



Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Asia and the Pacific

What is FFA?

The most food-insecure people often live in fragile and degraded landscapes and areas prone to recurrent natural shocks and other risks.

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) is one of WFP's flagship initiatives aimed at addressing the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, voucher or food transfers while also helping improve their long-term food security and resilience.

The concept is simple: people receive cash or food-based transfers to address their immediate food needs, while they build or boost assets, such as constructing a road or rehabilitating degraded land, that will improve their livelihoods by creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impact of shocks, increasing food productivity, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.

FFA Types of Activities

- Development and management of natural resources;
- Restoring agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential;
- Community access to markets, social services and infrastructure (schools, granaries, etc.);
- Skills development trainings related to the creation, management and maintenance of assets.

In each community, WFP aims to integrate multiple types of FFA activities with Government strategies and other WFP and partners' interventions (including UN partners FAO and IFAD) to reinforce each other's impact.

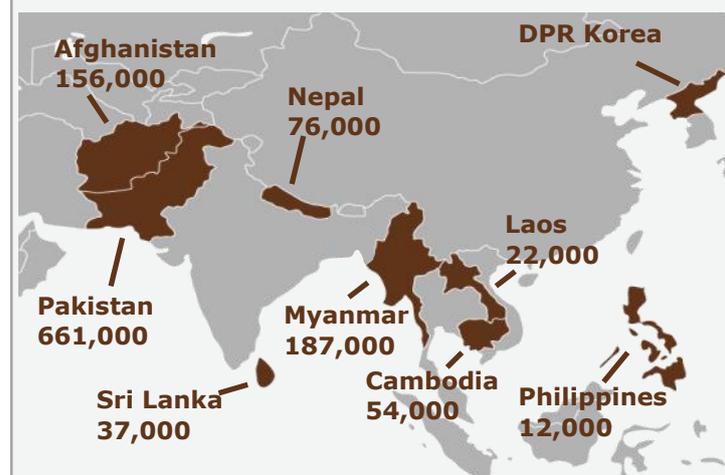
2017 achievements in the region

In 2017, more than **1.5 million** people directly benefited from FFA programmes in **9 countries**.

Key 2017 achievements include:

- **17,500 hectares** of land rehabilitated;
- **520 water** ponds, shallow wells, and fish ponds built;
- **3,110 kilometres** of feeder roads constructed or repaired;
- **1,100 hectares** of forest planted;
- **30,110 people** trained in livelihood technologies.

2017 FFA beneficiaries in the region



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Afghanistan

In 2016, using the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA), WFP worked with communities and other partners to implement FFA programmes in the most shock-prone and food-insecure districts to support disaster risk reduction efforts and enhance community resilience. WFP focused on low-tech asset creation activities based on community priorities, such as flood protection walls, soil conservation, cleaning canals, and road repairs. Major assets included: fruit trees planted, feeder roads built and maintained, and irrigation canals constructed/rehabilitated. Certain activities, such as the establishment of tree nurseries, led to a notable increase in women's participation from 1 percent in 2015 to 12 percent in 2016. Furthermore, FFA activities helped to improve overall community access to assets and services.

Joint programmes with UNDP and FAO were prioritized in Kabul, Badakhshan, and Balkh provinces, where partners provided technical and engineering support to various large-scale asset creation activities. WFP also began collaborating with Kabul University and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development to provide training to ministry staff. In addition, WFP chaired the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, which aligns the efforts of multiple UN agencies in order to deliver assistance to the most shock-prone communities more efficiently. At all stages of project management, gender, community-based participation and risk transfer were considered, with risk transfer ensuring that communities take responsibility for the maintenance of the created assets and their sustainability.



In Afghanistan, numerous FFA interventions have enhanced community assets and strengthened resilience.

Pakistan

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) are remote stretches of mountainous land in the far west of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan and the Pakistani Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The region is one of the most food insecure areas of the country with low production, limited livelihood opportunities and lack of access to basic services. Decades of poverty, conflict, and underdevelopment have caused a deterioration in the human and economic development status compared to the rest of the country. Since 2008, FATA is facing unrest due to ongoing military operation against militant activities. However, the security situation has improved significantly and approximately 95 percent of the 2 million people displaced in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have returned with recovery and rehabilitation efforts underway.

Per the FATA Secretariat damage assessment, an estimated 139 health facilities, 721 schools, 56,000 houses, 185 irrigation systems and 246 water, sanitation and hygiene facilities have been damaged or destroyed because of the operation. In response, the FATA Secretariat developed a Government of Pakistan's FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy (FSSRS) to facilitate the progressive and sustainable return of families. To contribute to the vision embodied in the FSSRS, WFP has been implementing FFA interventions to rebuild lives and livelihood of the returned families.

In 2017, WFP reached over 465,000 people with 5,625 mt of food and USD 3.6 million in cash for participating in activities such as rehabilitation of irrigation channels, link roads, protection walls etc. (Box 1) in 6 agencies of FATA.

Studies conducted during 2017 indicated improved agricultural production, increased income and livelihoods and better access to basic facilities. Moreover, the travel time was observed to reduce by up to 21 percent as a result of rehabilitated roads.

WFP reached the largest proportion of WFP's assisted population in Pakistan through the livelihoods intervention during 2017. The use of cash-based transfers under this intervention was expanded to five out of seven agencies in FATA, after active engagement with the local administration and financial service providers for the provision of security and other critical services including banking, network and database.



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