



Food Assistance Convention

FOOD ASSISTANCE CONVENTION 2021 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. GENERAL CONTEXT.....	2
1.1 Global Food and Nutrition Situation in 2021	2
1.2 The Food Assistance Convention	4
1.3 Reporting on Food Assistance Operations	5
1.4 Committee Meetings.....	7
2. OVERALL ASSISTANCE BY FAC PARTIES	9
2.1. FOOD ASSISTANCE IN 2021	9
Australia	9
Austria	9
Canada.....	10
Denmark.....	11
European Union	12
Finland.....	12
France.....	13
Japan	14
Republic of Korea	15
Luxembourg.....	15
Russian Federation.....	16
Slovenia	17
Spain.....	18
Sweden.....	18
Switzerland.....	19
United States.....	19
2.2. KEY FOOD ASSISTANCE RESPONSES BY FAC MEMBERS	21
1. Ethiopia	21
2. Yemen.....	21
3. South Sudan	22
4. The Syrian Arab Republic (including neighbour countries).....	22
5. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).....	23
6. Afghanistan	24
7. Sudan.....	24
8. Somalia	25

9.	North Eastern Nigeria and the Sahel.....	25
10.	Bangladesh/Myanmar (Rohingya Crisis)	26
2.3.	FORGOTTEN CRISIS AND/OR OTHER AREAS.....	26
1.	Latin America and the Caribbean.....	26
2.	Mozambique	28
3.	Cameroon.....	28
4.	Central African Republic (CAR).....	28
5.	Madagascar	29
3.	COORDINATION AMONG DONORS	29
3.1	Global Network Against Food Crises	29
3.2	Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)	30
3.3	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	31
3.4	WFP common logistics services for humanitarian crises	32
3.5	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)	33
3.6	ICRC Donor Support Group	33
3.7	Asian Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)	33
4.	POLICY INITIATIVES	34
4.1	The Grand Bargain.....	34
4.2	School Meals Coalition	35
4.3	World Summits.....	35
5.	INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD ASSISTANCE.....	36
5.1	Anticipatory Action.....	36
5.2	Cash coordination	38
5.3	Cash innovation.....	39
5.4	Digital solutions.....	39
5.5	Gender responsive approach to food insecurity.....	39
5.6	Disability inclusion.....	40
5.7	Innovative resilience and livelihoods	40
5.8	SIPRI Research	41
5.9	Programmatic Partnership with FAO	41
5.10	Communication on EU's Humanitarian Action	42
5.11	Packaging Safety, Sustainability and Traceability	42
6.	BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED	44
6.1	National efforts to improve food assistance.....	44
6.2	School feeding programmes	48

ACRONYMS

ACF	<i>Action contre la faim</i> (Action Against hunger)
AUD	Australian Dollar
APTERR	Asian Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CBPFs	(UN) Country-based Pooled Funds
CBT	Cash-based transfer
CERF	(United Nations) Central Emergency Response Fund
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CFGB	Canadian Foodgrains Bank
COHAFA	Council working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
DG INTPA	European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DF ECHO	European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
DKK	Danish Krone
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DREF	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund
DSG	Donor Support Group (of the ICRC)
ECHO	European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department
EHF	Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund
E/Ns	Exchange of Notes
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAC	Food Assistance Convention
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAP	Food Assistance Program
FFP	Food for Peace
FFPr	Food for Progress
FSS	UN Food Systems Summit
GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster
GHD	Good Humanitarian Donorship
GRFC	Global Report on Food Crises
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced people
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGC	International Grains Council
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRA	Immediate Response Account
LDCF	(UN) Least Developed Countries Fund
MPC	Multi-purpose cash transfers
MAFRA	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea
MFEA	(Luxembourg) Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
MPC	Multi-purpose cash transfers
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
N4G	Nutrition for Growth (Summit)
RuTF	Ready to use Therapeutic feeding
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance

OECD DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFDA	US Foreign Disaster Assistance
PVOs	Private-voluntary organizations
ROK	Republic of Korea
SEK	Swedish Krona
SHA	Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
UHC	Universal health coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021 hunger surpassed all previous records as reported by the *Global Report on Food Crises* (GRFC). The GRFC published in May 2022 (covering the year 2021)¹ indicated that around 193 million people in 53 countries were in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) by the end of 2021, with an increase of nearly 40 million people since 2020. The magnitude and severity of food crises in 2021 were mainly driven by protracted conflict and insecurity, economic shocks – related to the COVID-19 pandemic - and weather extremes which exacerbated pre-existing fragilities. Malnutrition remained at critical levels, driven by several factors, including low physical availability and economic and physical access to food, poor child-feeding practices, a high prevalence of childhood illnesses, poor maternal dietary practices during pregnancy and low access to sanitation, drinking water and health care.

The increase in serious and large-scale crises that occurred simultaneously in 2021 and the food crisis that are expected to worsen in 2022 due to the conflict in Ukraine, conflicts and low rains in many parts of Africa, emphasizes the continued relevance of the Food Assistance Convention (FAC). The FAC represents a commitment by its Parties² to contribute to global food security and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food crises, to save and change lives, to reduce hunger, to improve levels of nutrition, to create livelihoods, and to strengthen the resilience and self-sufficiency of the most vulnerable populations. This 2021 FAC Annual Report presents a summary of the Parties' contributions towards these objectives, as per their individual financial and narrative reports for the year.

In 2021, all Parties fulfilled or substantially exceeded their commitments by collectively contributing over 6,791 million US dollars to the improvement of worldwide food security. Cash-based transfer programming (CBT) continued to receive increased support as the transfer modality for multi-purpose assistance by FAC Parties. The vast majority of total contributions were provided fully in grant form, with a substantial part consisting of earmarked or lightly earmarked contributions, predominately at country or activity level. Multi-year funding and un-earmarked contributions were mainly provided to WFP, and to a lesser extent through the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and to country-based pooled funds (CBPFs). Key responses were supported in collaboration with various agencies and programmes of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, national governments in the developing world, and civil-society organizations. Geographically, food assistance was provided in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific region.

In 2021, the top 10 FAC Recipient Countries were Ethiopia, Yemen, South Sudan, Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

¹ <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2022>

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

Compared to the top 10 counties with most people in Crisis, only Pakistan and Haiti (number 9 and 10 respectively) are not included in the top 10 FAC recipient countries.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

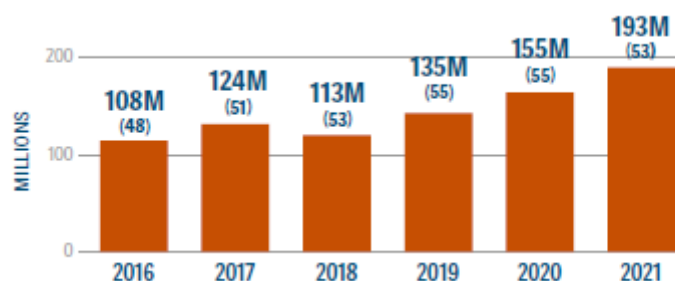
1.1 Global Food and Nutrition Situation in 2021³

In 2021, around 193 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). Almost 40 million people were facing Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above) conditions, across 36 countries. Of critical concern were over half a million of people (570 000) facing Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) – starvation and death – in four countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan, southern Madagascar and Yemen. The number of people facing these dire conditions is four times that observed in 2020 and seven times higher than in 2016. During the first half of 2021, localized areas in South Sudan continued to face Famine Likely (IPC Phase 5).



Source: Global Report on Food Crises 2022

FIGURE 1. POPULATION IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) OR EQUIVALENT



Source: Global Network Against Food Crises (2022) Global Report on Food Crises 2022

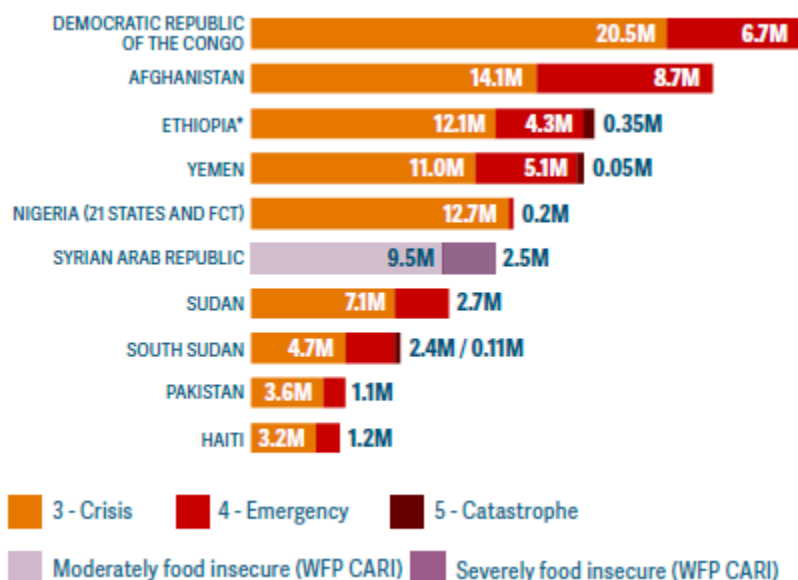
In 2021, around 193 million people in 53 countries/territories were in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent, an increase of nearly 40 million people since 2020 and the highest number in the existence of the *Global Report on Food Crises* (see Figure 1).

Almost 70 percent of the total number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent were found in ten food crisis countries/territories (see Figure 3): the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, northern Nigeria, the Syrian Arab

³ This section is based on: Global Network Against Food Crises (2022) *Global Report on Food Crises 2022*.

Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan, Pakistan, and Haiti. In seven of these, conflict/insecurity was the primary driver of acute food insecurity.

FIGURE 2. TOP 10 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CRISIS OR WORSE (IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE) OR EQUIVALENT IN 2021

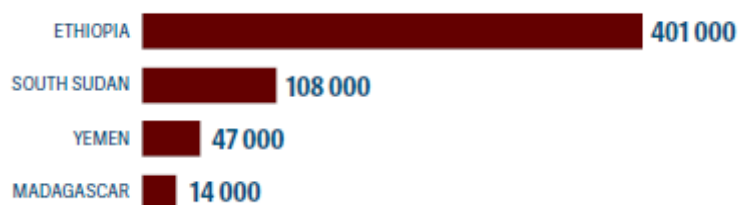


Source: Global Network Against Food Crises (2022) Global Report on Food Crises 2022

Almost 40 million people were facing Emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above) in 36 countries, with over 82% in eight countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Ethiopia, the Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and Pakistan.

Over half a million people faced Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) – starvation and death – in four countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan, Madagascar, and Yemen, with the highest numbers (401,000 people) in Ethiopia (see Figure 3). This number is seven times that registered in 2016.

FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CATASTROPHE (IPC PHASE 5) IN 2021



Source: Global Network Against Food Crises (2022) Global Report on Food Crises 2022

Conflict/insecurity remained the main driver of food crises, along with economic shocks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather conditions. Worsening humanitarian

crises have contributed to a growing number of countries where a Risk of Famine was projected, particularly South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Madagascar.

Malnutrition remained at critical levels, driven by several factors, including low physical availability and economic and physical access to food, poor child-feeding practices, a high prevalence of childhood illnesses, poor maternal dietary practices during pregnancy and low access to sanitation, drinking water and health care.

In 2021, almost 26 million children under 5 years old were suffering from wasting and in need of urgent treatment in 23 of the 35 major food crises. Within this, over 5 million children were at an increased risk of death due to severe wasting.

Food crises are expected to worsen in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine, conflicts, and low rains in many parts of Africa.

While funding for humanitarian food assistance has been falling since 2017, the current shortfall is particularly stark due to the COVID-19-induced economic slowdown and prioritization of the public health response to the pandemic.

1.2 The Food Assistance Convention

The Food Assistance Convention (FAC) was adopted in April 2012 in London⁴ and entered into force in January 2013. It is the latest in a long series of multilateral cooperation instruments in operation since 1967, including the Food Aid Convention 1999, and has been ratified by 16 Parties⁵.

The current Convention expands the traditional focus on in-kind food aid for direct consumption. It includes a broader range of eligible activities and food assistance products such as cash, vouchers and products intended for protecting livelihoods, and a great focus on nutrition. It also provides an important set of guiding principles for the Parties to follow in implementing their food assistance programs.

The objectives of the FAC are 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 the most vulnerable 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 provided to the most vulnerable populations is appropriate, timely, effective, efficient, and based on needs and shared principles; and
- 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 needs.

⁴ Document of the Food Assistance Convention available here: https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/signature/2012/CTC_XIX-48.pdf

⁵ Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

To achieve these objectives, FAC Parties commit to provide a minimum level of food assistance on an annual basis. Additionally, Parties have embraced the notion of transparency and accountability in all food assistance operations. Consequently, they yearly report on how their food assistance policies, programs and operations have contributed to the objectives and principles of the Convention.

