



WFP EVALUATION



World Food Programme

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Mid-term Evaluation of Outcome (Sustainable Food Systems Programme) of WFP Kenya CSP in arid and semi-arid areas in Kenya

CONTEXT

Kenya's long-term development goals are set out in Vision 2030, launched in 2008, and one of the four priorities of the current Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) for 2018-2022 (GOK, 2018a) focuses on enhancing Food and Nutrition Security. To achieve progress in modernising agriculture in Kenya, the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029 (GOK, 2019a) sets three anchors to drive the transformation: increase small-scale farmer, pastoralist, and fisherfolk incomes; increase agricultural output and value-added; and boost household food resilience. Special attention is given to the ASAL counties to boost household food resilience.

Food security in Kenya continues to be a challenge due to many factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust invasions, conflict and insecurity, rapid population growth, climate change, stagnating agricultural production, and inefficient food systems.

SUBJECT AND FOCUS OF THE EVALUATION

WFP Kenya's CSP 2018–2023 aims "to accelerate its shift from direct provision of transfers and services to the strengthening of national systems and capacities to deliver food and nutrition security" (WFP, 2018a). SO2 of the CSP aims at ensuring that the Targeted smallholder producers and food-insecure, vulnerable populations benefit from more sustainable, inclusive food systems and increased resilience to climate shocks enabling them to meet their food and nutrition needs by 2023'. SO2 consists of two key CSP activities. Activity 3 aims to 'create assets and transfer knowledge, skills and climate risk management tools to food-insecure households' through cash or food transfers to meet seasonal food gaps while mobilising communities

to create climate-resilient assets for increasing production and diversifying livelihoods. Activity 4 aims to facilitate access to markets and provide technical expertise in supply chain management to smallholder farmers and retailers, as well as to public and private commodity markets, including national school meal programmes and WFP procurement activities. The focus for SO2 over the five years was initially on 14 arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties, including nine arid and five semi-arid counties. The MTE had a strong focus on the beneficiary and county perspectives.

OBJECTIVES AND USERS OF THE EVALUATION

This decentralized evaluation of Strategic Outcome (SO) 2 of the Kenya's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) was commissioned by WFP Kenya Country Office, covering the period from June 2018 through to July 2021, and was carried out in 2021. The objectives of the evaluation include both accountability and learning. This mid-term evaluation was commissioned to provide an evidence-based, independent assessment of the performance of the programme's activities so that WFP and its partners can adjust course as necessary for the remainder of the CSP period. The MTE set priorities for the remaining implementation period.

The expected users of the evaluation reports are the WFP Kenya country office and its partners in decision-making and implementation which include the Government of Kenya (GOK) and related departments, and the County Governments (CGs) which WFP works with on SO2 activities. Also, WFP's headquarters, its Regional Bureau in Nairobi, and other organisations on the evaluation reference group also have a direct interest in findings and recommendations.

Full and summary reports of the evaluation and the management response are available at <http://www.wfp.org/independent-evaluation>
For more information please contact the Office of Evaluation wfp.decentralizedevaluation@wfp.org

Date

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

[Relevance, coherence, coordination, and complementarity]

The evaluation found that the SO2 programme is highly relevant to the majority of rural food-insecure households in target counties and to the broader economic, social and demographic food systems contexts as well as to the reality of increasingly frequent climate shocks and stresses. Its relevance is particularly strong given increasingly frequent climate shocks and the longer-term stress of climate change in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

Regarding coherence, the findings show that the SO2 focus and activities are well aligned at the national and county level with Government priorities, especially agriculture and nutrition policies at the county level, and with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). However, some weaknesses of the internal coherence of the SO2 programmes have been identified such as partially logical allocation of the components of the overall programme between Activity 3 and Activity 4, uneven resourcing for the two activities, and inadequate coordination and unduly fragmentation of SO2 operations.

[Effectiveness]

Although the evaluation showed stable food consumption scores in the context of drought and declining food security in the ASAL counties, SO2 has not resulted in enhanced consumption of safe, nutritious, and diverse foods across all livelihood zones at the outcome level. In addition, the evaluation supported that the SO2 programme resulted in more engagement of beneficiaries in increased livelihood activities across the counties as a good fallback and potential cushion against shocks.

The evaluation concluded that WFP's efforts to support the enabling environment for resilience at the county level have been a success, with counties taking increasing ownership of sustainable food systems activities.

[Progress towards impact]

The evaluation found preliminary and tentative indications of positive changes in the livelihoods of ASAL residents, with irrigation emerging as a key driver.

Women are participating more actively in agricultural entrepreneurship and access to resources and assets for women is improving. However, progress is far from complete yet.

[Efficiency]

The strategic efficiency of implementing the SO2 programme has been good. Strengthening the capacities of County Governments has been more challenging and complex than envisioned. But WFP has gained the respect of government and partners and has developed a clear

comparative advantage through its work at the county level.

[Sustainability]

Significant policy and programming work has been delivered by WFP at county level. However, progress towards the sustainability is fragile at the MTE point and the intended sustainable results of the SO2 programme in target livelihoods are taking longer to emerge than anticipated.

[Planned outcomes]

The evaluation also found unintended outcomes such as livelihood diversification, embracement of women in farming, a revival of 4,000 clubs in schools, and youth abandoning drug and substance abuse.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Assessment

Overall, the evaluation supported that Kenya has made commendable progress with the SO2 programme but the challenges of SO2 still remain complex. Although SO2 planning was unrealistic, the evaluation found that WFP is considered as a respected pioneer for its focus and efforts on the challenges facing the ASAL and on working to enhance and support CG capacity and delivery. In addition, the evaluation concluded that two SO2 activities need to be streamlined to be more efficient and effective, focusing at the county level with adequate human resources. External coherence is satisfactory but needs strengthening.

Recommendations

The evaluation aimed to provide realistic but meaningful recommendations in terms of feasibility and potential effectiveness during the remainder of the current CSP period. Some of the recommendations reach beyond direct implementation by WFP, and call for WFP advocacy to stimulate action by others, coordinated with WFP's own operations as achieving sustainable food systems is not something WFP can do alone.

Recommendation 1. Intensify the focus of the SO2 programme on climate resilience as the key characteristic of sustainability in the sustainable food systems towards which the programme is working.

Recommendation 2. Intensify and broaden partnership strategies for the achievement of SO2.

Recommendation 3. Intensify efforts to advocate for increased and stable resourcing to CGs for implementation of their CSFSSs.

Recommendation 4. Strengthen the integration of efforts and work streams across the SO2 programme, maximizing focus and not embarking on any further pilots during this CSP.

Recommendation 5. Adopt innovative strategies to maximise quality technical services at county and local levels.

Recommendation 6. Promote and where possible provide meaningful ongoing support to ensure the food security of communities and households that no longer receive direct transfers.

Recommendation 7. Recommit to close work by SO2 and SO3 teams with CGs, to ensure no one is left behind in Activity 3 target communities, and that vulnerable and marginalised households are supported by social safety nets.

Recommendation 8. Strengthen performance on gender at all levels of SO2 programme planning, implementation, and monitoring, ensuring adequate resources are allocated to SO2 gender priorities.

Recommendation 9. Reappraise and refocus SO2 programme efforts with youth, to make them more effective.