



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of Malawi WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

October 2023

Round Table



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP CSP in MALAWI 2019-2023

## Six Strategic Outcomes

(% of needs-based plan as of June 2022)



**31%**

Shock-affected people, including refugees have access to nutritious food

**SO1**



**15%**

Shock-responsive social protection systems

**SO2**



**2%**

Vulnerable people have improved nutritional status

**SO3**



**49%**

Smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations have enhanced resilience

**SO4**



**1%**

National and local institutions, agencies and enterprises have strengthened capacities to achieve SDG 2

**SO5**



**2%**

Humanitarian and development partners have access to increased emergency services

**SO6**

# 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?

»»» CSP **was evidence-based** & focused on the most vulnerable populations

↕ CSP **well aligned** with national priorities, designed to support strategies of UN and development partners

👤 Theory of change after Year 1 helped clarify strategic shift & set out impact pathways – but no clear strategy for capacity strengthening

🏠 WFP CSP **remained relevant** but required significant adaptations for crises

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



**SO1 Timely & effective emergency response** improved food consumption & reduced coping strategies – but refugee response underfunded



**SO2** Take-home rations complemented national social protection system; **improved enrolment & attendance**; decreased dropout



**SO3** Shift from malnutrition treatment to prevention contributed to **improved health & nutrition outcomes** among women & children under five

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



**SO4** integrated resilience programming **improved food consumption, expanded livelihood asset base & increased capacities** to manage climate-related shocks



**SO5** Acted as enabler - **strengthened country capacities** for emergency response, vulnerability assessments, shock-responsive social protection, logistics, and national beneficiary register



**SO6** **Effective logistics** & supply chain services

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



Overall **gender sensitive**, especially resilience and nutrition. But not a transformative approach



**Protection** - Safe access to assistance; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse integrated; accountability to affected populations expanded



Adherence to **humanitarian principles** supported by evidence-based targeting



Integrated resilience programmes **improved community capacity** to manage natural resources/environment – but climate change not mainstreamed elsewhere



Integrated approach also supported **humanitarian-development links** and **sustainability potential** – but challenges ahead

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



WFP praised for **timely emergency response** but delays elsewhere had negative consequences



**Geographic targeting** appropriately focused for vulnerability - but reduced breadth & depth due to funding constraints



WFP **improved cost-efficiency** and explored different options to reduce costs



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



Dependence on short-term, strictly earmarked funding constrained flexibility – while multi-year funding increased predictability & improved planning



Monitoring and reporting systems improved, but did not capture capacity strengthening results



Partnerships enhanced over time, but those with private sector entities still at early-stage



Organizational realignment exercises ensured continued field presence and supported cost-efficiencies

# Conclusions



WFP contributed to positive results under each strategic outcome, despite a challenging funding and operational context



Integrated approach to programming helped reduce vulnerability



Intended shift to an enabling role impeded by a deteriorating food security situation & internal constraints



Resilience building approach helped position WFP on the humanitarian–development continuum – but still perceived mainly as emergency responder

# Conclusions (continued)



Efforts on protection, environmental & climate adaptations, and accountability to affected populations supported results



Gender transformative approaches not consistently integrated



Leading role in food security and nutrition evidence generation; and internal culture of evidence-informed decision making



Decreasing donor contributions antithetical to growing needs; mitigation strategies applied

# Recommendations

- 1 Build on the positive evolution towards an integrated programme
- 2 Expand strategy for phased withdrawal - WFP as “enabler”
- 3 Refine strategic positions & programme directions for the next CSP
- 4 Scale up partnerships & collaboration for impact & sustainability
- 5 Enhance approach to addressing root causes of gender inequalities & advancing women's economic empowerment