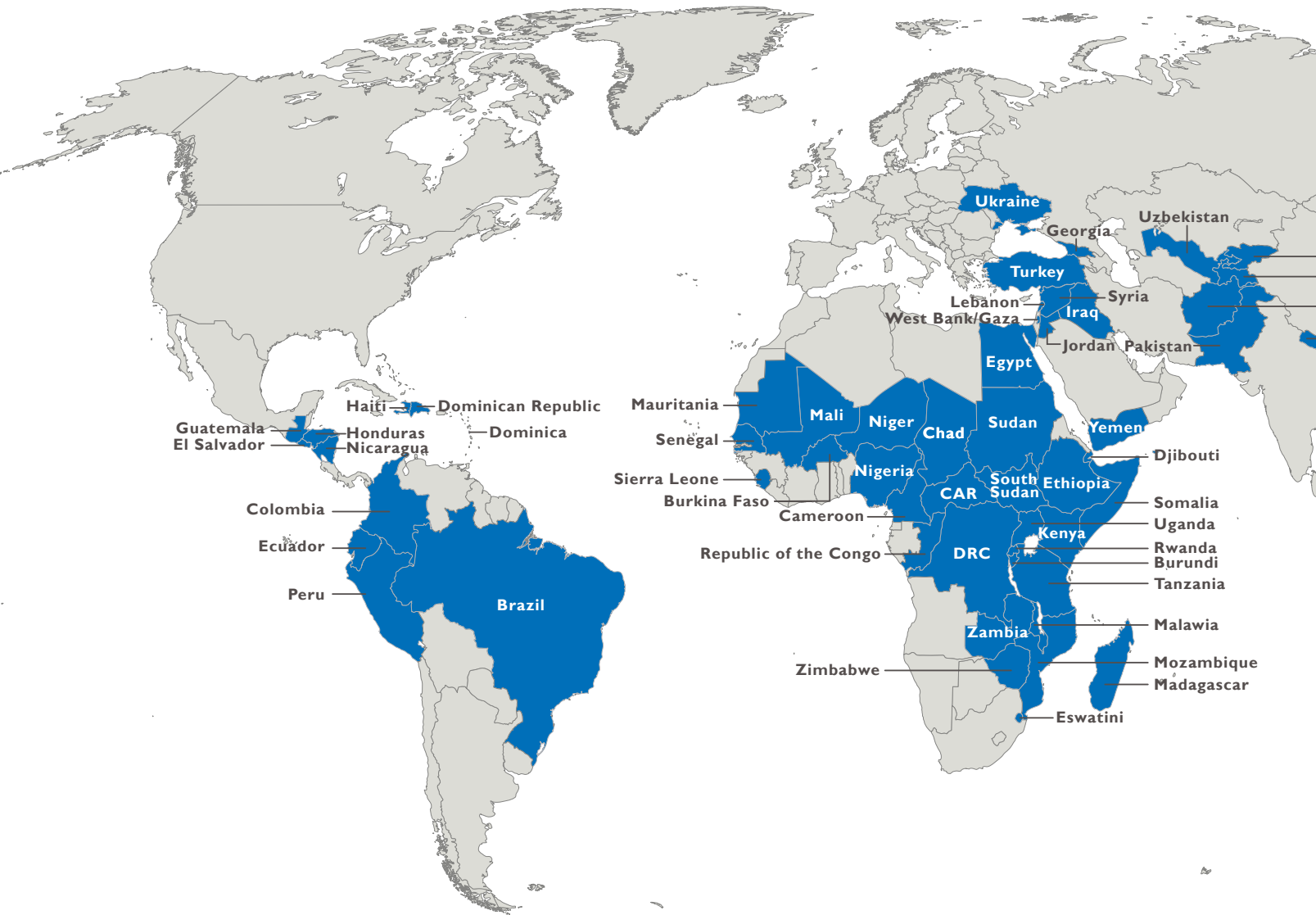
USAID paved the way to expand the humanitarian donor base and level of contributions from other governments this year. As one of the largest donors to global humanitarian crises, the United States consistently encouraged other donors to do their fair share. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, for example, USAID led efforts to create “twinning” programs that paired food contributed by host country governments (Afghanistan and Pakistan) with funding from the United States and other donors who covered the costs of transporting and distributing the food. In Afghanistan specifically, an initiative combined 60,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat grain from the Government of Afghanistan with funding from FFP and other donors, including the United Kingdom and Australia, who covered the milling, fortification, transportation and distribution costs, and the manpower of FFP partner, the World Food Program (WFP), who implemented the program.

