

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

### **Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services** First informal briefing to the Executive Board

2023 February





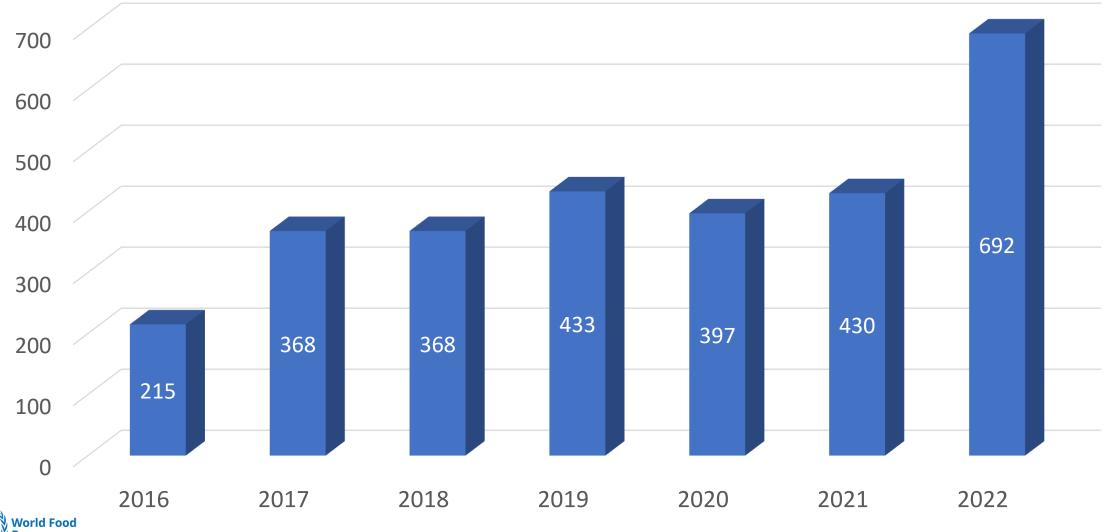
- OBD Cases in 2022 an overview
- Capacity Building
- Performance Management
- The power of Informal Conflict Resolution
- Moving Forward





