



World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

**Executive Board**  
Annual session  
Rome, 20–24 June 2022

Distribution: General

Agenda item 8

Date: 17 June 2022

WFP/EB.A/2022/8-A/1/Rev.1

Original: English

Operational matters – Country strategic plans

For approval

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

## China country strategic plan (2022–2025)

Duration	1 July 2022–31 December 2025
Total cost to WFP	USD 15 652 925
Gender and age marker*	3

\* <https://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Executive summary

China has made notable economic and social achievements in the last 40 years. China moved from low human development in 1990 to high, reflecting broad-based improvements in income, health and education. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line declined to 0.6 percent by 2019, with poverty, hunger and malnutrition largely concentrated in specific populations in remote and rural areas. In 2020 the Chinese Government announced the elimination of extreme poverty in rural areas under the current poverty line.

The Chinese Government reports having reached its targets of holding the stunting rate in children under 6 below 7 percent and the underweight rate below 5 percent, although rural-urban differences remain, reflecting internal development gaps. There has been a significant increase in overnutrition, with 34.3 percent of adults overweight and 16.4 percent obese. Chronic diseases are increasingly prevalent; diabetes affects 11.9 percent of the population.

This country strategic plan is funded by the Government of China and the private sector. It is the product of extensive consultations with the Government and other partners. It builds upon the previous country strategic plan, covering 2017–2021, and aligns with the Government's fourteenth five-year plan for economic and social development (covering 2021–2025), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework

#### Focal points:

Mr S. Samkange  
Director  
Strategic Partnerships Division  
email: stanlake.samkange@wfp.org

Mr S. Qu  
Country Director  
email: sixi.qu@wfp.org

for China for 2021–2025 and sectoral plans of action. It is also strategically aligned with WFP’s strategic plan for 2022–2025, which it was largely developed alongside. It entails continued, targeted assistance to China focused on improving nutrition outcomes. WFP’s cooperation with China will contribute to the following strategic outcome:

- Strategic outcome 1: Left-behind groups in rural areas of China have improved nutrition status and livelihoods in line with national targets by 2025.

### **Draft decision\***

The Board approves the China country strategic plan (2022–2025) (WFP/EB.A/2022/8-A/1/Rev.1) at a total cost to WFP of USD 15 652 925.

---

\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

## 1. Country analysis

### 1.1 Country context

1. China has made notable economic and social progress in the past 40 years. China has moved from low human development in 1990 to high, with a Human Development Index of 0.758 in 2018, reflecting broad-based improvements in income, health and education.<sup>1</sup>
2. Between 1980 and 2020, China's gross domestic product grew at an average of more than 9 percent per year, and per capita gross national income increased from USD 312 in 1980 to USD 10,207 in 2019. In 2020, the Chinese Government announced the elimination of extreme poverty in rural areas under the current poverty line. Nonetheless, as stressed in the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework for China for 2022–2025 (UNSDCF), "China is the world's largest developing country..."<sup>2</sup>
3. Average life expectancy increased from 71.58 years in 2000 to 77.49 years in 2019 – 80.49 years for women and 74.73 for men.<sup>3</sup> In 2019 the unemployment rate was 5.2 percent. China's Gender Inequality Index in 2019 was 0.168, ranking 39th of 189 countries.<sup>4</sup> Large gender gaps remain in terms of labour force participation. Women's labour force participation rate is 15 percent lower than men's. A gender gap in education remains large, as the percentage of women receiving at least some secondary education is 7 percent lower than that of men. According to the United Nations common country analysis for China, persons with disabilities generally no longer face legal obstacles in obtaining services and employment. The Government will continue to follow the new development philosophy to address imbalances and inadequate development.

### 1.2 Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. To guide China's approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China issued its national plan in 2016 of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>5</sup>
5. In nutrition, health care, education and sanitation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 4 and 6, sustained and steadily expanding government initiatives have produced strong progress in service provision, in enrolment and coverage rates and in key indicators, including under-5 stunting, maternal and child mortality rates and expected years of education.<sup>6</sup> China produces sufficient grain to feed its population of 1.4 billion people.

---

<sup>1</sup> [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the People's Republic of China: 2021–2025](#), para. 8.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, para. 3.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. *The Global Health Observatory: Life expectancy at birth (years)* (website).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Reports: Gender Inequality Index*.

<sup>5</sup> [China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

<sup>6</sup> [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the People's Republic of China: 2021–2025](#), para. 18.

