



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of Ecuador WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2022



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

October 2022

EB Round Table

# Context

- Population 17.6 million
- High levels of inequality
- 23% of children < 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition
- Host to large numbers of refugees and migrants
- Vulnerable to natural hazards and impact of climate change



# WFP CSP in Ecuador 2017-2022

**Emphasis** on complementing national social protection and humanitarian response, strengthening climate change adaptation capacity and support smallholder farmers around 5 strategic outcomes



Refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable people in Ecuador are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long

**S01**



Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas, durably increase their incomes and improve their productivity by 2021

**S02**



Food-insecure communities and individuals in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and government institutions have strengthened capacity for adaptation to climate change by 2021

**S03**



National institutions and programmes in Ecuador, including social protection programmes, are supported to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition by 2021

**S04**



Humanitarian and development partners in Ecuador have access to reliable services throughout the crisis

**S05**

# Data collection methods



- **Theory based**
- **Mixed methods approach:** literature and data review, semi-structured interviews, focus groups and survey
- In-country data collection was possible
- Attention to confidentiality, gender and ethical considerations

# Findings

# Q1 To what extent are WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs, as well as WFP's strengths?



Relevant CSP responds to needs. Aligned with national policies and priorities.  
Narrow focus in terms of nutrition



Successful adaptation to emergencies: migrant crisis and COVID-19 pandemic



Strong partnership within the UN during emergencies and addressing root causes

## Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes?



**SO1** Response to emergencies, including to Covid 19 = significant scale-up of assistance

**SO1** Access to food improved, yet behavioral change in terms of feeding practices was not notably enhanced



**SO2** Increased smallholder farmers' capacities and incomes, although obstacles to access public contracting schemes prevail



**SO2** Effective contributions to the consolidation of the national school feeding programme although various challenges remain (budget, decentralized management)

## Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes?



**SO3** Climate change adaptation as a means to combat food insecurity positioned in national plans and comprised innovative approaches. Yet, community level activities were delayed and assets were little diversified



**SO3** Effective emergency preparedness and response activities delivered in synergy with national efforts



**SO4** Evidence, capacity development and technical assistance activities informed public policies and social dialogue related to food security, and promoted equality and inclusion



**SO5** Service provision to humanitarian partners contributed to efficiencies of the Covid-19 response

## Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes?



Substantial progress was achieved for the integration of gender across the CSP, yet risks specific to men were not attended to



WFP adhered to humanitarian principles and duly accounted to affected populations, but fell short of mitigating protection risks



Nutrition sensitive approaches duly cut across strategic outcomes, but lacked a strategy to achieve behavioral change

## Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes?



Increased attention was paid to environmental do-no-harm approaches, but not yet been fully mainstreamed



Capacity strengthening, evidence building and new partnerships contributed to sustainability, but additional efforts are required to address challenges: local procurement schemes; asset building; and knowledge management



Limited coherence across humanitarian and development domains

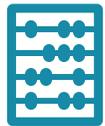
## Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to CSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



Most activities were timely, including COVID 19 response, but delays occurred for climate change adaptation activities



Overall adequate targeting, but insufficiently fine-tuned regarding host populations and people most vulnerable to climate risks



Additional benefits and transaction costs caused a net increase of the cost per beneficiary, but new arrangements with UN entities envisage cost savings



The move to one sole CBT redemption provider reduced costs for WFP yet beneficiaries ended up paying higher prices

## Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?



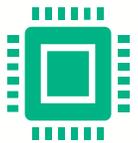
Evidence-generation contributed to CSP design, but pragmatic considerations drove changes in implementation



Resources competently mobilized but with limited flexibility



Strengthened and innovative partnerships



High levels of operational flexibility to adapt to contextual changes



Human resource profiles did not consistently align to programmatic requirements



Siloed management of the five strategic outcomes

# Conclusions



WFP has ably delivered in alignment with national priorities, although with a limited focus on malnutrition



Overall effective contributions to the 2030 Agenda, including for gender. Opportunities to further strengthen protection, nutrition and work across the triple nexus



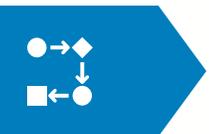
WFP pioneered climate change adaptation approaches as a means to combat food insecurity. However, financial, design and implementation challenges prevail



Leadership, high operational flexibility and optimal timeliness in response to emergencies (incl. Covid-19), despite high levels of earmarking of funding



The CSP has constituted a pertinent adaptable framework, strengthening WFP's position, yet enhanced integration is needed



Weaknesses were noted in terms of monitoring and knowledge management

# Recommendations

- 1 Strengthen the triple nexus and protection approach of WFP's response in Ecuador, leveraging on existing protection systems and alliances
- 2 Capitalize on WFP's strategic position and learning to continue to support public policy design and implementation
- 3 Review the CSP structure to include a clear definition of coordination mechanisms, in order to enhance synergies between strategic outcomes
- 4 Nutrition to be addressed as a crosscutting topic for the new CSP, emphasizing chronic malnutrition, obesity prevention and promotion of breastfeeding
- 5 Improve the integration of the performance monitoring system, financial tracking and programme management
- 6 Strengthen staff capacities in crosscutting areas, particularly in gender, protection, nutrition, monitoring and climate change