After serving two one-year terms, the United States stepped down in 2018 as the chair for the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) and was succeeded by Japan. The FAC is a 16-nation convention that includes the United States, the European Union, Canada, Japan, Australia, and others committed to providing global food assistance. The FAC also welcomed South Korea as a new member in 2018, a huge milestone for a country that received U.S. food aid in the 1950s.

In July 2018, FFP joined representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and seven other FAC country delegates on a joint field mission to Uganda. They met with local officials, representatives from the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), implementing partners, and local residents to see both humanitarian and development programs firsthand in areas where nearly 250,000 refugees from South Sudan reside. The trip was the second of its kind for the FAC and presented a unique opportunity to explore the value of working across the spectrum of development and humanitarian activities to promote longer-term outcomes and build resilience of both refugee and host populations.

# PROGRAM MAP

FFP implemented programs in the following countries (highlighted in blue) in FY 2018.





# TYPES OF FUNDING

Title II Development (TII-D)

Title II Emergency (TII-E)

Community Development Funds (CDF)

International Disaster Assistance Funds (IDA)

International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP)



## Afghanistan

IDA, TII-E

## Bangladesh

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Brazil

IDA

## Burkina Faso

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Burma

IDA

## Burundi

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Cameroon

IDA, IFRP, TII-E

## Central African Republic (CAR)

IDA, TII-E

## Chad

IDA, IFRP, TII-E

## Colombia

IDA, TII-E

## Djibouti

IDA, TII-E

## Dominica

IDA

## Dominican Republic

IFRP

## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Ecuador

IDA

## Egypt

IDA

## El Salvador

IFRP

## Ethiopia

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Eswatini

IDA

## Georgia

IFRP

## Guatemala

IDA, IFRP, TII-D

## Haiti

CDF, IDA, IFRP, TII-D

## Honduras

IDA, IFRP

## Iraq

IDA

## Jordan

IDA

## Kenya

IDA, IFRP, TII-D, TII-E

## Kyrgyzstan

IFRP

## Lebanon

IDA

## Madagascar

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Malawi

CDF, IDA, TII-D

## Mali

CDF, IDA, TII-E

## Mauritania

IDA, TII-E

## Mozambique

TII-E

## Nepal

CDF

## Nicaragua

IFRP

## Niger

CDF, IDA, IFRP, TII-D, TII-E

## Nigeria

IDA, TII-E

## Pakistan

IDA, TII-E

## Peru

IFRP

## Philippines

IDA

## Republic of the Congo

IDA, TII-E

## Rwanda

IDA

## Senegal

IDA, IFRP

## Sierra Leone

IFRP

## Somalia

IDA, IFRP, TII-E

## South Sudan

IDA, TII-E

## Sudan

IDA, TII-E

## Syria

IDA, IFRP

## Tajikistan

IFRP

## Tanzania

IDA, TII-E

## Turkey

IDA

## Uganda

CDF, IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## Ukraine

IDA

## Uzbekistan

IFRP

## West Bank/Gaza

IDA

## Yemen

IDA, TII-E

## Zambia

IDA

## Zimbabwe

IDA, TII-D, TII-E

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: NATURAL DISASTER

While conflict was a major driver of displacement in 2018, natural disasters also played a huge role in uprooting lives. Afghanistan, for example, was in the midst of the most severe drought since 2011.





# AFGHANISTAN

Households in Afghanistan that depended on farming and herding for their income and food saw their livelihoods severely impacted by poor rainfall and high temperatures. FFP worked to meet the increasing humanitarian needs for those struggling to cope with multiple shocks.

Yageen (pictured below right), 60, his wife Joma Gul, and their four children came to a camp from their village in Abkamary district, after he lost his agriculture land and sold all his home supplies to survive. Through FFP funding, WFP distributed life-saving food assistance to families like Yageen's and helped set up camps, such as the one in Qala-e-Naw, the provincial capital of western Badghis province.

FFP activities also supported 1.5 million Afghans to buy food in local markets between July and October 2018. And before winter made roads too dangerous and drought-affected areas impassable, WFP pre-positioned additional food in advance. As previously mentioned, FFP support to WFP included a new, collaborative initiative with the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in which the GoA donated 60,000 MT of wheat grain while FFP and other donors covered costs for the milling, fortification, transportation, and distribution.

