



World Food
Programme

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WFP Standby Partnership Annual Report 2021

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Executive Summary

WFP estimates for 2021 show that up to 283 million people were acutely food insecure or at high risk in 80 countries with WFP operational presence – almost doubling pre-pandemic levels. WFP country offices adapted and responded to the needs of the rising numbers of beneficiaries vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition as part of its continued response to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 globally. WFP scaled up life saving food and nutrition assistance, provided a lifeline to children and families through school meal programmes, leveraged cash-based transfers to increase resilience and support local economies and provided common services to the humanitarian community.

Strengthening existing and new operational partnerships, such as Standby Partnerships, is paramount for WFP to meet today's needs while ensuring a sound foundation for future emergency response. Over 2021, 104 deployees worked alongside WFP personnel to inject critical technical expertise as well as bolster WFP's scale-up of operations. In addition, 11 service modules were undertaken ranging from vital telecommunications equipment and services to the delivery of major base camp and construction projects in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These modules provide for the safety and security of personnel and ultimately strengthen the ability of the entire humanitarian community to deliver to people in need in those locations.

Deployees from 42 nationalities, of whom 37% were female, deployed across 37 Country Offices, 5 Regional Bureaux as well as Headquarters. Requests for remote deployments, which had augmented support during 2020, were greatly reduced as the majority of WFP offices returned to fully in person working. However, difficulties and delays caused by contracting COVID-19 or to meet continuing pandemic travel regulations saw the timelines to successfully deploy increase for WFP, the partner and the deployee. Lastly restrictions in ability to access visas or travel routes limited requests and selection of standby deployees to Afghanistan, the Tigray region of Ethiopia and Madagascar. The majority of deployees, 55%, worked in Africa with the highest support going to Ethiopia.

WFP looks forward to continuing the collaboration with our Standby Partners, with a focus on developing capacity in growing areas such as humanitarian access, telecommunications and energy access for beneficiaries and continuing areas of need in nutrition and food security. The Standby Partnership programme remains a vital component in WFP's surge responses, and we thank our partners and deployees who worked to deliver food assistance in emergencies.

104 deployments
and **11** service modules
from **13** partners supported
WFP operations in **37** countries
plus **5** regional bureaux and
headquarters.
This represents over **556** months
of personnel working full-time,
and an in-kind contribution of
US\$15.7 million.

Standby Partners are organizations who maintain a roster of specialized and rapidly deployable staff with various competencies. Partners provide pro-bono support in the form of personnel, equipment and/or services ready to deploy within 72 hours for emergencies if required. Their support also extends to the occasions when highly specialized skills are needed and not available within WFP.

