



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of South Sudan WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022

October 2022

Round Table



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Context

- Protracted conflict
- Repeated extreme environment shocks
- Covid-19
- Catastrophic food security situation:
Critical nutritional situation: 1.4 million children under 5 acutely malnourished
- 1.3 million displaced people
- 2.8 million out-of-school children



WFP ICSP in South Sudan 2018-2022

Shift: Address immediate needs and underlying constraints for effective crisis response, while scaling up resilience interventions

Four Strategic Outcomes

(% of needs-based plan after November 2021 Budget Revision 7 | DSC: 4%; ISC: 6%)



61%

Food-insecure people in crisis-affected areas, have access to safe and nutritious food all year round

S01



12%

People at risk of malnutrition are able to meet their basic nutrition requirements all year round

S02



8%

Food-insecure smallholders and communities have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to seasonal climate shocks

S03



9%

The humanitarian community has access to reliable common services until satisfactory alternatives are available

S04

Evaluation methodology



- **Document review** including performance and financial data
- **Field site** observations mainly in Lakes, Abyei, Jonglei, Warrap States
- **Key informant interviews** and focus group discussions (over 400 individuals)
- Embedding **evaluation questions** in WFP post-distribution monitoring
- **E-Surveys**
- Attention to **gender** equality and women empowerment, **inclusion, accountability** to affected populations and **ethical** issues

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?



Relevant to **national priorities** and **strategies on agriculture, food security, nutrition, resilience, education and health**



Greater emphasis on life-saving versus life-changing resilience building interventions – Appropriate given the scale of the needs



Clear ability to **adapt to increasing needs resulting from frequent new shocks** including **COVID-19**



Priority given to “those furthest behind” but targeting remained a persistent challenge



Aligned to UN Cooperation Framework and Humanitarian Response Plans – **Value added of WFP as a key partner**

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes?



SO1 Unconditional food/cash transfers effective in saving lives and improving food security among populations in IPC levels 4 and 5 but insufficient to offset the impact of recurrent shocks



SO2 Effective in the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition but insufficient coverage of nutritional preventive activities



SO3 Resilience-building interventions contributed to improve self-reliance, food security and nutrition, and reduce tensions and violence



SO4 UNHAS and common services were key enablers for a successful collective humanitarian response

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes? (continued)



Gender equality and transformative objectives were prominent features of the ICSP design – but its implementation could benefit from further strengthening



WFP committed to ensuring adherence to **humanitarian principles** in spite of **growing challenges**. **Conflict-sensitivity** duly considered and efforts made to strengthen staff and partner capacity



Protection risks identified and **important contribution to protection** especially during covid-19. **Attention paid to accountability to affected populations** but more should be done to ensure accessibility of feedback mechanisms among beneficiaries

Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



Funding shortfalls forced WFP to deliver at a **reduced scale** across most of the country, leading to a perception that **WFP support is “spread too thinly”**



Multiple external factors outside WFP’s control **affected timeliness** of assistance (underfunding, access constraints due to insecurity, flooding, movements restrictions resulting from COVID-19, lack of warehousing facilities in remote areas)

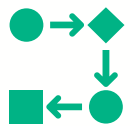


Cost-savings achieved through multiple ways
(choice of transportation options, transfer modality, food procurement, etc.)

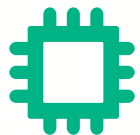
Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?



WFP **strong emergency response capacity** and **adaptive and innovative** approaches to tackling shocks



Unprecedented challenges resulting in rising needs, hampering WFP's intended shift towards more resilience-building efforts



Declining funding and increase in donor earmarking - Signs of donor fatigue



Good collaboration with UN agencies and Government but limited functional state governance structures limited effective **Country Capacity Strengthening** engagement

Conclusions



WFP **leading provider of humanitarian assistance** but **stronger engagement with national and state government is needed** to enhance focus on sustainability and country capacity strengthening



ICSP initial **useful overarching framework for WFP interventions** - shift in thinking over time towards a more forward-looking approach to sustainable resilience building



Targeting strongly informed by evidence but a huge challenge given scale of needs and available resources. **WFP assistance is perceived to be spread too thinly** and insufficient to fully address all needs



Good **programme adaptations**. Need to better integrate Research, Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation systems with decision-making processes



WFP performance on SO1/SO2 rated highly but **overall ICSP performance below targets due to challenging context**, COVID-19, funding constraints and scale of needs

Conclusions (continued)



Strong consideration for **protection, AAP, humanitarian principles, conflict-sensitivity, and gender** but **WFP needs to continue building on its work**



South Sudan's context extremely challenging undermines potential to deliver **sustainable results**



Timely delivery hindered by external factors with unintended consequences for beneficiaries and cooperating partners



Good **programme adaptations**. Need to better integrate research, assessment, monitoring and evaluation systems into decision-making processes



Due attention to **cost-efficiency measures** including through cost sharing with other agencies. Further efficiency gains would require early funding



Funding shortfalls have been a major issue in the ICSP delivery calling for a deeper consideration of new funding streams

Recommendations

- 1 Avoid spreading resources too thinly in the next CSP and focus on priority areas which will deliver longer-term impact in coordination with other actors
- 2 Consider opportunities to maximize the longer-term and sustainable impact of WFP interventions, ensure greater coherence and synergies across the portfolio and support transition of beneficiaries from unconditional assistance to resilience-oriented activities
- 3 Take steps to deliver ambitions to increase the focus on resilience building in the next CSP (long-term vision and approach, research, integrated teams)
- 4 Enhance the efficiency of beneficiary registration and verification processes and better integrate Research, Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation data with decision-making structures
- 5 Continue to strengthen approaches on a number of cross-cutting themes, including AAP, conflict sensitivity and gender equality
- 6 Strengthen WFP partnerships with donors, cooperating partners, and Government