Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems (FCAS)

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IFPRI

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE IFPRI PROGRAM ON FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED FOOD SYSTEMS (FCAS)

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Executive Summary

Humanitarian crises are becoming more frequent, protracted, and complex. Fragility, conflict, climate extremes, and displacement increasingly converge to undermine food security, disrupt livelihoods, and erode community resilience across dozens of countries. In these settings, humanitarian actors face enormous pressure to deliver assistance in ways that are timely, inclusive, accountable, and aligned with the needs and priorities of affected populations. Further, governments demand evidence on what policies, programming, and other investments can support prevention, recovery, and resilience. In the current funding environment, global humanitarian financing is stretched thinner than ever, making improvements in effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of humanitarian actions all the more urgent.

The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems (FCAS) responds to these challenges by generating practical, policy-relevant evidence on what works to support food security and resilience in FCAS, with a focus on who benefits, under what conditions, and at what cost. Through long-standing engagement in countries such as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, and Yemen, the Program supports governments, UN agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and local NGOs to strengthen food systems in fragile contexts and improve outcomes for crisis-affected children, women, households, and communities.

To make the Program's rigorous research and evidence generation effective, it relies on deep partnership, local engagement, and a commitment to translating evidence into real-world change. Its work spans crisis anticipation and prevention; monitoring and crisis response; and recovery and resilience. It also considers two key cross-cutting areas: governance and accountability; and gender equality and inclusion. Across all of these areas, the Program advances locally-led approaches and elevates the voices and leadership of affected populations.

IFPRI's institutional strategy and its four-pronged approach to research and impact guide the Program; its work in FCAS aims to: (1) position major development challenges on policy agendas, (2) build scalable high-impact solutions, (3) strengthen governance and financing mechanisms, and (4) deploy tools, methods, and capabilities for research and policy impact. The Program supports humanitarian systems reform by generating new evidence on effective program design features; exploring means of strengthening governance and social inclusion; and supporting coordination across humanitarian, development, and peace actors. This Strategic Plan outlines how the Program operates, what it contributes, and how it sustains a unique role for IFPRI within the global humanitarian ecosystem.

1. Context Analysis: Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems

1.1 Global Trends in Fragility and Humanitarian Need

Fragility and conflict now shape the lives of more people than at any point in recent history. More than 300 million people require humanitarian assistance each year, and nearly two-thirds of the world's extremely poor are projected to live in FCAS by 2030. Conflict events have increased in frequency and duration, while new geopolitical tensions and the proliferation of nonstate armed groups have expanded the geographic footprint of crises. Protracted displacement has become the norm: refugees remain displaced for an average of 20 years, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) face even greater precarity. Markets are also more connected than any other point in human history, generating critical benefits while also making countries increasingly vulnerable to shocks confronting other food systems.

Simultaneously, climate change is altering hazard patterns; intensifying droughts, floods, and storms; and triggering unprecedented disruptions to agricultural cycles. Many conflict-affected regions—including the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia—are also among the world's climate change hotspots. Food insecurity is therefore rising not only because of conflict but also because of compounding crises due to climate shocks, price volatility, and market instability.

Humanitarian needs have escalated to levels that exceed global financing capacities. In many regions, humanitarian actors face impossible tradeoffs: ration cuts, reduced caseloads, and the scaling back of nutrition and protection services. These constraints heighten the urgency of improving how assistance is targeted, delivered, and adapted to local conditions.

1.2 Impacts on Food Systems and Nutrition

Fragility and conflict compromise every component of food systems. They reduce agricultural production, disrupt supply chains, degrade infrastructure, distort markets, inhibit mobility, and limit safe access to farms, markets, and services. Individuals in FCAS are often displaced from their land and livelihoods, fueling downward spirals of income loss and poverty. Women and girls face heightened risks in FCAS, including gender-based violence, early marriage, and higher barriers to accessing resources. Children experience increased exposure to acute malnutrition, with conflict zones consistently exhibiting the highest rates of wasting and stunting globally.

In many FCAS, food markets continue to function, but only unevenly and with significant volatility. High transaction costs, insecurity, inflation, and currency depreciation undermine households' purchasing power. For humanitarian actors, navigating these fractured markets is extraordinarily complex. The result is that many households experience not only inadequate quantities of food but also poor dietary diversity, disrupted access to healthcare, and heightened vulnerability to climate and economic shocks.

Nutrition services also face major constraints in FCAS. The coverage of wasting treatment remains far below global needs, prevention services are inconsistently available, and relapse rates remain high. These gaps underscore the need for better evidence on integrated programming, early detection, and the intervention bundles that most effectively reach vulnerable children in crisis settings.

1.3 Systemic Challenges Facing Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian actors face persistent systemic challenges that reduce the effectiveness and relevance of food and nutrition assistance. Mechanisms for meaningful participation of affected populations remain weak. Funding flows often bypass local organizations despite their proximity, contextual knowledge, and potential for leadership. Coordination across humanitarian, development, and peace actors is inconsistent, limiting efforts to address root causes of food and nutrition insecurity. Political economy and governance constraints—including exclusionary targeting, elite capture, mistrust between communities and institutions, and opaque decision-making—impede equitable distribution and protection outcomes.

In addition, the humanitarian systems continues to rely heavily on modalities whose cost-effectiveness and suitability are not well-known and may vary widely by context. Decisions about how to target aid, or which aid delivery modalities to pursue, often receive insufficient consideration, and their impacts on the most vulnerable, including women, often remain unknown even after they are deployed. Decisions about aid type and targeting might include whether to provide aid in anticipation of a shock (for example, due to an early warning that has been triggered) or after a shock; which individual in the household to provide aid; or whether to provide in-kind transfers, vouchers, cash, or hybrid modalities (and in which quantities). Decisions about aid distribution might include which local leaders should be involved and how; whether to use digital payments or other forms; which documents to require for receipt of aid; and whether to deliver goods or require individuals to pick them up. This Program aims to shed light on these various decisions and how to weigh tradeoffs in different contexts.

Humanitarian aid program quality also varies substantially. Gender equality and inclusion are not consistently integrated into humanitarian program design or delivery. Humanitarian data systems remain fragmented, with limited use of real-time data and early warning to anticipate needs or guide allocation. Meanwhile, global calls to shift decision-making to local actors have been slow to translate into practice.

1.4 Broader Implications

The governance, transparency, and design of humanitarian systems also has profound implications for social cohesion, community trust, and long-term stability. Poorly designed or inequitable assistance can exacerbate tensions, undermine trust in institutions, or leave vulnerable groups behind. Conversely, inclusive, transparent, and responsive food systems can break cycles of violence and instability; prevent conflict escalation; improve dignity; reduce grievances; and strengthen pathways to recovery.

Reform requires better evidence, stronger accountability, deeper participation, and more locally-led approaches. It also requires improved modalities, tools, governance structures, and decision-making processes that enable humanitarian actors to respond to crises more effectively and efficiently. The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems is designed to contribute to precisely this shift.

