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World Food
Programme

China

Annual Country Report 2017

Country Strategic Plan

March 2017 - December 2021

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Foreword by the Country Director

In 2017, the WFP China experienced a ground-breaking transformation. With the WFP Executive Board's approval of the China Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in February, WFP China successfully completed the transition from a liaison office to a WFP country office with three unique pillars now representing its expanded mandate: Domestic Programming, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and Resource Mobilization. Through the CSP implementation and the ratification of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of China in 2016, the strategic partnership between WFP and China has been unprecedentedly reinforced in many aspects. We believe that a strong partnership will significantly benefit both WFP and China in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Global Partnerships).

With the past year focused on building and reinforcing partnerships between WFP, the Government of China and the private sector, significant financial, technical and strategic opportunities have come to fruition. These partnerships were further strengthened when WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley met with senior Chinese government officials and Chinese private sector executives for the first time.

In addition to its domestic work aimed at supporting China with its national objective to eliminate poverty by 2020, WFP also supported China's global engagement on the topics of food security and nutrition. China's experience is often cited as an exceptional example of a developing country that has succeeded in increasing food productivity and availability, improving access to food, and ensuring stability of food supplies. WFP China is successfully leveraging these experiences through its newly established Centre of Excellence (COE), engaging in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. A series of policy dialogues, workshops and trainings throughout 2017 received very positive feedback from the participants.

In addition to functioning as a traditional WFP Country Office and COE, WFP continues its resource mobilization role in China, helping connect the wealth of resources and expertise of the Chinese Government and the private sector.

The Government of China's efforts to address global hunger through contributions to WFP increased four-fold, from USD 18.5 million in 2016 to USD 73.6 million in 2017. With this increase, China is now among the top 10 government donors to WFP. These funds are being used to provide food assistance through WFP in more than 19 countries globally.

With an increased focus on partnership with the Chinese private sector, resource mobilization also hits an all-time high in 2017 to USD 6.8 million, compared to USD 1.1 million in 2016. Enhanced cooperation with the Chinese private sector resulted not only in increased funding from WFP's existing partners, Hainan Airlines (HNA) Group, Mastercard and DSM China, but also in new collaborations with Chinese internet giants Alibaba and Tencent. This includes an innovative pilot project with Alibaba to facilitate online sales of kiwi fruit for poor kiwi farmers in central China. Engaging with the Chinese public through online fundraising is also on the rise, through Tencent's charity platform, as well as a 'shop-for-a-cause' initiative, piloted in November 2017 with Alibaba's AliExpress.com, with all proceeds from a 24-hour online shopping spree from participating retailers going to WFP.

The CSP development and the groundwork laid in 2017 represent not only a revitalized engagement between WFP and the Chinese government, private sector and civil society; they also speak to reaching a critical juncture in leveraging China's experience in global hunger-related

issues. We believe that the groundwork laid in 2017 provides a solid foundation to allow much more achievement in the years to come.

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WFP China
Representative/Country Director

Executive summary

Throughout the year, WFP China's focus on planning and coordination has paved the way for new and multifaceted engagements and partnership building. Partnership is fundamental for embarking upon the work across all three pillars of WFP China: it builds the foundation for government dialogue, bridges the knowledge and technical knowhow to other developing countries, and enables mobilization of resources for domestic programmes, the Centre of Excellence (COE) and WFP's operations globally. WFP China has been able to pursue the five strategic outcomes of the CSP across the three strategic pillars of the office thanks to the generous contributions of the Chinese Government and the private sector.

Pillar One: The design of domestic programmes in China is oriented with the national priorities outlined in China's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), which sets the goal to eliminate absolute poverty and substantially reduce relative poverty in China by 2020. Through innovative and small-scaled poverty alleviation pilot projects in China, WFP China is working closely with the Chinese Government to help eliminate the last pockets of food insecurity. Two projects were formulated in consultation with the Government at the national and local level including a smallholder farmer value chain pilot project in Anhui Province and a pre-school nutrition improvement project, which will be operationalized in Hunan Province at the beginning of 2018.

Pillar Two: South-South Cooperation has become a critical tool to boost international dialogue and cooperation towards the realization of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. WFP China's new Centre of Excellence (COE) for Rural Transformation is actively engaging in South-South Cooperation by sharing China's rich experience in food security, nutrition improvement and poverty reduction. Based on extensive demand-driven consultation with relevant stakeholders, WFP China and the Ministry of Agriculture have identified four thematic areas to be pursued: 1) Value chain development and market access for small-holder farmers; 2) Supply chain strengthening including post-harvest loss management and storage systems; 3) Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience; and 4) Implementation of national zero hunger and nutrition strategies. A total of 38 project proposals from 25 countries were collected which reflected the South-South Cooperation demands for China's support. Following the proposal submissions, a South-South Cooperation Needs Analysis Report was developed to serve as a planning tool for the work of the COE in 2018 and beyond. Tailored to the demands from various countries, extensive activities were designed and implemented in 2017 at policy and institutional level through policy dialogue, workshops and field visits with 51 participants from 16 countries in Asia and Africa. The Demonstration in Africa by African's (DAA) initiative, a new programme designed by WFP China for pragmatic, grass-roots development initiatives were substantially developed. Discussions and exchanges on the concretization of DAA projects between WFP China and relevant stakeholders in Asian and African countries are underway. Moreover, as an integral

part of the CSP, partnership building under the South-South Cooperation framework has been enormously enhanced in a progressive way.

Pillar Three: WFP China continued its function as a resource mobilization partner with the Chinese government and the private sector. Intensified strategic partnerships greatly contributed to the progress made in achieving strategic outcomes, with resource mobilization from both the Government and the private sector hitting record highs in 2017.

The Government's contribution to WFP increased four-fold from 2016 to 2017 from USD 18.5 to USD 73.6 million. The contribution will be used to provide food assistance through WFP offices in more than 19 countries globally. From the private sector, a contribution of USD 5 million was received from Hainan Airlines (HNA) Group for WFP's response to the Syria crisis. Increased support from MasterCard China, as well as ramped-up online fundraising were also noted on the Tencent and Alibaba platforms. Increased high-level exchanges between WFP and the Government, including a new Memorandum of Understanding on the Junior Professional Officer programme, highlight the importance of a deepened mutual understanding and enhanced partnership to achieve zero hunger.

Snapshot of Key Achievements in 2017					
	Events/Missions/Forums	Partnership/Agreement/MoU		Resources Mobilized	
	Description	Output	Description	Output	Description
Pillar One	1) Government delegation to Brazil Centre of Excellence; 2) China Students Nutrition Improvement Conference			USD 168,000	WFP Contingency Evaluation Fund
Pillar Two	1) Symposium on Demand-driven South-South Cooperation; 2) The 3rd Investing in Africa Forum; 3) Side Event at COP231; 4) Two Events at 2017 GSSD2 Expo; 5) Thematic Seminar on DAA3; 6) South-South Cooperation mission from Cambodia; 7) Seminar on Smallholders' Resilience; 8) Training Workshop on Post-Harvest Treatment and Storage Management.	1	MoU with China-Africa Development Fund		
Pillar Three	1) 7 high-level meetings between WFP and the Government of China; 2) A mission from HQ procurement; and a donor visit to WFP	7	1) 5 agreements on contributions to other countries from China's Ministry of Commerce; 2) 1 agreement with Ministry of Agriculture 3) 1 agreement on Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme	USD 73.6 million	Record-high contribution from the Government of China to more than 19 countries
	Royal DSM Bright Experience Event	5	Partnerships with Alibaba, HNA Group, AliExpress, MasterCard and Royal DSM	USD 6.8 million	Fund raised from HNA Group, Public donations through Tencent Platform, MasterCard, RS Group AliExpress, and Royal DSM

¹ The 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change

² Global South-South Development Expo

³ Demonstration in Africa by Africans

Introduction

Country context and response of the government

Over the past decades, China has experienced rapid and substantial economic transformation, while making remarkable progress in poverty reduction and social development. Its per capita gross domestic product in 2017 was estimated to be USD 8,481, ranking 74th in the world.⁴ The Chinese economy expanded at a rate of 6.9 percent in 2017, above the government target of 6.5 percent. Its economic growth rate for the year 2018 is forecasted to be around 6.8 percent. China is now the second largest economy in the world.

China achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) before the end date of 2015, and lifted 471 million people out of extreme poverty between 1990 and 2005, thus making a huge impact on achieving MDG Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) globally. The reduction rate of poverty has progressed even more rapidly between 2015 and 2017 at over 10 million people per year from 55.75 to 30.46 million.⁵ China's vision is a Xiaokang (well-off) society in an all-around way by 2020, meaning that the Government will endeavour to improve people's livelihoods, overcome a low and middle-income trap and build a resource-saving and environmentally friendly society.

Despite this progress, China faces challenges in reducing residual poverty, inequality and malnutrition which are mainly caused by geographical disparities in investments, limited redistribution effects of macroeconomic policies and varying coverage rates in social protection schemes. There are still approximately 30 million people in China living below the official national rural poverty line of CNY 2300/year at the end of 2017 (equivalent to USD 363) 45.73 percent of whom are women located in remote areas with limited opportunities for productive activities and access to markets.⁶ China's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) sets the goal to eliminate absolute poverty and substantially reduce relative poverty in China by 2020, through poverty reduction programmes, including developing specialized industries, relocating the poorest farmers and implementing a more inclusive social protection policy.