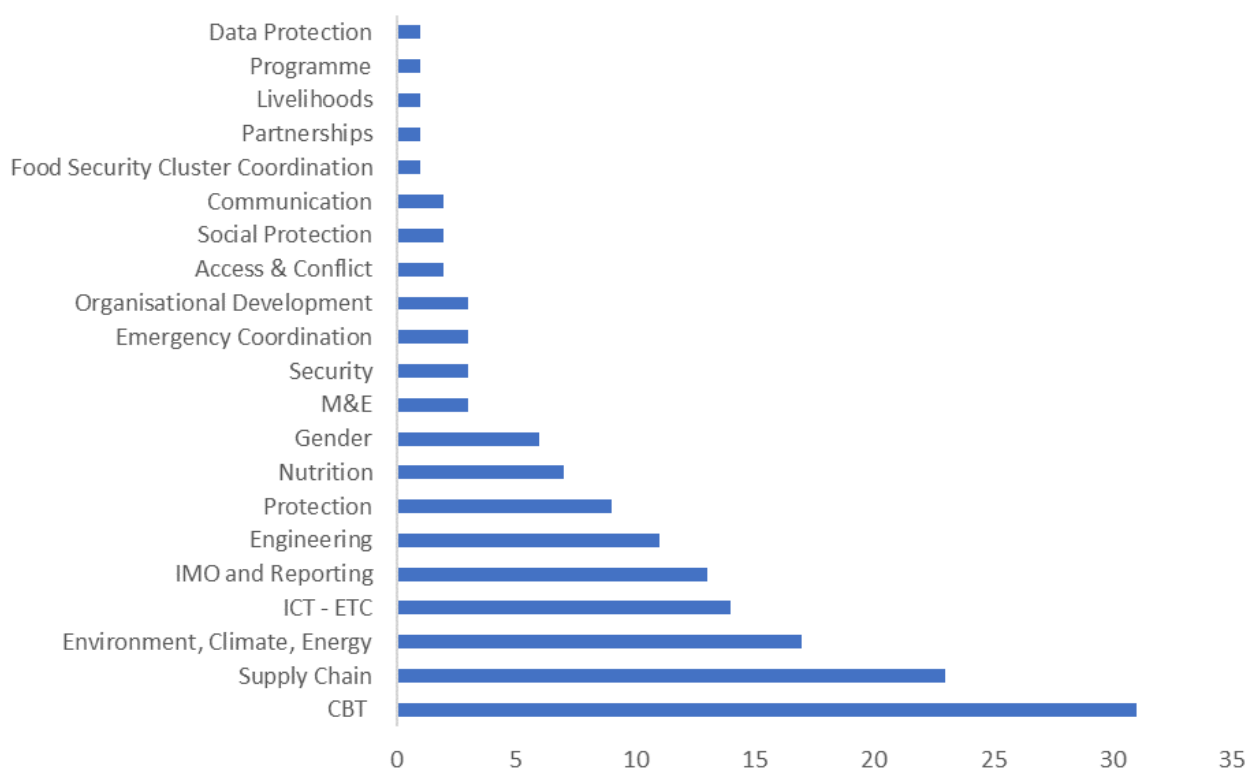
To date, WFP has built agreements with a total of 27 governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It provides WFP with a vital mechanism to support WFP's operation and inter-agency interventions through a wide range of technical areas.

Standby Requests

WFP made 87 standby requests to partners of which 61% were successfully filled

Profiles

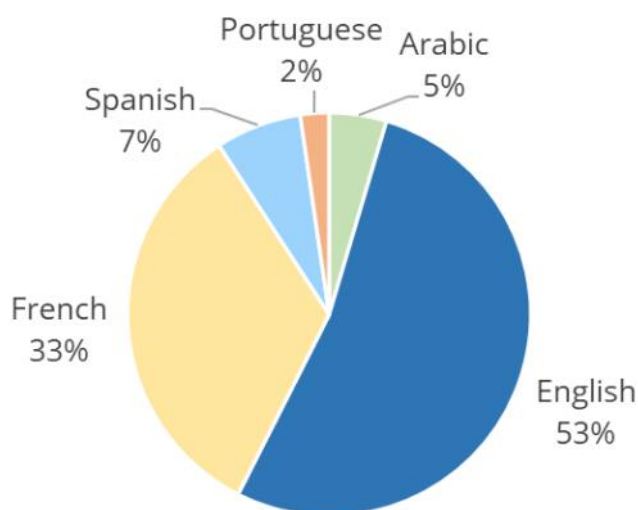
The following profiles were requested throughout 2021:



In particular, Supply Chain requests were well supported with 92% of the requests met. Environment, Climate and Energy requests were 88% successful, followed by Cash Based Transfers at 73%. The profile with the poorest fill rate was Nutrition, in which WFP made 5 requests and was unsuccessful for each one. The individual unmet requests were primarily in the profiles of ICT and Telecoms (10 requests unmet), Nutrition (5), Information Management (4) and Cash Based Transfers (4).

Languages

In 2021, 53% of requests were for English language speakers alone. Requests for French speakers was slightly lower than in previous years, with a slight increase in requests for Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese. When drilling into the unsuccessful requests, roles that required only English were filled at a 70% success rate, while French requests had a 52% and other languages combined a 50% success rate. In particular all 4 requests searching for an Arabic speaker went unfilled.



Countries

Country Offices which saw higher numbers of unmet needs were Haiti (8 unmet needs out of 9 requests) and Ethiopia (4 unmet requests out of 13), as well as Afghanistan and Bhutan (both 3 unmet needs out of 3 requests).