### 1.3 Progress towards SDGs 2 and 17

#### *Progress on SDG 2 targets*

6. *Access to food.* The Government has made the food security of China's 1.4 billion people its top priority. According to the 2020 report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world,<sup>7</sup> the prevalence of undernourishment in China is less than 2.5 percent.<sup>8</sup> China has been building and maintaining a sustainable agricultural sector. Grain output has been stable at more than 650 million metric tons since 2015, a historically high level. This is the result of continued investments in modern technology, mechanization, irrigation and increased food safety.
7. The Government has emphasized 'supply-side structural reforms' in productive sectors, like agriculture. Following rapid urbanization in recent decades, roughly 60 percent of the population lived in urban areas in 2018, compared with 26 percent in 1990.<sup>9</sup> Urbanization has been accompanied by rising incomes and a growing middle class, resulting in a shift in dietary patterns from a grain-based to a more protein-rich (meat and dairy) and diversified (fruits and vegetables) diet. China has also invested in campaigns to ensure food quality and safety, and implemented a food quality supervision and monitoring system.
8. *End malnutrition.* The Government reported reaching its 2020 target of keeping stunting in children under 6 below 7 percent and the underweight rate below 5 percent.<sup>10</sup> The stunting rate in children under 6 in rural areas fell from 11.3 percent in 2013 to 5.8 percent in 2017. In the same period, for children age 6–17, stunting fell from 4.7 to 2.2 percent and average height increased 1.6 cm for boys and 1 cm for girls.<sup>11</sup> Anaemia among children age 6-17 decreased from 6.6 percent in 2015 to 6.1 percent in 2020.
9. Rural-urban disparities remain in children's nutrition status (the rural adolescent malnutrition rate is 9.2 percent, while the urban rate is 7.9 percent),<sup>12</sup> reflecting internal development gaps. To address this, China's national school meal programme, known as the "Nutrition Improvement Programme for Rural Compulsory Education Students", had already reached 38 million students by 2020 through a total investment of CNY 197 billion since 2011, an important scheme for building human capital that contributes to the objective of rural education.
10. While malnutrition remains a problem in some parts of the country, there has recently been an emerging issue of a double burden – overweight and obesity – for boys and girls age 5-19 (15.4 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively).<sup>13</sup> Chronic diseases are increasingly prevalent, with diabetes affecting 11.9 percent of the population.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others. 2020. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets.*

<sup>8</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020. *Food security and nutrition around the world in 2020* (website), box 1.

<sup>9</sup> China Statistics Press. 2020. *China Statistical Yearbook 2019.*

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2019. *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2019).*

<sup>11</sup> Government of China. 2020. *Report on Chinese Residents' Chronic Diseases and Nutrition 2020* (available online in Chinese only).

<sup>12</sup> China National Children's Center. 2021. *Annual Report on Chinese Children's Development (2021)*, P29. (Available for purchase only in Chinese.)

<sup>13</sup> Global Nutrition Report. 2021. *2021 Global Nutrition Report.*

<sup>14</sup> W. Yang and others. "Prevalence of Diabetes Among Men and Women in China". *The New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 362, p.12.

11. *Smallholder productivity and incomes.* The more than 200 million smallholder farmers in China dominate its rural landscape, produce most of the country's food and manage 95 percent of cultivated land. Despite the rapid development and significant upgrading of China's transport infrastructure, some remote locations have relatively poor infrastructure and services. Limited access to financial services, markets and value chains continues to prevent smallholders from capitalizing on national efficiency gains. Smallholder farmers often lack sustainable market access and knowledge of food safety standards. There is a need to better integrate nutrition into the food value chain to enhance nutrition security and improve livelihoods for the poor.
12. The productivity of rural smallholder farmers is at high risk due to the movement of younger and fitter farmers to cities. Rural communities are increasingly older, more female and less educated.<sup>15</sup> They are at risk of vulnerability to environmental hazards, medical shocks and other hazards for which they are not well prepared. Climate change has important gender elements related to rural vulnerability.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, rural smallholders are disproportionately affected by transboundary animal and plant diseases that can severely deplete family economic assets and earning potential.
13. *Sustainable food systems.* China is developing eco-friendly agriculture and continues to make progress in green agricultural development.<sup>17</sup> Along with the formulation and implementation of the national agricultural sustainable development plan for 2015–2030 and the paper entitled "Opinions on Innovating Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Green Agricultural Development", the Government has identified 40 national green agricultural development pioneer zones and launched actions aimed at zero growth of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
14. To prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters on agricultural production, China has formulated and improved disaster response plans, rolled out disaster prevention, mitigation and escape technologies and strengthened its disaster monitoring, prediction, early warning and prevention capabilities.
15. *Progress on SDG 17 targets:* For the Government of China 2020 was a landmark year of achievements towards its 40-year goal of a "Xiaokang Society" (meaning a society that is "moderately prosperous in all aspects") and setting new long-term goals. This includes realizing the goals "for achieving socialist modernization in China,"<sup>18</sup> with a leading position in technological innovation, a strong economy, a larger middle-income group, equitable access to basic public services for all and a fundamentally improved environment. The Government is building on these achievements to partner with other countries, including through economic integration, interconnected development and contributions to efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> "China's Framework for Achieving the SDGs in Agriculture and Rural Development" – report for the Rome-based United Nations agencies, November, 2019.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile for China, 2020. (Not available online.)

