



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Executive Board
Second regular session
Rome, 15–18 November 2021

Distribution: General	Agenda item 4
Date: 20 October 2021	WFP/EB.2/2021/4-D
Original: English	Policy issues
	For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Update on WFP's implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 (repositioning the United Nations development system)

1. This information note builds on the update presented at the 2021 annual session of the Executive Board on WFP's implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 on repositioning the United Nations development system.¹ Topics include strengthening system-wide support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advancing shared business operations of United Nations entities and engaging with the United Nations resident coordinator system.

Strengthening system-wide support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level

2. Through its development system reform, its quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) and its Funding Compact the United Nations is placing greater emphasis on joint programmes, including through the inter-agency advisory group on joint programmes established by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), to which WFP contributes.
3. Under the leadership of the United Nations Development Coordination Office, a formal review of existing guidance and available reports was conducted to identify trends, good practices and challenges relevant to joint programmes. Initial policy options and recommendations have also been identified to inform the preparation of new global guidance on joint programmes. The new guidance should reflect a fundamental re-thinking

¹ General Assembly resolution 72/279 ([A/RES/72/279](#)).

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about the rationale, added value and approach of joint programmes and will supersede the existing guidance on the subject, which was developed in 2014. WFP's engagement, which is often coordinated with other field-based agencies, funds and programmes, aims at making joint programme modalities and processes less cumbersome and enabling country offices to choose joint programmes with lower transaction costs and clearer roles and responsibilities for agencies, resident coordinators and government entities.

4. WFP participates in the UNSDG programme results task team, which was launched in August 2021. WFP contributed to the new template for common country analyses (CCAs), the development of standard terms of reference for regional peer support groups as well as to modalities for annual updates of CCAs. Moving forward, this group will provide an inter-agency forum to address other important elements of development system reform such as interim and transitional cooperation frameworks for use in exceptional circumstances, United Nations country team configuration and the sequencing of United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks (UNSDCFs) and agency country programmes.
5. UNSDCFs and CCAs are progressing at the country level, with 55 percent of UNSDCFs expected to be in place by 2022. It is foreseen that by 2023, UNSDCFs will be in effect for 91 percent of the countries in which the United Nations development system operates. All five country strategic plans (CSPs) and interim CSPs (ICSPs) to be presented for approval by the Board at its 2021 second regular session are aligned with the relevant UNSDCF priorities and cycles. Specifically, the three CSPs/ICSPs, for Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic, are starting at the same time as the UNSDCFs for those countries. Meanwhile, the other two CSPs presented for approval, for Somalia and Tunisia, will be starting after a one-year grace period that brought the programme cycles of their CSPs into alignment with the timing of their UNSDCFs.

Advancing shared business operations for greater efficiency and effectiveness

6. WFP continues to work towards the targets on business operational efficiencies originally set by the Secretary-General and reinforced in the 2020 QCPR. As of October 2021, 83 of 84 WFP country offices had fully completed business operations strategies, achieving a 99 percent completion rate by 2021. Moreover, 47.6 percent of WFP premises worldwide are common premises shared with other United Nations entities. Elsewhere, the United Nations Development Coordination Office has begun the rollout of a local shared service centre (LSSC) model, previously referred to as a "common back office", at the field level. WFP is building and developing field capacity regarding LSSC data management and validation to ensure timely and accurate submission of WFP data.
7. WFP is adding shared United Nations premises to the United Nations Booking Hub on a pilot basis to facilitate co-location opportunities for United Nations entities at the field level through a quick, user-friendly and efficient platform. In addition, WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have come together, through a global United Nations fleet approach, in an effort to achieve a shared fleet management capability to be launched in the first quarter of 2022.

Engaging with the United Nations resident coordinator system

8. The revised management and accountability framework (MAF) was officially endorsed by the principals of the UNSDG member entities, including WFP, in September 2021. WFP participated actively in the development of the MAF in 2018 and 2019 and its subsequent revision and expansion to include regional and global chapters in 2021, working in tandem with regional bureaux and a consultative group of country representatives. Furthermore, WFP has conducted awareness raising sessions with country and regional offices to ensure adequate knowledge of the changes effected by the MAF. WFP will continue this process throughout the rest of 2021 and into the first quarter of 2022 to facilitate implementation. Along the way, WFP will gather best practices, lessons learned and areas needing improvement for evidence-based reviews to be undertaken in the years ahead.
9. WFP continues to see the value of the renewed resident coordinator system and the new generation of United Nations country teams. For WFP it is important to ensure that the MAF clearly affirms mutual accountability at all levels, collective decision making through the UNSDG and accountability of United Nations development system principals to their respective governing bodies as guiding principles.

Funding Compact

10. To capture WFP's progress regarding the indicators of the Funding Compact, an accounting on those indicators will be provided as part of the reporting to the Executive Board on WFP's implementation of the QCPR in 2022.

Conclusion

11. The launch of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly included two key milestones. First, the Secretary-General released the report "Our Common Agenda," which looks ahead to the next 25 years and presents his vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism. The report describes a host of areas that WFP will explore alongside other United Nations organizations. It also features a "quintet of change", "a set of cross-cutting agendas that underpin many of the initiatives proposed" in the report, including data, analytics and communications; innovation and digital transformation; strategic foresight; behavioural science; and performance and results orientation. Building on WFP's efforts during the repositioning of the United Nations development system, these additional focus areas will serve as guideposts for the system in its efforts to help governments achieve the SDGs.
12. The second milestone was the 2021 United Nations food systems summit, which served to focus the world's attention and spur action on SDG 2 and related SDGs. Following the summit, WFP and the other Rome-based agencies are working closely with other entities of the United Nations system at the global and field levels to offer ways forward to begin implementing the actions called for at the summit in a manner consistent with each country's national pathway.

Acronyms

CCA	common country analysis
CSP	country strategic plan
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
LSSC	local shared service centre
MAF	management and accountability framework
QCPR	quadrennial comprehensive policy review
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNSDCF	United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group