

EVALUATION OF WFP LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT, ASSET CREATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ FROM JANUARY 2020 TO DECEMBER 2021

Decentralized Evaluation Report

WFP Iraq



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Contents

Executive Summary	iii
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Evaluation features	1
1.2. Context.....	2
1.3. Subject being evaluated	10
1.4. Evaluation methodology, limitations and ethical considerations.....	15
2. Evaluation findings	22
2.1. Relevance	22
2.2. Relevance – Gender.....	24
2.3. Coverage.....	29
2.4. Coherence	33
2.5. Effectiveness	35
2.6. Efficiency.....	40
2.7. Sustainability and connectedness.....	41
3. Conclusions and recommendations	44
3.1. Conclusions	44
3.2. Lessons learnt.....	45
3.3. Recommendations	46
Annexes	49
Annex 1. Summary Terms of Reference	50
Annex 2. Timeline	51
Annex 3. Evaluation Matrix	53
Annex 4. Data collection Tools	65
Annex 5. Field work Agendas	82
Annex 6. Food security zones and priority one districts	88
Annex 7. Bibliography	91
Annex 8. Evaluation Questions - Original and Revised	92
Annex 9. Actual vs Plan performance 2020/2021	95
Annex 10. SO2 CSP Budget, January 2020	99
Annex 11. Participant numbers by year	100
Annex 12. UN System support for gender equality in Iraq	102
Annex 13. Communication and Knowledge Management Plan	104
Annex 14. Acronyms	105

List of tables

Table 1 Cumulative CBT amounts, 2020 and 2021 (USD)	14
Table 2 SO2 Activity participants 2020-2021	14
Table 3 Evaluation questions and sub-questions	15
Table 4 Completed Fieldwork by Activity, Location, CP, and interview category.....	19
Table 5 Evaluation constraints and mitigating measures.....	21
Table 6 Percentage of SO2 participants supported by Governorate, CP and activity (2020 and 2021)	30
Table 7 Participant selection criteria examples	31
Table 8 Planned versus Actual FFA and FFT Participants and outputs 2020, 2021	37
Table 9 Workshops participants by activity and gender	38
Table 10 EMPACT planned participant caseload, 2020 and 2021	39
Table 11 Evaluation recommendations.....	47

List of figures

Figure 1: Participants consulted, by interventions.	23
Figure 2: Percentages of women and men beneficiaries consulted on project design.....	24
Figure 3: FFA participants' gender, in 2020.....	25
Figure 4: ECFW participants' gender, in 2020	27
Figure 5: Percentages of women and men participants aware of available complaint mechanisms	28
Figure 6: Interviewee awareness of feedback mechanisms.....	28
Figure 7: Priority Geographic Targeting	29
Figure 8: Perceived fairness of participant selection.....	32
Figure 9: Salah al Din FFA project actual participants' residence status.....	33
Figure 10 : Perceived improved community-level resilience as a result of FFA interventions.....	38
Figure 11 : Projects' impact on women's status	40

Executive Summary

1. This decentralized activity evaluation was commissioned by the World Food Programme (WFP) Iraq Country Office (CO) and covers the Livelihood support, Asset creation, and Climate adaptation activities in Iraq from January 2020 to December 2021. Activities fall under WFP Iraq Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2) - 'Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024.' Activities were implemented through four modalities: i) Food for Assets (FFA) schemes ii) Emergency Cash for Work (ECFW) iii) Urban Livelihoods (UL) and iv) Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) in seven governorates: Ninewa, Anbar, Salah Alden, Baghdad, Thi Qar, Missan and Basrah. Activities included internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees.
2. The purpose of the evaluation is to inform WFP Iraq CSP operationalization and the design and implementation of Resilience Building activities under SO2. The evaluation serves the dual and mutually reinforcing objectives of accountability to stakeholders and learning for WFP and partners.
3. The expected primary users of this Evaluation Report are the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo and CO in Iraq. Given the scale and type of activities implemented in Iraq, additional expected users include WFP Headquarters Asset Creation, Livelihoods and Resilience Unit. Finally, expected users also include the WFP Office of Evaluation and WFP Executive Board.

Methodology

4. The evaluation was based on a mixed-methods approach including i) a review of project documentation supplied by the CO, ii) 19 key informant interviews (KIIs) with staff from the Country Office, Regional Bureau, and other key stakeholders carried out in-person and remotely by the main evaluation team (ET), and iii) qualitative fieldwork incorporating quantitative data collected by local consultants (35 focus group discussions-FGDs, 19 KIIs) and international evaluation consultants from the ET. The sampling strategy of FGDs and KIIs covered six governorates in which SO2 activities were implemented. The ET used a purposeful sampling strategy to include a range of resilience and livelihood activities, urban/rural locations and types of beneficiaries. The ET employed triangulation to assess the strength of findings between different data sources.
5. During the inception phase, the ET worked with the WFP CO to realign and revise the evaluation matrix, including removing some evaluation questions (EQs) and excluding the criteria of Impact. This final evaluation answered 11 EQs covering the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) evaluation criteria of relevance, coverage, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability and connectedness. Methodological design was centred on participatory and gender-responsive approaches, including key accountability to affected persons (AAP) principles. Gender was mainstreamed throughout the evaluation methodology with the ET aiming to gather gender-sensitive and disaggregated results of the project activities. All aspects of the evaluation were guided by the internationally agreed principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.
6. The main limitation encountered was the reduced number of participants involved in data collection due to the time lapse between project activities and evaluation and the inclusion of EMPACT FGDs only in Erbil as the Cooperating Partner (CP) was no longer working in other locations.

Findings

7. **Relevance:** The CO's selection of governorates and districts was based on in-depth context analysis. However, CPs were unable to conduct specific conflict, gender, environmental or economic analyses due to resource constraints at proposal stage. The design of the four intervention types is relevant based on priority short term contextual needs and, to a certain extent, some medium/longer term priorities of the different types of participants and communities supported, albeit less inclusive for refugees given smaller refugee populations.
8. WFP's three-pronged approach to resilience programming incorporating contextual analysis, seasonal livelihood planning, and community based participatory planning (CBPP) has not been consistently applied.
9. **Relevance - Gender:** It is unclear whether activity-level design was based on a sound gender analysis. The level of gender inclusion at project level depended mainly on individual CP capacities. Overall, UL and

EMPACT were more relevant for women participants compared to FFA and ECFW interventions. The CO has subsequently taken steps to identify what improvements are needed to enable gender mainstreaming in programme design and delivery. Increasing gender awareness amongst WFP and partners' staff remains essential.

10. **Coverage:** WFP intervention reports and feedback from local government authorities confirm that district-level coverage included districts based on vulnerability criteria. However, at the community-level, CP selection processes lacked rigor with inconsistent verification of beneficiary data. As a result, it is more difficult to confirm inclusion of the most vulnerable populations within selected communities.

11. **Coherence:** Resilience activity outcomes and objectives are aligned with UN Agency and cluster priorities, including the UNSDCF priorities, as well as Government sectoral priorities. Alignment with the priorities of the programme's main donor is also positive as the CO transitions towards a developmental mindset with a longer-term perspective. The COs commitment to developing the capacity of the Iraqi government in both urban and rural areas is also coherent with these priorities.

12. **Effectiveness:** Resilience activities, overall, can be said to have reasonably achieved their expected outputs, albeit to a lesser extent for some activities from one year to the next. Activities have contributed to improving food consumption scores, though not at targeted levels. However, other indicators are now worse than baseline values or remain constant. While it is generally considered that WFP activities have had a positive impact, the actual level of contribution is not definitively clear, as external factors have both supported and been detrimental to such changes.

13. FFA activities have increased food production and short-term income for participants through CfW and have also improved local agricultural production through the rehabilitation and reclamation of agricultural land. Both UL and EMPACT activities have generated some positive employment and income results despite the challenging macroeconomic context. The CO has responded to the need for additional support for EMPACT participants to secure employment through an increased focus on linking beneficiaries to markets. Employment outcomes were understandably lower for women given the prevalent discriminatory local labour markets.

14. **Efficiency:** Primary and secondary data support findings that project activities generally ran smoothly and on schedule. Factors enabling efficient delivery include good coordination with local government authorities and local leaders as well as CP knowledge, experience and expertise and their existing presence in selected locations.

15. However, delays have been reported regarding specific activities negatively impacting efficiency. Reported constraints related to time spent waiting for local governments to approve projects and issues regarding equipment procurement. The slow processing of Field Level Agreements was also reported, as well as contractual payments from WFP. Insecurity and COVID-19 delayed WFP and CP staff access to field locations, the latter delaying the EMPACT intervention from an eight-week in person course to a five-months online course.

16. **Sustainability and Connectedness:** There was no explicit sustainability strategy built into programme design, rather it has been assumed or anticipated. However, primary data suggests it is possible that a range of medium to long term benefits will accrue from the WFP resilience interventions, notably in terms of land reclamation, increased agricultural production and employment/income generating opportunities in addition to the knowledge and skills acquired by participating in FFT, UL and EMPACT interventions. At the community level, sustainability is threatened by inconsistent local authority ownership of interventions.

17. WFP management has questioned whether WFP staff have the relevant skill set to implement longer term interventions. There does not appear to have been a plan in place during 2019-2021 to replace or retrain SO1 focused staff as SO2 specialist staff, although this may be taking place in 2023.

Conclusions

18. District-level prioritization by the WFP CO is based on robust analysis. There is less confidence, however, as to whether the most vulnerable have been consistently selected at a community level, with CPs not systematically applying WFP CO targeting criteria at field level.

19. The four intervention types are largely relevant, addressing short and, to some extent, medium/long term needs of included beneficiary categories within operational contexts. Different implementation

methodologies have been applied to address collective and individual needs in both rural and urban settings. Activities are well aligned with government priorities at a local and national level, and consistent with WFP global strategies and the Iraq CSP.

