



**UNHCR-WFP Impact Evaluation Series:  
Contribution of Food Assistance to Durable Solutions  
in Protracted Refugee Situations**

**Ethiopia, Rwanda, Chad, Bangladesh  
& Series Synthesis**

# Approach

- Joint UNHCR-WFP evaluation management, following WFP evaluation standards
- Common evaluation framework & key questions
- Theory-based, mixed method impact evaluation



# Logic model & Expected Results

| Period      | Assistance   | Expected Results  |
|-------------|--|---|
| Short Term  | Emergency response assistance  | Lives saved; improved food consumption; safety & protection. Minimal level of self-reliance.  |
| Medium term | Transition from emergency response with -<br>Complementary interventions available e.g: water, sanitation, education, housing; | Improved food basket, improved nutritional status (acute and chronic malnutrition);<br>Increased beneficiary capacity to establish livelihoods; |
| Long term   | Livelihood interventions available; Asset building   | Refugee self-reliance; local integration; resettlement or repatriation.   |

# Results: desired evolution to greater self-reliance has not been achieved

## In short-term after arrival:

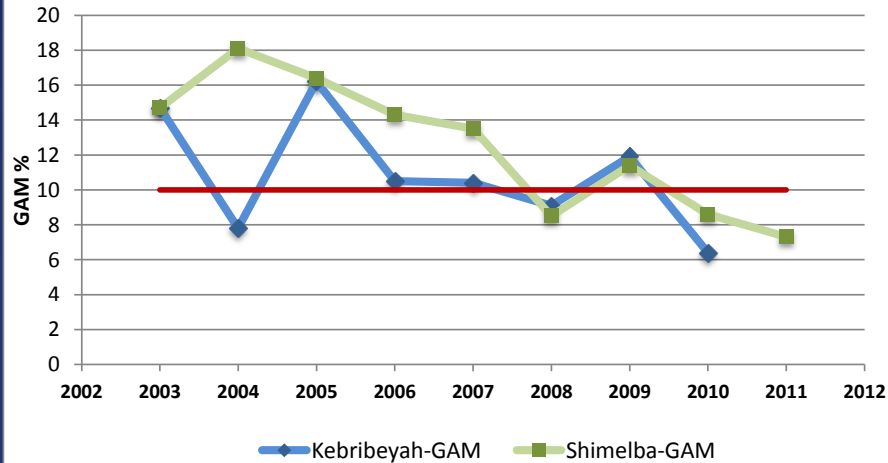
- ✓ hunger mediation achieved
- ✓ coping strategies improved

## Longer-term:

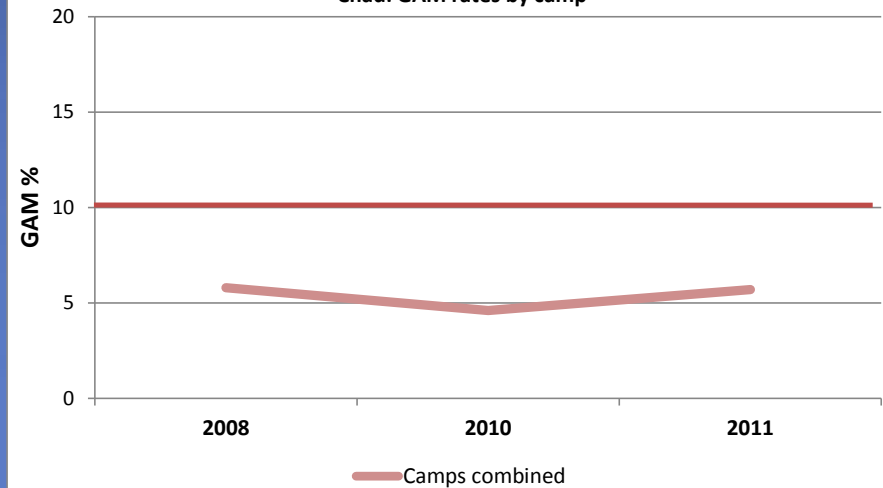
- Unacceptably high numbers are not food secure, especially female-headed households
- Chronic malnutrition at or above 'serious' in all 4 contexts
- Very limited livelihood opportunities, few assets, frequent negative coping strategies
- Food and NFI treated as income to meet unmet basic needs
- Protection (especially SGBV) inadequately addressed

