



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# 2017



**FOOD FOR PEACE**  
YEAR IN REVIEW



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# A Message from the Director

In FY 2017, the world confronted massive humanitarian crises, which demanded an immediate, substantial and creative response. Early in FY 2017, FEWS NET warned that an unprecedented 70 million people across 45 countries would need emergency food assistance due to persistent conflict, severe drought and economic instability. Six months later, they revised that estimate to 81 million people as conditions worsened. In the last days of the fiscal year, the UN reported that for the first time in over a decade global hunger increased, rising to 815 million people, largely due to violent conflict and climate-related shocks. This alarming trend will likely carry over into 2018.

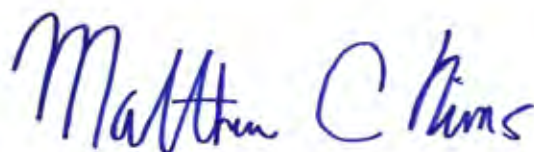
Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in February, and three other countries—Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen—faced the threat of famine, putting more than 20 million people at risk of dire food insecurity. Famines are rare and we do not use the term lightly, requiring extreme conditions before a famine is declared. It is worth noting that famine is not caused by a lack of agricultural production—staple food production was average or above average in 2017—but a lack of access to food by those who need it, usually caused by a convergence of conflict and natural disasters. Thankfully, with FEWS NET's forewarning and additional funding, FFP helped roll back the South Sudan famine declaration and averted famine in Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen in FY 2017—a tremendous feat.

People naturally think of food when responding to famine, but the provision of safe drinking water, health care and proper sanitation and hygiene are also critical during these crises to fight illnesses like cholera and diarrhea. Hunger weakens people's immune systems, making largely preventable and treatable afflictions deadly. To holistically combat famine in 2017, we worked in close collaboration with our colleagues in OFDA to respond. A coordinated response was crucial in Yemen, which simultaneously faced the world's largest food security emergency and worst cholera outbreak. Together with OFDA, FFP ensured that the United States' humanitarian response was a comprehensive multi-sectoral one—an effort that we plan to deepen in 2018.

FFP responded to more than these four major crises in 2017. Historic droughts exacerbated by El Niño dried up harvests in southern Africa's breadbasket, the strongest and costliest hurricane season hit the Caribbean, and an unprecedented influx of Burmese refugees ended the fiscal year in Bangladesh.

But what we really want to do is prevent hunger and malnutrition in the first place. Which is why we work to equip people with the knowledge and tools to feed themselves, reducing the need for future food assistance. As Administrator Green has said, "I believe the purpose of foreign assistance should be ending its need to exist."

Historic funding from Congress enabled a growing team at FFP to respond to the incredible food insecurity in 2017. Those who work within our office have always been hard-working, passionate and creative, but a larger staff increased our capacity and allowed us to accomplish more this year than any other time in our 64 years. We do not do this work alone; we need all our partners and other donors to help fight back famine. But I am especially grateful for the committed staff that serve in FFP. They represent hope to those in need and bring the generosity of the American people directly to ordinary people in desperate situations.



Matthew C. Nims, Acting Director, Food for Peace

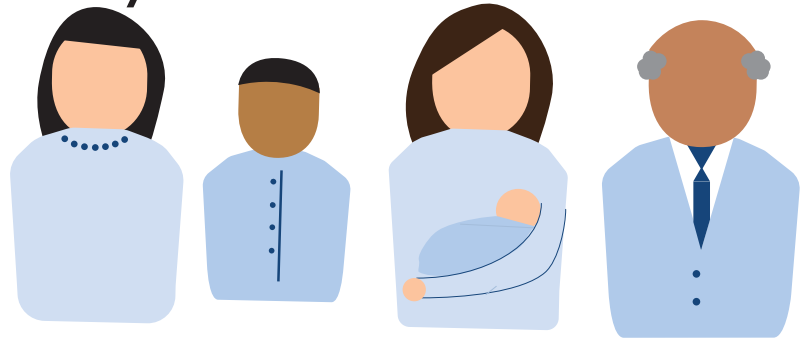


# 2017 by the Numbers

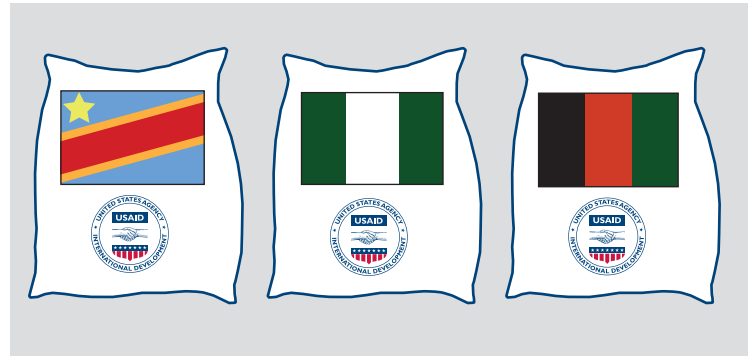
## YEAR IN REVIEW

In FY 2017, we reached nearly 70 million beneficiaries in 53 countries!

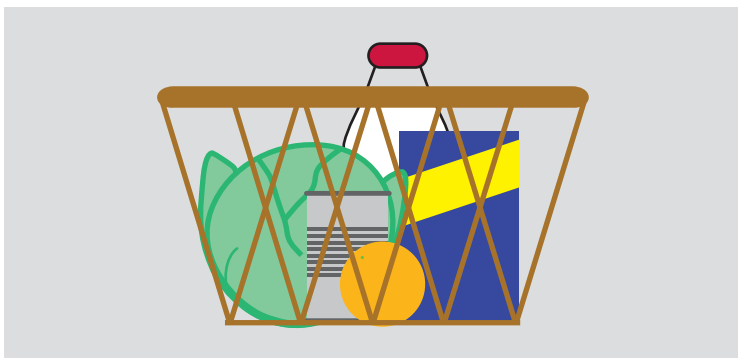
We did this by...



Buying **1.4m** metric tons of food from American farmers.



Buying food from local farmers in **42** countries, helping neighbors feed neighbors.



Providing people in **50** countries with cash transfers or food vouchers so that they could buy groceries in their local markets.