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2019. *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2019)*.

<sup>18</sup> *Statement by President Xi Jinping during the nineteenth national congress of the Communist Party of China*, 18 October 2017.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Office for Project Services. 2020. *Country Programme Document for China (2021-2025)* (DP/DCP/CHN/5).

## 1.4 Hunger gaps and challenges

16. The 2015 zero hunger strategic review for China identified areas requiring particular attention in addressing national food and nutrition challenges and achieving SDG 2 targets, including:
  - i) extending national nutrition programmes to left-behind communities;
  - ii) promoting climate-resilient, sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food systems;
  - iii) establishing more efficient, inclusive and safer food value chains; and
  - iv) building resilience to shocks and stresses for enhanced food and nutrition security.
17. The 2020 common country analysis for China reflected similar gaps and challenges to food and nutrition security, including:
  - i) existing urban-rural divergence in under-5 stunting;
  - ii) malnutrition as a risk-factor that denies children the opportunity to develop to their full potential;
  - iii) ramifications for China's food security posed by climate change.

## 2. Strategic implications for WFP

18. WFP's partnership with China began in 1979 and has evolved with China's socioeconomic development. WFP's programme in China was WFP's largest in the late 1980s and early 1990s. WFP and China worked with food-insecure communities through an integrated agricultural development approach led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). While WFP's involvement in these projects ended in 2005, their effects continue. Lessons learned from WFP's previous operations in China, detailed in the evaluation of WFP's assistance to China over the period 1979–2005, were taken into account in the development of the country strategic plan (CSP) for 2017–2021, which is a building block for this CSP covering 2022–2025.
19. China and WFP continue to evolve their partnership in development. In March 2016, WFP and MARA entered into an agreement entitled Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to Strengthen Partnership for Global Hunger Solutions and Development. Under this MoU WFP supports China's efforts to ensure food security and nutrition for the people of China. The MoU serves as the conceptual basis for this CSP.
20. In addition, the MoU serves to strengthen China's role as a partner in WFP's operations globally, including through the WFP Centre of Excellence for Enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The Centre of Excellence in China aims to strengthen peer to peer learning and knowledge exchange related to enhancing food security, improving nutrition and alleviating poverty among developing countries by facilitating policy dialogue, technical training, deployment of experts, policy research and other activities under SDGs 2 and 17.
21. During the COVID-19 response in 2020 WFP worked with the Chinese Government and private sector to establish a temporary humanitarian response hub in China to support the response to the high demand from the humanitarian and health community for medical supplies. The hub contributed to the global response that WFP managed for partners and demonstrated the value of its strategic position on the supply chain, close to manufacturers, in facilitating the rapid deployment of health and other supplies to support emergency operations.
22. WFP's partnership with China and the successes of the CSP for 2017–2021 have informed the broader approach to middle-income countries outlined in the strategic plan for 2022–2025. The strategic plan highlights WFP's "enabling agenda" in middle-income countries, focused on technical assistance, policy advice, evidence generation and system

strengthening in areas where WFP has capabilities and experience. Further, WFP will continue to leverage its role as a multilateral platform, sharing global knowledge of relevant practices and ideas in addressing food security and nutrition challenges that China could explore.

## **2.1 Achievements, lessons learned and strategic changes for WFP**

23. Through the CSP for 2017–2021, WFP has contributed meaningfully towards China's nutrition and rural development objectives. The CSP has enabled WFP and China to collaborate on innovative approaches to improving the nutrition of preschool children and addressing rural vulnerability in targeted areas. These domestic activities have also strengthened the WFP-China partnership and contributed to the enhanced and more visible profile of WFP in China, generating important lessons learned. The CSP has also facilitated new fundraising channels and methods with both private and public institutions.
24. The evaluation of the 2017–2021 CSP was undertaken in 2020. It endorsed the CSP and pointed to a range of strategic and programmatic achievements. The evaluation made four recommendations on stronger strategic engagement, enhancing partnerships, improving learning from both national and international experiences and firming up China's continued contributions to WFP.<sup>20</sup>
25. The CSP evaluation commended China and WFP for demonstrating the potential for strong strategic engagement and the value of working together to find appropriate global solutions for hunger and improved food systems. Taken together, the CSP facilitated an extensive network of partners and enabled new systems to be developed.
26. Simultaneously, the CSP evaluation and other evaluations – including an evaluation of a preschool nutrition pilot project – pointed to areas of potential enhancement for this CSP (2022–2025), including a strengthened monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Further, synergies between CSP activities could be better exploited, and more could be done to measure results and capture and disseminate lessons from the pilot projects.
27. In 2020 WFP's operations in China were among the first affected by the COVID-19 crisis. WFP adjusted its operations and modalities in China to provide continuity despite travel restrictions and other impediments. The lessons have informed the planning for future activities.

