



Enhancing the World Food Programme

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Introduction

Long viewed as one of the UN's greatest resources, the World Food Programme (WFP) serves over 100 million refugees, internally displaced people, victims of catastrophes and. The poorest of all, who rely on its food aid and agricultural assistance. Government aid agencies and non-governmental organizations rely on its field leadership to ensure global coordination of

food aid. In honor of its accomplishments, the WFP won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.¹



But today the WFP is under great stress. Much of this comes from the United States. In recent years, it provided roughly USD 8 to 10 bn annually for UN humanitarian aid agencies, which spent USD 30 bn altogether. The WFP alone spent USD 9.8 bn. Instead, the US has promised to give USD 2 bn.² European countries switched much of their aid money from global aid to support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. Over all, this amounts to a cut of 40 percent.

¹ Gabriel Spitzer , 'Feeding the hungry will be harder than ever for the world's largest food aid agency', *NPR*, 6 May 2025,
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/05/06/g-s1-64385/world-food-programme-famines-hunger-aid-cuts>

² 'More Lives Saved for Fewer Taxpayer Dollars: Trump Administration Leads "Humanitarian

Reset" in the United Nations', *U.S. Department of State*, 29 December 2025,
<https://www.state.gov/releases/under-secretary-for-foreign-assistance-humanitarian-affairs-and-religious-freedom/2025/12/more-lives-saved-for-fewer-taxpayer-dollars-trump-administration-leads-humanitarian-reset-in-the-united-nations>

Other donors, such as China, have been slow to increase their aid spending to compensate.³

The future of the WFP has immediate implications for millions of the world's poorest and neediest. Even though some progress was made in reducing poverty and improving access to food, millions of people still go to bed hungry every night. Malnutrition does not just affect the health of people, but it also impacts education, economic growth, and even global stability.

That is why the UN World Food Programme, the largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger, is so important to humanity. From delivering emergency food aid in conflict zones to supporting nutrition programs and building resilience in vulnerable communities, the WFP is often the difference between survival and despair.

Enhancing the WFP is not just about shipping more food to affected countries or areas. It is about making the system smarter, fairer, and more sustainable. That means strengthening supply chains, using new technologies, and working closely with governments, civil society, and local communities. It also means making sure aid reaches those who need it most, especially women, children, displaced families, and others who are often overlooked. Ending hunger is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, and without progress in food security, the rest of the UN's vision for peace and prosperity is potentially at risk.

The WFP has already shown what is possible. It has pioneered cash transfers, digital tools for food distribution, and climate-smart approaches to emergencies. However, funding shortages, political resistance, and logistical hurdles continue to be its challenges. In 2025, the UN Secretary-General warned that without stronger investment and reform, the world could lose ground on its hunger targets. Enhancing the WFP is therefore not just a humanitarian

priority; it is a global necessity that will play a role in achieving other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This issue brief explores why strengthening the World Food Programme matters, what successes the UN can build on, and what challenges remain. It will also look at how Member States, UN bodies, and NGOs can work together to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against hunger.



Background

The World Food Programme (WFP) was created in 1961 as a joint initiative of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It was originally designed as a temporary program to provide emergency food aid; however, it quickly became clear that the scale of global hunger required a permanent institution to handle the emerging challenges. By 1963, WFP launched its first development program in Sudan, marking the beginning of its

³ Colum Lynch, 'Inside US-UN plan to remake funding for humanitarian crises', *Devex*, 13 January 2026,

<https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-inside-us-un-plan-to-remake-funding-for-humanitarian-crises-111682>

dual role in both humanitarian relief and long-term development.⁴

Headquartered in Rome, Italy, WFP has grown into the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security. Currently, it operates in more than 120 countries and territories, supporting over 150 million people annually through emergency food assistance, school meal programs, nutrition initiatives, and resilience-building projects.⁵ Its mandate is not only to deliver food but also to strengthen communities against shocks such as conflict, climate change, and economic crises.⁶

