



## END HUNGER BY 2030

U.S. Support for Global Food Security: International Food Assistance

### QUICK FACTS

- » The world's population is expected to grow from the current 7 billion to 9.2 billion by 2050. This will require **raising overall food production by 70 percent** from 2005 to 2050.
- » Undernutrition is an underlying cause in **44 percent of all deaths of children under age 5**.
- » In 2016, World Vision reached **9.5 million people** in 39 countries with needed food aid.

### Introduction

World Vision joins the international community and other partners in seeking to achieve the global goal of ending hunger by 2030. In pursuit of this hunger-free world, World Vision works alongside families to help them produce their own food and advance livelihoods through increased access to markets.

But in some cases, instability prevents long-term development. So when droughts, disasters, or conflicts occur, World Vision provides short-term food assistance to ensure children and communities receive essential food and nutrients in a timely, effective manner. Food assistance is one of the critical global safety nets that support vulnerable families in managing these shocks, while empowering them to become more resilient against future food insecurity and other drivers of poverty.

### Why it matters

World Vision focuses on promoting dignity, fostering innovation, and effectively creating lasting change. To do so, we work with communities to develop tailored and diverse responses based on local contexts. Our food assistance programming includes food commodities procured locally and regionally, as well as from the U.S.; cash transfers; food and other vouchers; school meals; and resilience-building programming such as cash and food for work or community assets.

In implementing this programming, World Vision's Food Security and Livelihoods team draws upon a group of technical experts who ensure the high quality of our food assistance programs in over 39 countries, often combining modalities and services to best meet the needs of impacted communities. World Vision operates food assistance programs in partnership with the United Nations World Food Program, USDA, USAID, and other partners.



## Hunger and the right response

The number of hungry people globally has declined from about 1 billion 25 years ago to about 815 million today, and agricultural production has, on average, doubled. Ending hunger and malnutrition in our lifetimes can be achieved.

However, effective emergency food assistance is still a critical lifeline for millions of people in the wake of conflicts and natural disasters. This is especially vital considering famine remains an ongoing threat in certain regions of the world, most recently in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen. Beyond emergency contexts, development food assistance supports vulnerable communities in moving beyond chronic hunger toward greater self-sufficiency and long-term resilience.

## Food assistance overview

While a range of food assistance modalities exists, there is no single right intervention. In the U.S. context, farmers sell **U.S.-grown commodities** to the U.S. government to be used in food assistance programming. This type of food aid is ideal when local markets in the beneficiary countries are not functioning or there is insufficient food available to meet the local need. Buying locally procured foods helps ensure local markets are strengthened, which improves the livelihoods of farmers and contributes to national economic growth in very poor countries.

When local market conditions are favorable and adequate quantities of food are available, **local commodities** can be purchased for use in country or regional response efforts. In both contexts, this food assistance can be exchanged for participation in food-for-assets, food-for-work, or food-for-education programs, which are designed to address underlying causes of hunger and poverty by building up the capacities and institutions of the impacted communities.

Additional modalities include **cash transfers**, which allow qualifying beneficiaries to purchase food and other household items in local markets. **Vouchers** are a form of cash-based transfer, used when there is a perceived risk of transferring cash or to ensure people receive a specific type of food.

Before selecting modalities to be used in food assistance programming, all options are evaluated based on the following factors: appropriateness based on market conditions, feasibility and likelihood of success, objectives of the program, and overall cost of the intervention.

U.S. support for global food security and World Vision program implementation		
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE	DEVELOPMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE	FEED THE FUTURE
Food for Peace Title II emergency food aid programs	Food for Peace Title II development programs	USAID-led whole-of-government approach
Emergency Food Security Program (International Disaster Assistance)	McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition	



## USAID's Food for Peace

Since 1954, Food for Peace (FFP) has enabled the United States to reach more than 4 billion people with food assistance. As the largest U.S. government food aid program, Food for Peace Title II includes emergency response funds for distributing food to people in the grip of natural disasters, conflict, and other food security crises. Food for Peace also provides funding for non-emergency development programs that reduce poverty and build the capacity of beneficiaries to feed themselves.

In the 2017 fiscal year, FFP programs reached an average of 70 million people in 53 countries per year. In addition to meeting food needs, Food for Peace fosters stability and builds resilience in countries that might otherwise threaten regional peace and stability and pose other long-term security challenges.

FFP's development programs are particularly important in efforts to end hunger, as they go beyond the "free handout" paradigm by addressing the root causes of food insecurity. FFP uses a multi-sectoral approach—inclusive of key areas like resilience, nutrition, and livelihoods—that puts whole communities on a sustainable path toward self-reliance. Projects are typically five years in length, which gives implementers enough time to achieve real results, like revitalizing a watershed or making a lasting impact on farmers' skill sets. Food for Peace development programs primarily serve the poorest communities, using income levels, stunting rates, and other indicators of extreme poverty to direct resources to the countries and communities in greatest need.

## McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program provides the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities, and utilizes local and regional procurement to reduce hunger and malnutrition and promote literacy and primary education in food-insecure countries. Parents in highly vulnerable communities have an incentive to send their children to school, as they receive the dual benefit of access to both education and nutritious food. The program has resulted in an increase in school attendance among girls, driving literacy and educational attainment and helping to institute greater gender balance. McGovern-Dole has reached 40 million children with food at school and is currently active in 10 countries.

### IMPACT



#### Food for Education: Mozambique

World Vision is implementing a McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program project in Mozambique across two districts, reaching 64,000 beneficiaries. Through a \$2 million 2016 award for a Local Regional Procurement grant, we leverage resources, skills, and partnerships with 43 farmer groups to supplement school meals with beans, groundnuts, and sweet potatoes in 43 target schools.





Beneficiaries from an EFSP program in Sierra Leone proudly present their rice paddy, grown with USAID support following the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak.

## IMPACT

### World Vision's Emergency Food Security Program in Sierra Leone

In response to the outbreak of Ebola in Sierra Leone in May 2014, World Vision launched an 18-month EFSP with the support of USAID, providing one-time conditional seed vouchers to 3,360 farmers in exchange for their participation in a post-harvest management training. Additionally, 5,460 vulnerable households received unconditional monthly cash transfers to increase access to food and boost local markets.

## The Emergency Food Security Program

Since 2010, USAID has administered the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP), which supports activities including local and regional procurement of food, as well as cash transfers and vouchers in emergency contexts. EFSP is a complement to Food for Peace Title II emergency in-kind food aid donations and is utilized when in-kind food aid cannot arrive in time or other forms of assistance are more appropriate due to local market conditions. In October 2018, EFSP was reauthorized by the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act.

## Feed the Future

The Feed the Future Initiative (FTF), administered by USAID, is a whole-of-government approach that emphasizes resilience building, gender integration, inclusive agriculture sector growth, private sector engagement, improved nutrition, and research and capacity building. Since it began, Feed the Future has promoted country ownership and aligned its efforts with country-specific investment plans developed by governments. These strategic partnerships with governments, civil society, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, universities, and the private sector are helping to boost individual incomes, connect farmers to markets, and further people's access to nutritious food. Since 2011, across target regions in Feed the Future focus countries, poverty has dropped 23 percent and child stunting has been reduced by 32 percent.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. ADVI0580\_1117 © 2017 World Vision, Inc.



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**Lisa Bos**  
 Director of Government Relations  
[lbos@worldvision.org](mailto:lbos@worldvision.org)  
 202.572.6545

World Vision  
 300 I Street NE  
 Washington, DC 20002