



Template

Management Response from WFP Palestine Country Office to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of WFP's Unconditional Resource Transfer Activity under the Social Safety Net Programme in Palestine ([DE/PSCO/2019/009]) from January 2018-2020 to December 2020

1. This document, finalized in June 2021, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation of WFP's Unconditional Resource Transfer (URT) activity under the National Social Safety Net Programme (NSSNP) in Palestine.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Palestine CO covers WFP's URT/CBTs/voucher to national social safety net beneficiaries in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is the first CSP activity under the first strategic outcome "Nonrefugees, poor and severely food- insecure people – primarily in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank – have improved dietary diversity by 2022". The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning and is expected to feed the upcoming Country Strategic Plan (CSP) formulation. The purpose of this evaluation is to provide information for future programming directions, strategic positioning within the NSSNP in Palestine, and reflect on food insecurity and poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip context.
3. The evaluation made ten key recommendations. 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.

<p>Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i></p>	<p>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></p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Actions to be taken <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) <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 <i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-) recommendation deadline.]</i></p>
<p>Priority: High Recommendation 1: Critically review the vulnerability and targeting criteria and assess whether they remain relevant to the context, especially the Gaza Strip context. (June 2022)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>1.1.1 Update the WFP beneficiary list in the Gaza Strip under the national social safety net programme using the updated PMTF.</p>	<p>CO VAM in consultation with RB/RAM unit</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
			<p>1.1.2 Conduct an essential needs analysis survey for the MoSD/ WFP beneficiaries.</p>	<p>CO VAM in consultation with the World Bank and the EU</p>	<p>June 2022</p>

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<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>Explore tiered and targeted assistance using varied voucher values based on need.</p> <p>(March 2023)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>2.1.1: Conduct an in-depth analysis for the updated beneficiary list (based on actions 1.1.1 +1.1.2) to be able to classify the eligible beneficiaries based on the consumption gap.</p>	<p>CO/VAM</p>	<p>September 2022</p>
			<p>2.1.2: Discuss with government counterparts different voucher values recommendations to complement national social safety net cash transfer programme in</p>	<p>CO VAM & Programmes units</p>	<p>March 2023</p>

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			accordance with the analysis conducted under action 2.1.1 for implementation in WFP PSE new CSP.		
Priority: Medium Recommendation 3: Consider increasing the voucher value for households composed of below-average members (March 2023)	WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development	Agreed	3.1.1: Review WFP's beneficiary list to determine the size of households composed of below-average members and determine its financial implications. 3.1.2: Following actions from recommendations 1.1.1 & 1.1.2 determine	CO: VAM & Programmes units CO: VAM unit	September 2022 March 2023

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			<p>actual needs for households composed of below-average members and discuss with the Ministry of Social Development recommendations to complement national social safety net cash transfer program for implementation in WFP PSE new CSP.</p>		

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<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 4: Maximize positive effects for female-headed households (March 2023)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

<p>Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i></p>	<p>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></p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Actions to be taken <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) <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 <i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-) recommendation deadline.]</i></p>
<p>Priority: Medium Sub-recommendation 4.1 Support female-headed households to ensure a dignified life for them and their children. A synchronized and coordinated approach lead by the MoSD, along with other sector stakeholders is required to maximize the positive effects of the URT/CBT/voucher on the lives and wellbeing of beneficiaries in female-headed households. (December 2021)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office, the Ministry of Social Development, inter-agency coordination working groups</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>4.1.1 : Strengthen linkages with other WFP projects targeting female-headed households – such as resilience / livelihood projects – with the aim of developing beneficiaries' capacity to operate small scale projects supporting their livelihoods.</p>	<p>CO: VAM & Programmes units</p>	<p>September 2021</p>
			<p>4.1.2 Advocate to include female-headed</p>	<p>CO: Programmes unit & inter-agency working groups: cash, social</p>	<p>December 2021</p>

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			households in the service-provision projects carried out by the humanitarian and development community in Palestine, i.e UNICEF.	protection, food security, etc	
<p>Priority: Medium Sub-recommendation 4.2 Customize the voucher value for female-headed households in the West Bank through tiered and targeted assistance based on food and poverty gaps. Scale assistance to cover an</p>	WFP Country Office	Agreed	4.2.1: Discuss with government counterparts different voucher values recommendations for female-headed households to complement national	CO VAM & Programmes units	March 2023

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increased number of female-headed households in the Gaza Strip. (March 2023)			social safety net cash transfer programme building on the analysis conducted under actions 1.1.1 &.1.1.2 & 4.1.1.		
Priority: Medium Recommendation 5: Minimize unintended effects on households with disabled members. (March 2023)	WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development	Agreed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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<p>Priority: Medium Sub-recommendation 5.1: Investigate the reasons why households with disabled members are the least effected by the URT/CBT/voucher assistance to prevent and mitigate the imbalance and adverse effects on households with disabled members. (March 2022)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>5.1.1 Develop a comprehensive database for the Ministry of Social Development for people with disabilities including database design and tools.</p>	<p>CO: VAM unit</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
			<p>5.1.2 Arrange for a data collection exercise to populate the database mentioned in action</p>	<p>CO: VAM unit and Protection FP</p>	<p>March 2022</p>

