



Management Response from WFP Sri Lanka to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of 'Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka (DE/LKCO/2019/012) from November 2013 to September 2020

- 1 This document, finalized in June 2021, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation **Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka**.
- 2 The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Sri Lanka, is funded by the Adaptation Fund (USD 7,989,727) and covers the full implementation period from 2013 to September 2020. The project was implemented by WFP Sri Lanka in partnership with the Ministry of Environment¹ and in the latter stages, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim to secure livelihoods and food security against rainfall variability, and in particular droughts. It focused on climate shock-prone communities in three river basin Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSDs) - Medirigiriya, Lankapura and Walapane- particularly smallholders who primarily rely on rainfed agriculture or minor irrigation schemes. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning and is also an opportunity to gather experiences and take stock of the successes and challenges of the project, and to identify lessons to be learned for future interventions. The primary intended users of the evaluation are WFP, UNDP, and the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL).
- 3 The evaluation made 10 key recommendations for the key project stakeholders, including WFP, UNDP and the GoSL. The matrix sets out whether the stakeholders agree, partially agree or disagree with the recommendations. It also captures the management responses agreed among WFP,

¹ The initial agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources (MEWR) which is at present called the Ministry of Environment

GoSL and UNDP and emphasize the clear commitment to incorporate lessons learnt into current and future programming. It also presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

- 4 This Management Response has two versions, reflecting the role of WFP in the project as the managing agency, with implementation carried out by GoSL, UNDP and local community-based organisations. In the version submitted to the Adaptation Fund, the GoSL and UNDP have given their own responses to the recommendations addressed to them. In this internal version required for tracking implementation of recommendations, only actions that are the responsibility of WFP are considered.

<p>Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)</p> <p><i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i></p>	<p>Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Management Response</p> <p><i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed? If Partially agreed or Not agreed, provide a brief reason for this.]</i></p>	<p>Actions to be taken</p> <p><i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i></p>	<p>Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)</p> <p><i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division/unit. Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i></p>	<p>Action Deadline</p> <p><i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-)recommendation deadline.]</i></p>
<p>Priority: High/Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Consolidate activities related to livelihoods diversification and short/direct marketing channels by continuing, after the end of the project, the follow-up of these activities and by providing beneficiary households and groups with the technical guidance needed to sustain the activities independently.</p>	<p>[Each relevant line agency (Dept of Animal Production & Health, Dept of Agriculture, NAQDA, etc.)]</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>It should be noted in this Management Response that WFP Sri Lanka is constrained in its capacity to provide resources or participate fully in consolidation activities due to the end of the project and lack of operations in the project area. Lessons are being learned to maximise sustainability in a future Adaptation Fund project for</p>	<p>WFP secured a commitment from the Ministry of Environment to conduct (post-project) monitoring for at least one year after the project closure.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment (MoE/CCS- Climate Change Secretariat) and line agencies will provide relevant technical guidance to the beneficiary households. WFP will follow-up on this commitment through Ministry of Environment (MoE/CCS- Climate Change Secretariat). (Biannually)</p>	<p>Line ministries with support from WFP CO</p>	<p>(In place by September 2021)</p>

		which WFP and GoSL are currently pursuing funding.			
<p>Priority: High/Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Attract external investors who could fulfil the requirements (in terms of capital, management, technical capacities) to consolidate the investments made during the project and make community businesses operational.</p> <p>(December 2022)</p>	UNDP, WFP Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment & Department of Cooperatives	Agreed	<p>WFP will actively try to mobilize resources both internally and externally to support the GoSL, including through new proposal development.</p> <p>WFP will follow-up on UNDP and MOE agreed action progress biannually: UNDP has continued engagement with communities through the community groups and will liaise with the Ministry of Environment, Department of Cooperatives and local stakeholders to handover the livelihood assets to community groups.²</p>	WFP Sri Lanka, UNDP, Ministry of Environment, and Department of Cooperatives	December 2022
<p>Priority: High/Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 3: Set up close monitoring of beneficiary FOs (without being overbearing) and continue to build their capacities on irrigation infrastructure maintenance, water management, and collective actions.</p>	[Department of Agrarian Development in both target areas]	Agreed	The line agencies will continue the capacity building initiatives on irrigation infrastructure maintains and water management. WFP will follow-up on this through the Ministry of Environment (MoE/CCS- Climate Change Secretariat). (Biannually)	WFP with Ministry of Environment (MoE/CCS- Climate Change Secretariat) and line agencies	December 2021

² These groups may be governed under Department of Cooperative Development or through local stakeholders i.e. Divisional Committees under the leadership of the Divisional Secretaries .