# GAM rates

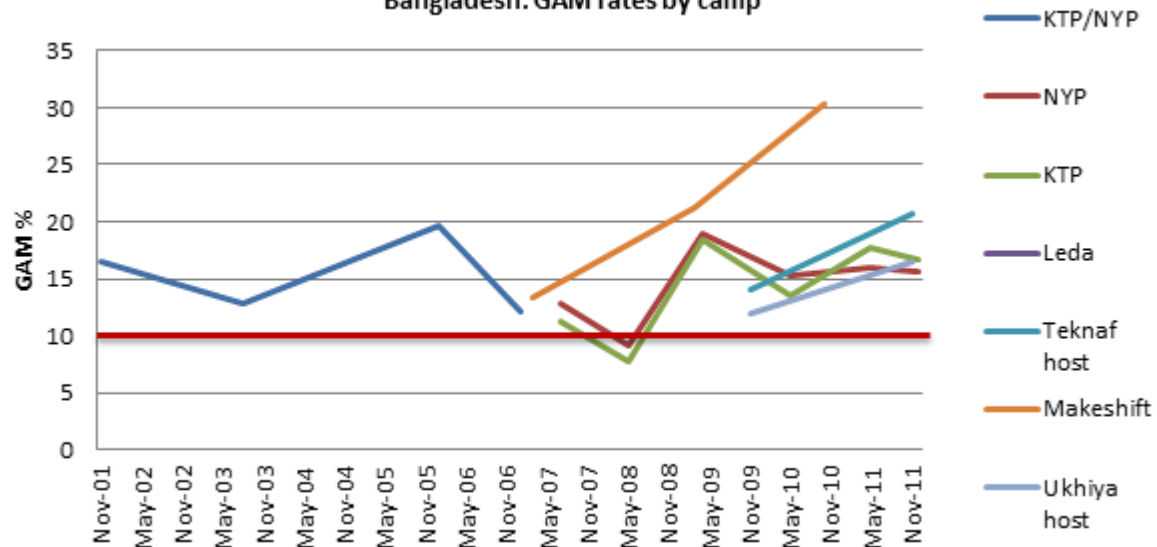
Ethiopia: GAM rates by camp



Chad: GAM rates by camp



Bangladesh: GAM rates by camp



WHO GAM benchmark  
10-14% indicates serious situation

# Key Conclusion: intended shift to promoting self-reliance has not happened

## Emergency Model

- 'Care and maintenance approach'
- Minimum standards regarding basic needs
- Food in kind, fuel, shelter, water, cooking utensils, health care, education
- Encampment



