



Management Response from WFP The Gambia Country Office to the recommendations of the Decentralized Evaluation of Midterm Evaluation of Nutrition Activities in The Gambia (DE/GMCO/2019/047) from January 2016 to December 2019

1. This document, finalized in *May 2021*, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation of nutrition activities in The Gambia.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by The Gambia Country Office covers all the nutrition activities implemented across the four provincial regions of the country under three sequential programmatic frameworks, including the Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning, it aims at building evidence related to its interventions' results in the domain of nutrition and stunting prevention and to inform the implementation of WFP The Gambia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021 [*under extension 2022*]), the evaluation of the Country Strategic Plan in 2020/21. It also serve as an advocacy tool for raising donors and partners awareness around nutrition and WFP contribution to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 of "Zero Hunger".
3. The evaluation made 10 key recommendations with 49 actions. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division (/possibly external stakeholder in the case of Joint Evaluation). Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i>	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed? If Partially agreed or Not agreed, provide a brief reason for this.]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division/unit. Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i>	Action Deadline <i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-) recommendation deadline.]</i>
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 1: WFP CO should conduct a gender analysis study examining power dynamics between men and women in The Gambia, with a focus on nutrition and understanding household and community practices and norms that hinder achievement of nutrition outcomes. This could be undertaken in partnership with other UN agencies and/or with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. It should be completed as soon as possible to enable findings to inform activity design in the next CSP. (asap)	WFP The Gambia / Nutrition Team	Agreed	1.1 Formation of the National Nutrition and Gender Technical Working Group with clear terms of reference (TOR)	WFP The Gambia, Gender and Protection, Nutrition in collaboration with National Nutrition Agency (NaNA), Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP.	June 2021
			1.2 Develop Concept Note and TOR for the Nutrition and Gender Analysis in collaboration with the National Nutrition and Gender Technical Working Group		June 2021
			1.3 Conduct a gender analysis study to examine power dynamics between men and women in The Gambia, with a focus on nutrition and prepare a study report with a clear action plan to inform nutrition intervention design		September 2021

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Priority: High Recommendation 2: WFP nutrition team should develop a strategic approach to nutrition capacity strengthening in collaboration with the MOH and NaNA, based on a capacity gaps analysis and with a clear plan and targets for which capacities to strengthen and how the achievements will be measured (short/medium term)	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	Agreed	2.1. Conduct a capacity gap analysis for the delivery of nutrition support in the country: - Develop TOR for local consultant and facilitate the study	CO Nutrition Unit in collaboration with School Feeding, DRR and Climate Change, SAMS teams as well as NaNA, MoA, MoBSE, MoH, MoWCSW, FAO, UNICEF Action Against Hunger, SP Secretariat	August 2021
			2.2. Develop a Nutrition Capacity Strengthening Approach Paper /Plan informed by the capacity gap analysis	CO Nutrition team with support from RBD Nutrition	December 2021
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 3: WFP nutrition team should ensure the momentum of processes advanced by WFP's efforts at national level - the COHA, SBN and rice fortification - is not lost. Maintain a focus on advocacy and driving forward the next steps in 2020 and 2021, particularly in the current context of COVID-19 where	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	Agreed	3.1 Support Quarterly SBN Meeting	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, GCCI & SBN Members	Dec 2021
			3.2 Development of SBN 2021 Workplan	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, GCCI & SBN Members	May 2021
			3.3 Develop a National Strategy for the Rice fortification: WFP CO has sought support from DSM to provide in-kind support	CO Nutrition team with support from RBD Nutrition	Dec 2021

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there is a high risk of gains being reversed. This will entail close collaboration with the Government of The Gambia and private sector partners.			to develop strategy for the rice fortification.		
			3.4 Facilitate capacity Strengthening on food fortification and quality management systems: -WFP CO will hire a consultant to support in training food fortification partners on fortification and quality management systems	CO Nutrition team with support from RBD Nutrition	Dec 2021
			3.5 Dissemination workshop on COHA with Policy Makers	Nutrition (NaNA, MoH, GBoS, UNICEF, FAO, MoA)	August 2021
			3.6 Advocacy – Radio program on disseminating the findings of COHA	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA	Dec 2021
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 4: WFP nutrition team supported by the CO should	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	Agreed	4.1 Develop National Nutrition Sensitive Strategy that would facilitate mainstreaming of	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with SAMS, MoA , FAO	December 2021

