

# Synthesis of four impact evaluations of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel

*WFP Office of Evaluation*

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**World Food Programme**

# Overview of Evaluation



Impact evaluations in **Chad, Mali, Niger and Sudan** examine impact of **food security** and **moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** prevention and treatment programmes on nutrition and food security outcomes

# Overview of Evaluation



- Evaluations commissioned by OEV and managed by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation's (3ie).
- Part of the Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window (HATW)
- Impact Evaluations implemented by different teams.

# Context



- Sahel region faces high rates of poverty, fast population growth, climate change, recurrent food and nutrition crises, and violence due to armed conflicts
- 30 million people affected, 12 million require emergency food assistance
- Acute malnutrition in the Sahel affects six million children under the age of five and 1.4 million children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition



- Impact evaluations use a range of methodologies and different types of data



- Various quasi-experimental designs: difference in difference, propensity score matching, stepped wedge cluster controlled trial designs, combined with qualitative methods

## Blanket Supplementary Feeding

- Prevention of acute malnutrition

## Targeted Supplementary Feeding

- MAM treatment programme



Targeted Food Assistance (IK & CBT) in **all**

School feeding in **Mali**

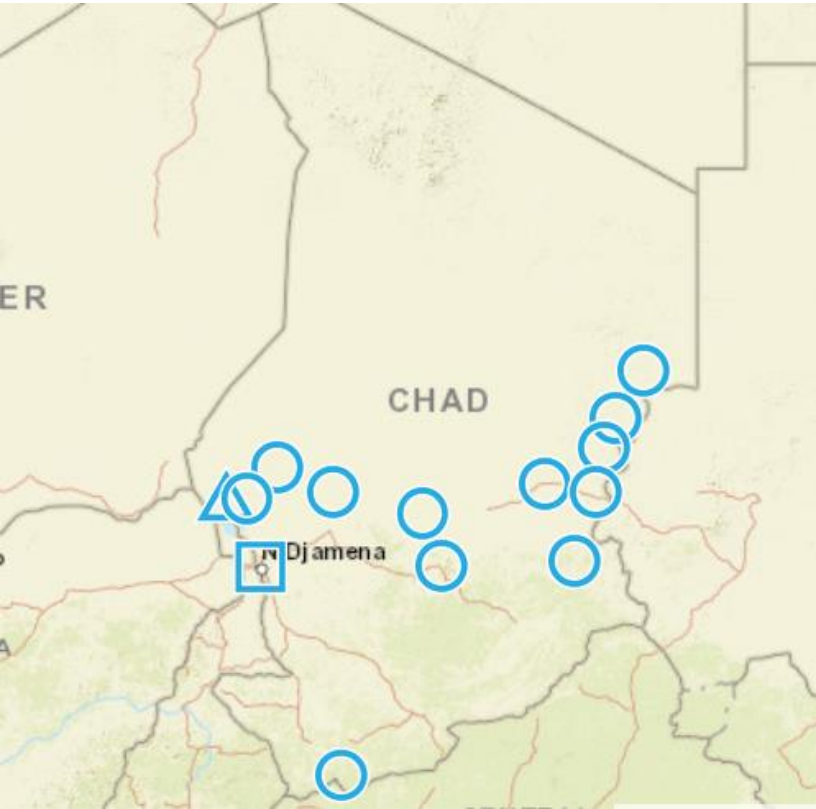
Behaviour Change Communications in **Sudan**