The FAC is also a forum for Parties to share information and best practices in food assistance delivery. Meeting twice annually, the FAC provides an open forum for Parties to discuss the most efficient and effective means of delivery of food assistance. Recognizing the changing landscape of emergencies and other assistance needs, Parties have prioritized the consideration of new modalities for food assistance aimed at reducing associated costs, while ensuring that the most in need are reached.

The FAC is governed by the Food Assistance Committee, which serves as a forum for member states to share information and best practices on food assistance. The International Grains Council (IGC) is the designated Secretariat of the FAC, to assist the FAC Chair with the associated tasks. In 2021, Canada completed its term as chair, and handed over chairmanship to the European Union with Finland as vice chair.

1.3 Reporting on Food Assistance Operations

Following each calendar year, Parties provide a financial and a narrative report on food assistance operations, detailing how their respective commitments were fulfilled. The standardized financial and narrative reporting template helps to improve the quality of the data and transparency of the commitments and contributions of the reporting parties. The minimum annual financial commitments and actual total contributions for 2021 of the 16 Parties who have ratified, accepted, and/or approved the FAC are set out in Table 1.

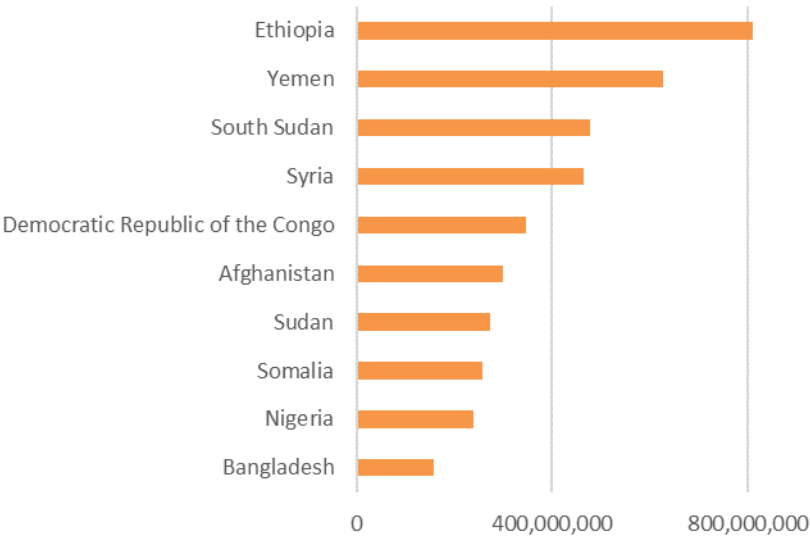
In 2021, Parties to the FAC contributed a total of USD 6,866.76 million. This is an increase of 7% compared to FAC contributions in 2020 (USD 6,419.8 m). Reporting members fulfilled their obligations, with several Parties substantially exceeding their 2021 commitments. In line with the principles of the FAC, all Parties 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.

In 2021, cash-based transfer programming (CBT) continued to receive increased support as the transfer modality for multi-purpose assistance by FAC Parties. The vast majority of total contributions were provided fully in grant form, with a substantial part consisting of earmarked or lightly earmarked contributions, predominately at country or activity level. Multi-year funding and un-earmarked contributions were mainly provided to WFP, and to a lesser extent through the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and to country-based pooled funds (CBPFs).

Humanitarian and developmental partners vary across Parties, with WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNRWA, and ICRC as the most common partners. Contributions to civil society organisations such as Action Against Hunger, Save the Children, Action Aid, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, among others, were also reported.

In 2021, the top 10 FAC Recipient Countries were Ethiopia, Yemen, South Sudan, Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Bangladesh (see Figure 4). Compared to the top 10 counties with most people in Crisis, only Pakistan and Haiti (number 9 and 10 respectively) are not included in the top 10 FAC recipient countries.

FIGURE 4. TOP 10 FAC RECIPIENT COUNTRIES 2021



Source of figures: FAC Secretariat

TABLE 1. OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Donor</i>	<i>2021 Commitment</i>	<i>2021 Commitment in US\$</i>	<i>2021 Contribution in US\$⁶</i>
Australia	AU\$80,000,000	60,080,000	98,435,973
Austria	€1,495,000	1,878,080	1,878,080
Canada	CAN\$250,000,000	197,500,000	408,915,444
Denmark	DKK203,000,000	31,027,500	67,162,392
EU	€350,000,000	413,700,000	685,711,893
Finland	€6,000,000	5,250,009	22,750,039
France	€68,000,000	80,378,251	106,944,168
Japan	JPY10 billion	92,592,593	259,356,565
Korea	KRW46 billion	41,224,179	45,098,356
Luxembourg	€4,000,000	4,728,132	16,320,473
Russia	US\$15,000,000	15,000,000	40,000,000
Slovenia	€30,000	36,120	685,389
Spain	€10,000,000	11,800,000	21,236,760
Sweden	SEK200,000,000	23,400,000	171,716,298
Switzerland	CHF34,000,000	36,720,000	119,498,067
United States	US\$2.5 billion	2.5 billion	4,726,211,214
Total		3,515,314,864	6,791,921,111

1.4 Committee Meetings

FAC Parties met twice in 2021, both were held via videoconference. The 14th Session of the FAC took place on June 18th and the 15th Session on November 12th. Meetings were led by Canada as the FAC Chair.

The 14th Session of the FAC was co-hosted by WFP and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. They also organized the virtual learning event on Gender-responsive Food Assistance. The main lessons learned from the meeting were:

- 1) How carefully designed food assistance programming can help to address gender inequality and the important, critical role local actors play there.

⁶ Data gathered through the FAC annual reports 2021 provided by Parties.

2) How putting women at the centre of project design and implementation is key, and doing so in a way that mobilises their voices and enables them to exercise their decision making at the household and at the community level.

3) The importance of including all community members to increase women's agency. This helps reduce malnutrition, and GBV incidents, and promote safe environments where men and women can work together to advance common goals.

4) How technology can play a role in achieving some of these goals, namely cash assistance and cash vouchers, and how increasing the beneficiaries' digital financial inclusion, help them to purchase locally – boosting the local economy - and, ultimately, increased their savings.

5) There are also challenges. Access continues to be restricted, which meant that women and girls were still unable to benefit from a lot of the support. The socioeconomic impact of Covid continues to lead to increased gender-based violence rates, forced marriage and school closures. One way members could cooperate is by coming together to address the funding gap as the lack of funding makes it difficult to move the gender agenda forward.

At the FAC Sessions the global situation regarding hunger and malnutrition was presented by the International Grains Council (IGC). The FAC was updated on recent developments in the world freight market and its impact on delivering food assistance and highlighted challenges for the global supply and demand outlook for the next season, including high input costs, especially for fertilizers, as well as the potential impact of climate change on production prospects. It was also exposed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food supply chain and price volatility.

The following FAC Members made their statements about their responses to food needs:

At the 14th Session: Austria, Canada, the EU, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Switzerland and the US.

At the 15th Session: Austria, Canada, the EU, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Switzerland and the US.

No changes in membership occurred in 2021. Financial commitments for 2022 were made at the 15th Session. As incoming Chair of the FAC, the EU noted the importance of innovation in a period of unprecedented food insecurity, the necessity of making food assistance more cost-efficient and adopting approaches that reduce the humanitarian needs and the funding gap. The EU expressed the intention of focusing its chairmanship on a key area, "anticipatory action". It is a novel approach which saved lives and reduced humanitarian needs. The European Union, but also other FAC members, had gained a wealth of experience in the last years through a variety of pilot projects in different locations, and different humanitarian contexts. The time was right to capitalise on this experience, to take a step further and make it an integral part of our food assistance programmes. The EU planned to organise some key activities and events in 2022 around the concept of anticipatory action, such as the seminar and the field trip.

Finland, as the co-chair in 2022 and Chair in 2023, recognised that the global food security situation was going to continue to be very challenging in the coming years, and that made the work of the FAC very important and relevant. The priority issues for Finland were disability inclusion, gender, and school meals.

2. OVERALL ASSISTANCE BY FAC PARTIES

2.1. FOOD ASSISTANCE IN 2021

Australia

In 2021, Australia met and exceeded its FAC commitment of USD 60 million, with total contributions amounting over USD 98 million through the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). Australia provides all food assistance as untied, cash-based support.

Australia provided food assistance through WFP valued at over USD 94.2 million in 2021. This comprised annual core funding to WFP – total USD 28.5 million (AUD 38 million) – of which AUD 32 million remained fully flexible, allocated by WFP to its highest priority and most underfunded operations. It also comprised a contribution of USD 10.2 million (AUD 13.6 million) to WFP's Asia Pacific Bureau, to allocate to priority operations in this region. The remainder consisted of contributions to specific crises, such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

In 2021, Australia also provided food assistance through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) (USD 3.2 million / AUD 4.3 million) and to OCHA Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in Afghanistan and Myanmar (USD 0.8 million / AUD 1.1 million). CERF funds enabled the UN to provide critical support to underfunded crises through grants for life-saving food assistance. In Afghanistan and Myanmar, contributions to CBPFs facilitated small grants to local organisations to reach the most vulnerable.

Funding through these agencies helped to provide coordinated support to populations affected by protracted conflict, food insecurity and displacement.

Austria

In 2021, Austria responded to food insecurity and humanitarian crises caused both by conflict and disasters. Austria delivered its FAC commitment of USD 1.88 million.

The food assistance contributions on behalf of Austria committed within this reporting period were implemented via the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and WFP, which each received EUR 800,000 (USD 945,600 and USD 932,400 respectively⁷) in 2021.

Austria's food assistance in 2021 focussed on long-lasting crises in two of the world's poorest countries: Somalia and Yemen. As well Austria's FAC-contribution put emphasis on the long unmet needs of the people in the Gulf of Aden.

In 2021, Austria hence funded activities that contributed to direct and immediate food assistance for people most affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease, focusing

⁷ ICRC's contribution is reported in EUR and converted with the FAC Secretariat Exchange Rate; WFP's contribution is reported in USD and converted with the UN exchange rate in effect as of the donor's contribution date (USD 1 = EUR 0.8580 / EUR 1 = USD 1.1655); total contribution is reflecting both and accumulated

especially on pregnant and lactating women and girls on the one hand, and children under 5 years old on the other. This allowed access to lifesaving and nutritious food for the most vulnerable populations in the world.

As opposed to 2020, less flexibility and ad-hoc planning was required for the FAC-contribution in 2021. However, Austria remains committed to allow for flexibility in light of unexpected humanitarian crises – such as the war in Ukraine –, in order to situationally respond to rapidly emerging shocks and food insecurities. This flexibility is backed by a perseverative, trustful cooperation with its long-term partners and a corresponding level of funding stability for their work.

Canada

Canada provided USD 408.9 million in FAC eligible contributions in 2021, substantially exceeding its commitment of USD 197.5 million. Of this funding, approximately 80% was for food security, nutrition, and livelihood assistance at country level through multilateral and NGO partners. The remaining 20% was provided as un-earmarked long-term institutional support giving partners the flexibility to respond to new needs, emerging crises, or critical funding requirements.

As part of Canada's response to food needs across the globe, it continued to support experienced partners to provide food and nutrition assistance in 2021, including through ongoing programming that supported both immediate needs while concurrently working to strengthen resilience to future shocks. This was complemented with specific funding focused on famine prevention. Combined, this allowed for significant assistance in response to major food crises including Yemen (CAD 40.6 million), South Sudan (CAD 28.6 million), Ethiopia (CAD 25 million), Afghanistan (CAD 24 million), Somalia (CAD 22 million), Nigeria, (CAD 19.4 million), the Democratic Republic of Congo (CAD 18.9 million), and Haiti (CAD 15 million).

In line with its Feminist International Assistance Policy, in 2021 Canada continued its efforts to strengthen gender responsive food and nutrition assistance through new and innovative efforts. These efforts included the piloting a new CAD 52 million three-year initiative with Action contre la faim (ACF) to support their emergency nutrition response. With this support ACF was able to detect, prevent, and treat malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women in 10 countries.

Canada provided CAD 40 million to support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) emergency nutrition response efforts to address severe forms of child wasting using Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RuTF) in twelve countries across Central Asia, Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Canada also supported the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) with a combination of humanitarian and development funding (CAD 10 million) to address COVID-related acute food insecurity while concurrently working to help restore and strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in six crisis-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the success of these efforts, an additional CAD 10 million will be provided in 2022 to expand programming in sub-Saharan Africa as well as South Asia.

As acute hunger continued to be exacerbated by COVID-19 and over 41 million people were estimated to be at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions, Canada scaled up its humanitarian food and nutrition response during the year. USD 122.4 million (CAD 155 million) were announced to support crisis-affected countries – including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Yemen and Madagascar. This funding allowed experienced UN, Red Cross and Canadian NGOs to respond to critical food and nutrition needs around the world, and to support complementary multi-sectoral services that bolster food security and nutrition outcomes.

Canada will continue to support both emergency and longer-term programming with experienced partners to respond to food and nutrition needs as the world grapples with an unparalleled food crisis amplified by the catastrophic implications of the conflict in Ukraine.

