

6: Food Security



Primary Schoolchildren – Ages 8-11

Aims:

To enable students to consider the availability of food resources, and how pulses can improve food security for communities.

Objectives:

- Students will recognise that the availability of food varies across the world.
- Students will develop an understanding of the UN WFP school feeding programme and discuss and evaluate the benefits of such a programme for hungry children.
- Students will consider the role of pulses in improving the food security of a community.

Resources:

1. UN World Food Programme website (<http://www.wfp.org>)
2. UN WFP fact sheet (from teacher pack).
3. Template of box with UN WFP logo on it (from teacher pack).
4. UN WFP food basket (from teacher pack).

Suggestions for further development:

- Students to consider if there are food security issues in their own communities.
- A whole school or class initiative could be introduced with pupils asked to make and fill boxes at home with foods that meet the UN WFP food basket criteria. These could then be distributed to poverty stricken groups either by the school or local charity.

Pulses can play an important role in the food security of a community.



6: Food Security



TIME DETAILS

15mins Pupils to explore why people in different countries do not all eat the same food, using what they have learnt from previous lessons. Elicit key ideas: differences in cultural diets, religious restrictions, availability of foodstuffs, climates, etc. In modern times farming and agriculture are resource intensive. What might happen to farming and agricultural output when there are sudden changes in the economy, natural disasters, or changes in weather patterns?
 What about the diets of children who live in countries that have been affected by economic or natural disasters? What do they eat? Where does their food come from? Is their nutrition affected?

The UN has launched the 'Zero Hunger Challenge' to achieve the aim of eliminating hunger globally and promote everyone's right to adequate food. Discuss with the pupils why they think this is a global challenge, and why everyone has a responsibility to meet the challenge.

30mins Introduce the concept of the UN World Food Programme (UN WFP). What are its aims? Why was it established? Teachers can refer to the UN WFP website (resource 1) or fact sheet (resource 2) for information.

In small groups pupils will be given, or will have brought in, a shoebox-sized box, or larger. More able pupils might like to make their own box using the template (resource 3), and logos are also provided that can be glued to the box, forming a UN WFP 'food basket'

TIME DETAILS

Pupils will have to decide what food items they will put in their food basket box to help ensure that children in need do not go hungry.

The energy and protein that people need varies according to age, sex, body size, physical activity and, to some extent, climate. On average, the body needs more than 2,100 kilocalories per day to allow a normal, healthy life. Extra energy is needed during pregnancy and while breast-feeding.

What foods should be included and why? What issues might need to be overcome in ensuring the food baskets reach those in need and are then able to help fulfill the dietary requirements (link to learning about Health and Nutrition in Lesson 2)?

Pupils will then compare the contents of their food baskets to the contents of the example UN WFP food baskets (resource 4). Are there any significant differences, and what reasons are there for including these items?

15mins There is a small amount of space left in each food basket. What else could be included in the boxes to enable the people receiving them to re-establish and develop their own agriculture?

Pupils to analyse why pulses would be a key component in allowing regions to develop their agriculture. How does this help with a region becoming food secure? People are considered food secure when they have, at all times, "access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". Remind pupils of their learning from Lesson 2: Health and Nutrition. How does a lack of food security affect peoples' hopes of achieving a balanced and nutritional diet?

Resource 1

www.wfp.org



A screenshot of the World Food Programme (WFP) website homepage. The browser address bar shows "www.wfp.org". The page features a blue header with the WFP logo and the text "World Food Programme" and "Fighting Hunger Worldwide". Navigation links include "ABOUT", "HUNGER", "OUR WORK", "COUNTRIES", and "HOW YOU CAN HELP". A red "DONATE" button is visible. Below the header, there is a navigation menu for "Information for:" with links for "Government Donors", "Private Sector", "Journalists", "Aid Professionals", "Students", and "Teachers". The main content area features a large photograph of a woman and two children sitting on the ground. Overlaid on the right side of the photo is a text box that reads: "WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger." Below this text is another line: "WFP is funded entirely by voluntary donations". At the bottom of the photo, there is a "Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud" credit. In the bottom left corner of the photo area, the text "Life After Ebola" is displayed. In the bottom right corner, there are two buttons: "Learn more" and "DONATE".