The roots of WFP's mission can be traced back to the U.S. "Food for Peace" program of the 1950s, which donated surplus agricultural commodities to countries recovering from World War II and newly decolonized states. This model of using food aid as both humanitarian relief and a tool for development shaped WFP's early operations.⁷ Over time, the agency expanded its scope, moving beyond food distribution to include cash-based transfers, digital innovations, and partnerships with local producers, reflecting a shift toward empowering communities rather than just providing short-term aid.⁸

The importance of the WFP has been confirmed by being recognized globally. In 2020, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger, improve conditions for peace, and prevent hunger from being used as a weapon of war.⁹ Yet despite its achievements, WFP faces persistent challenges. Funding shortfalls have forced ration cuts in many operations, and global crises such as the

⁴ UN World Food Programme, n.d., "History: World Food Programme," UN World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

⁵ Wikipedia, 2025, "World Food Programme," Wikipedia, September 22, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Food_Programme.

⁶ UN World Food Programme, n.d., "History: World Food Programme," UN World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

⁷ Sam Ursu, 2023. "A Brief History of the WFP," DevelopmentAid, March 3, 2023,

war in Ukraine, climate shocks, and economic downturns have stretched its resources to the limit.¹⁰



In short, the WFP has evolved from a small emergency food program into a cornerstone of the UN system's humanitarian response. Its history shows both remarkable progress and ongoing struggles, underscoring why enhancing its capacity is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger (SDG 2) and ensuring global stability.¹¹

Current issues

Despite its global reach and Nobel Peace Prize recognition, the World Food Programme (WFP) faces serious challenges that threaten its ability to deliver on its mission. These challenges are

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/157998/a-brief-history-of-the-wfp>.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ UN World Food Programme, n.d., "History: World Food Programme," UN World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ United Nations, n.d. "Goal 2: Zero Hunger - United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations, n.d., <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>.

not just logistically; they reflect deeper problems of funding, politics, and global instability.

Balancing Emergency Versus Development: Finally, the World Food Program struggles to balance its dual role: emergency relief versus long-term development. While immediate food aid saves lives, sustainable solutions, such as supporting local farmers, cash transfers, and school feeding programs, require stable funding and political will. Without this balance, WFP risks being trapped in a cycle of crisis response rather than building resilience.¹²



Headquarters of the World Food Program's in Rome, Italy.

¹² UN World Food Programme, n.d. “Emergency Relief,” UN World Food Programme, n.d., <https://www.wfp.org/emergency-relief>. World Food Program USA, n.d. “Hunger Emergencies: The World’s Worst Disasters Driving Hunger,” World Food Program USA, n.d., <https://wfpusa.org/hunger/emergencies/>.

¹³ Oritro Karim, 2025 “World Food Programme Warns of Emergency Levels of Hunger amid Severe Funding Cuts,” Global Issues, October 20, 2025, <https://www.globalissues.org/news/2025/10/20/41370>

¹⁴ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “WFP Global Outlook,” UN World Food Programme, November

Conflict and Instability: Armed conflicts among and within nations remain a major driver of hunger. In places like Sudan, Gaza, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, violence disrupts food supply chains, raises prices, and prevents humanitarian access. WFP has repeatedly warned that hunger is being used as a weapon of war, making its mission not only humanitarian but also political.¹³

Climate Shocks: Extreme weather occurrences such as droughts, floods, and storms are making food insecurity worse globally. Climate change has made agricultural cycles less predictable, undermining local food production and increasing reliance on WFP aid. The agency has begun investing in anticipatory action and climate-smart programming, but resources remain limited; its mission is not only humanitarian but also political.¹⁴

Expanding Hunger Hotspots: Today, the hunger crisis is becoming worse across multiple regions. A joint FAO–WFP report identified 16 countries at high risk of famine or catastrophic hunger, including Sudan, South Sudan, Palestine, Mali, Haiti, and Yemen. Other countries of concern include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Syria. Acute food insecurity in these areas forces families to skip meals, sell essential possessions, or migrate under dangerous conditions.¹⁵

18, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-global-outlook>.

