



World Food  
Programme

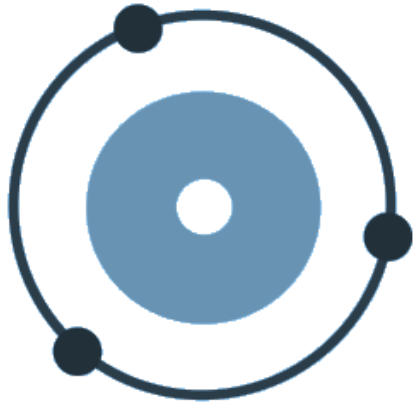
# Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

WFP Office of Evaluation

Annual Consultation on Evaluation  
28 May 2018

# Context

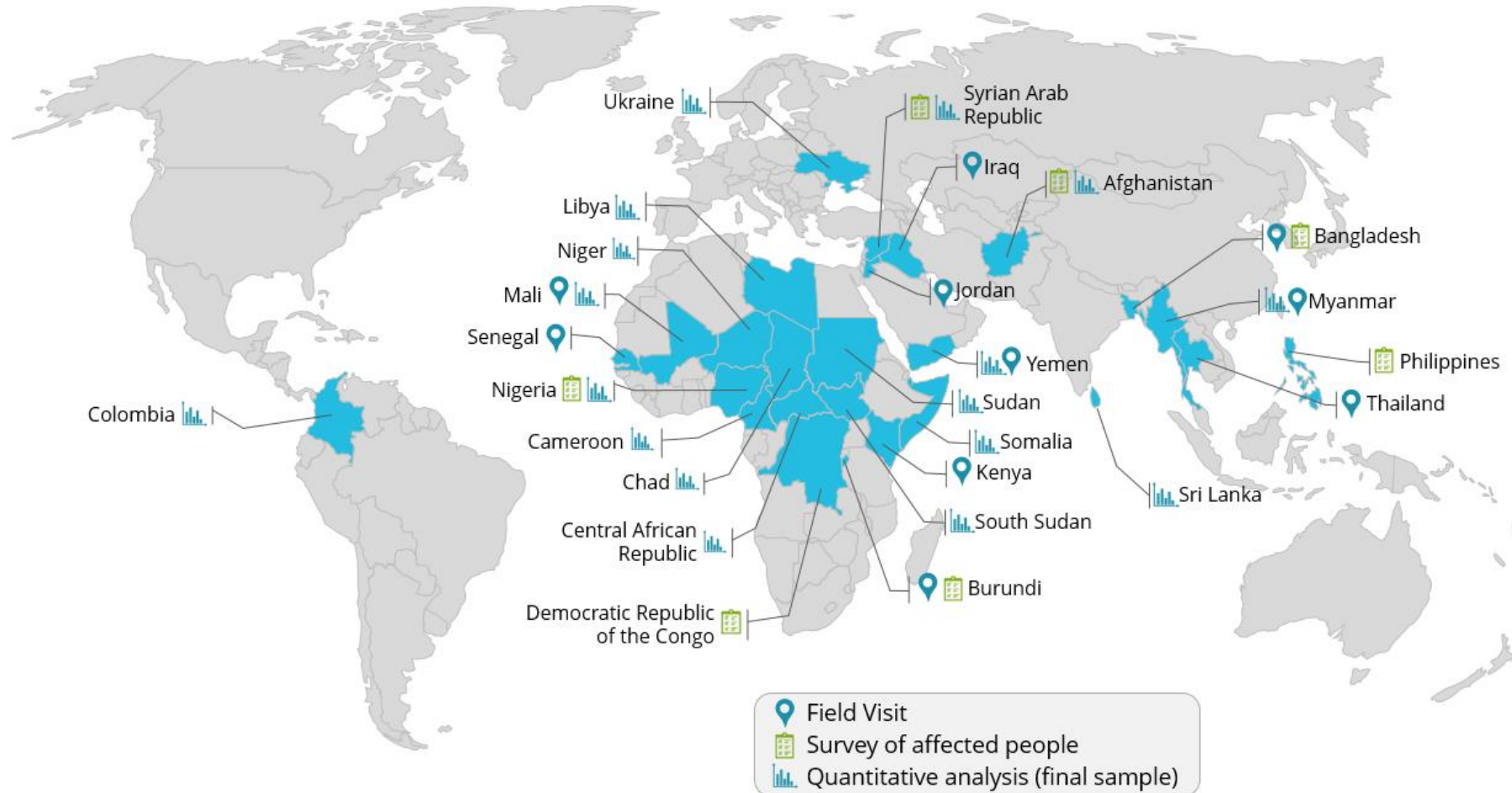


Policies adopted in 2004 and 2006 respectively, in context of:

- more complex protracted conflict-related crises
- greater politicization
- increasing obstacles to access
- shifting from food aid to food assistance
- new impetus on linking humanitarian and development programmes (e.g. “New Way of Working” initiative)
- WFP alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

# Overview of Evaluation

- Focused on the period 2012–2017



# Findings – Policy Quality



- Policies largely coherent and still relevant
- Fail to meet the standards of a fully-fledged policy
- Insufficient investment in their dissemination and implementation
- Highly variable understanding of humanitarian principles
- Lack of clarity on WFP's approach to access

# Findings – WFP Performance

## ACCESS



- Particularly strong performance in difficult operating environments
- Relatively strong access for delivering food assistance
- Restrictions on its conduct of needs assessments and monitoring activities

# Findings – WFP Performance

## PRINCIPLES – UNEVEN PROGRESS



- Positive reputation for humanity
- Strong reputation for impartiality
- WFP's neutrality less positive
- Operational independence least understood

# Findings: Factors affecting results



- WFP's mandate
- Organizational culture
- Relationships with partners
- Relationships with host governments
- Relationships with armed non-state actors
- Institutional processes and capacities

# Conclusions and Lessons



Humanitarian principles and access highly relevant in today's context



Policies demand increased institutional attention and support



Strong access for delivery and related strong performance on humanity may imply compromises on other principles (impartiality, neutrality and operational independence)



Greater attention to a principled approach, and principled access for needs assessment and monitoring essential



Cross-functional approach required to successfully achieve policy aims



# Recommendations



Strengthened policy dissemination and operationalization



Prioritization of humanitarian principles



Strengthening of staff competencies on humanitarian principles and access



Prioritization of humanitarian principles in partnerships

# Recommendations



Building awareness of commercial partners



Strengthened Needs assessment and use of data



Strengthened security capacity - in complex emergencies



Increased donor dialogue and principled financing