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WFP's role in social protection system-strengthening for Zero Hunger

Executive Board Roundtable, October 12th, 2023



Setting the scene: The relevance of social protection to hunger



WFP's added value to social protection

Stephen Devereux



WFP's dual mandate

Humanitarian assistance + Developmental assistance

= "Saving lives" + "Changing lives"

Emergency food aid

EMOPs

PRROs

Project food aid

➤ Food-for-work

➤ School feeding

➤ Supplementary feeding

= SOCIAL
PROTECTION

"WFP has been contributing to the field now known as social protection ever since the 1960s" (WFP ED, 2021)

WFP's rise as a social protection agency

**WFP has
been doing
social protection
ever since WFP
was established
in 1961**

**WFP is
now one of the
leading develop-
ment agencies
for
social protection
globally**

✓ World Bank

✓ UNICEF

✓ ILO

✓ WFP

WFP's rise as a social protection agency

In 1998, a Tripartite Review of WFP recommended that WFP should close down all its **project food aid** activities:

- **food-for-work**
- **school feeding**
- **supplementary feeding**

... and should focus only on delivering food as **emergency relief**, which it described as WFP's core mandate.



WFP's rise as a social protection agency

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... and should focus only on delivering food as **emergency relief**, which it described as WFP's core mandate.

Reflecting on the Tripartite Review, WFP proposed the following...

TIME FOR CHANGE: FOOD AID AND DEVELOPMENT

7 April 1999
Rome, Italy



***ENABLING DEVELOPMENT:
POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION***

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي

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Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos

WFP's rise as a social protection agency

PUBLIC WORKS

- Food-for-Work
- Cash-for-Work
- Food-for-Assets
- Food Assistance for Assets

CASH-FOR-WORK



Fighting Hunger Worldwide



The potential of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to empower women and improve women's nutrition: a five country study

Final Report

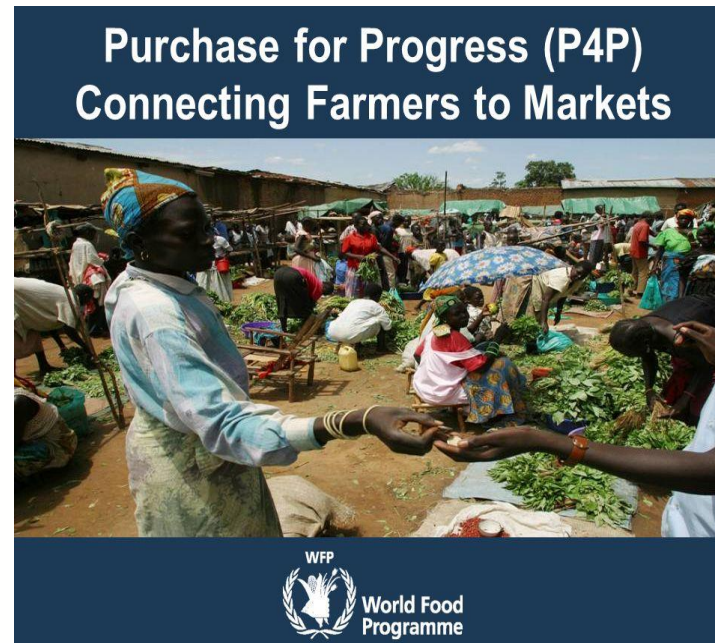


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WFP's rise as a social protection agency

SCHOOL FEEDING

- School meals (food aid)
- Local procurement
- Purchase for Progress (P4P)
- Home-Grown School Feeding




WFP's rise as a social protection agency

Edited by Steven Were Omamo, Ugo Gentilini and Susanna Sandström


Foreword by Josette Sheeran

Revolution: From Food Aid to Food Assistance

Innovations
in Overcoming
Hunger



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UPDATE OF
WFP's Safety Nets Policy

The Role of Food Assistance
in Social Protection

June 2012

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wfp.org



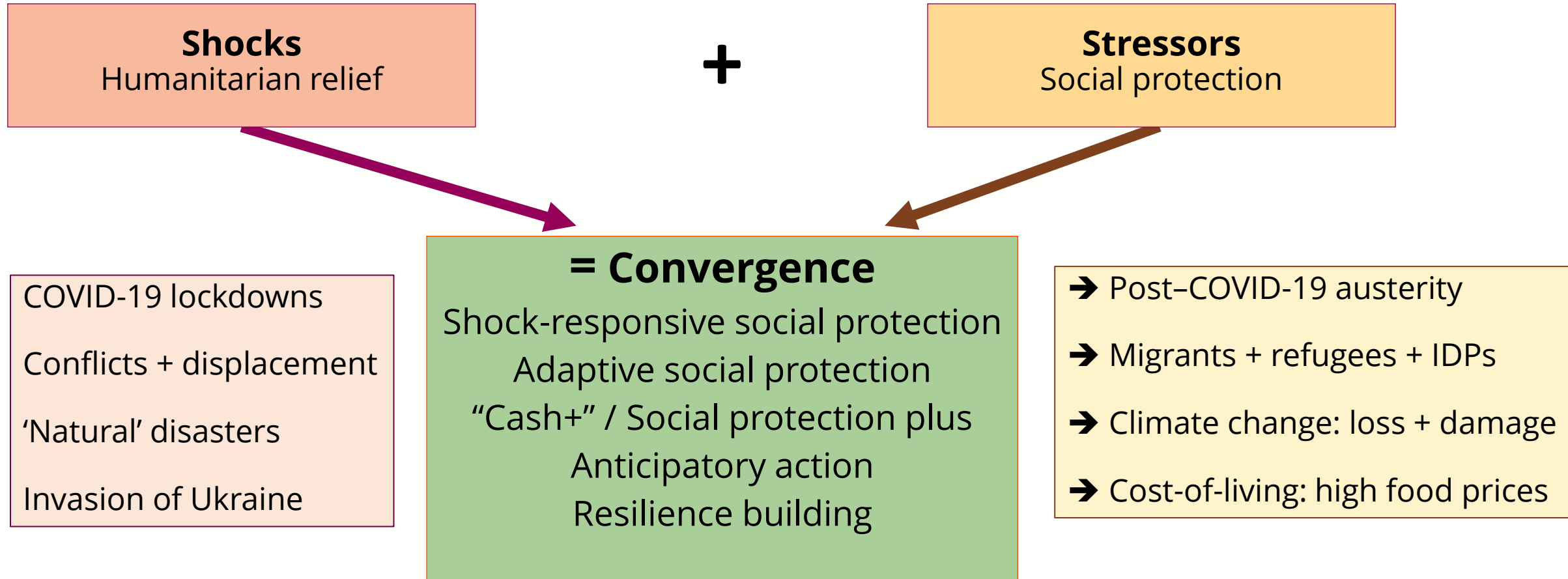
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World Food Programme Strategy for Support to Social Protection

July 2021

Looking ahead: emerging convergences



Saving lives AND changing lives

Looking ahead: emerging convergences

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10 Things

You Wish You'd Always Known about Shock-Responsive Social Protection

Clare O'Brien, Senior consultant, Social Protection Unit, WFP

Improving the 'shock-responsiveness' of social protection—in other words, its relevance to large-scale natural, economic and political shocks—is an alluring concept. If you're a social protection practitioner, you may be hoping to find a way both to improve the ability of social protection programmes to accommodate needs of any scale, and to enhance their coherence with emergency response activities where such interventions remain necessary. If you work in emergency response, including in government agencies, this policy agenda opens another possible route to mitigating and responding to the risk of disasters. If you are in an international humanitarian agency, this agenda may appeal because you hope to transfer part of your caseload to the government or its partners so that you can focus on other emergencies; or maybe, in contrast, you hope to channel more funds labelled as 'humanitarian' into a nationally led system or extend your influence into the development sphere. Everyone hopes that 'shock-responsive social protection' will produce better results for people in crises, and that it will also save themselves time and energy.

