

UN General Assembly

74/235 Women in Development – Resolution Update 2022

World Food Programme (WFP) Inputs

Concrete examples of measures taken at the national level with regard to the issues outlined below, highlighting results achieved, lessons learned and opportunities for up-scaling and replication, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengthening and implementing gender-responsive poverty eradication strategies, including social protection systems, to help ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls, especially in response to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic (paragraph 10)

- To reduce high levels of chronic malnutrition in **Pakistan**, the Government of Pakistan and WFP jointly launched in August 2020 the ‘**Ehsaas Nashonuma**’ programme, a nationwide programme for stunting prevention. The **programme is linked to the country’s largest social safety net, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)**, to reach the most vulnerable women and children in the country. In December 2021, WFP and the Government of Pakistan signed a MOU to expand the Ehsaas Nashonuma programme across the country over the next three years. The programme targets marginalized pregnant and breastfeeding women/girls, and children aged 6-24 months across Pakistan, through four interventions provided at facilitation centres: awareness sessions on health and hygiene, provision of specialized nutritious foods (SNF), routine child growth monitoring and immunization, and conditional cash stipends. To encourage the participation of girls in the programme, each girl child receives a cash stipend of PKR 2,500 as compared with a boy who receives PKR 2000. All facilitation centres are equipped with breastfeeding corners, waiting areas and information on services for preventing and getting support for gender-based violence.¹

Increasing investments in and implementation of gender-responsive policies and programmes for full and productive employment and decent work for all women, including their participation in and access to labour markets, and addressing women’s disproportionate job losses during the COVID-19 crisis (paragraphs 31 and 32) AND Promoting the transition of women from informal employment to formal employment, including access to decent work and quality childcare (paragraph 11)

- In the **Republic of Congo**, WFP supports the “Cassava Value Chain Projects”, which train women on how to increase cassava yields and subsequently process cassava into *attiéke*, *gari*, *mbala pinda* and cassava-flour pastries to increase their independence and income. The production of *gari* was previously a male-dominated profession, however the trainings provided by WFP and CERFAM Abidjan and the formation of women’s associations, women are now involved and capable to complete the entire value chain of *gari* production independently.
- In **Kenya**, the WFP Innovation Accelerator and Kenya’s Nutrition team are supporting “Tiny Totos”, a social enterprise, to expand its community-based day-care centres which train women to become entrepreneurial day-care managers. Tiny Toto’s day-care managers provide affordable childcare, nutrition products and kitchen gardens to women and children in Nairobi’s urban settlements, thus

¹ https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000137431/download/?_ga=2.105502340.661900204.1653299856-1352743537.1646036499

addressing the unmet needs of childcare and complementary nutrition and child development services for thousands of children and families.

Supporting women's entrepreneurship, expanding existing women-owned and -led micro, small and medium enterprises and facilitating opportunities for new women entrepreneurs (paragraph 37)

- In **Bangladesh**, WFP supports the digitalization of cash transfer social protection programmes, by which payments are transferred directly to women's bank or mobile money accounts. This has enhanced women's digital and financial inclusion and economic empowerment.
- **Cash-based transfers** provided by WFP can contribute to the economic empowerment of women by increasing their decision-making power and ability to invest in livelihood opportunities. By conducting a barrier analysis and collaborating with the National Bank of **Uganda**, WFP in turn successfully increased the number of women bank agents, and subsequently women with bank or mobile money accounts.
- In **India**, WFP coordinates and provides technical assistance to the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan states to set up units to produce fortified take-home rations (supplementary nutrition for infants) run by women-led micro-enterprises. This directly empowers women economically and enhances their decision-making and control over economic resources.

Promoting and protecting women's and girls' right to education and ensuring their safe and equal access to and participation in education throughout the life cycle and at all levels (paragraph 24)

- In **Lebanon** WFP adjusted its school meals programme to provide monthly take-home rations to alleviate negative coping mechanisms such as early child and forced marriage and child labour. This approach also increased the chance of girls returning to school when schools reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Starting in 2020, in **Chad** and **Niger**, WFP partnered with UNFPA and UNICEF to ensure girls are enrolled and stay in school. All children are provided with nutritious, fortified school meals, and adolescent girls receive additional targeted support to address their specific needs, priorities and barriers, including the provision of micronutrients, conditional cash incentives, services and support related to sexual and reproductive health, as well as mentoring and coaching.
- In **Pakistan**, WFP incentivizes the enrolment and continued attendance of 21,000 girls in schools by providing cash transfers to secondary female students in the country's Newly Merged Districts. These cash transfers are conditional on school attendance, but during COVID-19 the transfers have since become unconditional.
- In 2020, WFP **Iraq** implemented Emergency Cash for Work targeting both men and women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The country office also worked with UNICEF to implement a pilot project in Shatt el Arab to enhance the retention of grade 7 girls in education in schools and remote education. Cash support was provided to 2,200 girls' families and more educational activities, including training for teachers and school counsellors will be conducted in the coming months. The country office also transitioned Food for Training (FFT) EMPACT activities to be online, and took precautions and measures to ensure women's participation including giving women computers and internet access to enable them to participate in the training as well as offering gender segregated sessions and including parents in some activities in response to worries by conservative families for girls participating in online trainings with video cameras on.

Integrating a gender perspective into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and providing adequate resources to ensure the full and

equal participation of women in all levels of decision-making and implementation in these areas (paragraph 48)

- In **Guatemala**, WFP has empowered indigenous women by providing climate risk insurance and increasing their climate risk management skills while strengthening their resilience to the shocks and stresses of the climate crisis.
- The UN joint initiative 'Women's Empowerment and Leadership Development in Value Chain for Resilient Livelihoods' (2019-2021) links rural women in the Kailali District of **Nepal** to localized agriculture value chain and risk management measures. Its aim is to improve food security and provide a sustainable income for rural women farmers, thereby increasing resilience to climate change and other shocks. Connecting local agricultural producers to government school feeding programmes creates a stable and reliable agricultural market for small-scale producers, predominantly women. In 2020, 1,200 women farmers in Kailali benefited from linkages to a localized value chain through WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. To facilitate the economic recovery of those affected by COVID-19, the project has provided skill-based vocational trainings to 495 unemployed rural women and youths (413 women) from accredited training institutes. Additionally, 196 rural women and 65 men farmers received farm-based agricultural training to assist them to start commercial agriculture in future.