



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Gender equality and women empowerment

Purpose of the Summary of Evidence


This Summary of Evaluation Evidence responds to a request from the Gender Unit of the World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Office for Western Africa to consolidate the lessons learned from evaluations on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The aim is to identify the main findings of these evaluations, whether gender was targeted directly or as a crosscutting theme, as well as the main trends emerging from the results of the evaluations.


This document also examines evidence availability and any existing gaps, to support strengthened approaches to monitoring, analysing and evaluating gender issues in the region.

Commission by the Dakar Regional Bureau and the Office of Evaluation

4 KEY LESSONS

1  **The mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment issues into the design of WFP intervention strategies in Western Africa has improved in recent years.**

- Efforts have been made to integrate these issues into the WFP's organisational functions, which support the creation of a more gender-friendly environment.
- This is reflected in the Gender dimension being mainstreamed across the activities supported, in the design of gender action plans at Country Office level, in the increase in gender-dedicated resources in certain countries; in the training of WFP staff and partners; and in the inclusion of gender clauses in service contracts.

2  **Despite the improved mainstreaming, the approach is struggling to become transformative in line with the objectives of WFP's Gender Policy. This has produced mixed results.**

- There is a significant gap between the commitments made regarding gender equality and women's empowerment in planning documents and the actual implementation and monitoring of interventions.
- A reason may be the limited ownership of gender-related concepts and WFP's Gender Policy by WFP teams and partners implementing programmes in the field.
- The results are mixed and vary according to the interventions concerned.

3 **Some elements stand out as potential levers for effectively taking gender issues into account,** including:

- **The usefulness of conducting systemic and contextualised socio-anthropological analyses** relating to gender equality and women's empowerment to inform the design of interventions and the targeting of beneficiaries. For example, by providing information on the differentiated roles and needs of men and women or the distribution and use of resources within a household.
- In this respect, it seems important to **revisit certain assumptions relating to social dynamics**, which currently form the basis of WFP interventions, to enhance the depth of the analyses. One example would be to rethink the role that men play in promoting women's empowerment and its effects on nutrition.
- **The value of systemic approaches**, including intervention design based on an understanding of gender dynamics, conscious targeting of actions, appropriate capacity strengthening, and the continued use of the mainstreaming approach in parallel in order to improve gender integration in interventions.
- **The need to internalise** and possibly compensate for any opportunity costs that women incur by participating in activities targeting them, which requires conducting more in-depth analyses of socio-economic dynamics in order to be more transformative.
- **The need to address the delays in integrating certain sub-themes relating to gender**, such as protection and gender-based violence (GBV), human rights (and women's rights in particular), and the role of women in peacebuilding.

4 **Progress has also been made in measuring gender equality and women's empowerment results.**

- This progress is linked to better data disaggregation and the introduction of specific indicators.
- Nevertheless, the capacity of monitoring and evaluation systems remains weak for collecting and analysing relevant data to capture societal changes to which interventions may have contributed.