In Madagascar year upon year of drought and a feeble economy worsened by the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic are driving a severe food crisis. In the Southern regions of Atsimo-Andrefana, Androy and Anosy, WFP is the largest provider of school meals, covering 760 schools and providing meals to 228,000 children. © WFP/Sitraka Niaina Raharinaivo

Natacha Pugin

Social Protection Specialist, Sri Lanka

Deployed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



Natacha and Sri Lankan Government Officers meeting with a community member © WFP Sri Lanka

Natacha Pugin is a specialist in Cash Based Transfer Programming with more than 15 years of experience in the field.

Natacha spent the early part of her career working in the private sector, transitioning to the humanitarian and development space in 2013 when she joined the SDC Humanitarian Pool so that she might follow her passion for social protection. Since then, Natacha has deployed to WFP on three occasions, taking on roles in Somalia, Madagascar and now Sri Lanka. As a Social Protection Specialist focusing on CBT, Natacha played a critical role in the delivery and scale up of social protection programmes which include nutrition, school feeding, and asset creation to name a few. Natacha and her colleagues at WFP Sri Lanka worked to provide vital access to basic food, healthcare and education. Such programmes provide essential safety nets that alleviate poverty and help households manage socio-economic shocks in local communities.

When reflecting on the challenges of her deployment, Natacha posited that Sri Lanka has over 30 schemes handled by various Ministries, which manifests as a fragmented and sometimes cumbersome environment to navigate. Natacha highlighted the importance of preliminary advocacy work and the building of capacity in order to achieve a positive result, affirming that *“Social protection is not only about immediate assistance to vulnerable groups; it is a long-term societal investment in the future of a nation”*.

WFP has positioned itself effectively to lead multisectoral dialogue, aiding policy adaptation efforts and promoting alternative schemes to reach groups insufficiently covered by existing safety nets. Following a request received from the Sri Lankan Government in March 2021, a project was implemented in Kalutara – a district affected by recurring floods – to provide cash through digital transfers. Given the project’s positive outcome, this model was scaled up and served as a blueprint for similar projects in future.

“WFP places emphasis on enhancing social protection systems to safeguard and help people meet their food and nutrition security needs,” says Andrea Berardo, Deputy Country Director of WFP, Sri Lanka.

“We are grateful to the Swiss Development Cooperation in supporting us with specialized expertise made available through the Standby Partner programme. Natacha’s contribution provides us with invaluable technical input to augment our social protection efforts and scale-up policy advocacy.”

17 year Narendra Kisku benefitted from the emergency cash support his family received after the floods as part of WFP run Forecast-based Financing programme in Nepal.

© WFP/Srawan Shrestha



Standby Deployments

Standby Personnel are Experts on Mission deployed through the Standby Partnership mechanism for rapid and/or temporary mobilization to emergency operations or preparedness and readiness enhancing projects.

In 2021, 104 expert deployments supported operations in 37 WFP country offices and 5 regional bureaux and headquarters locations. Of these, 63 were newly deployed since the beginning of 2021 while 41 experts continued deployments from prior years. Partners provided WFP with a total of 16,683 days worth of expertise and the equivalent of in-kind contributions of US\$15.7 million.

Of WFP's Standby Partners, 13 actively deployed to WFP in 2021, with 9 providing deployment of expert personnel, 4 providing service modules and 1 partner engaged with both. The largest partner of in-kind support was MSB, in particular due to the completion of two large service modules. The largest provider of single experts was NorCap, who provided 40 deployments, followed by MSB with 18 deployments and the Danish Refugee Council³ with 16 deployments.