Resource 2

UN WFP fact sheet



World Food Programme Fighting Hunger Worldwide

1. What is WFP?
2. How does WFP fight hunger?
3. What is WFP's vision?
4. When was WFP founded?
5. How many people work at WFP?
6. Where is WFP's headquarters located?
7. Who pays for WFP and its food assistance?
8. Where does WFP work and who benefits?
9. How does WFP get food to the hungry poor?
10. How does WFP's work differ from that of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)?
11. How does WFP distribute its food?
12. What is a WFP food ration?
13. What do the rations consist of?
14. What does WFP do to promote development?



1 - What is WFP?

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations frontline agency mandated to combat global hunger, which afflicts one out of every seven people on earth.

2 - How does WFP fight hunger?

In emergencies, WFP is on the frontline, delivering food to save the lives of victims of war, civil conflict and natural disasters. After the cause of an emergency has passed, WFP uses food to help communities rebuild their shattered lives.

3 - What is WFP's vision?

The vision of WFP is a world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. Without food, there can be no sustainable peace, no democracy and no development.

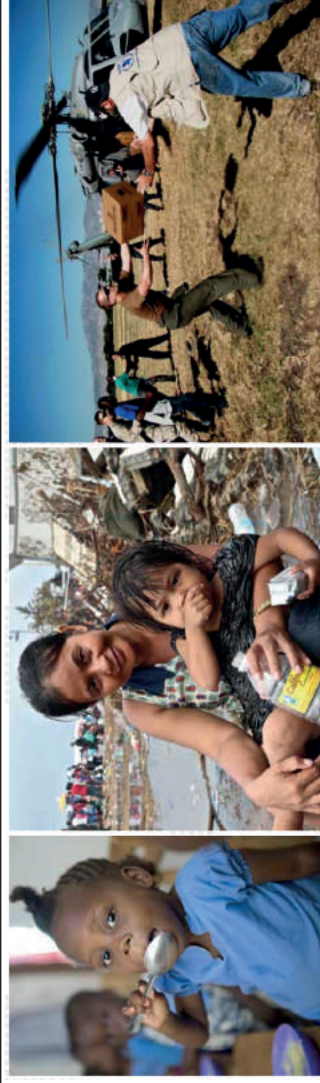
4 - When was WFP founded?

In November / December 1961, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN General Assembly adopted parallel resolutions establishing WFP.



Resource 2

UN WFP fact sheet



OPERATIONS

The three-year experimental programme was not due to enter into operation until January 1963. In reality it was up and running several months early, as an earthquake hit Iran, and a hurricane swept through Thailand and newly independent Algeria was overwhelmed by five million returning refugees. Food assistance was needed urgently and WFP was tasked to supply it

5 - How many people work at WFP?

WFP employs roughly *12,000 staff, of whom 90 percent worked in the field delivering food and monitoring its use. *excludes temporary contracts of 11 months or less as those for short-term international professionals, consultants, short-term general service, special service agreements, interns, author's contract, fellowship, WFP volunteers and casual labourers.

6 - Where is WFP's headquarters located?

Ever since its foundation in 1963 and thanks to the generosity of the Italian government, WFP headquarters has been based in Rome, Italy.

7 - Who pays for WFP and its food assistance?

WFP relies entirely on voluntary contributions to run its humanitarian and development projects. Contributions are made either as cash, food or the basic items necessary to grow, store and cook food. None of the people who ate WFP food last year could have done so without the generosity of our donors. Governments are WFP's principal source of funds, but increasingly businesses and individuals are also making a vital contribution to WFP's mission. In an average year, more than 60 governments voluntarily provide funds for the humanitarian and development work of WFP.

8 - Where does WFP work and who benefits? WFP fights hunger in least-developed and low-income countries where victims of natural disasters, refugees, displaced people and the hungry poor face severe food shortages. The frontline stretches from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East to Latin America and Asia Pacific. See the list of countries where we provide food assistance.

9 - How does WFP get food to the hungry poor?