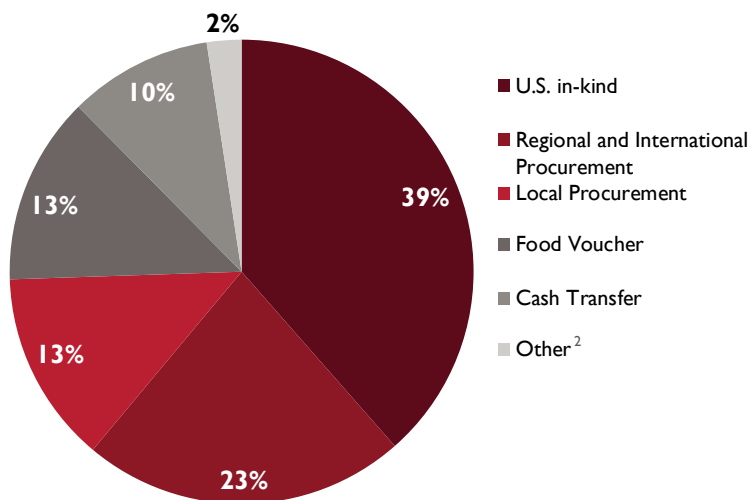


And partnering with **72** organizations and the American people to help end hunger around the world.

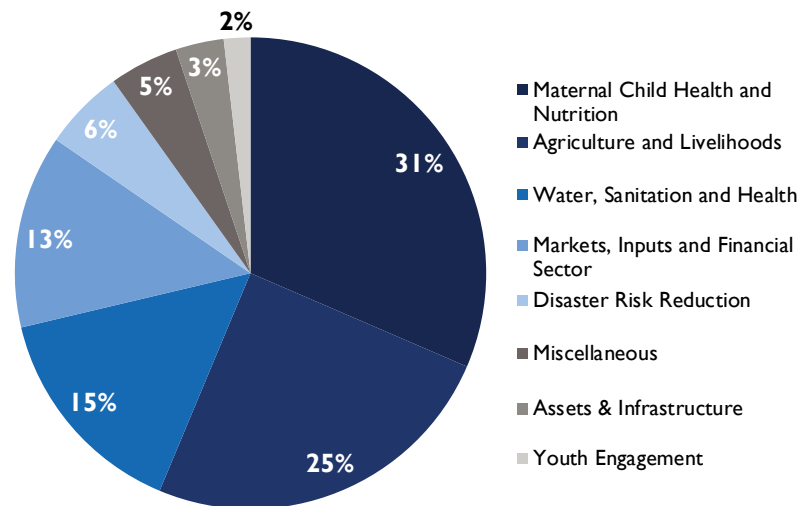
Type of Assistance	Largest Responses
Development Food Assistance	Ethiopia, DRC, Niger, Bangladesh, Uganda
Emergency Food Assistance	South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia
<b>Total Food Assistance</b>	<b>South Sudan, Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia</b>

Food Assistance by Funding Account	Value (\$mil)	Metric Tons	Countries <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Development Food Assistance</b>	<b>\$470.2</b>	<b>279,431</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Development Food Aid (Title II)</i>	<i>\$392.2</i>	<i>279,431</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Community Development Funds (CDF)</i>	<i>\$73.9</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Economic Support Funds (ESF)</i>	<i>\$4.2</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Total Emergency Food Assistance</b>	<b>\$3,145.9</b>	<b>2,845,238</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>International Food Relief Partnership (Title II)</i>	<i>\$6.8</i>	<i>1,508</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Emergency Food Assistance (Title II)</i>	<i>\$1,229.1</i>	<i>1,130,083</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Emergency Food Security Program (IDA)</i>	<i>\$1,910.0</i>	<i>1,713,646</i>	<i>46</i>
<b>Total Food Assistance</b>	<b>\$3,615.0</b>	<b>3,124,669</b>	<b>53</b>