Denmark

In 2021, Denmark responded to food insecurity and humanitarian crises caused by a wide range of conflicts, natural disasters, and economic shocks. Moreover, COVID-19 continued to have disruptive socio-economic impacts that exacerbated inequalities, aggravated food insecurity and malnutrition, and deepened humanitarian needs.

Denmark total contributions to food assistance in 2021 amounted to USD 67.16 million, exceeding its FAC commitment of USD 31.03 million) by a large margin. Denmark provides a yearly contribution of USD 30.7 million as core, un-earmarked funding under its multi-year Strategic Partnership Agreement with WFP, covering 2020-2022. An additional DKK 111.4 million (USD 16.46 million) were allocated to WFP country or programme specific interventions in 2021.

Denmark's contributions towards SDG2 in 2021 included a wide range of development and humanitarian interventions, predominately in collaboration with UN agencies and programmes, as well as Danish civil society organisations. Interventions include, but are not limited to, food assistance in protracted crises and emergencies, support to resilience and food security, forecast-based financing and anticipatory action, cash-based transfers, and agricultural development.

Some main partners for Denmark's contribution to food assistance during 2021 were WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Likewise, Denmark contributed to the achievement of food security through funding to the UNICEF; the United Nations Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF); the CERF; UN CBPFs as well as various Danish civil society organisations, such as the Danish Refugee Council, Danish Red Cross, Save the Children Denmark, DanChurchAid, MS Action Aid, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

Furthermore, Denmark continues to provide core contributions to UNICEF, OCHA and the CERF. Denmark strongly supports the partnership between WFP and UNICEF, as well as WFP's and FAO's cluster lead on food security and UNICEF's global cluster lead on nutrition. Denmark was in 2021 the sixth largest donor to the CERF and the eight largest donor to the UNCBPFs. Both types of funds allocate substantial funding to countries experiencing food insecurity or at risk of famine. 24.7% of the Danish contributions to the CERF can be attributed to food assistance (agriculture, food assistance, and nutrition) in 2021. Denmark's core contributions

to WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, and the CERF provide the organisations with multi-year reliable and flexible funding, thus strengthening their agility and flexibility to adapt country operations according to needs and manage evolving food insecurity crises by applying the most effective means of delivering assistance.

Throughout 2021, Denmark maintained support for populations affected by protracted conflict, fragility, food insecurity and displacement in countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, addressing food insecurity in a wider manner than through narrow food assistance for the achievement of long-term durable solutions. With a range of partners, Denmark contributed to agricultural development, climate change adaptation, resilience building, research, cash assistance, pooled funds, etcetera.

European Union

The European Union's (EU) commitment under the FAC for 2021 was USD 413.70 million. The EU exceeded this commitment, allocating USD 685.71 million from the humanitarian budget to food assistance and nutrition. This represents more than 25% of the total EU budget for humanitarian assistance in 2021 (EUR 2.18 billion). 33% of this amount was provided in the form of cash transfers, including multi-purpose cash transfers⁸, which illustrates the commitment of European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO) to promote cash as a key implementation modality. Projects were carried out all over the world, with 59 countries covered and 2 regional projects. More than half of the assistance (53%) was provided to Sub-Saharan Africa.

EU-funded projects target people who are food insecure or malnourished as result of conflict, natural disasters or economic shocks. Throughout 2021, food crises have further increased in size and severity, reaching record-breaking levels. Food insecurity was exacerbated by the protracted negative socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which in many cases, added to other shocks caused by climate change and conflicts. Trade restrictions and increasing energy and food prices put a strain on the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

DG ECHO reacted swiftly and decisively to address the hunger crisis in 2021 by increasing funding for the countries most at risk and stepping-up advocacy efforts in key countries, such as Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria or Yemen.

Finland

Finland's commitment under the Food assistance Convention for 2021 was USD 5.25 million. This was the same as in previous years. Finland exceeded its commitment in 2021, contributing with USD 22.75 million. Most of the food assistance, USD 30.73 million, was channelled through WFP.

⁸ The EU estimates that at least 1/3 of multi-purpose cash transfers are typically used to cover food and nutrition needs.

This assistance targeted conflict-affected populations at country and regional level in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the Sahel. In addition to this, support to school meal programmes was provided in Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Somalia. This assistance was further supplemented by Finland's core funding to WFP, which in 2021 totalled EUR 8 million (USD 9.46 million) and was assigned by WFP to its highest priority and most underfunded operations.

Finland delivers its food assistance mainly via WFP. Some food assistance, voucher or cash components are also included in the multi-sectoral operations of Finnish NGO's, Fida International, Finn Church Aid, Finnish Refugee Aid, Plan International Finland, Save the Children Finland and World Vision Finland. In addition, Finland provides support to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (both ICRC, IFRC and the Finnish Red Cross) and food assistance components are included in these operations. However, it is impossible to calculate the exact amount of food assistance in the aforementioned NGO and Red Cross and Red Crescent movement contributions, as all of them also include humanitarian aid on other sectors. Therefore, these contributions are only mentioned in this narrative report

France

While its initial commitment amounted to USD 80.38 million, France ultimately allocated USD 106.94 million USD to its Food Assistance Program (FAP) in 2021, an increase of nearly 79% when compared to the previous year (50.6 million EUR / 59.81 million USD in 2020). This amount takes into account the increase already planned as part of a presidential commitment, in order to reach 500 million EUR / 591million USD of French humanitarian aid in 2022.

129 interventions were financed under this program, implemented in 37 countries⁹, supporting 6.2 million direct beneficiaries – i.e., three more countries than in 2020, in the context of a worsening of existing food crises and of the emergence of new crises, considering notably the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Half of the funds allocated in 2021 benefited Africa (45.22 million EUR / 53.45 million USD), in particular the Sahel region (the G5 Sahel countries are the first recipient area, with 19.5 million EUROS / 23.04 million USD), including 5.85 million EUR / 6.91 million USD for Burkina Faso. An increased effort was made for Afghanistan (19.3 million EUR / 22.81 million USD), as well as for Ethiopia (5.33 million EUR / 6.3 million USD), Syria (4.7 million EUR / 5.55 million USD), Yemen (4.25 million EUR / 5 million USD), Haiti (3.7 million EUR / 4.37 million USD), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.2 million EUR / 3.78 million USD), the Central African Republic (2.75 million EUR / 3.25 million USD), Madagascar (2.7 million EUR / 3.19 million USD), Nigeria and South Sudan (2.25 million EUR/ 2.65 million USD for each).

⁹ List of 37 countries receiving food assistance funds in 2021: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

WFP remains the leading partner of the French FAP, with 62.10% of the funds in 2021, followed by the ICRC (7.06%), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), UNICEF, FAO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (for a total of 11.26%). 18.68% of the funds were allocated to NGOs.

In line with France's commitment to gender equality and a feminist diplomacy, more than 86% of projects funded under the FAP included a gender dimension in 2021; 76% of the projects included a nutrition component, with a priority on pregnant and lactating women and children under two (period known as of the "1,000 days", crucial in terms of physical and cognitive development). Some projects funded in 2021 also supported school feeding, in particular in Afghanistan (up to 13 million EUR / 15.36 million USD), but also in Algeria, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Venezuela.

Japan

Japan's contribution in 2021 was USD 259.35 million increased from its contribution in 2020 (USD 234.65 million) and exceeding its annual FAC commitment of USD 92.59, providing programmes of Bilateral Food Assistance, Food Assistance through international organizations, Grant Aid, and Emergency Grant Aid. About 84% of Japan's food assistance was implemented via WFP and UNRWA.

Japan concluded the Exchange of Notes (E/Ns) with 14 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Comoros, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sudan and Togo) for bilateral food assistance programmes at JPY 4.5 billion (USD 42.0 million).

Japan also worked through WFP to respond to the food and nutrition needs of 10 countries in Asia (Philippines) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Eswatini, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Republic of Congo and South Sudan) for food assistance programmes at JPY 2.8 billion (USD 26.3 million), and to the critical humanitarian needs of countries and areas such as Asia (Bangladesh and Myanmar), the Caucasus, Latin America (populations affected by volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and by earthquake in Haiti), the Middle East (Afghanistan and Yemen), Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and other countries) through Emergency Grant Aid. In addition, other funds were allocated to WFP's activities, including assistance for unstable food security in Syria, Nigeria, Timor-Leste and Ghana.

Japan also supported UNRWA to distribute food to Palestinian refugees, including Emergency Grant Aid projects in Syria and the Gaza Strip at JPY 1.3 billion (USD 12.5 million).

Japan's initiatives in nutrition in 2021 were the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) with the aim of achieving SDGs through transformation of global food systems.

Moreover, Japan hosted the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 on 7 and 8 December 2021, with the aim of accelerating global efforts towards nutrition improvement in the world, focusing on how to integrate nutrition into universal health coverage (UHC), how to build sustainable-food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition, and how to effectively address malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected environments. As a result, 396 commitments from 181 stakeholders were submitted, which demonstrates a high level of

interest, willingness and desperate need for improving nutrition at a crucial time. It is also worth noting that more than USD 27 billion was pledged to address the global malnutrition and hunger crisis. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, announced nutrition-related assistance of over USD 2.8 billion. As an outcome of the Summit, the Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth was issued with endorsement of 215 stakeholders, which indicates a direction for the international society to improve nutrition.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) contributed with USD 41.22 million in 2021, exceeding its annual commitment of USD 41.22. 2021 marks the fourth consecutive year for the ROK in contributing to the implementation of Food Assistance Projects through WFP since 2018.

Despite the difficulties that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the ROK has donated 50,000 mt of Korean rice through the Food Assistance Projects of WFP, addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of targeted populations. The rice was successfully distributed to Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, as well as Lao PDR and Syria, which were newly added in 2021, following the ROK's commitment during the High-Level Annual Consultation held at the end of 2020.

In 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea (MAFRA) expanded its food assistance from four to six countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia (Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and two new countries: Lao PDR and Syria), which are in dire need of humanitarian assistance due to conflicts and natural disasters, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the ROK's contribution of 50.3 billion Korean won, WFP purchased Korean rice and implemented food assistance on the ground. 50,000 metric tonnes of rice were distributed to Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Lao PDR and Syria, each country receiving 18,000 mt, 13,680 mt, 95,000 mt, 4,500 mt, 1,320 mt, and 3,000 mt, respectively. The rice was utilized to maintain pipelines of six WFP Country Offices and support for refugees, internally displaced people (IDP), and school feeding programmes, reaching approximately 4.7 million beneficiaries per annum.

Furthermore, MAFRA continued its flexible funding of USD100,000 to WFP in 2021.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg's commitment under the FAC for 2021 was USD 4.73 million. This was the same since its accession to the Convention in 2014. Luxembourg exceeded by far its commitment in 2021, contributing with USD 16.32 million.

Globally, as part of its humanitarian action, Luxembourg thus made substantial funding available to support the humanitarian operations carried out by the ICRC and UN agencies, such as WFP and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as well as to support Luxembourgish NGOs to implement emergency projects.

Throughout 2021, Luxembourg maintained support for populations affected by protracted conflicts, food insecurity and displacement across 48 countries in the Sahel region, Afghanistan and the Middle East, as well as the Horn of Africa, among others and particularly in so-called

forgotten or underfunded crises, and throughout the three phases of a humanitarian crisis as defined in Luxembourg's Humanitarian Action Strategy: emergency, transition and disaster prevention, and resilience.

In addition to supporting shelter, education, protection and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives through UN and international agencies, as well as national NGOs, Luxembourg provided overall funds for food security interventions by more than EUR 32 million (37.82million USD).

More specifically, Luxembourg provided food assistance through WFP and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) valued at around EUR 8 million (9.32 million USD), as part of its multiannual Strategic Partnership Framework and additional contributions at the end of the year. Another crucial modality for the MFEA are the CBPF and the CERF, to which Luxembourg contributed a total of EUR 10 million (11.65 million USD) in 2021. Finally, Luxembourg allocated funds to several national humanitarian NGOs for the implementation of emergency food assistance for vulnerable populations in countries such as Mali, Haiti, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

One of Luxembourg's strategic objectives is the promotion of sustainable humanitarian action. This includes addressing the root causes of the systemic challenges that generate humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities. In the case of food assistance, this includes preventive nutrition assistance, chiefly for children, as well as the agricultural development of local communities. To achieve this, Luxembourg provides funding to WFP school feeding programme and UNICEF nutrition programmes, as well as supporting both national and international NGOs. By better connecting the various modalities at the disposal of the MFEA, Luxembourg intends to shift from the deliverance of assistance to reducing and preventing humanitarian needs.

Russian Federation

In 2021, the Russian Federation exceeded its annual FAC commitment of USD 15 million with a food assistance contribution of USD 40 million. It was distributed among developing countries on bilateral and multilateral basis. WFP was the key multilateral channel for the Russian food aid to foreign populations in need with overall Russia's voluntary contribution of USD 81.58 million.