## **2.2 Alignment with national development plans, the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework and other frameworks**

28. The CSP for 2022–2025 has been formulated in line with China's 14th five-year plan for national economic and social development, covering 2021–2025, and the UNSDCF, including the theory of change. The CSP fully reflects WFP's efforts to complement and support work in the strategic areas prioritized by the Government, working at the national and provincial levels.

---

<sup>20</sup> Evaluation of China WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017–2021. OEVI/2020/002.

29. The UNSDCF, agreed between the Chinese Government and the United Nations country team in China, established six high-level outcome results to which the United Nations system will contribute. WFP contributes most directly to UNSDCF outcome 1:

“Relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty are reduced, and more coordinated development leads to reduction in gaps between rural and urban areas and among regions, as more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from sustainable, innovation-driven and shared high-quality economic development, with enhanced access to economic opportunities arising through innovation, entrepreneurship and rural revitalization, enjoying decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and the right to development equally for both women and men.”

### **2.3 Engagement with key stakeholders**

30. The formulation of this CSP involved consultation across the United Nations system in China to ensure that it aligned with and would support the efforts of the Chinese Government to achieve the defined high-level outcomes. The CSP also draws upon consultation with WFP’s “window ministry” (i.e., the ministry designated by the Government to coordinate WFP activity in China), MARA, ensuring alignment with the Government’s plans.
31. Development of the CSP also involved consultations on the line of sight with the Government and a wide range of civil society actors who have been partnering with WFP in undertaking activities under the CSP for 2017–2021. Through 2020 and 2021, WFP worked on draft outcomes, outputs and activities, which were discussed internally with a range of key WFP stakeholders and informed by the results of the evaluation of the CSP for 2017-2021. This CSP also draws lessons from global evaluation such as the strategic evaluation of the funding for WFP’s work and a synthesis of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening. WFP’s activities are agreed with national and local authorities based on extensive consultations, including discussion of the gender dimensions of project design and implementation.

## **3. WFP strategic portfolio**

### **3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts**

32. The strategic direction of this CSP corresponds to the priorities identified by the Chinese Government for domestic food security and nutrition. The CSP entails one strategic outcome corresponding to the scope of WFP’s MoU with MARA and subsequent agreements.
33. This CSP is also shaped, and informed by, the WFP strategic plan for 2022–2025. In line with humanitarian principles and founded upon universal human rights, the guiding principles outlined in the strategic plan – including those relating to people-centred approaches, programme integration, evidence-driven and country-owned – are central to the CSP activities. Likewise, cross-cutting priorities are well integrated into all aspects of the CSP, especially gender equality, women’s empowerment and nutrition.
34. WFP will employ the full range of its operational capacities – many of which are realized through partnerships – to meet the immediate needs of people and protect individuals’ and communities’ ability to live in safety and dignity.
35. WFP’s support will help China implement, extend and improve national nutrition programmes and support smallholder farmers, including women. WFP will support the Government in strengthening the connection between poverty alleviation and rural revitalization through increasing rural opportunities and incomes to contribute to reducing relative poverty and rural-urban development gaps. WFP will focus on initiatives to



enhance rural resilience and pilot approaches to the development of sustainable food systems.

36. As a cross-cutting theme, an integrated gender perspective will ensure that both women and men participate in programme design and implementation, that women take on leadership roles and that all data collected are disaggregated by age, sex and disability where feasible. To support transformative gender results at the activity level, WFP will ensure that women, men, girls and boys participate equitably in and benefit from the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant programmes and policies. Equally, programme design will integrate scientific innovation and environmental sustainability.
37. WFP's work will closely align with the Government's development priorities, as put forward in China's 14th five-year economic and social development plan, to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the UNSDCF and to fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind.

