



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of Malawi WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

July 2023

Informal consultation



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Evaluation methodology



- **Document review** including monitoring data
- **Field site** observations
- **Key informant interviews** and focus group discussions
- **Gender equality and human rights** dimensions included in design

WFP CSP in MALAWI 2019-2023

Six Strategic Outcomes

(% of needs-based plan as of June 2022)



31%

Shock-affected people, including refugees have access to nutritious food

S01



15%

Shock-responsive social protection systems

S02



2%

Vulnerable people have improved nutritional status

S03



49%

Smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations have enhanced resilience

S04



1%

National and local institutions, agencies and enterprises have strengthened capacities to achieve SDG 2

S05



2%

Humanitarian and development partners have access to increased emergency services

S06

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?

»»» CSP **was evidence-based** & focused on the most vulnerable populations

↕ CSP **well aligned** with national priorities, designed to support strategies of UN and development partners

👤 Theory of change after Year 1 helped clarify strategic shift & set out impact pathways – but no clear strategy for capacity strengthening

🏠 WFP CSP **remained relevant** but required significant adaptations for crises

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



SO1 Timely & effective emergency response improved food consumption & reduced coping strategies – but refugee response underfunded



SO2 Take-home rations complemented national social protection system; **improved enrolment & attendance**; decreased dropout



SO3 Shift from malnutrition treatment to prevention contributed to **improved health & nutrition outcomes** among women & children under five

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



SO4 Integrated resilience programming **improved food consumption, expanded livelihood asset base & increased capacities** to manage climate-related shocks








SO5 Acted as enabler - **strengthened country capacities** for emergency response, vulnerability assessments, shock-responsive social protection, logistics, & national beneficiary register



SO6 **Effective logistics** & supply chain services

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

-  Overall **gender sensitive**, especially resilience & nutrition. But not a transformative approach
-  **Protection** - Safe access to assistance; protection from sexual exploitation & abuse integrated; accountability to affected populations expanded
-  Adherence to **humanitarian principles** supported by evidence-based targeting
-  Integrated resilience programmes **improved community capacity** to manage natural resources/environment – but climate change not mainstreamed elsewhere
-  Integrated approach also supported **humanitarian-development links** and **sustainability potential** – but challenges ahead

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



WFP praised for **timely emergency response** but delays elsewhere had negative consequences



Geographic targeting appropriately focused for vulnerability - but reduced breadth & depth due to funding constraints



WFP **improved cost-efficiency** and explored different options to reduce costs

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



Dependence on short-term, strictly earmarked funding constrained flexibility – while multi-year funding increased predictability & improved planning



Monitoring and reporting systems improved, but did not capture capacity strengthening results



Partnerships enhanced over time, but those with private sector entities still at early-stage



Organizational realignment exercises ensured continued field presence and supported cost-efficiencies

Conclusions



WFP contributed to positive results under each strategic outcome, despite a challenging funding and operational context



Integrated approach to programming helped reduce vulnerability



Intended shift to an enabling role impeded by a deteriorating food security situation & internal constraints



Resilience building approach helped position WFP on the humanitarian–development continuum – but still perceived mainly as emergency responder

Conclusions (continued)



Efforts on protection, environmental & climate adaptations, and accountability to affected populations supported results



Gender transformative approaches not consistently integrated



Leading role in food security and nutrition evidence generation; and internal culture of evidence-informed decision making



Decreasing donor contributions antithetical to growing needs; mitigation strategies applied

Recommendations

- 1 Build on the positive evolution towards an integrated programme
- 2 Expand strategy for phased withdrawal - WFP as “enabler”
- 3 Refine strategic positions & programme directions for the next CSP
- 4 Scale up partnerships & collaboration for impact & sustainability
- 5 Enhance approach to addressing root causes of gender inequalities & advancing women's economic empowerment