In 2021, Russia's core contribution of USD 20 million was allocated to the following countries: Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the DPRK, Cuba, Palestine, Tajikistan and Nicaragua.

Half of Russia's annual additional contribution to WFP fund, that is USD 10 million, was allocated in 2021 to help African countries: Mali, Mozambique, Sudan and South Sudan, Madagascar, the Central African Republic. The second part of the contribution was allocated to Yemen, the Kyrgyz Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua and Tajikistan.

Besides direct nutrition supplies, Russia finances long-lasting projects at the junction of aid and development. In particular, several projects on developing sustainable school feeding systems in partner countries (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Nicaragua and Cuba) are being implemented with Russia's financial and WFP's expert support. Similar projects were launched in Cambodia, Laos and Sri-Lanka.

The program of debt conversion is continued under the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the national school feeding program for 2017-2021 between the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Mozambique and WFP. Total funding for five years is USD 40 million. Within the framework of the Deauville Partnership, in 2020-2022 Russia provided funding for the implementation of a technical assistance project on developing sustainable school feeding systems in Jordan.

Since 2015, the FAO with Russia's total funding of USD 6 million has been implementing the project "Building capacity to strengthen food security and nutrition in several Central Asian and Transcaucasian countries".

Besides annual emergency contributions and joint programs, Russia provides ad hoc assistance. Thus, in 2021, the FAO completed measures with liquidation of the catastrophic desert locust invasion in East Africa. Russia's emergency aid funding in 2020-2021 was USD 10 million.

Since 2020, within the framework of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund, a package of development projects to restore the economy of the Ferghana Valley in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has been implemented for a total of USD 5.8 million. Among the other projects are strengthening rural areas in Armenia, developing sustainable food chains in Zimbabwe and Botswana, as well as promoting employment within Food Self-Sufficiency Programme in the Guantanamo Province, Cuba.

The UNDP projects focused on food security and agricultural support are actively leveraging the potential of other organizations, such as WFP and UNICEF.

All mentioned food assistance projects are carried out through the UN organizations and do not take into account funds allocated for bilateral humanitarian assistance.

Slovenia

Slovenia's commitment under the FAC for 2021 was USD 36.120. Slovenia exceeded its commitment, since total food assistance and nutrition allocations in 2021 were USD 685.398.

Funds were distributed through UN agencies, international and national NGOs. More than a half of humanitarian aid (53%) was disbursed through UN international agencies, the majority through WFP. 47% of funds were disbursed via bilateral projects, implemented by Slovenian NGOs in cooperation with local partners. All contributions through WFP were just country earmarked. Contributions to Slovenian NGOs were used for food and nutrition.

In 2021 Slovenia continued its long-term support to WFP in L3 crises as Yemen. Its contribution was a part of the multi-year pledge and was only country- earmarked. In addition, Slovenia provided the highest support to WFP so far and earmarked 120.000 EUR to address food-crisis in Madagascar as well as 100.000 EUR for Afghanistan. Both pledges were just country earmarked.

For the first time in 2021, Slovenia supported food-assistance related activities also through the work of Caritas Internationalis. A contribution was earmarked to Haiti, after the devastating earthquake.

At the bilateral/project level Slovenia has continued its support to Slovenian NGOs, working in Uganda Rwanda and Sudan, focusing on food assistance and nutrition. In total, 269,000 EUR were disbursed to support 4 multiyear projects, focusing on food assistance, nutrition and access to drinking water for vulnerable groups.

Spain

The Spanish commitment under the FAC for 2021 was USD 11.80 million. Spain exceeded its commitment with food assistance and nutrition allocations of a total amount of USD 21.24 million). Spain's funds have been implemented via a wide range of entities, with WFP and the Red Cross Movement as the main partners with close to 20% of its funds each.

Throughout 2021, Spain has increased its support for populations affected by food insecurity in countries across Africa (47%), Latin America (34%) the Middle east (9%), and Asia (2%). Spain has kept its focus in three particular crises that account for 68% of its contribution. Firstly, the Sahrawi refugee camps, where Spain has become the first donor in terms of total contributions, with a particular concern regarding food security. Secondly, the Venezuelan refugee crisis where Spain has managed to assist displaced personas fleeing Venezuela. Finally, the multidimensional crisis in the Sahel where conflict and the impact of climate change are generating growing needs.

Sweden

In 2021, Sweden's total contribution to WFP amounted USD 171.72 million, exceeding its annual commitment of USD 23.40 million. More than half of the total Swedish contribution, SEK 700 million, consisted of multi-year core, un-earmarked funding, most of which (SEK 650 million) was channelled through Sweden's strategic partnership agreement for 2018-2021. An initial contribution of SEK 608 million was made in the beginning of the year and was followed by two additional contributions of SEK 42 million (USD xxx) and SEK 50 million (USD xxx). The un-earmarked core funding provided by Sweden allowed WFP to allocate resources to country operations according to identified needs. Thus, as one of the largest donors of un-earmarked funding to WFP, Sweden has helped WFP to retain its important flexibility in conducting a needs-based distribution and deliverance of humanitarian assistance.

In addition to the core contribution, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) provided an additional SEK 842.9 million to WFP, out of which SEK 519 million was provided by SIDA's Unit for Humanitarian Assistance. Sweden's humanitarian assistance (including food assistance) through SIDA is allocated on the basis of a comprehensive needs-based allocation model that also enables it to engage in forgotten crises. In 2021, the largest share of SIDA's country-specific allocations to WFP went to Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Furthermore, Sweden has contributed through the SIDA's Unit for Humanitarian Assistance with SEK 94 million to the FAO and with SEK 387.5 million to Action Against Hunger (AAH), including for nutrition and food security activities.

Switzerland

In 2021, Switzerland exceeded its FAC commitment of USD 36.72 million with total contributions that amounted to a record high of USD 119.50 million, thus significantly exceeding its annual FAC commitment, increasing its 2020 contribution by 5%. This total was a result of both the funding granted for responding to the Afghanistan crisis and the reallocation of Swiss ODA funds for the March 2021 WFP-FAO appeal against global hunger crisis.

Regarding the type of partners, 80% of Switzerland's food assistance was implemented through support to WFP with a total of USD 93.1 million. The remaining part of its contributions was distributed as follows: USD 10.5 million (8.7%) was allocated to NGOs, USD 7.2 million (6%) to UN organizations such as FAO, IOM or various other partners through global or core funding. Compared to 2020, contributions to WFP expanded whereas contributions to NGOs or other partners decreased.

In addition to funding, 9 experts eligible under the FAC criteria (whose support was estimated at USD 0.9 million) from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)¹⁰ were seconded to WFP in 2021. They provided expertise in cash-based transfer programming (CBT) and Social Protection, Protection, Nexus coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and risk financing.

In 2021, Switzerland contributed with USD 108.4 million to WFP, including USD 93 million eligible under the FAC; it was the 10th largest government donor over the cumulated past five years.

In terms of geographic breakdown, Switzerland's 2021 contributions allocated to support populations suffering from acute food insecurity and malnutrition went as follows: about 42% to Africa (in Nigeria, Sahel, DR Congo, Horn of Africa), about 25% to Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar), about 13% to the Middle East (Yemen, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria and region), about 6% to the Americas (Haiti, Central America, Columbia and Venezuela) and about 15% as core/of global relevance ; in line with its commitment to the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles, Switzerland made a fully un-earmarked contributions of USD 15.1 million to WFP Immediate Response Account (IRA), making it its second largest donor in 2021 and the top single donor to the IRA of the cumulatively over the past years since 2018. Switzerland enabled WFP to provide immediate food assistance in 49 countries and contexts, in particular in Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Madagascar.

Overall, the humanitarian aid of Switzerland provided food assistance in 37 countries, including Algeria, the only remaining country that received in-kind assistance in the form of Swiss milk products purchased by WFP for a total of USD 0.216 million.

United States

In 2021, the United States (US) Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) exceeded its FAC commitment of USD 2.5 billion with USD

¹⁰ The SHA is a roster of around 700 people who can be deployed abroad at short notice.

4.73 billion in food and related assistance, reaching more than 71 million people in 59 countries. About 92% of USAID's food assistance met emergency needs, while 8% was non-emergency assistance addressing the underlying and chronic causes of hunger. Proportionally, US in-kind food assistance represented 44% of USAID emergency food assistance in 2021, while food purchased outside the United States represented 25%. Food vouchers represented 14% of food assistance, cash transfers represented 16%, and other modalities such as essential complementary activities represented 1%.

Additionally, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded more than USD \$421 million for food assistance programming overseas in 2021. USDA international food assistance and capacity building programs supported more than 4.8 million direct participants in 50 developing countries. Implementing organizations carried out a wide variety of activities around the world, while monitoring their progress against established indicators and reporting back to USDA regularly.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole) funds school meals and education and nutrition programs that are implemented by private-voluntary organizations (PVOs) and other international organizations for women, infants, and children in countries with high food insecurity. The program's statutory objectives are to reduce hunger, increase literacy, and improve the health and dietary practices of school-age children, with an emphasis on girls.

Food for Progress (FFPr) projects focus on improving agricultural productivity and expanding agricultural trade in developing countries and emerging democracies. The FFPr statute directs USDA, when awarding projects, to consider a country's commitments to promote economic freedom and expand efficient domestic commodity markets. Projects are funded primarily by proceeds from the sale of donated U.S. agricultural commodities, a process commonly referred to as monetization. The projects are intended to strengthen the capacity of foreign countries to engage in international trade, thereby expanding demand for U.S. agricultural products and enhancing global food security. In 2021, FFPr reached more than 370,000 direct participants. Through FFPr assistance nearly 200,000 individuals applied improved technologies or management practices, and farmers increased sales of their agricultural products.

Furthermore, USAID continues to track the impact on food insecurity resulting from COVID-19 and worked with partners to adapt and contextualize existing food assistance programs to fit local needs and improve COVID-19 readiness efforts around the world, in addition to adapting existing programs to respond to increasing needs driven by the pandemic.

2.2. KEY FOOD ASSISTANCE RESPONSES BY FAC MEMBERS

1. Ethiopia

The sharp escalation of violence resulted in mass population displacements, widespread crop and livelihood losses, and limited access to emergency assistance in 2021, while COVID-19 restrictions, inadequate and erratic rains, desert locusts, and currency devaluation also contributed to the escalation of this major food crisis. Over 906,000 people in Ethiopia were newly displaced. While 85% of IDPs reported conflict as the main driver of displacement, 7% reported drought and 6% seasonal floods. Conflict in Tigray affected the food supply systems and market access for refugees, as well as IDPs and host communities.

At 16.8 million, in May–June 2021, 30% of the population analysed¹¹ was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), in Belg and Meher-dependent areas was the highest recorded by the IPC in Ethiopia. It was almost double the 2020 peak in October–December (8.6 million). In Tigray, seven out of eight areas were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In five of these areas, 5–10% of the population was in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Ethiopia was among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of wasted children in 2021, with 4.2 million children under 5 years suffering from acute malnutrition. 2.9 million pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished

The majority of the FAC Parties - such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the EU, France, Luxembourg, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US - supported the vulnerable communities in Ethiopia, Ethiopian refugees and IDPs by providing food and nutritional assistance, through the UN Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) and WFP's Country Strategic Plan for Ethiopia

Some members have allocated funds to projects aimed to prevention and treatment of malnutrition, improving water access, build resilience and creating livelihoods through international NGOs.

Key partners were the Government of Ethiopia and UN Agencies.

2. Yemen

As the escalating conflict entered its seventh year, economic conditions continued to worsen. High fuel and food prices constrained purchasing power, while COVID-19 reduced income-generating opportunities in 2021. Recurrent flooding related to inadequate drainage systems also disrupted livelihoods. The food crisis in Yemen continued to worsen in 2021 with the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rising by 19% from 13.5 million in October–December 2020 to 16.2 million - 54% of the analysed population - during January–June 2021. Yemen remains with malnutrition rates among women and children among the

¹¹ The analysis covers 49% of the country's total population of 115 million people.

highest globally, with almost 2.25 million children under 5 and 1.16 million pregnant and lactating women suffering acute malnutrition¹².

Although food assistance was significantly reduced during the first half of 2021, a notable increase in assistance in the second half of the year supported over three-quarters of the caseload with their monthly needs.

The majority of the FAC Parties - such as Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the EU, France, Luxembourg, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the US - provided funding to humanitarian partners such as WFP and its activities in Yemen. In line with the FAC-framework, WFP used the funding to deliver its nutrition assistance programmes according to the “Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021” and hence supporting the most severely food insecure women, men, girls and boys with life-saving food and nutrition assistance. Activities were implemented in line with national protocols and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and nutrition cluster partners such as UNICEF and the WHO. Also, contributions were made through the UN Yemen Humanitarian Fund, the ICRC operation in Yemen and international NGOs projects.