2. Introduction: The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems

2.1 Purpose and Identity

The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems is an established program that supports humanitarian actors and other partners to strengthen food systems in some of the world's most challenging environments. The Program operates at the intersection of research, policy engagement,

and innovation, with a clear mandate to improve outcomes for crisis-affected populations by partnering, innovating, conducting research, and bringing findings to research uptake partners.

The Program's identity is defined by its focus on real needs as experienced by affected populations, its commitment to evidence-based decision-making, and its support for systems-level change across humanitarian and development actors.

2.2 Mandate and Core Functions

The Program's mandate is to generate actionable evidence that strengthens humanitarian food systems and improves the quality, relevance, and equity of assistance. Its work centers on understanding what modalities and program designs work best under conditions of conflict, displacement, climate risk, institutional fragility, and gender inequality. It also focuses on the governance arrangements that shape the fairness and inclusiveness of humanitarian action.

The Program supports government, INGO, and NGO partners to better anticipate crises, target assistance, design more effective interventions, and scale solutions that are both cost-effective and protective. It also provides monitoring and foresight work and strengthens local capacities to shift decision-making power and promote locally led solutions.

2.3 Strategic Objectives

The Program pursues five ongoing strategic objectives that together define its purpose and guide its work. These are grounded in long-term engagement with humanitarian, government, and civil society partners, and reflect a commitment to advancing food systems that are responsive, inclusive, and resilient in fragile settings.

First, the Program seeks to ensure that humanitarian assistance reflects the real needs, preferences, and lived experiences of affected populations. This entails deep engagement with households, communities, women's groups, and local leaders to capture context-rich insights that inform decision-making. By elevating these perspectives, the Program helps humanitarian actors design interventions that improve well-being, dignity, and trust.

Second, the Program aims to strengthen accountability, participation, and representation across humanitarian food systems. This includes supporting more transparent decision-making and analyzing governance structures that support or inhibit programming. Strengthening these processes reduces exclusion, improves targeting accuracy, and helps build social cohesion in contexts where trust has eroded.

Third, the Program prioritizes gender equality and inclusion as a central pillar of humanitarian action. Women, children, and marginalized groups face disproportionate risks in fragile settings, and their perspectives are essential for designing programs that are both effective and equitable. The Program works to integrate gender-responsive approaches while generating evidence on what interventions genuinely shift norms and help women reach, benefit, and be empowered by programming.

Fourth, the Program seeks to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of humanitarian response. This requires identifying the modalities and program designs that work best under real operational constraints, understanding cost-effectiveness across contexts, and providing partners with tools that enhance the timeliness and precision of humanitarian action. By doing so, the Program contributes to better resource allocation, reduced waste, and improved outcomes for crisis-affected populations.

Finally, the Program aims to strengthen collaboration, knowledge exchange, and evidence uptake across humanitarian research, policy, and operational communities. The Program plays a convening role in bridging divides between researchers, humanitarian agencies, governments, and local actors, ensuring that evidence is not only generated but used. In FCAS, this function is crucial for sustaining good practices and improving long-term response capacity.

The Program's core means of supporting knowledge exchange include IFPRI's Country Strategy Support Programs—based in the countries they aim to help and typically advised by National Advisory Committees comprised of core stakeholders in government, INGO, NGO, and local academic spaces; IFPRI's Fragility to Stability Policy Seminar Series that convenes key stakeholders and IFPRI researchers in dialogue to queue up research agendas and share out results; and IFPRI's organization of a monthly newsletter on core topics related to crises anticipation, response, and recovery, among others. Additionally, IFPRI's strong track record in FCAS settings places the institution well to advise on core decision-making around addressing crises.

Together, these strategic objectives position the Program as a central actor in strengthening humanitarian food systems and supporting inclusive, locally informed, and evidence-based reforms.

2.4 Geographic Footprint

The Program is active across multiple regions marked by fragility or conflict. It encompasses a number of ongoing collaborations while also responding to new emerging needs identified by partners or donors. For example, in the Sahel, it conducts research and engagement in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, supporting both humanitarian and national actors to improve early warning, food security mapping, social protection, and child wasting prevention. In the Horn of Africa, the Program supports crisis monitoring, resilience programming, and nutrition service evaluations in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. In the Middle East, the Program collaborates with partners in Yemen and across refugee-hosting settings. In Sudan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea the Program supports humanitarian actors to strengthen program design, governance, and crisis response.

These engagements reflect long-standing partnerships built over years of collaboration. The Program's geographic footprint ensures that its insights are grounded in real-world operational constraints and tailored to diverse humanitarian contexts. Additionally, the Program undertakes globally-focused work, such as reviews of evidence across FCAS to understand what broader lessons can be learned.

2.5 Who the Program Serves

The Program serves two core constituencies. Its ultimate beneficiaries are people affected by severe humanitarian crises—including children, women, displaced populations, marginalized groups, and vulnerable households living in conditions of conflict, instability, and degraded food systems. Its direct target group comprises humanitarian decision-makers: national governments, local NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations, and coordination structures. By strengthening and expanding the knowledge, tools, and decision points available to these actors, the Program ensures that humanitarian responses more effectively address the needs and priorities of crisis-affected populations.

2.6 IFPRI's Capabilities and Assets to Support the Humanitarian Sector

IFPRI is well poised to successfully implement this program through its long experience operating at the intersection of food systems research and policy implementation in FCAS. The combination of rigorous

policy research expertise across economics, political science, nutrition, public health, and other disciplines with on-the-ground presence and long-term partnerships with humanitarian actors like World Food Programme and World Vision uniquely position IFPRI to implement a successful program that seeks to provide knowledge-based policy support to the humanitarian sector. To support these initiatives, IFPRI leverages local presence and partnerships through several country offices in FCAS, including Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Sudan, which continue to support humanitarian response and recovery. A collection of trusted tools supporting partner decision making (described in Section 10 below) is further evidence of IFPRI's comparative advantage in supporting evidence-based change in humanitarian settings.

3. IFPRI's Four-Pronged Approach to Research and Impact in FCAS

The Program draws on IFPRI's institutional approach to research and impact, which emphasizes systems thinking, a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, and a commitment to translating evidence into policy and practice. This approach is operationalized in four mutually reinforcing pillars that we apply to FCAS.

3.1 Clarifying Context and Outlook

Understanding fragility requires deep analysis of political, economic, climatic, and social dynamics. The Program undertakes comprehensive context analysis that includes conflict assessments, political economy analysis, climate risk mapping, market assessments, and governance diagnostics. It draws on satellite data, phone surveys, econometric and machine learning models, and qualitative fieldwork to build a clear picture of evolving crises. This work helps partners anticipate food insecurity, identify vulnerable populations, and design interventions suited to complex and rapidly changing environments. Through early warning systems, high-frequency monitoring, and scenario planning, the Program supports humanitarian actors to adapt quickly and allocate resources where they are most needed.