What is this magical idea? Can this recently named (but long practised) approach achieve all these outcomes? Is the gold standard the 'flexible scale-up' of a social protection programme, triggered by an emergency, or is there more to it than that?


Drawing on insights from some recent real-life examples, we thought it timely to tackle a few aspects of the issue that are proving particularly complex or problematic.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is at the forefront of global attention at this time, and while many of the observations here are relevant to that context, the scope of this brief is broader than that emergency. It is intended as a guide to highlight not only how social protection can be used as a vehicle for emergency response, but also how it can build people's resilience so that shocks do not turn into a disaster in the first place.

Here are our mythbusting top 10 tips.

1. This briefing note builds on the approach conceived in the DFID/OPM research project on [Shock-Responsive Social Protection](#) (2015-18) and subsequent research programmes, including WFP's work on shock-responsive social protection. It assumes that you're already aware of shock-responsive social protection and that you're looking for guidance on applying it. If instead you're looking for an introduction, try this [5-minute animation](#) or this [in-depth report](#).

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WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of WFP's Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition

Centralized evaluation report - Volume I

OEI/2021/017
Office of Evaluation

May 2023



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WFP Urban Strategy

Achieving zero hunger in an urbanising world

April 2023

2

ZERO
HUNGER



Thank you



WFP's role and mandate in supporting social protection



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WFP's role in social protection systems strengthening for reduced malnutrition in Uganda



Why child and nutrition sensitive social protection?

MALNUTRITION COMPOUNDED BY MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN REFUGEE-HOST DISTRICTS

Poverty dimension: SP instrumental in poverty reduction

Nutrition dimension: Hunger and malnutrition as a problem of structural poverty

Extreme poverty headcount: 21.4%
(UBOS, 2016/17)

Children's multidimensional deprivation: 56%
(UNICEF, 2019)

National stunting rate: 29%; West Nile stunting rate: 34%
(DHS, 2016)

Children 6-23 months with no MAD: 66%
(FSNA 2020)

NutriCash program approach

- **Robust partnership** between the Government of Uganda, World Food Programme and UNICEF with support from Sweden/Sida (and the Uganda Parliamentary Social Protection Forum)
- **Part of a bigger picture.** The Child Sensitive Social Protection Programme (CSSP), aimed at building household and community **resilience** in the refugee-hosting areas
- **Two-fold approach.** Strengthening national social protection (WFP) and health **systems** (UNICEF) and policies while supporting the **delivery** of a flagship nutrition-sensitive *cash plus* programme
- **Transformational.** Cash transfers as the **entry point** to address multi-layered structural issues – the role of the **plus** components (Social and Behaviour Change (SBC), Backyard Gardening, and Financial Literacy)
- **Innovative.** Integrated and delivered **through Government's structures** at national and sub-national level in eight refugee-hosting districts – the role of DRDIP (Development Response to Displacement Impact Project) and close partnership with the World Bank

What have we achieved (and learned)?

KEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Since 2021, **13,633** Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Children under 2 received monthly cash transfers in the total value of **USD 2.2M** (65% trained on financial literacy and exposed to SBC activities)
 - Coverage: **refugees** (30%) and **nationals** (70%)
 - Over **90%** of beneficiaries prioritise purchase of food when using the cash received
 - **70%** use their backyard gardens to feed the household
- Enhancement of **key delivery systems**: G2P payment mechanism, single registry, information system decentralisation, grievance mechanisms guidelines

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Alignment of **GoU's strategic priorities and WFP's Changing Lives**/self-reliance and resilience agenda with (linkages between SP and resilient livelihoods)
- **Multi-year financing** is critical for sustainable and long-lasting intervention
- Investing in SP requires investment across a **multiplicity of building blocks**
 - Data inadequacies hinder accurate targeting and enrolment, compounded by low coverage of **civil registration**
 - Lack of **digitised health records** leaving room for targeting errors

Scaling up: the way forward

SOCIAL PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Situation at stake: Limited **fiscal space** for social protection in Uganda, including shrinking financial support to the refugee response

Opportunities:

- **National Development Plan IV** and tax revenue
- 4th phase of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (**NUSAF**)
 - Largest SP investment in Uganda, World Bank IDA
 - New design includes scale up of NutriCash to three sub-regions, with an allocation of USD 17m
- 2nd phase of **DRDIP** in 15 refugee-hosting districts (under design; World Bank IDA)
- Multi-year funding from Ireland and Norway: scale up to the **Karamoja** sub-region and to the Southwest refugee-hosting districts and (2023-2026) under the recently designed **Refugee Transition Model from Relief to Self-Reliance**



Shock-responsive social protection at scale in Mauritania

Supporting Government with the lean season response



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Mauritania is a leader in Social Protection in West Africa



The Context

Center of complex (and worsening) **geopolitics**

Relatively stable political environment but is facing **cross-border challenges**

Bordering on **middle-income country**

Highly susceptible to **climate change**



Social Services

The Social Registry is quite robust, with **over 226,000 households registered**

There are **22 different social protection programmes**

Social Registry serves as the basis for targeting for the cyclic **lean season response**

