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SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE—MID-TERM EVALUATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME—LESOTHO (2000-2002)

This document should be read in conjunction with the document “Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of Country Programme—Lesotho (2000–2002)” (WFP/EB.3/2002/6/1).

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Recommendation of the evaluation mission (November 2001)	Action by	Management Response and Action Taken (September 2002)
Country Office Management Support		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WFP should fill all vacant staff positions within the country office as quickly as possible. 	Country office	The country office has filled all the vacant posts, and staff are already working.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The country office and regional office should develop a plan of action to address weaknesses related to budgetary control, financial management and the sale of deteriorating vegetable oil; the country office should provide timely updates on the action plan for follow-up by the relevant oversight units within WFP. 	Country office	The country office budget is monitored on a monthly basis, and we now have a full-time accounts assistant, who is following up regularly on expenditures and replenishments. Introduction of COAG-SAPInt has been fully implemented, which has given the country office a better tool for exercising better control. Recovery of the sales proceeds of the old vegetable oil is pending. The Government has informed the country office that it has engaged a lawyer to start the legal process to recover the amount. Regular inventory control and updating have also been introduced.
Government Support and Coordination Arrangements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Country Programme Committee (CPC) should be revived and should meet with appropriate regularity; the preparation of detailed Notes for the Record (NFRs) and an annual CPC report should be ensured. 	Country office	The CPC has met and NFRs have been prepared to approve Country Programme Activities 1 and 4. It was decided that the CPC would meet every six months, or when necessary, to review new activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Through the CPC, a review of the existing CP coordination arrangements should be initiated with a view to reducing the number of channels of communication and improving the effectiveness of coordination among different government ministries and offices. 	Country office	For the remainder of the current CP, this review is still under discussion. The Ministry of Development Planning will soon be introducing quarterly meetings with all donors and international organizations to review the progress.
United Nations and NGO Partnership and Coordination Arrangements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any future Lesotho CP should be harmonized with the UNDAF. 	Country office	Although there will not be another CP, the country office is fully committed to harmonization with the UNDAF.

➤ Possibilities for joint activities in the field of household-based support, HIV/AIDS and support for herd boys should be explored.	Country office	These two activities will be explored under the new project approach.
Targeting		
➤ On targeting, a VAM capability should be established at the country level to support the CP process, the formulation of any future CP for Lesotho and the development of a national VAM capacity.	Country office	A VAM mission recently visited the country office, and its recommendations are gradually being implemented. Also Southern African Development Community (SADC) and WFP have just completed a vulnerability assessment exercise, which is part of the rolling needs assessment for the most vulnerable areas under the current regional emergency operation.
Meeting the Commitments to Women		
➤ The country office should ensure that gender issues are addressed in all future operational contracts signed with the Government under the current CP.	Country office	All new contracts with implementing partners and the Government now contain a gender clause. This has also become a part of monitoring and periodic reports.
Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability		
➤ Practical solutions should be sought to resolve reporting difficulties and delayed audited accounts.	Country office	The Government had hired a company to audit the last six years' accounts. The auditors have completed the work, and the country office is expected to receive the audited accounts soon. The reporting issues are now being addressed more systematically than in the past, since the country office now has the full complement of programme staff needed to operate the office.
➤ Gender-disaggregated reports on beneficiaries should be produced under the CP.	Country office	Such reports have been produced and the pro forma for reports have been modified to capture this information.
Required Adjustments and Possible New Activities		
➤ Basic Activity 1: In order to ensure that adequate food resources are made available after 1 January 2002 for school feeding, urgent action must be taken to conclude an operational agreement with the Government as quickly as possible.	Country office	All efforts were made to call forward the required quantities for Activity 1, but there was still a shortfall. Operational contracts with the Government were signed in November 2001, immediately after the evaluation mission.





<p>➤ Basic Activity 2: The activity should not be undertaken as designed and alternatives for reaching children under 5 should be explored. Should sufficient development food resources and capacity become available for undertaking new initiatives and partnerships, a pilot community-based supplementary feeding activity could be explored as an alternative means of reaching the most needy children.</p>	Country office	No activity was undertaken as per the recommendation.
<p>➤ Basic Activity 3: This activity should not be implemented as foreseen under the current CP. Should sufficient resources and programming capacity become available in the future, a small pilot activity providing food to households who agree to enroll and send herd boys to school could be considered. Close collaboration under UNDAF and with other United Nations agencies (e.g. UNICEF) needs to be explored.</p>	Country office	No activity was undertaken as per the recommendation.
<p>➤ Basic Activity 4: This activity should not be implemented as originally formulated; the country office should continue with the new approach now being considered. In this context, the country office should finalize, sign and implement the operational contract for a revised Basic Activity 4 as soon as possible.</p>	Country office	Activity 4 was reformulated and presented to the CPC, which approved it. Due to shortages of resources, however, it was of limited duration.