3.2 Building High-Impact Solutions

The Program generates rigorous evidence on a wide range of humanitarian interventions, including cash transfers, in-kind assistance, anticipatory action of various forms, child wasting prevention and treatment, livelihood support, gender-transformative programs, and integrated humanitarian-development approaches. It studies program design features that influence effectiveness—such as transfer size, modality, delivery mechanism, provider type, and timing—with particular attention to how these features perform under conditions of conflict, displacement, and market instability.

The Program also co-develops and tests innovative solutions with local partners, ensuring that interventions are feasible, culturally relevant, and aligned with community priorities. In many cases we test not only pilot programs, but programs at scale—sharing rich evidence on what happens at scale rather than what might if all goes well.

3.3 Strengthening Governance and Financing

Humanitarian food systems function within complex governance environments. The Program works to illuminate and strengthen these governance structures by analyzing targeting processes, eligibility criteria, decision-making bodies, funding flows, and local leaders' roles and relevant power dynamics. It studies how different governance arrangements—including the role of local leaders, community committees,

women's groups, and civil society organizations—influence the fairness, transparency, and effectiveness of assistance.

The Program supports partners to adopt governance models that elevate local leadership, improve accountability, and reduce risks of exclusion, corruption, or elite capture. It also provides insights into how resources flow through humanitarian systems, helping identify bottlenecks and opportunities to strengthen localization and improve the cost-effectiveness of aid delivery.

3.4 Deploying Tools and Capabilities for Impact

The Program develops and deploys tools that enable humanitarian actors to make data-driven decisions under uncertainty. These include early warning platforms, targeting and mapping tools using machine learning, cost-effectiveness models, real-time monitoring systems, and household-level simulation tools that predict the impact of price changes or shocks. By making these tools accessible and providing capacity strengthening for their use, the Program ensures that local and national partners can independently generate, interpret, and apply evidence to improve humanitarian response.

4. Core Workstreams of the Program

The Program's work is organized around several major workstreams that reflect both the complexity of fragile food systems and the multidimensional nature of humanitarian decision-making. Each workstream is grounded in ongoing field partnerships and real operational challenges, ensuring that the Program's contributions are directly relevant to the needs of humanitarian actors.

4.1 Anticipation and Prevention

Timely, accurate, and forward-looking information is essential in FCAS, where conditions can deteriorate rapidly and where humanitarian access may be constrained by insecurity, climate shocks, or displacement. The Program strengthens early warning and response systems by developing forecasting tools that integrate climate, market, conflict, and displacement data; by supporting partners in real-time monitoring; and by analyzing how shocks interact to shape vulnerability. The Program also works on program design effectiveness, examining how early warning systems translate into action, what institutional constraints slow response, how local leaders can be effectively engaged to support, and how anticipatory transfers can reduce losses and protect livelihoods when deployed at the right moment. Example projects include:

▶ AI-based famine prediction models integrating conflict, weather, soil, market, and satellite data to forecast food insecurity up to a year in advance;

▶ Food Security Portal: Real-time global and local price tracking, policy monitoring, and transparency signals to anticipate risks;

▶ Foresight and scenario planning tools linking climate variability, migration, and agricultural productivity;

▶ Granular food security mapping using machine learning to improve aid targeting;

▶ Migration Propensity Indexes: Tracking internal (i-MPI) and external (e-MPI) migration drivers and pressures; and

► Tools and methods to evaluate <u>cost-effectiveness of investments</u> in anticipatory and emergency responses.

4.2 Monitoring and Crisis Response

A major contribution of the Program is its expansive analysis of humanitarian aid modalities. The Program examines how different modalities perform under the constraints of active conflict, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and limited access. It compares the impacts of various transfer types on core food security and livelihood outcomes. And it studies operational questions such as who should deliver assistance (for example, government, local NGOs, INGOs, private sector actors), what delivery channels minimize risk, how transfer size interacts with market dynamics, and how modality choice affects women's agency and safety. Beyond comparing modalities, the Program identifies "best-bet" approaches—interventions and program designs that consistently deliver strong results across different fragile settings. It also examines innovations such as digital payments, mobile-based delivery systems, integrated cash-plus models, and hybrid programming that blends cash with other forms of support. Example projects include:

► <u>Food Security Portal:</u> A monitoring backbone for governments, humanitarian actors, and other stakeholders providing data and policy analysis tools to anticipate food crises;

► <u>Food Security Simulator</u>: An Excel-based tool to simulate household-level food security and diet impacts of price or income shocks;

► <u>Crisis Blog Series</u> and high-frequency phone/satellite surveys capturing crisis dynamics;

► Evidence on cash transfers, hybrid social protection models, and digital delivery mechanisms in conflict zones (<u>Sudan</u> and <u>Yemen</u>);

► <u>Innovative targeting</u> and <u>delivery modalities</u> to support vulnerable populations amid active conflict;

► School feeding and nutrition-sensitive safety net evaluations in hotspots in the <u>Sahel</u>, the Horn of Africa, and the <u>Middle East</u>;

► Analysis of frontier economies' food and agricultural input value chains;

► Analysis of integrated prevention and treatment of child wasting (<u>Mali</u>, <u>Burkina Faso</u>, <u>Ethiopia</u>, and <u>Kenya</u>); and

► <u>Self-screening</u> for early detection of child wasting.

4.3 Recovery and Resilience

Preventing downward spirals of fragility and conflict requires supporting recovery after the immediate crisis response is over. The program also provides critical guidance on what works to stabilize communities and support productive livelihoods in FCAS—including the proper roles of different actors and the supporting conditions conducive to long-term peace and stability. Example projects include:

► Biofortified seed innovations (with HarvestPlus): Bundled seed distribution for conflict-affected farmers (<u>Nigeria</u>);

► Small-scale irrigation mapping and decision-support tools (<u>Nigeria</u>);

► Digital agricultural extension (<u>Myanmar</u>): Testing NGO/ private alternatives to public services;

- ▶ Youth employment and value chain transformation (with Mastercard Foundation): Evidence and support on postharvest loss, digital services, and youth livelihoods;

- ▶ Thabat Project (Sudan, with WFP and Mercy Corps): Evaluation of multimillion-dollar resilience investments in climate-smart agriculture and digital tools;

- ▶ Mental health and psychosocial interventions (Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sahel): Integrated with nutrition-sensitive programming to address trauma and promote resilience;

- ▶ Evaluation of graduation/livelihood programs (Somalia, Bangladesh): Multi-component packages (cash, skills, psychosocial support, community engagement) for the displaced;

- ▶ Governance and trust-building in post-conflict settings (Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen, Kenya): Comparative research on targeting, delivery, and integrated support packages;

- ▶ Economywide modeling frameworks (Sudan, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea) combining microsimulation and poverty modules to identify recovery pathways;

- ▶ Conversion factors to estimate caseloads for treatment services for child wasting;

- ▶ Prevention of post-treatment relapse of child wasting in Mali and Burkina Faso; and

- ▶ Generating evidence to support local production of therapeutic foods to reduce wasting.

