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INTRODUCTION

Welthungerhilfe takes pride in designing and implementing impact-oriented projects. We are a learning organization that operates in fast changing and risky environments. As such, not every project results in success. This inaugural impact report is an important milestone on our journey to reflect on our successes and non-successes. It also adds as a benchmark to further strengthen our qualitative and quantitative methods, make use of digital technology and software, and improve our outcome and impact orientation. Through this report, we systematically took stock of quantitative results from a significant part of our projects and programs across seven of our key areas of action: food security, nutrition, water, sanitation, economic development, women’s empowerment, and skills-development. Additionally, we dove deep into the qualitative results of selected projects around the world to understand the “why” behind the results and to derive lessons for improved program design. With this report, we further strengthen and promote our culture of transparency and accountability within Welthungerhilfe as well as towards our participants, funders, donors, and the interested public.

In recent years, Welthungerhilfe has done a lot to answer the question of the outcomes and impact of our projects and programs and to use the results for learning at all levels. Crucial steps on this path included the publication of the practical Guidelines for Outcome and Impact Orientation in 2009, with which Welthungerhilfe formulated its understanding of and its requirements for outcome and impact orientation during the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of projects and programs.

Impact vs. Outcome and Impact Orientation
Currently, there is a range of different definitions of impact in the field of development cooperation. Welthungerhilfe uses the widely used definition of OECD/DAC: “Impacts are positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended” (2009).

By outcome and impact orientation (DAC: “Managing for development results”), Welthungerhilfe means that programs and projects are designed to produce positive changes, i.e. outcomes and impacts in the lives of our project participants. On all levels, positive outcomes/impacts are aimed at, and outcomes/impacts generally (positive, negative, intended, unintended) must be monitored, documented, and interpreted. These findings are used to steer and constantly improve our programs and projects, to support institutional knowledge management, and for reporting purposes.

In 2016, we took outcome and impact orientation to the next level and launched Welthungerhilfe’s Measuring Success framework, which defines what success means for our organization and how it can be measured. The framework is aligned to our vision of “One Planet – Zero Hunger” and integrates Welthungerhilfe’s key strategic areas.

One of the priorities of the new Welthungerhilfe strategy (2021–2024) is data-based learning and decision-making. Consequently, Welthungerhilfe will significantly invest in improving its data management cycle to further strengthen key steps such as data collection, data management, and data analysis and use. Welthungerhilfe believes that this enables projects and programs to make their decisions based on data. Measuring Success is one of the key initiatives for reaching this goal.

While Measuring Success data covers many of Welthungerhilfe’s projects and programs, some programs measure other indicators more suitable for their context. Nevertheless, Measuring Success is a suitable cross-section of all of Welthungerhilfe’s projects and programs, especially in the development sector.
WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED: OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

Global Baseline and Mid-/Endline Values for All Seven Measuring Success Indicators

The Measuring Success framework defines what success means for Welthungerhilfe and how it can be measured. The seven standardized quantitative indicators cover Welthungerhilfe’s main intervention areas.

Developments show an overall positive trend across all 147 complete datasets received for the seven #ms indicators from projects under implementation between 2014 and 2021.

Food security outcomes (25)*

#ms1: Average months of adequate household food provisioning

- 7.2
- 9.3

Drinking water outcomes (15)*

#ms3: Households using safely managed drinking water services

- 112,496
+56,206

Nutrition outcomes (32)*

#ms2: Share of targeted women aged 15–49 consuming a sufficiently diverse diet (MDD-W)

- 33%
- 60%

*Numbers in brackets indicate the number of Welthungerhilfe projects in which this indicator was measured.
Economic development outcomes (38)*

#ms5: Households increasing their cash income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Current</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>241,852</td>
<td>92,065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skills-development outcomes (24)*

#ms7: Trainees successfully completing skills-development training

Women’s empowerment outcomes (5)*

#ms6: Share of adult women able to influence decision-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Current</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influence</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sanitation outcomes (8)*

#ms4: Households using safely managed sanitation services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Current</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>43,203</td>
<td>20,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Overview: #ms Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Question</th>
<th>Specific Question</th>
<th>Indicator/Metrics</th>
<th>Quali. Tools/Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Who do we reach?</td>
<td>How many do we reach? Do we reach the right people?</td>
<td>Direct reach (disaggregated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How much better off are they?</td>
<td>More nutritious food?</td>
<td>#Months of adequate household food provisioning, #Women aged 15–49 consuming a sufficiently diverse diet</td>
<td>Community Score Cards, Stories of Change, Focus Group Discussions, Sustainability Self-Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Better water and sanitation?</td>
<td>#Households using safely managed drinking water services, #Households using safely managed sanitation services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Better income?</td>
<td>#Households increasing their cash income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Better able to help themselves?</td>
<td>#Adult women being able to influence decision making, #Trainees successfully completing skills-development training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Are the benefits likely to last?</td>
<td>Do we address structural change?</td>
<td>#Partners engaged in advocacy, #Rights-based projects/programs</td>
<td>Community Score Cards, Sustainability Self-Assessments, MAPP: Method for Impact Assessment of Programmes and Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are the benefits likely to continue beyond the end of the project?</td>
<td>#Projects with stable indicators among the projects that have carried out post-implementation monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WELTHUNGERHILFE’S APPROACH TO OUTCOME AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT

Welthungerhilfe’s MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) function deals with fundamental questions such as “Do the interventions work?” or “Which changes have been achieved for whom and how?” These questions are at times difficult to answer given the complexities and constraints of our operating environment.

The main objectives of MEAL are using data and learning to

- enable project and program steering and decision-making;
- ensure accountability and transparency; and
- improve the quality of projects and programs.

To achieve these objectives, Welthungerhilfe needs a range of different methods, approaches, and instruments to measure the outcomes and impacts of Welthungerhilfe projects and programs.

Measuring Success Framework

The number of our project participants is a key indicator of the reach of Welthungerhilfe’s projects and programs. The questions of “How many do we reach?” and “Do we reach the right people?” therefore rightly play a central role in Measuring Success.

Another key element of the Measuring Success framework are seven quantitative indicators, which make the results of Welthungerhilfe projects and programs (in our main intervention areas) measurable. With these seven indicators, Welthungerhilfe aims to answer its guiding question: “How much better off are our project participants?”

Success…

… it’s not always what you see.
Alongside quantitative data collection, Welthungerhilfe has also anchored four qualitative methods in the Measuring Success framework to increase the validity and reliability of the data. This mixed-method approach is set as a standard in Welthungerhilfe’s data collection process. Through qualitative methods, Welthungerhilfe tries to answer different questions than those asked in quantitative surveys, which focus more on words than numbers, meaning they go deep instead of broad. Qualitative methods are explanatory; they provide the necessary context to the quantitative data by actively including the perspectives and knowledge of our project participants.

1. The **Community Score Card** process is a community-based monitoring tool that assesses services and government performance in a joint process between public service providers and communities (citizens). It usually includes interface meetings during which action plans are jointly developed to address any identified problems and shortcomings. As part of the Measuring Success framework, the tool strengthens rights-based approaches across all programs and projects of Welthungerhilfe.

2. **Stories of Change** is a method in which Welthungerhilfe listens to stories from our project participants and attributes changes in their lives to a specific project or program.

3. During **Focus Group Discussions**, information from representatives of the communities is collected to validate quantitative Measuring Success data through triangulation.

4. **A Sustainability Self-Assessment** is conducted among project team members to assess the expected or probable sustainability of a project or program as perceived by the team. The results help to derive actions for improved sustainability and facilitate learning with regard to future projects or programs.

Welthungerhilfe aims to mainstream Measuring Success into the monitoring systems of our projects and programs. Measuring Success is mandatory for a large part of Welthungerhilfe projects and programs: At least one quantitative indicator and one qualitative method must be used if the project has a total budget of EUR 100,000 or more and a duration of one year or longer.

In order to collect quantitative Measuring Success data, Welthungerhilfe designed standardized questionnaire forms for each indicator as well as sampling guidelines. Indicator values (baseline and endline) are reported through our internal data management and information system, ProMIS. Moreover, Welthungerhilfe developed manuals to support the implementation of the qualitative methods and standardized reporting templates to facilitate the reporting of qualitative data in ProMIS.