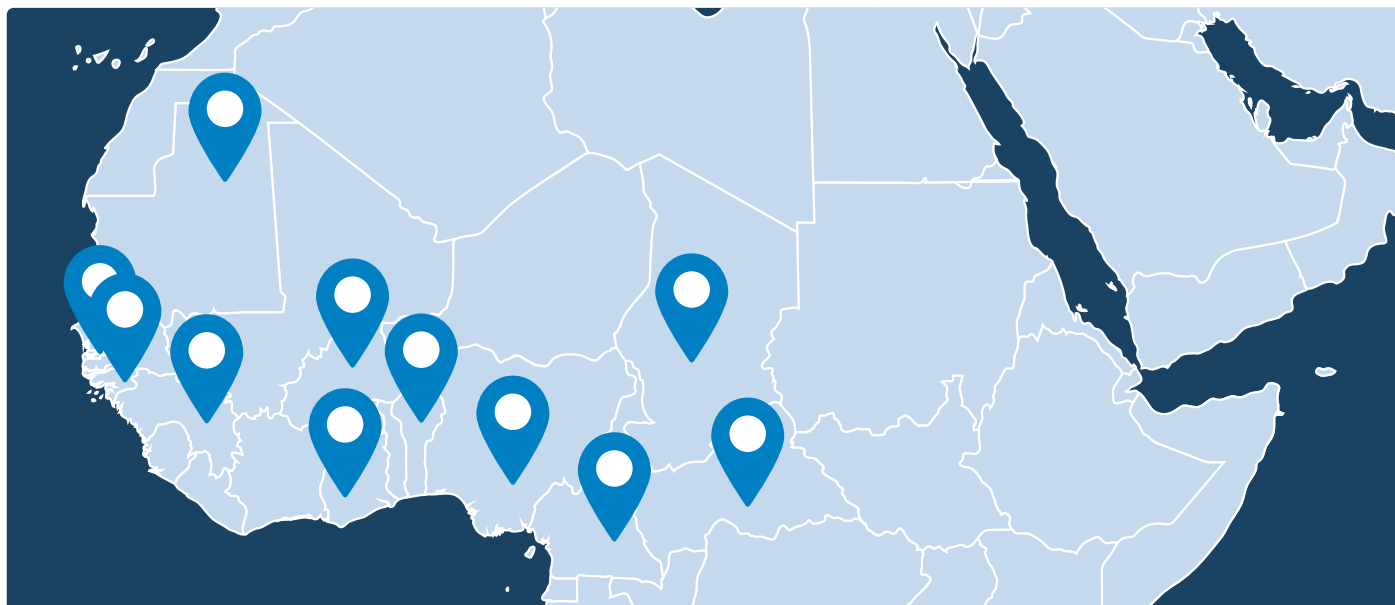
BREADTH OF EVIDENCE

The Summary of Evaluation Evidence is based on the reports of 19 independent evaluations commissioned by WFP in Western Africa covering the period 2014-2022. 15 are country-level evaluations and 4 are sub-regional evaluations.

- **6** are centralised evaluations of **country strategic plans (CSPs)**
- **7** are centralised **thematic** evaluations (4 of which specifically target gender)
- **6** are **decentralised** evaluations of programmes (2 of which specifically target gender)

LOCATION OF THE EVALUATIONS CONSULTED IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

These assessments cover 11 countries in West and Central Africa, as shown on the map below.



Based on the main findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the 19 evaluations, the summary aims to extract the most significant lessons stemming from evidence related to gender equality and women's empowerment. The approach and methods outlined in WFP Evaluation Office's Technical Note on Summaries of Evaluation Evidence underpinned the approach followed.

ANNEX ■ LIST OF EVALUATIONS CONSULTED

- Evaluation thématique sur les questions de genre dans les interventions du PAM au Burkina Faso (2016-2018)
- Evaluation conjointe à mi-parcours du programme national d'alimentation scolaire intégré (PNASI) (2017-2019)
- Final evaluation of McGovern-Dole international food for education and child nutrition program in Guinea-Bissau (2016-2019)
- Evaluation décentralisée de la contribution du PAM au système de protection sociale adaptative (SPSA) en Mauritanie (depuis 2018)
- Midterm Evaluation of nutrition activities in the Gambia (2016-2019)
- Formative evaluation of livelihoods activities in Northeast Nigeria (2018-2020)
- Evaluation thématique des activités de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles en Guinée (2019-2021)
- Final evaluation of enhanced nutrition and value chain (ENVAC) project (2016-2021)
- Evaluation of Cameroon WFP country strategic plan (2018-2020)
- Evaluation of the Gambia WFP country strategic plan evaluation (2019-2021)
- Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays provisoire du PAM en République centrafricaine (2018-2022)
- Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays du PAM Tchad (2019-2023)
- Mauritania country strategic plan evaluation (2019-2022)
- Nigeria country strategic plan evaluation (2019-2022)
- Summary of Evidence from Decentralized Evaluations in West and Central Africa (2016-2019)
- Summary of evidence fom decentralized evaluations in west and central africa (2016-2019) tecnical review
- Gender equality and women's empowerment evidence from evaluations panel discussion
- Evaluation of the gender policy (2015-2020)
- Evaluation thématique sur les questions de genre dans les interventions du PAM en République centrafricaine 2014-2018


WFP EVALUATION

 wfp.org/independent-evaluation

 wfp.evaluation@wfp.org

 @WFP_Evaluation

 Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70, 00148 Rome, Italy

 T +39 06 65131

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