¹⁵ United Nations, 2025. “Millions of Lives at Risk, Warn UN Food Agencies, as Hunger Crisis Worsens | UN News,” United Nations, November 12, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166342>.

¹⁵ UN World Food Programme, 2025. “New Fao-WFP Report Warns of Shrinking Window to Prevent Millions More People Facing Acute Food Insecurity in 16 Hotspots: World Food Programme,” UN World Food Programme, November 12, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/new-fao-wfp-report-warns-shrinking-window-prevent-millions-more-people-facing-acute-food>.



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Funding Shortfalls: One of the most pressing issues facing the WFP now is the severe funding gap. In 2025, WFP projected a 40 percent decrease in available funding, leaving only USD 6.4 billion against a need of USD 13 billion. This shortfall means ration cuts and reduced coverage, with WFP warning it can only reach about 110 million people in 2026, even though 318 million are expected to face crisis-level hunger.¹⁶

Political Resistance and Access: In some regions, governments restrict humanitarian access or politicize food aid. This makes it difficult for WFP to operate neutrally and reach the most vulnerable populations. Political resistance also affects donor commitments, with some states cutting humanitarian budgets despite rising global needs.¹⁷

Leading actors

Strengthening the World Food Programme is a global effort that depends on the commitment of donor governments, UN bodies, and civil society partners. These actors provide the funding, political support, and operational capacity that allow WFP to deliver food assistance and build resilience worldwide.

Donor Countries

European Union: EU Member States provided a combined total of USD 14 bn. The European Commission provided more than USD 444

¹⁶invezz, n.d.“World Food Programme Warns of Intensifying Global Hunger Crisis amid Severe Funding Cuts | Invezz,” invezz, n.d., <https://invezz.com/news/2025/11/18/world-food-programme-warns-of-intensifying-global-hunger-crisis-amid-severe-funding-cuts/>.

¹⁷ invezz, n.d.“World Food Programme Warns of Intensifying Global Hunger Crisis amid Severe Funding Cuts | Invezz,” invezz, n.d., <https://invezz.com/news/2025/11/18/world-food->

million in 2025, making it one of WFP’s top institutional donors.¹⁸ Now that the war in Ukraine is a higher priority, European donors are much more constrained in what they can give elsewhere.

Republic of Korea: Emerging as a significant donor, contributing over USD 200 million in 2025, much of it in multi-year commitments.¹⁹

United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada: Together, these countries contributed nearly USD 1 billion in 2025, with Germany and Canada emphasizing multi-year funding to improve predictability.²⁰ Now that the war in Ukraine is a higher priority, these donors are much more constrained in what they can give elsewhere.

United States remains the largest individual donor to WFP, although its giving is down sharply under the leadership of President Donald Trump. While American outlay declined sharply from USD 8 to 10 billion annual, the US still contributed over USD 1.7 billion in 2025. U.S. support is critical for emergency operations in conflict zones and for nutrition programs targeting women and children.²¹

UN major bodies

UN General Assembly (UNGA) provides political legitimacy for WFP’s work by adopting resolutions on food security and humanitarian assistance. It frames hunger as a global priority, linking WFP’s mission to the Sustainable

[programme-warns-of-intensifying-global-hunger-crisis-amid-severe-funding-cuts/](https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025).

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “Contributions to WFP in 2025,” UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>.



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Development Goals (SDG 2: Zero Hunger). Additionally, UNGA debates and declarations help mobilize member states to commit funding and support for WFP.²²

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) coordinates international economic and social policy, ensuring food security is integrated into development frameworks. It also provides policy guidance and monitors progress toward global hunger reduction, reinforcing WFP's role in resilience and long-term food systems.²³

Security Council recognizes hunger as a driver of instability and has linked food security to peace and security. WFP's Nobel Peace Prize (2020) underscored this connection, showing how food aid can prevent hunger from being used as a weapon of war.²⁴ Furthermore, in conflict zones, Security Council resolutions often mandate a specific role for the WFP to reduce humanitarian suffering.²⁵

UN agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): This organization works closely with WFP on

²² Britannica, 2025 “World Food Programme ,” Britannica, November 28, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/World-Food-Programme>.