### **3.2 Strategic outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities**

#### ***Strategic outcome 1: Left-behind groups in rural areas of China have improved nutrition status and livelihoods in line with national targets by 2025.***

38. Building on the work undertaken in the 2017–2021 CSP, WFP will seek to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in rural and underdeveloped areas, including women, through its work to improve nutrition-sensitive value chains for high-quality and nutritious foods. WFP will give technical assistance to the Government in the targeting of vulnerable people at risk of being left behind, including women and persons with disabilities, and will continue its support for a pilot project on zinc-rich potatoes as well as other pilot projects to test concepts that may improve resilience, productivity, access to markets and the sustainability of smallholder farming in the context of rural revitalization. Efforts in this area will be framed by strategic outcome 1's focus on nutrition.
39. China's national nutrition plan for 2017–2030 sets detailed goals for meeting the food and nutrition needs of children, pregnant women, the elderly and other groups in need.<sup>21</sup> In addition, China's National Food and Nutrition Development Outline 2021–2035 aims to shape a new era for the development of a nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture system. Strategic outcome 1 will focus on the nutritional health of children living in rural and underdeveloped areas – the direct targeted beneficiaries of the WFP preschool nutrition improvement programme – building upon the ongoing projects established under the 2017–2021 CSP. These projects focus on strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders to implement, monitor and expand nutrition programmes as important vehicles for building human capital in the rural revitalization context.
40. WFP and the Government of China have an exemplary history of collaboration and partnership with regard to school feeding. WFP implemented school feeding programmes in China in the early 2000's in the Qinghai and Gansu provinces as part of a WFP large-scale integrated rural development intervention. WFP school feeding pilots provided useful lessons for the national policy and promoted uptake of China's national school feeding programme in 2011. In turn, WFP has learned from China's experience as the Government successfully scaled-up and extended its programme, now the third largest globally. WFP works with the Government to further extend its national programme and generate lessons and experience that can be used to bolster domestic and international efforts to achieve SDG 2. WFP's pilot projects under the 2017–2021 CSP actively influenced China's national child development programme for 2021–2030, enacted by the State Council

---

<sup>21</sup> The State Council. 2022. [China issues national nutrition plan \(2017-2030\) \(press release\)](#).

in September 2021, which called for scaling up nutrition programmes targeted at preschool children.

41. In accordance with the recommendations resulting from the 2017–2021 CSP, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be strengthened for all domestic activities, and efforts to learn lessons and more clearly demonstrate and share results will be mainstreamed. This will improve replication and upscaling as appropriate.
42. WFP will continue to foster partnerships on financial and technical support for its operations with the Government and public and private sector organizations in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

#### **Focus area**

43. Strategic outcome 1 focuses on root causes.

#### **Alignment with national priorities**

44. The activities under strategic outcome 1 will contribute to UNSDCF outcome 1.

#### **Expected outputs**

45. Strategic outcome 1 will be achieved through one output linked to activity 1, one output linked to activity 2 and one output linked to activity 3.
  - 1.1 Smallholder farmers and other rural populations benefit from more resilient, nutrition-sensitive value chains and improved livelihoods that improve nutrition status in rural areas.
  - 2.1 Rural preschool children benefit from improved capacity of national actors to extend and implement existing nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes in order to reduce rural-urban nutritional disparities.
  - 3.1 Malnourished and food-insecure populations benefit from enhanced strategic, public and private partnerships aimed at achieving SDG 2.

#### **Key activities**

*Activity 1: Provide advice and assistance on integrating smallholder farmers into nutrition-sensitive value chains to national stakeholders*

46. WFP seeks to improve the resilience and nutrition sensitivity of value chains, and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, with a view to improving nutritional status across rural areas. This will be done initially through the continuation of the zinc-rich potato pilot project in Gansu province. This pilot is making positive progress that WFP and its partners can leverage to further target support to selected groups of smallholder farmers. WFP will aim to integrate the targeted populations further into value chains for nutritious foods, including through supporting farmer organizations and providing technical advice. WFP will strengthen the social behaviour change communication (SBCC) component within the food system approach. Targeted activities will be carried out to provide women farmers opportunities to be integrated into the nutrition-sensitive value chain. WFP will increase the inclusion of women and those with disabilities in the design and implementation of projects under activity 1 and will link this support for activity 2 by linking smallholder farmers to institutional procurement for school feeding. The country office put people, including those most at risk of being left behind, at the centre of programme design and operational response – one of the cornerstone principles of the WFP strategic plan for 2022–2025.

*Activity 2: Provide advice and assistance on extending nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes to national stakeholders*