**\$73.9M**

*FFP provided \$73.9 million for critical food and nutrition assistance to 1 million people across 15 provinces affected by drought or conflict in Afghanistan.*



PHOTO: WFP



## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: REFUGEES

From late 2017 to early 2018, more than 700,000 Rohingya fled violence in Burma and crossed the border into Bangladesh, forming one of the world's largest refugee settlements in a matter of months. They joined more than 212,000 Rohingya already living in the country. On the other side of the world, an equally tragic crisis unfolded. Approximately three million people since 2014 have fled the once prosperous Venezuela to neighboring countries due to a political and economic crisis that resulted in record inflation rates and severe food and medicine shortages. To help, FFP provided \$680 million in food assistance to millions of refugees, including Rohingya and Venezuelans.





# ROHINGYA CRISIS



*In FY 2018, FFP contributed more than \$150 million to Bangladesh to provide locally and regionally/internationally sourced in-kind food and electronic food vouchers to Rohingya refugees.*

Violence in Burma's northern Rakhine state prompted a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims from Burma to Bangladesh with nearly a million people settling in Cox's Bazar. Rohingya brought few possessions with them, and have relied on humanitarian assistance to survive. Numerous individuals and organizations, including USAID, have ensured that nearly a million people receive food, health care, shelter, and other life-saving essentials.

In addition to in-kind food and electronic food vouchers to Rohingya refugees, other support included cash-based income-generating activities to host communities in Cox's Bazar and support for disaster risk reduction activities to prepare for monsoon season. Muhammad Abdur Rahim (pictured opposite page), one of the refugees who arrived in 2018, worked on a construction crew to build new roads, bridges and buildings, and repair damaged structures in the camps. He arrived in Bangladesh with his family from neighboring Burma carrying nothing but a change of clothes. Muhammad now makes 400 taka (about \$5) a day weaving bamboo fencing around the road construction sites and tamping down the ground to stabilize the sloping hillside. He said his wages are a lifeline.

FFP also worked with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to bring more than \$6.5 million worth of U.S.-sourced ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) to treat vulnerable children under 5 years of age suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Pregnant and lactating women also received specialized foods. Six days a week, Jamila, a local volunteer, worked at the Shamlapur settlement in Cox's Bazar equipped with a tape measure and traveling door-to-door, greeting families and screening children for malnutrition (pictured below). She was responsible for 260 families, many of whom are Rohingya refugees. "I follow up with the families at least once a month," she said. She was one of many community volunteers who have been helping to ensure malnourished children receive life-saving nutrition assistance.



PHOTO: SUZANNE CUNNINGHAM FOR USAID



# VENEZUELA



In Venezuela, as rampant hyperinflation led to rising prices and falling wages, parents came home with empty pockets and children went to school with empty stomachs. Crumbling infrastructure disrupted water and sanitation services, limited investment in agriculture led to reliance on government-controlled food imports, and a collapsing health system created serious public health concerns across the region.

In FY 2018, FFP provided more than \$25 million in food assistance to Venezuelans seeking refuge in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and other nearby countries, including hot meals for those in transit and food vouchers that allowed vulnerable households to purchase nutritious foods available in local markets. FFP worked with WFP to support community kitchens, like La Divina Providencia in Cucuta, that served thousands of meals a day.

As of August 2018, more than 60,000 Colombians and approximately 250,000 Venezuelans were sheltering in Ecuador, many of whom were in need of food, health, and nutrition assistance, according



PHOTO: AFP



to the Government of Ecuador and relief actors. Families were spread across towns and cities, in some cases sharing small rooms with others to afford rent.

Esmeralda<sup>1</sup>, for example, left Venezuela with her daughter and two young grandchildren. The family of four shared a corner of an apartment loaned for free from a friendly Ecuadorian family. Her family relied on WFP-provided food vouchers to be able to buy enough nutritious food to feed the two grandchildren. FFP partnered with WFP to provide as many as 30,000 food-insecure Venezuelans, Colombian refugees and host community members with food vouchers that allowed families to purchase local, nutritious foods.

For Jasmin, a victim of domestic violence and a single mother of three, Venezuela's collapsing economy and lack of jobs made it too difficult to support her family. She traveled to Ecuador alone before sending for her children and elderly mother. She rented a small room for the entire family on the outskirts of town. Monthly food vouchers from FFP and WFP helped her feed her family. The vouchers functioned like prepaid debit cards, allowing Jasmin to buy nutritious food from local grocery stores in Ecuador. These vouchers not only helped feed Jasmin's family, but have had a positive economic impact for local businesses in Ecuador.