20. Gender-sensitivity and other cross-cutting considerations have not been consistently incorporated into programme design and implementation though some CPs and specific interventions have shown very positive gender transformative implementation methodologies and results. Concerns have been raised across the programme with respect to shortfalls in gender consultation, targeting, analysis and levels of gender programming knowledge amongst WFP and CP staff. There has been a lack of investment in gender resources and training to address needs identified through the 2021 national level gender analysis. As WFP moves towards joint implementation with government authorities in 2023, sustained capacity-building in these areas will be essential.

21. Overall, programmatic output levels have been achieved for most interventions, generally starting and finishing on time. Output activities have improved the circumstances of the communities and individuals concerned and have contributed towards programmatic objectives and outcomes.

22. However, there have been several constraining factors that have reduced programmatic effectiveness, both internal and external. More attention should have been given to ensure sustainability of interventions, with little follow up being incorporated into projects design at the individual or community level.

23. Although direct implementation has tangible benefits in value for money and oversight of field activities, capacity strengthening is needed for proper implementation. Capacity building within government departments to date has been insufficient, leading to concerns among key informants as to whether the quality of project implementation will be maintained when partially managed by public authorities moving forward. Accountability mechanisms will need to be significantly strengthened to maintain oversight.

Key Lessons Learnt

- i. Affected populations' participation in both programmatic design and implementation needs to be consistently mainstreamed in intervention methodologies to maximise the relevance of interventions.
- ii. Insufficient resources have been allocated to gender considerations. As a result, these elements have not been consistently incorporated within the programmatic activities evaluated.
- iii. WFP cannot rely on CPs to undertake detailed cross-cutting analysis during the project proposal stage, as time and financial constraints are prohibitive.
- iv. Cross-cutting environmental, economic, and conflict considerations appear to have been very limited in resilience interventions to date.
- v. WFP should proactively ensure selection criteria provided are consistently used, and verification of participant lists consistently undertaken at field level.
- vi. Joint implementation with public authorities in Iraq requires sustained efforts in capacity-building and awareness-raising to achieve inclusion of women and vulnerable groups throughout the project implementation cycle.
- vii. Disaggregating CP/project reports by number of participants from different category groups would enable WFP resilience staff to monitor how interventions are reaching the different groups.
- viii. WFP partner monitoring procedures need to be reviewed in line with recurring quality and timeliness issues.
- ix. Embedding longer-term considerations to project design would maximise the potential effectiveness and ultimate impact of interventions. The move towards a longer term more developmental focus, incorporating more resilience building and climate change adaptation, can be deemed as relevant.
- x. Solid business development support activities need to be systematically included alongside capacity-building interventions such as UL and EMPACT. Adequate analysis of local market needs will be essential in future resilience programming
- xi. WFP staff would have benefited from more capacity building activities at the outset of the resilience and development activities implementation.

Recommendations

24. The ET finds all programmatic recommendations relevant for immediate incorporation into ongoing resilience activities. Priority levels are high for all recommendations considering that new resilience activities have already started.

#	Recommendation	Responsibility
Programmatic		
1	To increase relevance and effectiveness the CO need to ensure greater compliance with their own three-pronged approach within new programmatic interventions, improving population participation at all stages of project implementation and ensuring the representation of relevant participant category groups, whose disaggregated numbers need to be consistently included in project reports so that they can be monitored. Within the revised direct implementation methodology, project management cycles need to allow enough time for cross-cutting analysis to be undertaken.	WFP Resilience Team
2	Similarly, whether working through CPs, public authorities, or directly implementing activities, the resilience team management need to ensure selection criteria are consistently applied at field level, participant lists thoroughly verified, and communities aware of participant selection criteria. This will support improved community level confidence in selection processes, as well as donor confidence in WFP programmatic achievements.	
3	To improve sustainability and ensure that ongoing and future resilience interventions have built in follow up and sustainability activities to monitor and maximise longer-term programme effectiveness and ultimate impact. Specifically for the UL and EMPACT interventions, this should include business development support activities imbedded in capacity-building interventions based on relevant local market need assessments.	WFP Resilience Team/ Management
4	To increase efficiency and sustainability Government ownership of initiatives needs to be prioritised by resilience programme staff from the outset of interventions and incorporated into programme design. Similarly, capacity building within government departments to enable their current and future management of interventions will need to be augmented as the resilience programmes move forward. Realistic indicators will also need to be set up for both so these elements may be monitored and measured. This is particularly relevant in terms of gender considerations and the inclusion and selection of vulnerable populations within programme implementation.	WFP Resilience Programme Staff
Programme support		
5	WFP country team senior management need to bolster the number of staff responsible for gender, as well as other cross-cutting thematic – environmental, economic, and conflict – areas. Training and awareness raising activities need to be initiated as WFP implement directly through and in collaboration with local government counterparts.	WFP Country Team Senior Management
6	Internal partner monitoring procedures need to be jointly reviewed by the resilience team and procurement management to identify why there were recurring complaints regarding the quality and timeliness of items procured, and to establish what systematic corrections need to be made.	WFP Resilience Team and Procurement Management
7	Given WFP's move towards direct implementation, WFP senior management and resilience team management need to elaborate a medium/long term staff planning strategy to ensure adequate levels of expertise are available for each thematic element within their resilience interventions.	WFP Senior Management and Resilience Team Management

1. Introduction

25. This evaluation report covers the World Food Programme (WFP) Livelihood support, Asset creation, and Climate adaptation activities in Iraq from January 2020 to December 2021. The evaluation is a mid-term activity evaluation of WFP Resilience Building activities under Strategic Outcome (SO) 2 of the WFP Iraq Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2020 to 2024.

26. In line with the WFP 2022 Evaluation Policy, this evaluation was commissioned by the Iraq Country Office (CO) to build a body of evidence on resilience-building activities, which are still relatively new in Iraq. The CO had originally intended to conduct a decentralized evaluation for WFP Resilience Building activities under CO CSP 2020-2024 in 2021. However, the evaluation did not take place due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the resilience building activities in 2020. As a result, the CO shifted the evaluation to 2022, enabling a review of the resilience-building activities that were implemented in 2020 and 2021. The commissioned evaluation team undertook the evaluation between September 2022 and March 2023, with fieldwork by local consultants undertaken at the start of January 2023 and international consultant undertaking trips to Baghdad and Erbil between 29 January and 2 February 2023.

1.1. EVALUATION FEATURES

27. **Purpose:** The purpose of the evaluation is to inform WFP Iraq CSP operationalization and the design and implementation of Resilience Building activities under Strategic Outcome 2, focusing on livelihood restoration, asset creation and climate adaptation activities; it serves the dual and mutually reinforcing objectives of accountability to stakeholders and learning for WFP and partners. The evaluation is geared more towards the learning objective as the outcomes and conclusions of this evaluation will provide strategic guidance and concrete parameters for future programming for the CO, host Government as well as other partners working in the country in livelihood support, asset creation and climate adaptation activities.

28. **Evaluation users:** The primary expected users of this Evaluation Report are the WFP Regional Bureau for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe and the WFP CO and field offices in Iraq to inform and improve design and implementation of future programming and partnerships. Given the scale and type of activities implemented in Iraq, the WFP Headquarters Asset Creation, Livelihoods and Resilience Unit is an additional expected user as evaluative lessons may have relevance beyond the geographic area of focus. Finally, the WFP Office of Evaluation and WFP Executive Board may use findings to feed into centralized evaluations, evaluation synthesis or other learning products and processes.

29. **Scope:** This evaluation focused on SO2 of the WFP Iraq CSP - 'Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024.' Strategic Outcome 2 aims to enhance livelihoods and increase resilience to shocks of rural and urban communities – including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees – whose livelihoods, assets and incomes have been negatively impacted by crises. These activities intended to include conflict-affected and food-insecure IDPs, returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees in Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, Ninewa, Anbar, Salah Al Din, Baghdad, Basrah, Missan and Thi Qar governorates.

30. The evaluation assessed processes related to formulation, implementation, resourcing, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of all resilience building activities under SO2 implemented under the following programmes: i) Livelihood and Resilience Programme: Food for Assets (FFA) schemes and Emergency Cash for Work (ECFW); ii) Urban Livelihoods (UL); and iii) Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) between 2020 and 2021.

31. The evaluation also critically assessed the value of the gender aspects of the operations, identified related challenges and reviewed what programmatic efforts were made to include gender mainstreaming in resilience activities and explored what gender transformative effects resilience programming has generated.

1.2. CONTEXT

32. With an estimated population of 41.2 million,¹ the population of Iraq is predominately urban (70 percent), and young with 15 percent of the population under five years old, 50 percent under 18 years old and 70 percent under 24 years old. Women make up 49.4 percent of the population.² With a growth rate of 2.55 percent, the population is projected to double by 2050.³ Iraq hosts over 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers, over 80% of which live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). More than 230,000 are Syrian Kurds, while approximately 52,000 are Syrian Arabs, or from Iran, Turkey, Palestine and other countries.⁴ Iraq's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2021 was 0.686, placing it in the Medium Human Development category - positioning it at 121 out of 191 countries and territories.⁵

33. **Livelihoods:** The latest labour force data comes from 2021. The national estimate of unemployment is 16.5 percent with large disparities based on socio-demographic characteristics.⁶ Unemployment rates remain particularly high among IDPs and returnees, youth, women and persons with disabilities. A lack of livelihood activities is the root cause of many child protection and education issues, including child labour and child marriage.

34. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that female labour force participation in Iraq is low – estimated at 20 percent. Iraqi women who participate in the labour market are also more likely to be under-employed or employed only part-time. Young women in particular struggle to find employment: In 2021, 65 percent of young women aged 15 to 24 were unemployed, compared to 23.5 percent of young men.⁷ Key factor contributing to gender disparities related to labour force participation in Iraq include age of marriage, social norms determining the role of women in the public domain, the presence of young children and limited available childcare services, and differences in educational attainment.⁸ According to the ILO's 2021 Labour Force Survey of Iraq, labour force participation is most facilitated by having a university level of educational attainment for both men and women. The gap in labour force participation rate is significantly narrower at this level compared to other levels of education attainment.⁹ At the university and above level of educational attainment, the rate of labour force participation for men and women is 82.4 percent and 61.9 percent respectively.¹⁰ At the secondary level of educational attainment, the participation rate is 52.4 percent and 10 percent for men and women respectively.¹¹ The disparity continues to widen further; at lower levels of education (i.e. can only read or can only write) the rate of labour force participation rate is 76.9 percent for men and only 4 percent of women.¹²

35. The COVID-19 pandemic further aggravated the employment situation by imposing movement and lockdown restrictions leading to an economic slowdown that negatively affected food security. Casual labourers living in urban settings were particularly impacted by COVID-19 related lockdowns.¹³ The Government of Iraq (GoI) responded to the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic by providing top-ups to Social Safety Net recipients and by establishing the Minha emergency grants, a cash transfer implemented relatively independently from existing social assistance programmes.¹⁴ The absence of unemployment benefits in the social security system has meant that the large number of workers affected by the pandemic

¹The World Bank, 2021, Population, total- Iraq

² World Bank, "Population, Female (% of Total Population) - Iraq," Iraq- Data (The World Bank Group)

³ UNICEF, 2019, Country Programme Document- Iraq

⁴ UNHCR, 2023. Operational Data Portal- Iraq.

⁵ UNDP, 2022. Human Development Reports- Iraq.

⁶ ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

⁷ UN Iraq, 2022. Iraq Common Country Analysis (CCA) Condensed Version.

⁸ ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

⁹ ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

¹⁰ ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

¹¹ ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

¹² ILO, 2021. Labour Force Survey, Iraq

¹³ ILO, 2020. COVID-19 crisis in Iraq disproportionately affects young workers and the informally employed.

¹⁴ ILO, 2022 Social Protection, Iraq.

did not receive income support.¹⁵ In comparison, rural populations were fairing somewhat better due to the bumper harvest of wheat and barley in 2019, though productivity has inconsistent due to climate change (see paragraph 45).

36. Meanwhile, access to employment and livelihood opportunities remains one of the main needs reported by Syrian refugees in Iraq.¹⁶ According to a United Nations (UN) Women survey of women Syrian refugees in Iraq, 57 percent said they did not have enough money to live. Employment income was precarious with 34 percent of primary earners in a household having no temporary or contractual employment, and 30 percent reported non-agricultural casual labour.¹⁷ Moreover, 82 percent reported economic insecurity as their primary concern. Only 4 percent of surveyed Syrian refugee women reported that they had access to full-, part-, or temporary work even though nearly a quarter said they wanted to work to contribute to their household income.¹⁸

37. IDPs in camps face multiple barriers in accessing employment including distance to potentially available jobs and lack of qualifications. In-camp IDP households with members living with disabilities and female-headed households are two and three time more likely, respectively, to face unemployment compared to other households.¹⁹ Employment rates and opportunities for out-of-camp IDP households are also low. Approximately 30 percent of out-of-camp IDP households have at least one family member who is unemployed and seeking work.²⁰

38. Returnees also struggle to find employment. An estimated 25 percent of all households that have returned to their areas of origin have at least one adult family member who is unemployed and seeking work, an increase from 18 percent in 2020.²¹ Returnees are more likely than IDPs to have access to public sector jobs. However, reliance among returnees on informal daily labour has reportedly increased since 2020.²²

39. Finally, youth are another group with disproportionately high unemployment. While ILO projections estimate that youth unemployment has fallen slightly since 2020, youth unemployment remains high at 35 percent.²³ A recent report published by UNICEF highlights skills gaps among Iraqi youth, including digital skills, which hamper employability.²⁴

40. **Multi-dimensional poverty:** Multi-dimensional poverty remains a constraint to growth and a serious challenge for many Iraqis, especially women. Iraq already has the highest poverty rate among all upper-middle income countries.²⁵ According to the recent poverty estimates for Iraq's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) achievements conducted by the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in 2021, poverty in Iraq increased from 20.7 percent in 2018 to 31.7 percent in 2020 because of COVID- 19. In 2021 the situation slightly improved to 12.27 million (29.6 percent) Iraqis under the national poverty line. Poverty, which impedes educational attainment, skills acquisition and health outcomes, has limited the potential of many Iraqi youth. Girls and older adolescents (15-19) are more vulnerable to poverty. Poverty rates are also higher in southern governorates.

41. **Food Security and Nutrition:** Food security among IDPs and returnees in Iraq remains primarily linked to their displacement status, resulting in high levels of aid dependency as well as challenges establishing sustainable livelihoods and accessing predictable sources of income.²⁶ Currently no gender-disaggregated

¹⁵ ILO, 2022 Social Protection, Iraq.

¹⁶ REACH, 2019, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment; UNHCR, IMPACT, 2019, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) IV of Refugees Living out of Formal Camps in the KRI

¹⁷ UN Women, 2018. Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement: The Status of Syrian Refugee Women in Iraq.

¹⁸ UN Women, 2018. Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement: The Status of Syrian Refugee Women in Iraq.

¹⁹ UNOCHA, 2022, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022: Iraq, 27 March 2022

²⁰ UNOCHA, 2022, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022: Iraq, 27 March 2022

²¹ UNOCHA, 2022, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022: Iraq, 27 March 2022

²² UNOCHA, 2022, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022: Iraq, 27 March 2022

²³ International Labour Organization. "ILO Modelled Estimates and Projections database (ILOEST)" ILOSTAT. Accessed April 25, 2023

²⁴ The Education Commission and UNICEF Education and Adolescent Development Programme Group, 2022, Recovering Learning.

²⁵ UN Iraq, 2022. Iraq Common Country Analysis (CCA) Condensed Version.

²⁶ UNOCHA, 2022, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022: Iraq, 27 March 2022

data is available to assess progress on SDG 2 indicators.²⁷ Nevertheless, among returnees, female-headed households are nearly three times more likely to face moderate or severe hunger. The conflict in Ukraine's severe impact on global supply chains has also had negative consequences on food prices and wheat imports, further threatening food security in Iraq.²⁸

42. In addition to female headed households, persons with disabilities represent key at-risk groups within the crisis, particularly persons with disabilities who relied on daily wages to meet basic needs. Limited access to medicine and health care services compound existing challenges in accessing employment.²⁹

43. A 2022 Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WFP analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and food security in Iraq found that, across the general population, men and women in Iraq appear to experience similar prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity, with male respondents showing greater levels of severe food insecurity.³⁰ Women respondents were more likely to identify food and nutrition as negatively affected by COVID-19 as well as identify food and nutrition as a priority need (women respondents reported this as the second-most reported priority need by women respondents, 56 percent, compared to third most reported priority need by male respondents, 50 percent of males).³¹

44. **Agriculture:** Agriculture is the largest employer in Iraq, especially in rural areas and increasingly for women residing there. In 2011, the percentage of women in agricultural employment was 49 percent, while men represented 17.1 percent. In 2017, 43.7 percent of women and 16.7 percent of men were working in the agricultural sector.³² According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "women in rural areas are more likely to be economically active than women in urban areas but they also face greater food insecurity, more barriers to education, and participate more in the informal—and therefore unprotected by Iraq's equal opportunity laws—economic sphere."³³

45. **Climate change:** Reduction in rainfall, increased water and soil salinity, drought-like situations and the increasing temperature have worsened livelihood prospects for already vulnerable population. Sporadic and insufficient precipitation during the cropping season (2020-2021) in the northern governorates has impacted crop failure in areas of return. The subsequent loss of income has led to the adoption of negative coping strategies, particularly among out-of-camp IDPs and returnees.

46. Environmental stress has also contributed directly to political instability. Water shortages and increases in water salinity were the immediate triggers for the mass protests in Basra in 2018 and created tensions among local communities. In the north of Iraq, the devastation of water scarcity on the agricultural sector facilitated recruitment by terrorist organizations amongst destitute farmers searching for alternate sources of income.³⁴

47. 2022 marked the second consecutive year of drought and record low levels of rainfall country wide. Issues related to water and climate act as a "threat-multiplier" for millions of conflict and displacement affected people across Iraq where water scarcity has already displaced thousands from their homes in search of alternative pathways for income and employment.³⁵ Notably, higher percentages of IDPs and returnees report that a family member has already moved as a result of the drought, reaffirming that displacement-affected households are more vulnerable to climate-related migration.³⁶

²⁷ UN Women Data, 2022. Iraq.

²⁸ UN Security Council, 2022, Implementation of resolution 2576 (2021) Report of the Secretary-General [S/2022/368]

²⁹ FAO and WFP, 2022. The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Food Security in the Arab Region with a Focus on the Sudan and Iraq.

³⁰ FAO and WFP, 2022. The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Food Security in the Arab Region with a Focus on the Sudan and Iraq.

³¹ FAO and WFP, 2022. The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Food Security in the Arab Region with a Focus on the Sudan and Iraq.

³² UN Iraq, 2022. Iraq Common Country Analysis (CCA) Condensed Version.

³³ UNDP, 2012. Integrating Women into the Iraqi Economy.

³⁴ UN Iraq, 2022. Iraq Common Country Analysis (CCA) Condensed Version.