47. China's national nutrition and school feeding programmes are among the largest in the world and provide rich opportunities for experience sharing with partners and stakeholders in need as China has joined the school meals coalition launched in connection with the 2021 United Nations food systems summit. China continues to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of these programmes with a view to making and sustaining further progress towards SDG 2 for everyone. This activity supports scaling up and enhancing existing programmes in a variety of ways, including by supporting national capacity to identify and target nutritionally vulnerable populations and by piloting new approaches in hard-to-reach areas.
48. Preschool nutrition projects, which target boys and girls age 3–5, will continue, focusing on food and nutrition education and on the know-how required to procure from local farmers. Through these projects WFP supports efforts to raise the nutrition awareness of schoolteachers, cooking staff and food suppliers and promote healthy feeding for caregivers at home. These projects will promote healthy diets and dietary diversity by assessing dietary quality. The country office will also continue to advocate improved nutrition and disseminate appropriate nutrition and health messages at all levels of the Government.
49. In addition to providing technical advice and assistance, WFP will provide platforms to bring together a wide range of relevant partners. WFP will advocate a complementary and integrated school health and nutrition package, with a primary focus on regional nutritional guidance and healthy eating habits, including with regard to emerging issues such as overweight and obesity as well as sound school feeding approaches and awareness raising for parents about feeding and health support. WFP will further discuss with the private sector dietary quality, as it relates to increasing overweight and obesity.
50. These activities may be extended to other locations based on discussion with the Government. Targeted strategies will be used to promote equal nutritional and cognitive development opportunities for boys and girls. Women-headed smallholder families will participate in the home-grown school feeding programme to promote economic empowerment for women. These projects yield important results and experience that will inform further collaboration with national stakeholders on steps to improve nutritional outcomes.

*Activity 3: Provide facilitation for development and humanitarian cooperation with China*

51. In this activity, WFP will develop and maintain partnerships for financial resources and facilitate enhanced communication and information sharing on the global food and nutrition landscape among national entities, as well as the public and private sectors. WFP will explore, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, partnerships with the Chinese private sector, including innovative collaborations with the Chinese technology sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals to carry out or fund cooperation projects in China. Through this activity, WFP will continue to mobilize funding for development projects and seek to meet or surpass the successes of 2020. Similarly, by bringing together key public and private stakeholders, WFP will continue to facilitate programmes and partnerships for the SDGs.

**Partnerships**

52. Aligning with WFP's strategic plan, the country office will develop five types of partnership: resource, knowledge, policy and governance, advocacy and capability. The activities under strategic outcome 1 rely on strong partnerships that WFP has built with various national and local stakeholders. These stakeholders include MARA, the National Administration for Rural Revitalization, the provincial and local governments of the provinces in which activities

- 1 and 2 are implemented and various academies, research institutes and women's federations that are directly involved in project decision making and provide technical support and guidance in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Private sector partners will also be important to the financing of these activities.
53. For activity 3, efforts to facilitate development and humanitarian partnerships with the Government will focus on establishing strong relationships with the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Development and Reform Commission and other government bodies and will also seek to boost collaboration with the Rome-based agencies and other United Nations bodies. Work with the private sector will focus on providing information and advice and expanding existing partnerships and seeking to identify emerging opportunities with new partners.
54. The partnerships associated with activity 3 will likewise position WFP for fundraising with a view to supporting other developing countries in making progress towards SDG 2. To that end, WFP will continue to share information on its operations, rules and regulations, work and the varied contexts in which it operates, including information on the international humanitarian system and on tools and resources, to ensure best practice in humanitarian response.

### ***Assumptions***

55. The achievement of strategic outcome 1 will depend on the validity of certain assumptions. Those assumptions are that resources are sustained or grown through China's own government and private sector contributions; that the Government at various levels demonstrates interest and ownership in the activities; that cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms are in place to implement the activities; that capacity strengthening, technical advice, tools and demonstration activities are adopted and applied successfully by targeted households, including women, and new knowledge implemented; that engagement with stakeholders continues; and that women's equal and effective participation in project activities is pursued with the implementing agencies.

### ***Transition/handover strategy***

56. Activities 1 and 2 entail the strengthening of national and subnational capacity to manage preschool nutrition and smallholder value chain programmes. WFP provides advice and support to pilot projects, which are intended to test and prove concepts for subsequent adoption and scale-up by the authorities. These activities imply a transition and handover to the Government through WFP's policy advocacy effort when support is no longer requested by the Government and local stakeholders.
57. WFP will continue to work in China as long as it can be helpful in addressing China's nutritional challenges, particularly with regard to left-behind communities. The long-term strategy will acknowledge WFP's evolving technical assistance role as it adapts to changes in the context in China. Programming decisions will be informed by evaluations and reviews.

## **4. Implementation arrangements**

### **4.1 Beneficiary analysis**

58. All activities carried out under this CSP will take the form of capacity strengthening. There will be no direct food assistance provided by WFP in China or elsewhere through this CSP. Under strategic outcome 1, WFP will provide advice and assistance to the Government in its implementation and extension of nutrition programmes, thereby benefiting undernourished children in rural and underdeveloped areas; WFP's work under strategic outcome 1 is also designed to benefit smallholder farmers through enhanced capacity for nutritious food value chain development and better organization. Gender awareness of the implementing government agencies will be further improved.

Programme implementation will apply targeted strategies based on the differing nutritional, cognitive and socio-emotional conditions of boys and girls, with due attention to left-behind children and children from low-income families.

