Knowledge management
A pillar of WFP’s Zero Hunger Strategy

Overview
Within the framework of WFP Niger’s vision to reinforce its focus and positioning on capacity development and partnerships, moving beyond WFP’s role as implementer, knowledge management became a key feature to accompany WFP’s paradigm shift. In fact, this orientation is based on the recognition that knowledge is essential, not only to improve the performance of WFP, but also to support the development and scale up of national hunger solutions.

It is within this framework that WFP Niger decided to put knowledge management at the centre of its strategy. A knowledge management unit was created end of 2015 and WFP developed a knowledge management strategy articulated around three pillars.

Pillar 1: Strengthening knowledge internally
The first dimension relates to internal knowledge management to ensure getting the right knowledge, in the right place, at the right time to improve evidence building, efficiency and effectiveness of WFP Niger’s policies and programmes and strengthen capacity of its staff. The vision is to promote a culture of learning and innovation. In 2016, it thus involved trainings and information management and sharing, but also capitalization exercises including lessons learned and best practices publications, amongst others, on certain innovations such as local purchases from smallholder farmers or breaking the intergenerational malnutrition cycle by targeting adolescent girls.

Pillar 2: Knowledge sharing and capitalisation
The second dimension is knowledge management with the external actors, namely Government, other agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors with the objectives of capitalizing results obtained by the resilience community, and sharing WFP’s experience, lessons learned and good practices and learning from other partners. It includes participation in knowledge management platforms and initiatives, like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Sahel Resilience
Learning (SAREL) project or the Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) network. Within this pillar, WFP also ensures joint coordinated approaches, between joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)/WFP capitalization and training exercises carried out in 2016 to relay the success and good practices from the field. It led to the identification of four best practices of this joint FAO/IFAD/WFP collaboration which will be captured in practice notes at the beginning of 2017. Furthermore, partnerships with academic, research and technical institutions, such as the Réseau National des Chambres d’Agriculture du Niger (RECA) in the domain of land rehabilitation technique to improve quality of assets created through food assistance for assets (FFA), and with the Laboratoire d’Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL) to conduct social-anthropological studies, allow WFP to further develop the knowledge and bring opportunities to identify good practices to be scaled up and replicated.

**Pillar 3: Capacity development and transfer to national counterpart**

Lastly, seeking replicable and scalable models which can be transferred to the Government by testing WFP’s approach and models, ensuring the strengthening of national systems and capacities in order to develop a progressive exit strategy is the third dimension. This leads to government-owned sustainable hunger solutions in the long-term. WFP put special attention on conceiving its programmes in a way to not only implement but also promote learning and capacity development by capitalizing on WFP’s experience to develop scalable efficient and effective models. In 2016, local purchases from smallholder farmers constituted an important area of support, not only in terms of policy but also capitalizing on WFP’s Standard Operating Procedures to support the development of Government procedures.

To facilitate the knowledge sharing component, WFP also invested in making the knowledge available in a light and accessible format, by launching its “knowledge series”, composed of 4 pagers summarising key policy issues, capitalization exercises and analyses and surveys.

**Overview of WFP’s information and knowledge products**

- **Summary of policy and strategy documents** – 4 Pagers
- **Summary of capitalisation exercises – 4 pagers**
- **Site Briefs– 2 pagers**
- **Technical sheets**
- **Summary of studies and surveys - 4 pager**

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