## **OBD CASES 2016 - 2022**

#### **Total No of Cases / Year**





120

## **OBD CASES 2021 - 2022**

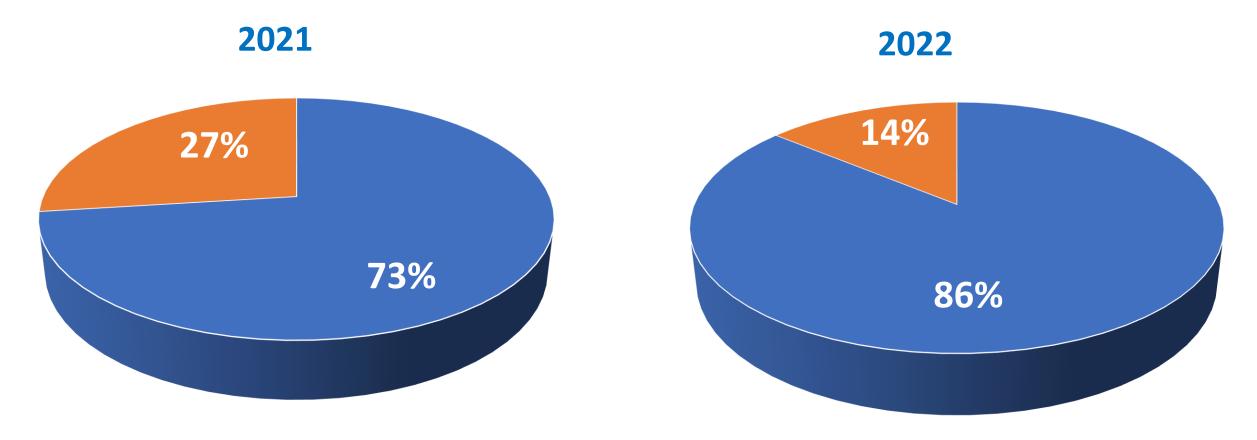
#### **Total No of Cases / Month**





# **INCREASE IN FIELD VISITORS**

#### **OBDs visitors: Field vs. HQ based employees (in%)**





Field employees HQ employees



## INCREASE IN DISCRIMINATION CASES

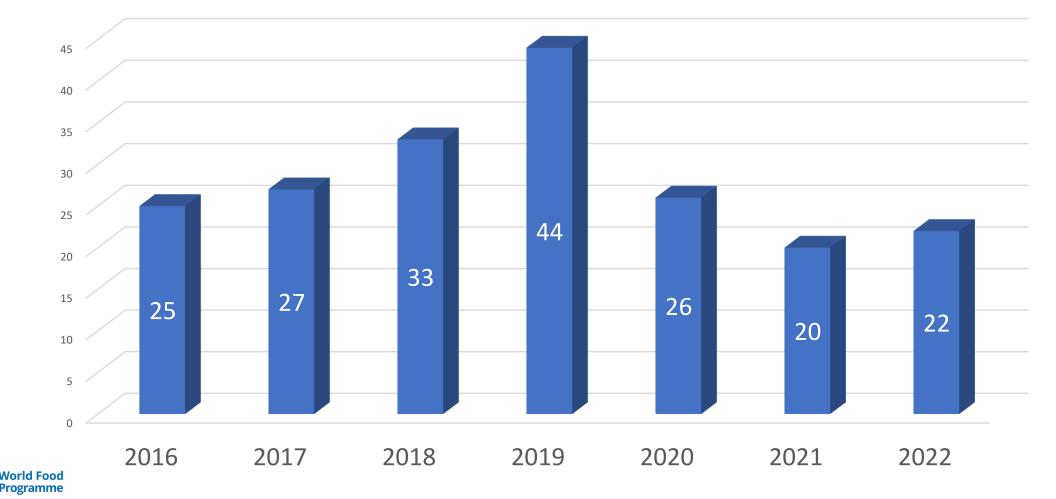
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Discrimination (no of cases)	12	21	15	13	37	
Discrimination (% of caseload)	3%	5%	4%	3%	5%	NEP





# **ABUSIVE CONDUCT CASES**

# Share of HSHAAD cases in total caseload 2016–2022 (%)





# CAPACITY BUILDING

- 69 trainings to 3950 employees in 2022
- Since launch of the Capacity Building Programme in 2020, OBD provided 158 trainings to 6550 employees in all WFP regions
- Topics: Conflict Resolution, Respectful Leadership, Feedback and Listening Skills, Teambuilding, Responding to abusive conduct



Laying a foundation for WFP's envisioned change towards a more respectful workplace





# **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

- Technical system set up, but need for cultural change
- Cultural change needs:
  - Role modelling by leadership and senior management
  - ✓ WFP wide conversation about performance management, feedback and guidance







### THE POWER OF INFORMAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Efforts to strengthen formal channels of internal justice system and foster a respectful working environment. However:
  - × 33% of WFPs workforce believes that employees are still not held accountable for unethical behaviour (GSS 2021)
  - × Visitors of OBD: Frustration about the length of investigation; dissatisfaction about impact of HR management interventions
  - × 'Evaluative Relationships' consistently the single most important reason to reach out to OBD
  - × OBD observes that employees do not communicate work issues, managers delay performance and employment related conversations with employees





### THE POWER OF INFORMAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Shift in the organizational culture required
✓ Overcome siloed approach
✓ We need to be inclusive and collaborative

 Create a culture of dialogue, feedback and earlier resolution of conflict in the workplace

✓ Building trust is at the heart of cultural change







### THE POWER OF INFORMAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) stressed importance of having a robust and well-established informal dispute resolution mechanism (JIU/REP/2015/6)
- UN Ombudsman Network: Informal conflict resolution priority issue within UN (2022)
- "...all possible use should be made of the informal system in order to avoid unnecessary litigation" (UN GA adopted on 30 December 2022)



WFPs Internal Justice System: Need to enhance informal conflict resolution



# MOVING FORWARD

- Positive developments within WFP:
  - Organizational Culture is changing
  - More employees speak up and value dialogue
  - More managers want to engage and resolve issues with and within their team
- Equip employees to successfully operate in their roles to deliver our humanitarian mandate
  - From a culture of compliance to a culture of prevention, positive dialogue and self-determination





# Thank You! Ombudsman@wfp.org



Contacting the Ombudsman is always a safe first step – Everybody is welcome with any work-related issue