³⁵ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). 2022. A Dry Horizon: Iraq's Interlinked Drought and Climate Crises

³⁶ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). 2022. A Dry Horizon: Iraq's Interlinked Drought and Climate Crises

48. The three governorates that make up southern Iraq, Basra, Missan and Thi-Qar, have witnessed the highest number of water-induced internal displacement throughout the past decade, due primarily to water scarcity, pollution and soil salinity. Particularly in Thi-Qar, in some villages up to half of all homes have been abandoned. By January 2019, nearly 15,000 new displacements were triggered by water shortages in southern Iraq.³⁷ In November 2021, IOM recorded 12,348 (overall 2,000 households) displaced from southern Iraq due to drought.³⁸

49. Families reliant on agriculture are much more likely to report migration; 20 percent of households in southern Iraq who abandon farming report that one member migrated in the past five years (a rate much higher than non-agricultural families) while another 30 percent indicate a preference to migrate.³⁹ Over the past five years, 7 percent of all farming households (4 percent in Basra, 12 percent in Thi-Qar, and 8 percent in Missan) have abandoned their livelihood.⁴⁰

50. Flooding presents another significant risk in this area, where torrential rainfall has caused extensive flooding in Basra and Missan, destroying homes and displacing entire communities in affected districts. Flooding due to rising sea levels presents an additional climate hazard, as a result of which by 2050 the southern most districts of Iraq (predominately in Basra but also Missan and Thi-Qar) may be partially submerged.⁴¹

51. In southern governorates especially, high salination levels have negatively impacted crop growth and livestock. For example, households living in the marshes of southern Iraq have been forced to relocate due to both the quality and scarcity of water as their water buffalos rely on a clean water supply.⁴² Although these households have traditionally moved within the wetlands with changes in the seasons, they view their current movement as forced and permanent since they can no longer rely on the wetlands to sustain a livelihood.⁴³

52. The lack of drinking water is also a key factor in recorded migrations in this region. In Basra, 41 percent of households in Qurna and 29 percent in Shatt al-Arab reported that there is no drinking water available in rivers or canals due decreased water levels and the high salination.⁴⁴ As a result, households have had to resort to coping strategies such as across purchasing drinking water, changing their water source, and reducing the quantity of water they use. These coping mechanisms risk exacerbating economic conditions for vulnerable populations including incurring debt.⁴⁵

53. **Conflict and displacement:** Populations in Iraq continues to face recurrent displacement from war and conflict. As a result, large segments of the population remain in protracted vulnerability. As of June 2022, approximately 1.2 million people remain displaced in Iraq due to the conflict with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The majority of the remaining IDPs are in out-of-camp situations, often living in precarious conditions, marked by overcrowded or illegally occupied houses with poor infrastructure and limited access to basic services. This leaves them more vulnerable to disease, leading to poor health outcomes. Additionally, livelihood opportunities for displaced people are often unpredictable, as most find work on a temporary and informal basis. With persistent political and fiscal fragilities in Iraq, displacement-affected population groups, including both IDPs and refugees from other countries (mainly Syria), will remain vulnerable.

54. **Relevant Government policies and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The Government of Iraq has continued to work on its long-term vision for the country's development and achievement of the SDGs. Iraq submitted their first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019 and a second in 2021. Key development plans to support SDG achievement include the Iraq Reconstruction and Development Plan 2018-2027, the

³⁷ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

³⁸ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

³⁹ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁴⁰ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁴¹ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁴² IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁴³ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁴⁴ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). 2022. A Dry Horizon: Iraq's Interlinked Drought and Climate Crises

⁴⁵ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). 2022. A Dry Horizon: Iraq's Interlinked Drought and Climate Crises

Second Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) 2018-2022 and its medium-term National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022.⁴⁶

55. The NDP for 2018-2022 sets out sectoral priorities for development and achievement of the SDGs over a five-year period, with a focus on reconstruction and recovery. The NDP is complemented by the PRS for 2018-2022, which identifies six key outcomes of the Government and its partners: higher and sustainable incomes; improved health; improved education; suitable housing; social protection; and emergency response.⁴⁷ The Government has also engaged in developing a “Vision 2030” that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs and identifies and addresses medium- and long-term strategic development priorities.

56. The Government prioritizes actions to accelerate progress towards improving food security and enhancing nutrition in line with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) targets. Iraq has achieved moderate progress on SDG 2.⁴⁸ However, progress has been uneven given the challenges the country is facing.⁴⁹ Significant challenges remain in relation to the prevalence of undernourishment (37.5%) which has seen progress stagnate.⁵⁰ Likewise challenges remain regarding the prevalence of stunting in children under five years of age (12.6%), which has improved moderately although insufficiently to achieve targets for this indicator.⁵¹ Currently no gender-disaggregated data is available to assess progress on SDG 2 indicators.⁵²

57. Progress on SDG 17 (partnerships) is also stagnating.⁵³ No reporting is available on SDG 17 indicators such as government spending on health and education (% of GDP). Regarding the indicator for government revenue excluding grants (% of GDP), in 2019, some progress had been made (38.4%), however, in the same year, the country’s Statistical Performance Index (worst 0 -100 best), stood at 34.8% lower than previously.⁵⁴

58. The Reconstruction and Development Framework outlines the Government’s commitment and approach for moving from humanitarian assistance and stabilization to recovery, reconstruction and development for its crisis-affected population.⁵⁵ The Framework outlines five recovery pillars, the fifth of which is economic development. This pillar includes a focus on productive capacities/livelihoods, indicating short-term priorities that include Cash-for-Work and Youth-focused community services to address and assess food security and living needs for IDPs, returnees, poor, vulnerable and war-affected households.⁵⁶ Another near-term priority under this theme includes support to local food production and sustainable livelihoods, such as rehabilitation of agricultural lands.⁵⁷

59. **Gender and human rights dimensions:** While the Government of Iraq does not report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government has endorsed the national strategy on combatting violence against women (2013-2017) and the national strategy for the advancement of the status of Iraqi women (2014-2018).⁵⁸ However, neither strategy has been adequately implemented in light of the influence of discriminatory gender norms and lack of programmes oriented towards promoting women’s economic or social empowerment, among other political, economic and security related conditions prevailing in Iraq.⁵⁹

⁴⁶ Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, mop.gov.iq/en/

⁴⁷ WFP. 2019. Iraq Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024).

⁴⁸ Sachs et al. (2022): From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond. Sustainable Development Report 2022. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

⁴⁹ WFP. Iraq Annual Country Report 2020. Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

⁵⁰ UNDP, 2022. Sustainable Development Report- Iraq.

⁵¹ UNDP, 2022. Sustainable Development Report- Iraq.

⁵² UN Women Data, 2022. Iraq.

⁵³ Sachs et al. (2022): From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond. Sustainable Development Report 2022. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

⁵⁴ UNDP, 2022. Sustainable Development Report- Iraq.

⁵⁵ Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning. 2018. Reconstruction and Development Framework.

⁵⁶ Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning. 2018. Reconstruction and Development Framework.

⁵⁷ Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning. 2018. Reconstruction and Development Framework.

⁵⁸ WFP. 2019. Iraq Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024).

⁵⁹ WFP. 2019. Iraq Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024).

60. Iraq acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986 with reservations on article 2 (f) pertaining to abolishment of existing laws and customs constituting discrimination against women, article 2 (g) concerned with repealing all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women, and article 16 of the convention emphasizing commitment to eliminating discrimination against women in matters related to marriage and family relations.⁶⁰

61. Gender inequality is high with a country ranking of 145th of 191 countries included in the 2021 Gender Inequality Index (GII).⁶¹ Gender inequalities have been exacerbated over the years due to economic sanctions and armed conflicts.⁶² Iraq's score of 0.535 on the 2021 Global Gender Gap index (GGGI) is similarly low, ranking 154th in the world and 18th (of 19 countries) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.⁶³ Iraq has one of the largest economic gender gaps globally (84 percent gap) ranking 155th. Political empowerment for women is similarly low with a ranking of 109. Gender disparities are much less dramatic for sub-indices of educational attainment and health and survival. Globally, however, the country still ranks poorly (145th and 96th, respectively). There are also disparities and intersectionality affecting gender gaps that are based on geographic region, ethnicity, disability and religious affiliation across Iraq. This includes disparities in access and control over resources, including limitations on financial inclusion, information, education and technology.⁶⁴ In addition, gender inequality regarding health also persists – families report being less inclined to seek outside care when a girl is ill (56 percent) than when a boy is ill (62 percent).⁶⁵

62. Conflict has exacerbated gender inequalities in Iraq by increasing protection risks for women and girls, limiting women's mobility and reducing their sense of security. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major area of insecurity and inequality for Iraqi women. Over one million persons in Iraq are at risk of experiencing GBV and in need of specialized protection services. Domestic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and "honor" killings are the most common forms of sexual and gender-based violence in Iraq.⁶⁶ In January 2022 the Ministry of Health in Iraq, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), launched the first gender-based violence strategic plan to provide a long-term strategy and operational direction for implementation to reduce the impact of GBV.⁶⁷

63. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated gender inequalities driven by the economic, social and political marginalization of women. These impacts materialized through loss of livelihoods, increases in food insecurity and malnutrition, limitations on mobility due to lockdowns, impacts on physical and mental health, halting education systems and processes, increasing unpaid care and domestic chore burdens and exacerbating protection and GBV risks.

64. The right to food is recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and is enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.⁶⁸ Iraq signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1969 and ratified it in 1971.⁶⁹ WFP recognizes that the urgent and lasting solutions to ensure the fulfillment of these essential rights in relation to the achievement of Zero Hunger require changes in policy and practice at the global, regional, national and local levels. To this end, WFP actively advocates for these changes through a range of platforms and forums, including the World Economic Forum, Nutrition for Growth, G7, G20, the UN General Assembly, and the High Level Political Forum and others.⁷⁰

⁶⁰ WFP Iraq Gender Analysis, Final Draft, February 2021

⁶¹ UNDP (2021). Gender Inequality Index.

