



Food Assistance Convention

FOOD ASSISTANCE CONVENTION 2018 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

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ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ABC Fund	Agri-Business Capital Fund
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability & Performance in humanitarian Action
ARC	African Risk Capacity
APTERR	Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CAR	Central African Republic
CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership
CBPF	Country Based Pooled Fund
CBT	Cash-Based Transfer
CEDRIG	Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Guidance
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund (UN)
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COHAFA	European Union Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
CTP	Cash Transfer Programming
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection, Humanitarian Aid Operations
DPRK	People's Republic of Korea
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DREF	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (International Red Cross/Red Crescent)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EB	Executive Board
EVD	Ebola virus disease
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EERC	European Emergency Response Capacity
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FAC	Food Assistance Convention
FAM	Famine Action Mechanism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FFP	USAID's Office of Food for Peace
FSIN	Food Security Information Network

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FSL	Food Security and Livelihood Cluster
GB	Grand Bargain
GFNC	Global Network against Food Crises
GHD	Good Humanitarian Donorship
GRFC	Global Report on Food Crises
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IGC	International Grains Council
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies
IFAD	International Fund of Agricultural Development
INGO/ NGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation/Non-Governmental Organisation
IFRPI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRA	Immediate Response Account
MAM	Moderate acute malnutrition
MIKTA	Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Australia (informal partnership)
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network
MT	Metric Ton
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid
ODA	Official Development Aid
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
ODSG	OCHA Donor Support Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFDA	USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
RBA	Rome based Agencies
RISE	Regional Institute for Social Enterprise
SAM	Severe acute malnutrition

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SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHA	Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit
TAFAD	Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (former UNISDR)
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
U.S.	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	US Dollar
USDA	U. S. Department of Agriculture
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global emergency hunger remained at its highest level in 2018. This persistence of food crises was due in large part to multiple, ongoing humanitarian crises linked to violent conflicts, often exacerbated by drought and economic instability, increasingly exposing millions of people to hunger. The Global Report on Food Crises 2019 indicated that more than **113 million people in 53 countries** faced crisis levels of hunger in 2018¹. In particular, rural people continued to face a multi-faceted crisis as they struggled with food insecurity, persistent poverty, and degraded land and water. In 2018, the worst food crises occurred in Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, and northern Nigeria. Tragically, the increase in serious and large-scale crises that occurred simultaneously in 2018 emphasizes the continued relevance of the Food Assistance Convention (FAC).

The FAC represents a continued commitment by its Parties² to contribute to global food security and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situations and other food needs of developing countries to save lives, reduce hunger and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations. To achieve these goals, all members fulfilled their obligations of USD 3.15 billion, with Parties substantially exceeding their commitments up to roughly **USD 5 billion** to contribute to **global food security**. Key responses were carried out by the United Nations (UN), International Organisations and National Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) to support people in need in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR) the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK), Ethiopia, Indonesia/Sulawesi, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, the Kirgiz Republic, Sahel and Lake Chad Basin countries, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nigeria, Occupied Palestine Territories (OPT), Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, Venezuela, and Yemen.

Main events in 2018 included the **field mission to Uganda** (June) conducted under the chairmanship of Japan, the FAC Committee Meeting in December hosted by France, and the conference call of the **Working Group on Coordinated Responses** for Yemen. The European Union (EU) initiated this first conference call to discuss the worsened humanitarian situation in Yemen and to identify gaps for increased commitments in humanitarian response. Consequently, members also made considerable efforts to facilitate information sharing and to raise attention at the political level for a strengthened cooperation. To ensure the alignment with existing humanitarian coordination mechanisms, the Parties linked up with the World Bank's efforts to set up the Famine Action Mechanisms (FAM). In the second half of 2018, due to the still alarming levels of crises affected food insecure people, the FAC Member States were involved in **International Pledging Conferences** to mobilize further resources and to raise for instance awareness towards the crises in Syria and its neighbouring countries; exacerbated by human disease outbreaks, additional funding was required for the crisis in DRC. To ensure UN OCHA's continued relevance and benefit to the humanitarian system and its financial sustainability, the FAC Parties supported the **Change Management Process** of UN OCHA which resulted in a new strategic plan for 2018 – 2021 to operate at optimum efficiency and effectiveness. Best practices of the year 2018 included the contributions to WFP's **Immediate Response Account (IRA)**, and commitments to the **Disaster Response and Emergency Fund (DREF)** of the Red Cross family. Furthermore, **multi-year funding for Food Security, Nutrition and Growth** was key to improving the capacity of local organisations to allow for more predictable assistance to affected communities. The Parties underscored the importance of respecting the **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, humanitarian principles and humanitarian space. Inclusion was generally recognized as a thematic priority in all humanitarian assistance with cross-cutting themes such as disaster risk reduction and climate sustainability, protection, gender equality, the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and accountability to affected populations that informed new policies with a potential to transform the sector.

¹ [Food Security Information Network \(FSIN\): Global Report on Food Crises 2019](#)

² Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Unites States of America

GENERAL CONTEXT

Global Food and Nutrition Situation in 2018

Global emergency hunger remained at its highest levels in 2018. This persistence of hunger was due in large part to multiple, ongoing humanitarian crises linked to violent conflicts. In many places, violent conflicts were exacerbated by drought and economic instability, increasingly exposing millions of people to food crises. The Global Report on Food Crises 2019 indicated that more than **113 million people in 53 countries** faced crisis levels of hunger in 2018³. Compounding the challenge of a deepening cycle of hunger and malnutrition, rural areas were marked by persistent poverty, limited economic opportunities, and environmental degradation⁴. Rural people around the world thus continued to face a multi-faceted crisis as they struggled with food insecurity, persistent poverty, and degraded land and water.

In order of severity, in 2018 the worst food crises occurred in Yemen, the DRC, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, and northern Nigeria. These eight countries accounted for two thirds – amounting to nearly **72 million** – of the total number of women, men, girls and boys suffering from famine, acute food insecurity, and malnutrition. Countries in Africa remained disproportionately affected. In general terms, conflicts and protracted crises posed a serious obstacle in



Figure 1: CONFLICT, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC SHOCKS: Main Drivers of Food Insecurity

The list of 53 countries or territories facing food crises was reduced to the 27 countries with the most severe food and nutrition crises for further analysis in chapter 3, as presented in the report, using criteria based on the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** and **Cadre Harmonisé (CH)**⁶.

³ Food Security Information Network (FSIN): Global Report on Food Crises 2019

⁴ International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): 2018 Global Food Policy Report, March 2019.

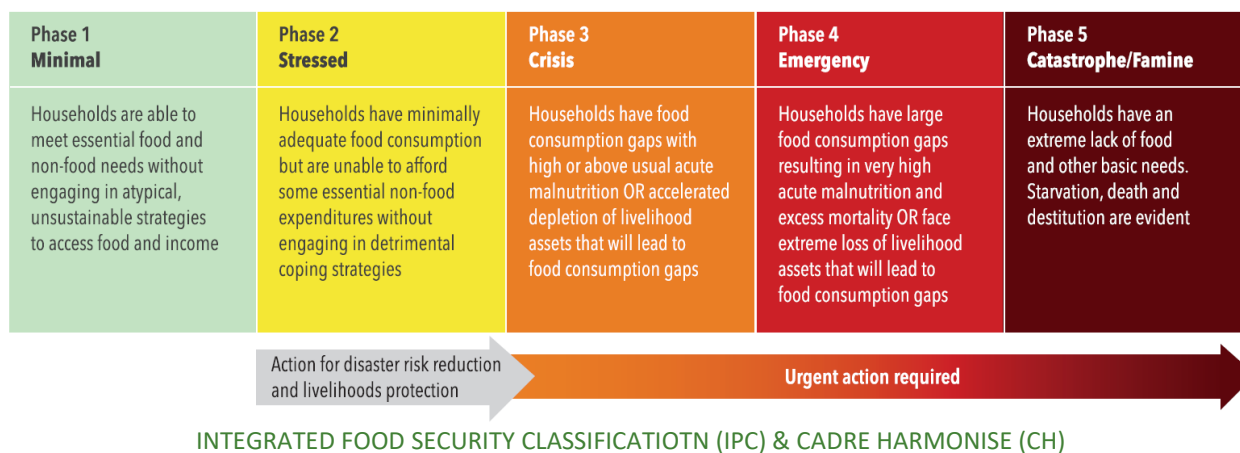
⁵ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

⁶ Since 1999, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel, CILSS) has been engaged in the development and testing of the Harmonized Framework for the analysis and identification of areas at risk and vulnerable groups in the Sahel (Cadre Harmonisé). To national and regional food crisis prevention and management systems, the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) is a comprehensive analytical framework that takes into account various indicators of food and nutrition security outcomes and the inference of contributing factors.

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These are areas with at least 20 percent of the people in crisis or at least 1 million people in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or with any area in Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4).

Figure 2: Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Protection⁷



The Food Assistance Convention

The overall goal of the Convention is to save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security, and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations by:

- i) Addressing the food and nutritional needs of crisis-affected populations through commitments made by the Parties to provide food assistance that improves access to, and consumption of, adequate, safe and nutritious food;
- ii) Ensuring that food assistance is appropriate, timely, effective, efficient and based on needs and shared principles;
- iii) Facilitating, information sharing, cooperation, and coordination, and providing a forum for discussion in order to improve the effective, efficient, and coherent use of the Parties' resources to respond to identified needs.

