



WFP EVALUATION

Corporate emergency evaluation of WFP's response to the Sudan regional crisis (2023–2025)

Round table of the WFP Executive Board (Part II) – 13 May 2026



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
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Context

Challenges WFP aimed to address:

- **Severe humanitarian crisis** – 30.4 million people in need of assistance in Sudan (Dec 2024)
- The **world's largest displacement crisis** – 11.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.3 million displaced to neighbouring countries
- **Unprecedented food insecurity levels** – 24.6 million people at IPC Phase 3 or higher in Sudan in 2025

Focus of the CSPs:

- **Sudan** – Shift from development-oriented goals to urgent crisis response
- **Neighbouring countries** – Integration of Sudanese refugees into existing country crisis response programmes



Summary of key insights



Insight 1: Strategic positioning

- WFP demonstrated **capacity to deliver large-scale humanitarian assistance to millions of people** in Sudan & neighbouring countries.
- WFP played **a critical role in leading clusters** & providing common services for the **humanitarian system**.
- WFP's **ability to deliver both life-saving emergency assistance & resilience-building activities** positioned it as a unique actor in Sudan.
- WFP is a **trusted source of evidence** to support its own operations & the broader humanitarian system.



Insight 2: Results

- **Mixed food security outcomes** – **Improved** dietary diversity scores, use of consumption-based coping strategies **declined**, food consumption scores in Sudan **declined** significantly, particularly for women.
- **Mixed nutrition outcomes** – **Zero** moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) mortality rates, MAM recovery rates **declined** & **higher** MAM default rates.
- **Reduced school dropouts** where schools reopened.



Insight 3: Efficiency of the response in Sudan

- **WFP's supply chain preparedness in Sudan** – initially limited & reactive, resulting in delays in scaling up the response to the crisis.
- WFP did **not always provide timely delivery** of in-kind assistance – **constrained by** access, security, logistical & weather-related challenges.
- The **cost-efficient delivery** of WFP's assistance hampered by high transport costs and reliance on long supply routes.
- WFP Sudan Country Office had an **unclear risk appetite** – constrained agile decision-making resulting in delay in the delivery of assistance.



Insight 4: Adherence to humanitarian principles in Sudan

- **Access to non-Sudanese Armed Forces-controlled areas** where needs were highest was **limited** by the recognition of the SAF-led Transitional Sovereignty Council.
- **Early** emergency response efforts **prioritized more accessible locations** – challenging the principle of impartiality.
- **Operationalization of principled action** in the Sudan emergency response was **fragmented and inconsistent**.



Insight 5: Coherence of the scale-up of the regional emergency response

- The **regional corporate scale-up** increased resource mobilization efforts for the countries that it covered but it **left other countries unsupported**.
- The response was **managed primarily as a series of country office responses** with varying degrees of regional & global support and reporting expectations.
- Overall, the **regional dimension of the crisis did not receive sufficient corporate attention**.



Insight 6: Scale-back & transition

- **Too early to scale back emergency assistance** across Sudan given the ongoing conflict & worsening food insecurity.
- **In more stable areas, there is scope to plan & implement transition and resilience activities** – funding shortages continue to drive overall scale-back decisions.
- The **lack of sustained funding** has driven discussions on **prioritization & potential scale-back** in neighbouring countries.

Recommendations

1

Enhance WFP's understanding of the effects of the Sudan crisis & its **agility to prepare for and respond to the ongoing emergency** as well as other large-scale emergencies.

2

Strengthen the way in which **WFP manages the inherent dilemmas** of delivering a **principled humanitarian response** in the Sudan context.

3

Strengthen **approaches to protection, conflict sensitivity, inclusivity & AAP** within WFP's response to the emergency.

4

Reform approaches & systems to enable more meaningful **localization** of WFP's assistance in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

5

Adapt **programming & planning** for **scale-down and a shift** towards durable solutions and resilience.