Emergency Food Assistance by Modality



Development Food Assistance by Activity

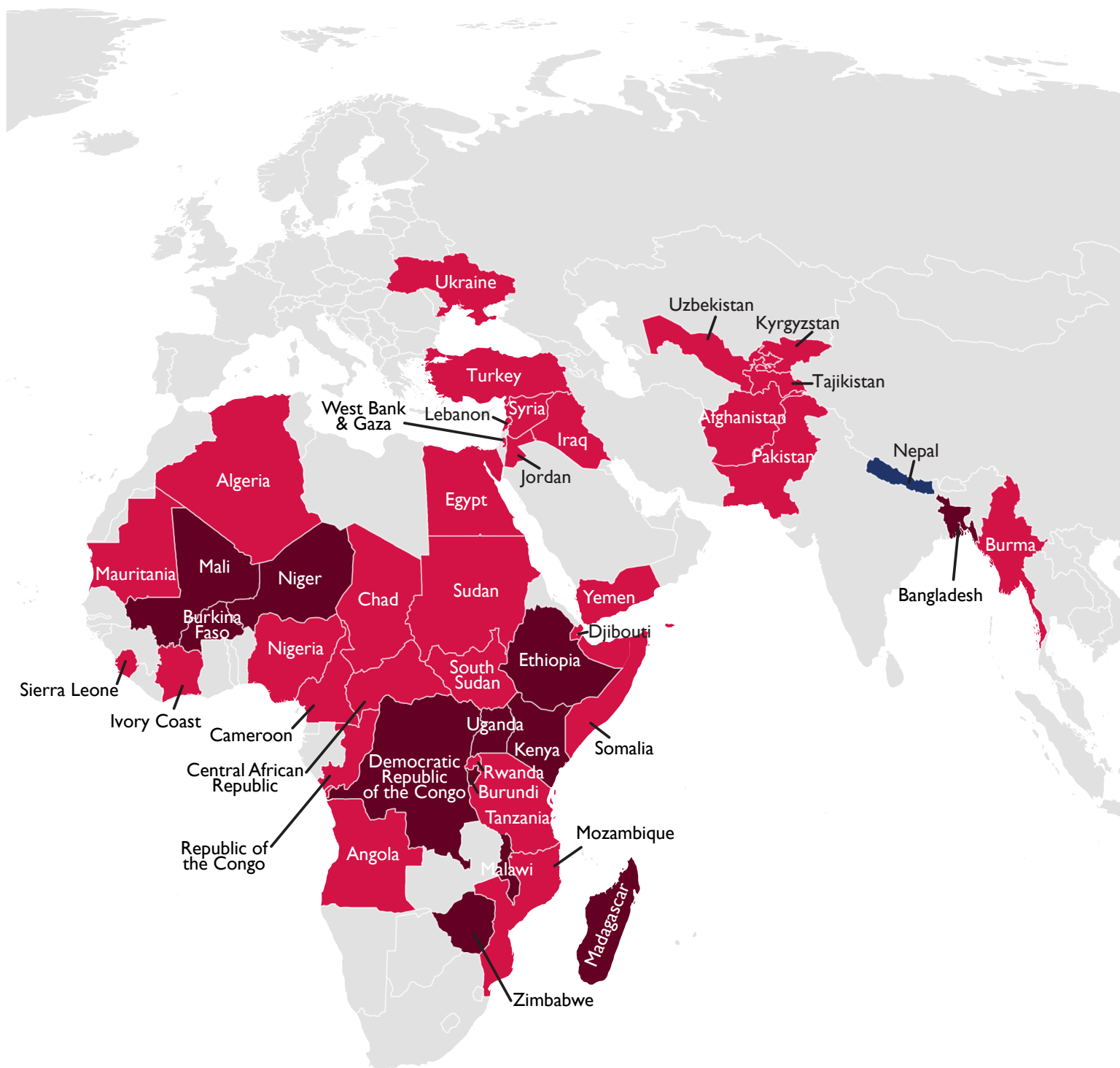


<sup>1</sup>The total number of countries is not the sum of countries by funding account because many programs overlap geographically and each country is only counted once.

<sup>2</sup>Other operations included twinning, complementary services, monitoring and evaluation, etc.

# FY 2017 FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAMS





# FFP Leadership

## Food Assistance Convention

Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 marked the second year that USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) Acting Director Matthew Nims chaired the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) on behalf of the United States Government. The FAC is a multilateral group of 15 humanitarian donors that seeks to end hunger while improving the nutritional status and food security of vulnerable populations through cooperation, coordination and annual funding commitments. Under U.S. leadership, FAC members coordinated on key crises in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan and regions impacted by El Niño, and in 2016 provided assistance in 85 countries that totaled more than \$3 billion—the largest FAC commitment to date. The United States also brought FAC members together for a first-ever joint field visit, with a multi-country delegation travelling to Haiti to explore food security issues and observe field operations in June 2016. Furthermore, under FFP's leadership the FAC issued joint press releases on major crises and funding pledges—a first for the group that demonstrated the commitment of members to act together to respond to crises.

As the United States prepared to step down as FAC Chair toward the end of FY 2017, FFP worked with incoming chair Japan to continue coordination among FAC members, including through another joint field visit planned for 2018.



# A First Responder in Republic of the Congo

In April 2016, conflict erupted in Pool Department, an area in southeastern Republic of the Congo. By June 2017, humanitarian actors recorded 80 armed attacks in the department. The violence drove 81,000 Congolese people from their homes—a six-fold increase in the internally displaced person (IDP) population in southeastern Republic of the Congo from the previous year—and cut them off from their fields, livelihoods and support systems. In Pool and neighboring Bouenza Department, displaced children faced an acute malnutrition emergency and more than half of displaced households were food-insecure, according to a joint assessment by the Government of the Republic of the Congo and the UN.

FFP responded quickly to these urgent needs. One of the first donors to contribute funding to meet the food needs of conflict-affected populations, FFP partnered with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to distribute regionally procured food assistance to more than 11,500 food-insecure people in Pool and Bouenza.

FFP prioritized activities to reach populations susceptible to or suffering from acute malnutrition. Additional FFP support enabled WFP to dispatch nearly 700 metric tons of specialized nutrition products, treating and preventing acute malnutrition for 13,100 children and 14,600 pregnant and lactating women. By empowering WFP to purchase food regionally, FFP ensured that the UN agency would be able to assist Congolese families swiftly. In addition, FFP's support to WFP helped rally other donors: following FFP's initial donation, others—including the European Commission and China—followed suit and reinforced WFP's resources, providing a much-needed lifeline to vulnerable and food-insecure Congolese households. In August, the U.S. Ambassador in the country issued a disaster declaration, enabling USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to complement FFP's efforts with relief assistance to vulnerable populations in the area.



# RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS



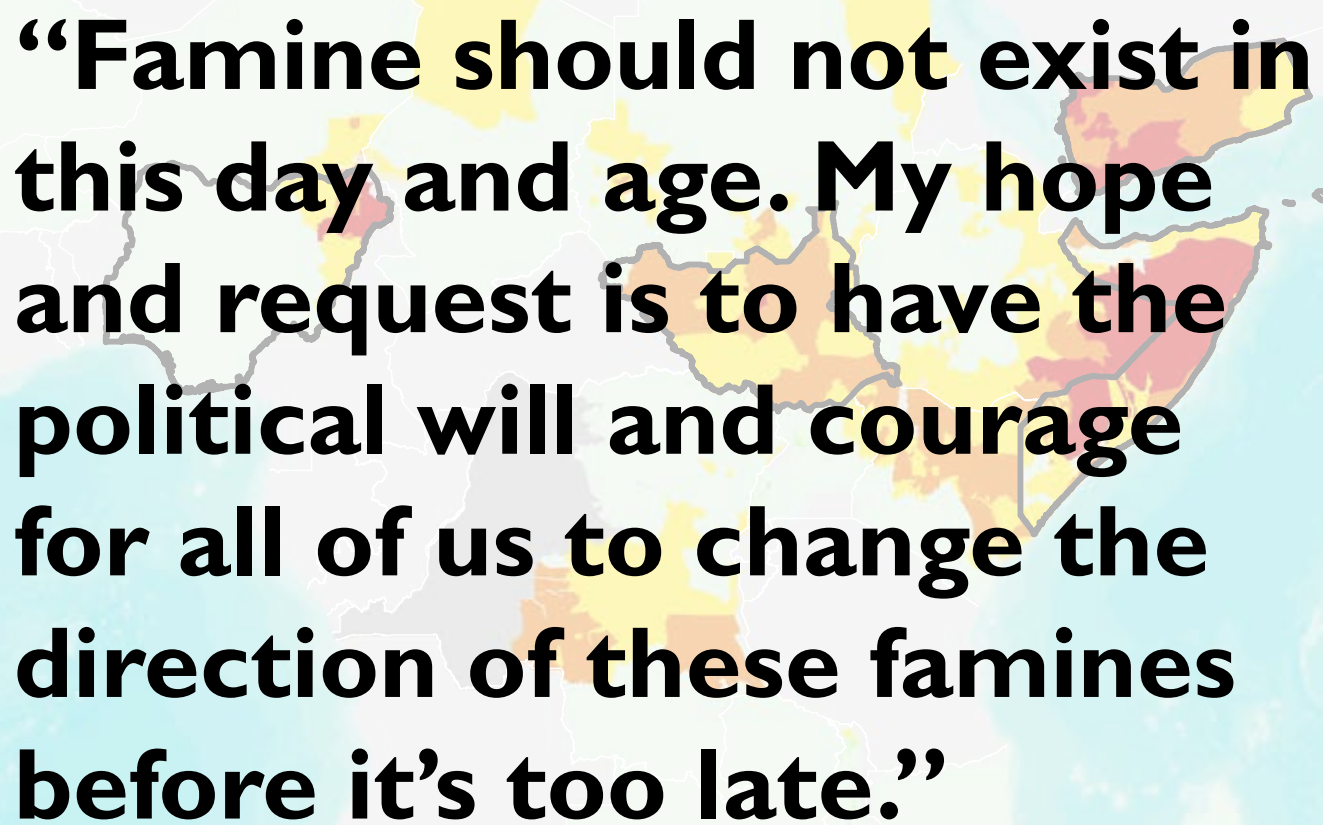
# CONFLICT

Of the 815 million undernourished people around the world in 2017, more than half—489 million—lived in countries affected by conflict. Conflict prevented farmers from planting and harvesting crops, robbing them of their livelihoods and later robbing others of food to eat. It prevented people from reaching markets, making the available food inaccessible. At the same time, insecurity limited humanitarian access to those who needed our help the most. In FY 2017, FFP used more than one-third of its emergency funding to support people affected by protracted conflict in just three countries: South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In addition, FFP provided life-saving food assistance to people impacted by localized conflict, like in the Kasais region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and by regional insecurity, such as in the Boko Haram-affected Lake Chad Basin.

# Four Countries Facing Famine

In FY 2017, persistent violent conflict in four countries—Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen—left 23 million people at risk of severe hunger or starvation. Millions were displaced, and millions more were trapped as conflict raged around them, tearing people from their families and disrupting harvests and markets. In Somalia, prolonged conflict exacerbated ongoing drought, forcing people from their homes, disrupting livelihoods, and increasing families' vulnerability to exploitation and violence. These were not the only humanitarian crises in 2017, but they were so vast they became known as the “four countries facing famine.”

The United States was the largest food assistance donor to all four crises, through FFP, delivering an unprecedented \$1.4 billion to Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. As a result of these efforts, the U.S. helped roll back the famine declaration in South Sudan and averted famine in Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, saving millions of lives.



**“Famine should not exist in this day and age. My hope and request is to have the political will and courage for all of us to change the direction of these famines before it’s too late.”**

*- Nikki Haley, United States Ambassador to the UN*

# Nigeria

Prolonged conflict perpetuated by Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria devastated livelihoods, disrupted markets and decreased harvests, exacerbating hunger in the region. In December 2016, food security experts warned that a famine had likely occurred earlier that year in a hard-to-reach area of northeast Nigeria's Borno State. A food security analysis in March 2017 projected that approximately 5.2 million people—more than a third of the region's total population—in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states would face life-threatening hunger during the summer lean season.



By the end of FY 2017, the insurgency had displaced approximately 1.9 million Nigerians within the country or as refugees in neighboring countries, cutting them off from their fields, jobs and support systems. For people like Ramatu\*, a widowed mother who fled her hometown with her family after her husband died in a bomb blast, humanitarian assistance was critical to meeting her family's daily requirements. FFP responded comprehensively and rapidly to the dire food needs of Ramatu and others like her, placing itself at the vanguard of the fight against famine in northeast Nigeria.

As humanitarian access in northeast Nigeria improved in FY 2017, FFP empowered partners—including WFP and multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—to rapidly scale up emergency food assistance, reaching more people with life-saving aid. At the beginning of the fiscal year, WFP reached approximately 160,000 people with food assistance. With FFP support, the UN agency expanded its reach as FY 2017 progressed: between December 2016 and August 2017, WFP assisted more than 1 million people in eight out of nine months, and in September 2017 alone provided in-kind or market-based food assistance to nearly 1.3 million people. Together, WFP and FFP's NGO partners reached more than three-quarters of September's total emergency food assistance caseload in northeast Nigeria.

For people like Ramatu, who lived in areas with functioning markets, FFP assistance came largely in the form of electronic food vouchers. Ramatu redeemed those vouchers in exchange for items in nearby stores—supporting local vendors and enabling her to choose the nutritious food that best met her family's needs. The first time she used a voucher, she said, “I was so happy. I danced when I got home, telling my children and grandchildren that our days of hunger have gone.”

As the fiscal year ended, significant food needs persisted in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, and a credible risk of famine still gripped populations in areas inaccessible to relief assistance. However, FFP planned to continue leading the fight against hunger in northeast Nigeria, helping families like Ramatu's to shake the oppressive yoke of acute food insecurity.

\* Names have been changed.

# Somalia

Six years ago, famine in Somalia led to the deaths of more than 250,000 people. In December 2016, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) predicted that it could happen again in 2017. Drought and conflict led to livestock and crop losses, rising rates of malnutrition and disease, and an increased risk of famine. The number of Somalis in dire need of food assistance tripled, from 1 million to 3 million, by September 2017.

As forecasts indicated the drought would continue, the humanitarian community knew Somalia needed a timely and robust response to prevent a famine. FFP's increased contributions helped NGOs and UN partners expand in-kind food aid and cash transfers and reach more people across a larger geographic area. WFP reached 2.3 million beneficiaries in September 2017, up from 600,000 a year earlier, in part because of FFP resources.