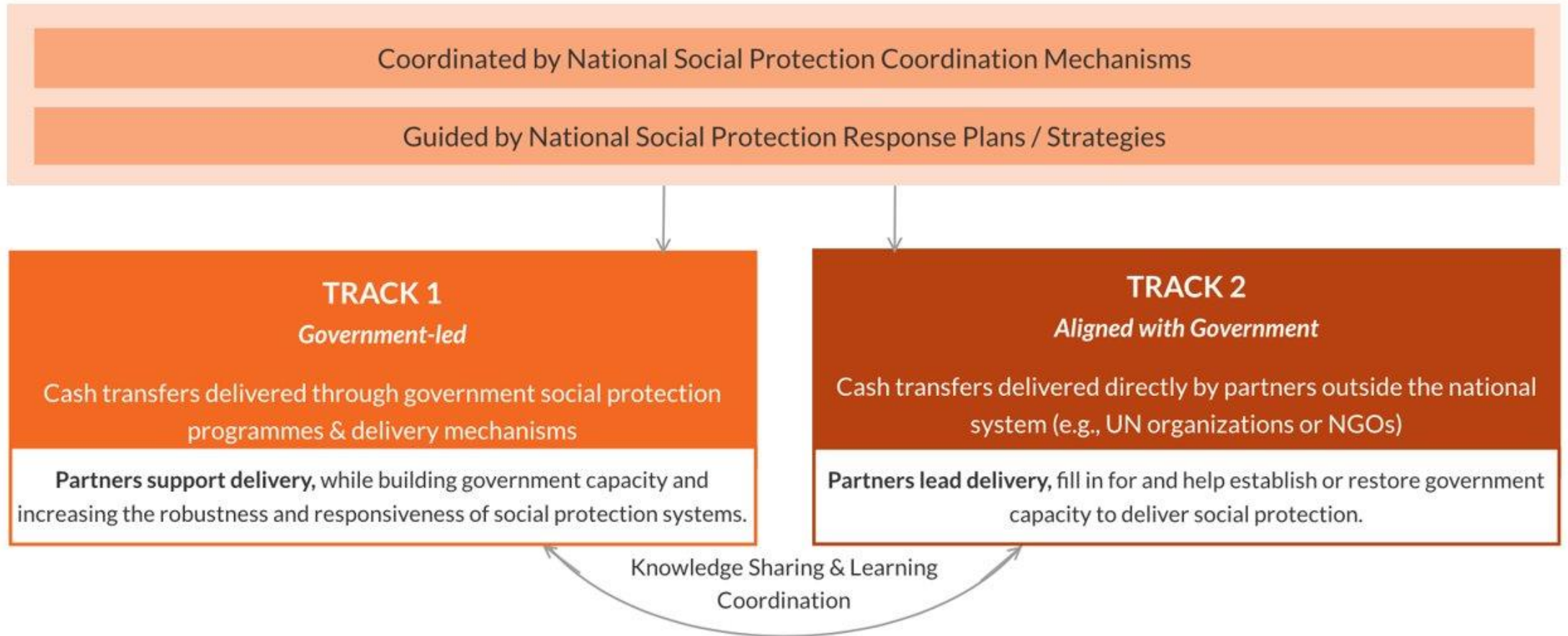


WFP supports the Government with the lean season response

WFP's shock-responsive social protection work focuses on three main areas, with the goal of making the system more shock responsive and nutrition sensitive



WFP contributes to the lean season response via cash transfers, employing a twin track approach



WFP's technical teams strengthen implementation at various levels of the response

- **Supporting the Social Registry by:**

- Determining harmonized targeting criteria for response
- Strengthening Government targeting and monitoring systems for cash transfers
- Striving to reach universal registration, including for refugees

- **Supporting the lean season response by:**

- Enhancing common social protection and humanitarian intervention modalities, including using the Social Registry as the basis for household-level targeting
- Assisting with the establishment of a National Response Fund for Food and Nutrition Crises (FRNCAN)
- Reinforcing coordination amongst the Government and other key stakeholders

WFP works with Government to enhance the learning agenda

- Implementation of sentinel sites for real-time data collection as part of the nation's early warning system
- Provision of analytical support for Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) process
- Harmonization of data collection tools and guiding quantitative data collection initiatives





From delivering social assistance to co-designing a reformed national safety net system in Lebanon



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Unprecedented Complex Crisis

SYRIA CRISIS



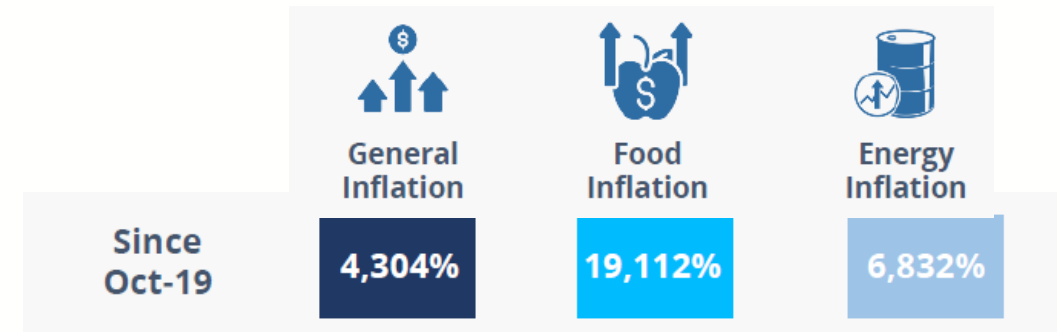
1.5 million refugee

Lebanon hosting one of the world's highest per capita ratio of refugees

Precarious Situation in Syria

High social tension

INFLATION [Jul 2023]



POVERTY / FOOD SECURITY



98% depreciation of the LBP

Subsidies removal

25% food insecure (IPC, 2023)

POLITICAL ECOSYSTEM



Presidential vacuum

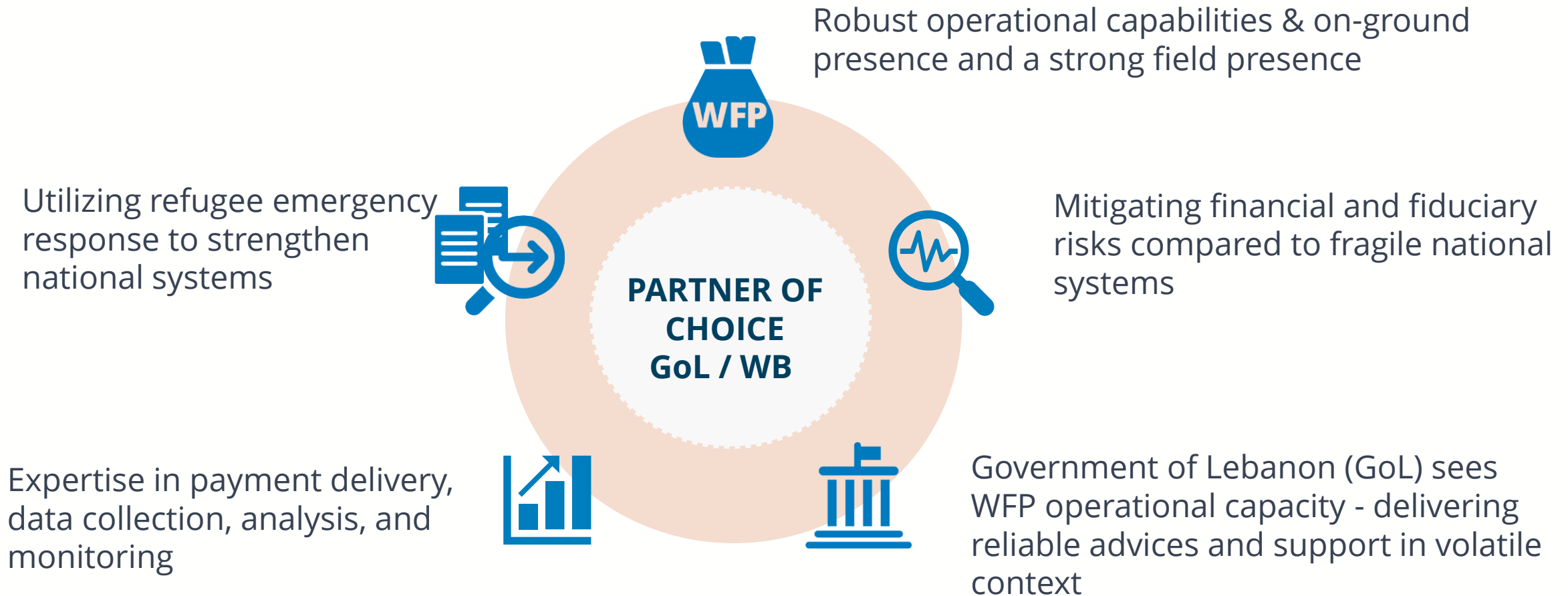
Political volatility - Care-taker Government