²³ ECOSOC, 2025 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World , July 12, 2023, https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/ECOSOC_Brochure.pdf.

²⁴ Cteec, n.d. “What Is World Food Programme and Its Global Impact,” Cteec, n.d., <https://cteec.org/what-is-world-food-programme/>.

²⁵ Manorama Yearbook, 2025, “What Is the Role of UN World Food Programme (WFP)?,” Manorama Yearbook, 18AD, <https://www.manoramayearbook.in/current-affairs/world/2025/02/18/world-food-programme-wfp-explained.html>.

²⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization, n.d. “Partnering with WFP: FAO and UN System

agricultural development and resilience, linking food aid to long-term food systems.²⁶

UN General Assembly (UNGA): Provides WFP's mandate and political legitimacy, ensuring food security remains central to the UN's agenda.²⁷

UN Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Partner with WFP in contexts where food security intersects with development and refugee protection.²⁸

UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTF): Channel pooled resources from governments and UN agencies to WFP, supporting SDG-related projects in fragile states.²⁹

NGOs and civil society

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are private, independent of governments and the UN. But their humanitarian work often depends on leadership from the WFP, which guides global priorities and helps coordinate the responses of all organizations. Major NGOs include:

Partnerships,” Food and Agriculture Organization, n.d., <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/fao-un-system/UN-Partners/fao-and-wfp/en>.

²⁷ Wikipedia, 2025 “World Food Programme,” Wikipedia, September 22, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Food_Programme.

²⁸ UNDP, 2020 “Transforming Food and Agriculture - United Nations Development Programme,” United Nations Development Programme, June 5, 2020, <https://stories.undp.org/transforming-food-and-agriculture>. WFP-UNHCR, 2024 “A Call to Action,” WFP-UNHCR, November 24, 2024, <https://wfp-unhcr-hub.org/2024/11/29/a-call-to-action/>.

²⁹ UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, n.d. “WFP (World Food Programme),” UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, n.d., <https://mptf.undp.org/participating-organizations/wfp>.



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CARE International, Save the Children, and Oxfam: These organizations collaborate with WFP on the ground, delivering food assistance and supporting nutrition programs.³⁰

Local NGOs and community groups: Essential for last-mile delivery, ensuring aid reaches vulnerable populations in remote or conflict-affected areas.³¹

Private sector partners: Logistics companies, tech firms, and agricultural businesses provide expertise in supply chains, digital innovation, and food production.³²

Landmark UN Resolutions

UN Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018): This resolution recognized the link between armed conflict and food insecurity, condemning the use of starvation as a weapon of war. It also called for better protection of civilians and humanitarian access in conflict zones. This resolution was historic because it elevated hunger from a humanitarian issue to a peace and

security concern, reinforcing WFP's role in conflict.³³

UN General Assembly Resolution on the Global Food Crisis (2022): The UN General Assembly adopted this resolution during the 76th session, titled "State of Global Food Insecurity" (A/76/L.55). It called on the international community to urgently support countries affected by rising food prices and shortages. Moreover, it welcomed the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance, reinforcing multilateral coordination.³⁴

UN General Assembly Resolutions on Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition (2024): The UN General Assembly adopted resolutions on agriculture development, food security, and nutrition, as well as eradicating rural poverty. It expressed concern over rising hunger levels and welcomed the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. This linked food security directly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stressing resilience against climate shocks.³⁵

³⁰ CARE International UK, 2025 "CARE's Response to Global Report on Food Crises 2025," CARE International UK, May 16, 2025, <https://www.careinternational.org.uk/news-stories/care-response-global-report-food-crises-2025/>. Save the Children, n.d. "Save the Children | Nutrition for Children and Mothers," Save the Children, n.d., <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/health/nutrition>.

³¹ UN WFP Innovation, n.d. "Route the Meals," UN WFP Innovation, n.d., <https://innovation.wfp.org/project/route-meals>.

