



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of Mauritania WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

February 2023

Evaluation Round Table



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# CONTEXT

- Consistent **poverty decline** since 2000
- **Food and nutrition insecurity** persisting (acute and chronic malnutrition at 11.6% and 23.3%)
- Exposure to **climate risks, migration** from neighbouring countries
- **Gender disparities** across social and economic sectors (151<sup>st</sup> out of 162 countries in the gender inequality index)



# CSP 2019–2023

## 6 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (% of budget after BR #2 of 12/2021)



### SO1

Crisis-affected people in targeted areas, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises

41%



### SO2

Food-insecure populations in targeted regions, including school-age children, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

27%



### SO3

Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted areas, including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, have improved nutritional status all year

5%



### SO4

Food-insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year

12%



### SO5

National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food-security, nutrition and social protection policies and programmes, including an adaptive (shock-responsive) social protection system, by 2030

6%



### SO6

Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services that permit them to reach and operate in targeted areas all year

9%

# EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



- **Utilization-focused and consultative approach** using mixed-methods
- **Gender sensitive** evaluation
- Integrated **protection, AAP** and **environment**

# 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?



**Relevance:** supporting implementation of national strategies; addressing needs of most vulnerable population



**WFP comparative advantages:** recognized operational and logistical capacities; less so on capacity strengthening and resilience



**Strategic partnerships:** strong on social protection and resilience; limited on nutrition, gender, protection, and environment

## Q2 WHAT IS THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF WFP'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO ICSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?



**SO1:** stabilization of **refugees'** food security; development of sustainable solutions not achieved.

The **COVID-19 response** suffered implementation challenges



**SO2: lean season support** shift to cash transfers, improvements in food security outcomes. **School feeding** outcomes hardly assessed; further increase in attendance and retention rates will require systemic enhancements to the education system



**SO3:** high performance rates of **MAM treatment**; contextual challenges in urban settings

## Q2 WHAT IS THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF WFP'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO ICSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES? (CONT.)



**SO4:** scale-up of **FFA**; evidence of positive outcome results; anchoring within state institutions below expectations



**SO5: Institutional support** focussed on specific sectors; turnover of public servants represented a challenge



**SO6: UNHAS services** ensured humanitarian access and logistical capacity, including during COVID-19 crisis

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



**Gender** mainstreaming; integration of **protection, environmental** and social risk analyses



**Accountability** improvements; communication/awareness gaps



**Sustainability:** challenging implementation of exit strategies at decentralised level



**Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** approach hampered by funding flexibility

# Q3 TO WHAT EXTENT DID WFP USE ITS RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY IN CONTRIBUTING TO ICSP OUTPUTS AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?



**Timeliness:** cash transfers contributed to timely implementation. Nutrition activities suffered from funding gaps and pipeline breaks



**Targeting** improvements. Issues with acceptance and exclusion errors persist



Evidence of improved **efficiency** of activities. Food losses under control

# Q4 WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT EXPLAIN WFP PERFORMANCE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS MADE THE STRATEGIC SHIFT EXPECTED BY THE ICSP?



Use of **reliable evidence**, including to inform institutional support



Mobilization of multi-year **funding**, humanitarian earmarking compensated by internal flexibility



Expansion of **human resources**, with contextual challenges



Strengthened **partnerships**, opportunities to improve coordination/complementarity

# CONCLUSIONS



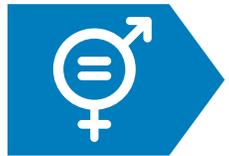
**Strategic positioning:** enhanced in specific sectors, room to improve visibility of its orientations at Government level



**Refugee assistance:** triple nexus approach combining humanitarian efforts with sustainable solutions



**Integrated resilience package:** opportunities to improve activities' synergies and national ownership



**Cross-cutting issues:** progress ongoing, gender transformative effects not yet achieved



Evidence of WFP capacity in terms of **adaptation and flexibility**



**Success factors:** internal reorganizations, resource mobilization, monitoring improvements yet with persisting challenges

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Strengthen the combined strategy of adaptive social protection and the integrated resilience package

2

Strengthen the consideration of the cross-cutting issues of gender, environment and accountability to affected populations

3

Review the strategy for refugees and host populations assistance based on stakeholders' comparative advantages, including local communities

4

Strengthen the effects of the integrated resilience package

5

Enhance national policy support for school feeding and the management of acute malnutrition