In 2017, China's Agricultural Supply-side Structural Reform formed the basis for agricultural and rural development. It called for improving the structures of the agricultural industry, promoting environmentally friendly production, extending the industry's industrial and value chain, boosting innovation, consolidating shared rural development and enhancing rural reforms. This was highlighted in the "No 1 Central Document", the first policy statement released by the central authorities in 2017 and considered an indicator of policy priorities.

The WFP-China Joint Strategic Review has identified the triple burden of malnutrition China currently faces – undernourishment (or hunger), hidden hunger and obesity/overweight. It has also highlighted that much of the population suffering from undernourishment and hidden hunger live in poor regions of China and is disproportionately concentrated among vulnerable groups such as children, rural households headed by single women (due to male migration), and the elderly.

Child malnutrition rates in China exhibit significant demographic disparities. Undernutrition among children under 5 remains high in rural areas, especially in poor rural areas. While stunting

⁴ International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook, April-2017

⁵ 2017 China's National Economic and Social Development Statistics Yearbook

⁶ 2017 China's National Economic and Social Development Statistics Yearbook

rates for children under 5 are 4.3 percent in urban areas, they reach 18.7 percent in poor rural areas – 19.5 percent among boys and 17.6 percent among girls.⁷ China's Food and Nutrition Development Plan (2014-2020) sets the stunting reduction targets among children under 5 to less than 7 percent and anaemia reduction targets to less than 12 percent by 2020. The Government's current Nutrition Package programme is targeting babies aged 6 months to 24 months in China, while the National Student Nutrition Improvement Programme is targeting children aged 6-15 in rural areas. Despite this plan, there is no institutional programme in China targeting children aged 3-5 year, and no lead ministry or agency responsible for this group of children. The policy gap allows WFP to pilot the preschool nutrition improvement project in the selected poverty counties in Hunan Province with severe malnutrition prevalence. The National Child Development Plan for Poverty-Stricken Areas (2014-2020) aims to reach 40 million rural children in 680 counties, prioritizing early intervention to increase child survival and promoting healthy child development from birth to the completion of compulsory education. The goal is to bring child development in the targeted counties in line with national averages.

In comparison with international gender inequality rates, China scores relatively well. In 2015, China ranked 37th on the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Inequality Index (GII) among 188 countries. Great progress has been achieved in the promotion of gender equality and women's development in China over the past two decades. At the same time, as a developing country with the world's largest population, China is restricted by its limited level of unbalanced economic and social development, gender inequalities persist.

The Survey on the Status of Chinese Women shows that the average income of employed rural women relative to that of employed men declined from 79 percent in 1990 to 56 percent in 2010. This decline is due to the migration of male laborers to cities leaving women behind in rural areas with limited sources of income and economic independence. Therefore, women constitute a large proportion of labour in rural areas. According to the China Gender Equality and Women's Development White Paper, in rural areas women's labour accounted for approximately 70 percent of the agricultural labour force. Women shoulder the double responsibilities of farm labour and taking care of the families, elderly people and children, facing more burdens than their male counterparts. Women constitute 38.5 percent of civil servants, yet only 8 percent of women are heading ministries.

Despite these ongoing challenges, the development experience that China has gained over the years is of great relevance to other countries. China's profile in the international development fora is rising, and it is already playing a bigger role in the international arena while increasing its engagement in multilateralism. The newly launched 'Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)' is serving as a platform for economic growth and enhanced regional/global cooperation, and as an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With an emphasis on infrastructure construction in the BRI-selected countries, linkages with WFP's logistics capacities are being explored.

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) unveiled its latest strategy called the "Xin Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" to build a great modern socialist country, which was amended to the Party Constitution. This new era aims to achieve rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, meaning that China will be built into a moderately prosperous society by 2020 and a great, modern, socialist country by 2050. While making progress towards the new era, China will also make a greater contribution to mankind, including facilitating world peace and prosperity.

⁷ China National Citizens' Nutrition and Health Status Monitoring Report 2010-2013.

WFP's objectives and strategic coordination

WFP's strategic objectives and work in China correspond to the three pillars of the WFP-China Memorandum of Understanding and China's national priorities and plans for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Global Partnerships). Under pillar one, the domestic efforts in zero hunger will support the capacities of local government while providing lessons and experience for the Centre of Excellence (COE). The COE is facilitating China's support to other developing countries to address their food security challenges through the South-South Cooperation platform. The efforts to enhance food security and nutrition in China and select developing countries are supported by increased private sector resources and forming public-private partnerships. Capacity strengthening constitutes the cornerstone of all the Strategic Outcomes outlined in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and their related activities. WFP's support to SDG 2 and SDG 17 in China is centred on demonstrating best practices of poverty reduction with the aim of government replication.

As the first year of the CSP and the first year WFP China has resumed country office operations, considerable efforts have been exerted in 2017 to build strategic partnership and generate awareness of WFP with the Chinese public. The launch of the CSP in March earlier this year, and the continuous dialogue with the Government both at central and local levels, reinforced the understanding and trust towards WFP and the Integrated Roadmap (IRM) approach, building a solid foundation for future cooperation.

Extensive engagement with new partners has progressed through mutual visits, including the first official visit of WFP's Executive Director to Beijing in November and the visit of WFP's Deputy Executive Director to participate in the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in May. Senior delegation visits from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and State Administration of Grain to WFP headquarters, as well as the Chinese Government delegation's visit to the WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence also added to a strengthened mutual understanding and provided opportunities for potential strategic partnership with the respective government counterparts to leverage more expertise, resources and technical support to WFP's domestic and global operations.

A strategic partnership agreement between WFP and the China-Africa Development Fund was signed in September 2017 to strengthen South-South Cooperation for food security and nutrition. A proposal for USD 30 million was received from WFP's Executive Director to the Government of China for investment in a China-WFP South-South Cooperation Trust Fund for a five-year period. This collaboration will support China in playing a more important role in addressing global hunger and poverty.

Highly encouraged by the Government, WFP China has been an active player in forging strengthened collaboration amongst the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) at country level. WFP and FAO initiated the UN Theme Group on Agriculture and Food Security within the framework of the United Nations Country Team, paving the way for inter-agency collaboration and synergy. The development of an RBA+ Action Plan further broadens the collaboration to other UN agencies including the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (CSAM) and international development partners. Through open and inclusive knowledge sharing, the agencies are making efforts to work in synergy, and identify gaps and overlaps. Four theme group meetings were held in 2017 covering different thematic topics. The RBA collaboration mechanism is especially supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and has been escalated to a government-led forum with biannual meetings.

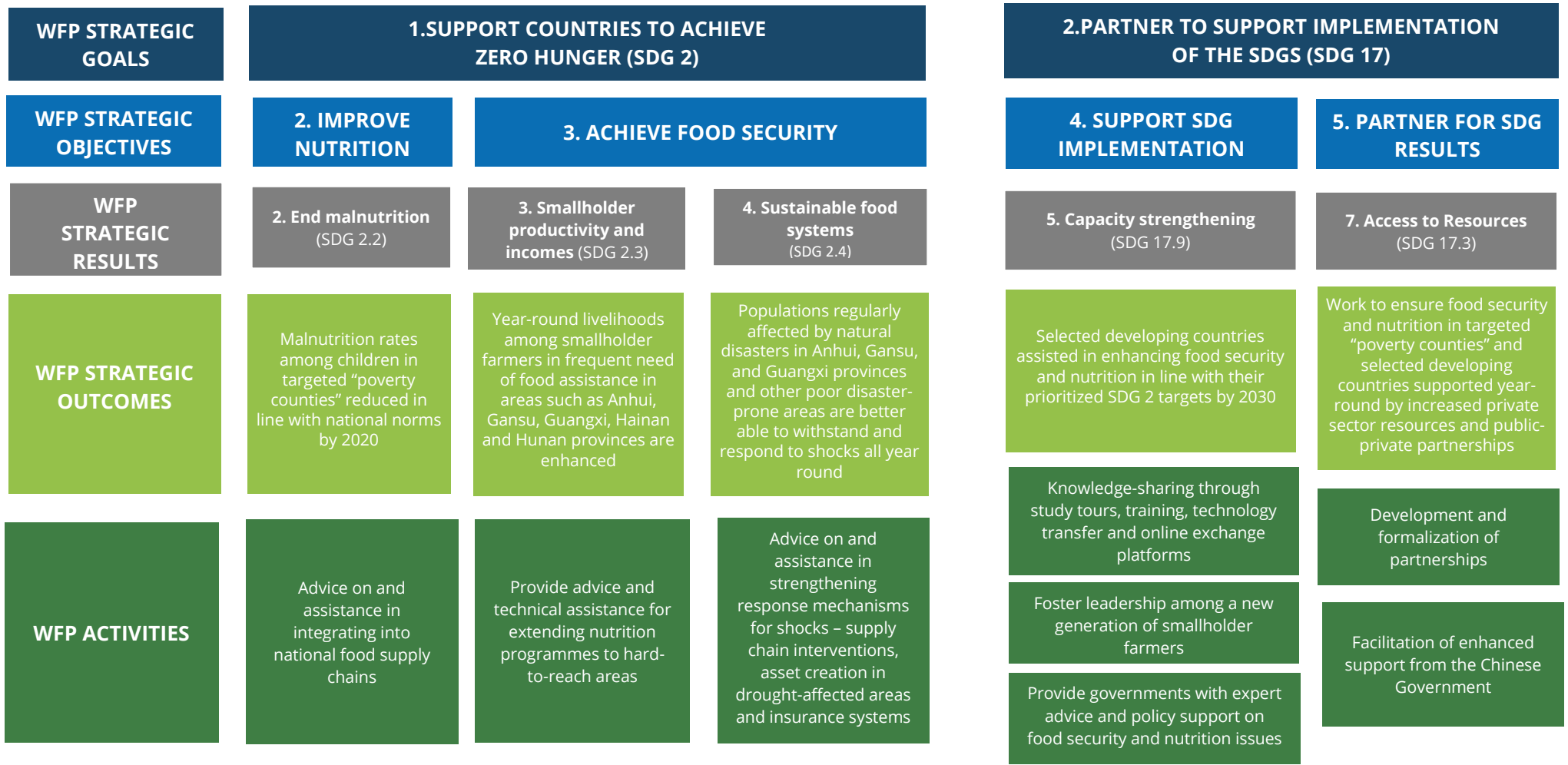
The WFP China COE plays an important role of broker between the Chinese Government and host governments to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation to advance progress towards

