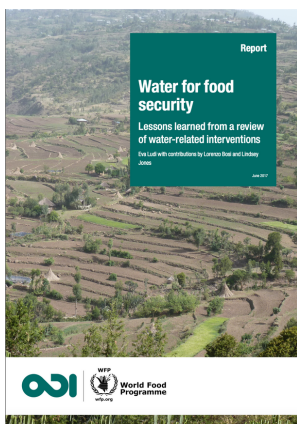


## World Food Programme (WFP)



### WHAT IS WFP?

The WFP is a joint organ of FAO and the United Nations. WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations through direct assistance, or by strengthening country capacities. The WFP is present in 80 countries. Two-thirds of the work is in conflict-affected countries where people are the most affected by hunger.



Tackling the underlying causes of food insecurity means addressing a set of livelihood vulnerabilities, including access to water for domestic and productive uses. The World Food Programme (WFP), as the United Nations humanitarian agency charged with addressing hunger and food insecurity, commissioned this report with a view to deepening its understanding of the underlying issues and informing programme interventions.

### WFP AND WASH

Access to water and sanitation are rooted in WFP's projects generally from the perspective of food security and sustainable livelihood. The WFP notes that at the household level, poor water access can compromise food security through a range of links related to inadequate hygiene practices, consumption of unsafe drinking water, valuable time spent collecting water, or reduced income because of compromised access to productive water.

The WFP provides support to countries in **enhancing the ecology of the food systems** through interventions involving soil conservation and fertility measures, water harvesting and flood control. For example, in the context of the work on Water and Food Security Nexus, in June 2017, the WFP commissioned a [study](#) on Water for food security.

Also to increase food production, the WFP develops projects to **install new irrigation systems** in fragile, resource-scarce and degraded environments or rehabilitate existing irrigation schemes and water source development for domestic, agricultural, livestock and aquaculture use.

The **WFP Food Assistance for Assets** (FFA) programme addresses immediate food needs through cash, voucher or food transfers, while promoting the building or rehabilitation of assets such as feeder roads and bridges, schools, latrines, water reservoirs, market places, etc., that will improve long-term food security and resilience.

The WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) is built around the Sustainable Development Agenda. From WFP's perspective, achieving **SDG 2 of zero hunger is linked to achieving SDG 6**, noting that access to clean water and safe sanitation limits the spread of waterborne diseases which may impact bodies' ability to utilise nutrition efficiently. WFP also supports SDG 6 in local projects through the building of wells and irrigation systems for domestic and agricultural purposes.



## THE WAY FORWARD

**A healthy river is the guarantee of abundant drinking water and even food, providing for irrigation to grow crops and for fishing. Problems emerge when large extractive ventures, hydraulic megaprojects, deforestation or large agribusiness break the sustainability of ecosystems and, in particular, of the rivers on which those communities depend. WFP's work to enhance the ecology of the food systems is also an element of the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystem, which I plan to focus during the first three years of my mandate.**

Pedro Arrojo Agudo,  
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation



\*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with WFP representatives on 18 January 2021