



WFP EVALUATION



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Evaluation of Mauritania WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

February 2023

Evaluation Round Table

CONTEXT

- Consistent **poverty decline** since 2000
- **Food and nutrition insecurity** persisting (acute and chronic malnutrition at 11.6% and 23.3%)
- Exposure to **climate risks, migration** from neighbouring countries
- **Gender disparities** across social and economic sectors (151st out of 162 countries in the gender inequality index)



CSP 2019–2023

6 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (% of budget after BR #2 of 12/2021)



SO1

Crisis-affected people in targeted areas, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises

41%



SO2

Food-insecure populations in targeted regions, including school-age children, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

27%



SO3

Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted areas, including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, have improved nutritional status all year

5%



SO4

Food-insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year

12%



SO5

National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food-security, nutrition and social protection policies and programmes, including an adaptive (shock-responsive) social protection system, by 2030

6%



SO6

Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services that permit them to reach and operate in targeted areas all year

9%

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



- **Utilization-focused and consultative approach** using mixed-methods
- **Gender sensitive** evaluation
- Integrated **protection, AAP** and **environment**

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?



Relevance: supporting implementation of national strategies; addressing needs of most vulnerable population



WFP comparative advantages: recognized operational and logistical capacities; less so on capacity strengthening and resilience



Strategic partnerships: strong on social protection and resilience; limited on nutrition, gender, protection, and environment

Q2 WHAT IS THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF WFP'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO ICSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?



SO1: stabilization of **refugees'** food security; development of sustainable solutions not achieved.

The **COVID-19 response** suffered implementation challenges



SO2: lean season support shift to cash transfers, improvements in food security outcomes. **School feeding** outcomes hardly assessed; further increase in attendance and retention rates will require systemic enhancements to the education system



SO3: high performance rates of **MAM treatment**; contextual challenges in urban settings

Q2 WHAT IS THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF WFP'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO ICSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES? (CONT.)



SO4: scale-up of **FFA**; evidence of positive outcome results; anchoring within state institutions below expectations



SO5: Institutional support focussed on specific sectors; turnover of public servants represented a challenge



SO6: UNHAS services ensured humanitarian access and logistical capacity, including during COVID-19 crisis

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



Gender mainstreaming; integration of **protection, environmental** and social risk analyses



Accountability improvements; communication/awareness gaps



Sustainability: challenging implementation of exit strategies at decentralised level



Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach hampered by funding flexibility

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



Timeliness: cash transfers contributed to timely implementation. Nutrition activities suffered from funding gaps and pipeline breaks



Targeting improvements. Issues with acceptance and exclusion errors persist



Evidence of improved **efficiency** of activities. Food losses under control

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



Use of **reliable evidence**, including to inform institutional support



Mobilization of multi-year **funding**, humanitarian earmarking compensated by internal flexibility



Expansion of **human resources**, with contextual challenges



Strengthened **partnerships**, opportunities to improve coordination/complementarity

CONCLUSIONS



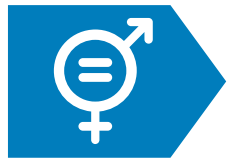
Strategic positioning: enhanced in specific sectors, room to improve visibility of its orientations at Government level



Refugee assistance: triple nexus approach combining humanitarian efforts with sustainable solutions



Integrated resilience package: opportunities to improve activities' synergies and national ownership



Cross-cutting issues: progress ongoing, gender transformative effects not yet achieved



Evidence of WFP capacity in terms of **adaptation and flexibility**



Success factors: internal reorganizations, resource mobilization, monitoring improvements yet with persisting challenges

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Strengthen the combined strategy of adaptive social protection and the integrated resilience package

2

Strengthen the consideration of the cross-cutting issues of gender, environment and accountability to affected populations

3

Review the strategy for refugees and host populations assistance based on stakeholders' comparative advantages, including local communities

4

Strengthen the effects of the integrated resilience package

5

Enhance national policy support for school feeding and the management of acute malnutrition