59. Geographically, the targeting of WFP activities in China will be largely focused on the less developed central and western rural areas and concentrated in nationally designated poverty-stricken counties. The selection criteria for pilot projects will include several factors, including the percentage of low-income families, left-behind children, ethnic minorities and high incidence of malnutrition, among others, depending on the type of activity.
60. An estimated 49,700 individuals as tier 2 beneficiaries (including children and smallholder farmers) will benefit from assets created, products and services, including SBCC and individual capacity strengthening under strategic outcome 1. Tier 2 beneficiaries also include people from government agencies and technical institutions empowered by WFP's technical assistance, advocacy and support for policies, systems and national programmes. A population of 850,000 to 1,290,000 will benefit indirectly from WFP's technical assistance, nutrition messaging and advocacy through innovative social media.

#### **4.2 Transfers**

61. All activities under the CSP will be in the form of capacity strengthening.

#### **4.3 Country office capacity and profile**

62. Recommendations resulting from the CSP (2017–2021) alignment human resources review of the office conducted in 2020 will be implemented incrementally, first focusing on establishing the correct contract types for all staff and then adjusting the number of staff to match the recommendations of the review.
63. One of the critically important evaluations that informs this CSP is WFP's strategic evaluation of the funding of its work, which points to the need to enhance capacity across WFP regarding how to optimize partnering with host governments and other actors. Ensuring capacity in the country office relevant to the partnership dimensions of this CSP is a key consideration.

#### **4.4 Partnerships**

64. WFP will align activities under the CSP with the priorities of the Chinese Government. As WFP's "window" ministry, MARA will represent the Government as a whole, including other relevant ministries. Continued intensive collaboration with MARA will ensure alignment. The ministry will continue to be a source of funding for CSP activities. WFP will also work with CIDCA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission and other government bodies.
65. WFP will continue to explore private sector partnerships in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to support zero hunger.
66. WFP is a signatory to the UNSDCF in China and participates in the United Nations country team results groups on people and prosperity and on partnership. WFP also works closely through a thematic group on food and agriculture with the other Rome-based agencies. It will strengthen partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on food systems transformation and healthy diet advocacy and with the United Nations Children's Fund on child nutrition and creating an evidence base for informed decision making. As part of a cross-cutting group on gender, disability, leaving no one behind, communications and monitoring and evaluation, WFP will explore the possibility of building on its partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other actors in order to increase its focus on women farmers.

## **5. Performance management and evaluation**

### **5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements**

67. WFP will establish relevant monitoring and evaluation frameworks in collaboration with partners for all the activities under each strategic outcome. Under strategic outcome 1, previous investments in monitoring and evaluation for the 2017–2021 CSP will yield findings at the beginning of the 2022–2025 CSP. WFP will build upon them to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms for domestic projects and will apply the most relevant indicators from its corporate results framework.
68. The country office has worked closely with WFP's Corporate Planning and Performance Division and Office of Evaluation on the mid-term review and the final evaluation of the 2017–2021 CSP, the results of which have informed the development of the 2022–2025 CSP. This collaboration will continue through the implementation of the latter CSP; a mid-term review will take place in the final quarter of 2023 and a centralized evaluation will begin in the first quarter of 2024. All data collected will be disaggregated by sex, age and disability where applicable and feasible.

### **5.2 Risk management**

69. Throughout the CSP implementation period WFP will monitor strategic, operational, fiduciary and financial risks and maintain a risk register identifying mitigation actions. Contributions from MARA, along with engagement with the private sector in consultation with and with the consent of the Government, will ensure sufficient funding.

#### ***Strategic risks***

70. Among strategic risks, a potential shortage of technical expertise in WFP's China office in some key programme areas can be mitigated by strong and consistent oversight and support from headquarters on an ad hoc basis.

#### ***Operational risks***

71. To mitigate the risk of monitoring, baseline data will be explicitly identified in line with the new corporate results framework at the beginning of the CSP term to reflect the progress to be made.

#### ***Fiduciary risks***

72. Internal audit of WFP's operations and implementation of necessary adjustments will ensure that fiduciary risks are reduced.

### **5.3 Social and environmental safeguards**

73. Throughout the implementation of the 2022–2025 CSP WFP will work to identify and reduce potential negative impacts of its operations and activities.
74. WFP will implement an environmental management system to systematically identify, avoid and manage significant environmental impacts from in-house activities. This will include reducing air travel by promoting video-conferencing for meetings and training; incorporating environmental principles into event planning, for example by making meetings paperless and plastic free and reducing food waste; promoting and seeking energy efficiency in facilities, waste and water management; and improving staff awareness of issues such as resource efficiency and pollution prevention.
75. To contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind, WFP's activities will align with the provisions of the UNSDCF as agreed with the Government. Regarding gender equality in WFP staffing, the number of women staff will be at least equal to the number of men. Gender considerations and support for individuals and groups at risk of vulnerability,

including persons with disabilities, will be integrated throughout the implementation of the domestic projects when applicable.