The Food Assistance Convention (FAC) was adopted on **25 April 2012** in London⁸, and took force in January 2013 following the deposition of instruments of ratification by the initial signatories. The FAC represents a continued commitment by the **16 Parties**⁹, comprising the current signatories to contribute to global food security, and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situations and other food needs of developing countries. It is the latest in a long series of multilateral cooperation instruments in operation since 1967, including the Food Aid Convention 1999. The 2012 Convention expanded the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions that focused exclusively on commitments of in-kind food aid for direct consumption. The new Convention includes a **broader range of eligible activities** and **food assistance products**, including cash, vouchers and products intended for protecting livelihoods, a greater **focus on nutrition**, as well as a commitment to improved **transparency** and **accountability**. Under the FAC, the Parties make **minimum annual commitments** (in monetary value) that provide a predictable and secured

⁷ Key Messages Food Security Information Network (FSIN); 2019 Global Report on Food Crises; Luca Russo, Published on Apr 26, 2019 POLICY SEMINAR; Technical Discussion on the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises: Working together to prevent food crises; Co-Organized by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); North America and Food Security Information Network (FSIN); <https://www.slideshare.net/ifpri/global-report-on-food-crises-2019-key-findings-technical-discussion>

⁸ https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/signature/2012/CTC_XIX-48.pdf

⁹ Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America

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response which is an important signal to partners, namely the United Nations (UN), International and National Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and others, and more importantly, a manifestation to people affected by crises that the international community stands with them.

The Food Assistance Committee governs the FAC. It is a forum for member states to **share information** and **best practices** on food assistance. It meets twice a year in **June** and **November**. The sessions of the Committee are scheduled either before or after the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board (EB) Meetings. The International Grains Council (IGC) has been designated as the Secretariat of the FAC, to assist the FAC Chair¹⁰ with the associated tasks. In 2018, Japan successfully completed its term as chair at the 10th Session of the Committee in Paris, France, and handed over to Switzerland. Unfortunately, the increase in serious and large-scale crises that occurred simultaneously in 2018 emphasizes the continued relevance of the FAC.

Reporting on Food Assistance Operations

Following each calendar year, Parties provide a report on food assistance operations, detailing how their respective commitments were fulfilled. For the year 2018, the minimum annual financial commitments of the **16 Parties** who have ratified, accepted, and/or approved the FAC are set out in the overview for 2018.

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Commitment in 2018</i>	<i>Equivalent in US \$ (million)¹¹</i>
Australia	AU\$	80	59.70
Austria	€	1.60	1.89
Canada	C\$	250	190.65
Denmark	DKK	210	33.34
European Union	€	350	395.35
Finland	€	6	6.78
France	€	33.53	39.57
Japan	JPY	10.00 billion	90.56
Republic of Korea	KRW	46.10 billion	43.48
Luxembourg	€	6	6.76
Russia	US \$	15	15.00
Slovenia	€	0.03	0.03
Spain	€	10	11.30
Sweden	SEK	200	20.90
Switzerland	CHF	34	34.68
United States	US \$	2,200	2,200.00
Total			3,149.98

Table 1: Source: FAC Annual Financial Reports 2018 by Parties

In 2018, the total assistance amounted to **USD 5,067.2 million**. In general terms, all members fulfilled their obligations, with some Parties substantially exceeding their commitments in 2018. All members increased or maintained their grants and thus, in line with the principles of the FAC, remained steadfast in their **commitments** to contribute to global food security, and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situations in as timely a manner as possible.

¹⁰ Per date of accession: Switzerland took over from Japan in January 2019, with Denmark as Vice-Chair.

¹¹ All currency conversions into USD were made using a table provided by the FAC Secretariat

In 2018 **cash-based transfer programming** (CBT) received increased attention and acceptance as an adopted transfer modality for multi-purpose assistance by FAC Parties. **In-kind donations** were reported by four parties, namely the United States of America (U.S.), the Republic of Korea¹², the Russian Federation¹³, and Switzerland. The convention also foresees commitments fulfilled through the provision and distribution of eligible products such as seeds or basic agricultural tools for early recovery support; this is also part of the Parties long-term humanitarian-development-nexus programming.

Predominantly **multi-year funding** supported operations of trusted partner organisations in 2018, with increasingly **un-earmarked contributions** or funding earmarked at country level. In addition, a certain number of Parties chose to either increase the UN **Central Emergency Response Fund** (CERF) or contribute to the **Country-based Pooled Funds** (CBPF)¹⁴, both of which allocate funding to countries experiencing food insecurity or of who are at risk of famine. According to UN OCHA statistics, in 2018, 21.4 percent of CERF funding was allocated to the food sector. CERF funding was also allocated to nutrition and agriculture aimed at long-term food security. A significant part of the funding was made **fully in grant form**.

Eventually and most importantly, food assistance was generally provided in ways that avoided harmful interference with normal patterns of production in recipient countries and/or provided by international commercial trade. FAC Parties provided food assistance funding bilaterally, through intergovernmental or other international and national organizations.

Committee Meetings and Conference Calls

Besides the joint field visit conducted under the leadership of Japan in June 2018, members convened one FAC meeting in November 2018. At the invitation of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and chaired by Japan¹⁵, the **Food Assistance Committee** held its **10th Session** on 7 December 2018 in Paris, France. Out of the total of 16, 10 Member States¹⁶ attended the meeting that was generously hosted by France. Representatives from the WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance (TAFAD) were present as observers. The Committee reviewed the global situation and the unprecedented levels of global food and nutrition insecurity, and discussed food emergencies against latest developments. The International Grains Council (IGC) provided information on the outlook for world markets for grains, rice, and oilseeds and summarized the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting this region's dependence on trade. Members shared information on responses to food emergencies in the most vulnerable regions, and on planned operations. They discussed in depth the role of conflict in driving historic levels of displacement leading to L3 crises as well as emergency food needs in countries like Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, the DRC, and Nigeria. Among other interventions, Australia highlighted the importance of a regional and coordinated approach notably in the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, and

¹² The Government of the Republic of Korea has donated 50,000 metric tons of Korean rice through the food assistance projects of WFP; the rice was distributed to four recipient countries, namely to Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

¹³ The Russian Federation provided cashless support of the WFP, including the supply of trucks to renew WFP's fleet used for humanitarian food delivery purposes.

¹⁴ UN OCHA statistics 2018: CBPF allocations to Food Security totaled up to USD 128 million (15.3 per cent) and to USD 107 million for nutrition (12.7 per cent).

¹⁵ Mr. Shuichi Akamatsu, Minister, Embassy of Japan in London

¹⁶ Australia, Canada the European Union, Austria, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America

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of untied, cash-based support to enhance the flexibility of partner organizations to meet the basic needs of crisis-affected populations. The United States of America reported on comprehensive support to vulnerable displaced people and host communities, for instance in Venezuela.

The world's largest food crisis and assistance operation in the history of international humanitarian aid remained Yemen. Hence, the European Union (EU) initiated the first **conference call** of the **Working Group on Coordinated Responses** to discuss the situation in Yemen and identify gaps for increased commitments in humanitarian response. Consequently, members also made considerable efforts to facilitate information sharing and raised attention at the political level to strengthen cooperation, coordination and to improve the effective, efficient, and coherent use of resources to respond to the unprecedented needs.

At the **10th formal Session**, particular emphasis was also put on the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus** and the importance of including peace-building elements in nexus discussion while simultaneously safeguarding humanitarian principles. Austria promoted enhanced cooperation between Rome-based UN-Agencies, and Russia emphasized a particular focus on nutrition and school feeding programmes. For ease of reference and enhanced financial reporting, Canada presented a simplified template for the financial reporting of the Parties. The Republic of Korea suggested developing some guidance on the use of the FAC logo by parties.

Members who participated in the June 2018 joint **FAC field mission to Uganda** presented highlights and discussed lessons learned. The mission is further summarized below. Finally, the members unanimously approved the publication of the 2017 Annual Report.

The formal Session was preceded on 6 December by the **Seminar** entitled "**Neglected areas and food assistance**". It included interventions from France, WFP and the European Union who presented the **Forgotten Crises Assessment** of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and updated members on the EU **humanitarian-development nexus approach** to encourage humanitarian, development and political actors to add value and improve cooperation. FAC Parties as well as relevant UN agencies (Observers) and international organisations participated in the formal FAC session and the seminar. Non-Governmental Organisations were invited to the seminar and to participate actively in panel discussions. More information is available at www.foodassistanceconvention.org

Field Mission



Uganda was selected for the 2018 field mission of the FAC Committee. The reasons for selecting Uganda were (i) the presence of multiple FAC member programmes with dedicated food security activities for refugees and host communities, and (ii) a wide variety of food assistance and nutrition programmes complementing each other, both in humanitarian and development contexts.

Furthermore, Uganda hosted nearly 1,500,000 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority from South Sudan and the DRC. For both Congolese and South Sudanese refugees, key sources of food and income included regular humanitarian food assistance, crop production at a limited level and petty trade. Remittances provided an additional source of income among some South Sudanese.