Collapse of public services

End of mandate Governor Central Bank

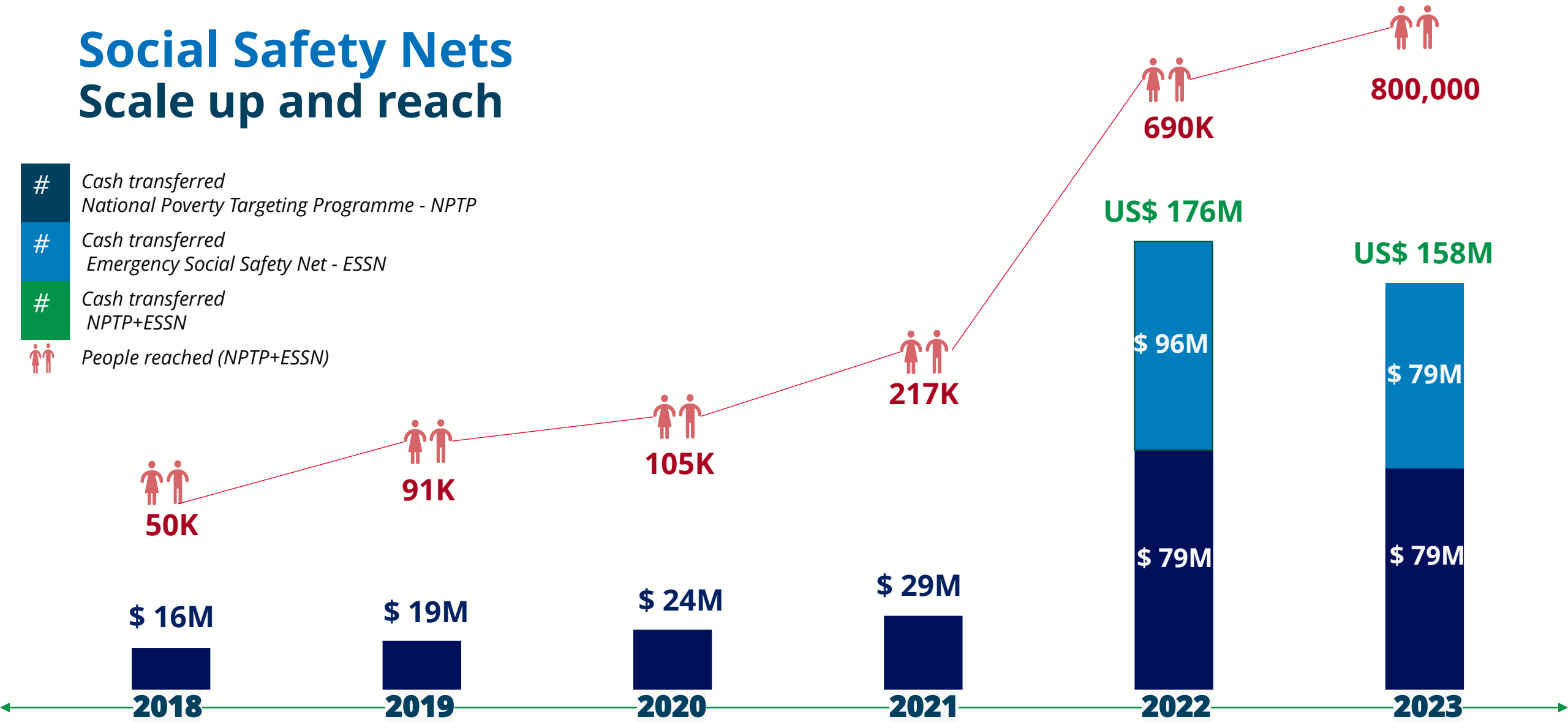


A Fragile Context Relevant to WFP & Social Assistance



Social Safety Nets Scale up and reach

- # Cash transferred
National Poverty Targeting Programme - NPTP
- # Cash transferred
Emergency Social Safety Net - ESSN
- # Cash transferred
NPTP+ESSN
- People reached (NPTP+ESSN)



*Start of financial crisis

*Banking system collapsed

*COVID 19

*Beirut Blast

*Removal of subsidies

*Ukraine war

* Presidential vacuum

* GoL caretaker

*LBP/USD spike



Towards Systems Building

Key Milestones

- NPTP milestones
- ESSN milestones
- Integrated SSN

▶ Launch of NPTP (2014)

NPTP scale up

✓ Building ESSN digital platform

▶ ESSN

✓ 93K HH reached

✓ 75K HH target reached

**WFP/UNW Gender Study*

▶ SSN Integration

✓ SSN data collection by GoL Social Workers

✓ SSN Due Diligence

▶ SSN retargeting/poverty lines

▶ SSN digital platform

2019 **2020** **2021** **2022** **2023** **2024**

*Start of financial crisis

*Banking system collapsed

*COVID 19
*Beirut Blast

*Removal of subsidies

*Ukraine war

*GoL caretaker

* Presidential vacuum



Complementary Approaches

WFP & World Bank technical assistance under the GoL lead - Highlights

	WFP (bottom-up)	World Bank (top-down)
CAPACITY BUILDING	Use of a pool of 700 civil servants	Staff support to GoL
SYSTEMS BUILDING	Grievance redress system & payment module	Social Registry & Beneficiary Data Management System
ASSESSMENT	Joint vulnerability assessment, targeting, impact studies	
DESIGN	Due-diligence study & merger of Lebanon's two main safety nets (integration)	
POLICY	New social protection policy	



US\$ 8.7 M to WFP (donors & World Bank)
US\$ 17.8 M to GoL from World Bank loan

MULTIYEAR FUNDING

Co-designing of Sustainable SSN Systems

Conditions of success of the unified safety net reform under GoL Lead

“**2024** should be the
year of integration”



GoL's stewardship & leadership



Partnership & coalition to support the SP/SSN reform
GOL, UN, Donors, WB



Maintain sufficient level of funding (Donors, GoL & IFIs)



Strong Technical Assistance portfolio



Territorial Strengthening

Social Inclusion of Migrants in Colombia



Departamento Nacional de Planeación - DNP



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Strategic vision for migrant inclusion



Departamento Nacional
de Planeación - DNP

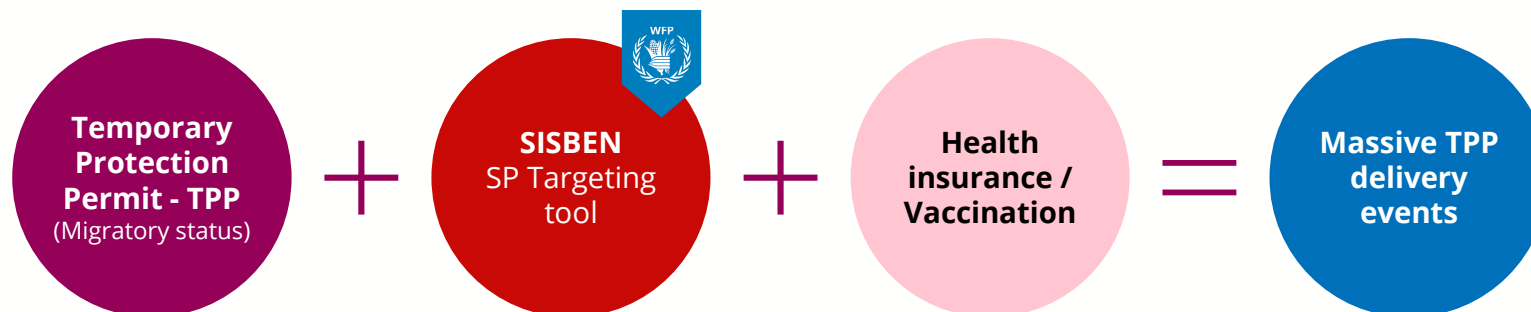


CONPES 3950 /2018 Attention Strategy for Migrants



Ley 2136 / 2021
Integral Migratory Policy

CONPES 4100 /2022
Migrant people Integration Strategy



- ✓ More **integration** into the Social Protection System.
- ✓ SISBEN institutional strengthening and appropriation of the operation.
- ✓ Interinstitutional and interagency coordination.

