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SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE— MID-TERM EVALUATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME— NIGER (1999–2002)

This document should be read in conjunction with the document “Summary Report of the Mid-term Evaluation of Country Programme—Niger (1999–2002)” (WFP/EB.3/2002/6/4).

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RECOMMENDATION TO WFP (JUNE 2002)	ACTION OFFICE/UNIT	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION TAKEN (AUGUST 2002)
Design and Integration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most of the summaries of activities should be formulated at the time of preparation of the next CP document to allow for their better integration. The document may then serve as a real overview and a reference. 	Country office	A formulation mission for the next CP is planned for February 2003 and will coincide with preparation of the summaries of activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that the main intervening partners have a mutual understanding of the CP approach. It is also essential to adopt the logical framework method and to identify performance indicators when preparing the next CP. 	Country office	Training for WFP's partners in the principles of the Enabling Development policy and on the logical framework method is scheduled in October 2002. The workshop should also produce a rough outline of the logical framework, which will be refined during preparation of the next CP in February 2003. The WFP representative and adviser took part in a logical framework training workshop held at the regional office in Dakar. Lastly, training on the logical framework method was held in March 2002 for the education activity.
Consistency		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The CP's Inter-Departmental Steering Committee should be given a specific and broad mandate. The Committee must periodically meet with WFP and the general secretaries of the partner ministries, in particular at the time of the review of the summaries of activities, consolidated monitoring reports and the approval of its implementation schedule. 	Country office	The Inter-departmental Steering Committee has been reactivated. A ministerial decree that will make WFP a full member of the committee has been issued. The Committee's role will be intensified in 2003 to coincide with the start-up of the next CP. Under a planned reorganization of the Ministry of Economics and Finance, the Ministry's Commissioner for Development is due to chair the committee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An analysis should also be carried out of the respective mandates of the CP's Coordination Unit and of the Directorate of Sub-Programmes. It should highlight the degree of integration required, the analysis of results and the recommendations contained in the current CP document. These recommendations include preparing periodic balance sheets for each activity in an integrated manner so as to monitor the progress of the CP. 	Country office	This proposal is being discussed with the Government of Niger. WFP and its counterpart have begun to consider combining the various directorates and the Coordination Unit into a single Country Programme National Directorate.

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Implementation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is crucial that field personnel be increased and that the necessary funding be allocated for this. At least one programme assistant should be recruited for each one of the sub-offices at Tahoua and Zinder, in order to ensure correct monitoring at the regional level of the progress of activities and compare the results of the CP with the results being pursued. 	Country office in consultation with OEDB	In the absence of DSC budgetary allocations, the country office was unable to implement this recommendation. However, the office is providing for two programme assistants to be financed by DSC in the 2003–2004 budget.
Gender Issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More qualitative participation of women in FFW activities should be ensured in order that these activities have more sustainable impact on women, in particular by increasing their participation in the decision-making processes and giving them greater control of the assets thus created. 	Country office	Some partners, such as the Programme for Poverty Alleviation (PCLCP) and the Rural Development Programme in the Ader-Doutchi-Maggia Valley, successfully grasp the importance of gender issues in FFW activities. This has been reflected in their programming in 2002. The workshop on WFP's Enabling Development policy scheduled for October 2002 will allow all of WFP's partners to be reminded of the importance of the issue and to continue discussion of it.
Rural Development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If the activities of WFP's two main partners with regard to rural development are not soon resumed, a partnership should be established with a very restricted number of other partners, and the relative importance placed on this activity should be reduced. Moreover, the rural development activity should return to its initial design, i.e. a set of consistent activities that lead to a substantial number of sustainable improvements capable of reducing food insecurity. 	Country office	Regular partners absorbed their planned quota of food in 2002. The country office, however, allocated small quantities of food to the PDRT (GTZ) project and to PCLCP-Téra Nord (UNDP) to test their capacity. A pilot project is under way with the FAO Inputs project. The activity concentrated its food resources on the cereal banks and on FFW water mobilization activities.
Basic Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Targeting should be refined on the basis of the current VAM activity, and the officials of the decentralized facilities should be involved in the final choice of communities. Partners should be sought and the monitoring and evaluation system should be strengthened and integrated into the CP by organizing training courses to improve monitoring and show the results. It will also be necessary to improve the editing of reports so that they may be valid management tools. It will 	Country office + ODA (VAM) + OEDE	As regards targeting, the country office will use data from recent VAM missions, once these data have been completed and finalized by the regional bureau. Meanwhile, as a first step, geographical targeting of WFP interventions in Niger was refined following the mission. The future intervention area will be the agro-pastoral zone, which has few human, natural or financial resources and is exposed to a number of risks (e.g. natural and socio-economic hazards). The second stage of the exercise is under way and will further refine the targeting of communes and





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also be necessary to take budgetary constraints into account.		vulnerable groups in the agro-pastoral zone. After being analysed the data obtained should help the country office improve monitoring and evaluation of future projects. A training mission regarding monitoring and evaluation of the education activity took place in March 2002. New supports were created with the participation of the activity's regional coordinators. One of the results expected is that the editing of reports will be improved and that they will be better utilized at the central level. The new system will be in place at the beginning of the 2002–2003 school year.
Nutrition Support for Vulnerable Mothers and Children		
➤ Only one objective should be pursued: either increasing health centre attendance or helping to combat malnutrition, either of which should be accompanied by compatible implementation principles.	Country office	WFP is awaiting clear directions from the Ministry of Health, which is currently preparing a sectorial roundtable to define the thrust of its health policy over the next decade.
➤ For the successful functioning of this activity, it is essential that implementing partners be identified that are capable of ensuring continuous training and monitoring. The ideal partner would be an international NGO with its own funds, or a development agency that would work in close cooperation with national NGOs.	Country office	It is hard to find potential partners in the priority intervention area established after the VAM survey, i.e. Niger's agro-pastoral zone. Partners working in the field of health and nutrition are present mostly in the South of the country, where the problem of food availability is not as acute.
Application of the Enabling Development Policy		
➤ Implementing partners should be sought for all activities, in particular for activities relating to health/nutrition and education. Field partners are essential to inform and mobilize the population, train the members of the different management committees, monitor activities and help provide information for a correct monitoring of results.	Country office	The country office has organized consultations to identify partners active in the social sector. A meeting with health managers was held to select candidates. Negotiations are under way with NGOs operating in the fields of education and health on possible collaboration. A pilot project linking the rural development activity with the FAO Inputs project was launched in May 2002.