WFP’s role in social protection system-strengthening for Zero Hunger

Executive Board Roundtable, October 12th, 2023
Setting the scene: The relevance of social protection to hunger
WFP’s added value to social protection
Stephen Devereux
WFP’s dual mandate

Humanitarian assistance + Developmental assistance

= “Saving lives” + “Changing lives”

Emergency food aid
EMOPs
PRROs

Project food aid
➢ Food-for-work
➢ School feeding
➢ Supplementary feeding

“WFP has been contributing to the field now known as social protection ever since the 1960s” (WFP ED, 2021)
WFP’s rise as a social protection agency

- WFP has been doing social protection ever since WFP was established in 1961
- WFP is now one of the leading development agencies for social protection globally

✓ World Bank
✓ UNICEF
✓ ILO
✓ WFP
In 1998, a Tripartite Review of WFP recommended that WFP should close down all its **project food aid** activities:

- **food-for-work**
- **school feeding**
- **supplementary feeding**

... and should focus only on delivering food as **emergency relief**, which it described as WFP’s core mandate.
In 1998, a Tripartite Review of WFP recommended that WFP should close down all its **project food aid** activities:

- food-for-work
- school feeding
- supplementary feeding

... and should focus only on delivering food as **emergency relief**, which it described as WFP's core mandate.

*Reflecting on the Tripartite Review, WFP proposed the following...*
WFP’s rise as a social protection agency

PUBLIC WORKS

➢ Food-for-Work
➢ Cash-for-Work
➢ Food-for-Assets
➢ Food Assistance for Assets

CASH-FOR-WORK

The potential of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to empower women and improve women’s nutrition: a five country study

Final Report

World Food Programme

October 2017
WFP’s rise as a social protection agency

SCHOOL FEEDING

➢ School meals (food aid)
➢ Local procurement
➢ Purchase for Progress (P4P)
➢ Home-Grown School Feeding
WFP not only delivers food—it delivers hunger solutions. It is not instrument-based, but problem-based. This historical shift—the revolution—has positioned WFP as a catalyst of practical hunger innovations.

WFP plays a critical role in social protection through safety nets, as they relate to food assistance for food and nutrition security.
Looking ahead: emerging convergences

**Shocks**
- Humanitarian relief

**Stressors**
- Social protection

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**Convergence**
- Shock-responsive social protection
- Adaptive social protection
- "Cash+" / Social protection plus
- Anticipatory action
- Resilience building

COVID-19 lockdowns
- Conflicts + displacement
- ‘Natural’ disasters
- Invasion of Ukraine

➔ Post-COVID-19 austerity
➔ Migrants + refugees + IDPs
➔ Climate change: loss + damage
➔ Cost-of-living: high food prices

Saving lives AND changing lives
Looking ahead: emerging convergences
Thank you
WFP’s role and mandate in supporting social protection
WFP’s role in social protection systems strengthening for reduced malnutrition in Uganda
Why child and nutrition sensitive social protection?

MALNUTRITION COMPOUNDED BY MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN REFUGEE-HOST DISTRICTS

**Poverty dimension:** SP instrumental in poverty reduction
- Extreme poverty headcount: 21.4% *(UBOS, 2016/17)*
- Children’s multidimensional deprivation: 56% *(UNICEF, 2019)*

**Nutrition dimension:** Hunger and malnutrition as a problem of structural poverty
- National stunting rate: 29%; West Nile stunting rate: 34% *(DHS, 2016)*
- Children 6-23 months with no MAD: 66% *(FSNA 2020)*
NutriCash program approach

• **Robust partnership** between the Government of Uganda, World Food Programme and UNICEF with support from Sweden/Sida (and the Uganda Parliamentary Social Protection Forum)

• **Part of a bigger picture.** The Child Sensitive Social Protection Programme (CSSP), aimed at building household and community **resilience** in the refugee-hosting areas

• **Two-fold approach.** Strengthening national social protection (WFP) and health **systems** (UNICEF) and policies while supporting the **delivery** of a flagship nutrition-sensitive **cash plus** programme

• **Transformational.** Cash transfers as the **entry point** to address multi-layered structural issues – the role of the **plus** components (Social and Behaviour Change (SBC), Backyard Gardening, and Financial Literacy)

• **Innovative.** Integrated and delivered **through Government’s structures** at national and sub-national level in eight refugee-hosting districts – the role of DRDIP (Development Response to Displacement Impact Project) and close partnership with the World Bank
What have we achieved (and learned)?

**KEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

- Since 2021, **13,633** Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Children under 2 received monthly cash transfers in the total value of **USD 2.2M** (65% trained on financial literacy and exposed to SBC activities)
  - Coverage: **refugees** (30%) and **nationals** (70%)
  - Over **90%** of beneficiaries prioritise purchase of food when using the cash received
  - **70%** use their backyard gardens to feed the household
- Enhancement of **key delivery systems**: G2P payment mechanism, single registry, information system decentralisation, grievance mechanisms guidelines

**KEY LESSONS LEARNED**

- Alignment of **GoU’s strategic priorities and WFP’s Changing Lives**/self-reliance and resilience agenda with (linkages between SP and resilient livelihoods)
- **Multi-year financing** is critical for sustainable and long-lasting intervention
- Investing in SP requires investment across a **multiplicity of building blocks**
  - Data inadequacies hinder accurate targeting and enrolment, compounded by low coverage of **civil registration**
  - Lack of **digitised health records** leaving room for targeting errors
Scaling up: the way forward

SOCIAL PROTECTION IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS

Situation at stake: Limited fiscal space for social protection in Uganda, including shrinking financial support to the refugee response

Opportunities:

• National Development Plan IV and tax revenue
• 4th phase of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF)
  • Largest SP investment in Uganda, World Bank IDA
  • New design includes scale up of NutriCash to three sub-regions, with an allocation of USD 17m
• 2nd phase of DRDIP in 15 refugee-hosting districts (under design; World Bank IDA)
• Multi-year funding from Ireland and Norway: scale up to the Karamoja sub-region and to the Southwest refugee-hosting districts and (2023-2026) under the recently designed Refugee Transition Model from Relief to Self-Reliance
Shock-responsive social protection at scale in Mauritania
Supporting Government with the lean season response
Mauritania is a leader in Social Protection in West Africa

The Context
Center of complex (and worsening) geopolitics
Relatively stable political environment but is facing cross-border challenges
Bordering on middle-income country
Highly susceptible to climate change

Social Services
The Social Registry is quite robust, with over 226,000 households registered
There are 22 different social protection programmes
Social Registry serves as the basis for targeting for the cyclic lean season response
WFP supports the Government with the lean season response

WFP’s shock-responsive social protection work focuses on three main areas, with the goal of making the system more shock responsive and nutrition sensitive.
WFP contributes to the lean season response via cash transfers, employing a twin track approach.
WFP’s technical teams strengthen implementation at various levels of the response

**Supporting the Social Registry by:**
- Determining harmonized targeting criteria for response
- Strengthening Government targeting and monitoring systems for cash transfers
- Striving to reach universal registration, including for refugees

**Supporting the lean season response by:**
- Enhancing common social protection and humanitarian intervention modalities, including using the Social Registry as the basis for household-level targeting
- Assisting with the establishment of a National Response Fund for Food and Nutrition Crises (FRNCAN)
- Reinforcing coordination amongst the Government and other key stakeholders
WFP works with Government to enhance the learning agenda

- Implementation of sentinel sites for real-time data collection as part of the nation’s early warning system
- Provision of analytical support for Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) process
- Harmonization of data collection tools and guiding quantitative data collection initiatives
From delivering social assistance to co-designing a reformed national safety net system in Lebanon
Unprecedented Complex Crisis

SYRIA CRISIS

1.5 million refugee
Lebanon hosting one of the world’s highest per capita ratio of refugees

Precarious Situation in Syria
High social tension

POVERTY / FOOD SECURITY

98% depreciation of the LBP
Subsidies removal

25% food insecure (IPC, 2023)

INFLATION [Jul 2023]

Since Oct-19
General Inflation: 4.304%
Food Inflation: 19.112%
Energy Inflation: 6.832%

POLITICAL ECOSYSTEM

Presidential vacuum
Political volatility – Care-taker Government
Collapse of public services
End of mandate Governor Central Bank

World Food Programme
A Fragile Context Relevant to WFP & Social Assistance

Government of Lebanon (GoL) sees WFP operational capacity - delivering reliable advices and support in volatile context.

Utilizing refugee emergency response to strengthen national systems.

Expertise in payment delivery, data collection, analysis, and monitoring.

Robust operational capabilities & on-ground presence and a strong field presence.

Mitigating financial and fiduciary risks compared to fragile national systems.

PARTNER OF CHOICE
GoL / WB

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Social Safety Nets
Scale up and reach

Cash transferred
National Poverty Targeting Programme - NPTP

Cash transferred
Emergency Social Safety Net - ESSN

Cash transferred
NPTP+ESSN

People reached (NPTP+ESSN)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cash transferred</th>
<th>People reached (NPTP+ESSN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$16M</td>
<td>50K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$19M</td>
<td>91K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$24M</td>
<td>105K</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>$29M</td>
<td>217K</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>$96M</td>
<td>690K</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>$176M</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>US$ 158M</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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*Start of financial crisis
*Banking system collapsed
*COVID 19
*Beirut Blast
*Removal of subsidies
*Ukraine war
*Presidential vacuum
*GoL caretaker
*LBP/USD spike
Towards Systems Building Key Milestones

- Launch of NPTP (2014)
- NPTP scale up
- ESSN
- Integration

- SSN data collection by GoL Social Workers
- SSN Due Diligence
- SSN retargeting/poverty lines
- SSN digital platform

- Ukraine war
- COVID 19
- Beirut Blast
- Removal of subsidies
- Ukraine war
- GoL caretaker
- Presidential vacuum

- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024

- 75K HH target reached
- 93K HH reached
- WFP/UNW Gender Study
## Complementary Approaches

**WFP & World Bank technical assistance under the GoL lead - Highlights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAPACITY BUILDING</th>
<th><strong>WFP</strong> (bottom-up)</th>
<th><strong>World Bank</strong> (top-down)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of a pool of 700 civil servants</td>
<td>Staff support to GoL</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYSTEMS BUILDING</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grievance redress system &amp; payment module</td>
<td>Social Registry &amp; Beneficiary Data Management System</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint vulnerability assessment, targeting, impact studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th>DESIGN</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Due-diligence study &amp; merger of Lebanon’s two main safety nets (integration)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
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<tr>
<td>New social protection policy</td>
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**US$ 8.7 M** to WFP (donors & World Bank)  
**US$ 17.8 M** to GoL from World Bank loan  

**MULTIYEAR FUNDING**
Co-designing of Sustainable SSN Systems

Conditions of success of the unified safety net reform under GoL Lead

- GoL’s stewardship & leadership
- Partnership & coalition to support the SP/SSN reform
  GOL, UN, Donors, WB
- Maintain sufficient level of funding (Donors, GoL & IFIs)
- Strong Technical Assistance portfolio

"2024 should be the year of integration"
Territorial Strengthening
Social Inclusion of Migrants in Colombia
Strategic vision for migrant inclusion

CONPES 3950 /2018
Attention Strategy for Migrants

CONPES 4100 /2022
Migrant people Integration Strategy

Ley 2136 / 2021
Integral Migratory Policy

More integration into the Social Protection System.

✓ SISBEN institutional strengthening and appropriation of the operation.

✓ Interinstitutional and interagency coordination.

Temporary Protection Permit - TPP (Migratory status) + SISBEN SP Targeting tool + Health insurance / Vaccination = Massive TPP delivery events
More than 1 million migrants characterized in Sisbén

WFP extended local capacity to reach out to migrants – connecting people with the Social Protection System

- 37 cities/municipalities
- 721 people hired
- 562 electronic equipment
- US $2.7 million

WFP: technical knowledge on how the system works - logistical capability – field presence – flexibility – adaptation to context
**WFP** provides technical and operational support to the Social Registry to make it more sensitive to Food Security and Nutrition, more inclusive and reactive to shocks.

**Phase I**
- Sisben I
- Sisben II
- Sisben III
- Sisben IV
- Quality improvement of administrative records.

**Phase II**
- Interoperable Information Systems
- Social household registry

**Phase III**
- Income Registry (2023 forward)
- Universal income registry
  - Art 70 - Ley 2294/2023

Hybrid model with income and socioeconomic information from administrative data and self-declaration.

**Challenges:**
- Identify the quality of income data sources.
- Design mechanisms for declaration by households (e.g. single windows).

Integration of data/registries and its interoperability, efficient use of administrative records, and verification processes to self-declared information.
Supporting social protection innovation and scale-up in Bangladesh
Innovation in Bangladesh social protection programmes

The Context
One of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia

Poverty and malnutrition rates remain severe

Climate hazards are increasing in frequency and severity

Social protection is one of the top priorities to reduce poverty, achieve food and nutrition security, reduce vulnerability to climate change

WFP’s support
Strengthens national capacities and systems to enable the expansion of the Mother Child Benefit Program and Vulnerable Women Benefit from 1.2 to 6 million women and children by 2026 (CLTF)

Support to information systems, G2P innovations, self-registration, improved targeting mechanisms

Support to shock responsive social protection & anticipatory action
WFP’s increasing relevance as a social protection partner

Iffath Sharif, World Bank

Marco Knowles, FAO
The way forward: Implementation of WFP’s social protection strategy
WFP Summary of Evaluation Evidence on Social Protection - 2023
Summary of Evaluation Evidence on Social Protection

Key features

Summaries of Evaluation Evidence (SEE) are a fully desk-based consolidation of recent evaluations around well-defined topics of interest, in a concise form.

- No recommendations and management response
- No EB submission

Approach

✓ Systematic data extraction, using an analytical framework
✓ Analysis against the analytical framework, calibrating findings to the strength of the evidence
✓ Evaluation quality threshold applied
Background

Demand
✓ Requested by WFP senior management via the Oversight and Policy Committee

Objectives
✓ To take stock of evaluation evidence on WFP’s role and contribution to improved social protection
✓ Identify recurrent findings and generate insights to stimulate discussion on social protection programming across different contexts

Timing
✓ March – July 2023
Evidence base, coverage and limitations

Sample

✓ 44 Centralized and Decentralized Evaluations (2018-2023)
✓ 37 countries covered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of work</th>
<th>Evaluations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Strengthening the national social protection system architecture</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Enhancements to the quantity and quality of national social protection programming</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Improve the effectiveness of social protection in the shared space between humanitarian, development and peace actors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Build social protection partnerships and evidence globally</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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Centralized Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSP</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Strategic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Thematic</th>
<th>Pilot</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31 CEs  
13 DEs

Coverage: evaluations covered the four areas of the Social Protection Strategy

Limitations

✓ Summary does not capture the full range of WFP results in social protection
✓ Retrospective nature of the evidence may not reflect the most recent developments
Pathway to social protection impact

**WFP outputs**
- WFP generates and communicates analysis and evidence on national social protection issues, or supports national actors to do so.
- WFP provides support to the development and reform of national social protection system architecture.
- WFP provides support to the design and delivery of national social protection programmes.
- WFP facilitates the shared space between humanitarian, development and peace actors on social protection issues in protracted crisis/conflict contexts.
- WFP contributes to national partnerships to advance social protection goals.
- WFP’s programmes use high quality methods, designs, technologies that serve as models or building blocks for national social protection programmes.
- WFP uses elements of an existing national social protection system in the design and/or delivery of its own programmes.

**Short-term outcome**
- National actors obtain robust analysis and evidence on key social protection issues.
- National social protection programmes are designed and delivered in a way that better assists people to meet their essential needs and/or manage risks, in line with the evidence/system architecture.
- Collaboration among national actors on social protection is more efficient and effective.

**Medium-term outcome**
- The quality of social protection service provision improves.
- Social protection programmes address a more comprehensive range of needs.
- Social protection programmes provide more adequate benefits to recipients.

**Long-term outcome**
- Enhanced capacity of regional and global actors to support national actors in the development and strengthening of social protection systems and programmes.

**Impact**
- Enhanced public capacity to support households to meet their food security, nutrition and other essential needs and/or manage risks.
- Food availability increases.
- People have greater economic and physical access to adequate food.
- Social protection programmes are more effective.
- People have greater access to goods and services that meet their other essential needs.
- People manage the risks and shocks they face.

People meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs.
Findings: What are the results of social protection programming by type of intervention?

Considerable evidence exists of positive social protection results generated by WFP, but these likely do not reflect the full totality of gains made.

Short term
- National actors have strengthened SP system architecture in place
- National SP programmes designed & delivered to help people to meet their essential needs

Medium term
- Improved quality & coverage of SP service provision

Longer term
- People have greater access to adequate food, goods & services

Four additional SP achievements
- Supporting local economies
- Improved social cohesion
- Contributions to peacebuilding
- Improved agricultural production
Findings: What have been the effects of context on social protection implementation and results?

Context not a determining factor, but four main features influenced programming:

- Level 3 emergencies
- Development-focused environments
- Urban programming
- COVID-19, as a stimulus to expand engagement in SP
Findings: What are the strengths and comparative advantages identified in WFP’s social protection programming?

Three main comparative advantages:
- analytical capability and use of evidence capacity;
- food security & nutrition experience/expertise;
- ability to engage across the triple nexus.

Five specific strengths:
- applying specialist technical expertise & experience
- enhancing capacities of local partners
- using South-South Linkages
- using partnerships as a springboard for wider engagement
- piloting/modelling
Findings: What are the common gaps and challenges identified re: social protection program?

Internal to WFP
- Defining capacity strengthening for SP & a strategic approach for the medium term
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Targeting
- Human resource capacities

External constraints
- National capacities & commitment
- Regulatory constraints

Partnership challenges with government or multilateral actors were also a major concern identified.
Four key lessons

**Partnerships**: clearer analysis of partnership needs, scope of engagement & most appropriate form of partnership

**Link analysis with programmatic design & implementation** including targeting; formulate clear strategic approach to the intersections

**Improve the nexus lens**: build a more developed & medium-term approach to social protection capacity strengthening, including capacity gap analysis

**Test assumptions of the Social Protection Strategy** including realistic assessment of Government engagement/commitment/capacity for handover ex-ante, & capacity strengthening requirements
Implementation of WFP’s Social Protection Strategy
A refresher on the strategy

- Independent evaluation of WFP’s 2012 Update to the Safety Nets Policy commissioned in 2018–19 concluded no need for new Policy update and recommended a social protection strategy
- Strategy was launched in July 2021
- Sets the strategic direction for all functional areas in WFP
- Integrated into Corporate Strategic Plan 2022-25

Two strategic priorities:

- Social protection that helps people to meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs

- Social protection that helps people to manage risks and shocks
A strategy structured around 12 building blocks

**SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE**
- Policy and legislation
- Governance, capacity and coordination
- Development and infrastructure
- Planning and financing

**KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING**
- Assessments and analysis
- Advocacy
- Engagement and communications
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning

**PROGRAMME FEATURES**
- Design of programme parameters
- Registration and enrolment
- Benefit delivery
- Accountability, protection and assurance
Number of countries where WFP supported national social protection systems and programmes in 2022, by building blocks

Source: WFP country offices' annual country reports, 2022
88 countries supported in 2022 up from 78 in 2020
Implementation plan: aims and ambition

- The Implementation Plan (2023-25) emphasizes key aims:
  - **Empower national governments** to manage humanitarian responses through social protection
  - Deliver WFP’s humanitarian assistance through **efficient and cost-effective** social protection programs
  - **Reduce humanitarian demand** on WFP by enabling households’ ability to cope with shocks
  - **Prevent humanitarian needs** by supporting stability and social cohesion

- Current level of ambition of implementation plan reflects:
  - the **urgency** of the task, given the enormity of the humanitarian funding crisis
  - the **increased unmet demand** for WFP's support for national social protection
  - the **acknowledgement** of the time needed to build visibility, develop new funding streams, stimulate innovation and address administrative and management changes

The Implementation Plan makes **investments** in technical capacity, in management capacity, and in greater internal coherence at global and regional levels
The implementation workstream results across five workstreams

1. Workforce development
   - **Meet** demand for social protection expertise by increasing staffing and enhancing **staff capacity**
   - Specialized workforce increased in last two years

2. Partnerships and funding
   - **Expand** strategic and funding partnerships through improved coordination and **innovation**
   - Key player in global initiatives such as USP2030, SPIAC-B, Global Shield and Global Accelerator

3. Knowledge and learning
   - **Establish** WFP as a **thought leader** in social protection
   - Knowledge hub, research agenda, ROI studies, operational learning

4. Cross-functional support and coherence
   - **Expand** social protection work at CO-level through **technical advice**, cross-functional support, and CSP integration
   - Social protection in 88 countries in 2022 and integrated into 8 new CSPs in 2023 (out of 10).

5. Planning, M&E and reporting
   - **Support** planning, quantitative and qualitative monitoring and reporting on social protection
   - Tier 3 beneficiaries, expenditures, dashboard, evaluation