

2025 Submission Revised (800 words)

Meeting Urgent Needs While Laying the Foundation for Sustainable Pathways Out of Poverty

- WFP contributes to eradicating poverty and hunger by addressing vulnerability, food insecurity, malnutrition, and inequality through emergency programming that enable people to meet their urgent, essential needs. In 2024, WFP provided direct assistance to nearly 125 million people, including 90 million through life-saving humanitarian support.
- WFP's emergency programming is grounded in the principle of addressing immediate needs (saving lives) while laying the foundation for sustainable pathways out of poverty and hunger (changing lives). WFP leverages its extensive supply chain systems and partnerships to deliver essential goods and services during emergencies, including bulk and specialized nutritious food for humanitarian and safety net programmes. WFP adapts its coordination, leadership, strategy and business models to ensure that service provision is fast, scalable and ready for future conflict, climate, economic and health emergencies.
- In parallel, WFP works with national and subnational stakeholders to strengthen national systems so that countries are better equipped to prevent and respond to emergencies. This includes strengthening social protection systems and programmes, anticipatory action, early warning and hazard analysis, optimized supply chains, and disaster risk governance, each a foundational element of effective poverty reduction in fragile and risk-prone settings.
- By strengthening national capacity to address food insecurity and malnutrition and its immediate and underlying causes, WFP is able reach more people and create more long-term, more sustainable impact. For example, as a result of WFP's engagement in country capacity strengthening in 2024, 18 countries enhanced the design and delivery at scale of their national programmes for protecting their populations from hunger and malnutrition.

Strengthening Livelihoods and Resilience to Shocks

- WFP works climate-affected settings to support sustainable, adaptable livelihoods, which is critical for resilience and long-term poverty reduction. WFP assisted **1.9 million smallholder farmers in 51 countries** in 2024, helping to strengthen value chains, improve post-harvest management, and expand market access, in line with national development plans. WFP also engages smallholders as suppliers, supporting their integration into formal markets and driving improvements in agricultural productivity. In 2024, WFP procured 4.4 percent of the food it purchased from smallholder farmers (88,000 metric tons). These efforts address the root causes of vulnerability among smallholders, who often depend on low-productivity, subsistence farming and are disproportionately affected by climate and economic stressors.
- WFP also works with partners to restore degraded land and enhance food availability, nutrition, and resilience to economic shocks—reducing long-term reliance on humanitarian assistance. Through the Sahel Integrated Resilience Programme, WFP has supported communities in adapting to ecosystem degradation and other vulnerabilities. The programme has reached over 4 million people across more than 3,200 villages,

rehabilitated 290,000 hectares of degraded land, and strengthened communities' ability to withstand seasonal shocks and stressors in a sustainable manner.

- To protect lives and livelihoods ahead of predictable climate events, WFP provided anticipatory action and disaster risk financing to a combined **12.2 million people** in 2024. By leveraging forecasting technologies and early warning systems, WFP enabled at-risk communities to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather. For instance, in Nepal, families who received anticipatory cash assistance experienced less hunger, improved mental health, and fewer missed meals compared to those who received support only after flooding.¹

Investing in Human Capital Through Social Protection, Nutrition and School Feeding

- Poverty is increasingly driven by compounding shocks including conflict, climate, and rising living costs. Social protection plays a key role in mitigating these impacts, fostering inclusive growth, and supporting food and nutrition security. WFP supports governments to strengthen the design, coverage and nutrition-sensitivity of their national social protection systems, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings. In 2024, WFP supported governments in 63 countries in enhancing the effectiveness of national social protection programmes, indirectly contributing to better social protection coverage for 874 million people in 24 countries.
- To build human capital and break the cycle of poverty, WFP prioritizes nutrition support to vulnerable groups. In 2024, WFP reached more than **27 million** people in 55 countries with nutrition services, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children under 5 who were at high risk of malnutrition, one of the most significant barriers to health, education, and economic participation. These interventions play a critical role in improving long-term wellbeing and supporting inclusive development.
- In 2024, WFP indirectly reached **119 million** children by enabling governments to establish or expand their national school meal programmes. Where needed, WFP directly implemented school feeding activities. These efforts not only address children's immediate nutritional needs and support education outcomes, but also help build more equitable food systems. Home-grown school feeding models further benefit smallholder farmers, cooks, and local suppliers by creating jobs, boosting local economies, and increasing community resilience.

¹ [‘Saving lives, time and money: Evidence from anticipatory action,’](#) FAO, OCHA, WFP; May 2025;