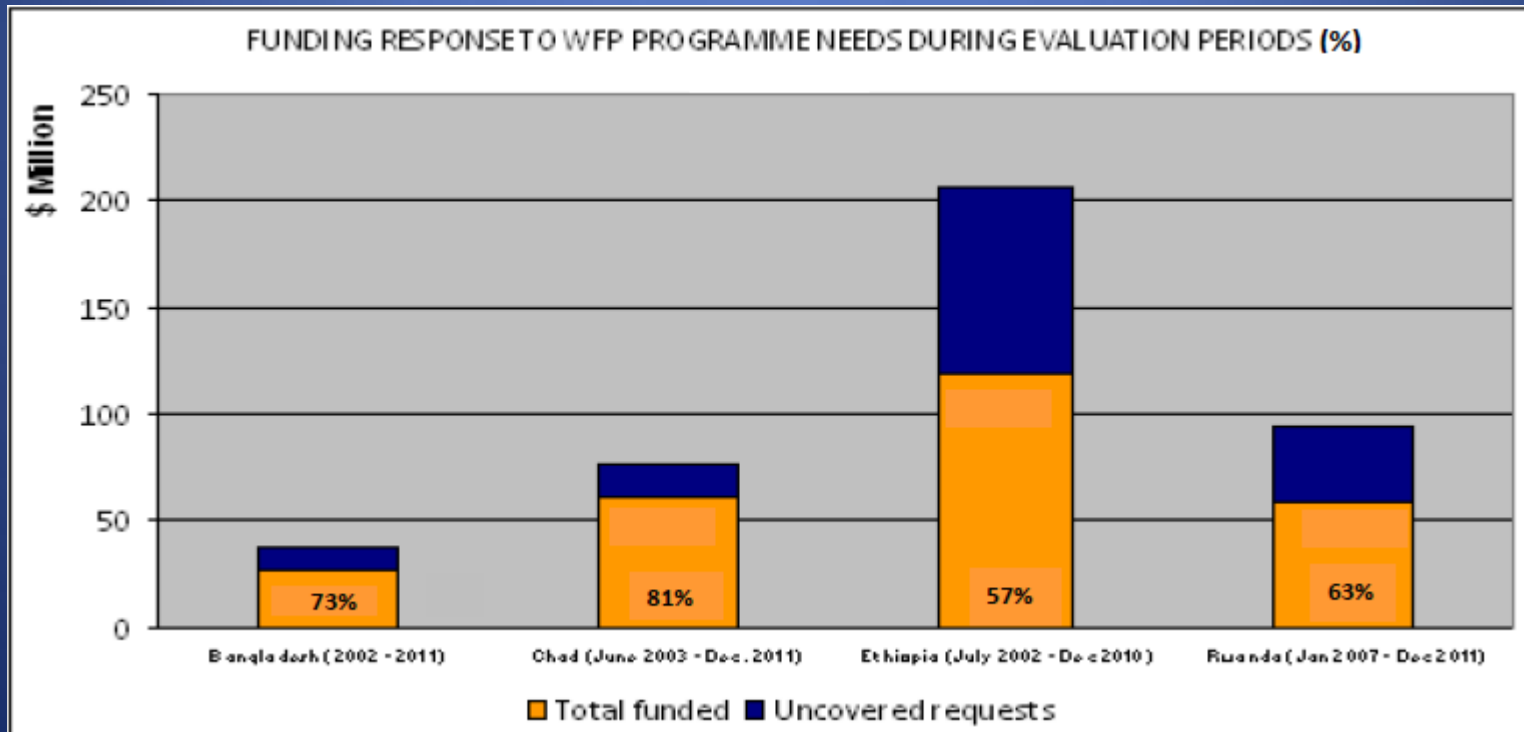
## Protracted Model

- Possibility of 'self-reliance' as a refugee
- Livelihoods beyond relief
- Changing population profile and social context
- Inputs of two UN agencies working towards same goals
- New food assistance tools
- Recognition of wider range of stakeholders /partners

Durable solutions: going home, resettlement or integration

# Why? External Factors

- Funding shortfalls: uneasy fit in emergency-development divide
- Host government policies



# Why? Internal Factors

- Missed opportunities for synergies within & between programmes
- Poor follow-up to JAM's and weak Joint Plans of Action
- Inaccurate household records & infrequent revalidation
- Insufficiently frequent and poor timing of non-food item re-distribution
- Inadequate monitoring of food distribution



# Conclusion

- Current food assistance interventions provided as part of the UNHCR/WFP combined approach, will not lead to self-reliance of targeted households.
- A fundamental shift in paradigm is required - with support of host governments, donors, UN agencies and refugees themselves.

# Recommendations

1. UNHCR-WFP HLM to lead development of a joint corporate strategy with management mechanisms;
2. Via IASC build recognition of joint international responsibility and action plan;
3. UN Country Team to advocate for refugee rights, engage livelihoods actors and build political will for change in approach & durable solutions;
4. Donors to overcome artificial funding barriers;
5. WFP & UNHCR country teams to develop consensual strategies for transition to self-reliance based on contextualised knowledge of refugees' specific needs. Annual reporting mechanism.



**World Food Programme**



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés