

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

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

2023 February





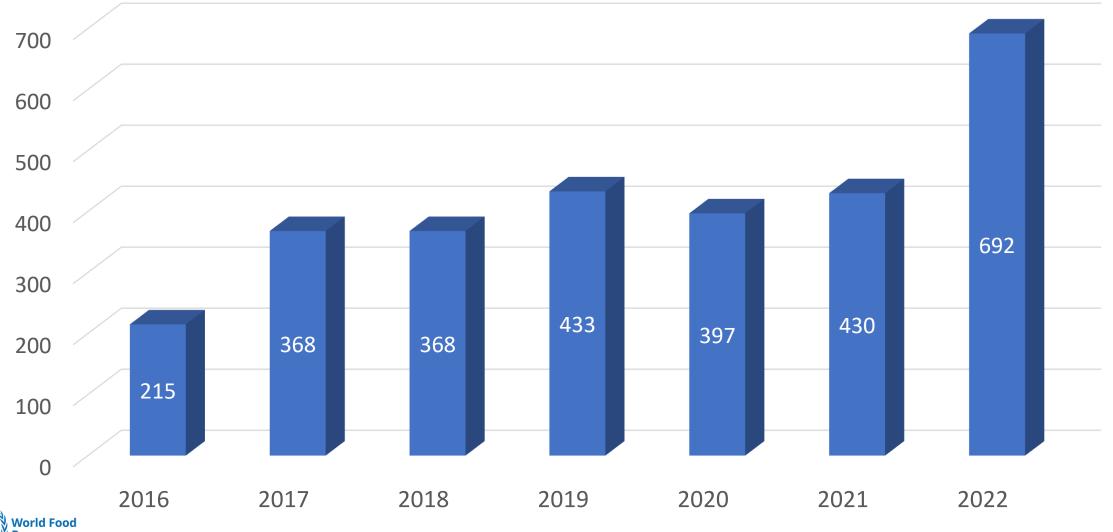
- OBD Cases in 2022 an overview
- Capacity Building
- Performance Management
- The power of Informal Conflict Resolution
- Moving Forward





OBD CASES 2016 - 2022

Total No of Cases / Year





120

OBD CASES 2021 - 2022

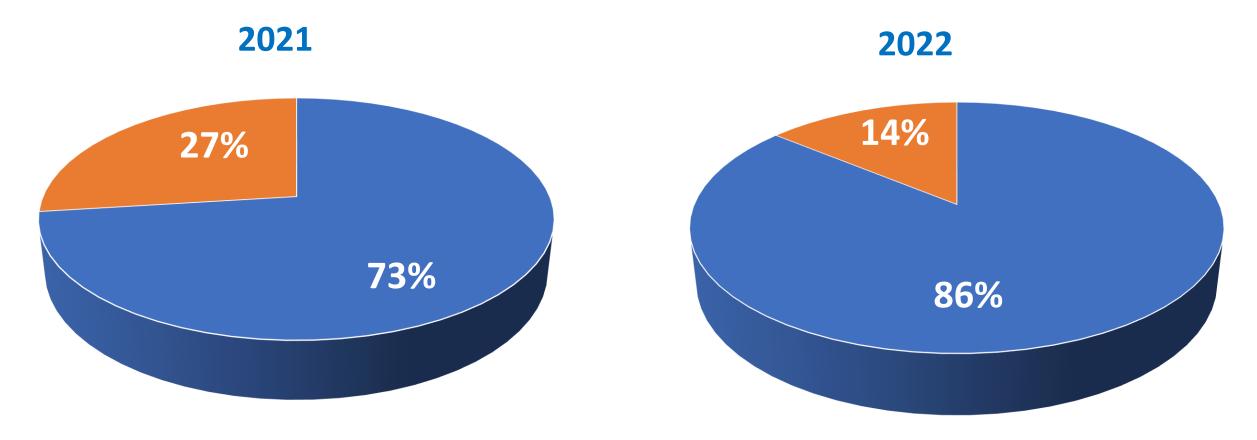
Total No of Cases / Month





INCREASE IN FIELD VISITORS

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





Field employees HQ employees



INCREASE IN DISCRIMINATION CASES

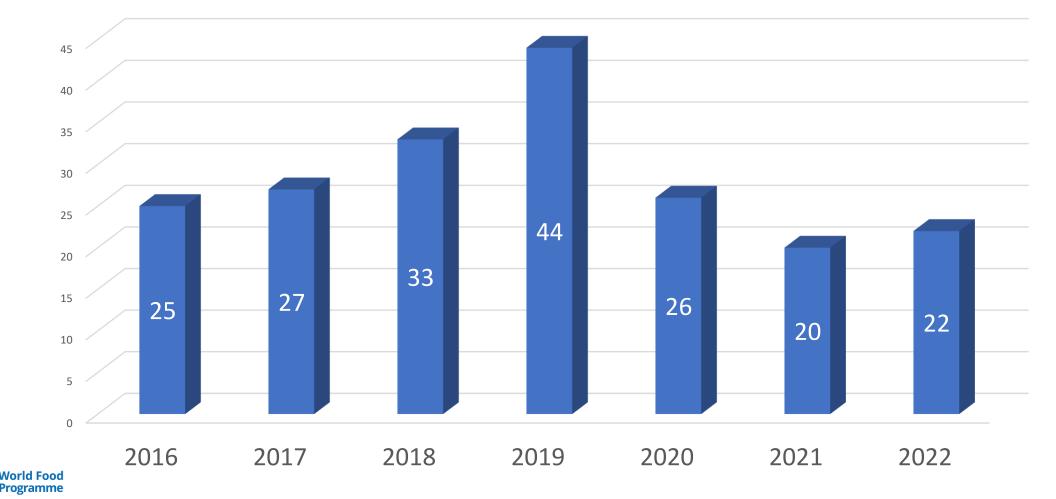
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Discrimination (no of cases)	12	21	15	13	37	
Discrimination (% of caseload)	3%	5%	4%	3%	5%	NEP





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