zero hunger. A series of South-South Cooperation activities with the aim of country capacity strengthening were conducted throughout the year with progressive results to be captured in the years to come.

Under pillar three, efforts have been undertaken to improve engagements with foundations, the private sector, and the public. Following a partnership in May 2011 with the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, which enabled WFP to raise funds from the public and private sectors, the work has since been expanded to other non-governmental organizations (NGOs): The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) for general fundraising activities benefiting school feeding, and the China Children and Teenagers' Fund (CCTF) benefiting Mother and Children Health programmes. Partnering with local NGOs enables WFP to undertake fundraising activities in China in line with China's Charity Law.

WFP China's main partners in the private sector include: HNA Group, Tencent Foundation, MasterCard, DSM China and River Star Group. With the launch of the new CSP in 2017, WFP China is expanding the partnership with current partners, while engaging with additional companies for fundraising and technical collaboration for programmes inside and outside China. An innovative public-private partnership with Alibaba is a testimony of the power of information and communication technology for improving smallholder farmers market access. Tencent and HNA Group's financial contribution provided WFP with more resources to fight against hunger globally.

Enhanced advocacy to raise WFP's brand awareness is pivotal to catalyse fundraising activities in China. The implementation of the CSP requires more concerted efforts in improving the general public's awareness of WFP's new initiatives in China. Efforts are underway to also emphasize WFP's unique value proposition in China as a solution provider, a source of technical assistance, an important implementer of China aid, and as an organization with strong working relationships with key players in the public, private, and government sectors. The office launched its communications strategy in November 2017 with the main objective of enhancing WFP's visibility as perceived by key targeted audiences and by broadening private, governmental, and non-governmental partnerships to facilitate operations and resource mobilization.



WFP's response

Based on the priorities identified with the Government, WFP's Response is in line with the new structure and functions of the WFP country office, following the three pillars of Domestic Programming, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and Resource Mobilization.

Domestic Pilot Activities. The domestic capacity strengthening activities will be implemented through small-scale innovative pilot projects as demonstration and experiments that will provide evidence-based lessons and experience for further scale-up and government take up.

WFP will support China in reaching the last pockets of poverty in the country. In the targeted provinces of Hunan and Anhui, the design, planning and formulation of two pilot projects for selected in-need populations was completed in 2017, with implementation to begin in 2018.

Under the first pilot project, WFP will support the local government to implement a preschool nutrition improvement project, extending China's existing student nutrition programme to preschool children in 8 townships of 2 counties in Hunan Province. Advice and technical assistance will be provided to the Government to enable reaching children in hard-to-reach areas. Hunan province was chosen to lead the pilot as it has both persisting areas of poverty, as well as local government capacity for collaboration.

Activity components include the provision of necessary kitchen facilities, nutrition education and an awareness campaign. A home-grown school meals modality will be introduced in the project by organizing local smallholder farmers to produce fresh foods for the school meals. Innovative tools will be used to monitor the performance of the school meals programme. Through internet and big data, the initiative can monitor and analyse the implementation of the project and its effects on the nutritional status of children and programme performance, and propose advice for policy and implementation improvements. The initiative essentially works as a real-time, online platform for monitoring, performance, research, and accountability. The targeting of farmers attaches great importance to the households headed by single women in the rural community. Priority will be given to these women so they become empowered to gain income sources by providing vegetables to the kindergartens. These women will also gain the additional benefit of gaining the choice to spend more time close to home, allowing additional care to children's growth and healthy development.

The second pilot project involves providing advice and technical assistance to the Government to facilitate the integration of smallholder farmers into the commercial value chain through inclusive aggregation of kiwi fruit farmers. Jinzhai County in Anhui Province, with its variety of kiwi fruits, was jointly identified by WFP China and Alibaba to pilot the smallholder value chain project.

There are 460 targeted poverty households in Jinzhai with total population of 1,098, of which 425 are women, 158 are children and the rest men. Of the 460 households, WFP will provide seed money to 150 of the poorest identified households, of which a considerable portion are women, to build kiwi orchards and strengthen the farm cooperative to forge a pro-poor value chain. WFP will cooperate with Alibaba to enhance market access through a modern e-commerce platform. An innovative traceability system will be introduced to the project to track and trace the growth life of the kiwi fruits which will improve market access for kiwi farmers. An e-commerce platform will be utilized along with a traceability system to help smallholder farmers integrate into the value chain and improve their livelihoods.

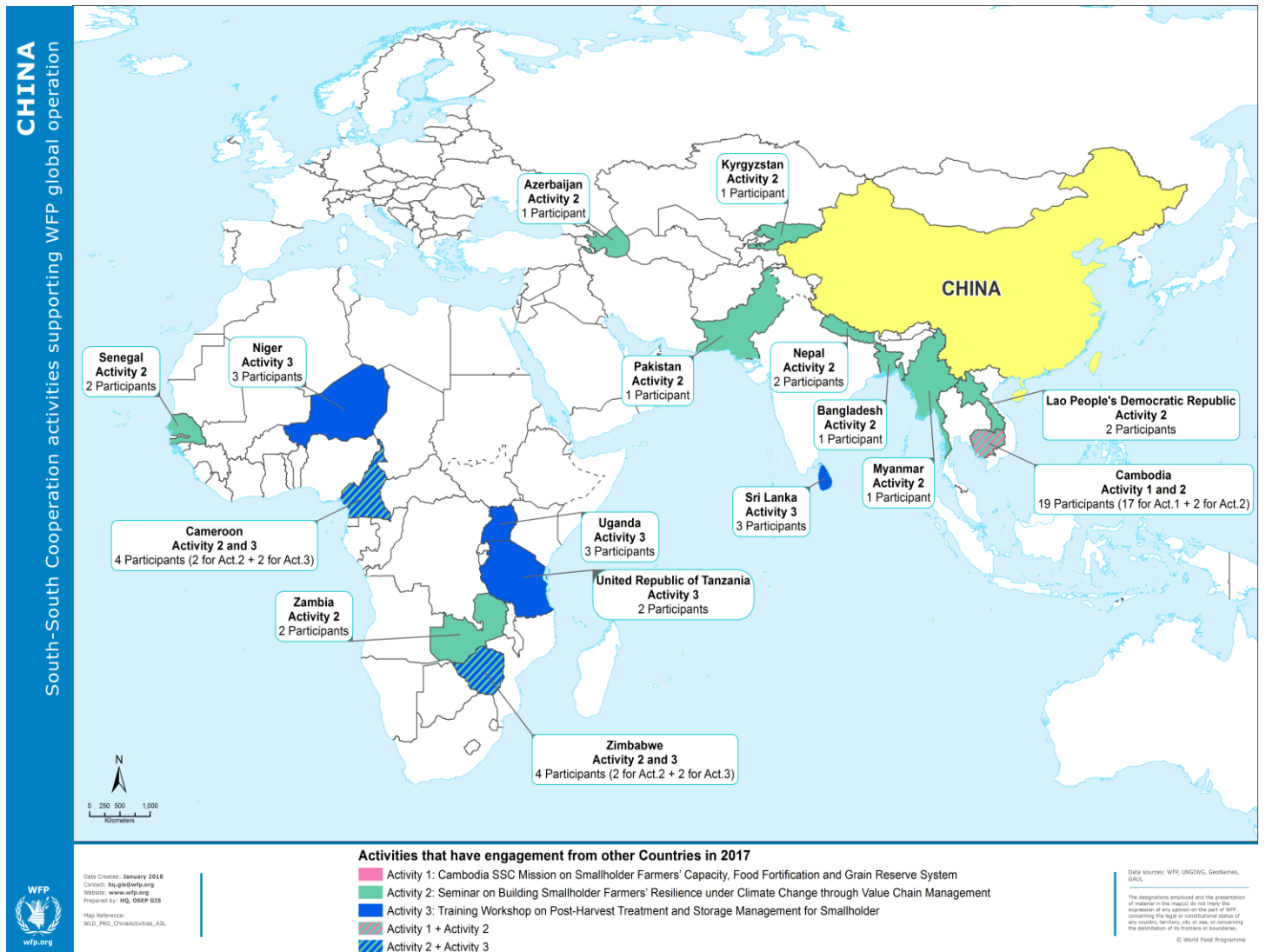
Strategies developed for South-South Cooperation. The Symposium on Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation, convened in Beijing on 11-12 May 2017, laid the foundation to ensure WFP

China's South-South Cooperation initiatives are driven by the demand of developing countries. WFP China identified four thematic areas and three levels of modalities for South-South Cooperation, recognized by countries at the Symposium. More than 120 participants from WFP headquarter, 3 Regional Bureaus and 25 Country Offices, as well as the Chinese government institutions, the private sector, academia and United Nations (UN) agencies joined a fruitful discussion during the two-day event.

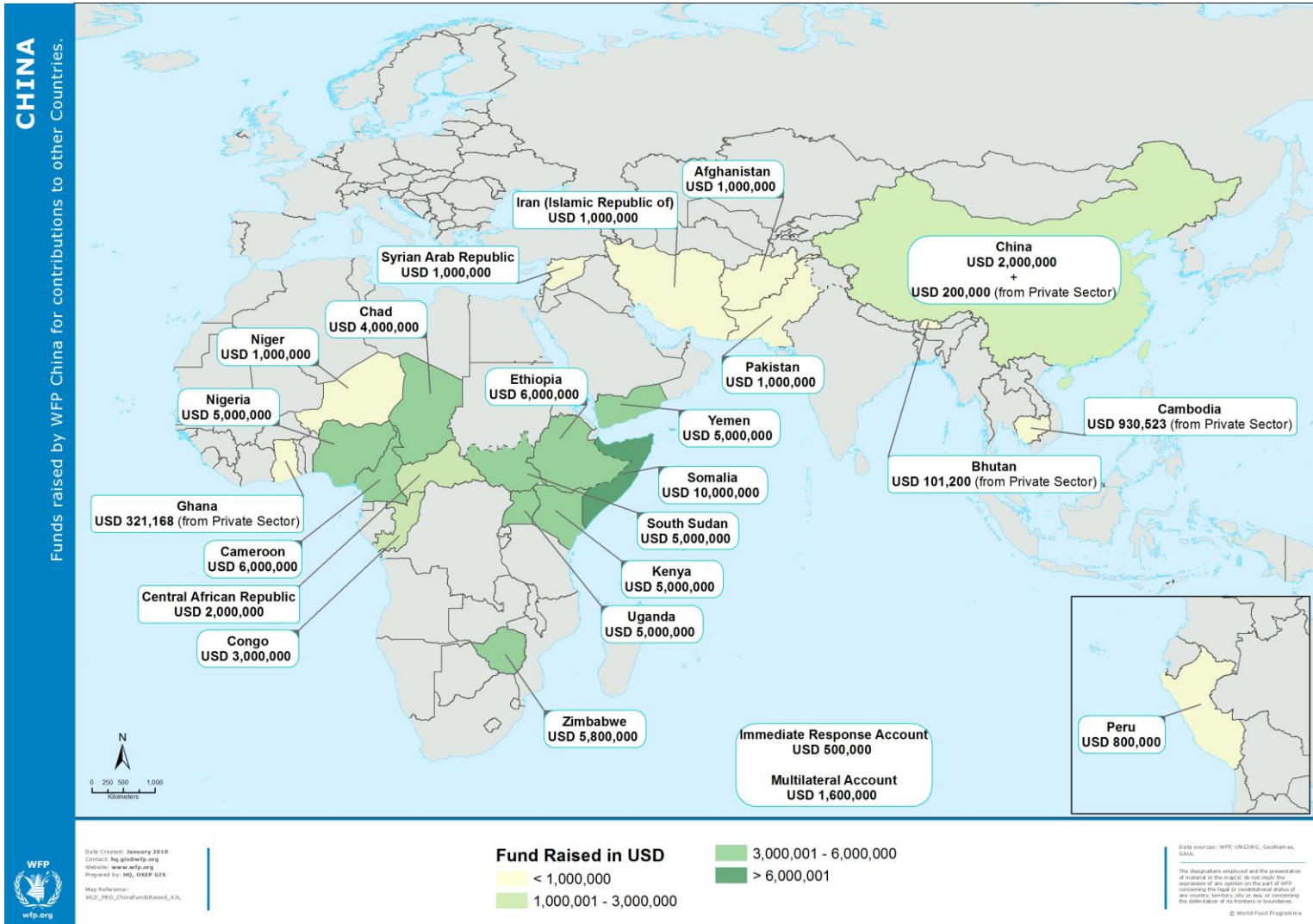
Based on the outcomes of Symposium, WFP China has synergized its South-South Cooperation strategy with relevant government institutions and other UN agencies. South-South Cooperation strategies were advocated further through participation and facilitation in other fora, including the 2017 Global South-South Development EXPO, the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 7th Meeting of BRICS Minister of Agriculture and the BRICS Agricultural Cooperation Forum. Under the South-South Cooperation framework, partnership building with potential collaborators including the China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), China State Administration of Grain (SAG), and private sector corporations was also undertaken.

WFP's coverage is also reflected in the South-South Cooperation activities that reach and affect other countries outside of China. To pursue a Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation, in 2017, WFP China successfully organized 5 South-South Cooperation activities of policy dialogue, capacity building and technical study tours relating to the four thematic areas, involving 51 participants representing government institutions, academia and relevant agencies from 16 countries in Africa and Asia. Furthermore, 38 proposals for future projects for the COE were submitted by 25 countries around the world.

The below map shows the global South-South Cooperation engagement:



Resource Mobilization. The fundraising activities conducted within WFP China from both the Chinese Government and the private sector contribute resources to other countries, (in many cases based on recipient countries' emergency needs). The below map shows where China is concentrating its resources:



Resources for results

Prior to the formulation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and the newly formed WFP China Country Office with its triple mandates, WFP's presence in China has been a liaison office for resource mobilization over the past 10 years. To date, the government donors to WFP from China are the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture. While the resource mobilization function continues under pillar three of the country office, WFP's engagement with China has dramatically shifted to introduce the two new pillars--domestic programmes and the Centre of Excellence (COE) for South-South Cooperation. These two new pillars have greatly facilitated new sources of funding, while enabling the development of innovative partnerships with the Government, the private sector, and the Chinese public. In 2017, from both the public and private sector, a record of USD 80.4 million was mobilized for China to support WFP's operations globally and for China's domestic programmes.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and the Government of China stipulates the Government's commitment to providing no less than USD 1.5 million/year to the CSP; these funds are prioritized for South-South Cooperation and partnership activities (pillars two and three). Under the domestic programmes (pillar one), WFP aims to secure funding from the Chinese private sector, for which the Government provides matching funds.

Total resources raised in 2017 for the implementation of the CSP amounted to USD 4.5 million, with the Government contributing over half that amount (USD 2.3 million, or 58 percent) and effectively nearly doubling their minimum yearly commitment under the MoU. The USD 4.5 million also includes USD 1.89 million from the resource transfer of a former trust fund, transferred to the CSP in early 2017. Some of these resources were programmed in 2017 and played a critical role for the kick-off of the CSP implementation. The remaining funds were confirmed in December 2017 and included a private contribution earmarked to pre-school nutrition from Mastercard. While the USD 4.5 million raised exceeds the 2017 approved needs-based budget of USD 3.7 million, a large proportion of the funds were received in late 2017 and hence delayed the implementation of the domestic projects. However, given that the funds are multi-year and the Government funds are un-earmarked, as part of its strategic planning, WFP has allocated funds to each year of the CSP, allowing for flexibility and ensuring continuity of programmes. As CSP activities 1, 2, and 6 shift from planning to implementation in 2018, nutritional and capacity outcomes will be measured along with programme outputs. For Activities 4 and 5, efforts are already underway to develop meaningful indicators for tracking the long-term impacts of policy and technical engagements.

Since the start of the CSP, WFP China has shifted its fundraising strategy, focusing on enhancing WFP's profile and public awareness in China with the aim to raise funds for the new domestic pilot projects in addition to WFP's global operations. Through increased efforts in engaging Chinese corporations, advocating through a newly formed communication strategy, and online fundraising through Tencent and AliExpress, WFP was successful in increasing Chinese private sector contributions to WFP globally, from USD 1.2 million in 2016 to USD 6.8 million in 2017.

Under the resource mobilization function (pillar three) of WFP China, WFP raised a record USD 73.6 million in 2017 from the Government, an increase of USD 55 million compared to 2016. Two factors have contributed to this record-high contribution from the Government: 1) The strategic transformation of the China Office in 2016 has achieved the desired outcome of strengthening WFP's relevance to China and thereby effectively paved the way for mobilizing more resources from China; 2) The innovative resourcing strategy of WFP using China's cash donations to procure food from China for WFP's global operations was rolled out in 2017, opening the door for increased

funding from China and enabling WFP to receive more multilateral funding from China than any other UN organization. Despite the record levels of funding received from China in 2017, much of the funds are directed to WFP's global operations outside of China. Therefore, activities under pillar one and two of the WFP China CSP still face funding challenges. However, considering the drastic increase in funds received in 2017 and enhanced advocacy and engagement with new partners, WFP China is well positioned to continue its fundraising momentum in 2018.