⁶² UNDP (2019). Human Development Report. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

⁶³ Iraq is not included in the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report

⁶⁴ WFP Iraq Gender Analysis, Final Draft, February 2021

⁶⁵ UN Iraq, 2022. Iraq Common Country Analysis (CCA) Condensed Version.

⁶⁶ Idem.,

⁶⁷ World Health Organization. "First gender-based violence strategic plan launched in Iraq," WHO in Iraq (2 February 2022). <https://www.emro.who.int/iraq/news/first-gender-based-violence-strategic-plan-launched-in-iraq.html?format=html>

⁶⁸ OHCHR, 2010. The Right to Adequate Food, Fact Sheet No. 34.

⁶⁹ OHCHR, 2023. UN Treaty Body Database.

⁷⁰ WFP, 2023. Advocacy.

65. WFP's advocacy efforts aim to support the Decade of Action for Delivery called upon the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The Decade of Action for Delivery aims to mobilize governments, multilateral agencies, civil society, the private sector, as well as the UN system, to identify solutions and strengthen commitments to achieving the SDGs by 2030. To this end, WFP's advocacy efforts aim to sustain global attention and political momentum to advance the attainment of the SDGs for 2030, in particular by highlighting successful policies and practices, promoting ambitious partnerships and innovate solutions that can collectively tackle barriers to the attainment of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by 2030.⁷¹

66. **International assistance:** In addition to providing life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian support, the humanitarian community in Iraq is continuing its collaboration with development and stabilization entities to operationalize the nexus and to contribute to the adoption of a shared understanding and coordinated action in response to the priority drivers of need. The Government of Iraq, UN development agencies, the international humanitarian system, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donor representatives have continued to accelerate efforts to expand engagement and support to end displacement.

67. Many positive developments continue to gain momentum as the country progresses towards recovery, including its burgeoning durable solutions architecture and recovered national capacities. Since the conclusion of formal military operations against ISIL, significant reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts have rebuilt roads, reopened local markets, restarted public water and electricity, and rebuilt housing and health. In light of these developments, the humanitarian community has also increased joint efforts to transition and scale down the collective, whole-of-system, international humanitarian response in Iraq, in parallel to implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).⁷²

68. Gender mainstreaming across UN programming has continued to be a priority in Iraq. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Iraq has had a Gender Thematic Group (GTG) since 2016, namely the UN Interagency Gender Task Force (GTF), chaired by UN Women and co-chaired by UNDP and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The GTF includes participation from the majority of resident UN Agencies with 13 agencies participating out of a total of 16 resident agencies in Iraq (and 4 non-resident agencies).⁷³ The existing UN Interagency GTF in Iraq supported gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) formulation process.

69. The UN System in Iraq coordinated work on gender equality with technical support to gender units in line ministries; the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Women's Machinery and to Parliamentarians, among others. Further details of UN actions in support of gender equality are provided in Annex 12.

70. Despite these efforts, the 2019 UN- System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) found that the UNCT Iraq had not established or achieved a financial target for the allocation of programme resources for gender equality and women's empowerment. The UNCT did not show any evidence of means of tracking and utilizing gender-specific budgetary data, although the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) is preparing a tool to track budgetary data against SDGs which may offer some indication against SDG5 targeted initiatives.

71. The Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) released a report in October 2020 assessing the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and coordination of gender-responsive programming, capacity building, and the participation of women and girls in the period 2017-2019 in four case study countries, including Iraq.⁷⁴ While the report highlighted achievements in gender mainstreaming made globally, it also emphasized that the lack of dedicated human

⁷¹ WFP, 2023. Advocacy.

⁷² UNOCHA, 2022, Iraq: Humanitarian Bulletin, January- March 2022

⁷³ UN Women, 2019. UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard Annual Reporting, Iraq, 2019. UN Agency members are: UN Women, UNAMI, UNDP, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), IOM, FAO, UN-HABITAT, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Mine Action (UNMAS), WHO, WFP, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF).

⁷⁴ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020. In the case of Iraq, the focus of the case study brief is on the IDP and returnee situation that developed following the ISIL insurgency of 2014. The case study brief does not reflect efforts made with regard to the Syrian refugee population living in Iraq

resource capacity on gender has resulted in lost opportunities to build synergies across clusters and sectors, with joint efforts left to the initiative of clusters. Specifically, the report suggested that, as Iraq's stability improves, a permanent and coordinated gender capacity at senior decision-making levels is crucial to ensure that adequate attention is given to gender equality throughout the response and as the humanitarian, peace, and development nexuses converge⁷⁵. Further details are provided in Annex 12.

72. Gol climate change policy, priorities and donor partnerships: The alarmingly frequent manifestations of the effects of climate change from sandstorms to extreme temperatures, and critically, the long drought that has hit the southern marshes and driven southern Iraq to a tipping point, have alerted the Iraqi government to the urgency of climate action. Iraq was recently represented by a delegation from various governmental entities at the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27), the United Nations climate conference, among which was the climate and health committee of the Iraqi parliament. This was an important engagement that reflects the seriousness of Gol intentions in addressing the climate crisis and mainstreaming the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in its national legislation, to facilitate investment in renewable energy and approach to a greener economic model in Iraq.⁷⁶

73. Iraq has the possibility to access, advocate for, and allocate financial resources, technical support and capacity-building, and technological transfer to several key international and national forums and policy frameworks addressing challenges associated with climate migration. In 2020, the Gol, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, began the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a means to identify areas of resource mobilization, analyse and address gaps in institutional capacity, and build awareness of the NAP within and outside Iraq.⁷⁷ The NAP is funded by the Green Climate Fund and will be developed and implemented as part of a three-year project with a specific focus on strengthening institutional, technical and financial capacities.⁷⁸ The NAP planning process provides a chance to ensure that both the potential challenges and opportunities of migration, displacement and planned relocation are fully addressed.⁷⁹

74. Iraq ratified the Paris Agreement in 2021, finalizing its updated NDC in 2021, providing the umbrella policy for climate change efforts in Iraq. The Gol committed to cut 1-2 percent CO₂-equivalent emissions from industry, take a range of mitigating measures related to the energy sector and open a window for US\$100 billion in investment in the green economy over the next decade.⁸⁰ Nevertheless, climate migration is not addressed, undermining the allocation of resources and actionable commitments to mitigate and address this issue.

75. The World Bank's recently published Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) estimated that Iraq needs around US\$233 billion in investments by 2040 to respond to the most urgent climate investment gaps.⁸¹ The Gol's 'Green Paper', which is being jointly developed with UNDP, intends to address and implement measures to mitigate the impact of climate change and support Iraq's net-zero transition. A partnership between UNDP and the World Bank will ensure through a joint programme to support the implementation of the country's climate ambition guided by the Green Paper, and the World Bank's CCDR.⁸² However, the Green Paper does not recognize climate migration as a risk or identify actions to prepare, mitigate, potentially benefit from, or leverage the contributions of migrants themselves. These represent important omissions since mitigating and addressing climate-induced displacement requires specific actions and sufficient resources.⁸³

⁷⁵ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

⁷⁶ UNDP. 2022. UNDP and World Bank joined forces to support Iraq's Climate ambitions.

⁷⁷ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁷⁸ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁷⁹ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸⁰ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸¹ UNDP. 2022. UNDP and World Bank joined forces to support Iraq's Climate ambitions.

⁸² UNDP. 2022. UNDP and World Bank joined forces to support Iraq's Climate ambitions.

⁸³ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

76. In 2020, the Government of Iraq created a Technical Working Group on Migration to implement the various provisions of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). In October 2020, the Technical Working Group endorsed the National Strategy for Migration Management and noted the lack of contingency planning for climate migration and recommended addressing this issue in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.⁸⁴ As the primary institutional pillars for implementing the GCM in Iraq, the Technical Working Group and National Strategy are key resources to engage in policy decisions and planning related to climate migration.⁸⁵

77. Under the Technical Working Group on Migration, the GoI established an Economic Affairs Taskforce which is mandated to address migration as a source of sustainable development as part of the National Migration Management Strategy. The Taskforce validated the issue of climate migration as a priority in its internal workplan and highlighted the need to mainstream migration management into government activities that address climate change.⁸⁶ The Taskforce offers an important forum for policy decisions and coordination related to climate migration in Iraq.

78. The United Nations Network on Migration (UNM) was established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated support for Member States for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Climate change and migration is a priority of the UNM and its key role in advocacy and action include advocating for the inclusion of climate migration in Iraq's Green Paper and future NDC discussions and supporting UN agencies to prepare joint submissions on climate migration for Iraq's Green Paper and future negotiations on Iraq's NDC.⁸⁷

1.3. SUBJECT BEING EVALUATED

79. In 2018, WFP's engagement in Iraq shifted from emergency humanitarian response to longer term recovery and livelihood-based activities with a particular focus on women and youth who are often excluded from employment opportunities. In January 2018, WFP moved to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP), providing monthly food assistance to nearly 600,000 IDPs in camps and to nearly 60,000 Syrian refugees in addition to the provision of Immediate Response Rations to newly or secondary displaced families. WFP's shift towards a greater focus on recovery and rehabilitation efforts in post-conflict areas is aligned with the UN Recovery and Resilience Plan for Iraq (RRP), which the UN Country Team also launched at the beginning of 2018.