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further develop strategies to increase resilience of vulnerable households in preparation for the lean season and emergencies through improving access to and consumption of diverse diets (short/medium term) .			nutrition across a range of programming areas - TOR for local consultant - Partner Mapping -Consultations – Validation of National Nutrition Sensitive Strategy		
			4.2 Support review of the targeting criteria for the lean season response to ensure inclusion of Nutrition Targeting Criteria in lean season response activities.	Nutrition team with support form School Feeding, DRR and Climate Change, SAMS (NaNA, MoA, MoBSE, MoH, MoWCSW, FAO, UNICEF Action Against Hunger, SP Secretariat)	December 2021
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 5: WFP nutrition team should align TSF more closely with IMAM and programming for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) management in the immediate/short-term. This should include:	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	<i>Agreed</i>	5.1 Facilitate the review of the IMAM protocol	Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA , UNICEF, MoH and IMAM TWG	May 2021

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Sub-recommendation 5.a: advocacy at the national level with UNICEF for a joined-up IMAM programme reflecting the continuum of care for acutely malnourished children	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	<i>Agreed</i>	5.a.1 Regular meeting of UN Network on nutrition to promote synergies and complementarities	Nutrition team in collaboration with UNICEF, NaNA	Sep 2021
			5.a.2 Organize IMAM quarterly TWG meeting	Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, UNICEF	Sep 2021
Sub-recommendation 5.b: enhanced routine active case-finding for both SAM and MAM through health facilities and community outreach	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	<i>Agreed</i>	5.b.1 Conduct joint Health and Nutrition Screening at sentinel sites	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, UNICEF	Sept 2021
			5.b.2 Conduct mother MUAC Training	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, MOH, UNICEF	August 2021
			5.b.3 Support active case finding at the village level and refer	WFP Nutrition team, UNICEF, NaNA, MoH	September 2021
Sub-recommendation 5.c: improve monthly performance monitoring, follow up of defaulters/non-responders and timely transfer between MAM and SAM treatment activities	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	<i>Agreed</i>	5.c.1 Training of Community Health Nurses	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with MOH	May 2021
			5.c.2 Follow-up calls to defaulters of the MAM programme	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with MOH	Dec 2021
			5.c.3 Quarterly supervision and Process Monitoring	M&E (NaNA, MoH)	November 2021

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Sub-recommendation 5.d: consider inclusion of vulnerable urban areas for TSF, complementing existing SAM activities	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Team	<i>Agreed</i>	5.d.1 Engagement with Partners on scaling up to Urban Areas	Nutrition team in collaboration with MoH, NaNA	January 2023
			5.d.2 Treatment of MAM in all regions including urban settlements	Nutrition team in collaboration with MoH, NaNA	Dec 2021
			5.d.3 Training of Community Health Nurses	Nutrition team in collaboration with MoH	May 2021
Priority: High Recommendation 6: WFP logistics team should urgently address the issue of transporter accountability mechanisms for TSF and BSF through ensuring secure contracts, monitoring and tracking of handling of supplies and delivery to final delivery points.	WFP The Gambia/Logistic Unit	<i>Agreed</i>	6.1 Train the transporters on proper handling of food from loading to delivery	CO Supply Chain team, Programme	September 2021 Dec 2021
			6.2 Enforcement of contractual agreements to ensure accountability by transporters to Partners/ and or beneficiaries	CO Supply Chain	
			6.3 Undertake sensitization of consignees on their role in guidance of transporters to all delivery points	CO Supply Chain	Dec 2021