Photo 1: Koboko District: Cash distribution pilot by WFP

The purpose of the mission was to give participants the opportunity to see how the broader objectives of the FAC are operationalized at field level and to give members with limited field presence the opportunity to become familiar with a broad spectrum of programmes. Under the dedicated leadership of Japan, sixteen officials from eight countries (Australia, EU, Finland, France, Japan, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the United States of America) visited from **24 June to 29 June 2018** ten project sites. The activities illustrated best practices of restoring livelihoods, the prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and the production and promotion of staple crop such as cassava, soybeans and the **New Rice for Africa (NERICA)**. They were accompanied by FAO and representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff as Task Force members of the mission.



Photo 2: Adjumani District: Extension Service by FAO¹⁷

¹⁷ Photos: K.Jenny; Switzerland; 2018

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This highly appreciated mission concluded in Uganda that coordination was well established among organizations, with a strong emphasis on complementing each other's programmes and avoiding duplications. On an operational note, despite challenges such as availability of land and access to markets for refugees, particular emphasis on food production that led to the resilience of refugees and host communities or the link between immediate food security and long-term resilience were considered a great **model for other countries** that are hosting refugees. However, the use of cash-based transfers did not seem the preferred modality of assistance sought by the affected population.

OVERALL ASSISTANCE BY FAC MEMBER STATES

Australia

Australia continued to consider food security as imperative to achieve regional and global stability and prosperity in the past year. Its substantial contribution amounted to USD 70.7 million compared to the 2018 commitment of USD 59.7 million under the Food Assistance Convention. According to its annual report, Australia was fully committed to providing **untied**, cash-based contributions to the WFP. These contributions were used to assist people affected by emergencies, protracted conflict, food insecurity and displacement in countries across Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa. Of the USD 70.7 million, Australia provided 42 percent as core, un-earmarked funding under its **multi-year partnership** with WFP, which WFP allocated to country operations prioritized according to the identified needs. In addition, Australia provided 58 percent to specific crises with minimal earmarking, e.g. through multi-year funding agreements for WFP's operations in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

A disability advisor, funded by Australia, was deployed to WFP to build the organisation's knowledge and understanding of disabilities and explore ways to enable equitable and dignified access to WFP programmes. The eleven-month deployment included comprehensive consultations across WFP, including over 400 stakeholders across eight country offices.

Austria

In its selection of parties and programmes, Austria followed a complementary approach to food assistance. It reported on the total amount of contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in South Sudan, and to WFP and FAO programmes of roughly USD 1.9 million (FAC 2018 commitment of USD 1.6 million) to increase the **resilience of livelihoods** and food security. Where indicated, partner organisations supported the early re-establishment of agricultural activities, for instance, in North Uganda. Complementary programmes helped refugees and their host communities to have access to clean water. Furthermore, food assistance efforts and nutritional interventions were supported in Ethiopia.

Canada

Canada exceeded its yearly commitment providing a contribution of USD 305 million compared to its FAC 2018 commitment of USD 190.7 million for 2018. Slightly more than 50 percent of the funding provided by Canada was earmarked for eligible food security, nutrition and livelihood assistance at the country level. Furthermore, 20 percent of the total funding was **un-earmarked** as long-term institutional

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support to trusted partners. Due to the compounding effects of widespread violence, recurrent droughts, deteriorating economic situations, and food insecurity and displacement in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Canada also increased its allocation to **multi-year food assistance** for the UN, Red Cross and NGO partners to respond to these major crises. Canadian multi-year humanitarian funding allowed WFP to substantially scale up the urgently needed food assistance response in Yemen. In other countries including Iraq, **CBTs** were provided to affected people across the country. Overall, the **multi-year funding** helped to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of WFP assistance. Furthermore, flexible funding provided by Canada was vital to ensure an agile response and to cover shortfalls in 2018.

With regard to advancing **cross-cutting priorities**, Canada continued to promote gender-responsive humanitarian action as part of its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Canada's support for gender-responsive school feeding programmes helped provide incentives to support education opportunities, in particular for girls. Canada also contributed to narrowing the gap between humanitarian and development activities with projects such as the **Resilience Initiative**, which represents an unprecedented effort to support and invest in the same vulnerable communities over a five-year period through integrated, context-specific, gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive assistance interventions addressing both immediate food needs and the root causes of hunger.

Canada also provided multi-year funding to the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development** (IBRD) of the World Bank to improve food security and to support household resilience to shocks. IBRD collaborated with the government of Ethiopia through the **Productive Safety Net Program** to deliver a complementary set of activities, which included cash for work, land rehabilitation and irrigation, livelihood support, and direct cash transfers for the most vulnerable.

Denmark

In 2018, Denmark's total contribution amounted to a total of USD 61.1 million with **core, un-earmarked** funding under its **multi-year partnership** agreement for 2016 – 2019 with WFP. Hence, it substantially exceeded Denmark's initial 2018 commitment of USD 33.3 million under the FAC. WFP, in turn, allocated the un-earmarked funding from Denmark to country operations according to identified needs. Thus, Denmark's contribution helped WFP retain the flexibility to adapt its operations to manage evolving food insecurity crises and determine the most effective means of delivering assistance. Furthermore, Danish crisis funding supported WFP's efforts as part of **Humanitarian Response Plans** (HRP) for specific countries/regions: As an example, Denmark's assistance targeted food insecurity-affected Rohingyas in Myanmar and Bangladesh, and crises-affected populations in South Sudan and in Yemen. Finally, Denmark contributed to a WFP special programme linking food assistance with **gender-related protection** in humanitarian emergencies, including sexual and reproductive health services.

Denmark was among the top-10 donors to the CERF and the **Country-Based Pooled Funds** (CBPF), both of which allocate funding to countries that are experiencing food insecurity or are at risk of famine. CERF also allocated funding to nutrition and agriculture, which are closely related to longer-term food security.

European Union (EU)

The EU largely exceeded its annual commitment by allocating USD 533.1 million for purely humanitarian food and nutrition assistance in 2018, of which 72 percent was used to provide food assistance and approximately 28 percent for nutrition interventions. This amount substantially exceeded the 2018 commitment of USD 395.3 million under the Food Assistance Convention.

The EU was fully committed to provide humanitarian food assistance to victims in anticipation, during, and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises around the world and to invest in measures to reduce the risk of famine in an **integrated prevention** and response approach. Food security and livelihoods were the most significant areas of EU humanitarian assistance in 2018: food and nutrition interventions represented almost one third of the total EU annual humanitarian budget. Overall, emergency food assistance and nutrition, through **cash transfers** or **in-kind donations**, made the EU one of the world's major donors in this sector. DG ECHO provided a significant proportion of the overall funding to assist conflict-affected populations inside Syria and refugees in neighbouring countries and regions. Several countries across Africa continued to account for a large share of the funding assigned for protracted crises.

The EU continued to promote cash transfers. The added value of this transfer instrument was increased efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. Hence, more aid directly reached the beneficiaries. Whenever possible, the EU encouraged partners to purchase food and supplementary feeding products locally or regionally, to maximize the acceptability of food products, to protect or support local markets, and to reduce transportation costs and delivery periods. The EU also continued to prioritize sustainable solutions and the restoration of **self-reliance** by building resilience and protecting the livelihoods of food-insecure households.

Finland

Finland more than doubled its commitment, amounting to USD 18 million in 2018 and thus, substantially exceeded its initial commitment of USD 6.7 million. In 2018, Finland provided emergency food assistance primarily through WFP. Key responses were carried out according to WFP's priorities and with emphasis on the most underfunded operations, primarily for regional or country operations in Africa and the Middle East. Finland also initiated a project to summarize/review its 70 year-long experience in **school feeding** programmes worldwide. Food assistance activities were also supported in multi-sectoral operations of Finnish NGO's and the Red Cross Movement, ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Throughout 2018, Finland remained committed to promoting **un-earmarked, multi-year** and **flexible** funding, according to the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD). Finland also endorsed the Grand Bargain and already achieved its benchmark of providing 30 percent of its overall humanitarian funding as un-earmarked.

France

In 2018, France maintained its annual contribution of USD 39.5 million and remained committed to substantially supporting priority countries (i.e. Sahel countries, the DRC, the CAR, Haiti, Madagascar, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Djibouti) and neglected areas facing emergencies of chronic food insecurity. Following its commitment at the International Summit of “**Nutrition and Growth**”, more than 50 percent of the allocated funds were related to nutritional assistance. France also supported projects aiming to reduce food insecurity by primarily increasing the resilience of crisis-affected populations. With a particular focus on Sahel countries, France’s supported was dedicated to **agricultural recovery** and focused on enhanced **nutrition**. More than half of France’s contribution was implemented via the WFP and other international organisations and NGOs, mostly using CBT. Partner organisations, for instance in DRC, conducted comprehensive training programmes in nutrition. France provided funding for school meal programmes in Jordan, Niger, Chad, Ethiopia and Haiti and supported local producers in sustainable farming techniques as well as enhanced marketing of local products in line with land restoration. France also supported global initiatives, particularly the Grand Bargain and the World Bank’s **Famine Action Mechanism (FAM)**¹⁸. The FAM represents the deepening of partnerships across the humanitarian and development communities to address the most complex, multi-dimensional challenges of extreme poverty.