Food for Assets in **Niger**

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# Evaluation Findings

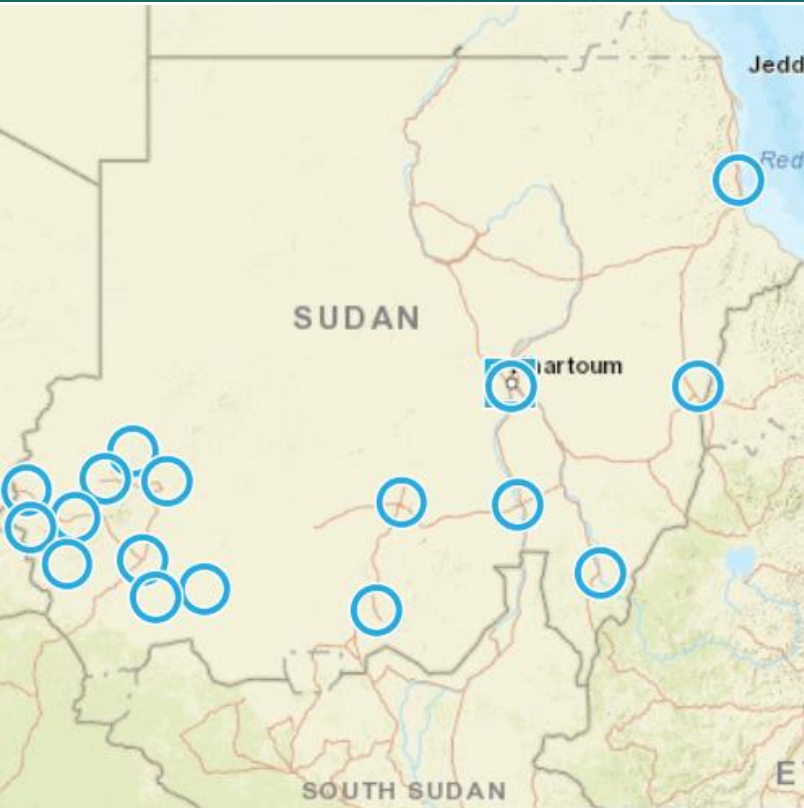
# Chad



- Prevention programme lowers MAM incidence in under-2s
- Prevention is more effective in reducing MAM for those with poor access to treatment