To prevent the crisis from spreading, FFP not only provided food assistance to meet emergency needs, but also targeted assistance to vulnerable populations to increase resilience. One partner reached more than 324,000 people across 11 regions with monthly food vouchers and complementary services, such as high-performing seeds, hermetic bags to store harvests, and other farming tools to help farmers better survive future droughts.

The food vouchers allowed beneficiaries to purchase foods of their choice quickly in local markets, which directly supported those local operations. Farming tools helped beneficiaries diversify crops and increase yields so they could feed their families a nutritious diet and sell surpluses at market. This combination of early response and preventive assistance paid off: estimates from these activities show that for each dollar spent, households produced \$8.60 in sorghum and cowpeas and became more food secure.

FFP assistance helped women like Muna\*, a 31-year-old mother of eight who also cares for her elderly mother and ill nephew. Due to the drought, Muna relied on relatives to provide food for her children. With help from FFP, she was able to grow watermelons, onions, tomatoes, sorghum and beans. She bought enough food for her family and could also afford to pay her children's school fees. "Without the program, I honestly do not know what I would have done to face the drought because the situation was bad," Muna said. "I want my children to have a good future, better than what my husband and I have endured. I want them to get a quality education and good jobs so that they can help themselves and others."

All told, FFP provided Somalia more than \$262 million in FY 2017 in life-saving emergency food assistance to help approximately 5.7 million drought-affected Somalis. However, the risk of famine persisted at the start of FY 2018 because of relentless drought and ongoing conflict. While the overall number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is declining, the severity of hunger is increasing, particularly among IDPs, according to FEWS NET and FSNAU.

# South Sudan

South Sudan remains one of today's most severe humanitarian emergencies, as a four-year civil conflict shows no sign of abating. Famine was declared in South Sudan in February 2017, which an immense, global humanitarian response managed to stem by May. U.S. food assistance saved lives, but conditions remained dire at the end of FY 2017. More than half of the country's 12 million people faced life-threatening hunger, as conflict prevented farmers from growing crops, laborers from traveling to work, and humanitarian actors from reaching vulnerable populations.

In the midst of this complex and dangerous environment, FFP and its partners provided millions of vulnerable South Sudanese with life-saving emergency food assistance in FY 2017. In June, FFP contributed approximately 53,400 metric tons of regionally procured food to WFP. This was one of the largest regional commodity purchases ever made by USAID, and was enough food to feed approximately 3.5 million people for one month.

This single purchase for South Sudan was approximately \$14.6 million cheaper than bringing the same food in from the United States, allowing FFP to reach nearly 15 percent more people with food and possibly saving some half a million lives. Regionally purchased food arrives much faster to South Sudan than U.S. food—which can take up to six months to ship overseas and travel inland to final destinations—and can also help support farmers and vendors in regional, developing countries, encouraging economic development.

Humanitarian conditions in South Sudan continue to deteriorate because of the ongoing conflict, which left an estimated 1.5 million people still at risk of famine at the beginning of FY 2018. FFP continues to use regional food, and the cost savings, to stretch U.S. food assistance resources as far as possible to prevent catastrophe and famine.



# Yemen

In 2015, civil war broke out in Yemen when a rebel coalition launched a military offensive against the officially recognized government. By FY 2017, the ongoing conflict—spurred by the involvement of international actors on both sides—had led to the world’s largest food security emergency, with the UN reporting more than 17 million people in Yemen in need of emergency food assistance.

Even before the war began, Yemen produced only a small amount of food domestically and relied on commercial imports for the vast majority of its staple foods. The conflict hindered food imports and dramatically escalated food prices. As a result, most Yemenis could not afford to purchase the food available in local markets. Over the course of the fiscal year, food inaccessibility drove hunger to near-catastrophic levels in Yemen. The pipeline of both commercial and humanitarian imports became critical to sustaining the country’s food security and maintaining the humanitarian response.


Throughout FY 2017, FFP provided multiple forms of assistance that improved Yemenis’ access to food. None, however, proved more critical to the pipeline than U.S.-sourced in-kind food aid, including U.S. wheat, peas and vegetable oil. FFP also provided robust leadership in the international humanitarian community by serving as WFP’s primary donor, extending a lifeline for millions of Yemenis to access food in the midst of war.

While the conflict posed a difficult and complex operating environment, FFP’s continued provision of in-kind food aid enabled WFP to strengthen its food assistance pipeline. Between April and June, WFP reached an average of 4.8 million beneficiaries with some form of food assistance each month. In the final three months of FY 2017, WFP increased its average to nearly 6.5 million beneficiaries each month with food assistance, the majority of which came through in-kind food distributions.

In total, FFP contributed nearly \$260 million of U.S. in-kind food aid to WFP in Yemen throughout FY 2017, strengthening the flow of food into the country and helping prevent the emergency from tipping into famine conditions. The support included nearly 319,000 metric tons of food, sufficient to provide assistance to WFP’s target beneficiary population—which consists of the most severely food-insecure Yemenis—for nearly four months straight. As FY 2018 began, Yemen’s humanitarian needs appeared to be increasing. FFP remained committed to helping the Yemeni people for as long as the conflict hindered access to food.



# NATURAL DISASTERS



Too little water in parts of the world and too much water in others drove many of the natural disasters that struck in FY 2017. El Niño exacerbated drought conditions in southern Africa, devastating populations that had not needed food assistance in years. Multiple powerful and destructive hurricanes bookended FY 2017, devastating agriculture, interrupting food supply chains and disrupting livelihoods across several countries in the Caribbean Region.