What we did - WFP walked the talk



Departamento Nacional de Planeación - DNP

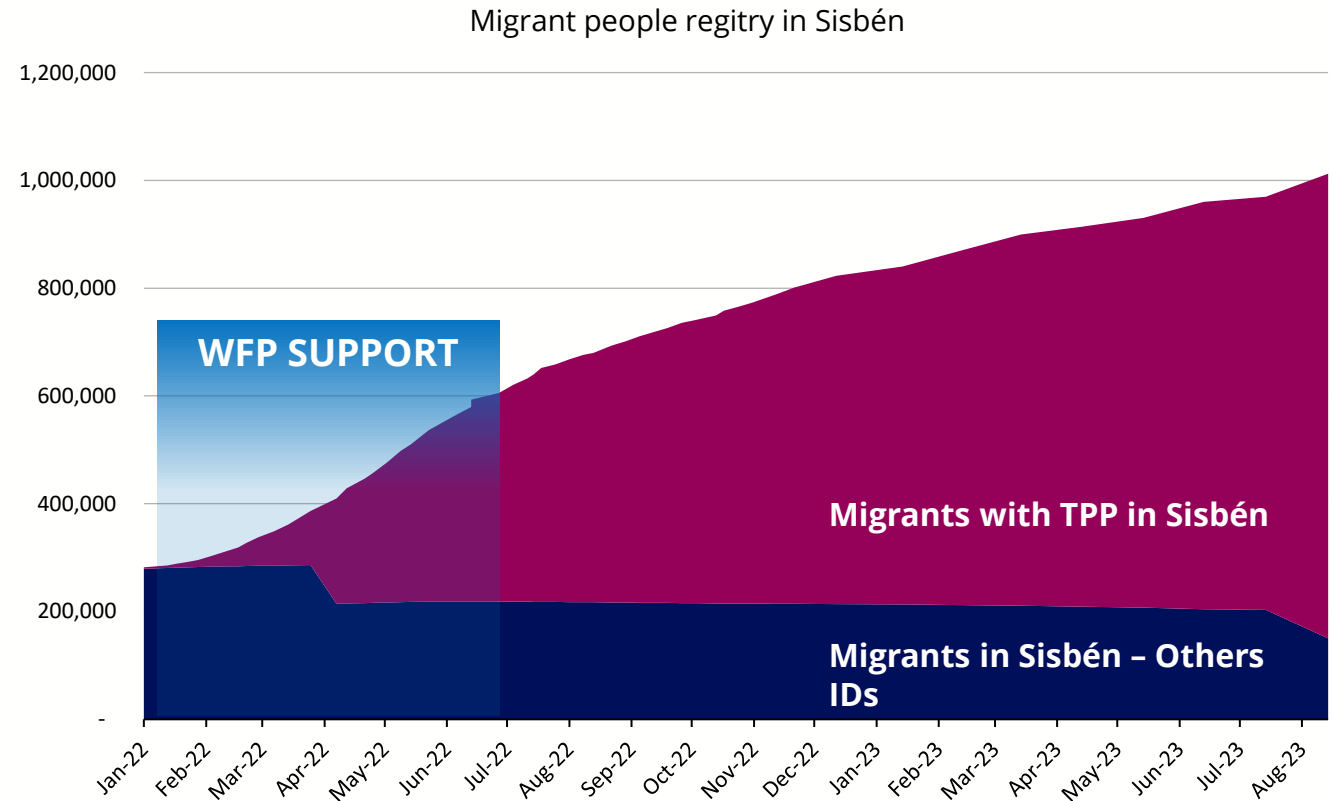


WFP extended local capacity to reach out to migrants – connecting people with the Social Protection System

37 cities/municipalities
721 people hired
562 electronic equipment
US \$2.7 million



More than 1 million migrants characterized in Sisbén



WFP: technical knowledge on how the system works - logistical capability – field presence – flexibility – adaptation to context

Strengthening capacity to accelerate the roll out of the Social Registry



Departamento Nacional
de Planeación - DNP



WFP provides technical and operational support to the Social Registry to make it more sensitive to Food Security and Nutrition, more inclusive and reactive to shocks

Phase I

Sisben I
Sisben II
Sisben III
Sisben IV

Quality improvement of
administrative records.

Phase II Interoperable Information Systems



Social household registry



Phase III Income Registry (2023 forward)



Universal income registry

Art 70 - Ley 2294/2023

Hybrid model with income and socioeconomic information from administrative data and self-declaration.

Challenges:

- Identify the quality of income data sources.
- Design mechanisms for declaration by households (e.g. single windows).

Integration of data/registries and its interoperability, efficient use of administrative records, and verification processes to self-declared information



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Supporting social protection innovation and scale-up in Bangladesh

Innovation in Bangladesh social protection programmes



The Context

One of the **fastest-growing economies** in South Asia

Poverty and malnutrition rates remain severe

Climate hazards are increasing in frequency and severity

Social protection is one of the **top priorities** to reduce poverty, achieve food and nutrition security, reduce vulnerability to climate change



WFP's support

Strengthens national capacities and systems to enable the **expansion of the Mother Child Benefit Program and Vulnerable Women Benefit** from **1.2 to 6 million women and children** by 2026 (CLTF)

Support to information systems, G2P innovations, self-registration, improved targeting mechanisms

Support to **shock responsive social protection & anticipatory action**





WFP's increasing relevance as a social protection partner

Iffath Sharif, World Bank

Marco Knowles, FAO



The way forward: Implementation of WFP's social protection strategy



WFP Summary of Evaluation Evidence on Social Protection - 2023



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Summary of Evaluation Evidence on Social Protection

Key features

Summaries of Evaluation Evidence (SEE) are a fully desk-based consolidation of recent evaluations around well-defined topics of interest, in a concise form.

- No recommendations and management response
- No EB submission

Approach

- ✓ Systematic data extraction, using an analytical framework
- ✓ Analysis against the analytical framework, calibrating findings to the strength of the evidence
- ✓ Evaluation quality threshold applied



Background



Demand

- ✓ Requested by WFP senior management via the Oversight and Policy Committee



Objectives

- ✓ To take stock of evaluation evidence on WFP's role and contribution to improved social protection
- ✓ Identify recurrent findings and generate insights to stimulate discussion on social protection programming across different contexts



Timing

- ✓ March – July 2023

Evidence base, coverage and limitations

Sample

- ✓ 44 Centralized and Decentralized Evaluations (2018-2023)
- ✓ 37 countries covered

Centralized Evaluation			Decentralized Evaluations			Total
CSP	Policy	Strategic	Activity	Thematic	Pilot	
26	2	3	9	3	1	44 31 CEs 13 DEs