WFP transports more food than any other international organisation. Moving food assistance, a bulk commodity, thousands of miles at a moment's notice, often into some of the world's most inhospitable places, is a skill which WFP has turned into a fine art. Ocean transport forms the backbone of WFP's transportation system, with some 90 percent of its food moved by ship. But as complex as shipping arrangements can be, that's just the easy part. The hard bit lies in getting the food from the ships to the people who need it. To achieve this, WFP's transport officers stretch a logistical lifeline across deserts, mountains and rivers deep into the heart of the world's poorest countries. If there are no roads or bridges, WFP builds them. Where there's no landing space for aircraft, it arranges an airdrop. The Programme even rehabilitates entire ports and railways. Once the supply line is secure, WFP brings in its emergency food supplies via wing, wheel and wagon.

It uses whatever means are available: ships, barges, dug-out canoes; trucks and trains; planes; helicopters and air drops; even the backs of donkeys, yaks and elephants.



For more information please visit wfp.org



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Resource 2

UN WFP fact sheet



PARTNERS

10 - How does WFP's work differ from that of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)?

Food security and agricultural development are major challenges facing the world today. The Rome-based agencies of the United Nations work together to meet them. The agencies have specific and complementary roles. WFP's key mission is to deliver food into the hands of the hungry poor. The agency steps in during emergencies and uses food to aid recovery after emergencies. Our longer term approaches to hunger help the transition from recovery to development.

FAO is the world's agricultural knowledge agency, providing policy and technical assistance to developing countries to promote food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural production, particularly in rural areas. FAO also acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.

IFAD, with its knowledge of rural poverty and exclusive focus on poor rural people, designs and implements programmes to help those people access the assets, services and opportunities they need to overcome poverty.

The Rome-based agencies have many joint operational activities at the regional, country and local level.

11 - How does WFP distribute its food?

WFP works with about 3,000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to distribute its food. The grassroots and technical knowledge of these NGOs is invaluable when it comes to assessing how to deliver food to the right people.

WFP FOOD RATIONS

12 - What is a WFP food ration?

Typical food rations in situations where no other food is available consist of more than half a kilogramme of food per person per day (or 2,100 kilocalories). This amounts to 15 kilogrammes in food rations for one month, or 182.5 kilogrammes for a year. If you're trying to feed 100,000 hungry people, a relatively small caseload in an emergency situation, you need about 57 truckloads of food to feed them for just one month.

13 - What do the rations consist of?

The rations themselves can consist of:

- Cereals - wheat, maize, sorghum, rice
- Pulses - beans, peas
- Vegetable oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Cereal blends
- High Energy biscuits
- Bread

14 - What does WFP do to promote development?

WFP's development activities aim to make communities food secure, so that they can devote time, attention and energy to escaping the poverty trap. Food-for-Assets projects give community members food in return for work on roads, schools, wells or irrigation systems. Food may also support them as they start small businesses or replant degraded forests.