China CSP Financial Overview 2017

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Approved Plan	Allocated Contribution	Expenditures	Balance of Contribution
2	Malnutrition rates among children in targeted "poverty counties" reduced in line with national norms by 2020	Provide advice and technical assistance for extending nutrition programmes to hard-to-reach areas.	376,630	357,916	69,002	288,914
Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			376,630	357,916	69,002	288,914
3	Year-round livelihoods among smallholder farmers in frequent need of food assistance in areas such as Anhui, Gansu, Guangxi, Hainan and Hunan provinces are enhanced	Advice on and assistance in integrating into national food supply chains	376,630	127,375	23,560	103,815
Subtotal Strategic Result 3. Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition (SDG Target 2.3)			376,630	127,375	23,560	103,815
4	Populations regularly affected by natural disasters in Anhui, Gansu, and Guangxi provinces and other poor disaster-prone areas are better able to withstand and respond to shocks all year round	Advice on and assistance in strengthening response mechanisms for shocks – supply chain interventions, asset creation in drought-affected areas and insurance systems	377,389	25,000	21,404	3,596
Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)			377,389	25,000	21,404	3,596
5	Selected developing countries assisted in enhancing food security and nutrition in line with their prioritized SDG 2 targets by 2030	Foster leadership among a new generation of smallholder farmers	353,882	46,165	41,126	5,038
		Knowledge-sharing through study tours, training, technology transfer and online exchange platforms	730,555	396,157	249,345	146,813
		Provide governments with expert advice and policy support on food security and nutrition issues	179,796	223,854	193,798	30,056
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			1,264,232	666,176	484,268	181,907
7	Work to ensure food security and nutrition in targeted "poverty counties" and selected developing countries supported year-round by increased private sector resources and public-private partnerships	Development and formalization of partnerships	121,689	179,343	179,343	0
		Facilitation of enhanced support from the Chinese Government	29,652	137,854	137,854	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 7. Developing countries access a range of financial resources for development investment (SDG Target 17.3)			151,341	317,197	317,197	0
		Non specific activity	0	2,219,954	0	2,219,954
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	2,219,954	0	2,219,954
Subtotal Direct Activity Costs			2,546,222	3,713,618	915,431	2,798,187
Adjusted DSC			906,209	465,072	424,614	40,458
Total Direct Operational Cost			3,452,431	4,178,690	1,340,045	2,838,645
ISC			241,670	287,619	287,619	0
Grand Total			3,694,101	4,466,308	1,627,663	2,838,645



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Approved Budget	3,694,101	4,893,804	6,743,339	6,850,396	6,954,775
Allocated Contribution	1,896,458	2,569,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Actual Expense	1,627,663	0	0	0	0

Programme performance

Pillar One: Domestic programmes

This pillar focuses on WFP's effort to support the Chinese Government's national poverty alleviation programme and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including eradicating hunger and extreme poverty. Identified areas of work include nutrition improvement, smallholder farmer's livelihood support, and resilience building.

Strategic Outcome 1 – Children living in targeted “poverty counties” have malnutrition rates reduced in line with national norms by 2020

Strategic Result 2 – No one suffers from malnutrition

Activity 1: Provide advice and technical assistance for extending nutrition programmes to hard-to-reach areas.

The Government's current Nutrition Package programme targets babies aged 6 months to 24 months in China and the National Student Nutrition Improvement Programme targets children aged 6-15 in rural areas. However, there is a gap for nutritional programmes targeting children aged 3-5. Furthermore, the institutional setup for the kindergartens for children aged 3-5 is very complex, including state-run, private-run and other modalities which causes difficulties in rolling out a nation-wide programme. In view of the gap identified for 3-5-year-olds, WFP China commenced a technical consultation that brought together the national academia and research institutes to identify WFP's entry point, while providing science justification for the intervention. The consultation reaffirmed the current gap in food and nutrition assistance for 3-5-year olds and noted that school meals was a good platform for reaching this group.

WFP China also conducted field visits to two of prioritized provinces to gather baseline information and assess local needs, including the conditions required for extending the nutrition improvement programme. As mentioned under Section 1.5, Hunan Province will kick-off the first pilot of the project. Through the baseline assessment, it was noted that financial ability to buy food for children is only part of the reason for children's malnutrition: lacking adequate awareness and knowledge amongst the parents and teachers on balanced nutrition and healthy diet was also noted to be very pronounced. The design of the pilot project has subsequently focused on enhancing nutrition education and advocacy.

This activity has in part been informed by global best practices and experiences; WFP China organized an exchange visit with a Chinese government delegation to the Centre of Excellence in Brazil. The exchange visit helped enhance China's national policy capacity strengthening for sustainable development to increase child survival and promote healthy child development from birth to the completion of compulsory education. Initiatives identified to achieve this include home-grown school feeding, social protection, smallholder farming, policy monitoring and evaluation, and research.

On the policy and advocacy front, WFP China supported the China Centre of Disease Control and Prevention and co-organized the 5th National Students' Nutrition Improvement Conference. International best practices were introduced to the national policy maker and practitioners. WFP

China has been progressively advocating for the extension of the National Students' Nutrition programme to preschool children.

Through field visits, analysis of the project proposal, formulation missions and technical verification consultation, the framework of the pilot project has been put in place. Beneficiaries have been identified, including preschool children who will receive hot meals and smallholder farmers who will provide fresh quality food to the schools. As part of efforts to support local capacity to design and implement similar projects in the future, the implementation plan has been made in collaboration with the local government counterpart. The intervention will start in 2018, providing hot meals to around 2,000 preschool children in 2 counties in Hunan. It will also benefit almost 80 smallholder households in the community who will receive input support and capacity training to provide quality food to the school meals. Though both women and men farmers are identified to provide fresh food, women, especially those single mothers, will be given priority for achieving a more stable income source.

Aside from implementation support, the Government is also demonstrating its engagement through financial support. At national level, the Ministry of Agriculture allocated central government funding to support the local government's operation. The local government will match these funds from different sources, for example, the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Department of Education, and the Poverty Alleviation Office to reinforce government ownership of the project.

The pilot program will be implemented in conjunction with a baseline and impact study. Both aim to provide lessons learnt to inform the design of future interventions and to provide recommendations for scale-up or replication by the Government of China. The impact study will be an important Country Capacity Strengthening sub-activity for strengthening institutional Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems.

Strategic Outcome 2 – Smallholder farmers in frequent need of food assistance in areas such as Gansu, Hainan, Hunan, Anhui and Guangxi provinces demonstrate enhanced livelihoods all year round

Strategic Result 3 – Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Activity 2: Advice on and assistance in integrating into national food supply chains

In 2017, this activity focused on design, formulation, and planning. Anhui province, with many nationally targeted poverty counties, was selected to pilot the smallholder farmer kiwi fruit value chain project. Kiwi fruit, due to its high economic return, was identified by the local government as a key industry and income source for poverty alleviation. WFP China conducted a formulation mission to Jinzhai County to understand the local needs and work with the local government counterpart on the development of an operational plan for 2018.

This pilot project aims to improve the livelihoods of 150 poor smallholder farm households (comprising 462 people) in Jinzhai county, of which 39 percent are women, by strengthening their capacity for kiwi fruit cultivation, production, and marketing on an e-commerce platform. In this initiative, Alibaba Rural TaoBao will provide stable demand through forward-purchase contracts to the Jinzhai Kiwi farmers for kiwi fruit. WFP, based on its technical experience in strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers through Purchase for Progress (P4P) and other corporate initiatives, will provide inputs to the aggregators and farmers.

This project is innovative both because of the collaboration between the private sector, Alibaba Rural TaoBao, and WFP and because of the planned use of Alibaba's e-commerce platform for kiwi fruit sales by poor, smallholder farmers in rural China. The Letter of Intent signed between WFP China, local county government and Alibaba is a successful exploration of public-private partnership building, and the launching event of the signing ceremony on 25 October paved the way forward for joint collaboration for the next three years.

Similar to Activity 1, this activity also features strong government support. The Ministry of Agriculture is contributing financial resources from the central government level to support the local government's operation, showing government buy-in and ownership of the project.

The WFP kiwi value chain project also adopts a gender transformative approach during the formulation process, directly encouraging women's participation to ensure that they benefit from the project. Women-targeted training on financial literacy will be conducted, and special consideration will be given to mothers allowing them to balance the housework and training access. Furthermore, the management of the farmer cooperative requires female representation to give decision-making power to women. Despite this, these farmer cooperatives are currently dominated by men. Thus, alongside trainings and the development of skills, women will also be supported in taking a bigger role in these local organizations. It is expected that through the project, women will gain greater control over their lives and an enhanced voice in their communities and households.

Strategic Outcome 3: Populations regularly affected by natural disasters in Gansu, Anhui and Guangxi provinces and other poor disaster-prone areas are more able to withstand and respond to shocks all year round

Strategic Result 4 – Food systems are sustainable

Activity 3: Advice on and assistance in strengthening response mechanisms for shocks –supply chain interventions asset creation in drought-affected areas and insurance systems.