Equally important is the question of “Are the benefits likely to last?” To address this question, Welthungerhilfe looks at potential structural changes that might have occurred and assesses their sustainability. Welthungerhilfe is doing this by monitoring the number of partners engaged in advocacy and the number of rights-based projects or programs. The number of partners engaged in advocacy captures civil society’s ability to engage in political processes. The number of ongoing rights-based projects or programs tracks whether programs and projects actively help to fulfil the right to a self-determined life in dignity and justice. Sustainability is the subject of the sustainability self-assessments (see text box).

In addition, we tackle the question of “Are the benefits likely to continue beyond the end of the project?” by implementing Post-implementation Monitoring and Method for Impact Assessment of Projects and Programs (MAPP) exercises. This means that we return to project participants after the end of a given project to systematically assess whether the achieved outcomes have lasted. Post-implementation Monitoring provides insights into the sustainability of individual Measuring Success indicators. With MAPP being a more comprehensive approach, Welthungerhilfe gains insights into the sustainability and impact of whole interventions.

Welthungerhilfe regularly reports on the progress of Measuring Success. On an annual basis, Welthungerhilfe creates an internal report with a focus on organizational learning and improvement. In addition, Measuring Success data is available and ready for use in a Power BI dashboard.
Evaluation System

Monitoring refers to a routine process that examines the progress of an intervention and identifies bottlenecks which should be addressed. Evaluation, on the other hand, is a one-time activity that is used to draw more comprehensive conclusions on the quality of a project or program. Since the scope of analysis is very likely to be broader, methods of data collection and analysis applied in evaluations are likely to be more comprehensive than those used in monitoring. Welthungerhilfe develops terms of reference for an evaluation and creates appropriate evaluation questions based on OECD DAC criteria, which cover coherence, relevance, sustainability, impact, effectiveness, and efficiency.

Evaluations have a long and strong tradition within Welthungerhilfe. For decades, Welthungerhilfe has commissioned evaluations to provide an independent outsider's view on its programs and projects. The findings and recommendations from these processes are used to improve project or program steering, and lessons learned are considered during project planning. Evaluations help Welthungerhilfe to account for the changes project or programs bring about for and with our project participants.

There are different types of evaluations and different times to conduct them, from midterm to final to ex-post evaluations. Evaluations can be conducted either as a self-evaluation or by an external evaluator.

To ensure that relevant projects are evaluated, Welthungerhilfe developed evaluation criteria in 2019. Any project, i.e. development projects and humanitarian assistance alike, approved as of 2020-01-01 has to be evaluated if it meets one of the following criteria: a) Financial project volume per month >= EUR 150,000 b) Financial project volume >= EUR 2.5 million c) Project duration >= 36 months d) Specific strategic interest. In line with Welthungerhilfe's decentralized organizational set-up, Country Offices are strengthened and empowered to improve program quality and intensify relations with national stakeholders and donors. Consequently, all project evaluations are commissioned and managed directly within the country programs. To give guidance and to improve the quality of evaluation products and management, Welthungerhilfe developed the following standard evaluation templates: Terms of Reference, Management Response Matrix, Evaluation Reporting Checklist, and Inception Report.

Share of Projects (With a Start Date of 2020-01-01 or Later) That Conducted or Planned an Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa; Caribbean</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia; South America</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of projects: 757

Projects that conducted or planned an evaluation
On a regular basis, Welthungerhilfe issues a global learning report. The report targets an internal audience and presents recurring findings derived from evaluation reports. This serves as a basis for a wider organizational learning process. Welthungerhilfe conducts an exploratory analysis to identify cross-project trends of strengths and weaknesses in program work. Based on the findings, action is taken, either to directly respond to weak points or to gain a more in-depth understanding of strengths or weaknesses through another study.

In addition to project evaluations, Welthungerhilfe regularly conducts strategic evaluations. Strategic evaluations provide the management of Welthungerhilfe with information for the strategic decision-making and positioning of the organization, both internally and externally. The last strategic evaluation, on Climate Change Adaption and Climate Resilience, was completed in October 2021. Meta-evaluations are also carried out at regular intervals to evaluate the evaluation practice itself.

**MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) Network in Welthungerhilfe**

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) in Welthungerhilfe has many tasks and faces at all levels: projects, programs, Country Offices, or at the Global Office in Germany. The system requires all functions and levels to work together. All Country Offices and many of the projects and programs have designated MEAL staff. These colleagues are essential for collecting meaningful data, ensuring data quality, setting up and implementing complaint response mechanisms, and making sure that decision-making and learning happen based on relevant data. The main tasks of the MEAL team at the Global Office level are to develop MEAL standards, organize their roll-out and advise on their implementation, implement MEAL capacity development or assist with technical support, develop learning concepts and facilitate reflection and analysis, manage strategic evaluations, and support and manage our global information database.
Every year, Welthungerhilfe updates data on participants in projects and programs. The data gathered from directly implemented projects and programs and from projects implemented with partners goes through a data quality assurance process.

In this report, all people who directly received goods or services from Welthungerhilfe in projects or programs in 2021 are counted as participants. So-called “indirect” participants – such as household or community members of people who received goods or services from Welthungerhilfe – are not counted.

On the next pages is a complete overview, which includes the main program areas for each country.
### All Welthungerhilfe Projects and Programs in 2021

#### AFRICA – OVERVIEW OF ALL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects underway*</th>
<th>Program areas</th>
<th>People supported**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>![Humanitarian assistance] ![Agriculture and the environment] ![Nutrition] ![Water, sanitation, and hygiene] ![Civil society and empowerment] ![Economic development]</td>
<td>1,829,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>![Humanitarian assistance] ![Agriculture and the environment] ![Nutrition] ![Water, sanitation, and hygiene] ![Civil society and empowerment] ![Economic development]</td>
<td>1,666,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td></td>
<td>![Humanitarian assistance] ![Agriculture and the environment] ![Nutrition] ![Water, sanitation, and hygiene] ![Civil society and empowerment] ![Economic development]</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Africa</strong></td>
<td><strong>308</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11,534,589</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The project count includes all projects with booked expenditures in 2021.

**The participant count is based on the total number of participants that were reached by all projects in 2021, including projects that had no booked expenditures because they were in the early or late implementation stages.
## ASIA – OVERVIEW OF ALL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects underway*</th>
<th>Program areas</th>
<th>People supported**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>587,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>218,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,550,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>77,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>52,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>450,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Korea***</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,343,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>426,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>150,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Türkiye</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Asia</strong></td>
<td>158</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,912,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SOUTH AMERICA / CARIBBEAN – OVERVIEW OF ALL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects underway*</th>
<th>Program areas</th>
<th>People supported**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia, Peru</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>129,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for South America / the Caribbean</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>131,634</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TRANSREGIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- **45**

## Overseas project funding

- **526**

## GERMANY

- **7**

## Total project funding in Germany and overseas

- **533**

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*The project count includes all projects with booked expenditures in 2021.

**The participant count is based on the total number of participants that were reached by all projects in 2021, including projects that had no booked expenditures because they were in the early or late implementation stages.

***Due to regulations imposed by the government of North Korea in response to COVID-19, it was not possible for us to continue delivering our projects there in 2021. However, because we are maintaining our office in the capital city in order to be able to resume our work as soon as possible, some administrative costs were incurred in 2021.
#ms1: Average months of adequate household food provisioning (MAHFP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Baseline value</th>
<th>Mid-/endline value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR Congo</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Türkiye</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAHFP shows a positive trend across most of the 25 projects that reported baseline and mid-term/endline data.

Across these projects, the average number of months of household food sufficiency increased by 29 percent (from 7.2 months to 9.33 months).

## Food Access: Introduction

In many parts of the world, access to food is a complex and multifaceted matter. It is exactly this complexity which too often prevents people from exercising a human right: the right to adequate food and nutrition. The current Global Hunger Index (GHI) forecasts that the world as a whole (47 countries in particular) will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.1 On these grounds, Welthungerhilfe has committed to contributing to a world without hunger. The fight against hunger is a complex issue. What pathways can Welthungerhilfe take to tackle hunger worldwide?

