



WFP EVALUATION

Corporate Emergency Evaluation of WFP's emergency response to the prolonged crisis in the Sahel and other countries of Central Africa

28-29 October 2024 - Round table on evaluation reports



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Evaluation scope

- **Geographical coverage:** 8 countries in the Sahel and West Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria)
- **Timeframe:** 2018-2023
- **Thematic Focus:** The evaluation addresses WFP's capacity to anticipate, prepare for and respond to emergencies in the context of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.





REVIEW OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

(Past evaluations, mid-term reviews, operational research, other studies, etc...)

ANALYSIS OF WFP QUANTITATIVE DATA

(Monitoring, Financial, Partnerships; Risk Management; Staffing)



Online Survey

396 respondents



41% WFP



Semi-structured Interviews

606 informants

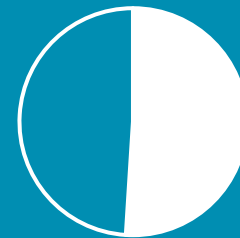


41% WFP



Focus Group Discussions

54 focus group discussions
666 people



51% women



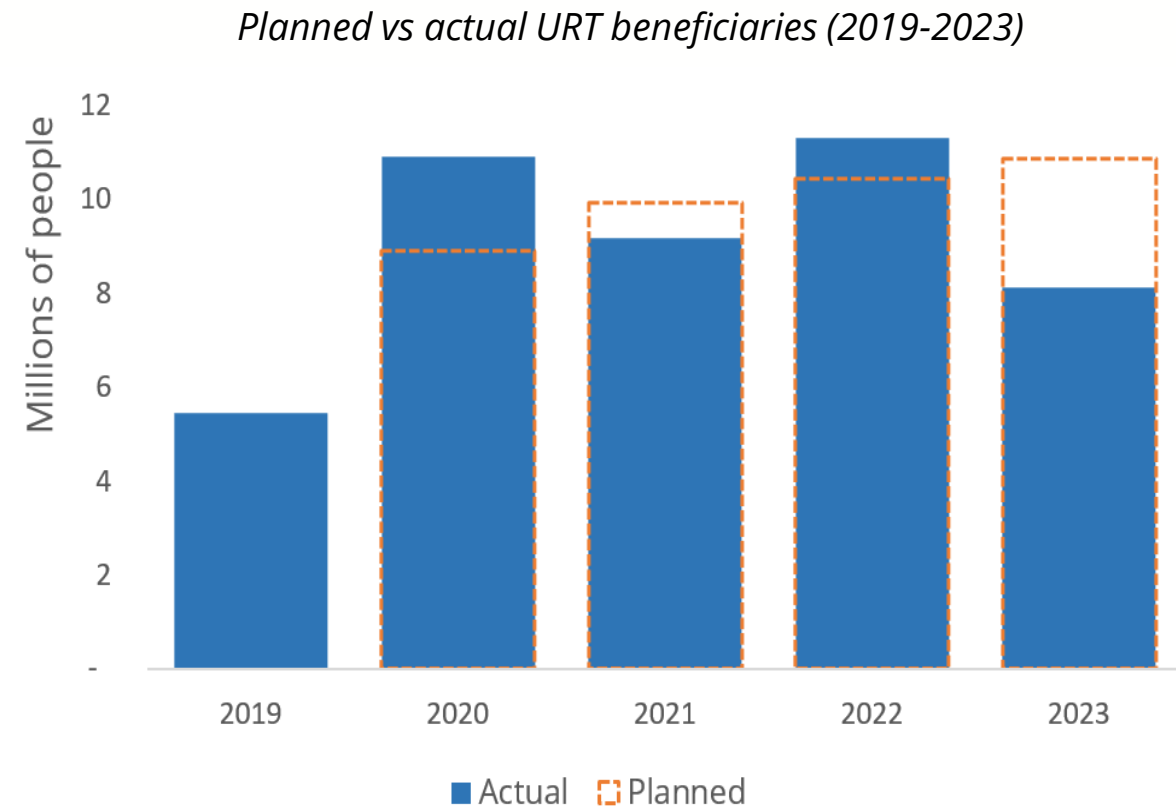
Two Virtual Round Tables

Regional Approaches

Nexus

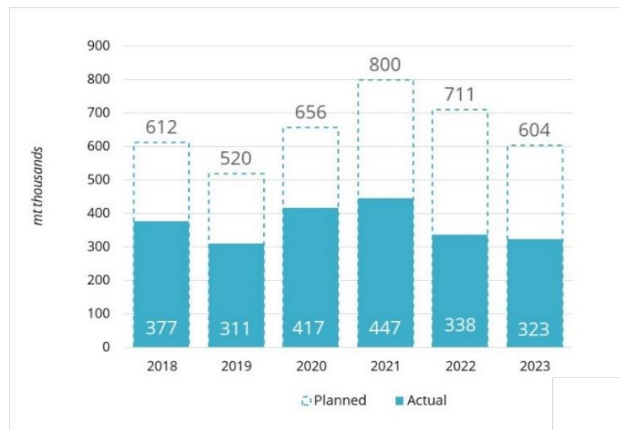
Conclusion 1: Strong and rapid support to affected populations while supporting local, national and international actors. Coverage levels sustained, but less food delivered. Effective support to the collective humanitarian response.

- WFP emergency response scaled up to address growing food insecurity.
- Beneficiary coverage targets met or exceeded until 2022 but declined in 2023.
- WFP diversified its support to national emergency preparedness and response capacity and social protection systems.
- WFP's role in support of the collective humanitarian response widely recognized.

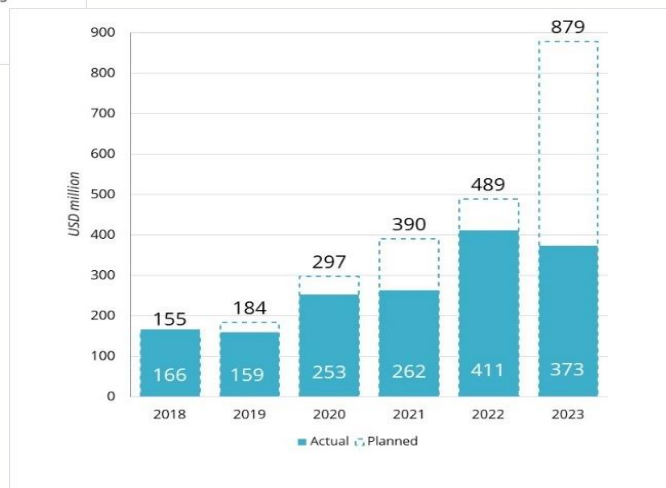


Conclusion 2: Effective implementation, but limited contributions to crisis-affected populations' food security. Difficult to support recovery and resilience of conflict-affected populations in challenging context.

Planned and actual food distributions in the eight countries (URT)