## 6. Resources for results

### 6.1 Country portfolio budget

76. As detailed in table 1, the financial requirements of the CSP relate to strategic outcome 1. The country portfolio budget has been designed based on the experience of the previous CSP and in line with projections of the dynamics of WFP's projects over the four years of this CSP. Following WFP's corporate requirements, 15 percent of project costs will be dedicated to projects with gender equality and women's empowerment considerations by 2025.

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	958 180	1 947 447	2 113 902	2 043 674	<b>7 063 204</b>
	2	887 726	1 795 200	1 938 349	1 863 546	<b>6 484 820</b>
	3	269 942	566 392	634 806	633 761	<b>2 104 901</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2 115 848</b>	<b>4 309 040</b>	<b>4 687 057</b>	<b>4 540 980</b>	<b>15 652 925</b>

### 6.2 Resourcing outlook and strategy

77. Since signing the MoU with WFP in 2016, MARA is committed to providing USD 1.5 million per year in support of WFP's work in China. The contributions between 2017 and 2020 exceeded the pledged amount and averaged around USD 2.3 million per year. WFP continues to advocate increased resources from MARA to finance the CSP.

78. WFP will explore partnerships with several private sector companies in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to mobilize additional resources for CSP implementation. The implementation of CSP activities will be subject to the funding available.

**ANNEX I****LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHINA COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2022–2025)****Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger****Strategic Objective 2: Improve nutrition****Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition**

<b>Strategic outcome 1: Left-behind groups in rural areas of China have improved nutrition status and livelihoods in line with national targets by 2025</b>	Outcome category: Enhanced social and public-sector capacity to identify, target and assist nutritionally vulnerable populations
	Focus area: root causes

**Assumptions**

Resources will be sustained or grow through China's own government and private sector contributions. The enabling conditions also include that the Government at various levels has demonstrated interest and ownership in the activities, and that the cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms are in place to implement the activities. Other conditions include that capacity strengthening, technical advice, tools, and demonstration activities are adopted and applied successfully by targeted households, including women and, new knowledge implemented, and engagement with stakeholders continues. Women's equal and effective participation in the project activities will be pursued with the implementing agencies.

**Outcome indicators**

Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening

Percentage of targeted smallholder farmers reporting increased production of nutritious crops, disaggregated by sex of smallholder farmer

Rate of smallholder post-harvest losses

Value and volume of smallholder sales through WFP-supported aggregation systems



## **Activities and outputs**

### **1. Provide advice and assistance on integrating smallholder farmers into nutrition-sensitive value chains to national stakeholders (SMS: Smallholder agricultural market support activities)**

1.1 Smallholder farmers and other rural populations benefit from more resilient, nutrition-sensitive value chains and improved livelihoods that improve nutrition status in rural areas (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

1.1 Smallholder farmers and other rural populations benefit from more resilient, nutrition-sensitive value chains and improved livelihoods that improve nutrition status in rural areas (D: Assets created)

1.1 Smallholder farmers and other rural populations benefit from more resilient, nutrition-sensitive value chains and improved livelihoods that improve nutrition status in rural areas (E: Social and behaviour change communication delivered)

1.1 Smallholder farmers and other rural populations benefit from more resilient, nutrition-sensitive value chains and improved livelihoods that improve nutrition status in rural areas (F: Purchases from smallholders completed)

### **2. Provide advice and assistance on extending nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes to national stakeholders (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)**

2.1 Rural preschool children benefit from improved capacity of national actors to extend and implement existing nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes in order to reduce rural-urban nutritional disparities (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

2.1 Rural preschool children benefit from improved capacity of national actors to extend and implement existing nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes in order to reduce rural-urban nutritional disparities (E: Social and behaviour change communication delivered)

### **3. Provide facilitation for development and humanitarian cooperation with China (OTH: Other)**

3.1 Malnourished and food-insecure populations benefit from enhanced strategic, public and private partnerships aimed at achieving SDG 2 (K: Partnerships supported)

## ANNEX II

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME (USD)		
	Strategic Result 2/ SDG target 2.2	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	
Focus area	Root causes	
Transfers	11 916 539	<b>11 916 539</b>
Implementation	0	<b>0</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	2 781 043	<b>2 781 043</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14 697 582</b>	<b>14 697 582</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	955 343	<b>955 343</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 652 925</b>	<b>15 652 925</b>

## Acronyms

CIDCA	China International Development Cooperation Agency
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CSP	country strategic plan
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MoU	memorandum of understanding
SBCC	social behaviour change communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNSDCF	United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework