

Synthesis of four impact evaluations of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel

WFP Office of Evaluation

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World Food Programme

Overview of Evaluation



The four impact evaluations in **Chad, Mali, Niger and Sudan** examine aspects of WFP's **food security** and **moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** prevention and treatment programmes, and impact on nutrition and food security outcomes.

Overview of Evaluation



Four impact evaluations were commissioned by OEV and managed by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation's (3ie). Form part of the Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window (HATW)

Impact Evaluations implemented by different teams.

Context



6 million

- Sahel region faces high rates of poverty, fast population growth, climate change, recurrent food and nutrition crises, and violence due to armed conflicts
- 30 million people affected, almost 12 million of whom require emergency food assistance
- Acute malnutrition in the Sahel affects estimated six million children under the age of five
1.4 million children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

Blanket Supplementary Feeding

- Prevention of acute malnutrition

Targeted Supplementary Feeding

- MAM treatment programme



Targeted Food Assistance (IK & CBT) in **all**

School feeding in **Mali**

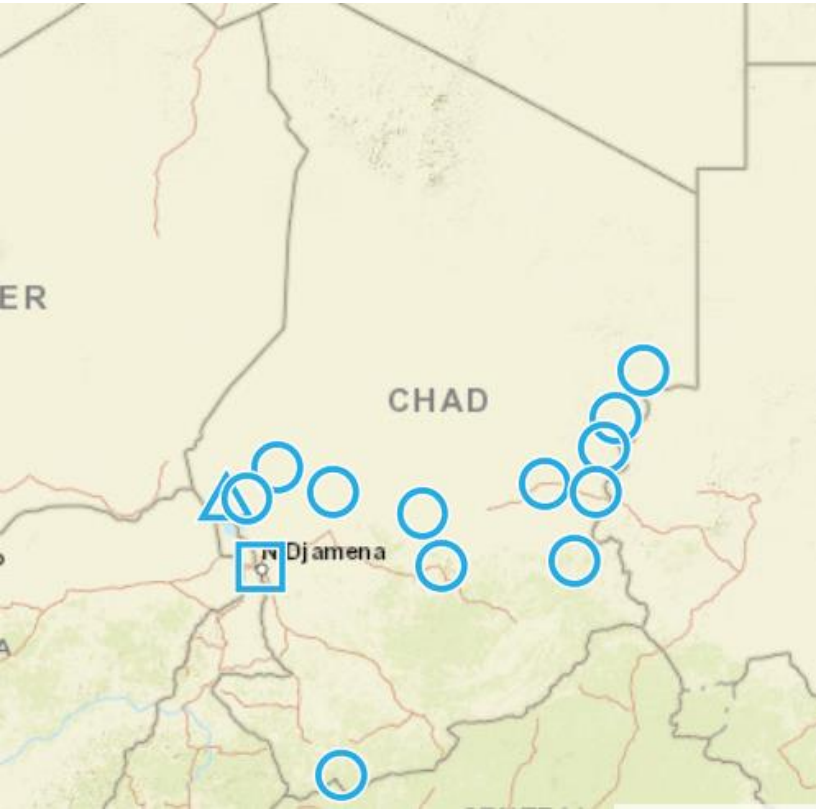
Behaviour Change Communications in **Sudan**

Food for Assets in **Niger**

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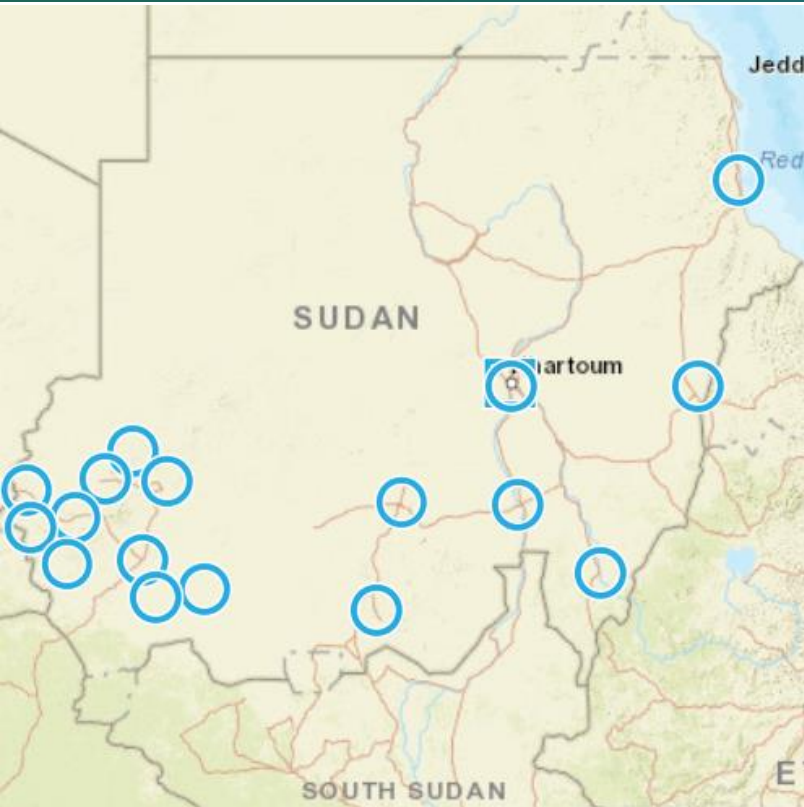
Evaluation Findings