Food access is one of the core dimensions of Welthungerhilfe’s Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (SFNS) framework. The framework is based on four dimensions: food availability (for instance the availability of sufficient quantities of food), food access (such as access to adequate resources), use and utilization of food (including adequate diets and the ability to metabolize the food), and stability. Stability matters because food security requires continuous access to adequate food at all times as well as stability within other relevant interrelated sectors, as explained earlier. To improve the accessibility of food, Welthungerhilfe provides training in livestock and food crop production, including cash crops, post-harvest management measures such as food storage and processing, soil conservation activities, and training in irrigation management to improve the sustainability of the measures. In projects in a humanitarian assistance setting, short-term activities to make food accessible might include food transfers, infant and young child feeding, and cash and voucher transfers. Welthungerhilfe chooses all project activities according to the specific short-, medium-, and long-term requirements of our project participants.

## Measuring Success Indicator One

Welthungerhilfe tracks its Food Access outcomes by counting the average months of food sufficiency (of targeted households) in the previous 12 months.2 The indicator represents the ability to acquire a sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members’ nutritional requirements for productive lives. Food can be obtained either independently (through own production, stockpiles, purchases, or gathering efforts) or through food transfers (from relatives, community members, governments, or donors). Welthungerhilfe has consciously chosen not to set criteria for determining food sufficiency. That decision must be made by the respondents.

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1. [https://www.globalhungerindex.org/trends.html](https://www.globalhungerindex.org/trends.html)
2. The Food and Nutrition technical assistance guide, FANTA III, defines household food access as the ability to acquire a sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members’ nutritional requirements for productive lives. [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadk899.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadk899.pdf)
As of 2021, 25 projects in 16 countries have reported baseline and midterm/endline datasets for this indicator. One of the highest outcomes was achieved by a project implemented in Somaliland. In the course of the project, the average number of food-secure months according to the indicator increased by three months, from three to six. Two projects Welthungerhilfe implemented in Sudan even surpassed Somaliland’s outcome: Within the project period, the number of months the project participants (households) were provided with adequate food increased from the initial 5.4 months to 8.7 months. In contrast to these positive outcomes, no increase for the indicator could be measured in a project in Uganda, where it remained stable at 9.5 months. The lack of improvement in the situation for project participants in Uganda has not only one but several reasons that were beyond the control of the project. A key reason is that climatic changes have made it much more difficult to grow food. South Sudan stands as well a country where Welthungerhilfe was unable to measure positive changes in food security at the endline. In the light of the ongoing political crisis and climate-related disasters, it has become challenging to help communities sustain the already low level of food security, let alone improve it. However, the endline report shows a considerable increase in crop and livestock production among our project participants, which translated to an increase in household incomes and savings.

Support for Syrian Refugee Families in Achieving Food Security Through Income-Generating Production of Vegetables: Example from Türkiye

Even though Türkiye is in the 2021 Global Hunger Index (GHI) as one of 18 countries with a GHI score of less than 5, i.e. “low level of hunger,” the situation for Syrian refugees remains challenging. The project was implemented from October 2017 to June 2020 in Mardin and Hatay in the south of Türkiye, along the Syrian border. When the project was designed, the region was strongly affected by cross-border refugee movements (and certainly still is). It is estimated that three million refugees seeking shelter in the bordering country were living in and outside of camps. The World Food Programme (WFP) considered the off-camp food security situation to be precarious, with almost one third of the interviewed households being food insecure, leaving the sixty-six percent majority at risk of food insecurity. A rapid return of the refugees to Syria was not expected.

Against this background, Welthungerhilfe designed its project to provide complementary long-term solutions in terms of food security for refugees and to enable households in the host country to benefit as well. 3 750 households (most of them with an agricultural background) in and outside the refugee camps participated, for instance in training in greenhouse and outdoor vegetable cultivation and nutrition. Greenhouses and other equipment were provided by the project. The resulting yields improved the food security of the households, and surpluses were sold at the local markets to provide an income for the households. At the end of the training in greenhouse cultivation, graduates received a certificate that provided access to the formal job market.

In a Focus Group Discussion, participants of the project explained that, prior to the project, most households survived on unstable income streams and often resorted to negative coping strategies such as borrowing money and buying on credit to meet their household’s essential needs. Such behavior had a negative impact on their mental wellbeing and occasionally created intra-household conflict.

3 Turkish landowners provided agricultural plots to the project participants and received rent.
As a result of the project, which was implemented by Welthungerhilfe and local partners, participants highlighted that, after the harvest, they could comfortably provide food to their families and sell produce at the local markets. The additional income streams enabled households to afford goods beyond those addressing food security, including non-food items such as household supplies and clothes. Some participants even managed to save small amounts of money.

Other project participants were able to diversify their diets with a variety of better-quality food and, in some cases, increase the number of meals per day due to the higher income. Several households also reported stocking up on non-perishable food items. At the end of the project, greenhouses were officially handed over to local authorities, who formally employed a large number of project participants. This project, and similar ones implemented by Welthungerhilfe in the reporting period, managed to increase the total number of months of adequate household food provisioning (MAHFP) by 2.9 months, which resulted in 7.4 months by the end of the projects.

Nufe’s example also illustrates the positive psychological effect that the inclusion of women in agricultural and income-generating projects has:

“I feel so comfortable, and I am overjoyed to have a job and my own piece of land. I can go to bed without worrying about what tomorrow will bring, because I know I have a job the next day and can support my family. It’s a great feeling to be independent. I have my own peppers to take care of and earn my own income and can do whatever I want with that! I don’t depend on a man—it’s so cool!”
#ms2: Share of targeted women aged 15–49 consuming a minimal diverse diet (MDD-W)¹

Minimum Dietary Diversity: Introduction

Why does Welthungerhilfe not only fight against hunger but introduce a sharp focus on nutrition in general and the nutrition of women of reproductive age in particular? Every thirteen seconds, a child dies from the effects of hunger. Up to 811 million people are going hungry, and more than two billion suffer from malnutrition.² The causes of hunger and malnutrition are manifold and include poverty (for example due to a lack of sources of income), natural disasters, a lack of access to water, and climate change. Hidden hunger, also known as micronutrient deficiencies, afflicts more than two billion people (one in three) globally.³

The effects can be devastating, leading to mental impairment, poor health, low productivity, and even death. Women and children are particularly affected by the negative impacts of micronutrient deficiencies. The nutritional status of women around the time of conception and during pregnancy has long-term effects for fetal growth and development, especially within the first 1,000 days of a child’s life.⁴ In many parts of the world, rural communities are particularly affected by hunger and micronutrient deficiencies. Soil erosion and degradation and floods often lead to low agricultural production and even to the loss of entire harvests. Farmers can no longer produce sufficient food for their families, communities, and local markets.

The development of new land (in some cases through slash-and-burn methods) is seen as the only solution. Land erosion and degradation continue, causing the silting of rice fields downstream and aggravating the impact of the recurrent drought on farmers’ cropping systems: the vicious cycle is in full swing.

To break the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental degradation, Welthungerhilfe has developed specific approaches to promote a better understanding of the different dimensions of sustainable food and nutrition security (SFNS) and their interactions. For instance, Welthungerhilfe uses the multisectoral LANN+ approach (Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security).⁵ The approach is centered around family nutrition, with a special focus on children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. It stresses the integration of nutrition-sensitive sectoral elements that address underlying and basic causes of malnutrition to achieve nutrition security. The purpose of the LANN+ approach is to make use of the complementary intersectoral linkages between agriculture, natural resource management, nutrition education, WASH, and (agricultural and non-agricultural) income generation.

¹ Relative values and changes have been analyzed to allow for better comparability across projects (incl. those with changes in population size)
² https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/hunger/
³ FAO 2013
⁵ The LANN+ approach is closely linked to the multi-factorial and cross-sectoral concept of Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (SFNS)
Measuring Success Indicator Two

Welthungerhilfe tracks its nutrition outcomes (instead of MDD-W) by counting the number of women of reproductive age (15–49 years) consuming a minimal diverse diet. The indicator plays a crucial role in the implementation of Welthungerhilfe’s strategy of “One Planet – Zero Hunger.” Women of reproductive age are especially vulnerable due to physiologically higher nutrient demands during pregnancy and lactation. The MDD-W assesses the nutritional status of women of reproductive age.