Japan

In 2018, Japan more than doubled the amount of its annual commitment of USD 90.6 million under the FAC and reported a total contribution to food and nutrition needs of USD 191.1 million. Almost two-thirds of Japan’s food assistance was implemented via the WFP. For the most part, Japan partnered with WFP in response to food needs arising in conflict-affected countries in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to the Japanese **Emergency Grant Aid**, WFP was able to scale-up its response to emergency food and nutrition needs in Afghanistan, Yemen and the countries affected by the Syrian conflict. Furthermore, Japan collaborated with the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)** to assist conflict-affected Palestinian refugees in the neighbouring region. Japanese contributions also permitted coverage of the critical humanitarian needs of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Myanmar including protection programmes.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea's comfortably fulfilled its annual contribution of USD 43.4 million, implemented through food assistance projects with contributions to WFP and international organizations. In addition, to responding to food crises in a prompt and effective way, the Republic of Korea provided support to the **Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and **Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)**, a cooperative system established to immediately respond after sudden onset of natural disasters in the region. In 2018, Vietnam and Myanmar received assistance through APTERR.

¹⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/famine-early-action-mechanism>

Luxembourg

Luxembourg's financial contribution to mainly nutrition-related interventions has remained consistent over the past years. In 2018, it slightly exceeded its FAC contribution with a total of USD 6.9 million whereas its initial commitment was for USD 6.7 million. A fair amount of the total funding allocated to WFP was **multi-year funding** and was mainly linked to **CBT** (multi-purpose cash transfers). Overall, food assistance represented the major sector using cash, provided within supported NGO programmes, followed by shelter and non-food items. Luxembourg also placed a substantial emphasis on the potential of innovative approaches¹⁹ to serve food insecure populations but also on the promotion of community-level **resilience** and **social protection mechanisms** such as social safety nets alongside immediate life-saving food assistance. Overall, Luxembourg also set a particular focus on the **humanitarian – development - peace nexus** with sustainable partnerships to address structural weaknesses by simultaneously building resilience as part of a continuum of humanitarian and development programming.

Russia

According to the Annual Report 2018, the total food assistance and nutrition allocations provided by Russia was USD 45.4 million²⁰, tripling its minimum annual commitment of USD 15 million. Russia provided roughly 57 percent of its total allocation to the WFP. Overall, the assistance was provided through a variety of both **bilateral** and **multilateral** assistance instruments. Russia supported a mix of **in-kind food** and livelihood donations, and **cash** and **voucher transfers**, and food interventions underpinning its commitment to reduce food insecurity.

In 2018, food security and assistance in agricultural development remained the priority areas. A considerable share of the Russian funding was also invested in assistance to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Russia made local, regional and international procurements. Furthermore, the Russian Federation was committed to channeling funding through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for **agricultural production** in countries with low per capita income and a deficit of food, to improve quality of food and enhance the well-being of the poorest populations.

Slovenia

In 2018, Slovenia incorporated the Grand Bargain goals into its new strategy on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, with a particular thematic focus on the **humanitarian-development nexus**. Slovenia supported international efforts against famine and was committed to contributing to global food security, which was identified as one of the priority areas in the field of its humanitarian assistance. Recognizing the need for a more comprehensive response to changing needs particularly in protracted crises, Slovenia contributed to the WFP and Slovenian NGOs in addressing food insecurity and hunger.

¹⁹ Together with the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Commission, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Luxembourg kick-started an innovative food financing mechanism called the Agri-Business Capital Fund (ABC Fund) in 2018. The objective of the ABC Fund is to raise and leverage a blend of public and private sector capital to finance rural and agricultural value chains in developing countries to stimulate growth, foster new markets and preserve and create job opportunities for the rural youth and women.

²⁰ Provisional (to be confirmed)

Spain

Throughout 2018, Spain maintained its support to populations affected by protracted conflicts, food insecurity and displacement across Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Spain provided emergency food assistance of about USD 17 million, exceeding its initial FAC commitment by 50 per cent, with a total contribution of USD 11.3 million. The United Nations, mainly WFP and UNICEF, but also the ICRC, several NGOs as well as the Spanish Red Cross and Algerian Red Crescent Societies implemented projects in forgotten crises to fight undernutrition and food insecurity of the most vulnerable populations. Support was provided in the Venezuelan migration situation in Colombia or in displacement situations like the Sahrawi living in refugee camps in Algeria. According to the GB principles, Spain's new **Strategy for Humanitarian Action 2019 – 2026** includes among its objectives *inter alia* an increased allocation of aid to local actors and the use of CBT reaching 15 per cent of the total humanitarian Official Development Aid (ODA) in 2022 and 18 per cent by 2026. As a Member State of the EU, Spain was active in the **European Union Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid** (COHAFA) for the close coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Sweden

Sweden's contribution amounted to approximately USD 142.6 million²¹, substantially exceeding its annual commitment of USD 20.9 million. Contributions were exclusively made to the WFP for most severe humanitarian crises in Africa, i.e. in Ethiopia and Somalia, DRC and the Sahel region. For food insecure populations particularly in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Mauritania, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya and Zambia received assistance with funding provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Sweden made funding available also for Yemen, Bangladesh and DPRK.

Switzerland

In 2018, Switzerland's annual contribution amounted to a total of USD 79.4 million for food security and nutrition interventions in the major humanitarian crises, thus, more than doubling its annual FAC commitment of USD 34.6 million. Advancing food security ranked second in the 2018 budget of the Humanitarian Aid (HA) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Aligned with Agenda 2030 and its goals on achieving zero hunger and on collaborating to support the implementation of the SDGs, Switzerland continued to provide substantial support in the form of **flexible** or softly earmarked funding, to a lesser extent in the form of food aid²² but also in the form of **technical expertise**.

In addition to financial contributions, human resources were made available by the **Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit** (SHA)²³. In 2018, a total of 22 specialists were seconded to UN Agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) over a period of 6 months or more to support food assistance interventions.

For WFP alone, Switzerland remained a strong partner in providing technical expertise by seconding 16 experts, mainly in support of the **CBT**, of **Protection**, and in fight against Gender-based

²¹ Provisional (to be confirmed)

²² Skimmed Milk Powder supported WFP programmes in the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Algeria

²³ The SHA is a roster of around 700 people who can be deployed abroad at short notice.

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Violence (GBV), but also in **Social Protection, Logistics** and **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**. Key responses were carried out by supporting mainly the WFP, which received 84 percent of the total contribution. Switzerland allocated the remaining funds to NGO's in support of their food and nutrition responses.

In line with the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) principles, Switzerland continued to recognize the necessity of predictable and flexible funding to respond rapidly to changing needs in humanitarian crises and was again the largest donor to the **WFP Immediate Response Account (IRA)**. Switzerland assumed a two-year Co-Chairmanship of the Good Humanitarian Donorship along with the European Union (2018 – 2019). To maintain its high level of strategic commitment, Switzerland reiterated its commitment to FAC by assuming the chair of the Food Assistance Committee in 2019.

United States of America

The United States Government (U.S. Government) responded to the global crisis by delivering unprecedented levels of emergency food assistance for a second consecutive year. In U.S. Fiscal Year 2018, the U.S. Government programmed USD 3.58 billion in food assistance and procured more than 2.7 million metric tons (MT) of food, reaching more than 76 million people in over 50 countries. It thus substantially exceeded the 2018 U.S. Government commitment of USD 2.2 billion under the Food Assistance Convention.

The United States provided life-saving emergency food assistance, primarily through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), thus, helping to alleviate the suffering of millions of people facing acute and chronic hunger. About 89 percent of USAID's food assistance was used to address emergency needs, while 11 percent was earmarked for **development assistance** to address the underlying and chronic causes of hunger. Development efforts included teaching **land management** skills to farmers, and training of caregivers and healthcare workers in **child nutrition**, among other activities.

In addition to USAID efforts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) food assistance programs focused on not only meeting immediate food and nutrition needs of food-insecure people, but also on improving agricultural productivity and expanding trade of agricultural products, as well as improving literacy, especially for girls. USDA administered three comprehensive food assistance programs²⁴ in the fiscal year 2018. These programs helped to improve food security for over 4.5 million people worldwide.

²⁴ Food for Progress, McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition, and Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement programs.

KEY FOOD ASSISTANCE RESPONSES BY FAC MEMBERS

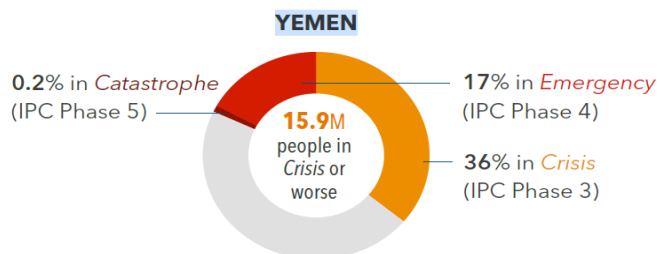
Yemen

Besides the Syrian Arab Republic and the DRC, Yemen was one of the three countries on the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response (Level 3/L3 Response) emergencies list. Yemen

remained the world's gravest food insecurity crisis in 2018 exemplified by extreme food gaps and/or the inability of some population groups to meet basic food needs. By the end of the year, the crisis reached a critical point that drew attention to the urgent need for a cessation of hostilities to avert famine. More than half (53 percent) of the total population was in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance (IPC Phases 3 or above) from December 2018 to January 2019, even when taking into account the mitigating effects of food assistance. Without humanitarian food assistance, the number of people facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) would have reached around a quarter of a million. Despite urgent action, high levels of acute and chronic malnutrition persisted, threatening, in particular, the health and lives of young children and women²⁵.