3. South Sudan

After the formation of a government of national unity in 2020, the implementation of the peace agreement progressed slowly in 2021. The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 6.5 million in May–July 2020 to 7.2 million or 60% of the analysed population¹³ by April–July 2021. This 2021 estimate is the highest number for South Sudan in the GRFC’s existence, driven by the economic crisis, high food prices, socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, unprecedented flooding and the protracted civil that has caused large-scale displacement. Acute malnutrition rates among children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women were 1.3 million and 675 550 respectively¹⁴.

In response to the food crisis in South Sudan, some FAC Members -such as Canada, the EU, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland and the US - funded food and nutrition projects operated by WFP, FAO, ICRC, UNHCR, OCHA and international NGOs.

The EU, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the US contribute to provide emergency food assistance while strengthening the resilience of affected populations and improving their livelihoods along with the State services of South Sudan. This dual approach has proven to be successful in the past, and will be continued with a stronger focus on building nexus approaches and protection-sensitive responses that also aim at strengthening the humanitarian system.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic (including neighbour countries)

Devastated by ten years of protracted conflict, the economy suffered further setbacks from spill-over effects from the economic crisis in Lebanon and COVID-19. Currency depreciation,

¹² Source: IPC, February 2021.

¹³ The analysis covers 100% of the country's total population of 12.1 million people.

¹⁴ Source: HNO February 2022.

soaring food prices, reduced fiscal spending and widespread job loss further eroded people's ability to meet basic needs, while drought intensified are the main drivers of the food crisis in Syria in 2021.

In 2021, 12 million people or 55% of the population analysed¹⁵ were moderately or severely food insecure¹ in October–November 2021 almost the same compared to previous reports made in 2020. Acute malnutrition rates among children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women were 245,000 children and 265,000 women respectively¹⁶.

Australia, Denmark, the EU, Finland, Luxembourg, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, contributed significantly to address the Syrian humanitarian crisis in 2021. They supported the UN Syria Humanitarian Fund, UN Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, and ICRC and international NGOs operations delivering humanitarian assistance and implemented projects to support refugees and host communities and agriculture for rural population. Syrian refugees in Turkey received support from the EU Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme.

5. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Protracted conflict continued to displace households, disrupt livelihoods and humanitarian response efforts particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces. Conflict, crop diseases and pests also undermined food production and high food prices hampered household access to food. All these drivers contributed to the severity of the DRC's food crisis in 2021, which is predicted to remain the highest in the world in 2022 – though it is forecast to be lower than the 2021 peak.

According to the Global Report on Food Crisis 2022, the DRC was the world's gravest food crisis in 2021. 28% - almost 27.3 million of the Congolese population analyzed¹⁷ suffered from IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, in February–July 2021, which is a 25% increase compared to 2020 when 21.8 million people were facing similar levels of food insecurity. The DRC was among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of wasted children in 2021, with almost 1.2 million¹⁸ children under 5 suffering acute malnutrition. 550 000 pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished.

Through partnerships with various humanitarian organizations, the majority of the FAC Parties - such as Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland - made significant contributions towards the provision of urgently required food assistance in the country. Contributions were mainly provided through WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, ICRC and NGOs to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition, so that people could meet their basic food needs as well as improve their nutritional status.

¹⁵ The analysis covers of the Syrian Arab Republic's population of 21.7 million people from January 2021 through February 2022

¹⁶ Source: HNO 2022.

¹⁷ The analysis covers 91% of the population of 105 million people.

¹⁸ Source: HNO, February 2022.

6. Afghanistan

Since the Taliban take-over, Afghanistan has been experiencing a quickly escalating humanitarian crisis on an unprecedented scale. Following years of protracted conflict, the August 2021 political transition to the Taliban prompted a halt to development assistance and freezing of national economic assets. Coupled with severe drought and the economic impact of COVID-19, these factors propelled steep increases in staple food prices, losses of income for many households, and cash shortages

Afghanistan has become one of the most food insecure countries worldwide. The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 16.9 million people in the November 2020–March 2021 lean season to 22.8 million people, 55% of the population analysed¹⁹ a year later, being the highest estimated by an IPC analysis in the country. Afghanistan was among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of wasted children in 2021, with almost 3.5 million children under 5 suffering acute malnutrition²⁰. 720,000 pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished.

In 2022, Afghanistan has almost 3.885 million children under 5 suffering acute malnutrition and 836,657 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition.

The majority of the FAC Parties - such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the EU, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the US- contributed to the Relief Operations of WFP and to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, a CBPF managed by OCHA. They also funded projects operated by WFP and FAO for protection of livelihoods and food security needs for resilience building to increase Afghan people capacity to produce nutritious food.

Almost 4.66 million or 25% of Pakistani population analysed²¹ were in crisis IPC/CH Phase 3 or above in October 2021–March/April 2022. Australia contributed funds to the multi-year Regional Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2021 through WFP to respond to the high levels of food insecurity.

7. Sudan

In June–September 2021, 9.77 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Numbers have remained relatively stable since 2020. Acute food insecurity between June and September 2021 was similar to levels reported at the same time in 2020, with around 21 % of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), due to flooding, high food prices, conflict and related displacement. Compared to 2020, an additional 500 000 people were reported to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in June–September 2021, which can be attributed to a rise in conflict-related displacements and an increase in the analysed population (IPC, May

¹⁹ The analysis covers 100% of the population of 41.7 million people

²⁰ Source: HNO Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview (2021)

²¹ The analysis covers the rural populations of nine districts in Balochistan, seven newly merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkwa and nine districts in Sindh, accounting for 9% of the country's total population of 215.3 million people.

2021). In 2021, 2.6 million children under 5 years were wasted and 900,000 pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished.

Several FAC Members -such as Canada, the EU, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden and USA– supported experienced partners to provide food and nutrition assistance.

8. Somalia

After years of internal conflict and strife, the situation in Somalia was dire in 2021. From October–December 2021, 3.5 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) largely due to drought, poor and erratic rainfall distribution, flooding, conflict and high food prices. The share of the analysed population²² in these phases increased from 17 % in late 2020 to 22% in late 2021. 1.2 million children under 5 years were wasted in August 2021–July 2022.

Several FAC Members -such as Austria, Canada, the EU, France, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Sweden – supported experienced partners to provide food assistance, nutritional components and to implement multi-sectoral emergency projects designed to meet the multiple health and nutritional needs of children under five, pregnant and lactating women, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities and to strength civil society organizations.

Key partners were WFP, FAO, ICRC and various international NGOs.

9. North-eastern Nigeria and the Sahel

Humanitarian needs in the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria) increased in 2021. In 2021, an estimated of 23.7 million people in the Sahel and West Africa were in need of immediate food assistance. This figure included 13 million people in Nigeria, 3.6 million in Niger, 2.6 million in Burkina Faso, 1.8 million in Mali, 1.7 million in Chad, and 1.5 million in Sierra Leone. The situation was projected to deteriorate further, mainly due to the global increase in food prices and ongoing security tensions in the region.

In 2021, Nigeria faced sharply deteriorating insecurity compared to previous years, due to the persistent insurgency in the Northeast and spreading violence and insecurity in the Northwest and Middle Belt, on top of poor macroeconomic conditions and weather extremes. These factors, and increased geographical coverage, resulted in 12.94 million people or 8% of the population analysed²³ in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in October-December 2021.

Some FAC Members -such as Canada, the UE, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Sweden - contributed with humanitarian aid and funded projects to respond to the food and nutrition crisis, address root causes of malnutrition and strengthen the resilience of the Nigerian population.

²² The analysis covers 100% of the country's total population of 15.7 million people in 18 regions

²³ The analysis covers 21 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) – 73% of the total population of 219.5 million people

Several FAC Members, such as Denmark, the EU, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Spain, the US, Switzerland and Sweden supported Relief and Development Operations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, including through contributions to the regionally hosted Pooled Fund in the Sahel - which supported food security and nutrition interventions.

The EU is also involved in the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) that aims at achieving “zero hunger” in the Sahel region by 2032 by, for instance, strengthening capacities of national systems to respond to recurrent food crisis, to manage acute malnutrition, or by reinforcing agricultural productivity through better farming methods.

Key partners were WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHAS, ICRC and various international NGOs.

10. Bangladesh/Myanmar (Rohingya Crisis)

The impact of protracted conflict – such as disruptions to food production, markets and livelihoods, widespread displacement and economic crisis – is considered the main driver of acute food insecurity for the Rohingya refugees who escaped Myanmar and vulnerable host communities in Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh. There, the number of moderately or severely food-insecure Rohingya refugees and host community members increased slightly from 1.2 million to almost 1.3 million people²⁴, in 2021.

Some FAC Members, Australia, Denmark, the EU, France, Japan, Luxembourg the US and Switzerland, funded a package of humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, addressing immediate need and helping to build the resilience of these communities as well as in Myanmar to provide longer-term support to build the resilience of conflict and disaster-affected communities. Sweden through SIDA supported WFP in Myanmar.

The use of multi-purpose cash for refugees remains prohibited, but humanitarian partners have introduced e-vouchers as an alternative to general food distribution.

Key partners were WFP, OCHA, ICRC and various international NGOs.

2.3. FORGOTTEN CRISIS AND/OR OTHER AREAS

1. Latin America and the Caribbean

The damages brought by hurricanes Eta and Iota at the end of 2020 constrained food availability in 2021 in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Haiti, harvests were below-average due to irregular rainfall. Tropical Storm Grace, which struck Haiti's Sud-Est department in mid-August, destroyed crops and production infrastructure.

12.76 million people in 5 countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua) in Latin America and the Caribbean were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 2021

²⁴ Based on WFP ENA methodology (WFP, March 2022).

In 2021, Haiti's food crisis continued to escalate driven by economic crisis, high food prices, constrained incomes, violence, insecurity, earthquakes and below-average crop production. An estimated 4.36 million people or 46% of the population analysed (87%) were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in March–June 2021.

Switzerland supported WFP in Haiti to implement WFP's Country Strategic Plan and Luxembourg attributed financing to two emergency projects that were implemented by an international NGO. The EU and Japan have continued to support humanitarian aid operations in Haiti mainly focused on Food Security and Protection.

Guatemala was the second largest food crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), with 3.73 million people in these phases through March 2021. Guatemala was followed closely by Honduras with 3.29 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). The entirety of Honduras was classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in July–September 2021. In El Salvador, over 985 000 people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in March–May 2021 due to knock-on effects of the pandemic and insecurity. In Nicaragua, FEWS NET estimated that around 400 000 people were likely to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in July–September 2021.

Social unrest, criminality and political instability exacerbate the situation. These factors continue forcing people into migration and internal displacement. Over 130,000 people crossed the Darien Gap in 2021, one of the world's most dangerous migration routes, and 1.7 million people tried to cross into the US.

The EU responded to different needs across the region, stemming for instance from droughts, hurricanes and epidemics. The EU's humanitarian support includes emergency shelter, medical and food assistance, nutrition services, access to safe water and sanitation, child protection and prevention of child trafficking and sexual abuse as well as children's education. Switzerland implemented a project in Guatemala with a local organization, and in Nicaragua maintained its support to WFP's school feeding program. Switzerland and the US supported Honduras through WFP.

The humanitarian situation in Colombia continued to be affected by three major factors, notably the increase in internal violence and displacement affecting local communities and ethnic groups; the continued pressure posed by the presence of 1.8 million migrants from Venezuela in Colombia; and the impact of natural hazards and climatic events. COVID-19 further aggravated this situation and the food security and nutrition of Colombians and Venezuelan migrants in the country. In 2021, Switzerland provided funds to Colombia through WFP and NGOs to achieve the goals of its Country Strategic Plan.

Over the years, access to nutritious food and a diversified diet has become increasingly expensive in Venezuela. Although Venezuela and Venezuelan migrant populations in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru met the criteria for inclusion in the GRFC 2022, comparable food security evidence was not available in 2021. A limited number of FAC members, such as the EU, France, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, provided funds to respond to the needs in Venezuela channelled through the UN system, the Red Cross Movement, as well as NGOs.

2. Mozambique

During the 2021 lean season, in January–March, around 2.9 million people – or 16% of the population analysed²⁵ – were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Compared to the 2020 peak, around 240,000 additional people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Increasing violence in northern Mozambique have caused mass displacement, which in turn led to increasing levels of food insecurity. Drought and the negative effects of COVID-19 have also contributed to food insecurity in the country.

The Russian Federation, Japan, the US and Switzerland supported WFP to improve food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

The EU supported humanitarian operations in light of the steadily deteriorating humanitarian situation, to assist people affected by the conflict including internally displaced persons and their host populations. The assistance included access to food, water and sanitation, protection, health and nutrition services. The EU also worked with its partners on education in emergencies, disaster preparedness as well as on supporting the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

3. Cameroon

Cameroon faces three concurrent and highly complex humanitarian situations: the armed violence of Boko Haram in the Far North Region, an influx of refugees from the Central African Republic, and armed violence in the North-West and South-West regions. Humanitarian needs are exacerbated by structural development deficits and chronic vulnerabilities. Cameroon is also exposed to climate risks and natural disasters, droughts, floods, landslides and fires.