FFP-funded activities also helped Colombians return home from Venezuela and host communities affected by the Venezuela regional crisis, as well as Colombians affected by Colombia's internal conflict. Luis and Carla fled their home in Colombia with their son, Jose, when Luis was threatened with violence by an illegal, armed group. They left behind their extended family and Luis' small motorcycle repair shop. The family started over in Ecuador, with help from FFP and WFP. Having arrived in Ecuador expecting a new child and only carrying a bag of clothes and two blankets, the family relied on emergency food vouchers provided by WFP to purchase local, nutritious foods that they would otherwise be unable to afford. In coordination with the Government of Colombia and with support from FFP, WFP provided food vouchers to households, including families in temporary shelters, informal settlements, and indigenous communities, as well as hot meals in transit centers.

In Brazil, FFP partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency to provide six months of food vouchers to approximately 6,600 Venezuelans sheltering in Roraima State's Boa Vista city. The vouchers, designed to meet approximately 75 percent of monthly food needs, enabled Venezuelans and host community members to purchase nutritious food available in local markets.



PHOTO: USAID

<sup>1</sup> Names of beneficiaries changed to protect identities.



## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: CONFLICT

In FY 2018, the lion's share of emergency food assistance resources went to Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen, all impacted by ongoing conflict. Of those countries, Yemen had the highest level of need.



PHOTO: AFP



# YEMEN

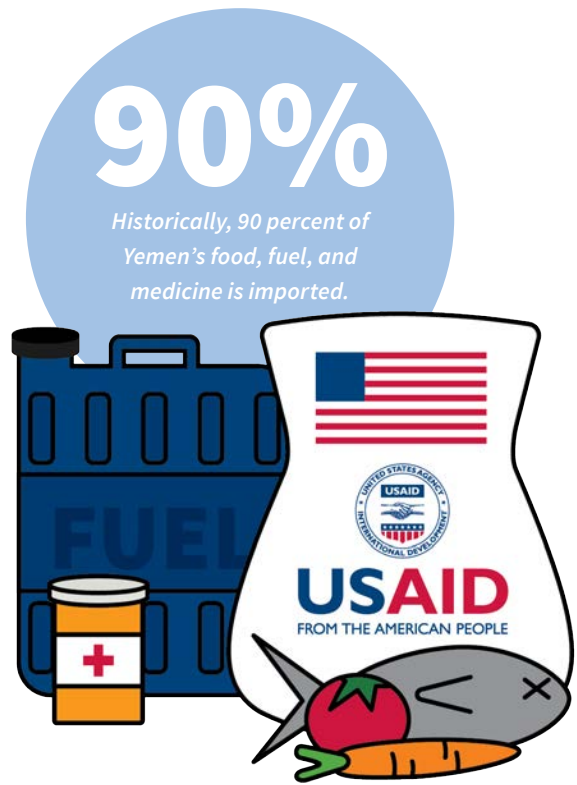
Yemen hosts the largest food security emergency in the world, as a multi-year conflict continues between government and Houthi opposition forces. Tens of thousands of people were at risk of death due to starvation and preventable disease, having already exhausted all coping mechanisms like skipping meals or selling assets, and fully reliant on food aid. An end to the conflict is the only solution to the root issues driving food insecurity in Yemen, according to international relief actors.

In FY 2018, FFP provided more than \$361 million in life-saving emergency food assistance to Yemen. This included roughly 397,000 MT of U.S. food commodities. With FFP support, WFP reached approximately 7 million people every month with life-saving food assistance. One of those 7 million people is Aisha. A mother of four children, she used to have a nice house in Hodeidah city. Now, her children sleep outside on the hard concrete. With tears in her eyes, she said before her family began receiving monthly rations from WFP, her children would go to bed hungry. “I want them to be safe, in good health, and go to school,” she said. “And I dream of us returning to our home in Hodeidah safe and sound.”

FFP funding enabled families to buy food using food vouchers where local markets were functioning, treated children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and supported the FAO as the lead coordinating body for the cluster of international organizations responding to food insecurity in Yemen.