80. This transition was informed by the findings and recommendations emanating from a WFP zero-hunger strategic review (Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis) completed in 2018 with the participation of core Government partners and other stakeholders. Under Pillar 4: Increasing employment, especially among youth and women, the review highlighted the need to enhance access to employment opportunities, both in rural and urban areas, and suggested multi-year programming towards this aim.⁸⁸ The findings and recommendations included a specific focus on the need to establish livelihood support opportunities, including vocational training and technical support for targeted women and poor smallholder farmers, including female agricultural outreach workers, developing their capacity and skills on climate-smart technologies, farming systems, and water use. These recommendations informed the activities implemented under the scope of this programme evaluation. Implemented activities did not incorporate other recommendations regarding the creation of medium-term courses in technical, financial and business management training and the creation of an agricultural and rural investment fund.⁸⁹

81. WFP launched the CSP (2020-2024) in January 2020, which was approved during the EB.2/2019 session. The CSP aims to support the Government in accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while shifting WFP's role from direct implementation of activities to the enabling of national programmes. This shift is critical given the overall goal of building resilience and long-term peace and development.

⁸⁴ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸⁵ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸⁶ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸⁷ IOM Iraq. 2022. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq.

⁸⁸ WFP, 2018. National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Iraq.

⁸⁹ WFP, 2018. National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Iraq.

82. The CSP 2020-2024 focuses on three interrelated strategic outcomes that contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 by focusing on crisis response (SO1), resilient livelihoods (SO2) and capacity strengthening (SO3). Under SO1, WFP provides immediate support for people affected by crises, while supporting livelihoods and resilient food systems to improve agricultural development. Under SO2, WFP works on resilience building and adaptation to climate change. Implementation has been expanded to cover not only areas to which IDPs are returning but also areas in southern Iraq where vulnerability and food insecurity indicators are high. WFP prioritizes and promotes the participation of women and young people to enhance the equity and equality that helps enable food security and nutrition. Under SO3, WFP makes strategic investments in government capacity strengthening, enhancing capacities in national and subnational institutions involved in social protection, emergency preparedness and early warning systems, food security and nutrition, gender equality and value chain development and promoting triangular cooperation.

83. This approach is directly aligned with the Government's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and with the national development plan for 2018-2022, which lays out sectoral priorities for development and the achievement of the SDGs, with a focus on reconstruction and recovery. The CSP is also aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2020-2024. In partnership with the Government, United Nations agencies, the World Bank, non-governmental organizations and civil society, these efforts will allow WFP to help Iraq achieve zero hunger, support the country's development, and contribute to improving prospects for peace.

84. **SO2 Logic and Assumptions:** Strategic Outcome 2 aims to enhance livelihoods and increase resilience to shocks of rural and urban communities – including IDPs, returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees – whose livelihoods, assets and incomes have been negatively impacted by ongoing crises and the impact of climate change.⁹⁰ To reach this outcome, the WFP Livelihood, Asset creation and Climate adaption activities aim to operationalize a transition from emergency-based interventions towards longer term development. WFP resilience activities have thus been articulated around an integrated approach involving conditional cash assistance with the provision of basic inputs and equipment required to revive food processing and marketing, alongside the provision of trainings to improve smallholder skills and productivity through the introduction of modern practices. In addition, WFP developed partnerships with government departments, including governmental vocational training centers for Urban Livelihoods activities, and public universities for EMPACT activities.

85. Such activities are expected to generate improved agricultural productivity, facilitating adaption to issues aligned with climate change, and an increased skills base, giving urban and rural populations increased technical and marketing skills with which they can enhance their self-reliance. The CSP logframe outcome indicators thus pertain to: (i) livelihoods (Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index, Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihoods asset base); (ii) food security (Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index, Food expenditure share); as well as (iii) climate resilience (Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks).

86. This strategy is built upon several assumptions as outlined in the CSP logical framework. Namely that: i) The provision of readily available income through conditional cash transfers is a strong enough incentive for work to be conducted/completed; ii) There is a secure pipeline; iii) Cooperating partners (CP) are able to distribute; iv) Beneficiaries consume food assistance; and v) Farmers adapt climate-resilient agricultural practices.⁹¹

87. The aforementioned assumptions have predominantly held firm. However, the CO, as understood during the inception mission (October 2022), has already decided to change its approach towards implementing its resilience activities, moving away from working with NGO CPs (unless particularly relevant to do so), adopting a direct implementation model and working more closely with local authorities and universities. Such changes have been made to be more economically viable (working through CPs adds an additional layer of costs) and to enable closer alignment with the Government, which should improve the

⁹⁰ The Strategic Outcome 2 reads: "Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024."

⁹¹ CSP 2020-2024 logical framework

sustainability of activities implemented, assuming ownership of such interventions can be achieved. Considering the timeframe for the new initiatives that will be implemented during 2023, what effect such recent changes will achieve is outside the scope of this evaluation.

88. There was no original theory of change (ToC) developed for activities implemented under SO2. Given the revision in approach to implementing resilience activities mentioned above, it was confirmed with the CO that there would be no exercise to reconstruct a ToC as part of this evaluation. Reviewing the ToC for the new approach to livelihoods activities is outside the scope of the evaluation.

89. **Gender Dimensions:** In 2015, WFP adopted a five-year Gender Policy, (2015-2020),⁹² which is implemented in accordance with the Gender Action Plan, which was approved by the Executive Board.⁹³ The centrality of gender equality to achieving a world of Zero Hunger, and thus to WFP's mandate, was reinforced with the adoption of the WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021), and associated elements of the Integrated Road Map. Gender mainstreaming is a key means by which WFP implements its commitments to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment within the organization and across its programmes and operations, thereby enabling food security and nutrition for all women, men, girls and boys in line with their human rights, being the right to adequate food. This is why the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment (Sustainable Development Goal 5) is central to fulfilling WFP's mandate.⁹⁴ The Gender Transformation Programme (GTP) is one of the core mechanisms for mainstreaming gender throughout WFP, as well as meeting United Nations system-wide gender equality commitments.

90. The Iraq CO participated in the GTP. After completion of the baseline self-assessment (September 2020) and implementation of the Improvement Plan (October 2020 - July 2021), a final assessment was undertaken in September/October 2021. The final assessment involved a review of the CO's achievement of the 39 benchmarks upon which the GTP is based. The report provides a summary of observations for each of the seven GTP benchmark categories. The CO met all 39 benchmarks, thus successfully completing the GTP.⁹⁵

91. According to the evaluation TOR, WFP's Resilience Building programmes seek to improve the food security needs of vulnerable communities in a manner that is equitable and promotes gender equality. These efforts have been informed by the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) and relevant livelihood assessments, inclusive of participatory gender analysis. Based on the 2021 Annual Country Report (ACR), the CSP activity received a Gender and Age Marker (GAM) score of 4.

92. **Equity:** To the extent possible, the activities under the SO2 targeted both men and women. As listed below, WFP Iraq implemented four types of Livelihoods, Asset creation and Climate adaption activities, namely (i) Food Assistance for Assets (FFA), (ii) Emergency Cash for Work (ECFW), (iii) Urban Livelihoods (UL) and (iv) the Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) programme. In some of the activities such as UL, WFP were more successful in including women in income generation training activities, while women were less effectively included under the FFA and CFW components which often entailed heavy physical workload activities. EMPACT had a strong focus on women albeit women struggled more than men to find work. (These are detailed in Section 2.2 Relevance – Gender, paras 130-158). The food assistance payments/rations were provided equally to both men and women, and family rations were calculated per person in a family, all without discrimination. To date there is little evidence as to the inclusion of people with disabilities in resilience activities, except perhaps with respect to the UL intervention where HHs with people with disabilities were specifically targeted.

93. **Activities and Outputs:** From 2020 into early 2022, WFP Iraq implemented four types of Livelihoods, Asset creation and Climate adaption activities, namely (i) Food Assistance for Assets (FFA), (ii) Emergency Cash for Work (ECFW), (iii) Urban Livelihoods (UL) and (iv) the Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) programme.

94. Activities were implemented in partnership with several national and international NGOs, some state universities, and in coordination with the relevant government departments. Implementation partners include Welt hunger hilfe (WHH), Human Appeal (HA), People in Need (PIN), Samaritan's Purse (SP), the

⁹² WFP Gender Policy 2015-2020

⁹³ The UN Gender Policy is more recent than the UNWOMEN UNSWAP accountability framework, which was not referred to by the CO during the course of the evaluation.

⁹⁴ WFP Gender Policy 2015-2020

⁹⁵ Iraq GTP Final Assessment Report

Swedish Development Aid organization (SEWDO), Mercy Hands for Humanitarians Aid (MH), Action Contre La Faim (ACF), Caritas, Orokom Organization for Relief & Development (OROKOM), AL Mortaga, OXFAM, World Vision, GOAL, Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program Organization (RIRP), Sulaymaniyah (UoS), American University in Sulaymaniyah (AUIS), and ACTED. Governmental partners include Departments of Agricultural, Water Resources, Environment and Labour and Social Affairs Departments and University of Suleimaniyah

95. **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** FFA included cash for work schemes for the rehabilitation of agriculture and irrigation infrastructures, the provision of agriculture inputs and equipment – including green houses, livestock shelter, community bread ovens and home gardening – as well as capacity strengthening initiatives through the provision of vocational trainings. WFP prioritized areas where IDPs are returning, namely in Ninewa, Anbar and Salah Al Din governorates,⁹⁶ as well as areas particularly affected by the 2021-2022 droughts, and areas highly vulnerable to climate change and other economic shocks, including Thi Qar, and Basra governorates. Activities were implemented through 12 Cooperating Partners (ACF, ACTED, CCR, GOAL, HA, MH, Orokom, PIN, Reach, SP, SWEDO, WHH).⁹⁷

96. **Emergency Cash for Work (ECFW):** ECFW schemes were implemented in 2020 in response to the economic challenges induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial assistance was provided to selected participants who contributed to cleaning and rehabilitating infrastructure in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, and Wassit governorates. Specifically, the project included works on 147 schools, 25 public parks, 3 health centers, 1 center for the disabled, 1 orphanage, and 2,490 km of main and secondary roads. Activities were implemented through 3 Cooperating Partners (GOAL, MH, Orokom).