In March–May 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) was almost as high as in October–December 2020 – 2.7 million people. The number of people in Emergency (CH Phase 4) was almost three times higher in early 2021 than in the last quarter of 2020 (CH, March 2021).

A limited number of FAC members, such as the EU, France, Japan the US and Switzerland, provided funding to address the crisis, including food assistance and cash-based transfers to vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas and to respond to the malnutrition situation, address root causes and strengthen the resilience of the population through WFP, OCHA, ICRC and NGO projects.

4. Central African Republic (CAR)

Food insecurity is mainly caused by conflict and the ensuing insecurity, which limits access to the fields, but also natural hazards, such as heavy rains or crop disease.

²⁵ The analysis covered 33 areas in 11 provinces and 12 cities, comprising 60% of the country's total population of 30.1 million.

Over the last five years, the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the Central African Republic, 2.29 million people or 47% of the population analysed (100%) has remained persistently high, largely due to prolonged conflict.

A limited number of FAC members, such as the EU, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, the US and Switzerland, provided funding to address the crisis by food assistance and cash-based transfers to vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas through WFP and ICRC. Switzerland contributed to the Humanitarian Fund and the Rapid Response Mechanism to support various emergency projects.

5. Madagascar

The southern part of Madagascar has been struck by back-to-back droughts, severely affecting agriculture in 2021.

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rose from over 1 million (27% of the population analysed) in 13 districts in October–December 2020 to 1.6 million (37%) in 14 districts in November–December 2021. The population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) nearly doubled to 405 000 during the same period (IPC, December 2020 and December 2021). The country was considered to be at risk of famine in the Global Network’s last “Hunger Hotspots” report of the year.

Some FAC Members -such as Canada, the EU, The Russian Federation, Japan, Slovenia, Switzerland and the US - contributed to responding to the food crisis through WFP and NGOs projects. The EU also worked with its partners on education in emergencies, disaster preparedness as well as on supporting the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

3. COORDINATION AMONG DONORS

3.1 Global Network Against Food Crises

The Global Network Against Food Crises was launched during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to respond to the WHS’s call for new approaches to tackle protracted crises and recurrent disasters, reduce vulnerability, and manage risk. Its goal is to improve coordination and integration of actions along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus for long-lasting solution to food crises²⁶.

The European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), together with FAO and WFP are the co-founding members of the Global Network, and remain the “core group” together with the US.

The Global Network’s partners operate at national, regional and global level along three interlinked dimensions: i) understanding food crises; ii) strategic investment in food and

²⁶ For more information on the Global Network Against Food Crises visit: <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net>

nutrition security; and iii) going beyond food by fostering political uptake and functional coordination across clusters and sectors to address other dimensions driving the food crisis scenarios.

In 2021, the Global Network released important documents including the *2021 Global Report on Food Crises*; the *2021 Report on Financing Flows and Food Crises*; the 8th *Joint Report on Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations*, the technical note *Financing Flows and Food Crises*; the 2nd and 3rd issue of the *FAO-WFP Early warnings on acute food insecurity hotspots Outlook*; the *Analysis of financing flows and food crises in eleven countries*; and the *3rd Regional Report on Food Crises for East and Central Africa*.

In September 2021, through the United Nations Food Systems Summit, emerged the Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus Coalition²⁷, aimed to contribute to ending hunger through pursuing peace and unleashing the potential of sustainable food systems to enhance the prospects for peace. Members include states, key operational agencies, research institutes and civil society institutions across the HDP domains. It is co-led by G7+, WFP, FAO and SIPRI and supported by a dedicated Secretariat funded by the European Union and hosted by the Global Network Against Food Crises.

Several FAC Members support and participate in the Global Network and the Coalition and reiterated its commitment to a coordinated and integrated approach to implementing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

3.2 Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)

The Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative is an informal donor forum and network launched in June 2003 by donor governments, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other organisations involved in humanitarian action. Its members endorse the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, which set out commonly agreed definition and objectives for humanitarian action, as well as a set of guiding principles and good practices²⁸.

In 2021, Switzerland and EU/ECHO as co-chairs of the GHD focused on building on the achievements of the previous years and continuing to explore innovative approaches of financing humanitarian aid. Their priorities are: 1) facilitate discussions for humanitarian change; 2) face the adverse effects of counterterrorism and restrictive measures on principles humanitarian action; 3) emphasize the centrality of gender and disability approaches as integral part of protection; 4) contribute to increase flexible and predictable funding; and 5) impact and concrete positive outcomes of the UN development system reform on humanitarian action.

²⁷ For more information on the Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus Coalition visit: <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/events/hdp-coalition/en/>

²⁸ For more information on the Good Humanitarian Donorship visit: <https://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/home-page.html>

Expert Level Meetings were held to introduce GHD members to other initiatives, including through leveraging *traditional* donor funds, promoting un-earmarked, multi-year and flexible funding to close the increasing gap between humanitarian needs and available funding. These meetings resulted in an Organisational Readiness Playbook guiding actors to investments in the humanitarian area.

Several FAC members expressed their commitment to follow the principles of the GHD to improve their effectiveness and efficiency, including predictable and flexible funding, harmonized reporting, and the respect for international humanitarian law.

Australia's humanitarian investment was designed to be flexible and responsive to shocks. This was tested in 2021, when the military coup in Myanmar drastically changed the operating environment. By mid-2021, more than three million people were in need of humanitarian assistance across the country, up from one million people in 2020. By the end of the year, the number of people expected to be in need in 2022 had increased to over 14 million – the highest increase being numbers of people experiencing food insecurity. The policy position of many donors and their implementing partners shifted to limit engagement with the regime. This required significant coordination across the humanitarian system. In an increasingly complex and contracting operating environment, humanitarian partners were able to find alternative ways to reach those most in need. Partners demonstrated an impressive level of resilience and adaptability in the face of significant challenge, supported by donor flexibility.

3.3 Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The Central Emergency Response Fund was established in 2005 by the UN General Assembly. Since its inception, 126 UN Member States and observers, as well as regional Governments, corporate donors, foundations and individuals, made it possible for humanitarian partners to deliver over USD 5.5 billion in life-saving assistance in over 100 countries and territories²⁹.

The CERF allocates funds to acute, protracted, and underfunded crises. The un-earmarked, predictable core contributions provided by Denmark ensures rapid responses to sudden-onset emergencies or rapidly deteriorating conditions in existing emergencies.

In 2021, FAC Parties provided funds to the CERF for a total of more than USD 110 million, almost a fifth of the total amount received by the CERF from all donors (see Table 2). 25% of the funds were allocated to food assistance, agriculture and nutrition.

Finland has been a supporter of the CERF from the beginning and in 2021 allocated 17% of its humanitarian budget to this fund.

TABLE 2. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CERF BY FAC PARTIES IN 2021

Member	2021 Contribution to the CERF (USD)
--------	-------------------------------------

²⁹ For more information on the Central Emergency Response Fund visit: <https://cerf.un.org/>

Australia	8,515,088
Austria	1,585,080
Canada	23,424,484
Denmark	32,483,317
European Union	Not contributing
Finland	20,620,715
France	3,658,537
Japan	129,629
Korea	6,000,000
Luxembourg	6,021,500
Russian Federation	1,500,000
Slovenia	56,540
Spain	2,829,250
Sweden	70,374,300
Switzerland	5,539,552
United States	Not available
Total	116,730,023

Source: <https://cerf.un.org/our-donors/contributions-by-donor>

3.4 WFP common logistics services for humanitarian crises

Over decades, the World Food Programme (WFP) has accrued vast expertise and capacity in supply chain, engineering and emergency telecommunications – often in the most challenging environments. This experience affords WFP the ability to extend its capacity to also support emergency preparedness and medium-long term development efforts, depending on the local context³⁰.

In the face of tight funding and high expectations of efficiency, the humanitarian community is increasingly required to act in sync, streamline processes and pool resources. Working closely with private sector partners, WFP makes assets and functionalities available to fellow humanitarian operators. Humanitarian support includes food procurement, emergency stockpiling, cargo transportation, telecommunications and engineering support, among other services.

IN 2021, Denmark contributed DKK 30 million (USD 4.4 million) to WFP's common logistics services in Afghanistan for health and humanitarian organizations, helping to establish a humanitarian air bridge into Afghanistan where commercial capacity was not available, ensuring that critical humanitarian cargo and personnel could move to where they were needed most.

³⁰ For more information on WFP Humanitarian support and services visit: <https://www.wfp.org/humanitarian-support-and-services>

3.5 Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)

The European Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) is the main forum within the European Union for strategic and policy discussions on humanitarian assistance between the EU Member States and the European Commission. Its work is guided by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and International Humanitarian Law.

The Working Party i) monitors humanitarian needs resulting from man-made and natural disasters outside the EU; ii) ensures the coherence and coordination of the EU's collective response to these crises; iii) discusses international, horizontal and sectorial humanitarian policies; and iv) promotes the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the humanitarian principles and IHL.

Several FAC Parties - such as Luxembourg and Spain - are active members of and contributor to the monthly meetings of the COHAFA. At these meetings, ECHO and the EU Member States exchange information on humanitarian crises and assess humanitarian needs. They also seek to improve the coherence of aid efforts at both the EU level and global level.

3.6 ICRC Donor Support Group

The Donor Support Group (DSG) of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), made up of the organization's major donors, is a platform for exchange on key ICRC policies and programming. Established in Denmark in 1997, the DSG meets yearly to examine and discuss issues of mutual interest such as management and human resources policy, operational concerns, policy issues and thematic issues³¹.

All FAC Parties but Korea, Russia and Slovenia are members of the DSG. 2021 marked the start of Luxembourg's co-chairmanship, which will culminate in May 2022 with the organisation of the annual meeting in Luxembourg.

3.7 Asian Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

The ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) is a regional cooperation mechanism established in Indonesia in 2011 by the Ministers of the Agriculture and Forestry of the ASEAN Plus Three Members to respond promptly and effectively to food crises due to disasters in the region. To accomplish that, the 13 APTERR Parties contribute in kind to a shared rice reserves system to respond to food emergencies³². Since 2017, the Republic of Korea has contributed with rice to APTERR reserves.

³¹ For more information on the DSG of the ICRC visit: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-donor-support-group>

³² For more information on APTERR visit: <https://apterr.org/>

4. POLICY INITIATIVES

4.1 The Grand Bargain

The Grand Bargain is an agreement between donor countries and international aid organisations from the United Nations, international non-governmental organisations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, it is a set of 10 non-binding political commitments that 64 signatories jointly pursue to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of humanitarian assistance to people in need.³³

The enabling priorities for the Grand Bargain are quality funding, localisation and participation. Other core commitments are increase transparency, increase the use and coordination of cash programming, reduce duplication and management costs, improve joint and impartial needs assessments, harmonise and simplify reporting requirements and enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors.

Progress achieved and challenges faced by signatories towards their commitments are assessed in an Annual Independent Report. In 2021, the report highlighted the increase in the value of multi-year and flexible funding, although not keeping pace with humanitarian needs and mainly channelled to multilateral organizations. It also pointed to the increased support for local leadership, although the proportion of direct funding to local actors halved from 4% in 2020 to 2% in 2021.

All FAC Parties except Austria and Russia are signatories of The Grand Bargain. In 2021, several FAC Parties provided significant core contributions to international organisations in the food assistance sector including UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNRWA, UNICEF, OCHA, UNDRR and ICRC, among other partners, allocated as multi-year, flexible and un-earmarked. Lightly earmarked contributions were also provided to country or activity level, either to various country-based pooled funds (CBPF), or to food and nutrition related activities. And some support harmonized reporting instead of donor specific reports.

Various FAC members including Denmark, Switzerland and Finland continued to support the operational shift towards increased use of cash-based programming, localization, and quality funding to deliver efficient protection and assistance to people in need. Finland already achieved its benchmark of providing 30% of its overall humanitarian funding as un-earmarked.

Switzerland has acted as the co-convener of the localization workstream of The Grand Bargain, together with the IFRC and Red Crescent Societies since 2016. In 2021 the localisation workstream implemented activities related to the promotion of localization in the context of COVID-19, improved funding opportunities for local actors and improved (equal) partnerships between local and international actors. Switzerland further engaged in the question on the role of "intermediaries" – organisations, networks or mechanisms acting between donors and national or local implementing organisations – and funded a study on their future role,

³³ For more information on The Grand Bargain visit: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>

showing that intermediary organizations need to adapt (their role, mechanisms, mind-sets), if localization is to become a reality on the ground, including in food assistance.

4.2 School Meals Coalition

The School Meals Coalition is an emerging initiative of governments and a wide range of partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve and scale up school meals programmes, support pandemic recovery and drive actions to achieve the SDGs. The Coalition aims to support governments and their partners to improve or restore national, sustainable school meal programmes after the closure of almost all schools in 2020, in the context of COVID-19, that left millions of children without access to the one meal a day they could rely on and food producers without access to a reliable market³⁴.

In 2021, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Russia, Spain, Sweden and the United States signed the School Meals Coalition Declaration, along with other Heads of State and Government and Leaders of the United Nations, civil society, academia, philanthropy and the private sector, to express their determination to scale up school meals programmes.

4.3 World Summits

FAC members participated in the UN Secretary General's Food System Summit that took place in New York in September 2021, as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDG. The Summit aimed to contribute to transforming the way the world produces and consumes food, making food systems more sustainable and greener, and strengthening resilience towards food crises. The Summit highlighted the relevance of food security and food systems for achieving all SDGs and the climate targets in the Paris agreement.

The EU, among other FAC Members, was actively involved in the preparatory work, and is supporting many of the initiatives launched at the Summit. This includes several of the coalitions, among which the "Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Coalition", of high relevance for humanitarian food assistance.

In December Japan hosted the 2021 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, aimed to accelerating global efforts towards nutrition improvement in the world, focused on how to integrate nutrition into universal health coverage (UHC), how to build sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition, and how to effectively address malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected environments. The EU actively contributed to this Summit, among other FAC Members. As a result, 396 commitments from 181 stakeholders were submitted and more than USD 27 billion was pledged to address the global malnutrition and hunger crisis. Another outcome of the Summit was the Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth, with endorsement of 215 stakeholders. France will host the next edition of the N4G summit.

³⁴ For more information on the Schools Meals Coalition visit: <https://schoolmealscoalition.org/>

5. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD ASSISTANCE

5.1 Anticipatory Action

Anticipatory action, i.e. preventing or reducing acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold, is a fundamental approach for several FAC Parties. Anticipatory Action aims at establishing systems that enable early warning and early action in humanitarian crises situations e.g. drought or flooding caused by the climate crisis. Where it can be applied, it is an efficient, cost effective and dignified form of humanitarian action, which places affected people at the centre of action and provides them with agency to protect themselves and their means of living.

In 2021, the UK Presidency of the G7 promoted the adoption of a “Hunger and humanitarian crises compact”, which included an action point to scale up anticipatory action across the humanitarian system. The German presidency of the G7 announced a focus on anticipatory action during their mandate in 2022.

Australia

Complementing its long-standing climate and disaster risk financing investments, in 2021 Australia increased the emphasis on supporting the shift towards earlier humanitarian action (or anticipatory action). Australia contributed to global pooled funding mechanisms, such as UN OCHA’s CERF and IFRC’s DREF, both of which support early humanitarian action. It also integrated anticipatory action as one of the priorities in early negotiations on new strategic partnership frameworks with key humanitarian agencies. This will ensure that anticipatory action can be fully integrated into financial, policy and operating systems.

Canada

As the co-chair of the Pooled Fund Working Group in 2021-2022, Canada co-led the revision of the CBPF Global Guidelines, which promoted anticipatory action as one of the main thematic priorities for the CBPFs. Canada was also an active member of the G7 Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Panel and endorsed the Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact, in which G7 committed to support the scale-up of anticipatory approaches in the humanitarian system.

Canada is currently advancing anticipatory action by funding partners and mechanisms that are piloting anticipatory approaches such as the UN CERF, the UN CBPFs, and the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund Forecast-based Action. Canada is a strong and consistent supporter of the CERF, which has facilitated funding for anticipatory action in multiple pilot countries and has been steadily expanding its support to the CBPFs. In addition, Canada continues to support the DREF –including for forecast-based Early Action Protocols developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – through its Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund project with contributions.

Denmark

Denmark remains committed to contribute to strengthening nexus-approaches and promote better links between humanitarian and climate-related assistance as part of the implementation of Denmark's strategy for development cooperation, "The World We Share". As part of this commitment, Denmark supports WFP in scaling up anticipatory action for food security in relation to climatic shocks on the Horn of Africa.

European Union

Anticipatory action is an integral part of the DG ECHO disaster preparedness approach. Mainstreaming anticipatory action is one of the strategic priorities enshrined in the Communication on the EU's humanitarian action, adopted March 2021.

A number of different organisations have already piloted anticipatory actions in the framework of different types of crises, mostly for natural hazards, while less for conflict. DG ECHO has been funding pioneer organisations in the domain – IFRC, FAO, WFP and the Start Fund.

For instance, in Bangladesh, cash assistance was provided in anticipation of floods (thanks to forecasts provided by Global Flood Awareness System of the EU's Copernicus Emergency Management Service). Partners on the ground provided quick assistance to 3,300 families in areas hit by floods in early July. The assistance was mainly used to buy food, helping save lives and livelihoods. These actions were implemented by IFRC, Bangladesh Red Crescent and the World Food Programme.

In Burundi, the EU worked with WFP and the Burundi Red Cross to set up an anticipatory action scheme that can be activated ahead of climatic shocks.

In Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines DG ECHO supported its partners to scale up the anticipatory action mechanisms linked to Shock-Responsive Social Protection schemes. These are underpinned by an innovative use of climate risk information, helping farmers to protect their crops and livelihoods before typhoons, floods or droughts strike.

In Nigeria, DG ECHO supported the development of early warning tools for flood and drought hazards, using advanced satellite imagery. This action will also collect data about the impact of conflict on agricultural livelihoods in inaccessible areas, a type of information which is often missing.

Korea

Syria was selected for the 2021 rice contribution, and it was determined to logistics the rice cargo to the country through the UN Cross-Border Operation based on the close consultation with WFP. Under the UN Resolution(S/RES/2165), the UN agencies' humanitarian cargo was transported cross-border into Northern Syria from Turkey through UNSC-authorized border crossings. However, the latest UN Resolution, which should be reviewed and renewed on 10 July 2021, authorized only one border crossing, and the renewal of the Resolution was still on the table. In the circumstances, MAFRA and WFP planned the early rice preparation to make

rice arrive in Syria by the end of June. The rice cargo for Syria was milled and packed in March, a month earlier than the past years. Also, both parties prepared logistics plans to meet the tight timeline even under unforeseen situations.

Luxembourg

Anticipatory action has been increasingly put at the centre of humanitarian action by Luxembourg. Key decisions to support this effort include the increased allocation of funds to the Immediate Response Account of WFP, which allows for a deployment of food assistance within 24 hours. Through this mechanism, the funding is pre-positioned in case a trigger-point is reached, or a natural catastrophe occurs.

Another expression of Luxembourg's firm support of anticipatory action is the earmarking of funds under the newly negotiated SPA with WFP for Emergency Preparedness, Climate Action and Peace and Conflict. Climate change and conflicts being two of the biggest drivers of humanitarian needs, preparedness and prevention in these areas is key.

Japan

With the growing financing gap in humanitarian assistance, Japan acknowledges the effectiveness of the anticipatory action, including to reduce humanitarian needs, and is determined to make its efforts in cooperation with other G7 members. Measures such as disaster risk reduction and early warning are important in securing effective implementation of anticipatory action. As a disaster-prone country, Japan has been actively providing assistance to developing countries in the field of ex-ante disaster investment for DRR which contributes to reduce future disaster risk itself.

Switzerland

Switzerland is currently exploring ways to support food security under a WFP anticipatory actions corporate trust fund globally and on a multi-year basis. The objective would be twofold: to support both country capacities for systems-building (improving forecasting capacities, triggers, targeting, etc.) and activation mechanisms.

5.2 Cash coordination

Based on the *Joint Donor Statement on Humanitarian Cash Transfers*, Switzerland and like-minded donors continuously worked to improve coordination in humanitarian cash operations. Switzerland currently co-leads the Donor Cash Forum together with DG ECHO. In 2021, the donor group signed the *Call to Action Letter on Cash Coordination* and actively supported the *Grand Bargain Caucus on Cash Coordination*; this led to the IASC endorsement of a new model on cash coordination which should improve the scale, quality and timeliness of humanitarian response – including in food assistance. This model ensures predictable and accountable mechanisms for cash coordination which can take timely decisions as needed. It leverages

existing coordination structures, ensures clear accountability to one agency, mitigates conflict of interest in performing coordination duties and provides a referral path in country and globally. The model is built on the principle of localization, enabling more inclusive coordination with greater participation of national and local actors, and helping to ensure decisions regarding cash interventions are made closer and with greater accountability to the crisis-affected population.

Throughout 2021, Switzerland continued to maintain a solid dialogue with its main partners on CBT and had an active role in global discussions for CBT to become a systematically considered response option. Switzerland continued to be actively engaged in The Cash Learning Partnership's technical advisory group. In 2021, to advance CBT in humanitarian response, Switzerland seconded 13 CBT experts to humanitarian partners, including WFP, UNHCR, ICRC and IFRC, and others.

5.3 Cash innovation

DG ECHO promotes cash responses which build on technological advances and innovations, using technology and linking to longer term solutions. In particular, DG ECHO has a preference for digital solutions where these make sense from a cost, effectiveness or efficiency standpoint, including the advantages inherent in electronic cash transfers and digital identities.

Given the many potential benefits of digital solutions in terms of accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, DG ECHO's policy is for the programmes it supports to be 'Digital by Default'. Whilst DG ECHO expects partners to propose digital solutions as standard, there are situations in which digital solutions may not be appropriate or offer added value compared to analogue methods or may not comply with the principle of 'do no harm'. In these cases, and where justified in terms of cost, technical capacity or effectiveness of the action, non-digital solutions may be accepted.

5.4 Digital solutions

Luxembourg developed the platform emergency.lu, aimed to unify all operational activities in the areas of humanitarian action and disaster relief. In 2021, services were provided through this platform to humanitarian organisations in the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Venezuela and Syria, at the request of WFP, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), UNHCR and UNICEF. Furthermore, following the earthquake in Haiti in August 2021, Luxembourg accepted an official request for international assistance through the European Civil Protection Mechanism, deploying two satellite communication terminals and four experts.

5.5 Gender responsive approach to food insecurity

Under its FAC Chairmanship, Canada continued its efforts to advance knowledge and understanding of how to ensure a gender responsive approach to food insecurity. It organized

a FAC Virtual Learning Event on Gender Responsive Food Assistance in collaboration with WFP and CFGB to promote knowledge sharing amongst FAC members. This session included interventions from expert practitioners affiliated with WFP, CFGB and their local partners. It also included testimonies from beneficiaries. Combined these speakers helped unpack the intersectionality between food security, nutrition, gender equality and localization in humanitarian programming implemented in Eastern DRC, Western Uganda, Lebanon and Jordan. The event highlighted various ways in which gender-responsive food assistance can respond to the immediate food and nutrition needs of women and girls, while addressing harmful gender inequalities.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remain key priorities for Australia's humanitarian policy and programming. Australia has made continual efforts to improve the collection of disaggregated data, by gender, across our investments. For example, in Myanmar, WFP has incorporated gender equality measures into new community committee guidelines and in 2021 rolled these out with partners and communities to help facilitate more effective programming. WFP also implemented policies on protection and accountability to affected people, including field level action alongside a privacy impact assessment and time series analysis focused on different vulnerable groups.

In line with France's commitment to gender equality and a feminist diplomacy, more than 86% of projects funded under the FAP included a gender dimension in 2021.

5.6 Disability inclusion

Finland has supported the development of WFP's disability inclusion functions. This included inter alia efforts to develop WFP's tools to collect, analyse and monitor data on disabled persons, the establishment of a helpline on disability inclusion related issues and support to disability inclusion functions in four field offices. While this does not constitute concrete food assistance as such, it will in the future help WFP to better reach disabled persons who are among the most vulnerable in food crisis situations.

Australia has worked closely with partners, including WFP, to ensure humanitarian action is more inclusive of people living with disability. In 2021, Australia's package of technical assistance to WFP continued to support the implementation of WFP's Disability Inclusion Roadmap.

5.7 Innovative resilience and livelihoods

As much as food assistance is indispensable for saving lives – a reality that became clear during the pandemic and has become even more important this year – building the resilience of communities to face future shocks is the only way humanitarian needs can be reduced in the long term.

Where local markets can support it, cash transfers instead of or in combination with in-kind food assistance are increasingly preferred by WFP and donors for some time now. The obvious advantages lie in the greater flexibility and choice for beneficiaries while also boosting the

local economy. This modality also increases financial inclusion of groups that were previously excluded from the banking system, such as women.

Luxembourg supports WFP in moving towards multi-purpose cash transfers (MPC), going beyond food assistance and allowing beneficiaries to prioritise their own needs. In this context, WFP is also conducting studies on the impact of different transfer modalities. A key finding of a recent study lies in the capacity of MPC assistance to produce long-lasting improvements to the food security situation of beneficiary households. Thus, MPC could be an important piece towards a more effective relief, recovery and development continuum.

5.8 SIPRI Research

Denmark worked with WFP and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to strengthen WFP's contribution to improving the prospects for peace in the countries where it works. This cooperation highlights the way interventions that improve food security reduce stresses in communities, in this way preventing tensions including tensions between internally displaced persons and host communities. Such interventions also reduce the vulnerability of people to be recruited by extremist groups. The importance of food assistance as a stabilizing factor in conflict was highlighted by the award of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to WFP.

5.9 Programmatic Partnership with FAO

The EU pilot Programmatic Partnership with FAO entitled *"Increasing capacities and scale for Anticipatory Action including through Social Protection systems"* provides capacity building activities and implement anticipatory action also by linking them to Social Protection systems in the following targeted countries: Bangladesh, Philippines, Laos, Vietnam and Pakistan. The action started on 1 August 2021 and will run over three years. The initial total budget for the first year of implementation is EUR 4.5 million, including an EU contribution of EUR 4 million.

The overarching objective of the pilot Programmatic Partnership, in line with the Grand Bargain, is to bring more efficiency and effectiveness in the intervention, reaching out to more beneficiaries. This programme is the opportunity to scale up a humanitarian approach to anticipatory action (AA) by building capacities of FAO and humanitarian partners, while supporting the uptake and institutionalisation by relevant national stakeholders as well as ensuring community engagement.

The pilot Programmatic Partnership will promote regular dialogue and exchanges between DG ECHO and its partner, on implementation progress and challenges, including through joint field monitoring visits, on context changes and the vision for the future. In this context, both FAO and DG ECHO have designated field focal points who coordinate the programme and draw lessons for possible improvement and replication. Coordination with other humanitarian and development organisations, including the UN and INGOs, will be key, as will be the enhanced visibility of the EU on the ground and in Europe.

While anticipatory assistance can be delivered through a variety of modalities, the programme will in particular focus on Social Protection systems. This can be an effective way to reach the most vulnerable parts of the population in a timely and inclusive manner, while allowing

collaboration across sectors, protecting development gains, strengthening coordination between humanitarian actors and national governments, and strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders.

5.10 Communication on EU's Humanitarian Action

One of the main EU policy developments of 2021 was the Communication on EU's Humanitarian Action, adopted on 10th March 2021.

The Communication provides a framework and an action plan to address more effectively growing humanitarian needs, supporting a better enabling environment for humanitarian partners and addressing the root causes of crises through a 'Team Europe' approach. It highlights a renewed focus on international humanitarian law (IHL) and the humanitarian funding gap, and also sets out to tackle the dramatic humanitarian impact of climate change.

Among other elements, the Communication emphasises the importance of food security, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as climate change. DG ECHO's focus in 2021 reinforced the principles laid out in the EU Humanitarian Food Assistance Policy and was closely linked with ongoing processes, including in the framework of the UN Food Systems Summit or the Global Network against Food Crises.

Regarding the mainstreaming of environmental concerns, in the humanitarian sector this translates into the need of 'greening' humanitarian aid policies. The EU is working on ways to reduce the environmental footprint of its humanitarian operations.

5.11 Packaging Safety, Sustainability and Traceability

In 2021, USAID continued efforts to improve commodity packaging. The Hybrid Film technology, a more resilient packaging material, has been successfully used for corn soy blend flour and cornmeal. Preliminary field performance results indicate that by switching to this material, there has been a reduction in torn bags, leading to fewer losses and damages. USAID, along with WFP, is currently looking at collecting more comprehensive field performance data to more accurately measure the impact of this technology in terms of reducing infestation and losses and damages, as well as identifying efficiency gains related to the transportation, warehousing, and handling of these commodities through the supply chain. This packaging technology, which allows for the heat-sealing of bags while permitting adequate gas exchange, is also being tested in the packaging of fortified rice.

USAID also continued working with suppliers on improving process capability, food safety and quality, and traceability. In FY 2020, two suppliers supported USAID to develop the initial end-to-end traceability framework, using quick response (QR) codes. This work has served to inform the design of a global commodity traceability dashboard. The Intelligent Dashboard is being developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory (MIT/LL). It will provide USAID with improved visibility throughout the supply chain and will enable USAID to perform data analytics on supply chain, food safety and quality, and incident management. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and social distancing requirements, USAID, in partnership

with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), launched a remote auditing initiative, which ensured that food safety audits of commodity suppliers continued without disruption. Regularly scheduled audits are essential to ensure food quality and safety.

As USAID increasingly seeks to evaluate and refine procurement and supply chain delivery processes to look for increased speed, transparency, reliability, and reduced cost, USAID examined ways to advance environmentally sustainable practices. USAID led the Joint Initiative for Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management in collaboration with institutional partners central to distributing and managing humanitarian assistance to coordinate collective, impactful solutions to humanitarian packaging. As part of this larger coordinated response, USAID worked with MIT/LL to investigate solutions to track, manage, and reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian aid packaging waste.

6. BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

6.1 National efforts to improve food assistance

Several FAC Parties have mentioned in their annual reports their efforts to make food assistance better, including more predictable and timely funding, in their respective national policies and strategies on development and humanitarian assistance.

Australia

Where possible, Australia builds flexibility into funding arrangements to allow partners to respond to needs as they arise. In 2021, annual funding to humanitarian multilateral partners remained mostly flexible and unearmarked – governed by multi-year Strategic Partnership Frameworks. The flexible nature of the Australian funding had a critical impact in places such as Lebanon, Afghanistan and Myanmar which experienced significant changes in the political, security and humanitarian contexts.

Austria

Austria remains committed to allow for flexibility to respond to unexpected humanitarian crises due to rapidly emerging shocks and food insecurities. This flexibility is backed by a perseverative, trustful cooperation with its long-term partners and a corresponding level of funding stability for their work.

Canada

Along with other FAC Members, Canada coupled its funding with advocacy efforts, including through the G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact, to ensure the significant food needs remained on the radar, funding was mobilized in response to the deteriorating situation, and that G7 committed to scale up anticipatory action in the humanitarian system.

Denmark

Denmark published in 2021 its new strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action, “The World We Share”. It promotes approaches that work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, aiming to further mainstream them in Denmark’s development and humanitarian assistance. Among other objectives, the strategy aims to help ensure effective access to protection and life-saving assistance in crisis situations, including food aid. Denmark is operationalizing a *Doing Development Differently* approach across its engagements. This includes applying a coherent HDP nexus approach to food security, which is crucial in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The way Denmark works across the nexus in its development cooperation and humanitarian action was assessed through an OECD DAC peer-review during 2021. Among the conclusions of the review is that Denmark is seen as spearheading work

across the HDP nexus with a high level of ambition and experience to share globally and at country level.

European Union

DG ECHO included longer-term measures to support countries in the transformation towards resilient and sustainable food systems by strengthening coordination with international actors, including with G7 members, intensifying anticipatory action and improving data collection and usage.

Finland

Finland expects all its development cooperation partners to promote climate sustainability, gender equality and reduction of inequalities. Finland also actively works for advancing the rights and the inclusion of person with disabilities in the context of humanitarian aid and food assistance. In terms of humanitarian assistance, Finland underscores the importance of respecting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) principles and safeguarding humanitarian space.

France

France's International Strategy for Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (2019-2024) identifies 5 objectives, one of them being the bolstering of food assistance actions for vulnerable populations and the improvement of their resilience³⁵. Against a backdrop of recurrent food crises, the goal is to enable these populations to regain their food autonomy.

Japan

Japan responded to humanitarian crises and urgent needs caused by conflicts and natural disasters in 16 countries and areas with food assistance of more than USD 73 million by Emergency Grant Aid. Japan also continued to support school feeding programmes to work on nutrition improvement for school age children in 6 countries.

Republic of Korea

Korea increased a 9% its ODA budget to meet the six recipient countries' acute humanitarian needs, namely Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Lao PDR, and Syria. It also continued its flexible funding to WFP in 2021.

³⁵ For more information on the Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture - France's strategy visit: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2019/article/food-security-nutrition-and-sustainable-agriculture-france-s-strategy-22-oct-19#sommaire_3

Luxembourg

Luxembourg has made a long-term commitment towards flexible humanitarian funding instruments, such as CERF, CBPF, DREF, and IRA, continually increasing its contribution towards these funds as part of its multiannual Strategic Partnership Framework. Through these, Luxembourg's Humanitarian Action supports not only a quick and efficient response to urgent crises but also maintains funding towards protracted and "forgotten" crises. Luxembourg also continued to support activities aimed at preventing food insecurity, while at the same time building the capacity of national actors as first responders in crisis-affected countries, thus also reinforcing the localisation of the humanitarian response. Furthermore, Luxembourg continued to support its partners to meet the needs of vulnerable people, with a view to strengthening a coordinated and coherent humanitarian, the HDP nexus, while still making sure however that a distinction between these three pillars is maintained in fragile contexts.

Russian Federation

Besides direct nutrition supplies, Russia finances long-lasting projects at the junction of aid and development. In particular, several projects on developing sustainable school feeding systems in partner countries are being implemented with Russia's financial and WFP's expert support.

Slovenia

Slovenia reaffirmed its commitment to earmark at least one contribution per year to CERF. In addition, Slovenia increased its support for food-assistance and access to drinking water activities, implemented bilaterally. It has supported three additional multi-year projects in Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan.

Spain

As a supporter of the UN Security Council Resolution 2417 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, Spain paid particular attention to gather information and raise awareness to prevent hunger to be used as a weapon. Spain allocated funds to Action Against Hunger for a set of reports on the interlinked causes of hunger and conflict, starting with Syria.

Sweden

Sweden allocated more than half of its total contribution to WFP in 2021 to multi-year core, un-earmarked funding, most of which was channelled through Sweden's strategic partnership agreement for 2018-2021.

Switzerland

Switzerland takes a holistic approach to address global food security challenges, combining humanitarian aid, development cooperation, multilateral instruments, diplomatic measures and peace building initiatives, wherever feasible, and providing timely and predictable funding.

In 2021, Switzerland increased the share of multi-year, flexible and un-earmarked funding as well as its contribution to UN CNPF. As an observer state of WFP's Executive Board in 2021, Switzerland remained actively involved in informal consultations and sessions, playing a leadership role in supporting the implementation of WFP's policy on Protection and Accountability to Affected Population. It maintained the focus of its engagement on specific thematic priorities such as resilience building and DRR.

United States

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) created in June 2020 the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), bringing together the vast experience and resources of USAID's Offices of Food for Peace (FFP) and U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). BHA's creation eliminated the artificial distinction between emergency food and non-food responses, and enables USAID to deliver assistance more efficiently and effectively. In 2021, USAID continued work towards the full stand up of BHA, focusing on building the needed capacity to meet the magnitude, political complexity, and protracted nature of emergencies which create an even more challenging humanitarian relief landscape. USAID also continued work to modernise and streamline humanitarian assistance through process improvements, investments in the international system, and building staff capacity. It continued its emphasis on localization, building capacity both internally and in local organizations throughout the world to utilize United States Government funding to implement humanitarian programming. In doing so, USAID strengthened its role as the lead federal coordinator for international disaster assistance.

After three phases spanning twelve years, the Food Aid Quality Review mechanism came to an end in July 2021. The mechanism provided USAID and the food assistance and food security community with upgraded specialized nutritious foods; enhanced understanding of the implications of production choices (packaging, formulation, etc.); evidence from field studies trialling products in prevention and treatment programs; dialogue and knowledge-sharing for policy and program impact; and tools for cost-effectiveness, quality assurance, and supply chain optimization. Although initially focused on improved food assistance products, the scope of the mechanism evolved to better guide USAID in achieving greater nutrition impact through its food assistance programming. That evolution brought work to improve production, product choice, shipping, delivery, and programming.

The Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning (IDEAL) activity, supported by USAID, hosted a multi-day online event that brought the food security community together to share and learn from one another about the most promising food security adaptations and lessons learned during the pandemic. The event was an opportunity for emergency and nonemergency implementers of USAID-funded activities to explore four thematic areas: 1) empowered and informed decision-making, 2) challenges and opportunities in a virtual world, 3) localization and collaboration, and 4) risk communication and community engagement. The event attracted more than 1,000 registrants and more than 500 live session attendees representing 76 countries and 230 organisations.

6.2 School feeding programmes

School feeding programmes contribute to several objectives: better nutrition of children, higher school attendance and sustainable livelihoods, particularly when food is locally purchased from smallholders.

Several FAC Parties supported school meal programmes in 2021:

- France supported school feeding in Afghanistan, Algeria, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Venezuela.
- Japan supported school feeding programmes through WFP in countries such as Burundi, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Mali and the Republic of Congo.
- Korea financed WFP to purchase Korean rice to be distributed through school feeding programmes in Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Lao PDR and Syria.
- Russia supported school feeding programmes in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Nicaragua and Cuba and provided technical assistance to develop school feeding systems in Mozambique and Jordan.
- Finland stresses the importance of school meal programmes in both development and humanitarian settings. Finland provided funds to WFP's school meals programmes, divided between Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Somalia in 2021 and Finland's core funding for WFP can also be used for this purpose.
- Luxembourg provides funding to WFP school feeding programme in Mali.
- The US supported Republic of Congo, Honduras and Cambodia, among other countries through the McGovern-Dole project's school meals distribution in 2021.

ANNEX 1