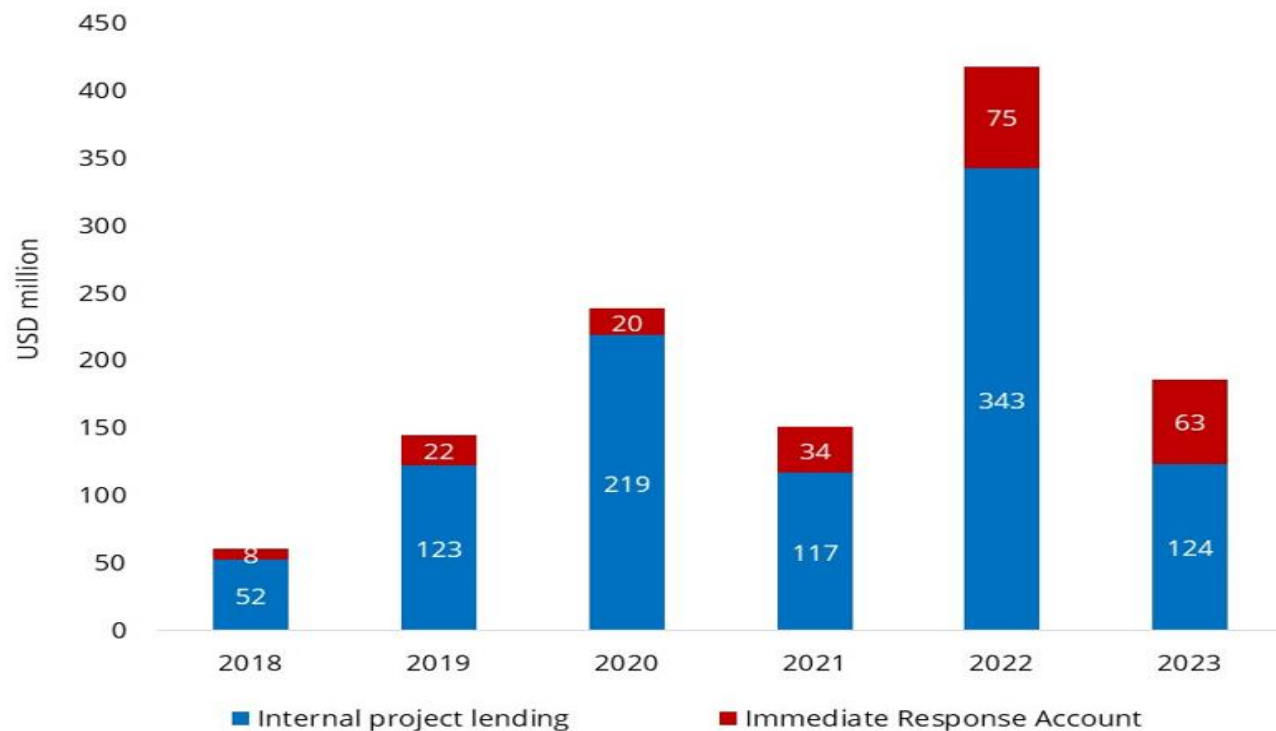


Planned and actual cash transfers in the eight countries (URT)



- Targets for food and cash distributions not met
- Variable progress for food and nutrition security indicators, due to ration cuts and the deterioration of the context
- Positive effects on food security and vulnerability levels in areas covered by the Sahel integrated resilience programme
- Scale-up of multi-year resilience support strategies undermined by volatile context, increased humanitarian needs, funding challenges & limited options to help build resilience

Conclusion 3: Demonstrated its ability to innovate and invest in systems supporting emergency response in increasingly complex environments



- WFP preparedness mechanisms were instrumental in supporting its capacity to respond:
 - Advance financing mechanisms
 - Food pre-positioning (GCMF)
 - Changing Lives Transformation Fund
 - SCOPE
 - Community Feedback Mechanisms
- Cash transfers were scaled-up, enabling WFP to become more agile

IPL and IRA annual allocations for the eight countries (2018–2023)

Conclusion 4: Effective access strategies in context of politicized humanitarian space, but humanitarian principles insufficiently guide decision making

- Diversified and successful access strategies drawing on WFP's legitimacy, local networks and logistical capacity
- Dilemmas on adherence to humanitarian principles: Balancing support with national systems in countries where governments are parties to the conflict
- More could be done to take stock of dilemmas, define WFP's positioning and promote collective thinking towards solutions

Conclusion 5: WFP added value to help expand its strategic partnerships highlighted

- Diversified partnerships with funding institutions and private sector
- WFP's emergency responses optimized through partnerships with other United Nations entities (e.g. UNHCR, UNICEF)
- WFP's role in supporting regional institutions widely recognized (food and nutrition security analysis)

Conclusion 6: Partnerships with local non-governmental organizations can still be maximized

- WFP's investments in strengthening national NGOs capacities are too focused on risk management and improving service delivery rather than supporting localization
- On inclusion and protection, WFP could draw more from the knowledge of partners directly involved with affected communities
- WFP's corporate partnership management systems and processes are not conducive to strengthening the autonomy of local organizations

Conclusion 7: Much data produced but insufficient knowledge to support nexus-related work or help anticipate crises

- WFP's inputs to the IPC/Cadre Harmonise process recognized as critical. Some partners would like WFP to share data more systematically
- Definition of criteria for targeting and prioritizing food assistance would benefit from intersectional analysis of vulnerabilities to food insecurity and more granular data at intra-household level

Conclusion 8: Progress on accountability to affected people, gender and protection, though wider diversity and inclusion issues insufficiently considered

- WFP strengthened its gender mainstreaming and protection and accountability to affected populations capacity
- Gender effects of emergency interventions are not sufficiently exploited and analyses on inclusion are embryonic
- Community feedback mechanisms were expanded but data collected can be used more systematically

Recommendations

1

In light of growing needs and funding shortfalls, strengthen the prioritization of the most acute needs in WFP's emergency responses. Refine the design and implementation of WFP's support to the recovery and resilience of conflict-affected populations

2

Promote a regional research agenda focusing on emergencies, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, anticipation, and an organizational culture of enhanced use of evidence

3

Strengthen WFP's capacity to uphold humanitarian principles in the region and continue its efforts in securing access

4

Promote partnerships and build on WFP's comparative advantages to strengthen WFP's approach to gender and inclusion, accountability to affected people, protection and social cohesion

5

Ensure that WFP's corporate partnership management processes are compatible with WFP's global commitments in terms of localization and include localization objectives in WFP regional strategies

6

Broaden the scope of WFP's support to regional institutions