Numerous discussions with relevant stakeholders have taken place in 2017 for the design of this activity. However, due to the resource constraint, this activity was not pursued progressively in 2017.

Pillar Two: South-South Cooperation

This pillar focuses on WFP China's function as the WFP Centre of Excellence (COE) in China to promote South-South Cooperation and progress towards zero hunger. The COE aims to leverage China's successful experience in food security, nutrition improvement and poverty alleviation with other developing countries by facilitating policy dialogue and research, technical training and exchange, expert advice and other activities pursuant to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 17 on partnering to support implementation of all SDGs.

To ensure that the interventions facilitated by the COE is demand-driven, a systematic approach was taken to capture South-South Cooperation demand. Starting from March 2017, a comprehensive South-South Cooperation needs analysis was conducted. On 11-12 May 2017 a Symposium on Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation was convened in Beijing, China. Following the survey and Symposium discussion, country proposal ideas were collected by August 2017 to capture and systematize country demands for China's South-South Cooperation services;

capture and package China's South-South Cooperation solutions in CSP Strategic Objective Areas; and match demand and solutions to identify viable South-South Cooperation projects.

Based on all the technical discussions and panel reviews with support from WFP headquarters and Regional Bureaux on vetting all the proposal ideas, Four Thematic Priority Areas and Three Modalities have been identified by WFP China through the first round of South-South Cooperation needs screening from the online survey and the discussion in South-South Demand Driven Symposium in May 2017.

The four priority areas identified by WFP China are: (1) Value chain development and market access for small-holder farmers; (2) Supply chain strengthening including post-harvest loss management and storage systems; (3) Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience; (4) Implementation of national zero hunger and nutrition strategies.

The COE works at three levels to facilitate policy dialogue, technical training, expert deployment, policy research, capacity strengthening and other activities pursuant not only to SDG 2, but also SDG 17 on partnerships. At the policy level under the CSP Activity 4, expert advice and policy support is provided to governments. At the institutional level under Activity 5 of the CSP, knowledge sharing through study-tours, training, technology transfers and on-line exchange platforms are explored. At the grass roots level, covering CSP Activity 6, efforts are made to foster young lead farmers for rural entrepreneurship by localized technical demonstration through the Demonstration in Africa/ Asia or Latin America by Africans (DAA) projects.

As evidenced through the close collaboration with the Government of China, WFP is working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, and the National Development and Reform Commission to establish longer-term, sustainable resourcing for South-South Cooperation initiatives through a multi-year trust fund structure. Private sector engagement will be further encouraged to support DAA. A multi-stakeholder approach should be encouraged to build joint force for project implementation.

In addition to this public-sector collaboration, pillar two has highlighted the potential for fruitful private sector engagement in China. Aside from more traditional financial support, pillar two provides many opportunities for creativity and innovation from the private sector, opening up roles as technical partners and solution providers, allowing the private sector to play a bigger role to support WFP's strategic direction internationally. WFP China has been working actively in 2017 to mobilize more support from private sector by forging strategic partnership with China-Africa Development Fund, and large scale private sector corporations to facilitate South-South Cooperation in terms of capacity strengthening and technical cooperation.

The below table lists the South-South Cooperation activities in 2017.

Modality	Policy Level	Institutional Level	Grassroots Level
Thematic Areas			
Value chain development and market access for small holders	Thematic Seminar on DAA at the 4 th Conference on China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation (11 December 2017)		
Supply chain strengthening incl. PHLM and storage management		Training Workshop on Post-Harvest Treatment and Storage Management for Smallholder (19-28 October 2017)	
Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building	Side Event on Building Smallholders' Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation was conducted at China Pavilion at COP23 in Bonn Germany (16 November 2017)	Seminar on Building Small Holders' Resilience under Climate Change along Value Chain Management (18-20 September 2017)	
Implementation of Zero-hunger strategies and nutrition	SSC mission from Cambodia on Smallholder farmers' capacity strengthening and food fortification (11-15 September 2017)		

Strategic Outcome 4: Select developing countries are helped to have enhanced food security and nutrition in line with their prioritized SDG 2 targets by 2030

Strategic Result 5 – Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Activity 4: Provide governments with expert advice and policy support on food security and nutrition issues

WFP China cooperated with the Chinese Government in providing advice and policy consultation to support other developing countries in improving food security and nutrition, including through policy dialogue, high-level visits and round table meetings. In 2017, one high-level mission and one

policy dialogue seminar were organized and three international meetings were facilitated for policy-level activity. The table in Annex 7 details these events.

Based on the country demand from Cambodia, a high-level South-South Cooperation mission on smallholder farmers' capacity, food fortification and grain reserve system was facilitated by WFP China with support from China Ministry of Agriculture and State Administration of Grain, which covered three thematic areas of WFP China's South-South Cooperation engagement.

WFP China in alliance with Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP-CSAM), organized a Seminar on Building Smallholders Resilience under Climate Change through Value Chain Management. This event brought together management personnel, technical staff and researchers from relevant institutes and agencies from countries aiming to improve food and nutrition security while facing challenges of climate change.

To underscore the key role of South-South Cooperation and synergize WFP's South-South Cooperation strategy with relevant government institutions and other UN agencies through international platforms/occasions, WFP China participated/facilitated a side event at the China Pavilion at COP23⁸ titled "Building Smallholders Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation". WFP also participated at the side event at 2017 Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO titled "WFP's South-South Cooperation Approach" as well as the Thematic Solution Forum 7 at GSSD EXPO "Accelerating Country-led progress towards Zero Hunger through joint and complementary efforts of RBAs".

Activity 5: Knowledge-sharing through study tours, training, technology transfer and online exchange platforms

WFP China cooperated with the Chinese Government to share China's experience with other developing countries by facilitating knowledge-sharing at the institutional level. Interventions under this activity include study tours and training. In 2017, a training workshop on Post-Harvest Treatment and Storage Management for Smallholder Farmers was organized by WFP China and supported by the China State Administration of Grain. The workshop aimed to share China's solutions and technologies of pragmatic actions to advance country-led progress towards the effective post-harvest treatment and storage management. The participation of women was greatly encouraged in the events, with gender-disaggregated data tracked and stored as part of monitoring efforts. The table in Annex 7 provides details of this training.

In collaboration with China Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Information Institute of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a Sharing for Learning On-Line Exchange Platform for South-South Cooperation is under construction. This on-line knowledge sharing website will showcase successful experiences of Chinese farmers in the process of rural development, providing information on practical technologies that are affordable and applicable for smallholders. This platform will be a useful tool to share knowledge and allow development practitioners and policymakers to adopt and test a proven solution in their context. The platform will also facilitate matchmaking and solution adaptations, and other support services to foster partnership and support implementation.

Activity 6: Foster leadership among a new generation of smallholder farmers

WFP China is initiating a new programme called Demonstration in Africa/Asia by Africans/Asians (DAA), which can be extended to Latin America for Demonstration in Latin America by Latin American. DAA aims to carry out technical demonstrations to increase agriculture production and

⁸ The 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

income for smallholder farmers. It will also foster a new generation of lead farmers in developing countries by exposing them to technological solutions and best agriculture business practices in China. The programme will foster and support a number of aspirational farmer leaders in helping fellow farmers increase agricultural productivity and incomes, encouraging rural economic development at the local level and lifting more farmers in developing countries out of poverty and hunger.

As part of the preparation for the DAA programme, WFP China organized the Thematic Seminar on DAA programme at the 4th Conference of China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation on December 11, 2017 in Haikou, China. This seminar served as the entry point for design and implementation of the DAA programme in proposed countries.

DAA Country initiatives for Zimbabwe, Egypt, Sudan and Nigeria were analysed through separated panel discussions to identify technical content, cooperation modality, key partners, as well as accessible funding resources.

Pillar Three: Resource Mobilization

Pillar three is the continuation of WFP's liaison office role prior to the CSP. Resource mobilization now plays an increasingly important role to complement the two additional pillars of WFP China. The resources mobilized from the Government, private sector, and general public support not only China but also other WFP operations globally. Furthermore, WFP is aligned with the Government of China's national strategy of increasing its international engagement and promoting peace and prosperity globally by supporting the Government's efforts to participate in international humanitarian and development projects. Concerted efforts were made in this year to engage with the Government and various partners both from the public sector and private sector to raise WFP's profile. Advocacy and communication are important sub-activities under this pillar.

Strategic Outcome 5: Efforts to ensure food security and nutrition in targeted 'poverty counties' and select developing countries are supported by increased private sector resources and public-private partnerships all year round

Strategic Result 7: Developing countries access a range of financial resources for development investment

Activity 7: Development and formalization of partnerships.

The private sector plays a very important part for mobilizing resources to enhance food security in China and support WFP global operations. Significant progress has taken place with the Chinese private sector and public donations in 2017. Once WFP's domestic programmes are operationalized in 2018, WFP's name recognition and support from the private sector is projected to further increase.

WFP China is also exploring new avenues for collaborating with the private sector outside of traditional donor relationships. While these efforts to date have mostly been focused on pillar 2 activities and some pillar 1 activities, this shift in mindset has impacted the level and type of engagement used when reaching out to the private sector.