³² World Economic Forum, 2025 "Bridging the Gap: How the Private Sector Is Streamlining Humanitarian Response," World Economic Forum, May 19, 2025, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/05/humanitarian-response-private-sector/>. UN World Food Programme, n.d. "Private Sector Partnerships: World Food Programme," UN World Food Programme, n.d., <https://www.wfp.org/private-sector>.

³³ UN World Food Programme, 2022 "The Day the UN Barred Using Hunger and Starvation as Weapons of War: World Food Programme," UN World Food Programme, May 24, 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/un-barred-using-hunger-and-starvation-weapons-war>. Security Council, 2018 "Resolution 2417 (2018)," United Nations, May 24, 2018, [https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2417\(2018\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2417(2018)).

³⁴ United Nations, 2022 "General Assembly Adopts Resolution Addressing Global Food Crisis | UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases," United Nations, May 23, 2022, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12421.doc.htm>.

³⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization, 2024 "General Assembly Adopts Resolutions on Food and Agriculture Matters," Food and Agriculture Organization, December 17, 2024, <https://www.fao.org/new-york/news/news-detail/general-assembly-adopts-resolutions-on-food-and-agriculture-matters-2024/en>.



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UN General Assembly Resolution 3202 (S-VI) – Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (1974): This resolution emphasized the importance of food security and equitable distribution of resources as part of a fairer global economic order. This is a recognition that food security is not only humanitarian but also economic and developmental, laying groundwork for WFP's integration into global development frameworks.³⁶

What the UN cannot do

Direct Enforcement: The UN cannot force member states to adopt specific food security policies or contribute funding. WFP depends on voluntary contributions, and when donors cut support, operations are reduced. In 2025, WFP warned that severe donor cuts were pushing millions into hunger, with nearly 14 million people at risk.³⁷

Military Intervention for Food Aid: The UN cannot deploy military force to secure food distribution unless explicitly authorized by the Security Council. WFP relies on negotiated humanitarian access rather than armed enforcement.³⁸

³⁶United Nations, 1995 “Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of Its 47th Session:,” United Nations, November 17, 1995, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/191144?v=pdf>.

³⁷ United Nations, 2025 “Humanitarian Funding Cuts Pushing Millions into Hunger: WFP | UN News,” United Nations, October 15, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166112>.

³⁸ United Nations, 2025 “Millions of Lives at Risk, Warn UN Food Agencies, as Hunger Crisis Worsens | UN News,” United Nations, November 12, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166342>.

³⁹ United Nations, 2025 “Millions of Lives at Risk, Warn UN Food Agencies, as Hunger Crisis Worsens | UN News,” United Nations, November 12, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166342>.

Sovereignty Limits: The UN cannot override national sovereignty. Humanitarian access requires host government consent, and in some cases, governments restrict or politicize food aid. Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018) condemned starvation as a weapon of war but showed the limits of enforcement without member state cooperation.³⁹

Solve Root Causes Alone: The UN cannot single-handedly eliminate the root causes of hunger, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and war. Joint FAO–WFP reports stress that conflict, economic shocks, and climate extremes drive hunger, and solutions require national reforms and sustained investment.⁴⁰

Unlimited Resources: The UN cannot guarantee unlimited funding or supplies. WFP projected a 40 percent funding decline in 2025, forcing ration cuts and limiting aid to 110 million people, even though 318 million face crisis-level hunger.⁴¹

Country and bloc positions

African Union: The African Union stresses sovereignty and resilience, urging WFP to align with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture

⁴⁰ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “New Faowfp Report Warns of Shrinking Window to Prevent Millions More People Facing Acute Food Insecurity in 16 Hotspots: World Food Programme,” UN World Food Programme, November 12, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/new-fao-wfp-report-warns-shrinking-window-prevent-millions-more-people-facing-acute-food>.

⁴¹ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “WFP to Prioritize Feeding 110 Million of the Hungriest in 2026 as Global Hunger Deepens amidst Uncertain Funding: World Food Programme,” UN World Food Programme, November 18, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-prioritize-feeding-110-million-hungriest-2026-global-hunger-deepens-amidst-uncertain>.