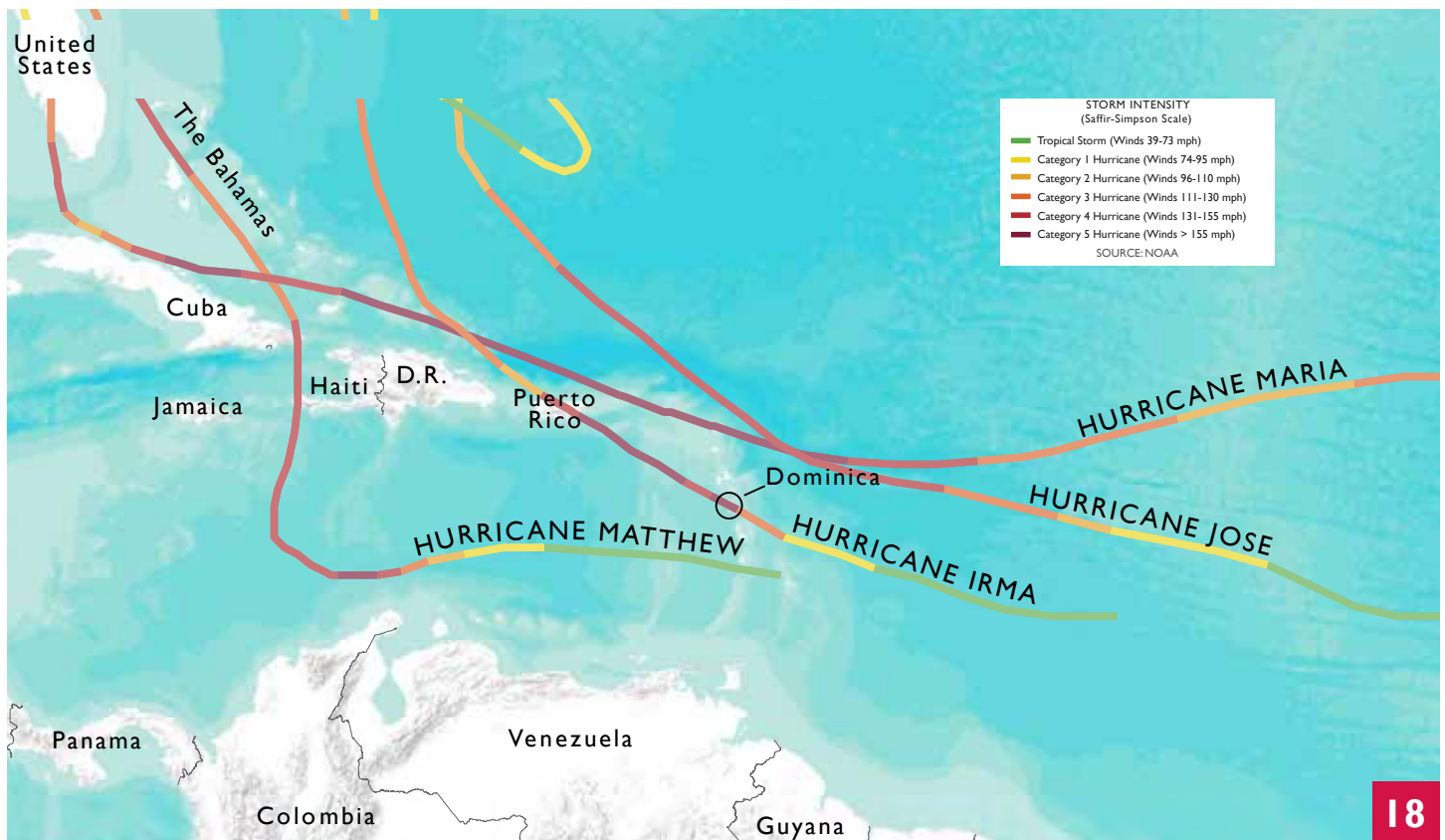
In both areas, FFP assessed the situation and provided emergency food assistance to meet households' most immediate food needs. FFP then shifted its focus to building longer-term resilience that prepares communities and governments to recover more quickly when the next disaster strikes.

# Hurricanes

In October 2016, the Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti, one of the poorest and most food-insecure countries in the Western Hemisphere. The storm devastated communities, killing more than 540 people and leaving 1.4 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Even before the storm hit Haiti, FFP directed partners to pivot resources from a pre-existing, multi-year development program to support the potential hurricane response. In the wake of the storm, FFP partnered with WFP, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE and other NGOs to provide approximately \$40.4 million in life-saving food assistance to hurricane-affected communities across the country. This assistance—including food grown in the United States and within the region, cash transfers for food, cash-for-work activities and agricultural inputs—reached more than 1 million hurricane-affected people.

As immediate humanitarian needs lessened over time, FFP focused its efforts on helping Haiti prepare for the next storm. In collaboration with OFDA, FFP supported CRS to train over 40 Haitian community-based and faith-based organizations on how to more effectively respond to emergencies. FFP also donated approximately 2,860 metric tons of emergency food assistance to WFP's contingency stocks—enough to feed more than 150,000 people for one month—that were pre-positioned in strategic locations around Haiti in preparation for future storms. Finally, FFP continued working with the Government of Haiti and CARE to develop a social safety net program that provides vulnerable households with access to nutritious, locally grown foods in times of crisis and hardship.

Toward the end of FY 2017, a series of destructive hurricanes—including Irma, Jose and Maria—jolted the Caribbean Region in quick succession. While many islands sustained damage, Saint Martin and Dominica were completely devastated. In response, FFP deployed food security technical experts to Saint Martin and Dominica as part of the USAID Disaster Emergency Response Team (DART). Once on the ground, FFP staff assessed immediate food needs and the outlook for market recovery. As the fiscal year came to a close, FFP continued to develop plans to support the hurricane response in Dominica into FY 2018.



# El Niño

Starting in 2015, a strong El Niño contributed to significant drought conditions throughout southern Africa. Malawi—a small, landlocked country in southern Africa with a vast majority of poor subsistence farmers in its population—was heavily impacted. By the beginning of 2017, 6.7 Malawians faced acute food insecurity.

In response to the El Niño-induced drought in FY 2017, FFP partnered with WFP to provide life-saving food assistance with food purchased from local and regional markets to approximately 5.1 million food-insecure Malawians. Furthermore, FFP support enabled WFP to reach more than 460,000 people with food-for-asset activities—whereby vulnerable Malawians, in exchange for food assistance, took part in activities that focused on creating household and community assets to reduce vulnerability to climatic disasters and chronic food insecurity. These activities ranged from building and restoring community access roads and afforestation to small-scale irrigation and backyard vegetable gardens, strengthening resilience and self-reliance across families and communities. In addition, FFP assisted WFP with the procurement, transportation and distribution of maize provided by the Government of Malawi.

