

Executive Board – Second Session

10-14 November 2014

Agenda item 6b) Management Response to the Recommendations of the Summary Evaluation Report – The Uganda Country Portfolio (2009 – 13)

1. Madam President, I am pleased to present the Management Response to the Recommendations of the Summary Evaluation Report of the Uganda Country Portfolio (2009 – 13). The evaluation focused on the extent of alignment and strategic positioning of WFP's operations in the country; the drivers of key strategic decisions; and the performance and results of WFP operations. It is worth noting that the evaluation also considered Uganda's country strategy – WFP's first - assessing the utility and added value of the country strategy as a whole.
2. Among the findings, management is pleased to note that the Uganda country strategy set an appropriate strategic direction in the shift from food aid to food assistance. The portfolio was found to be closely aligned to Uganda's evolving priorities and policies, and responded to needs of vulnerable communities. It further noted the effectiveness of the nutrition and school feeding interventions.
3. While the strategic direction was found to be appropriately defined, management takes note of the challenges identified in its implementation. Equally, management acknowledges that WFP's monitoring and reporting remained mostly input-output based and outcome-level progress was not adequately tracked.
4. Management generally accepts the recommendations, including the call for the forthcoming CSD to be a 'results-based' document to ensure outcomes are clearly defined and effectively captured. Accordingly, the CSD will be developed in tandem with the UNDAF and national planning processes and be guided, as appropriate, by the recommendations set out in the evaluation.

5. Looking at the specific recommendations, **Recommendation 1** focuses on positioning and encourages WFP to continue its work on three priority areas identified in the country strategy. Management generally welcomes the affirmation of the strategy and confirms that the CO is in the process of making adjustments in accordance with the suggestion from the evaluation. A point of clarification is however with respect to the intention to expand some components of AMS into more marginal agricultural areas as distinct from only those targeted for FFA/DRR activities.
6. **Recommendation 2** further encourages WFP to maintain a dual approach of advocacy and service-delivery in the Karamoja region. Management agrees noting the development of a transition strategy for extremely vulnerable household and ongoing advocacy with donors for its support.
7. **Recommendation 3** focuses on the new country strategy document to be developed in 2015 and as has already been noted, calls for the strategy to be a results based document. Management agrees with the spirit of the recommendation and will align outcomes with the UNDAF, national priorities, and relevant international frameworks - noting that modalities for aligning country strategy level outcomes with project level outcomes are still being defined.
8. Resilience and disaster risk management are the focus of **Recommendation 4** which, in conjunction with the findings of the recent FFA evaluation in Uganda, calls on WFP to strengthen planning, design, execution and monitoring of resilience/ DRR interventions. Management agrees and commits to such improvements in finalizing the joint resilience strategy, expected to be completed in March, 2015.
9. **Recommendation 5** focuses on general food distribution prescribing specific actions to improve efforts in this activity. Management has partially agreed with this recommendation as, we believe the action point regarding secondary transport issues mischaracterizes transport arrangements. The recommendation focuses on a specific set of secondary transport problems drawn from an isolated incident in a

particular region which have since been resolved. The remaining action points are agreed and detailed in the document.

10. In the context of agriculture and market support (AMS), **Recommendation 6** calls on WFP to ensure the security of farmers' savings, by supporting the government of Uganda in developing an appropriate regulatory framework for Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). Management partially agrees with this recommendation as while we agree with the concept, we do not have the expertise to advice on this fully. We therefore believe the appropriate solution is to work within existing regulations, including the linking of Village Savings and Loans to banks and micro-finance institutions, rather than to develop a regulatory framework specifically for VSLAs.
11. Finally, **Recommendation 7** calls on WFP to provide training to staff and partners on WFP's protection policy to ensure that WFP assistance does not place beneficiaries at risk. Management agrees and has outlined appropriate training modalities in the document.
12. With that Mme President, I conclude my introductory remarks.

Thank you