

## Management Response

**Support for Strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Groups in Ethiopia:  
The Fresh Food Voucher Programme Expansion in Amhara Region (January 2018 to December 2020)**

**WFP Ethiopia Country Office**

<b>Rec. #</b>	<b>Recommendation Text (as per evaluation report)</b>	<b>Management Response</b> (Is recommendation <i>Accepted</i> , <i>partially accepted</i> or <i>not accepted</i> ? (If partially accepted or not accepted, provide a brief response))	<b>Actions to be taken</b> (Briefly state what actions will be taken to address the recommendation)	<b>Action By</b> [WFP Country Office, WFP Regional Bureau, WFP Headquarters, External Stakeholders (UN Agency, Government body, Donor)]	<b>Implementation timeframe</b> [Month, Year]	<b>Status</b> [Not started/In progress/On hold/Complete]
1	WFP should strengthen technical IT capacities for smooth registration, transfer and redemption process. Adaptations to reliability of mobile telephone network to be considered.	<b>Partially accepted</b>  Adaptation to mobile network reliability strongly depends on the technology service provider. WFP has already requested its partner to take action to either implement an offline solution or negotiate a better service with the mobile network operator. As such, the action cannot be implemented by WFP alone.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide technical training to key stakeholders, WFP staff and enumerators who take part in registration exercises on SCOPE and digital registration.</li> <li>2. Continue with ICT assessments as part of multi-sectoral assessments and future expansions to prioritize areas where the mobile telephone network is more reliable.</li> </ol>	WFP Country Office (Cash & Systems Team and TEC Unit as facilitators)	By Dec 2022	

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			3. Continued beneficiary sensitization on procedures to follow after telephone change and any ICT-related challenges.  4. Conduct monthly review and follow up for all unredeemed funds for trouble shooting.			
2	WFP should regularly assess the adequacy of transfer value in light of price fluctuations, and possibly of the beneficiary households' affordability.	<b>Accepted</b>	1. Monthly price monitoring.  2. Conduct quarterly cost and non-affordability of healthy diet analysis to inform required changes.	WFP Country Office (VAM Team and Nutrition Team)	By Dec 2022	

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			3. Quarterly review of the transfer value in line with analysis.			
3	WFP should consider conducting an impact evaluation with control group design in order to rigorously assess causal attribution of the, so far, promising results of the pilot programme.	<b>Accepted</b>  Subject to funding availability	1. Identify a control group and modify the monitoring plan to reflect control group design.  2. Apply control group design to internal outcome surveys (baseline, post-distribution monitoring, end line).	WFP Country Office (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning [MEAL] in collaboration with the Nutrition Team and Sub offices)	By Dec 2022	
4	Trade authorities, with WFP support, should strengthen accountability mechanisms for traders at the local markets.	<b>Partially accepted</b>  Subjected to the commitment from the Trade Authorities.	WFP cannot control the trade authority's accountability mechanisms but can support by:	WFP Country Office (Supply Chain CBT and markets and the	By Dec 2022	

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing robust monitoring tools and conducting training with the regional and <i>woreda</i> (district) trade authorities to strengthen accountability mechanisms.</li> <li>2. Conducting quarterly retailer performance monitoring.</li> <li>3. Working with retailers to ensure pricing is clearly displayed to improve accountability and transparency.</li> </ol>	sub office focal points)		

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5	WFP should focus on awareness-raising activities on nutrition for PLW and consider gradual phasing out (after 2 years).	<p><b>Partially accepted.</b></p> <p>This recommendation is partially accepted, because window of opportunity for stunting prevention is the first 1,000 days, hence the programme would not be able to continue with voucher transfers after the child reaches two years. However, the PLWG SBCC component will be strengthened and continued after graduation to maintain the gains.</p> <p>Although the CBT is to be discontinued after 2 years of age, WFP can seek to provide a staggered phase out linking the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the existing SBCC materials for maternal nutrition for any gaps.</li> <li>2. Collect information on behavioural barriers within the beneficiary contact monitoring surveys.</li> <li>3. Revise the materials based on identified gaps.</li> <li>4. Maintain SBCC component for the graduated beneficiaries.</li> <li>5. Explore linkages with livelihood programming by WFP or other partners</li> </ol>	WFP Country Office (Nutrition Team and Sub Offices)	July 2022	

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		FFV project to other interventions looking at raising the livelihoods of the vulnerable household. This will be possible only when there is geographical convergence of WFP nutrition and livelihood programming, willingness from the GoE Authorities and their policies, and resources availability.				
6	WFP should investigate interactions with other WFP and government programmes (such as the Productive Safety Net Programme transfers and home gardening programmes).	<b>Accepted</b>	1. Design FFV expansion project with linkages to Government of Ethiopia, FAO, and other WFP activities which focus on food availability / livelihood.	WFP Country office (Nutrition Team)	1. August 2021	

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mobilise resources for the expansion project.</li> <li>3. Research on sustainability impact of the new approach.</li> <li>4. Actively participate in the PSNP5 coordination group on nutrition to create stronger linkages with PSNP5.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Dec 2022</li> <li>3. Dec 2023</li> </ol>	
7	Given the importance of gender-sensitive programming, WFP should continue to investigate interactions and possible synergies with other governmental and private sector actors in order to reinforce the Digital and Financial Inclusion of	<b>Accepted</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue providing training on digital and financial literacy and related skills.</li> </ol>	WFP Country Office (Gender and Nutrition unit and Sub offices)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dec 2022</li> </ol>	

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	Women through phone-based voucher programmes.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Engage men/spouses to discuss on gender and social norms dialogues/discussions, using the SBCC platform so that male/spouse, community members can support females in their nutrition/care work and their economic empowerment process.</li> <li>3. Encourage women to use their names in registration of phone sim cards.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Dec 2022</li> <li>3. Dec 2022</li> </ol>	



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			4. Link FFV beneficiaries to government or private microfinance institutions including Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to access credit and expand their businesses/ productivity.			