



WFP EVALUATION



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Evaluation of The Gambia WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020

October 2021

Round Table

CONTEXT

High poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition:

- 32% of the population suffers from severe multidimensional poverty, disproportionately affecting rural people
- Decreasing agricultural productivity, gender inequality and the Covid-19 pandemic are important features of poverty
- The Gambia ranks 67th out of 107 qualifying countries in the 2020 Global Hunger Index.
- Stunting prevalence is high with regional and gender disparities



CSP 2019–2021

FIVE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (% of budget after 2nd increase in June 2020)



SO1

Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs

39%



SO2

Food-insecure populations including school-aged children, have access to adequate and nutritious food

25%



SO3

Nutritionally vulnerable populations, including children and PLW, have improved nutritional status

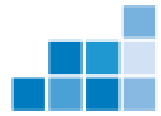
25%



SO4

Smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities enhance their resilience

6%



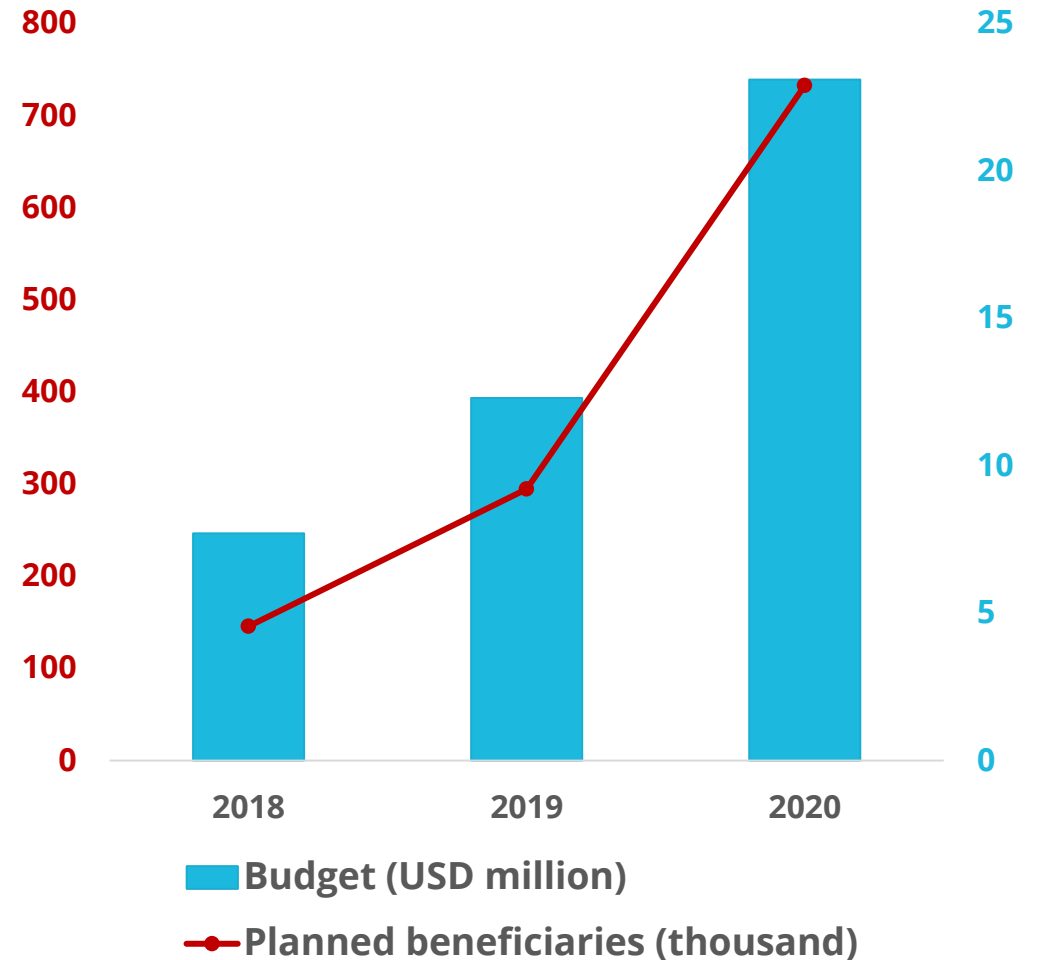
SO5

National institutions have strengthened capacity to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and respond to shocks

4%

EVOLUTION OF THE CSP

- **Sharp increase in needs** over 2018-2020, mostly due to Covid-19.
- CSP to be extended by a year, up to end 2022



EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



- **Utilization focused and consultative approach** using mixed-methods.
- Covid-19 induced **hybrid** approach, with national evaluators conducting field visits.
- **Gender sensitive** evaluation.
- **Some limitations.**

FINDINGS

Q1 TO WHAT EXTENT ARE WFP'S STRATEGIC POSITION, ROLE AND SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION BASED ON COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND PEOPLE'S NEEDS, AS WELL AS WFP'S STRENGTHS?



The CSP had **strong alignment with national policies**, except for obesity and agricultural processing



Emergency response needs were underestimated at CSP design stage, but WFP showed **strong adaptability** during implementation.



Targeting of schools and for resilience activities could be further refined.

Q2 WHAT IS THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF WFP'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO (T-I)CSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?



SO1 Emergency response: Good quality response and innovations for cash delivery in 2019. Slow Covid-19 response.



SO2 School feeding: High beneficiary satisfaction but opportunity for enhancing nutrition sensitive approaches. Hand-over of two regions needs further consolidation.



SO3 Nutrition activities benefited from effective partnerships, but after meeting targets in 2018/19 suffered delays in 2020.



SO4 Smallholder farmer and community resilience activities suffered from late funding availability and limited partnerships.



SO5 Important contributions to **country capacity strengthening**, but lack of strategic planning and monitoring.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



Mixed progress on **gender** approaches and activities, now speeding-up thanks to improved CO capacities.



Affected populations overall well informed about activities and availed of an operational gender-sensitive feedback mechanism.



Sustainability: more efforts required for the hand-over of HGSF and nutrition programmes.



Triple-nexus: CSP facilitating understanding of linkages between the three through specific activities

Q3 TO WHAT EXTENT DID WFP USE ITS RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY IN CONTRIBUTING TO CSP OUTPUTS AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?



CSP direct support costs and transfer costs were acceptable when comparing with countries with similar contexts.



Some key resources arrived late in 2019 and 2020 and had to be carried over to the following year.



Timeliness can be improved for SBCC and CBT to schools.

Q4 WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT EXPLAIN WFP PERFORMANCE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS MADE THE STRATEGIC SHIFT EXPECTED BY THE CSP?



Strengthened existing strategic **partnerships** and new ones developed. Strong engagement in the Delivery-as-One approach



Adequate **contributions** (except for SO4 in 2019) but at times arriving late. High levels of earmarking limited flexibility



Other challenges: COVID restrictions, slow pace of staff capacity alignment and shortcomings in performance monitoring

CONCLUSIONS



Strategic shift of the CSP supported by expanded and strengthened partnerships



Adaptive humanitarian player during crises



Successful implementation, but handover of the SFP requires further consolidation and enhanced smallholder farmer participation



Nutrition results contributing to reducing GAM rates. Need to consider obesity



Late start of limited resilience activities



Gradual shift towards supporting the strengthening of national systems, but there is a need for a well-articulated national capacity-strengthening strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Maintain the thematic areas of the current CSP, with a **strong focus on capacity strengthening**, applying adjustments to **increase alignment** with national priorities.

2

Country capacity-strengthening: need for gap assessments, a comprehensive strategy and enhanced skillset of staff.

3

Further **strengthen the gender approach of the CSP**, using **dedicated resources**.

4

Strengthen M&E systems of the CSP, with a dedicated M&E system for country capacity strengthening activities.

5

Improve the value chain approach and local purchase mechanisms to **increase smallholder farmer participation in the HGSP programme**.