4.4. Cross-Cutting: Gender and Inclusion

Fragile settings heighten vulnerabilities for women, girls, and marginalized groups. Gender inequalities—whether related to access to resources, exposure to violence, or exclusion from decision-making—directly affect food security, nutritional outcomes, and resilience. The Program addresses these challenges through a combination of research, co-design, and policy engagement. Example projects include:

- ▶ Women's voice and inclusion: Evaluating policies and programming to empower women to participate in community decision-making and pursue productive livelihoods;

- ▶ Research on governance reforms, institutional trust, and inclusive policy design;

- ▶ Guidance on embedding gender and social inclusion into policies and programming; and

- ▶ Measuring food system resilience in FCAS.

Through these contributions, the Program plays a key role in improving humanitarian food systems and ensuring that assistance is not only delivered but delivered well—with integrity, inclusiveness, and effectiveness at its core.

5. Partnerships and Ways of Working

Partnership is fundamental to the Program's work. In FCAS, change depends on collaboration between a wide range of actors: local communities and leaders, national governments, local NGOs, UN agencies, international NGOs, and research organizations. The Program's partnerships reflect this diversity.

The Program works with local governments, village committees, women's associations, and community leaders to ensure that interventions reflect local priorities and context-specific knowledge. These relationships form the foundation for accountability mechanisms, participatory processes, and more transparent, inclusive targeting. They also support social cohesion in environments where mistrust and fragmentation are common.

With national governments and regional bodies, the Program collaborates on early warning systems, crisis monitoring, nutrition programming, and food system resilience strategies. These engagements help integrate humanitarian analysis into national planning and strengthen institutional capacity to respond to shocks.

The Program maintains long-standing partnerships with UN agencies such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and UNHCR. These collaborations focus on operational questions around modality choice, program design, targeting systems, coordination, and the integration of gender and protection standards. Because these agencies play central roles in humanitarian response, the Program's evidence has direct pathways into global and regional decision-making.

International NGOs and local civil society organizations serve as key partners in implementing and evaluating interventions, building community engagement structures, and deepening understanding of local governance dynamics. Through these partnerships, the Program supports the expansion of locally led approaches and the strengthening of local institutional capacities.

Collaboration with other CGIAR centers enhances the Program's ability to integrate agricultural, climate, economic, and resilience insights into humanitarian strategies. This multi-disciplinary engagement is particularly important in crisis contexts where short-term humanitarian needs intersect with long-term development and peacebuilding priorities. It is facilitated through explicit partnership between IFPRI and other CGIAR centers via the CGIAR Science Program on Food Frontiers and Security. In 2023, IFPRI worked with other CGIAR centers under a grant provided by NORAD to provide direct support to WFP, collaborating on more than [20 joint activities](#) that enhanced and supported WFP's work in multiple ways.

Across all partnerships, the Program prioritizes co-creation, transparency, and mutual learning. It seeks to build systems and capacities that endure beyond individual projects, enabling local and national actors to sustain evidence-driven practices even in the face of protracted crises. The Program team also constantly seeks out new partnerships as needs and opportunities evolve.

Box 5.1: Proven Track Record of Partnership and Delivery in FCAS IFPRI has partnered and delivered essential services to the humanitarian sector, working closely with the largest humanitarian actors and organizations, including WFP. For example, during 2023-2024, IFPRI and other CGIAR centers partnered with WFP to deliver on a multi-country resilience programming initiative in Africa funded by the Government of Norway. This project was co-created by IFPRI, WFP and CGIAR with IFPRI serving as technical knowledge partner for this multi-country initiative. In collaboration with WFP and other CGIAR centers, this project delivered several analytical products and innovative solutions to support humanitarian response and foster climate resilience in FCAS. As part of this project, IFPRI provided strategic support for WFP's program design while also generating evidence on the impact of WFP initiatives through rigorous impact evaluations. This project also facilitated sharing of technical and scientific capacities across IFPRI and WFP.

Additionally, IFPRI has supported UNICEF by evaluating a portfolio of programs ranging from child wasting prevention in Mali and Burkina Faso to the strengthening of outpatient treatment services for severe acute malnutrition in Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as assessing the efficacy of locally produced therapeutic food supplements. With World Vision, IFPRI is building an evidence base that informs the development and scaling of multifaceted livelihoods, nutrition, and mental health interventions that build resilience and enhance well-being in fragile settings in East Africa. With ActionAid, IFPRI is working to design effective ways to transform harmful gender norms and support women facing fragility and conflict. Together, these examples highlight IFPRI's ability to generate rigorous evidence that drives real-world change, ensuring that donor investments translate into measurable impact.

6. Cross-Cutting Commitments

The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems integrates four cross-cutting commitments in its research and partnerships: human rights, gender equality, climate and environment, and anti-corruption. These commitments are not treated as add-ons; they form the normative and operational foundation of the Program.

6.1 Human Rights-Based Approach

A human rights-based approach guides the Program's engagement in contexts where rights have often been undermined by conflict, displacement, or political exclusion. Central elements—participation, accountability, transparency, and non-discrimination—shape both research methodologies and programmatic recommendations.

The Program's work on governance and accountability directly supports these principles by strengthening feedback systems, elevating marginalized voices, and improving transparency in humanitarian targeting and decision-making. Affected people are treated not as passive recipients but as rights-holders whose

experiences and priorities must actively shape humanitarian response. The Program's reliance on community-level data and inclusive consultation ensures that the voices of women, youth, IDPs, and marginalized groups are incorporated into both analysis and policy and program design.

6.2 Gender Equality

Gender dynamics influence all aspects of food security, nutrition, protection, and resilience in fragile settings. The Program integrates gender analysis at every stage—from context assessment and research design to policy engagement and evaluation. This includes capturing gender-differentiated experiences, examining how social norms influence access to humanitarian assistance, and understanding how program designs affect women's agency and safety. IFPRI's long-standing expertise in gender measurement methods is essentially in correctly integrating these considerations. The Program's work on women's leadership, gender-transformative programming, and integrated psychosocial support further provides concrete pathways for strengthening women's voice and agency in humanitarian response.

6.3 Climate and Environment

Climate shocks often interact with conflict dynamics to deepen food insecurity and undermine livelihoods. The Program examines these interconnected risks by integrating climate science, environmental data, and sustainability considerations into its food system analyses. Tools such as climate-linked early warning systems, market and production forecasting, and scenario planning help humanitarian actors anticipate climate risks and design interventions that reduce vulnerability.

Attention is also given to environmental impacts of humanitarian programs—including energy use, supply chains, and land pressures—ensuring that recommendations support sustainability even in crisis contexts. By linking climate and environmental analysis with governance and response design, the Program helps partners navigate the complex nexus of climate adaptation, conflict risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance.

6.4 Anti-Corruption and Ethical Integrity

Corruption, misuse of funds, and unethical practices can severely undermine humanitarian outcomes, erode trust, and put vulnerable populations at further risk. The Program maintains strong internal systems for safeguarding, procurement integrity, ethical review, and financial accountability. Research activities adhere to rigorous ethical protocols, including confidentiality protections, informed consent, and do-no-harm principles.