As of 2021, 32 projects in 17 countries have reported baseline and midterm/endline datasets for this indicator. Among all countries, by far the best outcome was achieved in Bangladesh by a regional program promoting an approach for Nutrition Smart Villages. The project presented an increase of the baseline (five percent) by 80 percent at the end of implementation. Another project, implemented in Iraq, started off with a baseline value of 45 percent of women with minimal dietary diversity; at the end of the project, more than seven out of ten women they worked with (71 percent) met the criteria for this indicator. Projects in Kenya and Malawi resulted in a decrease of the women with a minimal diverse diet participating in the projects (Kenya: from 30 down to 10 percent; Malawi: from 49 down to 25 percent). In Kenya, among other things, a severe drought resulted in very poor yields from kitchen gardens. Similarly, the targeted project participants had too little money to buy nutritious foods from the local markets, instead purchasing any cheap food available in general.

In Malawi, the reasons for this development must be mainly attributed to the fact that, due to logistical reasons, the endline survey was conducted during the lean season whereas the baseline data were collected during the harvest season. During the Focus Group Discussion, women confirmed that agricultural seasons play a key role for women in meeting a minimal diverse diet: During the harvest season, the probability for women to meet the criteria for the MDD-W indicator increases remarkably.

Improving the Living Conditions of People in the Vicinity of the Befotaka Midongy National Park: Example from Madagascar

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, Madagascar ranks 111th out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 36.3, Madagascar has a level of hunger rated as alarming. The proportion of undernourished people has increased more than ten percent in the last ten years. The project was implemented between November 2016 and April 2020 in southeastern Madagascar, which is also home to one of the island’s largest national parks. The people there live in isolation and have little access to markets due to a lack of roads and education. The project estimated that an average of 40 percent of agricultural production in the valley areas is frequently destroyed by floods. Vegetable gardening is very limited in most communities. Additionally, people do not have access to other food sources. Therefore, micronutrient deficiency rates are high, especially among children and women of reproductive age. Soil degradation and very limited harvest outcomes are pushing communities more and more into slash-and-burn farming in nearby conservation areas. Working together with partner organizations, Welthungerhilfe conducted a holistic analysis of the situation and challenges before designing and implementing the project according to the LANN+ approach. In the course of the project implementation, the number of women of reproductive age consuming a minimal diverse diet increased by 47 percent (from 43 to 90 percent).

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6 In this context, having a minimal diverse diet means having consumed at least five out of ten predefined food groups on the previous day or night.
7 Monographie de la Region Sud-Est, CREAM, 2014.
When Welthungerhilfe conducted Focus Group Discussions in the communities to collect participants’ feedback after the project ended, community members confirmed that training and the implementation of modern farming methods such as quality seed production have led to higher and better-quality yields. They explained that the main focus is now on providing households with nutritious crops and with market sales (as the surplus is sold). Exchange visits between different communities are very helpful for learning what works best in other villages. Vegetable gardening and the introduction of legume crops (with a high nutritional value) generate income. As a result of the training, participants shared that men and women are highly motivated to apply improved farming techniques.

In the project, comprehensive training and campaigns on nutrition issues led to positive changes. The situation was also improved through training on topics such as basic nutrition, the importance of micro- and macronutrients, child feeding practices, and nutritious cooking at home. One focus group in Nosifeno discussed nutritional diets for breastfeeding and pregnant women. They were particularly excited about the introduction of *sakafo maroloko*, which are multicolored, nutritious meals⁸ that include fruits and vegetables and are increasingly served in many households. They shared their observations of children gaining weight, healthier children and mothers, and spillover effects to other women who were not part of the project. Another group discussed the MDD-W outcomes achieved through a workshop on positive masculinity. Male heads of household explained that they now have a better understanding and recognition of women’s physical capacities; this leads to more support and equality in the community. Spending income on household necessities has become a priority, and decisions are made jointly.

Mrs. Rosa, a breastfeeding woman who participated in the vegetable gardening and nutritional training, said, “To date, I dare say that the project has indeed contributed to the fight against malnutrition and food insecurity in the South Midongy.” She went on to say, “All the households affected by the project, especially mine, have secure and stable sources of income thanks to the harvest of our vegetable garden. In the local markets, various foods are available and accessible to everyone.”

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Drinking Water: Introduction

Why does Welthungerhilfe apply an indicator specifically measuring the usage of safely managed water services? Safe and readily available water is important for public health, whether for drinking, domestic use, food production, or recreational purposes. Nonetheless, around one in four people still lacked safely managed drinking water in their homes in 2020. Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to the transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid. Absent, inadequate, or inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks. Against this background, Welthungerhilfe is committed to preventing the transmission of waterborne disease worldwide.

In order to provide transparent and comparable information on these programs, the organization has adopted the global indicator for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.1, “Drinking water.”

Together with its partners, Welthungerhilfe establishes sustainable drinking water and sanitation services for all users; these are equally and permanently available and accessible. Moreover, Welthungerhilfe supports project participants in protecting their health by improving hygiene practices.

Welthungerhilfe advocates for a systemic approach to sustaining water and service delivery by implementing the Sustainable Services Initiative (SSI). The initiative is an internal program for improving the sustainability of Welthungerhilfe’s WASH program and for advocating across the sector and in partner countries for a more continuous approach to WASH programming. SSI assesses the relevant stakeholders in applicable WASH systems and identifies where Welthungerhilfe can impart positive change. Systems strengthening requires not just activities but also organizational principles and ways of working.

Measuring Success Indicator Three

Welthungerhilfe tracks its water outcomes by measuring the number of households using safely managed drinking-water services. This number comprises households that both consume drinking water obtained from an improved water source and handle their drinking water in a way that bears a low risk of contamination between the point of extraction and the point of use. The indicator requires baseline and comparison values to yield interesting information on project outcomes.
As of 2021, 15 projects in 14 countries have reported baseline and midterm/endline datasets for this indicator. Out of the households sampled, 56,290 were using safely managed drinking water initially. Evaluation results showed a 99.9 percent increase from the baseline as the projects progressed. 56,206 additional households received access to drinking water in accordance with international health standards. The highest increase in absolute terms was achieved in Zimbabwe, with 16,396 additional households being able to access and use safely managed drinking water services. By the end of the project, 30,274 households met the conditions of the indicator, as compared to the initial 13,878.

By the end of the project, 15,736 households met the conditions of the indicator, compared to the initial 3,563. Numbers related to a project that was implemented in Burundi showed an increase of 10,800 households (baseline: 725) using safely managed drinking water. In Madagascar, on the other hand, the figures stagnated.

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**Improving Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Rural Areas: Example from Zimbabwe**

Between May 2017 and January 2021, Welthungerhilfe and local partners implemented a project with the aim of reducing the WASH-related burden of disease and women’s workloads, improving basic education outcomes, and strengthening gender equality while making significant progress toward the SDGs.

The Global Hunger Index for Zimbabwe could not be calculated in 2021 because data for one or more of the indicators was unavailable. Nevertheless, the hunger situation in Zimbabwe is provisionally categorized as serious. In Zimbabwe, access to safe water and sanitation has been declining significantly for the past 20 years, and water-, sanitation-, and hygiene-related diseases continue to be one of the top ten diseases affecting children under the age of five.4

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4 Zimbabwe is one of the few countries the Global Hunger Index cannot be calculated for because data for one or more indicators is not available. Welthungerhilfe addresses this gap by provisionally categorizing the hunger situation in these countries as serious. https://www.globalhungerindex.org/zimbabwe.html
In two districts in northeastern Zimbabwe, Welthungerhilfe discussed the community and individual outcomes of the project with its members. In these districts, non-functional existing pipes and boreholes were rehabilitated, water quality monitoring introduced, and community members trained in activities including operating and maintaining water points. During the Focus Group Discussions, community members confirmed project results such as the year-round availability of safe water in their homes, clinics, schools, and business centers. Clinic staff are now able to access sufficient water for their patients, particularly expectant mothers.