Standby Partner	Expert deployments	Service modules	In-kind contribution within 2021
MSB	18	6	\$7,041,636
NorCap	40		\$5,399,365
SDC	11		\$1,401,045
Irish Aid	7		\$599,146
DRC	16		\$448,543
ZIF	3		\$245,470
Help.NGO		2	\$225,000
CANADEM	4		\$164,771
RedR Australia	2		\$82,779
IMMAP	2		\$61,499
Govt of Luxembourg		2	\$44,656
Fuel Relief Fund	1		\$30,000
DHL		1	\$5,887

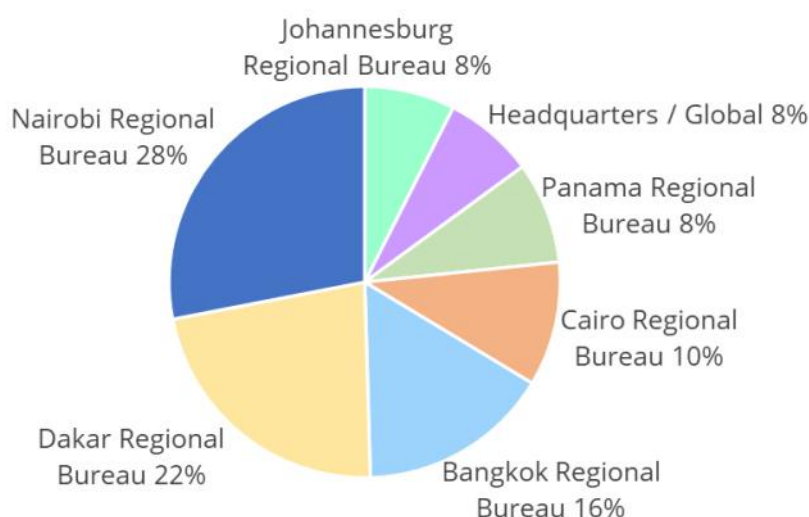
³WFP would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark for the provision of the WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement which funds additional deployments through Danish Refugee Council.



A WFP distribution site in Zelazle, North Western zone of Tigray. On this day WFP trucks arrived from Mekelle to deliver directly to some 13,000 people in this area. © WFP/Claire Nevill

Female deployees: **37%**
 Global south deployees: **46%**
 Nationalities in total deployed: **42**

Deployments by region



Guy Motchebe Njatcheu

Port Captain, Burundi

Deployed by the Danish Refugee Council

Guy Motchebe Njatcheu has over 15 years of port experience across Africa and has worked with several maritime companies over the years. He has long wanted to contribute to a humanitarian project, let alone one with such a large scope and regional dimension. Upon learning about the opportunity to contribute to the Lake Tanganyika corridor revitalization project from his parent agency The Danish Refugee Council, Guy immediately nominated to take up the challenge.

Lake Tanganyika, the world's longest freshwater lake, is bordered by 4 African countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. WFP Burundi has developed a plan to promote the corridor's revitalization. As WFP sources more commodities regionally, the transport connections in this hub are expected to become more important.

Unlike maritime environments, Lake corridors are closed entities. Therefore in a lake corridor, ports should not compete against each others but seek complementarity. If one of the ports is not competitive enough, the whole Lake corridor is affected and ignored by commercial operators.

Guy's wide experience in maritime operations proved to be of great value for WFP Burundi. Not only is his technical expertise outstanding, but he has also developed key relationships for future port initiatives. A key component of Guy's work was building the capacity of local staff in Burundi. *"Guy has great skills as a trainer, providing key information and taking the group from theory to concrete change implementation"* confirmed Lydia Van Os, WFP Project Manager for the Lake Tanganyika's revitalization project.

"When we arrived in Baraka, the port was almost submerged. Ships or canoes were barely making the junction". Despite numerous challenges, the assessment mission was successful. It enabled WFP and involved partners to identify key bottlenecks and solutions to improve port performances.

Key findings of the project were presented during a high-level workshop chaired by Burundi's Minister of Transport & Trade. The workshop's objective was to ensure key Government partners, decision-makers, and investors buy in. *"We wanted them to fully understand our vision and see the corridor as a regional entity, not only as a series of national ports."* stated Guy. Mr Njatcheu enjoyed training cohorts of port workers in preparation for their eventual take over operations.



Guy (left) visiting the Bujumbura port with partners

Photo © WFP Burundi

Key to the success of his work, Guy was able to effectively mobilize financial resources through the dedicated efforts of the Lake Tanganyika Working Group.

His assignment has now concluded, but Guy was very happy that WFP Supply Chain teams still in country continue to build on recommendations he made and are successfully piloting shipments in this corridor.

