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MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EGYPT 104500 (2007–2011)

**Enabling Livelihoods, Nutrition and Food
Security**

BACKGROUND

1. The Secretariat appreciates the recommendations made to improve the performance of Egypt country programme 104500 (2007–2011).
2. The country office is committed to developing capacity in the Government of Egypt by improving technical expertise in nutrition and food security. With support from the regional bureau, it will continue to broaden its funding base to mitigate pipeline breaks attributable to funding shortfalls. Actions such as targeting will be improved to enhance the effectiveness of the country programme.
3. The attached matrix presents the Secretariat's response to the recommendations of the evaluation of the country programme.

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
COUNTRY PROGRAMME EGYPT 104500 (2007–2011)**

Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
1. The country office should retain its full-time nutritionist post to increase its in-house expertise in nutrition, to make it more effective in developing capacity in national institutions such as the National Nutrition Institute (NNI) and to upgrade its ability to develop future initiatives.	Country office	Agreed. The country office will maintain a full-time nutritionist position funded under the ongoing fortification projects. It will also continue to obtain additional nutritional expertise from partners such as the John Hopkins School of Public Health, the Micronutrient Initiative and the Flour Fortification Initiative, and will approach international experts to obtain specialized technical inputs.	Completed
2a. The country office should recruit a full-time consultant for vulnerability, poverty and food security analysis to increase its ability to assist the Government in these areas.	Country office	Agreed. An external vacancy announcement has been issued; recruitment started in March 2010.	May 2010
2b. If the country office is unable to do this, it should reconsider its involvement in reform of the food subsidy system: without an in-house expert WFP is unlikely to succeed in this work, especially in view of the political nature of the issue.	Country office	Not applicable (see the response to recommendation 2a).	
3. With respect to flour fortification, the following should be evaluated before the programme is handed over to the Government: i) the effectiveness of ferrous sulphate fortification in increasing the iron micronutrient status of <i>baladi</i> consumers; and ii) the continued use of folic acid in flour fortification.	Country office	<p>An evaluation to assess changes in anaemia levels in some areas is planned for late 2010, in coordination with the World Health Organization and the NNI. Recommendations will be made on the basis of the results for consideration and adoption by the Government.</p> <p>The flour fortification programme is currently run by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the NNI. Therefore hand-over to the Government is not applicable in this case.</p> <p>The inclusion of folic acid in flour fortification followed the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation which was adopted by the Ministry of Health. The country office will therefore share the evaluation recommendation with WHO and the Ministry of Health/NNI for their consideration and further action.</p>	February 2011



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>4. With regard to the food-for-education (FFE) component, WFP should find ways to: i) minimize disruptions of the food pipeline to ensure that children receive the full ration for the whole school year; and ii) build a stable stream of private-sector donations.</p>	<p>Country office/ Regional bureau /Headquarters</p>	<p>Since the start of country programme 104500, the country office has mobilized significant funding from the private sector and local bilateral and multilateral sources. The regional bureau is planning a strategy for accessing contributions from regional private corporations. The country office prepares a monthly food pipeline and resource status for all country programme activities, which is shared with the regional bureau and Headquarters.</p> <p>The country office hired a logistics assistant in January 2010 to follow up the FFE pipeline and train cooperating partners in stock management with a view to optimizing the supply and delivery chain.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>5. For the Early Childhood Education Enhancement Project (ECEEP), in-school feeding for pre-school classes in towns in Upper Egypt should be reviewed, particularly with respect to targeting.</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>Agreed. The country office will coordinate with the Government and ECEEP partners to assess the most suitable method of targeting vulnerable children in towns.</p>	<p>September 2010</p>
<p>6. The Combating Child Labour Project (CCLP) appears to be making steady progress in reaching its target, but in view of the scale of the problem the country office should consider extending the programme for four more years. In particular, the Government needs to develop strategies to reduce child labour in agriculture, an issue that is not yet covered in the Egyptian Labour Code</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>Agreed. Negotiations are ongoing with the funding agency – the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) – for a phase II extension with a view to expanding the CCLP to the agricultural sector.</p> <p>A preparatory study is proposed to identify gaps resulting from the lack of legislation on child labour in agriculture and to establish a normative framework. In February 2010, a national committee was established with high-level representation from the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to address child labour issues in the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>7. Food-for-assets support for land reclamation in the High Dam Lake area should be re-evaluated: the team was particularly concerned about the cost-effectiveness of government-supervised land reclamation. A new national study comparing government and private-sector approaches to land reclamation may suggest that WFP should re-orient its food-for-assets (FFA) support for land reclamation to work undertaken by the private sector: it might be possible, for example, for WFP to extend FFA support to poor agricultural labourers working in private land-reclamation projects.</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>The socio-economic assessment, which is currently being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, will review sustainable integrated rural development in newly reclaimed lands and settlements and will include the role of WFP assistance. A review of community development as opposed to large-scale commercial farming is beyond the scope of the study. WFP will review the results and recommendations of the assessment, which should be available by December 2010.</p> <p>WFP would not be in a position to support large-scale commercial farming schemes as recommended because its multilateral resources may not constitute budgetary support for private companies.</p>	<p>December 2010</p>