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			<p>5.1.1 covering all Palestinian households with disabled members under the national social safety net programme aiming at determining their specific needs and vulnerability levels.</p>		
<p>Priority: Medium Sub-recommendation 5.2: Targeting of households with disabled members must be improved, especially given that NSSNP targets both those in</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>5.2.1: Analyse data in new database references in action 5.1.2 above to develop different targeting options for households with disabled members.</p>	<p>CO: VAM unit and Protection FP</p>	<p>September 2022</p>

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<p>deep poverty and the marginalized. (September 2022)</p>					
<p>Priority: Medium Sub-recommendation 5.3: Custom voucher value for households with disabled members should be considered to minimize the impacts of unintended effects and to cover essential food gaps (March 2023)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>5.3.1: Discuss with government counterparts different targeting approach for households with disabled members to complement national social safety net cash transfer program in accordance with the analysis conducted under actions 5.1.1 & 5.1.2 for</p>	<p>CO : VAM & Programmes units</p>	<p>March 2023</p>

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			implementation in WFP PSE new CSP.		
Priority: Medium Recommendation 6: Consider scaling URT/CBT/voucher assistance due to the severity and the scope of need in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (March 2023)	WFP Country Office	Agreed	6.1.1 Review the planned number of beneficiaries under the current CSP based on the results of the Socio-Economic and Food security Survey 2021.	CO: VAM & Programmes units	January 2022
			6.1.2: Ensure that the planned number of beneficiaries under the PSE new CSP are based on the results of the Socio-Economic and Food security Survey 2021.	CO: VAM & Programmes units	March 2023

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Priority: Low Recommendation 7: Re-consider rCSI as one of the food security outcome indicators used in the Gaza Strip context. (March 2023)	WFP Country Office	Agreed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Priority: Low Sub recommendation 7.1: In the Gaza Strip, WFP CO can continue to monitor rCSI but	WFP Country Office	Agreed	7.1.1 Consider the recommendation in the WFP PSE new CSP, and henceforth rCSI will not be included as an	CO: M&E & VAM units	March 2023

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rely on FCS to report on outcomes. Meanwhile, WFP should explore other complementary and appropriate food security indicators, especially given the protracted humanitarian crises in the Gaza Strip and the strong correlation between rCSI and FCS. (March 2023)			outcome indicator for the Gaza Strip in the Logframe, and will rely on FCS as an outcome indicator.		
			7.1.2 The CO will continue monitoring consumption based coping strategies (rCSI) in the Gaza Strip context.	CO: M&E unit	June 2021
Priority: Low Sub recommendation 7.2:	WFP Country Office & Food Security Sector	Agreed	7.2.1 Lead food security sector discussions on rCSI and alternatives in	CO VAM & M&E	June 2022

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<p>Work with partners and national stakeholders to discuss the appropriateness of rCSI as an outcome measure of food security in the context of the protracted humanitarian crises in the Gaza Strip. (March 2022)</p>			<p>the context of Gaza Strip.</p>		

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<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 8: Prioritize the MoSD/NSSNP/CTP beneficiaries when faced with funding shortfalls or other shocks (December 2022)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>8.1: WFP PSE will continue to identify the MoSD/NSSNP caseload as a priority in the annual Country Office Management Plan (COMP) prioritization plan which is shared with the Executive Board</p>	<p>CO: Management</p>	<p>December 2022</p>
<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 9:</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>9.1.1 : Ensure that the findings and lessons learnt from the joint SDG Programme</p>	<p>CO: VAM & Programmes units</p>	<p>June 2022</p>

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<p>Continue to support the MoSD to expand, enhance, and institutionalize food security within the National Social Safety Net in Palestine. (June 2022)</p>			<p>(Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor for persons with disabilities (PwD) and older persons in the State of Palestine” are shared with government counterparts and considered in MoSD’s Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) and in WFP’s next CSP.</p>		
<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 10:</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	<p>10.1.1: Continue building the capacity of MoSD’s technical staff</p>	<p>CO: VAM unit</p>	<p>September 2022</p>

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<p>Take small steps towards national ownership. Although the context is not conducive to designing or implementing an exit strategy, small steps towards developing a national ownership strategy to support food assistance within the NSSNP appears to be highly relevant (December 2022)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office & the Ministry of Social Development</p>		<p>on food security indicators in the NSSN. 10.1.2: Discuss with government counterparts to include a food security indicator in the NSSN application form along with PMTF.</p>	<p>CO: VAM unit</p>	<p>December 2022</p>