Private Donors	Contribution recipient	Amount or type of collaboration	Status of Discussion
HNA Group	Ghana	Cash Contribution USD 306,091	Funds transferred
	Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan	Cash Contribution USD 5,000,000	Agreement signed
RS Group	Bhutan	Cash Contribution USD 101,200	Funds transferred
MasterCard	China	Cash Contribution USD 200,000	Funds transferred
AliExpress	China	Cash Contribution USD 16,694	Funds transferred
DSM	China	Cash Contribution USD 7,652	Funds transferred
Private Donors through Tencent	Cambodia	Cash Contribution USD 1,270,532	Funds transferred
	China	Fundraising page to encourage public support for the preschool nutrition pilot programme	Fundraising page ready
Alibaba	China	Technical collaboration: strengthening market access of smallholder kiwi farmers	Letter of Intent signed
	Global collaboration	Technical collaboration and online fundraising	Under discussion

Activity 8: Facilitation of enhanced support from the Chinese Government.

In support of the Government's priorities for increasing international engagement and contributing to global peace and prosperity, WFP China facilitated record-high contributions from Government of China for WFP's global operations. In 2017, contributions from Chinese Government to WFP reached USD 73.6 million, which represents a four-fold overall increase over that of 2016 (USD 18.5 million).

The donation came from two key sources:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, WFP's counterpart Ministry in China, provided USD 7.5 million as China's regular contribution to WFP in 2017, an increase of 15 percent over the USD 6.5 million for 2016.
- The Ministry of Commerce, the lead ministry for China's foreign assistance and the largest holder of China's foreign assistance budget, provided USD 66 million, which is a five-fold increase over 2016. WFP is currently the largest recipient of China's multilateral funding among all UN agencies.

With the USD 73.6 million contribution donated by the Government of China in 2017, WFP was able to provide life-saving food assistance in more than 19 countries.

Of the USD 73.6 million, USD 66 million was aimed at emergency response activities, whereas USD 5.5 million was focused on resilience building and root cause activities. USD 2.1 million was unearmarked, reflecting the Government of China’s dual focus on humanitarian and development assistance. The USD 5.5 million was predominantly for strengthening the capacities of both the people and government of the recipient nations, in an effort to effect long term change.

	Recipient Country	Amount from Chinese Government
1	Chad	USD 4 million
2	Kenya	USD 5 million
3	Nigeria	USD 5 million
4	South Sudan	USD 5 million
5	Yemen	USD 5 million
6	Somalia	USD 10 million
7	Cameroon	USD 6 million
8	Ethiopia	USD 6 million
9	Zimbabwe	USD 5.8 million
10	Afghanistan	USD 1 million
11	Iran	USD 1 million
12	Niger	USD 1 million
13	Pakistan	USD 1 million
14	Syria	USD 1 million
15	Central African Republic	USD 2 million
16	Republic of Congo	USD 3 million
17	Uganda	USD 5 million
18	Peru	USD 0.8 million
19	China	USD 2 million
20	Immediate Response Account	USD 0.5 million
21	Multilateral Account	USD 1.6 million
22	Others	USD 1.8 million
	In total	USD 73.6 million

In addition to facilitating resource mobilization, WFP China has also worked with the Government of China to find other avenues for international engagement on the topic of Zero Hunger. Cooperation with Chinese governmental institutions and agencies was expanded and deepened, which has contributed to not only increased resources, but also technical support from relevant government partners in China including Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Civil Affairs, State Administration of Grain and others. WFP is assisting these Ministries in finding relevant applications of and fora for sharing their technical expertise, both domestically and internationally.

Additionally, the first WFP-Government of China MOU on the launch of the WFP-China Junior Professional Officer programme was signed in 2017 to utilize the talent and energy of young professionals from China in support of WFP’s global humanitarian operations. This agreement will deepen the relationship between the Government of China and the UN system.

Progress towards gender equality

While formulating the design of Activity 1, great importance was attached to the targeting of farmers who encompass households led by single women in the rural community. Some of these households have no or very limited income source and rely on remittances from their husbands, who have migrated to cities seeking gainful employment. Some women may feel compelled to leave their children and seek wage employment outside the community themselves. Priority is given to these households to allow women to earn an income by providing vegetables to the kindergartens. This support gives the mothers the option to remain close to the community and their children, allowing more care to children's growth and healthy development.

Activity 2 adopts a gender transformative approach at the formulation process, directly focusing on women to ensure they receive maximum benefits from the project. Women-targeted training on financial literacy will be conducted, and special consideration will be given to mothers allowing them to balance the housework and training access. In addition, currently, farmer cooperatives in these regions are largely dominated by men. However, the management of the farmer cooperative requires female representation to give them decision-making power. Thus, alongside the trainings, women will be supported in taking a greater role in these local organizations. Their participation in local management of farmer cooperatives is anticipated to allow for greater control over their lives and an enhanced voice in their communities and households.

Under pillar 2, gender parity participation was encouraged in the capacity strengthening of South-South cooperation activities to give priority to women participants and trainees, equipping them with skills and resources. Recognizing the underrepresentation of women smallholders as leaders in their communities and farmer organizations, the program will enable women to play a greater role. To highlight the importance of gender equality in achieving food security, a gender transformative approach will be adopted in the implementation of the DAA project in developing countries. First, women farmers will be highly encouraged to participate in the on-site training in China. Second, successful experience for rural women's special cooperative development mode in China will be prioritized for selected lead woman farmers. Third, proven technologies especially suitable for rural women will be targeted for technical demonstration, e.g., baboon and rattan utilization, horticultural crops (tea, coffee or cash crops) cultivation and processing, poultry or aquaculture, and agri-business. In addition, women will be encouraged to achieve greater access to micro-credit or seed funding support for rural entrepreneurship.

Environment

Having identified climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience as one of the four focus areas of the new WFP China country office, WFP is progressing on addressing environmental issues, particularly in pillar two. In particular, two of the events mentioned under Activity 4 in the Programme Performance section of this report were focused on climate change: the "Seminar on Building Smallholders Resilience under Climate Change through Value Chain Management" in September and the Side event at the China Pavilion at COP23 titled "Building Smallholders Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation" in November. The former focused on sharing Chinese solar and other technologies to mitigate drought impacts with other countries, while the latter focused on more Rome-Based-Agencies collaboration on the topic of resilience in South-South cooperation.

In addition to these 2017 events, WFP China has made considerable plans in addressing climate change in its future Centre of Excellence (COE) programming. As part of its demand-driven approach, the China COE performed a needs analysis with 38 proposals from around the world. Of these, 10 proposals were focused on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience, from Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe. Due to this demand, this topic will form one of the four thematic areas planned for the COE's future operations. Programming on managing the risks of climate change has already been proposed along all three activities under pillar two.

Management performance and value for money

The start-up nature of WFP China's operations, newly formed and underway for its first year in 2017, had two main impacts on management and office performance: staffing and operational strategy.

For staffing, the link between the office's increased presence and the CSP meant that optimal alignment could be achieved between the strategic orientation of the country office and its human resources approach. To mirror the three pillars of the CSP, country office staff were assembled to focus on these three areas: two programme officers were dedicated to domestic programming and the Centre of Excellence (COE) and two partnership officers focused on resource mobilization. The number of staff in the country office grew from 6 to 16 from 2016 to 2017.

In terms of its operational strategy, 2017 was a year of partnership building and awareness raising. In all three pillars, key introductions, discussions, and agreements have been reached to set a strong foundation for future programming. These partnerships span across national and local government, the private sector, UN Agency partners (particularly the Rome-Based Agencies), as well as countries and experts across the world as part of the COE initiative.

Awareness raising required WFP China to take a fresh look at developing and launching a communications strategy in 2017. Its main objective is to maximize the existing communications tools and platform to help the office achieve the strategic outcomes of the CSP. It aims to enhance WFP's visibility as perceived by key targeted audiences and by broadening private, governmental, and non-governmental partnerships to facilitate operations and resource mobilization.

In 2017, WFP worked with domestic mainstream media and social media to produce hundreds of news releases, Weibo messages, and WeChat articles along with video interviews. The numbers exceeded the targeted plan by 14 percent, and the increased outreach not only increased public knowledge of WFP's presence and activities in China, but also ensured the donors from the Government, the private sector, and the general public that appropriate visibilities and recognition can be given for their important contributions. In addition, the outreach better supported the three pillars of the office, attracting engagement from the wide range of partners, and promoting simple, clear and consistent messages and shared goals.

While 2017 offered opportunities, resuming a country office also came with its challenges. Many activities started from scratch in building partnership, designing programmes, and engaging with the Government for new projects; some activities were postponed due to late arrival of funds. With 2017 focused on planning, it is too early to discuss CSP outcomes. While there is no dedicated monitoring unit to monitor the CSP implementation a programme and policy officer will also act

as the monitoring focal point, not uncommon in WFP country offices with resource constraints. In addition, each activity manager is responsible for establishing the monitoring system on the individual programme activity they are following. Furthermore, WFP China outsourced an external evaluation firm to conduct the decentralized evaluation on the impact of the preschool nutrition improvement pilot project.