FFP's emergency response efforts complemented its existing development programs to combat chronic food insecurity in the country. Through partners CRS and Project Concern International, FFP supported food-for-asset activities that improved child and maternal nutrition and health, established village savings and loan groups, and empowered communities through disaster risk management training.

By July 2017, the number of Malawians facing acute food insecurity declined by more than 5 million people, and food consumption had stabilized for a majority of households in the country. FFP efforts responded to a historic crisis in Malawi and, along with better rainfall and pastoral conditions, helped the Malawian people return to the path toward recovery and sustainability.



# REFUGEES



FFP provides emergency assistance to those who need it most—whether they are IDPs, host community members, refugees or other vulnerable families. In FY 2017, FFP continued supporting food-insecure refugee populations worldwide, including the 5.3 million people who have fled the Syrian crisis, the 489,000 refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Kenya, and the refugee influx into Bangladesh in late FY 2017 as Rohingya populations fled Burma.

# Bangladesh

FFP, alongside other USAID and Department of State offices, has responded to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Burma and Bangladesh for years. The Rohingya population in Burma's Rakhine State is one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. Lacking Burmese citizenship, the Rohingya face movement and marriage restrictions and lack access to healthcare, livelihood opportunities and education.

On August 25, attacks on security posts in Burma triggered military operations in Rakhine State, home to the majority of Rohingya Muslims in the country. The violence prompted more than 500,000 Rohingya refugees to flee to southeastern Bangladesh, joining more than 212,000 Rohingya who fled in previous years. Often traveling for days by foot or boat, people seeking refuge arrived hungry, exhausted and traumatized. Most arrived with few if any possessions, reliant on humanitarian assistance for food and other essential items.

FFP rapidly responded, contributing more than \$20 million in FY 2017 for food and nutrition assistance and logistical support for the humanitarian response in Burma and Bangladesh. FFP also deployed additional staff to Bangladesh to conduct rapid field assessments and provide insight for FY 2018 programmatic plans. FFP effectively responded to the world's fastest growing humanitarian crisis by quickly assessing needs, providing technical assistance and ensuring that our partners had the resources needed to scale up operations.





## Kenya

By September 2017, Kenya hosted approximately 489,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from neighboring Somalia and South Sudan—both of which continued to experience severe humanitarian crises. The majority of refugees in Kenya resided in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps or in the Kalobeyei settlement and relied entirely on humanitarian assistance.

In FY 2017, FFP provided refugees with general food distributions of cereals, pulses and oil, as well as specialized nutrition commodities for malnourished women and children. FFP also supported electronic-based food vouchers for refugees to purchase food of their choice from local vendors, with WFP ensuring that vendors offered foods at a competitive rate. Additionally, FFP provided hot school meals for refugee children, education on maternal and child health, and food-for-training programs to help refugee youth and adults gain valuable vocational skills.

FFP continually looks for opportunities to make food assistance more appropriate for the local context. In 2014, an assessment performed in the camps indicated that most refugees preferred wheat flour or other milled grains, as they are less time consuming and labor intensive to cook. However, WFP typically receives in-kind cereal contributions from donors in the form of whole grains, as they are significantly less expensive to purchase and transport.

In Dadaab and Kakuma, host community members and refugees have established numerous local milling businesses that provide safe, quality services and employment opportunities to both refugees and the local community. To respond to the refugees' preference for milled grains and to support this important livelihood activity, FFP decided to provide refugees milling vouchers in FY 2017.

These vouchers allowed refugees to mill approximately half of their cereal rations at a competitive price from one of the 80 vendors in the two camps. Millers received the electronic transfer immediately—a critical element of the program, as millers often have limited access to credit themselves, and this arrangement avoided delays in paying milling staff and covering other operating costs.

FFP not only provided a nutritious basket of foods to refugees: through the milling voucher, FFP created opportunities that supported income generation and livelihoods for refugees and host communities. This also allowed refugees the dignity of consuming foods they preferred. In FY 2017, FFP was the largest donor to the WFP refugee response in Kenya, contributing nearly \$37 million in assistance, including 28,450 metric tons of U.S.-grown, in-kind food.



USAID

# SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE PROGRAMS



## TURKEY

For Syrian refugees in Turkey, WFP's electronic voucher (e-card) program provided much-needed nutrition and a sense of belonging, giving children like Ahmad and his two brothers life-saving nutrition. Prior to receiving assistance this band of brothers longed for their favorite vegetable—corn—but it cost too much; with FFP support, the family purchased corn, as well as other nutrient-rich items. FFP's continued support to WFP provided e-card assistance to some 150,000 displaced Syrians across 10 Turkish camps in FY 2017. Since 2012, WFP distributions have injected \$386 million into the Turkish economy through cash-based transfers.



## LEBANON

Rajaa, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon and mother of six, takes feeding her family traditional, time-honored Syrian recipes very seriously. But in an environment where basic needs have become a luxury, this is incredibly challenging. WFP's e-card program gave Rajaa and her fellow refugees access to more than 500 shops nationwide. In FY 2017, her e-card helped Rajaa buy everything she needed for her family's favorite Syrian meals, and provided a bit of familiar comfort in the midst of incredibly difficult circumstances. Through FFP's support, WFP reached approximately 680,000 Syrian refugees with e-cards. The program has injected an estimated \$1.06 billion dollars into the Lebanese economy, providing new jobs and new revenue to food retailers, traders, and producers, and reducing some of the economic burden for host communities.



## EGYPT

Prior to WFP's e-card program in Egypt, refugees had to travel incredibly long, arduous distances to food distribution sites. The cost and time required for this travel created safety and financial burdens for an already vulnerable community. With the e-card program, WFP gave Syrian refugees in Egypt access to 50 local markets, reducing commuting times and increasing safety. The UN agency reached a monthly caseload of over 75,000 Syrian refugees. Through the use of e-cards, WFP distributions have injected \$116 million into local economies.

**EGYPT**  
**\$10.8M**

**TURKEY**  
**\$11.7M**



## IRAQ

With high levels of conflict in Iraq and a rise in IDPs, WFP's e-card program was crucial in providing Syrian refugees access to food without taxing the local economy. WFP reached 56,000 Syrian refugees living in Iraq with assistance each month. In 2017, WFP supported refugees in nine camps in northern Iraq with its e-card program.