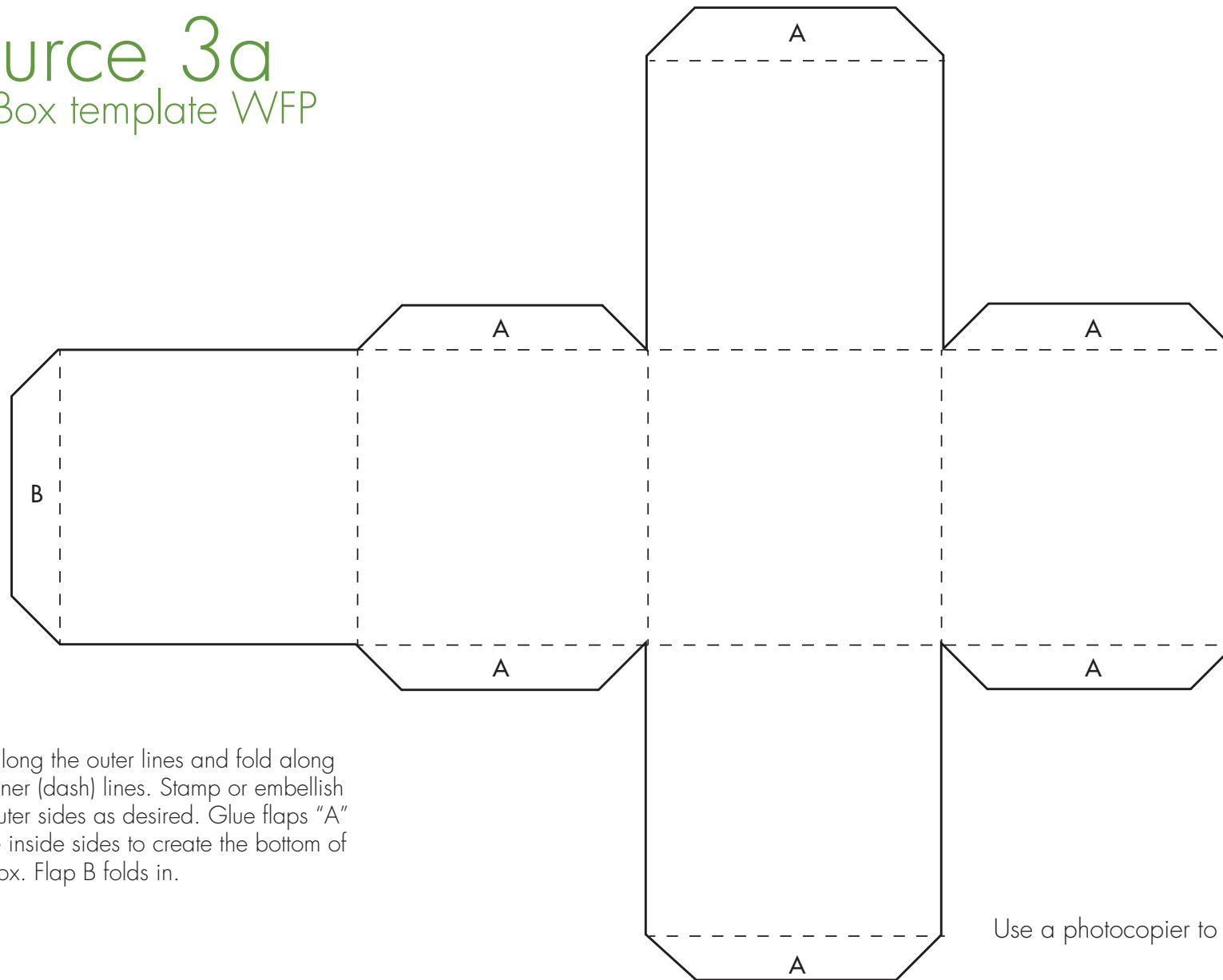


For more information please visit wfp.org



Resource 3a

Box template WFP

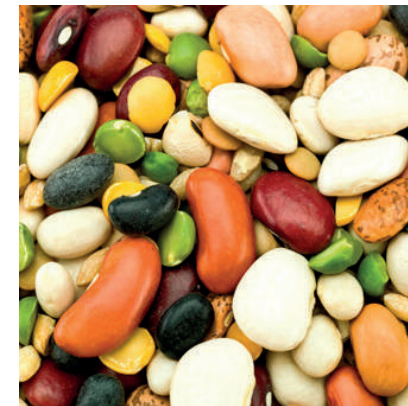


Cut along the outer lines and fold along the inner (dash) lines. Stamp or embellish the outer sides as desired. Glue flaps "A" to the inside sides to create the bottom of the box. Flap B folds in.

Use a photocopier to enlarge

Resource 3b

Box template WFP



Use a photocopier to enlarge

Resource 4

UN WFP food basket



The food that the World Food Programme (WFP) supplies to its beneficiaries depends on the needs of the groups covered and the objectives of the project.

In emergencies or refugee situations people may be totally dependent on WFP food. In this case, the key components of the WFP food basket are: a staple such as wheat flour or rice; lentils, chickpeas or other pulses; vegetable oil (fortified with vitamin A and D); sugar; iodized salt. Often these are complemented with special blended foods, such as a corn soya blend, that have been fortified with important micronutrients.

The photo below shows an example of a daily ration that provides the required 2,100 kilocalories (Kcal) of energy.



Ingredients

400g of cereal flour/rice/bulgur
60g of pulses
25g of oil (vit. A fortified)
50g of fortified blended foods (corn soya blend)
15g of sugar
5g of iodized salt

Nutritional value

Energy 2,100 Kcal
Protein 58g
Fat 43g

Besides energy, protein and fat, an adequate food basket supplies micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron, iodine and zinc. The food basket serves to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and other forms of malnutrition or prevents them from deteriorating.