From a value for money perspective, WFP China has been enormously effective under its resource mobilization pillar. In 2017, from both the public and private sector, a record of USD 80.4 million was mobilized for China to support WFP's operations globally with an upfront investment of only USD 542,000. That is a 148-fold return on investment, representing substantial value for money. WFP China will continue to harness the momentum built in 2017 for even more engagement in 2018.

Furthermore, engaging more private sector in South-South Cooperation, as strategic entry point for WFP's further enhancing role to synergize the Belt & Road Initiative by China government, will magnify and add more value to WFP's South-South cooperation investment. The private sector, as potential financial collaborators, technical partners and solution providers, is expected to play a bigger role to support WFP's work in South-South Cooperation.

The Demonstration in Africa/Asia/Latin America by Africans/Asians/Latin Americans Programme, led by the WFP China Centre of Excellence, aims to maximize the impact and duration of the initial South-South Cooperation investment, and embodies the principles of value for money in three key ways. First, the selection criteria for young farmers to be trained in China emphasizes community leadership. The experts deployed to instruct field demonstrations in Africa will transfer technical knowledge within the adjacent communities. Second, the scale-up, of the demonstration later in the project cycle through seed funding and entrepreneurship fostering will ensure sustainability of the value chain. Third, the resultant network of the trained farmers will reinforce another's efforts in the participating countries, supporting greater longevity for the program.

Risk management

During the 2017 Annual Performance Planning (APP) exercise, the main risks identified for 2017 included: funding, staffing, and programme delivery.

Funding shortage was originally identified as a potential risk. The WFP China office took effective actions to further engage with donors for the implementation of CSP. Dialogue with existing and new private sector partners has been strengthened in 2017, in addition to stepped up efforts in online fundraising for WFP. However, during the year, a major donor unexpectedly shifted their funding from domestic to overseas programmes. This unexpected change in donor preference negatively impacted WFP China's ability to implement pillar one of its CSP as initially planned.

Along with funding, staffing has also been identified as a risk. Expectations on the China office are high, although the entire staff complement is only 16 people. Therefore, WFP hired one consultant and several volunteers to provide additional support. This approach was helpful in mitigating the risk of an insufficient workforce. However, with a 16-person office, staff continue to take on multiple tasks, well beyond their functional areas in an effort to confront a complex working environment. WFP China has submitted an investment case to headquarters to seek funding for the recruitment of additional staff.

An offshoot of both the funding and staffing risk is the programme delivery risk. Extra attention was needed to ensure that programme quality was not compromised due to the nature of staff

working multiple roles. Several mitigation measures were actively pursued by the office. A contingency evaluation fund was approved by WFP headquarters to support the baseline survey and impact study for the preschool nutrition project. An internal evaluation committee was appointed in December 2017, with the first meeting convened soon after to discuss the selection process of an evaluation entity. Second, a partner review panel was established in 2017 to evaluate the process of selecting implementing partners. Third, several technical review meetings with experts in school health and nutrition, including representation from different government agencies, UN, and civil society organizations, have been convened to discuss WFP's programme design. These actions play a critical role in mitigating the risk of poor programme delivery.

Annex I - South-South Cooperation Event Details

Event	Cambodia SSC Mission on Smallholder Farmers' Capacity, Food Fortification and Grain Reserve System
Time	11-15 September 2017
Place	Beijing, Jiangsu province in China
Participants	17 participants, including senior officials from several Cambodian ministries, non-government actors and representatives from the WFP Cambodia Office
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchanged policy views with China's Ministry of Agriculture on the farmer's aggregation development and with State Administration of Grain on the national grain reserve system in Beijing. Travelled to Jiangsu province to observe and capture China's successful practices on grain reserve systems and nutritional kernel production for rice fortification.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a keen interest Cambodia Ministry of Economy and Finance regarding the management of the food reserve system using an automated "smart" warehouse system which was impressively demonstrated in China. Cambodia Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) suggested an exchange of Chinese researchers and experts to share knowledge, develop guidance and build capacity for national officials the development and management of food reserves. Cambodia Ministry of Agriculture wants to learn more from China's experience in school meals (which is similar to the Cambodia Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model where schools purchase the food from suppliers) and the potential for linking to cooperatives and the promote livelihood of smallholder farmers.
Event	Seminar on Building Smallholders Resilience under Climate Change through Value Chain Management
Time	19-21 September, 2017
Place	Kunming, Yunnan province in China
Participants	Over 40 participants, including representatives of United Nations agencies, officials from the Chinese Government and Yunnan's provincial government, and delegates from 12 Asian and African countries, namely Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A technical visit to Yuxi (Yunnan province) showcased the solar-driven irrigation scheme implemented in this drought-prone area. Reviewed Chinese national policies, innovative technologies and good practices relevant to building resilience against climate change. Discussed common constraints and challenges for the recommended possible solutions.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoted effective partnership and collaborations towards joint delivery initiatives for smallholder resilience building along value chain management. Participants to the Seminar urged for greater South-South Cooperation to assist smallholder farmers combat the adverse impacts of climate change.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified SSC needs to combat climate change for smallholder farmers: i) Irrigation development and modernization: Water harvesting; Drip irrigation; Conservation farming. ii) Mechanization programmes for farm operations: Accessing new technologies suitable for smallholder farmers; Machinery appropriate for conservation farming. iii) Crop and livestock research for tolerant varieties and breeds: Strengthening cooperation with research and academic institutions; improving productivity. iv) Rezoning of the agro-ecological zones.
Event	Side event at China Pavilion at COP23 titled Building Smallholders Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation
Time	16 November, 2017
Place	Bonn, Germany
Participants	Senior level representatives from China Ministry of Agriculture and Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), WFP, FAO and IFAD, and representatives of multilateral and bilateral organizations including United Nations entities, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector.
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynotes speeches and special Remarks by high level representatives from China and Fiji Government, ESCAP, WFP, FAO and IFAD. Panel Review on Joint Action for Building Smallholders' Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South-South cooperation may help the relevant stakeholders tap into more funding sources in combat of climate change. An Initiative on Joint Action for Building Smallholders' Resilience to Climate Change through South-South Cooperation highlights the commitment of ESCAP, FAO, IFAD and WFP to enhance collaboration amongst United Nations entities, countries and relevant institutions of China to support smallholders to deal with the challenges of climate change
Event	Side event at 2017 Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO titled WFP's South-South Cooperation Approach: Building the Network of Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation
Time	28 November, 2017
Place	Antalya, Turkey
Participants	Over 50 Representatives from WFP Division of Policy and Programme (OSZ), WFP Purchase for Progress Unit (P4P), WFP China Office, WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence, China Ministry of Agriculture, Alibaba Group, China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), Brazilian Embassy in Turkey and Brazil -Africa Institute, and other relevant agencies.
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the two Centres of Excellence of Brazil and China deploys different and effective South-South cooperation principles and modalities, driven by the demand of the countries that reach out for the support of the Centres. China Ministry of Agriculture briefed about Belt and Road Initiative and the strong commitment by the Chinese Government towards South-South Cooperation to achieve global food security and Zero hunger. Representative from Alibaba and gave speeches on how private sector and public fund could support small holders on value chain development through South-South Cooperation.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network of Centres of Excellence has become WFP's most important mechanism for promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation to facilitate country-led efforts to improve food security and nutrition. Participation of CADFund and Alibaba Group strengthened strategic partnerships with public and private sector partners to support South-South and triangular initiatives for the achievement of Zero hunger (SDG 2).

Event	Thematic Solution Forum 7 at GSSD EXPO “Accelerating Country-led progress towards Zero Hunger through joint and complementary efforts of RBAs”
Time	28 November, 2017
Place	Antalya, Turkey
Participants	Panellists include senior level representatives from FAO, WFP and IFAD
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of organizational approaches to promote the achievement of zero hunger through South-South and triangular cooperation • Key mechanisms and achievements towards zero hunger through South-South and Triangular Cooperation • Joint Initiative on RBA – SSC Roadmap: An action plan towards BAPA+40⁹
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the commitment to the efforts for partnership building and further creating synergies and complementarities between the RBAs, as well as increasing the visibility on the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the concrete results that can be achieved through this alternative development mechanism.
Event	Training Workshop on Post-Harvest Treatment and Storage Management for Smallholder
Time	20-27 October 2017
Place	Beijing, Yangzhou, Chengdu and Wuhan in China
Participants	15 participants from 6 countries, including technical experts, management personnel from government of Cameroon, Niger, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, as well as WFP staff from these Country Offices.
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures delivered by senior officials of Chinese food authority provided an overview of China’s national grain reserve and storage system. • Participants witnessed the best practices and efficient mechanization techniques for reducing post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers in Jiangsu, Sichuan and Hubei provinces of China. • Study visit to food processing facilities and equipment manufacturing and field visit to grain storage and management at both provincial and community level enabled direct exchange among the participants and Chinese providers of solutions.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshop also provided a platform for the participants to strengthen institutional capacities, and to forge linkages with Chinese providers of solutions in this area as well as with their “peers” from other developing countries that are facing the same issues. • Experience/technology/modern storage facilities learned from the workshop could be used for reference for undergoing/planned national project or activity on warehouse management in developing countries, e.g. Cameroon, Sri Lanka, etc.

⁹ The 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries



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