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			6.4 Train Consignees and Store Managers at DPs on stock Management and Storage	CO Supply Chain Team	Oct 2021
			6.5 Ensure availability of Stack Cards at all DPs	CO Supply Chain Team Programme	May 2021
			6.5 Quarterly Visit of Supply Chain to Stores to Monitor Condition of commodities	CO Supply Chain Team Field Office	Dec 2021
			6.4 Logistics should track or monitor flow of trucks through regular contacts with transporters and consignees	CO Supply Chain Team	Dec 2021
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 7: Using the experience and learning from the active screening activity, WFP nutrition team, with UNICEF, should support NaNA to strengthen the biannual nutrition surveillance and to expand it to non-Primary Health Care (PHC) communities. Use that opportunity to identify and register	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Unit	Agreed	7.1 Identify Data collection points for the sentinel sites (3 in each region)	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with M&E, NaNA, MoH, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger	April 2021
			7.2 Train Teams on health and Nutrition Data Collection	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with CO M&E team and NaNA, MoH,	May 2021

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MAM cases for support as well as to strengthen nutrition surveillance for monitoring emerging needs (short/medium term).				UNICEF, Action Against Hunger	
			7.3 Quarterly data collection on Malnutrition including MAD and MDD and using MODA	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with CO M&E team and NaNA, MoH, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger	, Nov 2021
			7.4 Engage NaNA on expanding Nutrition Surveillance to non PHC and develop joint proposals	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with CO M&E team and NaNA, MoH, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger	Nov 2022
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 8: In conjunction with NaNA. MOH and UNICEF (and	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition Unit	Agreed	8.1 Train Community Workers and Village Support Groups on SBCC	CO nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, MoH	Jun 2021

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others as applicable), WFP nutrition team should develop and enhance the SBCC approach for improved effectiveness and sustainability (short term/2021).			8.2 Printing of SBCC Materials	CO Nutrition team	July 2021
			8.3 community outreach (Cooking Demos, House visits, community gathering, open field days)	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, MoH, MOA-Food Technology Service-FTS	Nov 2021
			8.4 Preparation and Storage of Weaning and Complementary Foods	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with NaNA, MoH, FTS	Nov 2021
			8.5 Identify Men and women nutrition advocacy champions at the community level	CO Nutrition team in collaboration with UNICEF, MoH, AAH, The University of The Gambia	Nov 2021
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 9: WFP school feeding and nutrition teams should improve the provision and quality of nutrition education in schools (short/medium term).	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition and School Feeding Teams	Agreed	9.1 Conduct a needs assessment on selected schools to identify gaps highlighted by the nutrition Evaluation recommendations. Develop relevant action points from the needs assessment	Nutrition team in collaboration with School Feeding, MoBSE, UNICEF, Nutrition NGOs, SUN Business Network	May 2022
			9.2 Develop School Gardening Manual	CO SAMS focal point in collaboration with School Feeding and Nutrition	May 2022

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				teams and MOBSE, and FAO	
Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 10: WFP nutrition and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) teams should review the M&E plan and establish a system to more comprehensively and regularly monitor nutrition outcomes so that achievements can be more easily assessed and monitored during activity implementation to allow programme adaptations and improve performance (short term).	WFP The Gambia/Nutrition and M&E Units	Agreed	9.3 Strengthen SBCC of Mothers Clubs on Consumption of diversified foods	School Feeding team in collaboration with Nutrition team, MWCSW, UNICEF, Nutrition NGOs	July 2022
			10.1 Develop and institutionalize routine data collection of nutrition indicators (MAD and MDD) through RCH clinics	CO RAM team in collaboration with, Nutrition team, MoH, NaNA	Sept 2021
			10.2 Conduct mVAM assessments to collect MUAC data from a sample of trained mothers	CO RAM team in collaboration with Nutrition team, GRCS, MoH	December 2021
			10.3 Field office conduct monthly supervision and monitoring visits to nutrition intervention sites	FO with support from RAM, Nutrition	December 2021
10.4 Roll-out of the CO monthly output reporting tool	RAM team	May 2021			

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			10.5 Initiate engagement with MoH to incorporate Nutrition indicators into DHIS	M&E, Nutrition (MoH, NaNA, UNICEF)	Dec 2022