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Development Programme (CAADP). AU statements highlight the need to empower local farmers, reduce dependency, and integrate food aid with agricultural investment and climate adaptation.⁴²

Arab League: Gulf donors have become increasingly visible, funding WFP operations in the Middle East and Africa. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been praised for contributions that continue to save lives by enabling food distribution to vulnerable populations.⁴³

European Union: The European Commission contributed \$542 million in 2025, prioritizing multi-year funding to ensure predictability. The EU consistently ties WFP's mission to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing resilience against climate shocks and integration with a long-term development framework.⁴⁴ Now that the war in Ukraine is a higher priority, European donors are much more constrained in what they can give elsewhere.

Germany, United Kingdom, Canada: Germany, the UK, and Canada broadly align on strengthening WFP's resilience and protection

⁴² UN World Food Programme, 2023 “Africa Day Comment: WFP and the African Union Work to End Hunger and Food Insecurity,” UN World Food Programme, May 26, 2023, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/africa-day-comment-wfp-and-african-union-work-end-hunger-and-food-insecurity>.

⁴³ ARAB NEWS, 2022 “Saudi, UAE Donations ‘Continue to Save People from Hunger,’ Says World Food Programme GCC Representative,” ARAB NEWS, October 30, 2022, <https://www.arabnews.com/>.

⁴⁴ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “Contributions to WFP in 2025,” UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>.

⁴⁵ German Humanitarian Assistance, 2024 “Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad,” Federal Foreign Office, September 2024,

mandates, but each brings a distinct emphasis. Germany emphasizes climate risk management and anticipatory action, the UK stresses humanitarian access in conflict zones, and Canada highlights nutrition and gender equity.⁴⁵ Together, they advocate predictable, flexible funding tied to measurable outcomes. According to the data, Germany contributed USD 555 million, the United Kingdom USD 420 million, and Canada USD 227 million in 2025.⁴⁶ Now that the war in Ukraine is a higher priority, European donors are much more constrained in what they can give elsewhere.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China: The NAM and China emphasize fairness, South-South cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty. Their joint statements at FAO and WFP governing bodies highlight the need to eradicate hunger and poverty while resisting donor conditionalities.⁴⁷ They strongly support humanitarian assistance, but demand that recipient governments have greater control over how aid is bought and distributed.

Nordic Countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark): The Nordics are known for progressive

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/resource/blob/2672934/3052456b515f20acba6c60a35665cd1e/2024-strategie-huhi-data.pdf>. Global Affairs Canada, n.d. “Canada Will Prioritize Nutrition Projects That Integrate Gender Equality Considerations to Prevent Malnutrition in All Its Forms.,” Global Nutrition Report, n.d., <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/commitment-tracker/global-affairs-canada-2/canada-will-prioritize-nutrition-projects-that/>.

⁴⁶ UN World Food Programme, 2025 “Contributions to WFP in 2025,” UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>.

⁴⁷ UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 2025 “Joint Statement of the Group of 77 and China 53rd Committee on World Food Security,” UN Food and Agriculture Organization, October 20, 2025, <https://www.fao.org/g77/joint-statements/documents-details/en/c/1744483/>.



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humanitarian policies and multi-year contributions. Their joint statements at WFP's Executive Board emphasize gender equality, nutrition, and climate resilience, urging WFP to integrate rights-based approaches into food security programming.⁴⁸ Now that the war in Ukraine is a higher priority, Nordic donors are much more constrained in what they can give elsewhere.

Republic of Korea: South Korea contributed USD 229 million in 2025, much of it multi-year. Seoul positions itself as a bridge between developed and developing countries, emphasizing predictable funding, regional solidarity, and technology-enabled delivery.⁴⁹

United States: According to the WFP, the United States, even after President Trump's dramatic cuts, remains the largest donor, contributing USD 1.78 billion in 2025.⁵⁰ American policy emphasizes support for American foreign policy goals, especially religious freedom and support for American global leadership. Washington frames food security as a peace and security issue, linking WFP's work to stability in fragile states. The US does not oppose the WFP, but expects its donations to support the *Make American Great Again* policies of President Donald Trump⁵¹

⁴⁸Norway in the UN, 2025 "WFP. Nordic Statement on the Opening Remarks by the Executive Director," Norway in the UN, March 4, 2025, https://www.norway.no/en/missions/un-rome/Norway_in_Rome/News/wfp.-nordic-statement-on-opening-remarks-by-the-executive-director/.