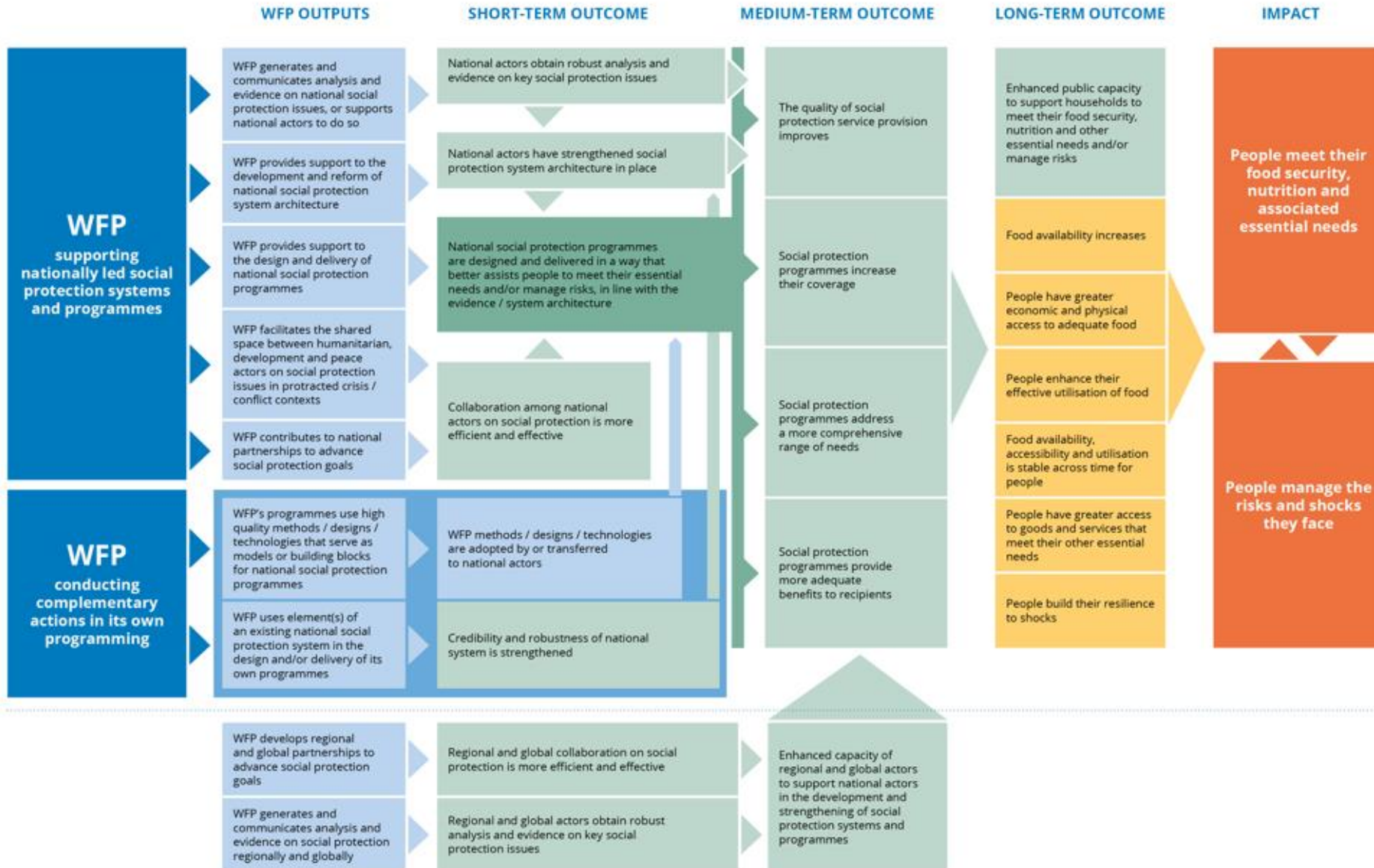
Coverage: evaluations covered the four areas of the Social Protection Strategy

Area of work	Evaluations
1. Strengthening the national social protection system architecture	29
2. Enhancements to the quantity and quality of national social protection programming	40
3. Improve the effectiveness of social protection in the shared space between humanitarian, development and peace actors	2
4. Build social protection partnerships and evidence globally	5

Limitations

- ✓ Summary does not capture the full range of WFP results in social protection
- ✓ Retrospective nature of the evidence may not reflect the most recent developments

Pathway to social protection impact



4: ENSURING SUCCESS
PLANNING, MONITORING, RESOURCING

Findings: What are the results of social protection programming by type of intervention?

Considerable evidence exists of positive social protection results generated by WFP, but these likely do not reflect the full totality of gains made

Short term

- National actors have strengthened SP system architecture in place
- National SP programmes designed & delivered to help people to meet their essential needs

Medium term

- Improved quality & coverage of SP service provision

Longer term

- People have greater access to adequate food, goods & services

Four additional SP achievements

- Supporting local economies
- Improved social cohesion
- Contributions to peacebuilding
- Improved agricultural production

Findings: What have been the effects of context on social protection implementation and results?

Context not a determining factor, but four main features influenced programming:

- Level 3 emergencies
- Development-focused environments
- Urban programming
- COVID-19, as a stimulus to expand engagement in SP



Findings: What are the strengths and comparative advantages identified in WFP's social protection programming?

Three main comparative advantages:

- analytical capability and use of evidence capacity;
- food security & nutrition experience/expertise;
- ability to engage across the triple nexus.

Five specific strengths:

- applying specialist technical expertise & experience
- enhancing capacities of local partners
- using South-South Linkages
- using partnerships as a springboard for wider engagement
- piloting/modelling



Findings: What are the common gaps and challenges identified re: social protection program?

Internal to WFP

- Defining capacity strengthening for SP & a strategic approach for the medium term
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Targeting
- Human resource capacities

External constraints

- National capacities & commitment
- Regulatory constraints

Partnership challenges with government or multilateral actors were also a major concern identified

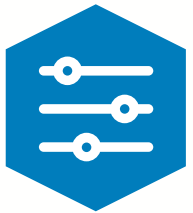
Four key lessons



Partnerships: clearer analysis of partnership needs, scope of engagement & most appropriate form of partnership



Link analysis with programmatic design & implementation including targeting; formulate clear strategic approach to the intersections



Improve the nexus lens: build a more developed & medium-term approach to social protection capacity strengthening, including capacity gap analysis



Test assumptions of the Social Protection Strategy including realistic assessment of Government engagement/commitment/capacity for handover ex-ante, & capacity strengthening requirements



Implementation of WFP's Social Protection Strategy



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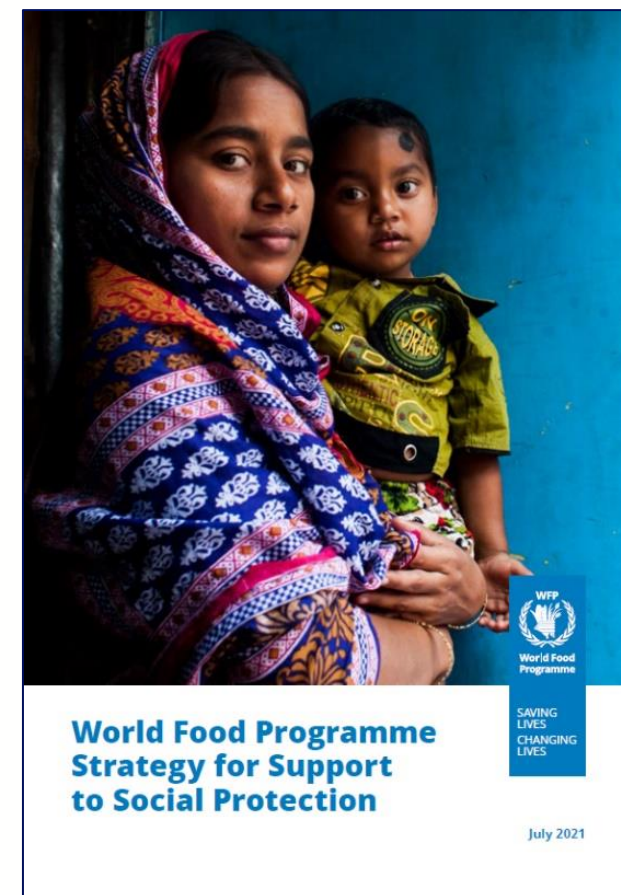
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A refresher on the strategy