97. **Urban Livelihoods (UL):** ULs supported urban populations in 2021 with cash-for-training activities, equipping selected participants with vocational skills demanded by local markets. These included catering, food processing, car mechanics, mobile phone and electronics maintenance, photography, and tailoring, among others, as well as business skills. The project was planned and implemented in partnership with local governments through vocational training centers and other relevant entities. Activities were implemented through 3 Cooperating Partners (MH, RIRP, SWEDO)

98. **Empowerment in Action (EMPACT):** The EMPACT programme, first introduced in Iraq in 2017, aims to equip young refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities with mobile income-generating skills that can be marketed in the global digital economy, both locally and abroad. In August 2020, training was swiftly moved online to avoid disruptions in activities. By 2022, the training was made hybrid combining in-person and remote sessions. In Anbar, Baghdad, Duhok, Erbil, Ninewa and Sulaymaniyah governorates, participants could study and graduate in both digital skills and English language in either literacy (beginner) or expert (advanced) tracks. Activities were implemented through 4 Cooperating Partners (MH, RIRP, UoS and WVI).

99. **Performance against plan:** At the time of submission of the inception report (IR), the evaluation team (ET) completed a partial performance analysis of programmatic outputs and outcomes based on available documentation provided in Annex 9. This analysis included a brief extract from the annual reports for performance against plan for FFA and food for training (FFT) as well as some sampled performance indicators. Such information was used to help facilitate the site selection process for the fieldwork. Factors leading to under and over-performance against plan were further reviewed during the data collection phase, and the results are presented in the findings of this report, particularly under the effectiveness criterion.

100. **Budget:** The latest budget revision provided to the ET, dated 23 January 2020,⁹⁸ showed that the WFP 2020-2024 CSP aimed to allocate USD 209,815,265 to Strategic Outcome 2, equivalent to 40 percent of the total CSP budget (see Annex 10). This budget revision aimed to increase funding to address the needs induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the significant drop in global oil prices and resulting decrease in government revenues, and the temporary suspension of IDP camp closures. This revision anticipated an increase in participants under SO2 for both FFA and FFT of 388,404 to a total of 832,174.

⁹⁶ The Evaluation ToR report that FFA activities were also implemented in Baghdad governorate, but no project documentation was received by the ET on FFA Baghdad governorate activities.

⁹⁷ The Evaluation ToR report that FFA activities were also implemented in Missan governorate, but no project documentation was received by the ET on FFA Missan governorate activities.

⁹⁸ CSP budget revision 02, January 2020.

101. Actual Cash-Based Transfers to SO2 beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to \$6,286,021 compared to a plan of USD 7,757,739, of which approximately 43% was for FFA participants. This is detailed in Table 1 below. In 2021, Cash-Based Transfers were reduced somewhat to USD 4,824,009, in large part due to ECFW activities being discontinued. Overall, approximately 55% of the CBT disbursements were to FFA beneficiaries.

Table 1 Cumulative CBT amounts, 2020 and 2021 (USD)

Activity	2020		2021	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
FFA	\$ 3,812,962	\$ 2,708,434	\$ 4,195,661	\$ 3,388,137
ECFW	\$ 2,459,196	\$ 2,302,876	-	-
UL	-	-	\$ 480,310	\$ 479,596
EMPACT	\$ 1,485,581	\$ 1,274,711	\$ 972,414	\$ 956,276
TOTAL	\$ 7,757,739	\$ 6,286,021	\$ 5,648,385	\$ 4,824,009

Note: No UL was implemented in 2020 and no ECFW was implemented in 2021.

Source: FFA Master Plan 2020, FFA CBT Tracking Sheet 2021, ECFW FLA budgets 2020, UL Project Tracker 2021, EMPACT Distribution Plan 2020, EMPACT Caseload 2021, WFP Country Office CBT Team.

102. While SO2 operations were fully funded in 2020 and 2021, they have been significantly underfunded in 2022 as only \$2.5M had been received prior to new funding which was secured in October 2022 (approximately USD 22 million). Funding was somewhat delayed due to changes within the German Government. This funding will have to be fully utilized by April 2023, which is not overly conducive to the long-term approach required in building and implementing resilience programmes.

103. **Activity participants:** The majority of participants were involved in FFA (51%) followed by ECFW (31%). The remaining populations participated in EMPACT (10%) and UL (8%). Annex 11 provides the distribution of participants per activity, governorate, CP, year, and sex, according to project documentation received by the ET to date.

Table 2 SO2 Activity participants 2020-2021⁹⁹

Activity	2020				2021				Total (%)
	Women partic. #	Men partic. #	Total Partic. #	% Women	Women partic. #	Men partic. #	Total #	% Women	
Food for Assets (FFA)	2,498	13,538	16,046	16%	4,697	10,062	14,759	32%	59%
2020 ECFW 2021 Urban Livelihoods (UL)	1,726	10,036	11,762	15%	1,514	1,405	2,919	52%	28%

⁹⁹ Provided by WFP CO extracted from Comet, 11/04/2023

EMPACT	1,302	1,242	2,544	51%	2,234	2,022	4,256	52%	13%
Total	5,526	24,816	30,352	18%	8,445	13,489	21,934	39%	52,286

Source: ET analysis. Note: n.d. indicates no data

1.4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

104. The evaluation was carried out according to the Terms of Reference (ToR, Annex 1) and was based on a mixed-methods approach to gather qualitative and quantitative data across a range of locations being primary data collection undertaken by the evaluation team themselves, and secondary data provided by the WFP CO which included a desk review of project documentation (see Annex 7 for the Bibliography). Primary data collection included interviews with key stakeholders, including donor representatives and government officials (data collection phase field itineraries are included in Annex 5), together with focus group discussions (FGDs) with affected populations and site visits to a sample of CPs and intervention types spread across the relevant governorates. Primary data collection enabled the evaluation team to gather firsthand participant feedback, and enable triangulation with WFP monitoring reports, thus increasing the credibility of data generated. Field data collection tools incorporated questions selected from the evaluation matrix that it was believed the key informants (IPs and government representatives) beneficiaries could provide answers to. Such data was aggregated into a data analysis matrix to facilitate triangulation and the identification of evaluation findings.

105. The WFP CO established an evaluation reference group (ERG) made up of representatives from both the RO and CO evaluation departments, as well as relevant programmatic staff members. The role of the ERG is to feed back on the inception report to agree the evaluation methodology and sampling strategy, and to review the evaluation report drafts once finalised.

106. Based on the stakeholder analysis, the communication and knowledge management plan (Annex 13) identifies the users of the evaluation to whom the report should be disseminated, and how the findings will be circulated. As part of the international standards for evaluation, WFP requires that all evaluations be made publicly available. It is important that evaluation reports are accessible to a wide audience, thereby contributing to the credibility of WFP – through transparent reporting – and the use of evaluation. Therefore, to maximize the use of the evaluation findings, the country office management will:

- Develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations, and upload in R2 system;
- Disseminate the evaluation report and WFP management response to a wide audience; the Evaluation Manager will share the final evaluation report, and management response with the Regional Evaluation Officer for publication on WFP's internal and external websites; and for posting the report on the WFP Evaluation Community;
- Track implementation of follow-up actions to the evaluation recommendations in R2 System.

107. While the originally envisioned evaluation was well focused in terms of the subject matter of evaluation, it was initially rather broad in terms of the lines of enquiry, with 16 evaluation questions (EQ) proposed in the ToR. Following consultation with the CO, some overlapping ToR sub-questions were reallocated to the most applicable sections of the evaluation matrix (see Annex 3), and adopted within the interview guides (see Annex 4). This reorganization and consolidation of EQs aimed to maximize the efficiency of the ET's data collection and reduce repetition in the evaluation report given that the report is organized by the selected Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria of relevance, coverage, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability and connectedness. The final evaluation questions organized in the order presented in the report are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Evaluation questions and sub-questions

Relevance

EQ1 (As per the TOR and revised)	Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups
1.1	To what extent was the design of the intervention relevant to the wider context (availability of food, economic shocks, seasonal factors, gender considerations, tensions within communities etc.)?
1.2	To what extent was the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups by gender and beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable community population)?
EQ14/EQ15	Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject
14.2	To what extent was the design and implementation of interventions informed by a robust conflict analysis and were conflict sensitivity considerations integrated?
15.1	To what extent were context factors (political stability/instability, population movements, etc.) considered in the design and delivery of the intervention?
9.2	To what extent did environmental screening and mitigation plans inform the design and implementation of the interventions?
Relevance-Gender	
EQ3/EQ13	Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs
3.1	To what extent was the intervention based on a sound gender analysis?
3.2	To what extent was the design and implementation of the intervention gender-sensitive?
9.3	To what extent did the interventions' implementation consider sustainability of capacity building of women's and women-related organisations in decision-making at the community and national levels?
13	To what extent were protection and ethics issues considered in design and implementation?
Coverage	
EQ11	Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided
11.1	To what extent was the targeting of beneficiaries (geographically and community-based) based on sound vulnerability analysis?
11.2	To what extent was WFP's assistance provided coordinated with that provided by others to ensure complementarities, avoiding duplication and gaps?
Coherence	
EQ2	Alignment with government, partners, donors' policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies

2.1	To what extent were the interventions aligned with WFP and UN agencies' policies and priorities?
2.2	To what extent was the design of activities and objectives aligned with partners, donor and government priorities and policies?
Effectiveness	
EQ4/EQ5	Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes
4.1	To what extent were the outputs/outcomes/objectives of the intervention achieved for women, men, IDP, refugee, and vulnerable community members?
4.2	Is the achievement of outcomes leading to/likely to lead to meeting intervention objectives?
5.1	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the outcomes/objectives of the intervention for both men and women, IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations?
8.1	What were the primary and the secondary immediate impacts of the intervention on participants (intended and unintended)?
Efficiency	
EQ6	Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery
6.1	To what extent were interventions implemented in a timely way?
Sustainability and connectedness	
EQ10	Capacity building/development results
10.1	To what extent did (or is it likely that) the intervention benefits will continue after WFP's work ceases?
10.2	To what extent did the intervention implementation consider sustainability, such as capacity building of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners?
EQ12	Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy
12.1	To what extent did the intervention link to any transition strategies in the context or to development goals?