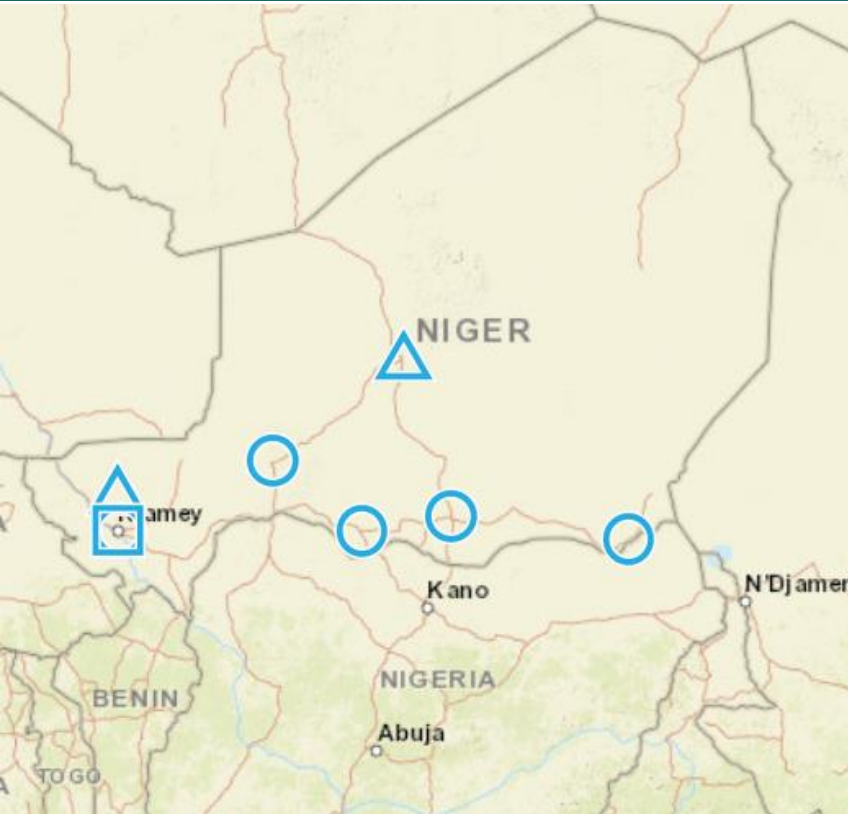


# Sudan



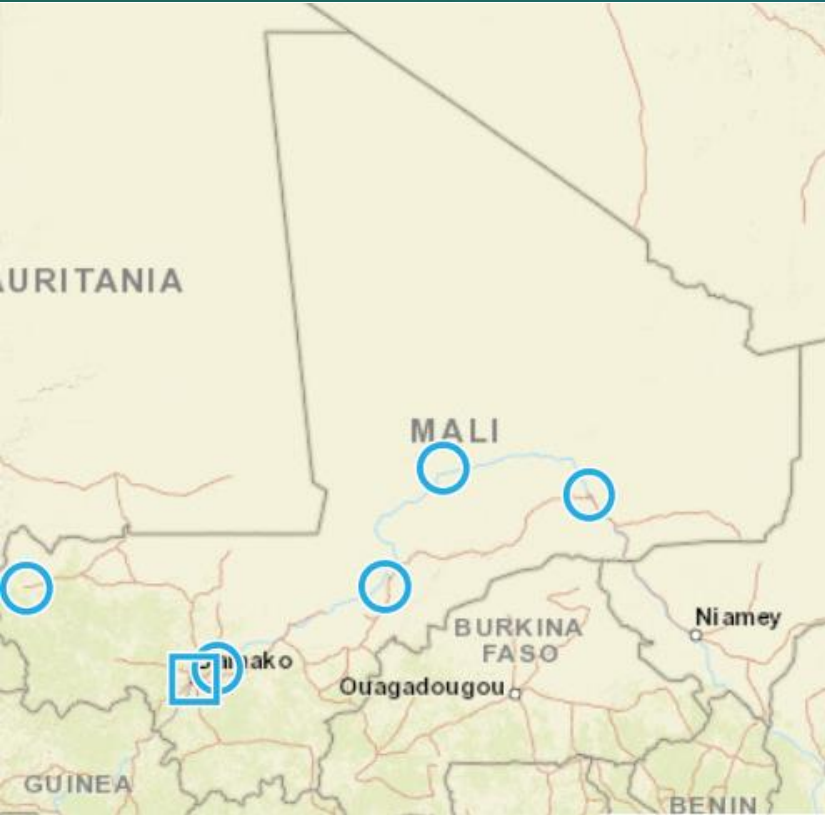
- No impact on the prevalence of MAM, but significant reduction on children-at-risk
- No change in feeding behaviours and practices as a result of the behavioural intervention (SBCC)

# Niger



- Food for assets + prevention or treatment programme has an impact on child nutrition
- Positive impact of agriculturally sensitive programming on moderate acute malnutrition

# Mali



- Positive impact on caloric intake, zinc consumption, and vitamin A availability
- Households receiving two forms of assistance had improved nutrition outcomes

# Broader Lessons



# Broader lessons



Greater attention to **timing, sequencing, and roll out schedule** of the package of interventions is likely to result in enhanced effectiveness



Closer **partnership and coordination** can support more effective and efficient delivery



Barriers to better programme coverage and access include **physical distance** to health centers, community **sensitization** and **screening**



**Data** are problematic:

- Absence of data
- Form, status, accessibility (as a public good)

# Recommendations

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# Recommendations



WFP should invest in strategic deepening of relationships and strengthening capacity of partners (agreed)



Planning and design processes should pay greater attention to communication with target groups, case finding, and community sensitization (agreed)



Programme components should be better tailored to context (agreed)



Greater effort is needed to ensure that: data are shared and agencies work to increase compatibility of data collection methods (agreed)



Greater support and attention to improve collection and use of monitoring and cost data (agreed)