Because governance failures and corruption risks often emerge within local targeting and delivery structures, the Program's governance work directly contributes to corruption mitigation. By providing insights into local power dynamics, supporting transparent criteria, strengthening monitoring processes, and promoting accountability mechanisms, the Program helps partners safeguard humanitarian resources and uphold the highest standards of integrity.

7. Contribution to Systems-Level Change

The Program's work is designed not only to improve individual projects or interventions but to enable systemic change across humanitarian food systems. Systems-level change requires shifting norms, institutions, incentives, and processes across a constellation of actors. The Program contributes to this change through four main pathways.

First, by strengthening governance arrangements, transparency, and community engagement, the Program helps institutionalize practices that elevate the voice and agency of crisis-affected populations. This shift improves the fairness and legitimacy of humanitarian action and reduces risks of exclusion or conflict escalation. When communities have meaningful avenues to participate, they can help shape more sustainable and dignified responses.

Second, the Program advances evidence-informed policymaking by generating research that directly addresses operational questions faced by humanitarian agencies. Its work on modality choice, targeting systems, early warning, cost-effectiveness, and integrated programming helps shift global and national policies toward approaches that are more adaptive, context-responsive, and protective. Because the Program collaborates with leading humanitarian organizations, its evidence often informs guidelines, decision-support tools, and strategic frameworks used across regions.

Third, the Program contributes to localization and the strengthening of national and local institutions. By supporting local analytical capacities, providing locally owned tools, and co-developing decision-making processes, the Program promotes more sustainable and nationally embedded humanitarian systems. This contributes to long-term resilience, reduces dependency on external actors, and anchors humanitarian response in stronger local governance.

Lastly, the Program enhances coordination across humanitarian, development, and peace actors. Its systems approach highlights interconnections between short-term food assistance, long-term food system resilience, governance reforms, and community well-being. Through multi-stakeholder platforms and evidence-sharing, the Program helps align humanitarian action with broader development and peace-building goals—essential in contexts characterized by protracted crises.

These pathways collectively contribute to a humanitarian ecosystem that is more equitable, efficient, accountable, and capable of supporting long-term stability and recovery.

8. Program Governance and Management

The Program is housed within the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and anchored by IFPRI's country strategy support programs, several bilateral grants focused on FCAS, and the CGIAR Food Frontiers and Security Science Program in which IFPRI currently leads the Area of Work on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems. Governance of the Program draws on IFPRI's institutional strengths in research quality assurance, financial accountability, and ethical compliance, while maintaining the agility required to work effectively in fast-changing FCAS.

Management emphasizes inclusive leadership, transparent decision-making, and strong internal coordination across researchers specializing in food security, nutrition, gender, conflict, governance, and climate. This multi-disciplinary approach ensures that analyses capture the complex and interconnected drivers of fragility.

The Program employs robust internal review processes to ensure methodological rigor and policy relevance. All studies are routed through IFPRI's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for ethical review, in addition to being submitted (where institutions exist and are functional) to local IRB processes. Research designs are often pre-registered in formal science registries, and published results undergo peer review. This maintains a consistently high standard of evidence and strengthens the Program's reputation among humanitarian and development partners.

As working in FCAS requires flexibility, the Program employs adaptive management practices. Field teams and partners provide real-time feedback on operational constraints and emerging shocks, enabling rapid adjustments to research activities and engagement strategies that promote safety and high ethical standards. Additionally, where possible, IFPRI researchers rely on novel data collection methods that minimize risks to enumerators (for example, remote sensing, phone surveys, and use of partners' contacts). This flexibility allows the Program to remain responsive while retaining its long-term strategic direction.

9. Learning, Adaptation, and Sustainability

In FCAS, learning and adaptation are essential. The Program incorporates structured learning processes throughout its work, ensuring that insights from data, implementation experience, and community feedback continually inform strategic decisions.

Learning is embedded at multiple levels. At the project level, the Program integrates mechanisms for monitoring, reflection, and adjustment. At the program level, learning agendas and thematic reviews synthesize insights across countries and interventions, identifying patterns, scalability potential, and best-bet approaches. Through workshops, joint learning exercises, and stakeholder dialogues, the Program facilitates shared understanding among partners and helps institutionalize evidence-informed practices.

Adaptation is supported through iterative research cycles, scenario analysis, and real-time data collection. This enables the Program to anticipate evolving risks—such as climate shocks, political instability, market disruptions, or displacement patterns—and adjust recommendations accordingly. Adaptive methodologies are particularly important in contexts where rigid programming can lead to misalignment or harm.

Sustainability is pursued through building local and national capacities for analysis, decision-making, and program implementation. Tools and platforms developed by the Program are designed to be accessible, open-source, and adaptable by local institutions. Training and capacity-sharing ensure that partners gain the skills and knowledge needed to use evidence and tools independently. By embedding research practices into local and national systems, the Program helps ensure that innovations endure and continue to generate benefits long after individual interventions conclude.

10. Selected Tools and Platforms Supporting Humanitarian Decision-Making

The Program deploys and co-develops a range of tools that strengthen humanitarian actors' ability to anticipate, design, and monitor interventions in FCAS. These include real-time monitoring platforms, early warning systems, geospatial analysis tools, household-level simulators, economic modeling frameworks, tools for measuring women's empowerment, and conflict-sensitive targeting mechanisms. While not exhaustive, the tools below represent some of the Program's most widely used contributions.

The Food Security Portal provides timely data on global and national food prices, markets, and policy developments. It supports humanitarian actors in assessing risks, monitoring shocks, and informing strategic decisions in volatile environments.

The Food Security Simulator enables policymakers and humanitarian agencies to estimate the distributional impacts of price changes and economic shocks on household welfare. In crisis contexts, this tool helps assess how different interventions—cash transfers, subsidies, vouchers, or food distribution—affect vulnerability.

AI-based famine prediction models integrate climate, conflict, economic, and agricultural data to forecast food security outcomes. These models support anticipatory action and help partners allocate resources before crises escalate.

Geospatial and machine learning targeting tools help improve the accuracy and fairness of assistance by identifying areas and populations most at risk. These tools combine satellite imagery, conflict data, market information, and household surveys to refine targeting criteria.

Migration Propensity Indexes offer predictive insights into household movements in response to conflict, climate shocks, or economic pressures. They assist partners in planning for displacement and tailoring interventions to mobile populations.

Women's empowerment measurement tools are well known assets designed and cultivated by IFPRI. Many standard measurement tools can be properly applied to FCAS, and new measurement tools have been developed for particular application to these settings, such as the Project Level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) and the Women's Empowerment in Migration (WEMI) index.

Governance and accountability frameworks provide structured approaches for analyzing power dynamics, local leadership roles, and community perceptions. These frameworks support more transparent, participatory, and equitable targeting processes.