The district council is highly involved and has committed itself to sending a pump minder in case of complex repairs. In other communities in Rushinga District, water point (WP) committees were established and trained in effective management. According to community members, the active presence of the new water point committees led to better hygiene and security at the water points. Overall, the Focus Group Discussion outcomes showed that the communities Welthungerhilfe worked with understood the benefits of using safe drinking water and maintaining good general health and hygiene and expressed the intention of doing everything necessary to keep their drinking water safe.
Sanitation: Introduction

What role does sanitation play in Welthungerhilfe’s goal of “zero hunger wherever we work by 2030,”2 and how does this contribute to better sanitation outcomes for our project participants? Poor sanitation puts people at risk of diseases and malnutrition, which can impact their overall development, learning, and, later in life, economic opportunities. Sanitation services include sanitary installations and handwashing facilities with soap and water to reduce the risk of the fecal contamination of hands, drinking water, and soil and thus to minimize the risk of oral pathogen transmission and waterborne diseases. Typical interventions are toilet construction or rehabilitation, the treatment and disposal of fecal matter, and various approaches to hygiene promotion and awareness raising. Activities aimed at changing behavior are crucial but pose a major challenge. To name but a few challenges, personal hygiene is naturally a sensitive issue, and hygiene practices are largely acquired during childhood and performed intuitively in adulthood; in addition, behavioral change requires a great deal of time, well beyond the duration of a project. Participatory activities, such as Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST), are used for community groups to discover for themselves the fecal–oral contamination routes of diseases and to analyze their own hygiene behaviors.

For example, community mapping encourages people to visualize water-supply sources and sanitation facilities in their communities and how they are linked to health issues as well as to develop measures to block routes of contamination. Educational games for children often involve puppet shows and roleplaying to teach the link between personal hygiene and health. These activities make it easier to discuss previously taboo topics, eliminate embarrassment, and encourage conversations among different groups of people.

Measuring Success Indicator Four

Welthungerhilfe tracks its sanitation programming outcomes by measuring the number of households that can access and regularly use safely managed sanitation services. Additionally, the thorough, long-term observation of sanitation facilities is an effective tool for monitoring project outcomes. Observations can provide valuable information about the use and cleanliness of latrines, the functionality of the handwashing facilities (e.g. whether water and soap are available), and light and space (e.g. whether they are sufficient for good accessibility).
In the eight projects in Africa and Asia that reported baseline and midterm/endline data for this indicator by 2021, Welthungerhilfe provided an additional 22,861 households with safely managed sanitation services. A total of 110,410 households were targeted, and the number of households with access to safe sanitation increased from 20,342 to 43,203, more than doubling the figure (+112.4 percent) over the course of these projects. All projects included in the analysis show a positive trend. The projects differ greatly in terms of the number of households targeted and the recorded increase from baseline to midline or endline.

By far the largest increase was noted in a project in India, with 7,859 more households accessing safe sanitation (baseline value: 530). The project targeted a large number of households (22,287). Projects in Malawi and Uganda also doubled or tripled their baseline values.

Likewise, projects conducted in Nepal and Pakistan recorded increases of 74 percent and 54 percent respectively.

Community-Based Disaster Risk Management: Example from Pakistan

One of the many reasons for the difficult circumstances in Pakistan are high rates of child undernutrition and mortality due to the fecal-oral transmission of infectious diseases. There is a serious lack of basic facilities for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In particular, rural communities in all provinces are severely affected by a lack of basic infrastructure for addressing basic needs. Open defecation (OD) sites are a source of many (gastrointestinal) diseases. Together with two partner organizations, the Doaba Foundation (DF) and the Farmers Development Organisation, Welthungerhilfe has conducted informational training in personal hygiene, including the critical times and individual steps of handwashing. Communities learned about the different positive effects of latrines being in the house or on the compound. In focus group discussions, community members highlighted that the trend of building low-cost latrines increased noticeably, by five percent (from 40 percent to 45 percent). Trained community members (change agents) are still active and monitoring the situation in the villages with the goal of ending open defecation. Overall, personal hygiene and health have improved. Children are attending school regularly, and money previously used for medical treatment can now be used for education and the household.

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, Pakistan ranks 92nd out of the 116 countries assessed. With a score of 24.7, Pakistan has a level of hunger rated as serious. The project was implemented in two districts within one province of Pakistan along the Indian border from October 2018 to October 2020. Welthungerhilfe made progress toward the overall goal, “Poor people in Pakistan (especially women) are more resilient to natural disasters.”

3 Since 2000, the level of hunger has been reduced by 12.0 points (from 36.7).
“There is a significant change in the social status of women. They are feeling safer,” says a participant of a Focus Group Discussion from the Tibba Burra village. However, behavioral change takes time, which is also reflected in the information given in the Focus Group Discussions. Instead of using latrines, which is much safer for women, they often prefer practicing open defecation far away from the village as this is considered to be a safe space for them to chat and discuss issues.

Additionally, some community members mentioned cultural concerns regarding the use of latrines. Despite all challenges and doubts, the Focus Group Discussion in the village of Gopang, which is in the district of Muzaffargarh in the province of Punjab, was closed on an encouraging note as a participant said, “The use of latrines is good for health. We will continue to mobilize the communities to construct and use the latrines. We will also run the campaign for handwashing in communities and in schools as well.”
What is the role of income-generating activities (IGA) in Welthungerhilfe projects and programs?

A household’s income is clearly connected to its food and nutrition situation. Supporting IGAs can increase household cash resources and thus improve families’ purchasing power and ability to invest in essential food and non-food expenditures. This strengthens livelihoods in a sustainable way. Welthungerhilfe’s IGAs can be developed in agricultural as well as non-agricultural sectors in both rural and urban settings. Core activities related to food production, such as horticulture and livestock raising, offer opportunities to obtain an income by selling agricultural produce or wage labor while improving the availability of food for home consumption. Both horticultural crops and food crops that have a high market value and good nutritional value can increase the market availability of nutritious foods. Along the value chain, income generation may involve processing, grinding, and preserving food or selling healthy meals and snacks. Diversifying income sources allows for a year-round cash flow and reduces households’ vulnerability to price fluctuations, crop failure, or other unexpected events. Activities related to the service sector might include financial and business training for traders and other micro and small enterprises, childcare training to improve the reliability of the service, and vocational training in handicrafts, carpentry, or bricklaying. Household resources from IGAs provide direct purchasing power for buying nutritious foods from markets and means for agricultural production, consequently affecting households’ food consumption and food security. In some cases, for example in humanitarian contexts, conditional (such as cash for work) and unconditional cash transfers can play a crucial role. The food situation of households can quickly be improved by purchasing basic supplies at local markets. The additional purchasing power further strengthens the markets.

Measuring Success Indicator Five

Welthungerhilfe tracks its economic development outcome (income) by counting the number of households increasing their cash income. Cash income refers to the sum of all household members’ income generated from any source, including wages, salaries, and any money earned through self-employment as well as resources received from other sources, such as pensions or donations. Cash income does not include the increased real income that households experience from producing and consuming agricultural products with support from Welthungerhilfe. Cash income affects a household’s ability to obtain the food necessary for a sufficiently diverse diet. The increase has a direct effect on wellbeing (through health, nutrition, and life expectancy). As the indicator measures change directly, it does not require a baseline comparison value.
As of 2021, 38 projects in 17 countries have reported baseline and midterm/endline datasets for this indicator. Seven projects that included income generation in their set of activities were implemented in Mali. In total, 123,417 households were able to increase their income during the projects, which aimed to improve the socioeconomic situation of people, especially women. In India, one project implemented by Welthungerhilfe and its partners developed IGAs to support the development of green entrepreneurship. After the project, 18,811 households reported an increase in income as a result of the project activities. One project was implemented in a country with a low population, Burundi in east-central Africa. The number of households that benefited from activities targeting the household income rose to 890 during the implementation period. In Haiti, Welthungerhilfe’s activities had a positive impact on the purchasing power of 13,681 households that were reached by the two projects.

Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Displaced Households in Diffa: Example from Niger

The Global Hunger Index for Niger could not be calculated in 2021 due to a lack of data for one or more of the indicators. Nevertheless, the hunger situation in Niger was provisionally categorized as serious. The project was implemented from June 2016 to August 2017 in the municipalities of Diffa and Gueskerou in southeastern Niger (bordering Nigeria). By the time the project was designed, communities in the region were particularly struggling with recurrent agricultural deficits (as a result of climate change), which led to food insecurity and malnutrition, especially among children. Income-generating opportunities were rare, and access to markets was restricted. The difficult situation escalated into an emergency when large streams of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees arrived in the region. The minimal resources available were not sufficient to provide for newcomers and host communities, rendering living conditions precarious at many levels. Before the beginning of the project, 360 households reported an increase in income.

Against this background, Welthungerhilfe implemented activities to improve household incomes and the immediate and medium-term food situation of people affected by the crisis. Small enterprises, such as craftsmen and traders, received start-up funds, and lost means of production were replaced. Other participants received cash for recovering degraded land, which then was used for cultivation. Farmers trained by the project planted trees, vegetables, and crops with a high nutritional and economic value to provide food for their families and sell the surplus at local markets.

1 In 2021, Niger was one of 19 countries providing insufficient data to allow for the calculation of a GHI score. To address this gap and give a preliminary picture of hunger, the situation in Niger is provisionally categorized as serious. https://www.globalhungerindex.org/ner.html
After the project ended (1,848 households reported a higher income), Welthungerhilfe conducted Focus Group Discussions with former participants of the project to learn from their experiences. Participants confirmed that the intervention has provided access to several forms of income. Participants of food processing training gained access to income by selling oil made from self-produced peanuts. The income was partly spent on school supplies for their children.

Farmers could improve cultivation due to the supply of high-quality seeds and other inputs. Some women reported on the advantages of their training in market gardening, which can be practiced throughout the year. Others confirmed an increased income in their households as a result of training in livestock keeping and of livestock that was provided by the project.
Why is empowering girls and women so important, and why is Welthungerhilfe actively pursuing this? Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and its pursuit is stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, it is key in achieving a world free from hunger and poverty where all women, men, girls, and boys can exercise their right to adequate food.

Our strategic goal at Welthungerhilfe is therefore to shape our projects to consider gendered needs, preferences, and constraints in order to ensure that women, men, girls, and boys all equally benefit from program activities.

Sustainable change can only take place when the root causes of gender inequality are addressed. Therefore, Welthungerhilfe recognizes the need to empower women and to strengthen their agency over the decisions that affect the lives of their families, communities, and societies. Enhancing women’s involvement in decision-making and leadership at the community level and local political levels is key to influencing existing gender norms and attitudes and to transforming unequal relationships.

Against this background, Welthungerhilfe is committed to enabling women to become effective participants and decision makers in local government structures. Welthungerhilfe’s holistic approach equips socially marginalized and economically impoverished women to better negotiate with local government structures for their needs to be met.

Measuring Success Indicator Six

Welthungerhilfe tracks its women’s empowerment outcomes by measuring the number of adult women who are able to influence decision-making. The participation of women in decision-making processes at the community level is a crucial indicator of women’s equality. This indicator uses a weighted by population size.

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1 Relative values and changes have been analyzed to allow for better comparability across projects (incl. those with changes in population size)
In the 2021 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Nepal ranks 76th out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 19.1, Nepal can be classified as moderately malnourished. That is a major overall improvement as the country scored 37.4 in 2000 (alarming) and 23.1 in 2012 (serious).

Even though Nepal has made considerable progress in poverty reduction and the nutritional situation has improved, reducing malnutrition remains a serious challenge. There are multifaceted reasons, especially with regard to the most disadvantaged groups such as Dalit/low-caste women in the Terai region of Nepal. Circumstances for these groups can be dire as they have no land, limited access to healthcare and education, and frequently suffer from the effects of natural disasters.

A total of 58,315 women were targeted in five projects. The best results were achieved in Nepal and Kenya, where both projects achieved a 24 percent increase in empowered women (from 14 to 38 percent in Nepal, and from 4 to 28 percent in Kenya). The project in Kenya aimed to improve the nutrition situation of women of reproductive age (15–49 years) and young children (6 to 23 months) in the sub-counties of North Horr and Saku in Marsabit County.

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Promoting Citizen Empowerment and Inclusive Democracy in Two Municipalities in the Districts of Rautahat and Saptari: Example from Nepal

From 2018 to 2022, in close partnership with a local partner, Aasaman Nepal (ASN), Welthungerhilfe successfully implemented a hygiene, nutrition, and social protection project to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged population groups in two districts through increased citizen participation.

At the start of the project, poor and marginalized groups, including Dalit women with poor nutrition, had no access to healthcare due to insufficient numbers of health workers, a lack of medical equipment and essential medicines, and inadequate care for mothers and children. In addition, the women targeted did not have an adequate support network or relationship with agencies, and they were hardly involved in decision-making processes. Dalit women are the most malnourished in Nepal (at 45 percent), which affects their productivity and increases their susceptibility to infections.

Through various project activities focusing on continuous engagement and mentoring, 35 percent of the women (baseline value: 3 percent) are currently empowered and are now actively participating in planning processes, in decision-making processes, and in raising their voices to address community needs.
Women are raising their voices against child marriage and domestic violence and in support of nutritious diets. Families are also able to access social security services thanks to the assistance of women who were trained in dealing with local authorities and service providers through the project.
#ms7: Number of trainees successfully completing skills-development training

Skills-Development: Introduction

What does the acquisition of skills and competencies have to do with ensuring sustainable food and nutrition security? The link between hunger, malnutrition, and skills-development is obvious. Lack of access, inadequate skills (skill mismatch), and poor quality in the provision of education services lead to poverty and increase inequality. This applies especially to young project participants, and the number of young people is growing: 1.8 billion people worldwide are between the ages of 15 and 29. This also means that, by 2030, 600 million young people will be looking for jobs, a third of them from Africa. Moreover, 56 million (young) people in developing and emerging countries are living below the poverty line despite being employed or self-employed. Rural areas are particularly affected as 50 percent of the rural population are small-scale farmers. Welthungerhilfe’s skills-development projects and programs therefore primarily target youth and rural populations, with skills-development referring to the acquisition of technical, business-related, and life skills and aiming to enable and empower people to apply them.

Different approaches aim to promote skills that enhance employment and entrepreneurial opportunities that contribute to the integration of participants into the market on an employed or self-employed basis. This also applies to participants working in the agricultural sector, where multidisciplinary training relevant to the rural economy, food systems, and lifelong learning (including mentoring and post-training support) is offered. The provision of “green skills” plays a crucial role in this, as they include knowledge about sustainable agriculture, increasing farm productivity and profitability, preserving and restoring ecological resources, and preserving and restoring ecological resources through the green economy or sustainable tourism.

Measuring Success Indicator Seven

Welthungerhilfe tracks its skills-development outcomes by counting the number of trainees that have successfully completed skills-development training according to Welthungerhilfe’s thematic portfolio on sectoral skill development and vocational training. The quality and access to (further) education plays a foundational role in overcoming hunger and poverty. Measuring Success indicator seven is useful for assessing the contribution of an intervention to increase educational levels. Most projects monitor additional aspects such as the drop-out rate. While a high completion rate is an indicator of a training program’s high relevance, good quality, clear structure, and accessibility, high drop-out rates indicate the opposite.

Overall, 92,065 trainees (i.e. 87.4 percent of all individuals who started a training course) successfully completed Welthungerhilfe skills-development training since the initiation of #ms (taking only complete datasets into account). By far the most people were trained in India.
As of 2021, 24 projects in 11 countries have reported midterm/endline datasets for this indicator. Out of a total number of 105,296 trainees, 92,065 (87 percent of all trainees) successfully completed Welthungerhilfe skills-development training. By far the highest training completion rate was in India, where 74,327 participants in two projects completed training in primarily green skills (at Green Colleges). Mali came in second with a total number of 8,550. In Syria and Türkiye, ten projects were implemented with a total number of 2,625 graduates.