<p>Priority: High/Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 4: Monitor and complete micro-irrigations systems set up in CCAP target areas with adequate demonstration and training sessions. In other areas, replicate activities promoting micro-irrigation systems piloted through CCAP and accompany beneficiaries with more intensive demonstration, capacity building, and awareness-raising sessions in order to ensure adoption of water saving innovations.</p>	<p>[Department of Agriculture]</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>CCS will provide WFP with a written communication (e.g.: letter) confirming that all micro-irrigation schemes are completed.</p> <p>WFP will follow-up on completion of micro irrigation systems through the Ministry of Environment (MoE/CCS- Climate Change Secretariat).</p> <p>MoE- CCS to support and coordinate with Department of Agrarian Development, and ensure all constructions are completed. The CCS will provide a letter to the WFP Country Office confirming that all micro-irrigation systems have been fully completed.</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>September 2021</p>
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 5: Promote wider dissemination of adaptation measures at district or sub-basin level through exposure visits and farmer-to-farmer exchanges (with particular attention to include female farmers), so as to start information dissemination and capacity building of communities and government</p>	<p>WFP Sri Lanka and collaborating Government agencies</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP Country Office will promote wider dissemination of adaptation measures at district and sub-basin community level in proposed designs of future climate adaptation programming.³</p> <p>WFP will also incorporate Social Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC) as a strategy to disseminate</p>	<p>WFP Sri Lanka</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

³ CCAP project included dissemination of adaptation measures through exposure visits among beneficiary target groups.

<p>officials, and at the same time identify and address the main barriers for replication of these adaptation measures.</p>			<p>adaptation measures with a wider community.</p>		
<p>Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 6: For projects that primarily address the needs of farming communities, provide a greater role for the Dept Agrarian Development and Ministry of Agriculture in the management and coordination of field activities, and ensure that joint planning with other stakeholders is systematic and regular at both national and field level. <u>Implications:</u> WFP, as an existing partner of the Ministry of Agriculture, will need to support its capacity strengthening in field management and coordination, and ensure a stronger presence of its staff in the field to support the Ministry of Agriculture in these tasks.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and WFP Sri Lanka in capacity building role.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP will propose CCS to appoint the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) as a co-chair of steering groups in future programming focused on farming communities.</p> <p>The WFP Country Office will continue to support the Ministry of Agriculture through ongoing interventions (KOICA funded R5n, Last Mile Climate Services, Home-Grown School Feeding, and SSTC programmes) where the Ministry of Agriculture is a key partner.⁴</p> <p>The WFP Country Office is also bolstering its field presence through recruitment of additional staff to directly support the coordination and implementation with Government departments.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, WFP Sri Lanka</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
<p>Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 7: Invest in establishing effective M&E systems and assigning qualified designated persons for M&E from the beginning of the project. The M&E systems</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment UNDP & WFP Sri Lanka / leading agency should be the one coordinating the project</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Learning from this experience and from recent updated corporate investment and requirements to strengthen M&E, projects in the pipeline have a stronger focus on M&E from design stage, with specific budget earmarked for M&E activities,</p>	<p>WFP Sri Lanka</p>	<p>December 2021</p>

⁴ MoA to have responsibilities as steering committee co-chair as is being applied with the Home-Grown School Feeding programme.

<p>should include proper complaints and feedback handling mechanisms (CFM) that ensure confidentiality and that are centrally channeled to the project's M&E unit, with specific communication targeted at women and other marginalized groups.</p>			<p>including staffing. WFP will allocate adequate number of field associate positions for field level monitoring in future projects.</p> <p>A robust Complaints and Feedback Mechanism is currently being rolled out across all WFP interventions. This is further supported by the investment in the WFP's corporate Sugar CRM system. This digitalization will ensure accountability to beneficiaries, improved tracking of process flows, and closing out the feedback loop.</p>		
<p>Priority: High/Medium Recommendation 8: Formulate public-private partnerships or other relevant arrangements at a very early stage of establishing community businesses in future programming of similar nature, and follow an incremental approach to business support and take into account the need for local communities to acclimatize to the business culture, taking into account the differentiated needs of social groups (based on gender, age, or other vulnerability factors).</p>	<p>UNDP, WFP, DAD</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The WFP Country Office will focus on supporting and linking future community-based businesses with public-private opportunities while ensuring that benefits and the profits are equitably shared with the community members and vulnerable groups. An upcoming opportunity to address these business arrangements is through the upcoming Home Grown School Feeding project where the CO will explore early linkages between poultry farmer beneficiaries and the school meal programme.</p>	<p>WFP Sri Lanka</p>	<p>December 2021</p>

<p>Priority: Low</p> <p>Recommendation 9: Provide technical and business development guidance for emerging and new women's savings & loan groups, identified through a mapping of livelihood support initiatives at the beginning of any project.</p>	Government, WFP & UNDP	Agreed ⁵	<p>New climate adaptation proposals under development incorporate these elements into the project design.</p> <p>In case of new opportunities, WFP and UNDP collaborate as part of an advisory committee to oversee business development support for community groups, with the guidance of respective focal Ministries.</p>	WFP & UNDP	December 2021
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Reinforce the climate resilience objective in WFP's next CSP, making explicit linkages with other key strengths and activities of WFP, including nutrition (through nutrition sensitive programming), school feeding (home grown school feeding), and government capacity strengthening, integrating gender and equity considerations.</p>	WFP Sri Lanka	Agreed	<p>WFP Country Office will consider this for the next CSP cycle where the CO will actively link the CSP with the ongoing Common Country Analysis where climate change is strongly reflected.</p> <p>WFP recognizes that climate resilience will be a key priority for the next CSP and intends to define the clear integration between nutrition and climate resilience while ensuring the food systems approach in the CSP development.</p>	WFP Sri Lanka	November 2022

⁵ The WFP CO recognizes the importance of providing technical and business development guidance for emerging and new women's savings & loan groups to reach the sustainable results.