The majority of the FAC Parties including Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United States of America made significant efforts to scale up the urgently required response, both in the north and in the south of the country, mostly through humanitarian partner organizations including WFP, ICRC, and INGOs. Besides contributions to trusted partners, funding to the **Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund** and the CERF for life-saving interventions.

Figure 3: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019



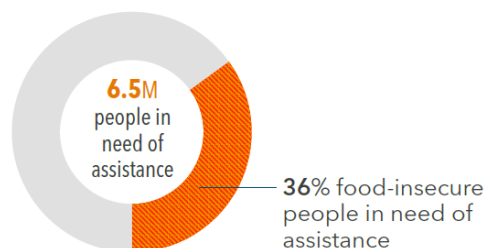
Syria (and neighbouring countries/Syrian Refugees)

In 2018, the security situation improved in many parts of the country and the conflict became more localized. However, it continued to undermine the country's socio-economic basis and agricultural production, particularly when combined with erratic weather conditions: The Syrian Arab Republic suffered its worst drought in 30 years followed by

heavy, out-of-season rains, which together with the effects of the conflict caused wheat production to hit a three-decade low, making millions of Syrians reliant on food and livelihood assistance. An estimated 6.5 million Syrians were food-insecure and in need of urgent action (IFSN 2019).

Figure 4: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019

THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



²⁵ Food Security Information Network (FSIN): Global Report on Food Crises 2019; pg. 15

For the benefit of people in need in Syria and the neighbouring countries, the FAC Parties, namely Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United States of America reported contributions of an estimated USD 923 million. Recognizing that systemic and socio-cultural **gender** inequalities are obstacles to food security and nutrition, partner organizations including WFP, ICRC and INGOs sought to enhance women's access to livelihood and income-generating activities. In addition, Luxembourg also highlighted its contribution to the WFP emergency operation providing food aid to Syrians forced to leave their homes and Syrian refugees in Iraq.

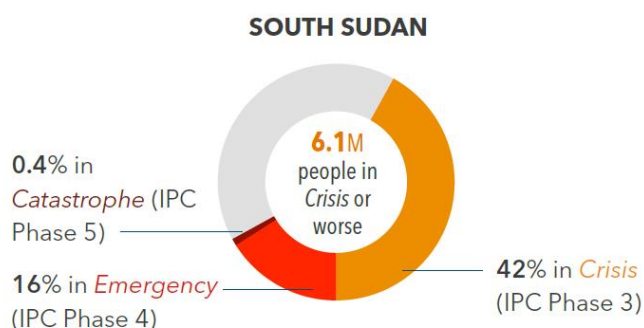
The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis pooled also an increasing share of the EU's aid to the region into one single and flexible instrument. The Fund primarily addressed the educational, economic and social needs of Syrian refugees while also supporting overstretched local communities and their administrations. The Trust Fund is a key instrument for the delivery of the DG ECHO's pledges made at the **Brussels Conference** on “**The Future of Syria and the Region**” in April 2018. The **EU Madad Fund**, which has provided **multi-purpose grants** for basic needs addressing food security issues in countries neighbouring Syria, also received particular attention, with Denmark being one of the main contributors. Various FAC Parties also contributed to the CBPF for Lebanon, Syria and cross-border operations from Turkey, providing support to Syrian refugees and host communities affected by acute food insecurity.

South Sudan

Five years of persistent conflict, widespread and recurrent displacement, record low 2017 cereal production, very high food prices, loss of livelihoods and limited access to markets drove rising hunger in South Sudan. At the peak of the 2018 lean season, 59 percent or 6 million people needed urgent food and livelihood assistance (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) compared with 55 percent during the same period the previous year.

The FAC member states allocated over USD 538 million in humanitarian aid to partners in South Sudan and neighbouring countries. With emergency levels of malnutrition across the country, the Parties significantly helped partners to expand critical food assistance and nutrition interventions in hard to reach areas, particularly in the Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Equatoria regions. Switzerland considered **it** important to allocate funding to the coordination of the **Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSL)**. Close cooperation with the Nutrition and Protection Clusters were also sought.

Figure 5: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019

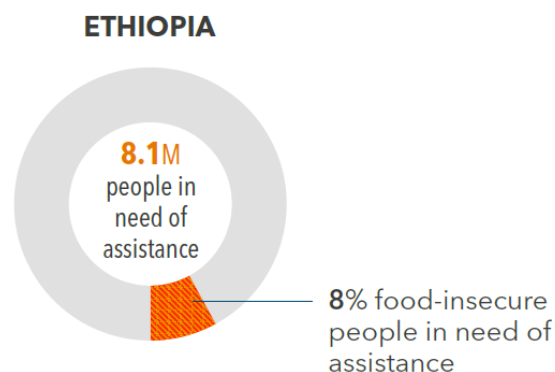


Ethiopia and Somalia

In Ethiopia, despite major improvements in southern pastoral areas in early 2018, the country still faced a major food security emergency in 2018 with 8 million people in need of food assistance. This was driven by several inter-related factors, including the aftermath of three preceding years of poor rainfall, intercommunal conflict driving mass displacement, currency devaluation, high food prices, localized floods and dry spells (IFSN 2019). In 2018, in Somalia, one third of the population was still in need of emergency food assistance.

The FAC Parties reacted in a flexible way to the changing food assistance needs and made contributions through their multilateral partners of an estimated USD 482 million for Ethiopia and an estimated USD 360 million for Somalia. The Republic of Korea also provided in-kind donations in the form of rice to assist refugees and IDP in Ethiopia.

Figure 6: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019

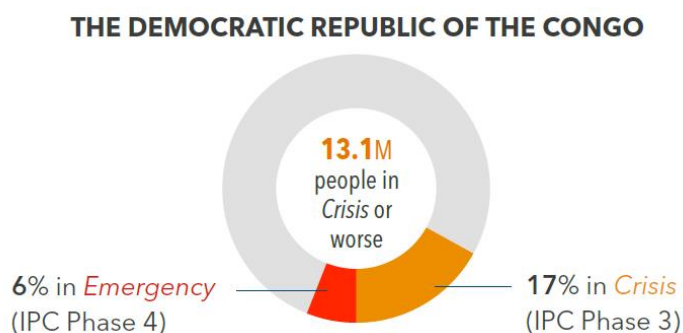


Congo DRC

After Yemen, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** had the highest number of acutely food-insecure people in urgent need of assistance in the second half of 2018. This represented the biggest year-on-year deterioration following armed conflict in Ituri and South Kivu, and the humanitarian crisis in the Kasai region. Localized floods compounded the impact of persistent insecurity, disrupting agricultural activities, markets, and humanitarian assistance while an ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) further disrupted livelihoods (IFSN 2019).

Overall, FAC Parties reported contributions to ease the food insecurity and nutrition crisis in DRC. Canada, the European Union, France and Switzerland increased their contributions to the WFP for immediate assistance. WFP drew from the **Immediate Relief Account (IRA)** in order to scale up its assistance tenfold. Also, as chronic malnutrition continued to be a major public health and development issue in the Great Lakes Region, multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder partnerships were supported to strengthen national mechanisms to effectively monitor, coordinate and scale up food security and nutrition interventions.

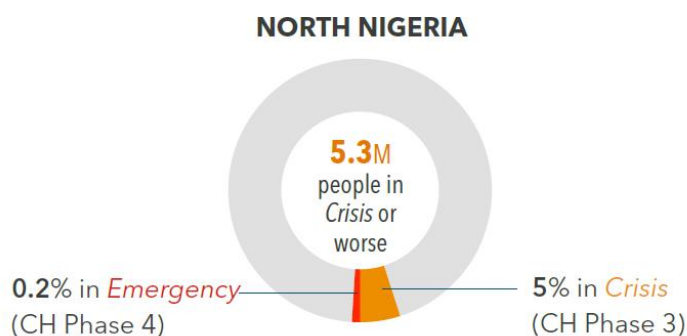
Figure 7: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 20



North Eastern Nigeria

Figure 8: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019

In the 16 states of northern Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, the number of people in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and Emergency (CH Phase 4) decreased by 40 percent between June-August 2017 and 2018 to 5.3 million. However, at the peak of the lean season, 3 million



were still acutely food-insecure in the three north-eastern states affected by the Boko Haram insurgency where protracted conflict and mass displacement disrupted agriculture, trade, markets, and livelihoods, and pushed up food prices (IFSN 2019).

Importantly, Canada and other FAC Parties provided substantial funding to the UN, ICRC, and INGOs, which helped to ease the suffering of crisis-affected people through mainly unconditional cash transfers, food or cash for work programs and treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis

In 2018, the Sahel region was confronted with an exceptional crisis characterized by the most severe humanitarian needs in years, and required an urgent intensification of the response. About **5 million** people were in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, and Senegal according to the *Cadre Harmonisé*. Across the six countries, up to **1.6 million children** were reported to be at risk of suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and over **3.4 million** from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Mauritania, Mali and the Niger had the highest rates of acute malnutrition driven by inadequate caring practices and a high burden of disease, aggravated by acute water shortages, and increased use of negative coping strategies.