In Uganda, Welthungerhilfe supported three projects with training components and equipped 1,751 participants with new technical skills, especially in the green and agricultural sectors, including beekeeping, vegetable growing, and fish farming as well as classical craft trades such as tailoring and garment cutting, bricklaying and concrete working, and catering and hotel management. All training includes modules on soft skills, entrepreneurship, life skills, savings, and financial literacy.

Increasing the Profitability of Agriculture Value Chains in Baal-bek-Hermel Governorate: Example from Lebanon

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, Lebanon ranks 48th out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 9.7, Lebanon has a level of hunger that is low. Nevertheless, in 2021, ten years after the start of the Syrian crisis, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time, providing extraordinary commitment and solidarity to the people displaced by the war in Syria. Welthungerhilfe supports this commitment and is currently (from July 2019 to December 2022) implementing a project with the aim of improving livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and rural Lebanese communities in the agriculture sector and reducing social tensions within the communities in Lebanon. The target population comprises 6,223 Syrian refugees and 6,283 Lebanese members of host communities, especially farmers and youth (including 6,238 women). The project has already made great strides toward providing access to income sources by offering training in business development and skills and in food processing and marketing. Despite a severe economic crisis, some of the training participants now have an income due to the training and equipment they received. After learning about business development, participants felt able to open their own shops and sell their produce. The participants in the Focus Group Discussion in Bednayel, Baalback, Lebanon, explained that the skills delivered through training will enable and encourage them to generate income and produce better-quality goods for their customers. “I never knew I was able to market and display my products in such a professional and appealing way,” said Mohamad, one of the participants. Farmers benefited from irrigation and fertilization training that allowed them to save money through improved application techniques and led to higher, better-quality yields. Ghada, who received a greenhouse and the necessary training, said that her business skills have changed “180 degrees.” She, just like others in the group, is now able to perform simple financial calculations in order to evaluate her business progress.

1 Welthungerhilfe works in a consortium with its local partners, the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) and the Jafra foundation.
2 Number of people who benefit by the project indirectly: 130,000. Activities will focus on increasing the quality and quantity as well as the variety of agricultural produce, on creating more competitive and profitable value chains, and on strengthening social cohesion within communities and the psychological wellbeing of their members.
Zainab remembers every single year in Lebanon. Seven years have passed since the Syrian teacher could no longer work, having left behind the ruins of her hometown of Homs. The 38-year-old now lives in Lebanon’s Bekaa Plain with her husband and their three children.

“My children do not go to school here, which means that I teach them myself. Of course, I would like to work full-time, but we live here as refugees. There are few job opportunities, and the economic situation is not easy, even for the Lebanese.”

For Zainab, the food processing sessions were important for two main reasons.

“This is the first time in seven years that I have a job again. At the same time, I’m getting to know new people here. Some are also from Syria; others come from Baalbeck, the city where we now live. We get on well with each other and have also become friends in private. For me, that means integration. It makes me feel more at home.”

Zainab has decided to open her own business as soon as she has completed the course. “Product development and marketing are also part of our teaching, which will help me to become self-employed,” says the mother of three.

“How things will continue for the family in the long term is unclear,” says Zainab.

“For the time being, we are staying here in Baalback. I didn’t think I’d ever work in another profession again, but maybe this is a new beginning now.”
MAKING BENEFITS LAST: WELTHUNGERHILFE’S CONTRIBUTION

Do we address structural change?

One of the key questions in the Measuring Success framework is: “Do we address structural change?” In fact, there are several different basic causes and structural factors that lead to hunger and malnutrition, including poor governance of political, natural, and societal structures; the implications of the climate crisis; conflict, fragility, and insufficient education; and unsupportive social and cultural norms. These factors are manifold and interrelated, varying from one context to another. In order to combat hunger and malnutrition in the long term, it is crucial to remove structural obstacles.

As part of the Measuring Success framework, Welthungerhilfe assesses the development of the number of ongoing rights-based projects and programs within a country program to understand whether Welthungerhilfe is on track to address the basic causes of hunger. For purposes of data aggregation, we have adopted a set definition of such a project.

A project or program is considered rights-based if it

- addresses the most vulnerable groups directly or indirectly;
- works to improve the access to and quality of state programs that address the right to food; and
- builds up the capacity of community members as rights holders to monitor the fulfillment of their rights.

One of the qualitative methods within the Measuring Success framework is the Community Score Card. Community Score Card is a participatory process for monitoring public services, empowering citizens, and improving the accountability of service providers. It is a very powerful tool for strengthening community empowerment and citizens’ voices in order to ultimately improve public services. In a food and nutrition security project in Madhya Pradesh, India, Community Score Card processes were an integral part of the intervention strategy. The goal of the project was to improve the food and nutrition situation of vulnerable groups, specifically women of reproductive age and young children.

Number of Ongoing Rights-Based Projects and Programs

(Graphic 1: Rights-based projects)

The break compresses particularly large segments, making smaller columns more visible.

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The project had two phases. The first one started in 2015, and the second phase ended in 2021. The results of the approach were very successful, leading to sustainable positive impacts (graphic 3).

Additionally, whenever possible, Welthungerhilfe supports civil society partners in raising awareness among vulnerable population groups of their rights and entitlements. Under the Measuring Success framework, Welthungerhilfe therefore monitors the number of partners engaged in advocacy. This is an important indicator for measuring Welthungerhilfe’s efforts to enable partners to access political processes and their ability to engage in these.

Country Offices report on the development of these indicators as part of the annual reporting process at the beginning of each year. In the Global Office, all values are evaluated, aggregated, compiled, and shared for discussion. For example, the data is used to further strengthen Welthungerhilfe’s cooperation with civil society partners and to foster advocacy work where possible.
Post-implementation Monitoring

The question of “Are the benefits likely to continue beyond the end of the project?” is aimed at sustainability. OECD/DAC defines sustainability as “The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue.”

The corresponding indicator in the Measuring Success framework is “the number of projects with stable Measuring Success indicators among the projects that have carried out PIM assessments.” Post-implementation Monitoring means that Measuring Success monitoring is conducted after project implementation. The data is collected no earlier than one year after the project ends. As a rule, the Measuring Success indicators for a given project or program are calculated using the same method, population, and sample size every time. Explanations of the quantitative indicator values are added by applying at least one qualitative tool, generally a Focus Group Discussion. If possible, there should be no ongoing projects by Welthungerhilfe or by other organizations in the same sector working with the same people.
The Method for Impact Assessment of Programmes and Projects (MAPP) was developed in 1998 and updated and refined in 2017. With a MAPP exercise, Welthungerhilfe can gain detailed insights into the sustainability of an intervention’s results and into the contributing factors. Since 2018, Welthungerhilfe has conducted three MAPP studies: two in Uganda and one in Zimbabwe. The results of all three studies have shown lasting positive changes that the projects have contributed to. For example, one MAPP study from Uganda showed that men started getting involved in crop production, which was formerly solely women’s work. In addition, many of the assets the project provided were still in use at the time of the study, leading to a higher income (November 2019).

The MAPP study in Zimbabwe, which was conducted in a project with a strong focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene, revealed a continued upward trend in access to and use of drinking water and sanitation services. The intervention’s sustainability was enhanced by the involvement of the private sector and volunteers (WASH champions). However, the projects remain quite distinct because living conditions in the communities involved in the projects have developed very differently.

The Sustainability Self-Assessment method allows the probable or expected sustainability of a project or program to be assessed. The assessment takes the form of a workshop attended primarily by project staff. The assessment itself is action oriented, meaning that the results help to improve the ongoing project or program. For example, during a sustainability self-assessment in Ethiopia in 2020, it was noted that the content and form of the capacity development were neither sufficient nor adequate. Even though the community had received hands-on training as well as basic tools, participants still felt that their capacity to repair major damages merited further improvement. Therefore, the sustainability self-assessment included recommendations to further strengthen the technical skills of the community and to support them in managing their water scheme effectively and independently.

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**Graphic 6: MAPP**

- **1) MAPP ZIMBABWE**
  - Jan. 2019
  - 3 MAPP workshops
  - Indicator: #ms4

- **2) MAPP UGANDA I**
  - Nov. 2019
  - 2 MAPP workshops
  - Indicators: #ms1, #ms2, #ms4

- **3) MAPP UGANDA II**
  - Aug. 2020
  - 2 MAPP workshops
  - Indicator: #ms6

**Graphic 7: Development of #ms indicators/PIM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#ms indicator (or similar)</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Decline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food access</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s empowerment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills-development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graphic 7 shows that the indicator values of most projects continued to develop positively or at least stabilized in their development after the project ended. One interpretation is that the planned exit strategy was properly implemented to ensure the continuation of positive effects as intended.