Together, these tools—and the training and capacity sharing that accompany them—enhance the ability of humanitarian actors to make evidence-informed, timely, and context-appropriate decisions. They embody the Program's commitment to combining rigorous research with practical solutions that directly strengthen humanitarian outcomes.

11. Conclusion

The IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems serves as an essential bridge between research, policy, and practice in some of the world's most challenging humanitarian environments. By grounding its work in the lived experiences of affected populations, maintaining deep field partnerships, generating rigorous evidence on what works in crisis settings, and strengthening governance and institutional capacities, the Program contributes directly to more effective, efficient, inclusive, and accountable humanitarian food systems.

This Strategic Plan articulates the Program's existing work, approach, and vision—positioning it as a unique and indispensable actor capable of informing and shaping system-wide humanitarian reform.

Annexes: Complementary Material

1. Theory of Change

The core activities of IFPRI's Program on FCAS are tailored to generate knowledge and innovations that can serve the humanitarian sector and with the ultimate objective of strengthening humanitarian responses. Our program on FCAS generates practical and policy-relevant evidence as well as tools and innovations that can address the complex challenges and bottlenecks in FCAS. IFPRI leverages long-standing partnerships with humanitarian organizations and national actors to translate generated knowledge and innovations into impact through dialogue, policy engagement, and co-creation of activities and programs. The Program's Theory of Change is rooted in this deep experience and comparative advantage in providing partner support for evidence-based policy, in humanitarian settings, and across the agri-food sector.

IFPRI's Program on FCAS is focused on the four thematic priorities described in the strategic plan: anticipation and prevention, monitoring and crisis response, recovery and resilience, and a cross-cutting focus on gender and inclusion. Across these themes, the Program contributes to four of the proposal's outcome areas and to the priority components of Norway's humanitarian strategy. In particular, IFPRI is poised to contribute to work on humanitarian innovation through evidence generation and policy support around new and more efficient approaches to meeting humanitarian needs. IFPRI's Program on FCAS will also be a strong partner in building competence and learning in the humanitarian space. The primary motivation of the work contained in the program and the core competency of the IFPRI team is to generate learning and support partners with developing effective service delivery. The Program employs best-in-class methods, applying state-of-the-art evidence synthesis methods to identify knowledge gaps; using first-best modeling, data collection, and causal inference methods to generate evidence; and drawing on decades of experience in policy support to facilitate knowledge transfer and policy influence.

Pathway 1: Improving humanitarian response

The activities in this impact pathway aim to equip humanitarian organizations to respond effectively to address the needs of those most affected by conflict and associated shocks. The Program pursues integrated response to crises, starting from anticipation and prevention and moving toward long-term recovery and resilience. The specific themes are detailed in the strategic plan and include innovative tools and new technology to predict and monitor crises, food insecurity, displacement, and market conditions, including in areas with active conflict. There is also a strong focus on developing and scaling programming that is cost-effective, through consideration of how new program innovations, targeting, delivery mechanisms, and different modalities perform under the constraints of humanitarian crisis. This work is co-created and co-evaluated with humanitarian partners such as World Food Programme, Action Aid, and World Vision to ensure knowledge feeds directly into partners' activities.

The work begins by identifying priority evidence gaps that constrain effective humanitarian response, leading into the creation of knowledge products that fill these gaps. These activities, conducted in close collaboration with implementing partners, lead to the outcome of integration of IFPRI's evidence and innovations into the design of programs and policies in FCAS. Ultimately, the policies will result in more effective humanitarian response, which has been informed by IFPRI's strategic support.

Pathway 2: Strengthening accountability and inclusion in humanitarian response

IFPRI's Program on FCAS includes activities focusing on testing innovations to strengthen accountability in humanitarian service delivery and ensure inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable populations and communities grappling with active conflict. For example, our Program tests innovations, both technological innovations such as digital transfers and innovative governance mechanisms, aiming to improve accountability in humanitarian service delivery. These activities are designed to strengthen innovative governance structures that can ensure transparency and fairness by evaluating targeting processes, eligibility criteria, decision-making bodies, and local leaders' roles and relevant power dynamics. The work also considers alternative designs to improve gender inclusion and equality as well as the inclusion of other marginalized groups.

In this impact pathway, the IFPRI FCAS team will, working with humanitarian partners, first identify main gaps in accountability, participation, and inclusion in humanitarian programming. Drawing on this initial work, the Program will test alternative targeting, delivery, and governance structures to enhance accountability and inclusion in humanitarian services. This work will again be conducted with humanitarian partners. These activities will lead to the outcome of humanitarian organizations using IFPRI's evidence in program design for improving transparency and inclusion. The adoption of this learning will lead to strengthened accountability and inclusion in the humanitarian sector.

Pathway 3: Improving gender equality, diversity, and protection in the humanitarian sector

Gender equality and inclusion in FCAS is a key element of the IFPRI Program, shown through the cross-cutting thematic priority that focuses on these issues. These activities respond to heightened vulnerabilities of women, girls, and other marginalized groups and address these challenges through a combination of research, co-designed interventions, and policy engagement. The interventions embed gender and social inclusion into humanitarian programming and associated responses, ensuring that assistance is not only delivered but delivered well—with integrity, inclusiveness, and effectiveness at its core.

As mentioned earlier, the Program starts with activities that identify avenues and innovations for improving gender equality and inclusion in the humanitarian sector, leading to the evaluation of approaches to elevating the voices and leadership of affected populations, including women and girls. By carrying out these activities together with humanitarian partners, the activities will lead to the outcome of these partners and other humanitarian organizations embedding IFPRI's evidence and lessons on gender and inclusion into program design, ultimately supporting the goal of improved gender equality, diversity, and protection in the humanitarian sector.

Pathway 4: Facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity sharing between humanitarian research, knowledge, and innovation organizations