While addressing immediate humanitarian needs, the EU and other FAC members worked actively on implementing humanitarian development nexus programmes in order to build the resilience of the affected population, reduce humanitarian needs and address root causes of food insecurity and acute undernutrition. Substantial contributions were made by Canada, Denmark, the EU/DG ECHO, France, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, and Switzerland to address the Sahel food and Nutrition Crises.

Bangladesh/Myanmar (Rohingya Crisis)

With 14.7 million food-insecure people in need of urgent action, four countries in South and South-East Asia (Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan) accounted for 13 percent of the total of food-insecure people according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2019. In Cox's Bazar, the influx of refugees aggravated the already-fragile situation of one of the poorest districts in Bangladesh where the host population faced higher levels of food insecurity compared to the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, with around **1.3 million** food-insecure people.

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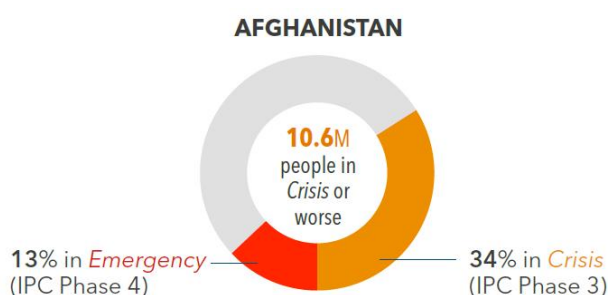
Parties to the FAC, namely Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the United States of America contributed substantially to easing food insecurity in the Rohingya crisis. Meanwhile Australia remained the most important development partner providing flexible funding to WFP's whole country programme in Bangladesh, enabling the programme to respond quickly and to direct funding with a longer-term perspective for improved food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable households and individuals.

FORGOTTEN CRISES AND/OR OTHER AREAS

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Figure 9: FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2019

In 2018 in Afghanistan severe drought constrained food production, particularly of wheat, and stripped farmers and livestock keepers of their assets and livelihoods, creating the country's worst food insecurity emergency since the 2011 drought. The number of rural Afghans facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) was projected to reach **10.6 million** (i.e. 47 percent of the rural population) during the winter months if urgent food assistance could not be provided (IFSN 2019).



Three parties, the European Union, France and the Russian Federation reported contributions for programmes related to the triple nexus, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The European Union continued to provide critical funding for life-saving assistance, despite the shrinking humanitarian scope and the challenging security situation.

Countries of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Central Asian and Caucasus countries made tremendous progress to reduce the prevalence of undernourishment. However, malnutrition remains the predominant food insecurity concern in the region.

In partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Russian Federation allocated funding for the implementation of the "Survival and Development of your Children" project and supported a call for urgent action in the Republic of Tajikistan to prevent malnutrition of mothers and children.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a period of low rains and abnormally high temperatures in July followed by heavy rains and flooding caused significant crop damage and a below-average harvest in 2018. Hence, given the tight domestic supplies of most households having borderline or poor food consumption rates, the already precarious food security situation further deteriorated.

Through WFP, Switzerland provided food assistance in the form of Swiss milk products. France also intervened in DPRK through WFP and UNICEF.

Lake Chad Basin, Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon

Because of conflict and natural hazards, food insecurity remained a critical challenge throughout 2018. Active conflicts were the key driver of food insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin and Cameroon and, as an example, left 50% of the population in CAR food-insecure.

In line with the *Leaving no one behind*-principle and rooted in a needs-based humanitarian approach, Luxembourg pursued its engagement with emphasis on forgotten and underfunded crises occurring in countries such as in Chad. France, the Russian Federation and Switzerland also reported activities to support food-insecure communities in the region.

Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami

In September 2018, a series of earthquakes struck areas of Central Sulawesi in Indonesia, triggering a tsunami, terrain liquefaction, and landslides. This resulted in a significant loss of lives, serious injuries, widespread displacement of local communities and significant damage to public and private infrastructure. Australia with its long history of close cooperation with its Pacific neighbours immediately allocated funding to WFP as one component of its comprehensive response package. The European Union responded to the crisis by providing emergency aid to assist the most affected people, and helped to provide essential supplies such as food, shelter, water and sanitation and medical supplies. Canada and Switzerland focused their assistance on other sectors, including water, sanitation, shelter, and protection.

Venezuela

The crisis in Venezuela continued to deteriorate throughout 2018, leading to a further collapse of services, deterioration of health facilities, food security, and nutrition, and one of the biggest mass displacements in South America's history. Hyperinflation and severe scarcity of food and essential goods have severely compromised the lives and livelihoods of a large part of the population. Lack of medicines, combined with a drastic reduction in the health system's capacity, resulted in a growing number of people lacking treatment for chronic diseases or emergency medical care. By the end of 2018, over **3.2 million people** had left the country, fleeing mainly to Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador. In February 2018, the Government of Colombia officially requested UN support to develop an Integrated Response Plan to respond to the Venezuelan situation. As part of its response, WFP activated an internal Level 2 Emergency for Colombia in April 2018.

Given the extent of this humanitarian crisis, FAC Parties, such as Canada, the European Union, and Switzerland reported on their financial contributions in response to the emergency appeal to address the growing needs engendered by this crisis in Venezuela. The EU for instance allocated over USD 37 million of humanitarian funding to help the affected populations in Venezuela and in the region, with the provision of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, education in emergencies, as well as support to host communities. One sixth of the total was allocated to meet humanitarian food assistance and nutrition needs.

Uganda

Over the last two years, the number of refugees has almost tripled, with increased needs for food and nutrition supplies.

The Republic of Korea provided in-kind support in the form of rice to support 420,000 people in seven refugee camps. Austria helped refugee households to maintain access adequate food, and France supported food assistance through an NGO.

COORDINATION AMONG DONORS

Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)

The GHD initiative is an informal donor forum and network, which facilitates collective advancement of GHD principles and good practices. It recognizes that, by working together, donors can more effectively encourage and stimulate principled donor behaviour and, by extension, improved humanitarian action. Altogether 42 members of the GHD group endorsed the **Principles and Good Practice of Good Humanitarian Donorship**. These were drawn up to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of donor action, as well as their accountability to beneficiaries, implementing organisations and domestic constituencies, with regard to the funding, coordination, follow-up and evaluation of such actions. Against the backdrop of the increasing use of cash transfers and their benefits in terms of efficiency and dignity for beneficiaries, GHD adopted a 24th **principle on cash use** at its 2018 High Level Meeting.

For 2018 – 2019, **European Union (DG ECHO)** and Switzerland assume the Co-Chairmanship of the GHD initiative. One of the four priority themes is “innovative financing and delivery modalities”, which aims at exploring avenues for individual and collective donor engagement. The benefits of enhanced donor coordination on these themes also extend to food-security related programming, for instance in the realm of risk financing. The joint leadership also led to the adoption of new GHD principles on the use of CBT by the humanitarian actors at the GHD High Level meeting in June 2018.

As a member of the GHD Initiative, Denmark supported the adoption of the new principle on CBT to recognize the added value of cash as a flexible and cost-efficient tool, while placing people in need in the centre of humanitarian efforts. Canada actively participated in defining the new principle to “Systematically consider the use of cash transfers alongside other modalities according to context, in order to meet the humanitarian needs of people in the most effective and efficient manner”. Luxembourg’s humanitarian action continued to be steered by the GHD principles, complying with international standards and best practices in terms of providing predictable and flexible funding, and promoting the respect for **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**.

Finland was committed to promoting un-earmarked, multi-year and flexible funding, according to the principles of GHD. An active member in the humanitarian donor community, it participated in many of the important humanitarian policy fora, including the GHD Group but also the OCHA Donor Support Group, and various other donor support and friend groups. As such, Finland has contributed to and exerted influence over organizations' decision-making, promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action in line with the **Humanitarian Reform Agenda** and **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principles Agenda for Change**.

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Finally, in 2018, the Republic of Korea jointly hosted with the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) the Second Global Forum on “*Sustainable Agricultural Development in International Setting: Cooperatives Role and Prospect*” in Seoul, Korea. It brought together stakeholders to share their strategies and expertise for cooperative management in the agriculture and rural sector.

Global Network against Food Crises

At the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, the **European Union, WFP and FAO** launched the **Global Network against Food Crises (GNFC)** in May 2016. The GNFC serves as a forum informing food security and nutrition decisions by allowing donors and partners to share data and analyses as well as lessons learned and best practices. Special emphasis is set on the **humanitarian-development nexus approach** and on promoting effective ways to address the root causes of hunger. The GNFC consists of a technical component, with the joint publication of the annual **Global Report on Food Crises**.

Denmark, being supportive of the Global Network against Food Crises, worked across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to more effectively prepare for and respond to growing food crises. Denmark promotes closer linkages with development, including the World Bank engagement to develop the FAM in the recipient countries.

Committee for World Food Security (CFS)

Funded by the Rome based Agencies (RBAs) and voluntary donations, the **Committee for World Food Security (CFS)** is the only UN led intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to global coordination of food security and nutrition activities and the promotion of policy convergence and adoption of best practices. It produces a wide array of valued documents on food security and nutrition. Canada is an active member of the CFS and participated in the annual session in October 2018 where it shared challenges and lessons learned from the inception phase of the Resilience Initiative. France remains an active member and continues to be supportive of the CFS.

Famine Action Mechanism (FAM)

In 2018, the United States of America played a central role in coordinating a response from donors to a new humanitarian initiative – the World Bank’s efforts to set up the FAM. Throughout the year, the United States dedicated significant focus and effort to helping donors coordinate a meaningful response to ensure the FAM initiative aligns with and does not duplicate or disrupt existing humanitarian coordination or response. The WB is pursuing discussions on introducing the humanitarian dimension, where relevant, in post disaster needs and in recovery and peace building assessments. France continued to support the initiative.

ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

The **ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)** is a cooperative system established to meet emergency requirements and to strengthen food security in the region. Japan has contributed to the system and provided rice since the start of the pilot project in 2004. In 2018, Japan provided rice to the ASEAN countries affected by typhoons, floods and landslides. The countries included Myanmar,

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the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Republic of the Philippines. The Republic of Korea provided rice to the ASEAN countries affected by typhoons, such as the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Pledging Conferences 2018

Syria Pledging Conference

The European Union and FAC member states were involved in international diplomatic initiatives such as “*Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region*” Conference in Brussels as well as in the Humanitarian Task Force of the International Syria Support Group located in Geneva and other advocacy efforts promoting respect for humanitarian principles and IHL.

DRC International Donors' Conference

Due to the alarming levels of food insecure people in the second half of 2018, an international donors' conference, co-hosted by the European Union together with UN OCHA and the Netherlands, mobilized further resources and increased awareness towards the crisis exacerbated by human disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles and the Ebola virus.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) - Underfunded Emergencies Window

In 2018, Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, and Finland reported contributions amounting to USD 179.7 million to the CERF for forgotten and / or unprecedented crises.

OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG)

The UN OCHA mission is to mobilise and coordinate effective humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies. It advocates for the rights of people in need and promotes crisis preparedness and prevention. General Assembly Resolution 46/182 of 1991 serves as the basis for OCHA's mandate. As chair from July 2017 – June 2018 of the ODSG for OCHA, Switzerland with the other ODSG members many of whom are also FAC members, supported the **Change Management Process** resulting in a new strategic plan for 2018 - 2021. Almost all FAC members²⁶ contributed substantially to the process of strengthening the humanitarian coordination system both internationally and in the field.

POLICY INITIATIVES

The Grand Bargain (GB)

One of the clearest outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 was the **Grand Bargain**. The GB is a set of **10 non-binding political commitments** that donor governments and humanitarian organizations plan to jointly pursue to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of

²⁶ Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, EU/DG ECHO, Finland, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Spain, and Sweden

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humanitarian assistance to people in need. The commitments are taken forward through eight thematic work streams involving a series of changes in the working practices of donors and humanitarian assistance organizations.

Canada continues to be a strong supporter and signatory of the GB. For example, Canada led the effort to streamline the **FAC reporting process**, which significantly reduces the burden of reporting on both donors and partner organisations while providing new opportunities for data analysis and the identification of trends in the provision of food assistance funding by FAC members.

Australia's key results included a high proportion of support to multilateral partners as multi-year and un-earmarked funding. In 2018, 83.3 percent of Australia's core funding was multi-year; with 79.7 percent of core funding as un-earmarked. Local and national partners were funded as directly as possible and transparency of humanitarian expenditures was increased, thus, upgrading to the standard of the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**.

Finland reported meeting its benchmark of providing 30 percent of its overall humanitarian funding as un-earmarked. Multi-year core funding was granted to UNHCR, WFP, UNRWA, OCHA, UNISDR and ICRC. Finland also accepted harmonized reporting instead of donor specific reports. Luxembourg's humanitarian action complied with international standards and best practices in terms of providing predictable and flexible funding, and promoting respect for the IHL. The United States shifted more resources toward support for increased donor coordination under the UN umbrella, principally via the Grand Bargain policy initiatives. In sum, the United States continued to use its influence as the largest humanitarian donor to bring other donors into continuous dialogue to ensure effective, efficient and well-coordinated humanitarian response.

In 2018, Switzerland placed a particular emphasis on advancing commitments related to localization, cash-based programming and quality funding. Switzerland was committed to making humanitarian action as local as possible and acts as the co-convenor of the localization work stream of the Grand Bargain, together with the IFRC. The co-convenor facilitated a wide range of activities by the work stream group, composed of Grand Bargain signatories and local and national actors. As for quality funding, the trends towards less earmarking and more multi-year planning in Swiss humanitarian programming continued, with 37 percent of un-earmarked or only softly earmarked humanitarian funding in 2018.

Conflict and Hunger

As peace is the key to a world without hunger, the Netherlands and Switzerland initiated a series of discussions on "conflict and hunger" in their roles as Chairs of the Group of Friends on Food Security and the Group of Friends on Protection of Civilians at the United Nations in New York. The discussions resulted in a report and recommendations to the UN Security Council, the Member States and the UN System. In May 2018, the Security Council adopted **Resolution 2417** that prohibits "hunger" as a weapon of war. Starving civilians is already a war crime under the Rome Statute when committed in international armed conflict. For victims the type of conflict is irrelevant. Hence, Switzerland proposed that starving civilians becomes a war crime before the International Criminal Court (ICC) when committed in internal armed conflict. The amendment would codify existing international humanitarian law in the Rome Statute.

Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action

Canada's **Feminist International Assistance Policy** lays out the parameters for a more robust gender-responsive humanitarian approach, guided by the overarching principles of providing assistance that is human rights based, inclusive, strategic, transformative, evidence-based and accountable. In 2018, Canada continued to be proactive in multiple fora, mobilizing both donors and partners, around the importance of gender-responsive humanitarian action, including by stressing the important roles of women and girls as powerful agents of change towards fairer and better-fed societies. Throughout 2018, including during its G7 presidency, Canada underlined the importance of gender-responsive humanitarian action to ensure the specific needs of vulnerable women and girls are understood and met, their knowledge and abilities are recognized, that they are consulted, and are able to participate in making decisions on issues that affect them.

Training on nutrition best practices for women and adolescent girls, including for pregnant and lactating women or for infants and children, was also provided by Canadian partners in many contexts, but was not tallied against Canada's eligible contribution to the FAC as per a strict and systematic application of the Rules and Procedures of the Convention.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD ASSISTANCE

Cash Innovations

Although CTP has been widely recognized and evidenced as a major step forward in the way humanitarian assistance was delivered, the Good Humanitarian Donorship work stream on CBT identified improved donor coordination on cash as a priority in 2018. A group of donors, namely Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, sent a letter to the Chair of the IASC requesting a decision on "clear, actionable guidance on cash coordination leadership".

As part of the **Grand Bargain Cash Work Stream's** action point to **enhance collective donor efforts**, Germany and Norway, in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR, organized a **joint donor mission** on cash programming to Jordan and Lebanon, where participants agreed on "Ten key findings" and broadly outlined areas for further improvement. The findings were utilized to develop a "**Common Donor Approach for Humanitarian Cash programming**", which sets out a shared vision for the use of cash in humanitarian action. In December 2018, OCHA, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF released a joint statement on cash assistance. The UN's common cash system statement, which aligns largely with the "Common Donor Approach", represents an opportunity to reduce fragmentation and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of cash assistance. Switzerland continued to be actively engaged as donor in the board of the **Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)** and seconded CBT specialists to humanitarian partners for cash programming only.

Canada continued to work with partners and with other donors to support the effective scale-up of multi-purpose cash assistance and vouchers and to advance coordination around assessments, delivery, management, monitoring and evaluation. Canada also supported the production of a volume of collected research papers on **Gender and Cash** presented at the CaLP Gender Symposium held in Nairobi, Kenya. This research represented a critical early step to increasing understanding of how to

deliver inclusive and effective assistance to vulnerable women, men, girls and boys in humanitarian settings.

Denmark supported cash-based assistance and responsible technological innovation through long-term partnerships with UN agencies and through its core contributions to UNICEF and UNHCR and civil society partner organisations. Innovation funding offered partners a significant new opportunity to experiment and catalyse efforts such as cash-based programming to seek improved outcomes. Denmark supported linking humanitarian cash transfers and social protection systems, for example in Ethiopia, thus working across the humanitarian-development nexus.

The United States continued to increase its use of market-based food assistance in Fiscal Year 2018, and was the world's single largest donor of market-based food assistance for yet another year. Overall, the United States remained firmly committed to increasing the use of market-based food assistance, which is considered highly effective where markets are functional and accessible. In 2018, USAID continued to build evidence to guide modality choice and to improve the coordination of market-based programming among donors.

Innovative Resilience and Livelihood

Switzerland explored a range of innovative instruments, such as impact bonds or risk insurance mechanisms, e.g. the ICRC Humanitarian Impact Bond or the African Risk Capacity, and promoted innovations through agricultural research, the integration of small-scale farmers into agricultural value chains, and new disaster risk and resilience management tools. These include the **Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Guidance** (CEDRIG) and the Compendium of Good Practices "Where people and their land are safer" which includes a focus on reducing disaster risk with sustainable land management. Support was provided to WFP through deployments of experts in the development of the beneficiary identity and benefit management system SCOPE, a flexible and powerful **cloud-based digital solution** that supports all WFP transfer modalities: in-kind, voucher and cash for a variety of project activities. The **African Risk Capacity** (ARC) specialized in drought risk insurance for entire countries, set up by the WFP and the African Union, was supported. This innovative instrument allows countries to manage their disaster risk in a more sustainable way.