⁴⁹ UN World Food Programme, 2025 "Contributions to WFP in 2025," UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>. Republic of Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2025 "Republic of Korea Strengthens Cooperation with United Nations on Response to Global Humanitarian Crisis View: Ministry News: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea," Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, July 4, 2025,

Some proposals for action

The sovereign Member States of the UN are free to develop any policy option they see fit as they try to strengthen and improve the World Food Programme. Here are some prominent ideas they can pursue:

Prioritize specific humanitarian problems for WFP resources. Instead of reacting globally, the UN Member States can direct the WFP to target its resources at favored problems, such as Gaza and Palestine. Support for such issues is highest among the Non-Aligned Movement. But some of the latter will lose support if the WFP prioritizes other situations.

Create Regional Solidarity Platforms. The UN could strengthen regional blocs, for example, AU, ASEAN, and EU, to coordinate food security responses with WFP. This would enhance ownership and reduce dependency on external donors.

Gender-Sensitive Nutrition Initiatives. The UN could scale up maternal and child nutrition programs, integrating women's empowerment

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321143.

⁵⁰ UN World Food Programme, 2025 "Contributions to WFP in 2025," UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>.

⁵¹ UN World Food Programme, 2025 "Contributions to WFP in 2025," UN World Food Programme, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2025>. Antony J. Blinken, 2022 "Additional U.S. Contribution to the World Food Programme," U.S. Department of State, August 16, 2022, <https://2021-2025.state.gov/additional-u-s-contribution-to-the-world-food-programme/>.



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into food aid. This would help cater well for women and children, especially in marginalized and conflict zones.

Global Ban on Using Starvation as a Weapon of War with Sanctions: The UN could enact and enforce sanctions against governments or armed groups that deliberately block food aid. This would require Security Council consensus, which is politically contentious.

Mandatory Global Food Security Levy: The UN could impose a binding levy on all UN member states (scaled by GDP) to fund World Food Programme operations. This would create a predictable, permanent funding strategy for WFP operations. There will be strong support from aid recipients of the Non-Aligned Movement. But expect opposition from countries like China and the United States, which demand donor country control. The Arab League and Europe might be more supportive.

Universal Digital Food Identity System: The UN should create a UN-managed biometric/digital ID for all food aid recipients worldwide. This would ensure transparency and prevent duplication; however, this might raise privacy concerns.

Conclusion

The World Food Programme stands at the center of the global fight against hunger, yet its effectiveness is limited by the realities of international politics. Whether it will stay at the center depends on the ability of the UN to reform and adapt to changing circumstances,

especially the dramatic drop in funding from traditional donors.

The UN cannot compel member states to contribute resources, override sovereignty, or enforce humanitarian access without Security Council authorization. These limits emphasize the need for stronger commitments from donors and more innovative approaches to food security.

Country and bloc positions reveal both convergence and divergence. Major donors such as the United States, the European Union, and Canada emphasize predictable funding, humanitarian access, and resilience programming. Emerging actors like the Republic of Korea and Gulf states highlight multi-year commitments, regional solidarity, and technology-enabled delivery. Meanwhile, blocs such as the African Union and the G77 with China stress sovereignty, fairness, and the empowerment of local food systems. Together, these positions illustrate that while all actors recognize WFP's importance, they differ in how to balance immediate relief with long-term transformation.

Ultimately, the path forward requires both vision and pragmatism. Delegates must weigh bold reforms against political realities, recognizing that hunger is not only a humanitarian crisis but also a threat to peace, stability, and development. The debate at Model UN should therefore focus on how to mobilize predictable resources, safeguard humanitarian access, and integrate WFP's mission with broader development frameworks. Only through collective action can the international community move closer to the goal of ending hunger.



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