As an organization situated at the intersection of knowledge generation and policy work, IFPRI is uniquely qualified to facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity sharing in the humanitarian space. The activities in this impact pathway take place across all thematic areas and other activities to ensure a strong focus on knowledge communication and capacity sharing. These types of activities include the construction of knowledge platforms available to all partners such as the Food Security Portal and the Food Security Simulator, among other tools. It additionally includes partner support, not only to generate evidence but to build that into humanitarian programming, as with our partnership with the World Food Programme. It also encompasses small- and large-scale dissemination efforts such as the Fragility to Stability Policy Seminar Series and a blog series on conflicts and other shocks impacting food systems.
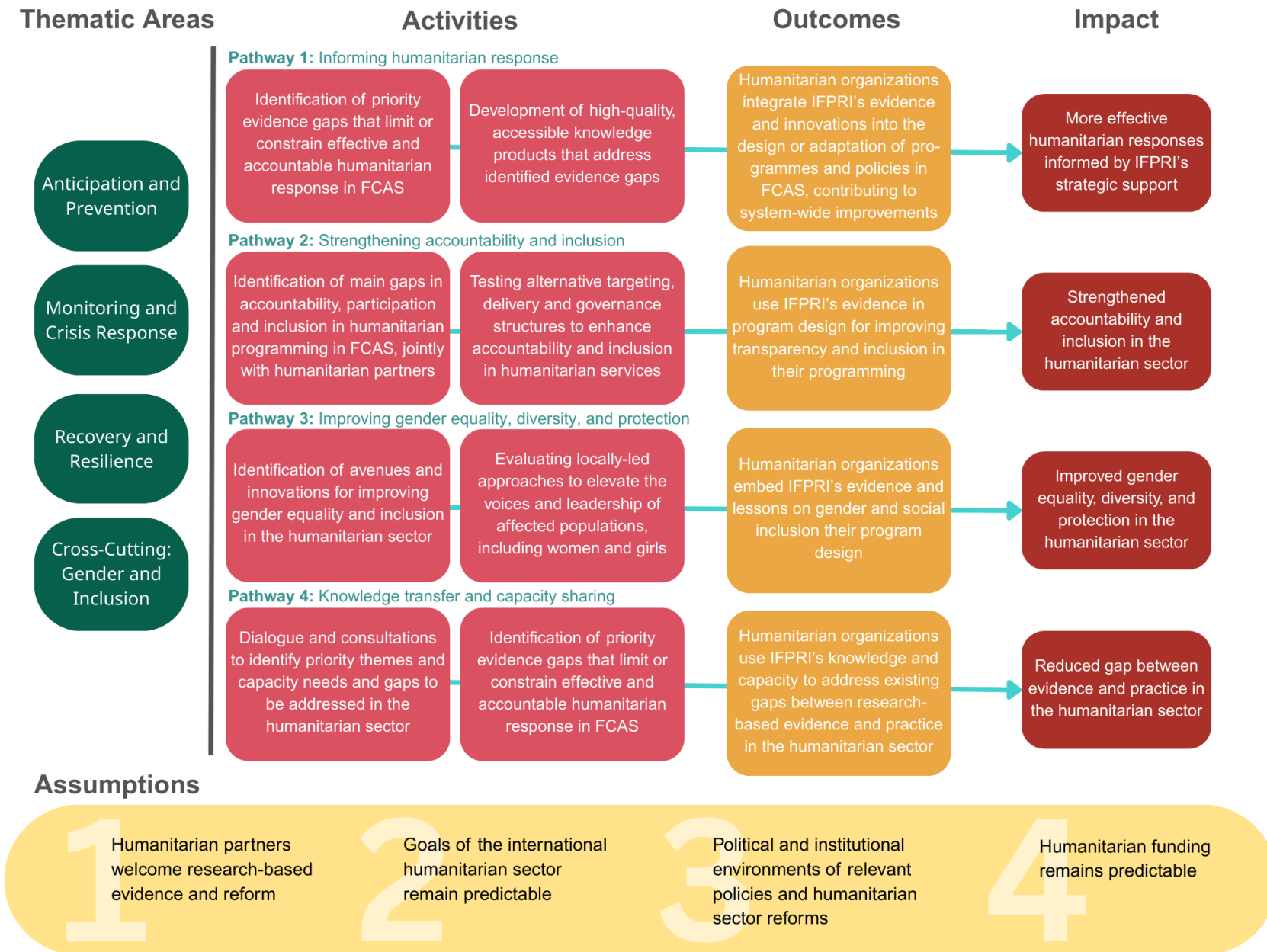
As with the other impact pathways, this work starts with activities through dialogues and consultations to identify priority themes and capacity needs and gaps to be addressed in the humanitarian sector. These needs and gaps will be addressed through the provision of knowledge platforms, partner support tools, and dissemination activities that are accessed by humanitarian actors. These activities will result in the outcome of humanitarian organizations using IFPRI's knowledge and capacity to address existing gaps between research-based evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector, leading to a reduced gap between evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector.

Assumptions

The ambitious goals detailed in this theory of change about the environment in which the Program will conduct activities and support its humanitarian partners are underpinned by a set of assumptions:

▶ Humanitarian partners welcome research-based evidence and reform. The achievement of program impact depends on humanitarian partners adopting generating knowledge. This assumption holds— IFPRI has worked with a number of target partners across many years who have been eager to adopt evidence-based reforms, as evidenced by the letter of support from WFP included in this application. This assumption can be continually reassessed through regular stakeholder engagement.

▶ Goals of the international humanitarian sector remain predictable. The Program is built around a set of impact goals dictated by the international bodies that design humanitarian policy. Given that the goals are based on multi-year documents such as Norway's Humanitarian Strategy, this assumption is logical. However, it can be reassessed through bi-annual assessments of humanitarian sector goals.

▶ Political and institutional environments allow adaptation of relevant policies and humanitarian sector reforms. The inherent instability in FCAS indicates that the local policy environments may not always be stable enough to allow for efficient reform and adaptation. IFPRI's strong partnerships with international humanitarian agencies with deep experience mean that these risks should be overcome. However, the breadth of IFPRI's geographical expertise also means that adjustments to workplans can be made if a particular environment is not conducive to achieving program goals.

▶ Humanitarian funding remains predictable. Though funding swings can threaten some of the work contained in this Program as partners have less capacity to engage, it would also only increase the need for more efficient and innovative project designs.

Figure 1. IFPRI Program on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems Theory of Change

Thematic Areas

- Anticipation and Prevention
- Monitoring and Crisis Response
- Recovery and Resilience
- Cross-Cutting: Gender and Inclusion

Activities

Pathway 1: Informing humanitarian response

Identification of priority evidence gaps that limit or constrain effective and accountable humanitarian response in FCAS

Development of high-quality, accessible knowledge products that address identified evidence gaps

Pathway 2: Strengthening accountability and inclusion

Identification of main gaps in accountability, participation and inclusion in humanitarian programming in FCAS, jointly with humanitarian partners

Testing alternative targeting, delivery and governance structures to enhance accountability and inclusion in humanitarian services

Pathway 3: Improving gender equality, diversity, and protection

Identification of avenues and innovations for improving gender equality and inclusion in the humanitarian sector

Evaluating locally-led approaches to elevate the voices and leadership of affected populations, including women and girls

Pathway 4: Knowledge transfer and capacity sharing

Dialogue and consultations to identify priority themes and capacity needs and gaps to be addressed in the humanitarian sector

Identification of priority evidence gaps that limit or constrain effective and accountable humanitarian response in FCAS

Outcomes

Humanitarian organizations integrate IFPRI's evidence and innovations into the design or adaptation of programmes and policies in FCAS, contributing to system-wide improvements

Humanitarian organizations use IFPRI's evidence in program design for improving transparency and inclusion in their programming

Humanitarian organizations embed IFPRI's evidence and lessons on gender and social inclusion their program design

Humanitarian organizations use IFPRI's knowledge and capacity to address existing gaps between research-based evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector

Impact

More effective humanitarian responses informed by IFPRI's strategic support

Strengthened accountability and inclusion in the humanitarian sector

Improved gender equality, diversity, and protection in the humanitarian sector

Reduced gap between evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector

Assumptions

1. Humanitarian partners welcome research-based evidence and reform

2. Goals of the international humanitarian sector remain predictable

3. Political and institutional environments of relevant policies and humanitarian sector reforms

4. Humanitarian funding remains predictable

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2. Results Framework

Table 1. Pathway 1: Improving humanitarian response

Level	Expected Result	Indicators	Base-line	Target 2029	Data Source of Verification
Impact 1	**More effective humanitarian responses informed by IFPRI's strategic support**	Number of humanitarian programs and organizations benefiting from IFPRI's research and innovations in FCAS	5	12	Data from humanitarian partners: partner's strategy and/or program's documents; citation/usage tracking of IFPRI products; partner self-reporting
Activity 1.1	Identification of priority evidence gaps that limit or constrain effective and accountable humanitarian response in FCAS	Number of priority areas and programs with evidence gaps	3	8	
Output 1.1	Priority setting workshop and priority setting report	Priority-setting report		1	
Activity 1.2	Development of high-quality, accessible knowledge products that address identified evidence gaps	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	1	5	Priority-setting report; workshop proceedings, published briefs/blogs/toolkits; download and web analytics
Output 1.2	User-friendly policy briefs and blogposts translating IFPRI research for humanitarian decision-makers in FCAS and headquarters produced and disseminated	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	1	5	
Outcome 1	Humanitarian organizations integrate IFPRI's evidence and innovations into the design or adaptation of programs and policies in FCAS, contributing to system-wide improvements	Number of programs benefiting from IFPRI's program on FCAS	5	12	Program documents, interviews
Output 1.3	Structured consultation, dialogue, and dissemination platforms are established to support the uptake, localization, and adaptation of IFPRI's evidence and innovations.	Number of consultations and dialogues with humanitarian organizations	0	5	

Table 2. Pathway 2: Strengthening accountability and inclusion in the humanitarian sector

Level	Expected Result	Indicators	Base-line	Target 2029	Data Source of Verification
Impact 2	**Strengthened accountability and inclusion in humanitarian response through IFPRI's innovations and evidence on effective governance and targeting approaches**	Number of humanitarian programs and organizations using IFPRI's evidence and lessons from FCAS	4	10	Data from humanitarian partners: partner's strategy and/or program's documents; citation/usage tracking of IFPRI products; partner self-reporting
Activity 2.1	Identification of main gaps in accountability, participation and inclusion in humanitarian programming in FCAS, jointly with humanitarian partners	Number of programs and thematic areas where evidence gaps on accountability and inclusion are documented and validated with partners	3	8	Diagnostic and scoping documents; priority-setting workshop report
Output 2.1	Synthesis of "best-bet" options and emerging good practices for transparent and inclusive humanitarian service delivery in FCAS	Synthesis of best-practices	0	1	
Activity 2.2	Testing alternative targeting, delivery and governance structures to enhance accountability and inclusion in humanitarian services	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	0	5	Working papers, case studies, policy briefs, and blogs; workshop materials; web and download analytics
Output 2.2	Dissemination of research findings through practical policy briefs and blog posts	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	0	5	
Outcome 2	Humanitarian organizations use IFPRI's evidence in program design for improving transparency and inclusion in their programming	Number of documented cases or programs that are benefiting from IFPRI's FCAS evidence and tools	1	3	Program proposals, interviews
Output 2.3.1	Structured consultations, learning dialogues and dissemination of IFPRI's evidence and innovations with partners and other stakeholders including local actors	Number of consultations and dialogues with humanitarian organizations to improve accountability and transparency in the humanitarian sector	0	3	

Table 3. Pathway 3: Improved gender equality, diversity, and protection in the humanitarian sector

Level	Expected Result	Indicators	Base-line	Target 2029	Data Source of Verification
Impact 3	**Improved gender equality, diversity, and protection in the humanitarian sector**	Number of humanitarian programs and organizations using lessons from IFPRI's evidence on gender equality and inclusion	2	7	Data from humanitarian partners: partner's strategy and/or program's documents; citation/usage tracking of IFPRI products; partner self-reporting
Activity 3.1	Identification of avenues and innovations for improving gender equality and inclusion in the humanitarian sector	Number of programs with evidence gaps	2	7	Diagnostic and scoping report; priority-setting and consultation report
Output 3.1	Lessons and best practices for ensuring inclusive, gender-responsive humanitarian service delivery in FCAS		0	1	
Activity 3.2	Evaluating locally-led approaches to elevate the voices and leadership of affected populations, including women and girls	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	1	5	Working papers, policy briefs, case studies and blogs; workshop materials; website and download analytics
Output 3.2	Dissemination of research findings on locally-led, gender-responsive, and inclusive approaches are translated into practical policy briefs, blogs, and short guidance for humanitarian actors	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated on priority themes	1	5	
Outcome 3	Humanitarian organizations embed IFPRI's evidence and lessons on gender and social inclusion their program design	Number of cases and program embedding lessons from IFPRI's research on gender and social inclusion	1	4	Program documents, interviews
Output 3.3	Consultation, dialogue and dissemination of evidence and innovations to adapt and adopt IFPRI's gender and inclusion evidence and innovations	Number of technical consultations and dialogues to improve inclusion in humanitarian service delivery	1	4	

Table 4. Pathway 4: Knowledge transfer and capacity sharing to reduce the gap between research-based evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector

Level	Expected Result	Indicators	Base-line	Target 2029	Data Source of Verification
Impact 4	**Reduced gap between research-based evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector**	Number of humanitarian programs and staff benefiting from IFPRI's technical trainings, consultations, and dissemination events	3	10	Data from humanitarian partners
Activity 4.1	Dialogue and consultations to identify priority themes and capacity needs and gaps to be addressed in the humanitarian sector	Number of technical trainings, consultations, and dissemination events	2	8	Data from humanitarian partners; post-training/consultation surveys; follow-up dialogues.
Output 4.1	Co-created trainings, technical meetings, and consultations to provide practical skills and tools for humanitarian staff to apply evidence in their programs	Number of technical consultations and capacity-sharing workshops	0	5	Training materials; curricula
Activity 4.2	Humanitarian actors access and engage with timely, relevant evidence through knowledge platforms, partner support, and dissemination activities	Number of knowledge products used by humanitarian organizations	3	8	Platform analytics
Output 4.2	Co-organization of regular seminars with humanitarian actors to promote dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policymakers, addressing their priority questions or concerns, and sharing practical lessons based on robust evidence	Number of seminars co-organized with humanitarian organizations	3	12	
Outcome 4	Humanitarian organizations use IFPRI's knowledge and capacity to address existing gaps between research-based evidence and practice in the humanitarian sector	Number of staff and program benefiting from IFPRI's knowledge, analytical capacity and convening capacity and role.	15	80	Program documents, interviews
Output 4.3	Technical meetings, consultations, and dialogues to help humanitarian teams apply evidence to concrete programming challenges	Number of technical meetings, consultations, and dialogues to support humanitarian teams integrate evidence into programming	3	12	

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