Denmark remained supportive of combining short and long-term approaches to enhance food security and facilitates the work of its multilateral and civil society partners across the humanitarian-development nexus, with a focus on building livelihoods and resilience. It also contributes to the WFP fund to advance innovative partnerships linking **food security, protection and gender equality**.

Flagship responses of Canada contributed to improving resilience and livelihood of communities affected by conflicts and disasters such as the **Productive Safety Net Programme** in Ethiopia that contributed to increasing resilience to shocks by providing communities with assets and knowledge in addition to supporting their immediate consumption needs. School feeding programmes, with a special focus on girls, promoted both education and gender equality, two significant factors affecting a community's medium and long-term resilience and the sustainability of their livelihood strategies. Large-scale **multi-year projects** funded by Canada in places such as Syria and neighbouring countries, also contributed to improving planning and complementarity of activities, including with regards to immediate and sustained food security. Finally, its **Resilience Initiative** brings together the three RBAs to design a comprehensive and complementary response addressing, over

five years, short and long-term food insecurity of communities in DRC, Niger and Somalia. Specific attention was given to the distinct needs of women and girls throughout the design of the response included the participatory approach adopted by the RBAs. Innovative approaches and innovative practices were an integral part of the projects funded by the Russian Federation and implemented through UNDP and other leading organizations of the United Nations system.

Innovation and Digitalisation

Support for innovation, digitalization and private sector engagement has emerged as a major focus to maximize the impact of humanitarian aid. The changes in humanitarian programme design and delivery, as well as the development of new partnerships and introduction of new actors in humanitarian response, has fostered a growing interest in new technologies and solutions. Additionally, availability of data provides also a strong impetus for greater data-driven decision-making.

In 2018, the EU actively engaged in the global debate around humanitarian innovation and private sector engagement, at the Annual Meeting of the **World Economic Forum**, at the **Economic and Social Council of the United Nations' Humanitarian Affairs Segment (ECOSOC)** and at the **UN General Assembly**. The EU continued to support the development of innovative approaches, including about digitalization, and *inter alia* by exploiting opportunities offered by EU research and innovation programmes. The EU also continued to look into what aspects can apply to humanitarian preparedness and response to ensure humanitarian aid, including food assistance, remains timely, relevant and effective.

Agri-Business Capital Funding (ABC Fund)

Together with IFAD, the European Commission, and the **Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)**, Luxembourg kick-started in 2018 an innovative food financing mechanism called the **Agri-Business Capital Fund (ABC Fund)**. The objective of the ABC Fund is to raise and leverage a blend of public and private sector capital to finance rural and agricultural value chains in developing countries to stimulate growth, foster new markets and preserve and create job opportunities for rural youth and women. Based in Luxembourg, the ABC - Fund illustrates an innovative **public-private partnership** that will multiply the initial investment provided and maximize development impact, as well as maintain financial profitability.

Regional Institute for Social Enterprise (RISE) Kenya

The RISE Kenya assists the community to develop its capacity to combat poverty and famine through alternative sources of sustainable livelihood, social enterprises and knowledge diffusion. With Australia's support, RISE Kenya was testing innovative software for teachers to track student attendance and generate summary reports informing the WFP supported school feeding programme of meal quantity requirements. In 2018, RISE Kenya was a winner of the Australian Innovation Exchange's MIKTA²⁷ Education in Emergencies Challenge.

²⁷ Created in 2013 on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly, MIKTA is an informal partnership between Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia. It is led by the Foreign Ministers. The aim is to support effective global governance.

Building Blocks

Australia was supporting the humanitarian partners, particularly United Nations agencies, to seek innovative ways to deliver aid in humanitarian contexts that improve effectiveness and efficiency. Since 2018, Australia supports **WFP's Building Blocks programme**. The programme uses **blockchain**²⁸ to make cash transfers more efficient, transparent and secure. Cash assistance and emerging digital opportunities shall empower vulnerable households to meet their essential needs according to their priorities.

Luxembourg was committed to fostering new ideas for humanitarian assistance. By providing a rich, supportive environment for today's **FinTech pioneers** and **micro-credits**, Luxembourg was committed to leading the way for tomorrow's inclusive financial services industry, representing also a key instrument for poverty alleviation and empowerment of low-income groups. Luxembourg entered into a new partnership with the **Innovation Accelerator** of WFP. The Accelerator brings together internal WFP staff with experts from across the private sector and civil society to develop high-impact, human-centered innovations for a world with Zero Hunger. In 2018, part of the Luxembourg financial contribution was invested in the «Building Blocks» project in two Syrian refugee camps in Jordan. This project aims to strengthen new means of cash transfers to reduce costs and associated risks, while ensuring timely distribution of food assistance.

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN 2018

With Luxembourg's long-term commitment towards flexible humanitarian funding instruments, such as CERF and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), prevention of famine and the building of the capacity of national actors as first responders were at the centre of support provided, as was gender equality as a cross-cutting matter in the approach to development cooperation and in humanitarian action. Luxembourg supported the IASC in their development of Guidelines on **Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**, which will be released in July 2019.

Promoting climate sustainability, gender equality and reduction of inequality must always be well-established practices of all Finland's development cooperation and humanitarian partners. Finland also actively promotes the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in the context of food assistance. In terms of humanitarian assistance, Finland underscores the importance of respecting humanitarian principles and humanitarian space.

Denmark had the institutional lead on the **Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network** (MOPAN) assessment of WFP, together with the USA. Denmark supports aid organisations to learn the principles of best practices, through Danish core funding to Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Active Learning Network for Accountability & Performance in humanitarian Action (ALNAP) and Developments Initiatives to evaluate humanitarian actions.

As chronic malnutrition continues to be a major public health and development issue in the African Great Lakes Region, with multi-year contributions Switzerland continued to support the multidisciplinary partnership and multi-stakeholder alliance to strategically address malnutrition at

²⁸ A blockchain is a growing list of records, called blocks, which are linked using cryptography. Each block contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block a timestamp, and transactions data. By design, a blockchain is resistant to modification of the data. It is "an open, distributed ledger that can record transactions between two parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent way."

national levels and to combat undernourishment in communities where stunting rates are at their highest. In 2018, the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and DRC together with UNICEF, WHO, WFP and FAO contributed to the improvement of the health of children and of pregnant and of lactating mothers.

In view of the increasing number of complex and concurrent emergencies and serious shortcomings of the international system in keeping crises-affected people safe from harm and in meeting their needs, **Protection, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)** and Inclusion has been generally recognized as a thematic priority in all humanitarian situations. Hence, FAC Parties continued to support WFP's efforts in its strategy developed to institutionalize the new comprehensive policy on protection and accountability to affected populations. Given the size of the organization, the new policy will have the potential to transform the sector. Finally, WFP's flexible and un-earmarked **Immediate Response Account** for rapid response in food insecurity crises proved highly successful and efficient, and thus, is recommended to be adopted by the FAC Parties for immediate response to food crises.

In addition to already established multi-year funding packages in Syria and Iraq, Australia announced in 2018 new **multi-year packages** for Afghanistan and Pakistan. WFP Lebanon noted Australia's multi-year package has given them longer visibility on projects which allows WFP to evaluate longer-term impact rather than outcomes) from interventions. In Lebanon, Australia's multi-year package has provided greater capacity to build core local structures, increase coordination, reduce duplication among other actors and utilise innovative technologies.

The Korean rice provided to four recipient countries was of short-grain type, which is the main type of rice in Northeast Asia including China and Japan. The Korean government understood that the dietary culture in developing countries would be different from Korea and the donation might not be well received. Thus, the government and UN WFP conducted research on all potential recipient countries while taking into account the level of food security and their dietary culture. After thorough consideration, the four countries were selected and the rice was well received by all four.

The **Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)** facilitates cooperation in disaster response among 34 European Participating States (28 EU Member States, the Republic of North Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey). The support provided through the UCPM may take the form of in-kind assistance, deployment of specially equipped teams, or assessment and coordination experts sent to the field. In 2018, the mechanism was activated to respond to 20 emergencies, inside but also outside the EU, where it can also provide assistance when requested by the affected country, a UN agency, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The EU institutions reached an important political agreement on a Commission proposal to strengthen the mechanism, *inter alia* through the establishment of a dedicated reserve of additional capacities or rescEU, in order to ensure that the Union can provide better crisis and emergency support to EU citizens with maximum efficiency.

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The new legal framework aims to reinforce the provisions of the current mechanism to enhance the collective capacity of Member States to respond to disasters and sets up additional operational capacities, ensuring rapid access to those capacities. This new reserve capacity, as well as higher co-financing rates for the European Civil Protection Pool (currently known as **European Emergency Response Capacity** (EERC)) will contribute to addressing structural and emerging critical gaps in disaster response. The EU will also step up support for Member States to improve their disaster risk management. This new legal framework also provides for a total overall increase in the UCPM financial envelope of roughly USD 266 million (EUR additional 205 million) for the remaining Multiannual Financial Framework period (2019 - 2020).