**SYRIA**  
**\$234.4M**

**LEBANON**  
**\$90.5M**

**IRAQ**  
**\$2.5M**

**JORDAN**  
**\$51.9M**



## JORDAN

WFP implemented cutting-edge technology to scan the iris of beneficiaries, using Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) biometric registration data from refugees. WFP's system, the first in the history of humanitarian assistance, enhances the safety of the refugees, increases efficacy of the e-card program, and mitigates fraud. In FY 2017 WFP provided support to 500,000 refugees through e-cards and a small in-kind food distribution. The program generated significant benefits for the Jordanian economy, creating jobs in supermarkets and local shops, food wholesalers, and food producers, and generating tax revenue. WFP's program works with more than 200 partner shops.

Beyond supporting Syrian refugees in neighboring host countries, WFP also supported approximately 3 million people inside Syria. WFP provided IDPs with ready-to-eat rations and other extremely vulnerable Syrians with bread and food baskets. Additionally, WFP-funded programs provided Syrian bakeries with flour to make bread, keeping prices reasonably low and boosting local economies.

# DEVELOPMENT



Recognizing that repeatedly responding to emergencies will not end hunger and increase long-term food security, FFP plays a unique role in bridging the gap between crisis and stability by addressing the root causes of food insecurity, helping individuals and communities withstand future crises and laying the foundation for stable, inclusive growth. Ultimately, FFP promotes a path to self-reliance and reduces the need for future food assistance.

In FY 2017, FFP invested \$470 million in multi-year, non-emergency food assistance activities that focused on building resilience among vulnerable populations by addressing the underlying issues of chronic hunger and poverty. FFP and partners chose activities, such as initiatives focused on agriculture and maternal and child health, based on consultations with local communities and stakeholders so that efforts reflected local contexts and need.

# Agricultural Productivity

In many of the food-insecure communities in which FFP works, households—who often rely on agriculture for livelihoods—are vulnerable to severe weather, deteriorating natural resources, pests and diseases, and have limited access to innovative agricultural techniques, financial services, or agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilizer.

In Burkina Faso, FFP worked to improve local agricultural productivity among local farmers, providing seeds and tools and teaching best practices in farming and crop storage. As a result, 7,650 farmers—half of whom were women—improved more than 3,500 hectares of degraded land, in part through soil and water conservation. In addition, a significant number of Burkinabe farmers increased their revenue through their newly acquired improved farming practices.

FFP took a different approach in Sierra Leone and used kitchen gardens to promote nutrient-rich food and dietary diversity in a multi-year program concluding in FY 2017. FFP partners identified, trained and supported 45 women's vegetable groups in Sierra Leone's Koinadugu and Kailahun districts, providing tools and seeds for shared vegetable plots. The resulting abundant harvests enabled women to feed their families and sell surplus crops in local markets—generating nearly \$200 per household in revenue during at least two different years of the program.

## Maternal & Child Nutrition & Health

The first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday are when the most rapid and important cognitive and physical development takes place. FFP seizes upon that window of opportunity with nutrition and health interventions aimed at making a substantial impact on early child development.

In Burkina Faso, FFP improved pre- and postnatal care through targeted food assistance and healthcare. In Gayéri and Tougouri departments, women who attended prenatal medical consultations received U.S. in-kind food aid, leading to a 20 percent increase in the number of mothers who gave birth in health centers. FFP also recruited “Mother Leaders” who served as community leaders, encouraging other women to adopt best practices like exclusive breastfeeding, giving birth at local health centers, and seeking postnatal medical care. This approach led to a 15 percent reduction in underweight children under two and better use of sanitation facilities, health services, and diets for pregnant women and new mothers.

Similarly, in Sierra Leone FFP provided food assistance to mothers who attended health and nutrition education trainings. The program also offered mothers the tools they needed to screen their children for signs of malnutrition, including Mid-Upper Arm Circumference tapes. After five years, among populations reached by the program the number of underweight children had decreased by 5.5 percent, while the number of acutely malnourished children had decreased by 3 percent. By empowering mothers to recognize malnutrition and seek treatment for their children, FFP helped to ensure that the next generation of Sierra Leoneans led healthy and productive lives.

# Ethiopia

Ethiopia has long been one of the most chronically food-insecure countries in Africa. Traditionally, FFP food assistance programs in Ethiopia exclusively provided rations of wheat and split peas. In January, FFP began a pilot program in northwest Ethiopia, using electronic cash transfers to support economic development in poor, rural communities. FFP's pilot supported approximately 34,000 vulnerable people in one of Ethiopia's most food-insecure regions, in partnership with Food for the Hungry. Beneficiaries worked five days per month on local infrastructure projects that benefited the community. In exchange, they received monthly electronic cash transfers primarily via mobile phone networks. The pilot is part of the larger Productive Safety Net Program—led by the Government of Ethiopia and supported by USAID and other donors—that targets 8 million chronically food-insecure people.

Beneficiaries reported that the regular, instantaneous mobile cash transfers reassured them they would receive a reliable amount of assistance at regular intervals to feed their families. This increased their confidence to invest in their own productive assets, such as investments in buying livestock, sending children to school, or starting small-scale businesses, which otherwise might have been too risky to consider. These assets helped families increase their income and become less reliant on the social safety net.

The pilot stimulated the local economy by encouraging participants to purchase from local vendors in community markets. FFP also collaborated with private Ethiopian cellphone service providers that managed the money distribution platform, which further supported the Ethiopian economy.

Finally, through this program, FFP increased financial inclusion by helping families in rural communities access formal banking systems and incentivizing private financial institutions to make services more accessible. Due to the success of this pilot, FFP plans to expand this program in FY 2018 to support twice the number of Ethiopians.



# Credits

The FFP FY 2017 Year in Review was written and produced by Jessica Hartl and Maggie Moore of FFP, and by Sarah Cohen, Suzanne Cunningham, Ben Fain, Andy Hall, Antonia Haber, Katie Hartin, Victoria Johnson, Agnes O'Hanlon, Mimi Price, Molly Rossi, Stephanie Siegel and Julian Wyss of Macfadden & Associates (now part of PAE). Maps created by Victoria Johnson.

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

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

Fact sheets and other documents are also available on OCHA's ReliefWeb:

<http://www.reliefweb.int>



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