**Decline in nutrition diversity (PAK 1087):** Despite a relatively small decrease from endline to PIM, more food groups were being consumed than at the beginning of the project.
The integrated resilience-building project targeted 53,581 drought-affected people in Somaliland. The project had the following intended outputs:

- Target communities are better prepared to tackle drought effects through improved early warning systems and the restoration of natural resources.
- Availability and consumption of diverse foods are improved in the intervention areas.
- WASH services for 37,500 people in the intervention regions are improved.
- Income sources of 150 poor households are improved.

Increase

- 39 percent more use of safe drinking water during rainy and dry seasons (Measuring Success indicator)
- 39 percent need less than 30 min. to travel to and from the primary water source
- 25 percent more reliability of water sources throughout the year
- 26 percent more drinking water per person
- 11 percent more knowledge of WASH committees’ existence
- 9 percent more knowledge of WASH committees’ purpose
- 88 percent less use of water treatment due to improved access to clean water sources

Qualitative tools: Focus Group Discussions with members of WASH committees to discuss Post-implementation Monitoring findings address the sustainability of the water system and how they can improve their role.

The Country Office had an internal meeting with field staff and senior management to discuss PIM findings in depth. Both appreciated the findings, and several action points were agreed upon. Findings from the Post-implementation Monitoring stage have been used for upcoming proposals to address the sustainability issue raised. For example, another project in Somaliland is working to address WASH sustainability by advising water management committees on how to collect water tariffs to maintain the system; the PIM findings were used to improve this project’s activities.
CONCLUSIONS FROM 2021 RESULTS: ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

At Welthungerhilfe, we take a systematic approach to delineate and reflect on our global outcomes and impact. Our current approach revolves around our Measuring Success framework, which approximates our global success using a set of key questions: Who do we reach? How much better off are they? And are the benefits likely to last? This inaugural impact report sheds light on these questions by taking stock of the Measuring Success data from our projects and programs worldwide. The report combined findings from our quantitative Measuring Success indicator data, complementary qualitative data collection methods, and sustainability assessment methods to respond to one central question: Are the projects of Welthungerhilfe successful in working toward zero hunger? The impact report has demonstrated that participants in Welthungerhilfe projects have made major strides toward zero hunger.

Who do we reach?

Overall, nearly 16.6 million participants were supported by 526 projects and programs through Welthungerhilfe’s 30 country offices.

How much better off are they?

According to the available data, households supported by Welthungerhilfe through food security projects improved the number of months of adequate food provision from an average of 7.2 months per year to 9.33 months per year over the course of the projects. The share of women aged 15–49 years who consumed a minimal diverse diet increased from 32.6 percent to 60.2 percent over the duration of nutrition-focused projects.

Similarly positive results were noted across all other success indicators. According to the available data, the number of participants using safely managed drinking water services increased by 99.9 percent, from 56,290 to 112,496, in 15 projects that worked on access to drinking water. The number of participants using safely managed sanitation services increased by 112.4 percent, from 20,342 to 43,203, in eight sanitation-focused projects. 241,852 households increased their cash income in 38 projects that contributed to economic development. 92,065 trainees successfully completed skills-development training in 24 projects that worked on skills-development. The share of adult women able to influence decision-making increased from 17.3 percent to 40.3 percent in five projects that contributed to gender equality.

A deep dive into Welthungerhilfe’s wealth of qualitative data underlines that our projects contributed to these positive changes. For example, focus groups conducted by our team in Pakistan found that women had begun feeling safer when using latrines due to sensitization campaigns run by Welthungerhilfe, which then helped to catalyze the uptake of safe sanitation services and even led to ripple effects, such as community members running handwashing campaigns in schools. In Türkiye, farmers confirmed that the Welthungerhilfe project they participated in increased their income by helping them to improve the supply of seeds and inputs, diversifying their production through market gardens and livestock keeping, and training them in value-added food processing.
Are the benefits likely to last?

The existing evidence shows that Welthungerhilfe projects contribute to lasting positive change. The impact report has shown that, between 2018 and 2021, Welthungerhilfe completed eleven Post-implementation Monitoring exercises and three evaluations using the Method for Impact Assessment of Programmes and Projects to assess whether the outcomes achieved by Welthungerhilfe projects were sustained for at least one year after program closeout. Out of the eleven Post-implementation Monitoring exercises, ten demonstrated that the positive outcomes achieved by project participants have either further improved or stabilized. One exercise, which monitored the sustainability of a nutrition project in Pakistan, found that the endline value of women of reproductive age consuming a minimal diverse diet had marginally decreased since the project endline but remained above the baseline. In addition, all three evaluations that used the Method for Impact Assessment of Programmes and Projects showed that Welthungerhilfe had contributed to lasting positive changes. These results were consistent across all outcomes for which sustainability was assessed: food access, nutrition, drinking water, sanitation, economic development, and women’s empowerment.

Programmatic Action Points for Welthungerhilfe

This inaugural impact report offered important insight into the outcomes of Welthungerhilfe projects. In addition to taking up the findings as part of country-level learning sessions, we are committed to further improving our organization-wide knowledge base, outcomes, and impact. Several action points stand out with respect to our programs as well as our monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning practices.

Programmatically, we aim to strengthen our commitment to empower civil society and promote a rights-based approach. While the total number of rights-based projects has increased in proportion to the total number of projects at Welthungerhilfe since we began tracking this figure in 2017, the relative number of rights-based projects across our global portfolio has stagnated. As fragility is on the rise due to climatic shocks and conflicts, we need to further increase our commitment to rights-based project implementation by amplifying the voices of local communities and civil society and by helping governments and the private sector to strengthen service delivery in partnership with civil society in order to realize the right to food.

Secondly, we will build on our successes in achieving sustainable outcomes by promoting systems-strengthening approaches that aim to improve sustainable service delivery. The sustainability analysis using the Method for Impact Assessment of Programmes and Projects in Zimbabwe showed that involving the private sector and working with community volunteers helped to improve the access to, and use of, water and sanitation services. To apply these lessons at a greater scale, we are now setting up a global program aimed at sustainably improving water, sanitation, and hygiene service delivery through a systemic approach in collaboration with civil society, government stakeholders, and the private sector. We are also pivoting toward more holistic approaches to food systems in order to make food value chains, food access, and food use more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.
What comes next for outcome and impact measurement at Welthungerhilfe?

Since the introduction of the Guidelines for Outcome and Impact Orientation in 2009, Welthungerhilfe has been on the forefront of designing practicable management and measurement approaches to effectively measure and manage success. In 2022, Welthungerhilfe will conduct a systematic review of the Measuring Success framework, which was launched in 2016. One change that has already been confirmed is the incorporation of an eighth Measuring Success indicator: the number of project participants who are satisfied with the assistance provided. By including this new Measuring Success indicator, we will get a global overview of the satisfaction of our project participants and be able to measure and compare the success of various project approaches not previously covered, including humanitarian assistance projects. Moreover, we will explore measures to increase the uptake of Measuring Success measures, review how to further improve the quality and use of qualitative methods, and reflect on how we assess the sustainability of our projects and programs.

In addition to reviewing the Measuring Success framework, we will start moving toward a more holistic understanding of organizational outcomes and impact. Welthungerhilfe is a learning organization which operates in fast-changing and risky environments. New approaches must be tried to further improve our outcomes and impact, and do not always succeed. This is why we aim to complement our current measurement efforts, which assess our global reach, aggregated outcomes, and sustainability insights, with additional impact measurement methods. These will look at which project approaches are the most effective, and how these relate to program investments: How can we know if our programs are the most effective way to achieve zero hunger? And how can we know if our work contributes to sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and resilient system transformation? Now more than ever, we are committed to further refining our measurement systems in order to improve our global success and help to realize the right to food and achieve zero hunger together.