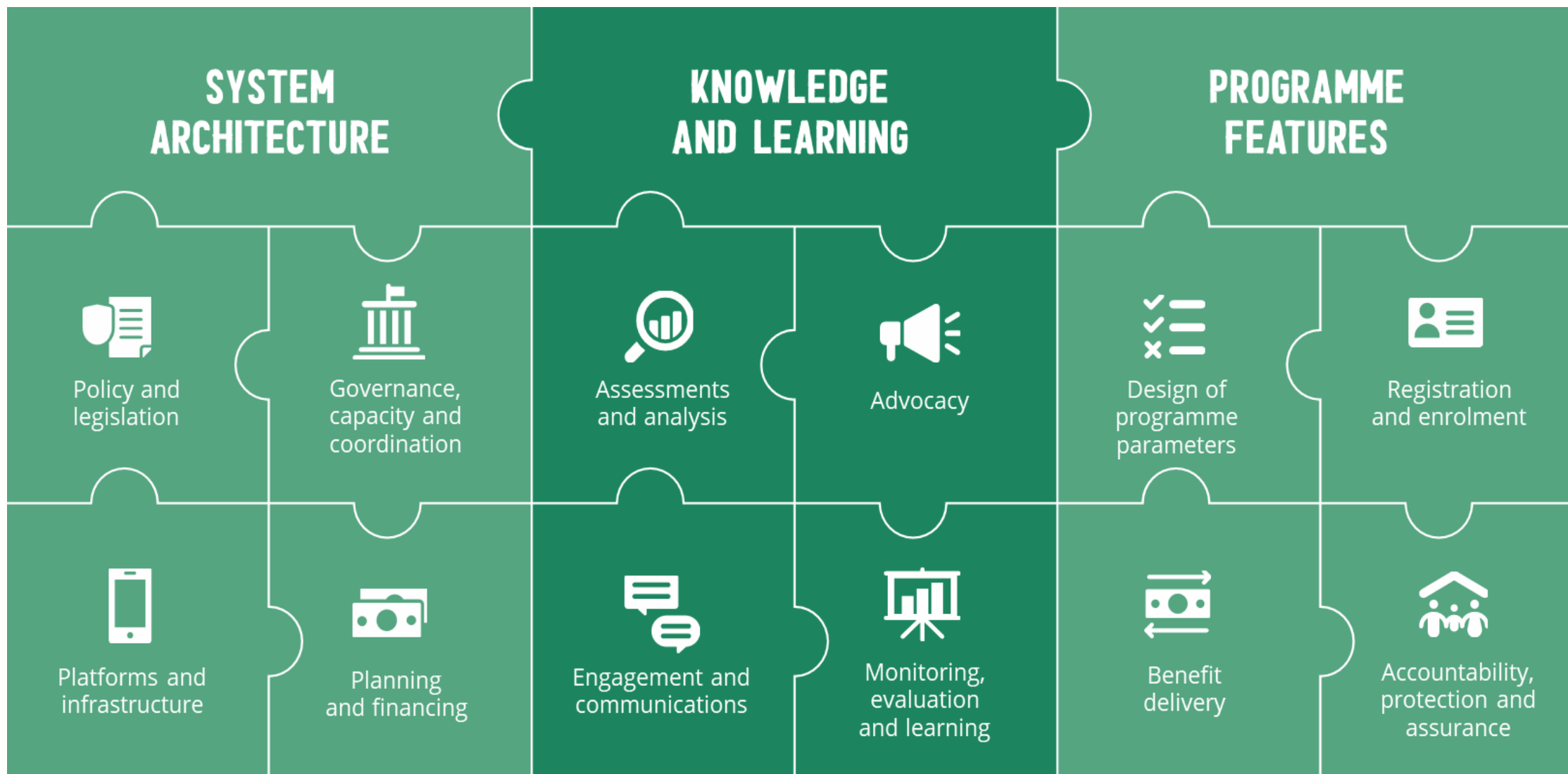
- ❑ Independent evaluation of WFP's 2012 Update to the Safety Nets Policy commissioned in 2018–19 concluded no need for new Policy update and recommended a social protection strategy
- ❑ Strategy was launched in **July 2021**
- ❑ Sets the **strategic direction** for all functional areas in WFP
- ❑ Integrated into **Corporate Strategic Plan 2022-25**

Two strategic priorities:

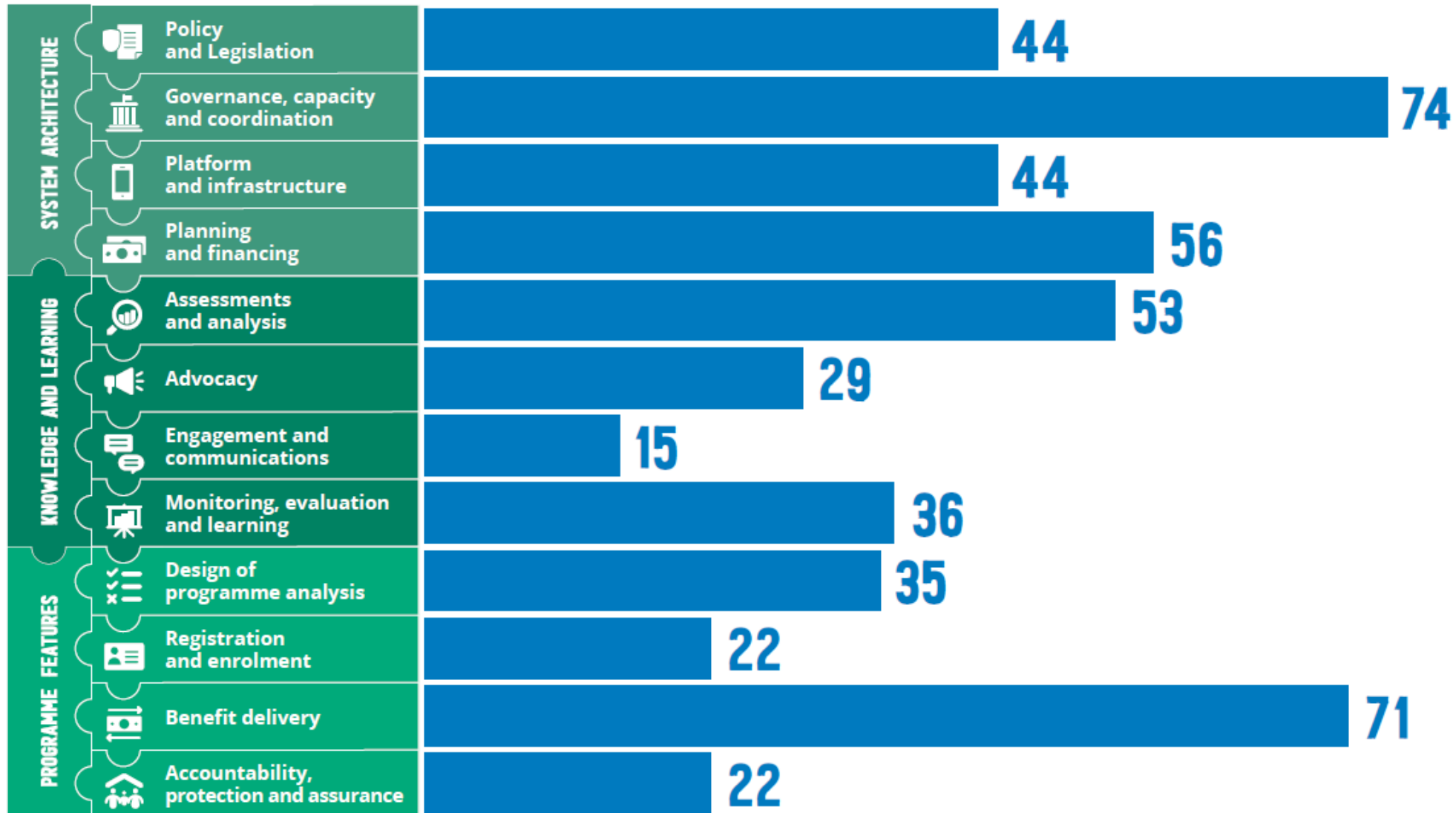
- Social protection that helps people to meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs
- Social protection that helps people to manage risks and shocks