Mireia Termes

Cash Working Group Coordinator, WFP Iraq

Deployed by CashCap through the Norwegian Refugee Council

Mireia Termes Serra joined the CashCap roster in 2019 and has had a number of previous deployments to Latin America and Middle Eastern countries. In March 2021, Mireia was deployed by CashCap to scale up Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in Iraq across multiple different sectors, enable collaboration among humanitarian and development actors, and support them in making their progress. As of 2021, the CWG in Iraq is comprised of approximately 60 member organizations and is co-led by WFP and Mercy Corps.



Working from the WFP offices in Erbil, Mireia's main responsibilities centered on the coordination of emergency interventions and longer-term recovery operations by developing common policies and establishing sub-national cash working groups across the country.

The 18% currency devaluation of the Iraqi Dinar at the end of 2020 generated inflation across the country and decreased the population's purchasing power significantly. In terms of delivery mechanisms, Iraq is limited in bank and electronic services. Consequently, digital transfers are still developing. The primary CBT method in Iraq is the "Hawala" system (money transfer, in Arabic) whereby families receive a direct pre-determined cash amount from a Hawala agent.

Some organizations may prefer voucher distribution: in that case, recipients visit contracted retailers to redeem vouchers against staple foods (wheat flour, rice, lentils, beans, bulgur and more). The CWG results in capacity building are gaining ground, more Iraqi counterparts are contacting the CWG to introduce CBT into their interventions.

Although in-kind dispatch remains the predominant relief modality, a growing number of actors are seeking to integrate CBT in their operations. It is cost-effective, has an immediate impact, allows freedom of choice and ultimately restores people's dignity. CBT enables vulnerable people to meet their basic needs and minimize reliance on negative coping strategies, such as eating less food, or borrowing money to buy food. Furthermore, the received resources are re-injected into local markets, thus benefitting the wider community. WFP now uses CBT for all its activities, both crisis response and resilience-building interventions, and currently assists an average of 300,000 people through CBT every month. This number is expected to further increase.



Mireia and colleagues listening to the feedback of a woman assisted by CBT. © WFP Iraq

The CWG also collaborates with the Gender sub-cluster in Iraq to enhance CBT support among survivors of Gender-Based Violence, thus contributing to the strengthening of the links between CBT and social protection systems.

"Considering vulnerable people's high levels of need and across several sectors – food, shelter, health and more – Iraq increasingly requires sustainable solutions such as CBT" Mireia Termes

Service Modules

Service Modules are operational solutions comprised of equipment and/or technical experts, provided through bilateral consultation with Standby Partners or through the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP): a voluntary multinational cooperation between governmental emergency management agencies who are active in humanitarian assistance.

Service Modules can involve access to data, information systems, construction, service delivery or training packages operated by Standby Partners. Where required, experts deploy alongside the equipment to ensure the effective and efficient set up and implementation of innovative, environmentally friendly and tailored solutions.

11 Service Modules were active, total value of US\$5.5 million.

WFP and Standby Partners undertook service modules in 11 countries namely, the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, South Sudan, Haiti, Barbados, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.

Telecoms Service Modules

In emergencies, Service Modules are enablers to bring a complete transformation of WFP's life-saving operation. During the Sahel shock response, the international community requested a critical scale up of the IT environment and a robust communication system to support the complex humanitarian emergency operation. Interventions require solution architecture expertise to design the end solution and services that will be deployed within the Community Centres.

The Government of Luxembourg's IT Expert was tasked to create a comprehensive architecture for a software solution that meets the needs of the project and provide strategic direction while the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has agreed to support WFP with the provision of VHF radio equipment to provide safety and security for WFP staff operating in Mekelle and Shire, Tigray Region and in Northern Ethiopia

Despite the challenges of operating in a COVID-19 environment, WFP managed to agree and launch a new Service Module with the Government of Luxemburg and Help.NGO to support WFP with the provision of IT equipment for Haiti and Barbados to improve WFP's ability to deliver food aid and other humanitarian supplies to the affected populations also in remote areas.