Chad



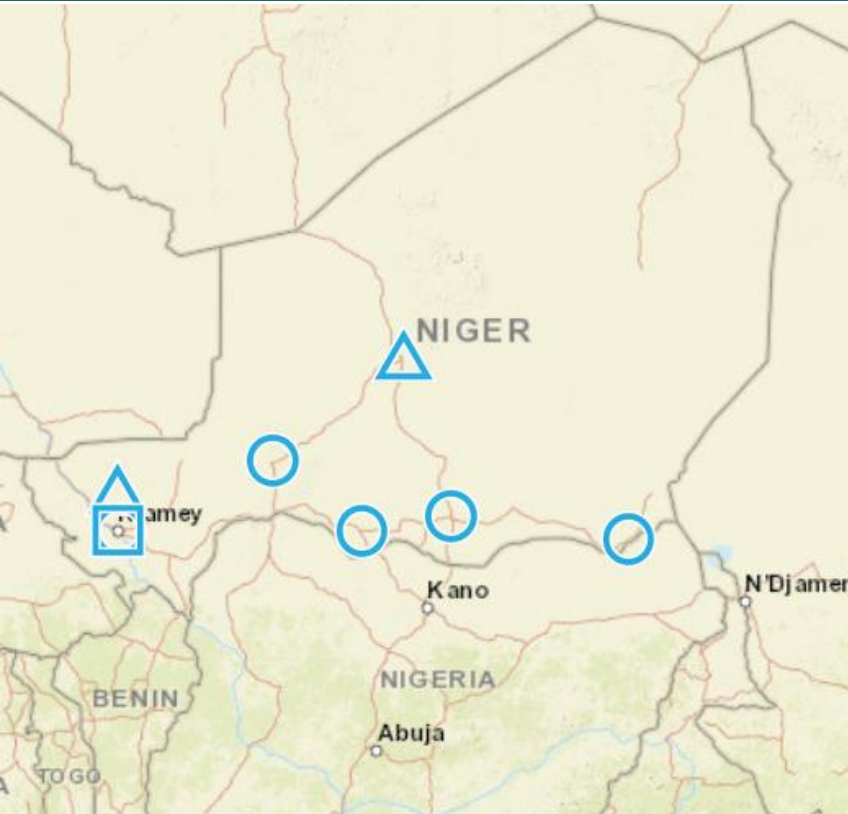
- Prevention programme lowers MAM incidence in under-2s
- Prevention is more effective in reducing MAM for those with poor access to treatment

Sudan



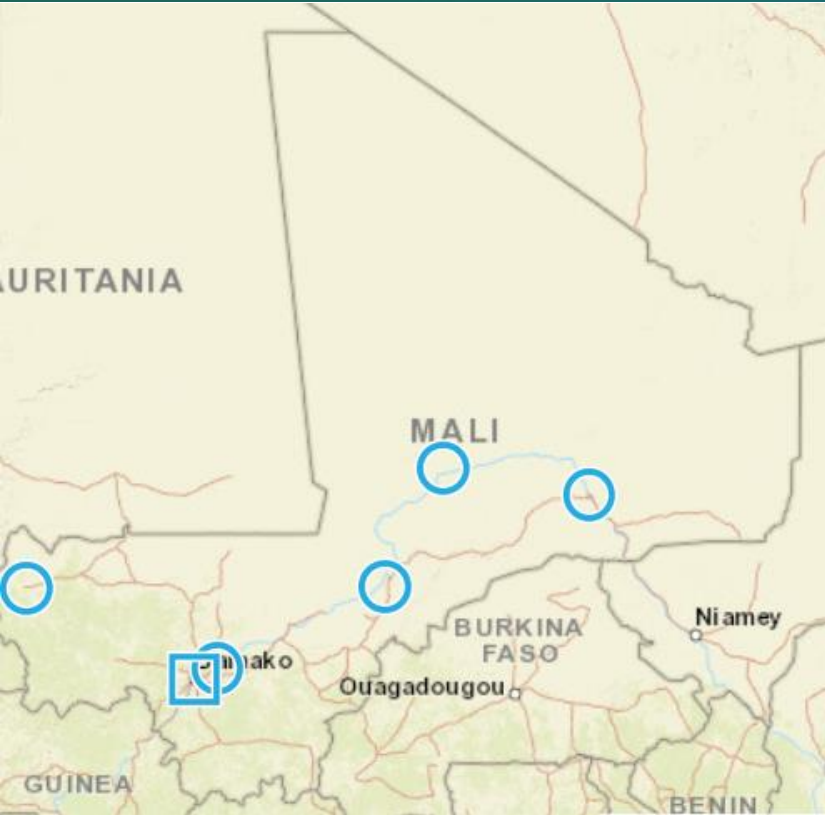
- No impact on the prevalence of MAM, but significant reduction on children-at-risk
- No change in feeding behaviours and practices as a result of the behavioural intervention (SBCC)

Niger



- FFA + prevention or treatment programme has an impact on child nutrition
- Positive impact of agriculturally sensitive programming on MAM

Mali



- Positive impact on caloric intake, zinc consumption, and vitamin A availability
- Households receiving two forms of assistance had improved nutrition outcomes

Broader Lessons



Broader lessons



Greater attention to **timing, sequencing, and roll out schedule** of the package of interventions is likely to result in enhanced effectiveness



Closer **partnership and coordination** can support more effective and efficient delivery

Broader lessons



Barriers to better programme coverage and access include **physical distance** to health centers, community **sensitization** and **screening**



Data are problematic:

- Absence of data
- Form, status, accessibility (where available)

Recommendations

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Recommendations



WFP should invest in strategic deepening of relationships and strengthening capacity of partners and stakeholders



Planning and design processes should pay greater attention to communication with target groups, effectiveness of case finding, and community sensitization



Programme components should be better tailored to context to reduce malnutrition in a sustainable manner

Recommendations



Greater effort is needed to ensure that:

- data are shared and
- agencies work to increase compatibility of data collection methods



Greater support and attention is needed to improve collection and use of monitoring and cost data