PHOTO: AFP



**“To end hunger, we need to end conflict.”**

David Beasley, WFP Executive Director

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that repeatedly responding to emergencies will not end hunger and increase long-term food security, FFP plays a unique role in bridging the gap between crisis and stability by addressing the root causes of food insecurity, helping individuals and communities withstand future crises, and laying the foundation for stable, inclusive growth. Ultimately, FFP promotes a path to self-reliance to reduce the need for future food assistance. In FY 2018, FFP invested \$350 million in multi-year, food security activities that focused on building resilience among vulnerable populations by addressing the underlying issues of chronic hunger and poverty.



PHOTO: USAID



# GUATEMALA

Over the last six years, FFP supported landless households and small landholders in Guatemala by improving agricultural production for smallholder farmers, diversifying income, establishing savings and internal lending community groups, and linking farmers to markets. The activity also targeted pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years old for improved health and nutrition.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

FFP partners provided training to participants so they could adopt sustainable agricultural practices and improve household food production. Overall, the proportion of farmers in the project implementation area who used at least three sustainable agricultural practices—such as using improved seeds for beans, soil conservation practices, organic fertilization, household garden production, managing fruit trees, and producing native herbs—increased significantly, from 50.1 percent in 2013 to 63.8 percent in 2018. The project also supported farmers to establish production groups and link them to markets.

Bentura López, one project participant, is from the Monrovia community in Quetzaltenango. He has five children with his wife Teresa. For a long time Bentura could only find temporary work, which was not enough to support his family. FFP partner Save the Children worked with poor rural households such as his to help them develop productive activities, such as poultry, rabbit production, and home gardens. The activity trained Agricultural Leaders like Bentura to implement agricultural activities on his two cuerdas of land. Bentura had only planted corn, but little by little he began transforming his land into an integrated farm. He also learned how to prepare organic fertilizer, which he used in his garden. Bentura has more than 100 hens, four goats, and a home garden with a variety of vegetables. He sold eggs, rabbits, vegetables, and manure for an average annual income of \$2,300. “At the beginning, I was very worried because I couldn’t find full time work to support my family, but now, I have all I need to work and support them,” he said.

In a small, rural community in the San Marcos department of northwestern Guatemala, Rosita Juárez learned how to perform plant “surgery” to save her crops. With steady hands, she grafted a coffee plant root with the stem of a different variety that is less susceptible to diseases. Coffee rust compounded losses from several consecutive years of drought and exacerbated food insecurity in Guatemala, which has the fourth-highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world. In San Marcos, the outbreak made it much harder for families like Rosita’s—who are dependent on the coffee industry for seasonal work—to access enough nutritious food. In response, FFP partnered with Catholic Relief Services to adapt an existing development program and boost access to livelihood opportunities and financial services, particularly for women, in communities most affected by the rust in San Marcos. “We sell coffee, save money with the saving group, and, from the money we get, we save our seed capital so we are not left without resources,” Rosita said.



PHOTO: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

## MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Nutrition and health interventions for these development activities included food transfers, promoting behavior change, growth monitoring of children under 2 years of age, and case management of children with acute malnutrition with the goal of contributing to moving the needle on reducing stunting. At the population level in the project’s implementation area, the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old decreased from 79.6 percent to 72.2 percent, and the percent who were underweight decreased from 34.5 percent to 25.3 percent.

Another important achievement was diarrhea reduction in children under 5 years old from 42.6 percent to 28.2 percent at the population-level in the implementation area. This change was significantly associated with increased access to improved drinking water sources, as well as the use of improved sanitation facilities. FFP partner Catholic Relief Services worked with local water management committees and municipal water and sanitation offices to improve water systems, repair infrastructure, and establish water chlorination systems. Increased access to piped water combined with widespread chlorination is likely to account for much of the reduction in diarrheal diseases. Training local committees and local government is essential in the Agency’s journey to self-reliance.



PHOTO: USAID





PHOTO: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



## **PUBLICATION CREDITS:**

The FFP FY 2018 Annual Report was written and produced by the Strategic Communications team of FFP, and the Information Support Unit and Program team of Macfadden & Associates (now part of PAE).

The maps included in this report are for illustrative purposes only and are not authoritative representations. The boundaries and names used on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the U.S. Government.

## **RESOURCES:**

Current public documents, including fact sheets, research and policy papers, implementation tools for partners, and other resources are available on the USAID website:

*<http://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance>*

Fact sheets and other documents are also available on the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' ReliefWeb:

*<http://www.reliefweb.int>*



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