Crispin Tshiasmala

Logistics Officer, WFP Ethiopia

Deployed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

Since 2010, Crispin has worked with MSB as a standby partner Logistics Expert and has periodically deployed to emergencies in order to fulfill technical response gaps within UN agencies and other entities. In 2021, Crispin was deployed to Ethiopia where he managed daily dispatch operations of commodities coming from the capital Addis Ababa for distribution across the Tigray region.



Alongside his colleagues in the Logistics Cluster, Crispin's role is to ensure that essential non-food and medical items reach conflict-affected communities across the Tigray region. Training technical staff, monitoring missions, coordination meetings and streamlining standard operating procedures are each key components of this work.

The Tigray Region is affected by a series of issues, ranging from insecurity to access and telecommunications disruptions. The team must be extra cautious to avoid endangering teams, partners and beneficiaries in country.

The Logistics Cluster provides the humanitarian community with timely logistics support and operational information. When there are bottlenecks in the supply chain infrastructure, the Cluster facilitates access to common services such as storage and inland transport.

Crispin also took on capacity building and knowledge sharing activities in Mekele, the objective of which was to inform partners about the Logistics Cluster services. By the end of the training, all attendees had a better understanding of the type of support they could expect from the cluster, paving the way for further training sessions. Collaboration is key in this area of work, with key partnerships spanning stakeholders from UN agencies, NGOs and private sector operators.

"Fortunately, there is a good team spirit within the Logistics Cluster and WFP's Supply Chain staff. People are just great. Despite the difficult context, everyone is professional and motivated." said Crispin.

As a part of the Tigray response, WHO solicited the Logistic Cluster in June 2021 to transport medical materials for a cholera vaccination campaign, which were quickly mobilized via WFP trucking routes. The 51 metric ton cargo was successfully delivered to five different locations in the Tigray Region, rendering the campaign a huge success. The persisting COVID-19 pandemic posed significant operational and epidemiological risks for the WFP team. Safety compliance is always paramount, and all partners strive to support the health response led by the Government and WHO.



Crispin during a warehouse visit with partners
© WFP Ethiopia

MSB Construction Modules

Democratic Republic of the Congo Service Module

Construction packages in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) included the renovation of existing office, accommodation and logistics facilities in Kananga and Kalemie, as well as the construction of a new inter-agency guest house in Kananga. This project is a vast improvement in health and security related aspects for humanitarian personnel through improved living and working conditions.



Kalemie Workshop

At the site of the existing WFP Office, a new workshop for WFP vehicles, a new oil pit and a truck wash area, with a water recycling system was constructed.

Kalemie Logbase

At the Kalemie logbase, a waste dump has been transformed to a highly efficient logistic base, with a surrounding wall, two gates, two guard houses, three renovated offices, a staff service building with toilets and showers, a generator building, warehouses and storage for humanitarian supplies.



The Logbase has been supplied with both solar and generator power.



Central African Republic Service Module

In Bria, the infrastructure for humanitarian agencies to operate has been limited, with only MINUSCA able to offer rooms and need for accommodation outstripping the available rooms. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) have constructed a base in Bria that is *“a real relief for WFP staff and the humanitarian agencies operating in this area”* according to Honore Ramanampamonjy, Civil Engineer WFP CAR.



MSB constructed secure, comfortable, furnished, air-conditioned rooms with internal showers and toilets, water and electricity and access to Wi-Fi. Ten rooms are now available to accommodate international or national staffs based in Bria, and to receive staffs on mission from different humanitarian organizations.



There are fifteen comfortable offices that WFP shares with other UN agencies. The office space has a standardized Safe Room that protects staffs in the event of an emergency. A large common area has several kitchens, and bathrooms for men and women. A control tower is located to ensure better surveillance from the

outside. The compound is enhanced with green spaces and pedestrian crossings, and a hut for informal gatherings in the middle of the courtyard.

The new logistics base, equipped with four concrete platforms for Multi Storage Units and a large yard for truck manoeuvre. A Facility Management training was also organized by MSB to ensure proper facility management. This training was held in Bria on 27 July 2021 and targeted the focal points for the management of the new WFP base.



New Standby Partnerships

GlobalMedic

In 2021, WFP signed a new Standby Partnership Agreement with GlobalMedic. GlobalMedic is a registered Canadian charity that has provided disaster relief and life-saving humanitarian aid since 2002. GlobalMedic has disaster response experience spanning more than 180 Responses in 67 countries. The RescUAV Program was introduced in 2014 and trained pilots and teams have lead emergency missions in response to earthquakes, landslides and hurricanes in 8 countries, including the Philippines, Nepal, Ecuador, Colombia, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Maarten, and Dominica. WFP expects to partner with GlobalMedic's innovative UAV technology in support for search and rescue teams, local governments and other humanitarian actors, especially in situational awareness, emergency mapping and damage assessment.

DHL

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the growing likelihood of future disease outbreaks due to climate change, WFP recognised that it will likely face a need to provide a greater level of support to health responses in the future. In light of this, WFP operationalized the 2020 DHL Standby Partnership in a project to build its long-term temperature sensitive logistics, to upgrade its cold storage facilities, and expand its emergency preparedness capacity.

As part of support to this workstream, DHL's GoHelp has enabled an extensive warehouse assessment of the UNHRD Dubai. Following on from the initial assessment, the WFP Temperature Sensitive Logistics Team (TSL) have then benefitted from DHL expertise in the following specific areas: Quality & Regulatory Assurance Control, GDP requirements, and facilities/infrastructure development. The support provided from DHL has given an external point of view and insights on industry standards. There is great potential to expand the support even further and to continue a fruitful collaboration in 2022.

The German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF)

The 2020 Standby Partnership with the German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) was operationalized with four deployments in the first 12 months of the partnership: a Water Management connecting communities to water and reducing food insecurity in Madagascar, a Protection expert integrating gender and protection consideration into food assistance programs in Sudan, an Information Management Officer in the Philippines office critical in Typhoon Odette response and a Communications Expert at global level.

Standby Partnership Network

The Standby Partnership Network is comprised 15 participating UN Agencies and 56 Standby Partners that hold at least one bilateral Standby Partnership agreement, and that regularly contribute to the SBP Network initiatives. In 2020-21, WFP served as the Chair alongside the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), driving best practice on the deployment of personnel and working towards the Strategic Framework of the Standby Network. In 2021 the Standby Network celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the first Standby Partnership, which began in 1991 in response to the first Gulf War. WFP was proud to host an event on “Standby Partnerships from 30 years onwards: Staying fit to deliver impact to evolving needs in humanitarian assistance” and to launch a video showing the evolution of standby partnerships over time.



Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNtzez-E1p8

Together, the SBP Network delivered 584 deployments during 2021, representing an equivalent value to UN emergency responses of \$64 million.

For more information: www.standbypartnership.org



To provide food assistance to the people of Madjoari, cut off from other localities of the region, WFP delivers a special distribution by air. @WFP/Cheick Omar Bandaogo

Thanks to our standby partners

Australian Civilian Corps (ACC)
Canada's Civilian Response Corps (CANADEM)
Cisco Tactical Operations (TacOps)
Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)
Deutsche Post DHL Group
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
EMERCOM of Russia
Ericsson Response
Estonian Rescue Board (ERB)
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office UK (FCDO)
Fuel Relief Fund
German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)
GlobalMedic
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Help.NGO
Iceland Crisis Response Unit (ICRU)
Information Management and Mine Action Program (iMMAP)
Irish Aid
NetHope
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Pelastusopisto (formerly CMC Finland)
RedR Australia
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Swiss Federation for Mine Action (FSD)
White Helmets Commission of Argentina (WHC)
German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF)



GLOBAL SURGE COORDINATION UNIT

STANDBY PARTNERS



Standby Partnerships sit within the Emergency Operations Division, in the Global Surge Coordination Unit (GSCU). GSCU identifies, upskills and deploys emergency response staff in support of life-saving operations where required. It is responsible for managing the process of identifying and deploying personnel in response to staffing requests, leveraging a pool of qualified candidates. The GSCU maintains Standby Partnerships with governments and NGOs to augment WFP internal capacity during scale-ups and to field technical experts when needed. Lastly it holds the Surge Learning team which capacitates staff through a curated learning journey that ensures those deployed have the right skills to make an impact.

To contact the team: standbypartners@wfp.org

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