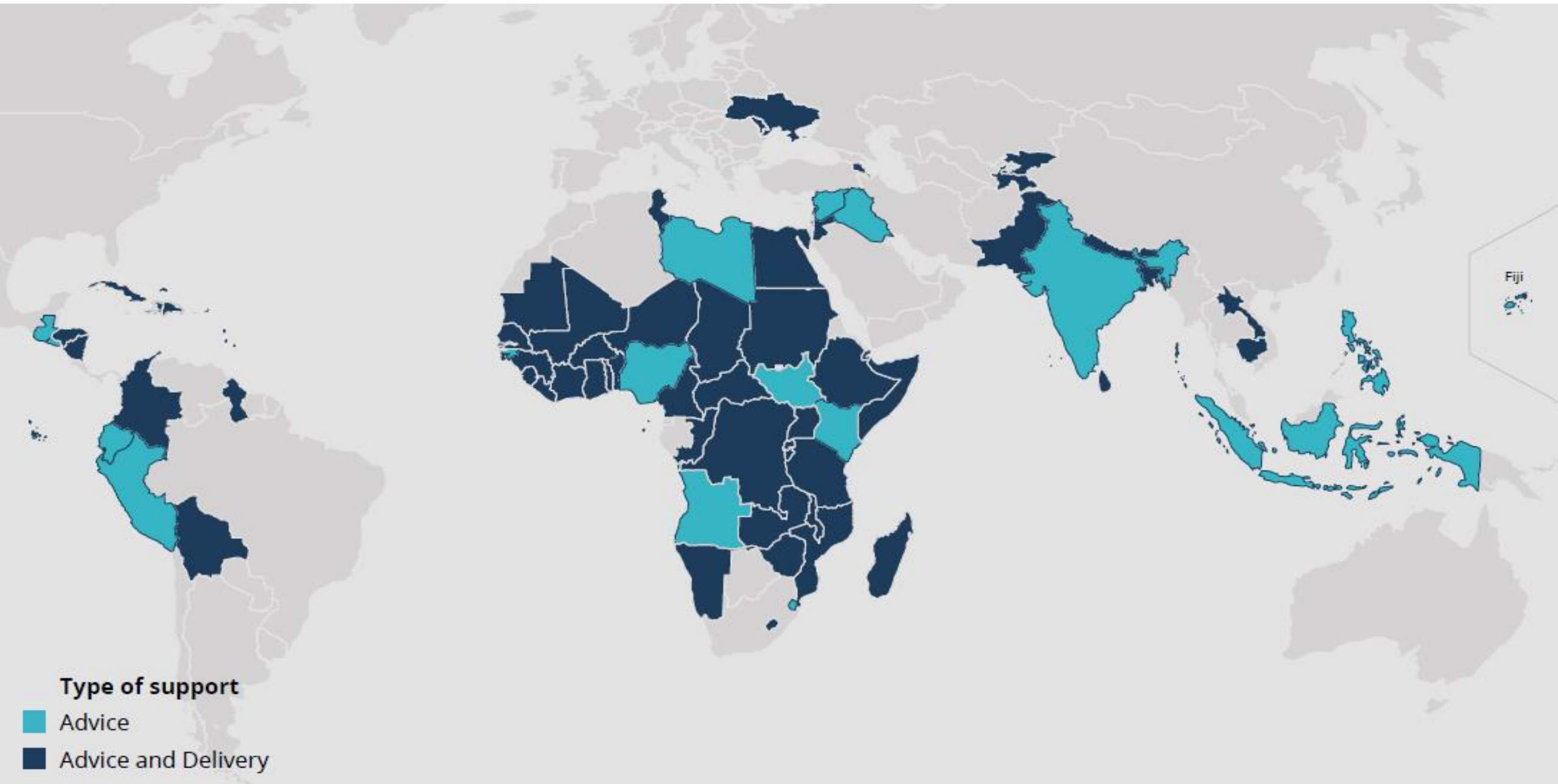
A strategy structured around 12 building blocks



Number of countries where WFP supported national social protection systems and programmes in 2022, by building blocks



88 countries supported in 2022 up from 78 in 2020



Implementation plan: aims and ambition

- ❑ The Implementation Plan (2023-25) emphasizes key aims:
 - **Empower national governments** to manage humanitarian responses through social protection
 - Deliver WFP's humanitarian assistance through **efficient and cost-effective** social protection programs
 - **Reduce humanitarian demand** on WFP by enabling households' ability to cope with shocks
 - **Prevent humanitarian needs** by supporting stability and social cohesion

- ❑ Current level of ambition of implementation plan reflects:
 - the **urgency** of the task, given the enormity of the humanitarian funding crisis
 - the **increased unmet demand** for WFP's support for national social protection
 - the **acknowledgement** of the time needed to build visibility, develop new funding streams, stimulate innovation and address administrative and management changes

The Implementation Plan makes **investments** in technical capacity, in management capacity, and in greater internal coherence at global and regional levels

The implementation workstream results across five workstreams

1 Workforce development

- **Meet** demand for social protection expertise by increasing staffing and enhancing **staff capacity**
- Specialized workforce increased in last two years

2 Partnerships and funding

- **Expand** strategic and funding partnerships through improved coordination and **innovation**
- Key player in global initiatives such as USP2030, SPIAC-B, Global Shield and Global Accelerator

3 Knowledge and learning

- **Establish** WFP as a **thought leader** in social protection
- Knowledge hub, research agenda, ROI studies, operational learning

4 Cross-functional support and coherence

- **Expand** social protection work at CO-level through **technical advice**, cross-functional support, and CSP integration
- Social protection in 88 countries in 2022 and integrated into 8 new CSPs in 2023 (out of 10).

5 Planning, M&E and reporting

- **Support** planning, quantitative and qualitative monitoring and reporting on social protection
- Tier 3 beneficiaries, expenditures, dashboard, evaluation