



**Food Assistance Committee**  
**Comité de l'assistance alimentaire**

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**FAC PRESS RELEASE**

**Food Assistance Convention: 2018 Annual Narrative Report**

Global emergency hunger remained at its highest level in 2018. This persistence of food crises was in large part due to multiple, ongoing humanitarian crises linked to violent conflicts, often exacerbated by drought and economic instability, increasingly exposing millions of people to hunger. The Global Report on Food Crises 2019 indicated that more than **113 million people** in **53 countries** faced hunger. The worst food crises occurred in Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, and northern Nigeria. The increase in large-scale crises that occurred simultaneously in 2018 sadly underscored the ongoing relevance of the **Food Assistance Convention (FAC)**.

The Convention represents a continued commitment by its sixteen Member States to contribute to global food security and to strengthen the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situation and to save lives, reduce hunger and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations. To achieve these goals, all members fulfilled their obligations of USD 3.15 billion, with parties substantially exceeding their commitments up to a total of **USD 5 billion** supporting global food security. Key responses were carried out by the United Nations (UN), the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) and international and national Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) to support people in need in emergency affected countries.

In 2018, the Member States were involved in **International Pledging Conferences** to mobilize further resources due to the still alarming levels of crises affected food insecure people for instance in Syria and its neighbouring countries as well as in DRC. The field mission to Uganda concluded that the broad spectrum of programmes was well designed, with a strong emphasis on complementing each other's programmes and embracing immediate food assistance and longer-term resilience of refugees and host communities. To ensure the alignment with existing humanitarian coordination mechanisms, the FAC Member States also linked up with the World Bank's (WB) efforts to set up the **Famine Action Mechanisms (FAM)**.

The parties underscored the importance of respecting the **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, humanitarian principles and humanitarian space and set a particular focus on **crosscutting themes** such as disaster risk reduction and climate sustainability, protection, gender equality, the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and accountability to affected populations. This informed new policies with a potential to transform the sector.

For the full report please see <https://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/en/reports.aspx>.

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