108. To expand on the ToR evaluation sub-questions, the ET elaborated a layer of “sub – sub – questions” within the evaluation matrix, which formed the basis of the interview guides. These interview guides, although shortened wherever possible, were extensive. The ET pre-selected the most relevant questions according to the interviewee. The ET elaborated separate interview guides for cooperating partners, donors and government officials (see Annex 4).

109. The inception phase of the evaluation was delayed somewhat, to be finalized in December 2022. During the inception phase, the team leader (TL) conducted 16 key informant interviews with WFP staff, CP and government representatives and a donor, both in-person in Erbil during the inception mission and remotely, to help finalise the data collection protocols and field data collection sampling process.

110. Considering the overlap with the end of year holiday period, data collection was postponed until January 2023. Overall, access issues informed the evaluation methodology format due to the necessity of deploying local consultants to areas otherwise inaccessible to the international ET members. The first stage of fieldwork was conducted by RMTeam local consultants who facilitated FGDs, key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and site visits in selected locations. A team of 10 RMTeam local consultants (6 men, 4 women) conducted 19 KIIs across six governorates. The team covered 10 districts across the six governorates, conducting total of 35 FGDs, including men and women programme activity participants. 23 site visits were also conducted.

111. After the completion of this fieldwork, international members of the ET travelled to Baghdad, Erbil and Dohuk to conduct an additional 19 KIIs both in person and remotely. This enabled triangulation of the initial feedback from the local consultants, as well as interviews with higher level management and programme managers. The two international evaluation consultants also conducted four FGDs with men and women participants in Dohuk and Baghdad so as to have at least some interaction with the beneficiaries.

112. FGDs were conducted to include different intervention types and project locations. The inclusion of men and women local consultants on deployed field teams ensured gender balance and enabled gender specific FGDs with women participants. While the FGDs were important to enable the direct inclusion of affected populations in the evaluation, the findings presented from FGDs are based on comparatively small numbers of FGD participants.

113. All stakeholders identified in the inception report with stakes in SO2 activities¹⁰⁰ were interviewed by the evaluation team, as detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 List of evaluation stakeholders met (and unmet) by evaluation team

Stakeholders	Role in SO2 activities	Met	Staff met
WFP Country Office	Design and implement SO2 operations	✓	Country Director, Deputy Country Director, Evaluation Manager, M&E teams, WFP Gender Specialist, Head of Programme, Programme Officer – Food for Assets, Programme Officer – Head of Livelihood Unit, Programme Officer – Urban Livelihood, Programme Officer – EMPACT/WFP Head of Sulaymaniyah Office
WFP Field Offices in Erbil, Duhok, Baghdad	Manage day-to-day programme implementation	✓	Head of Erbil Office, Head of Duhok Office, Head of Baghdad Office
WFP Office of Evaluation (OEV)	N/A	✗	
WFP Executive Board (EB)	Oversight of WFP programmes	✗	
WFP Regional Bureau (RB)	Programme support, and oversight of WFP programmes	✓	Regional Evaluation Officers
WFP Headquarters (HQ)	Programme support, and oversight of WFP programmes	✗	

¹⁰⁰ Inception Report Section 2.3 and Annex 4.

Beneficiaries	Ultimate recipients of assistance and services	✓	Men, Women All ages IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, host community members
Government of Iraq	Inform programme design and facilitate implementation	✓	Relevant local government officials
Cooperating Partners	Implement day-to-day programme activities	✓	All (ACTED, CCR, ACF, WHH, SP, GOAL, MH, SWEDO, RIRP, WVI)
University of Sulaymaniyah	Implement EMPACT activities in Sulaymaniyah	✓	EMPACT programme Staff and Management
Donors	Fund and oversee WFP programme	✓	Governments of Germany and Sweden
United Nations country team (UNCT)	N/A	✗	

114. The sampling framework is provided in

115. Table 5 below. As much as possible a variety of IPs, intervention types and the maximum number of governorates were targeted.

Table 5 Completed Fieldwork by Activity, Location, CP, and interview category

Activity	Governorate	CP	Participants		Partners		Authorities		Site visits
			M	W	M	W	M	W	
FFA	Anbar	ACTED	6	14	2	-	2	-	1
	Basra	ACF	7	1	1	-	-	-	1
	Ninawa	SP, WHH	25	13	-	1	1	-	2
	Salah Al-Din	MH	-	25	3	-	1	-	2
	Thi-Qar	SWEDO	-	3	3	-	-	-	1
ECFW/UL	Baghdad	MH	2	2	2	-	1	1	1
	Basra		16	-	-	-	1	1	-
	Dohuk	SP		6	-	-		1	-
	Ninawa	RIRP	9	-	-	-	3	-	1
	Thi-Qar	SWEDO	8	6	3	-	-	-	1
	Wassit	OROKOM	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
EMPACT	Baghdad	RIRP	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Dohuk	WVI	12	13	-	-	1	-	1
	Erbil		-	3	1	-	-	-	1
	Sulaymaniyah	UOS	4	8	-	1	-	-	1
Total			91	95	17	2	10	3	13

116. **Triangulation:** The use of multiple sources and methods of data collection enabled the ET to triangulate findings. The ET also compared data from previous monitoring visits undertaken by WFP staff with first-hand feedback from key WFP staff, operational partners and intervention participants, sampled from each of the four resilience building activities undertaken.

117. **Gender and human rights considerations:** Methodological design was centred on participatory and gender-responsive approaches, including key accountability to affected persons (AAP) principles. Gender was mainstreamed throughout the evaluation methodology with the ET aiming to gather gender-sensitive and disaggregated results of the project activities. The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation was used to shape the evaluation approach. The core evaluation team and field team were gender balanced to the extent possible.

118. The evaluation assessed the extent to which the interventions were designed to be gender sensitive and responsive and the extent to which they have been implemented considering WFP commitments to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW). Thus, the evaluation examined the degree to which WFP has progressed towards its GEEW objectives through its interventions. A dedicated evaluation question was included to examine the relevance of GEEW objectives (EQ3/13). So far as monitoring reports and other project data allowed, gender disaggregated output and outcome data are presented in the findings below.

119. The evaluation team fieldwork also ensured the diverse participation of internal and external stakeholders to ensure that different voices are incorporated into evaluation findings. In particular, the ET ensured that the voices of women and girls were included within participant feedback through women only FGDs. This methodology also supported the integration of a gender equality perspective to specifically assess the extent to which WFP successfully mainstreamed gender across all activities under evaluation. Additionally, the evaluation considered the extent to which activities successfully promoted transformative gender activities and empowerment.

120. Similarly, the opinion of each category of vulnerable group (IDP, refugees, returnees and host communities) was also gathered to capture their feedback and reinforce the credibility of the evaluation. Overall, the data gathering approach was interactive and participatory.

121. The UN System Wide Action Plan (UNSWAP) and its criteria for assessing evaluation reports has provided a guiding source of principles for assessing this evaluation report, ensuring the consideration and inclusion of intersectional analysis of the specific social groups affected by the issues addressed in the evaluation (criterion 3a).¹⁰¹

122. **Data analysis:** The data analysis process was facilitated by the evaluation matrix. The evaluation matrix was adapted into a grid (i.e., data analysis matrix) to enable the ET to compile and consolidate the major observations and evidence gathered across sources and methods of data collection. Team members were allocated focus areas for this evaluation. Through a series of analysis meetings, the ET identified, presented, compared and triangulated findings from across the different data collection methods and sources in relation to the evaluation questions and assessment criteria. These engagements and discussions also worked to ensure integrity and factual accuracy throughout the review process. In advance of these analysis meetings, team members formulated an initial analysis according to their evaluation question focus areas. This process began at inception phase, starting with the desk review and analysis of existing quantitative and qualitative data. KIIs conducted during the TL's inception mission were added to this analysis matrix.

123. **Quality assurance:** Quality of the outputs was assured using Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System (DEQAS) standards together with the use of WFP technical notes, templates and checklists. KonTerra's Quality Assurance Advisor reviewed all outputs before submission to WFP.

124. **Ethics:** WFP decentralized evaluations must conform to WFP and UNEG ethical standards and norms. The contractors undertaking the evaluations are responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics at all stages of the evaluation cycle. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results in no harm to participants or their communities.

¹⁰¹ UNEG, 2021. UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator- 2021 Reporting Cycle Results.

125. The evaluation conformed to the UNEG 2020 Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. Accordingly, the evaluation team was responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethical oversight at all stages of the evaluation cycle to ensure informed consent, anonymity and confidentiality.¹⁰² Interviews were carried out in accordance with these guidelines. The field notes are kept confidential and will not be turned over to public or private agencies. Steps were taken to ensure that men and women felt that interviews were conducted in appropriate locations so that they were able to freely express their views and concerns without fear of reprisal.

126. Key principles of the evaluation's ethical approach included: i) Commitment to producing an evaluation of practical value and to support learning; ii) Commitment to ensure no harm to participants; iii) Respect for cultural norms; iv) Commitment to an inclusive approach; v) Commitment to ensure participation in the evaluation is voluntary, fully informed and with full consent; vi) Commitment to confidentiality and anonymity of participants; and vii) Commitment to flexibility to respond to an evolving context in light of security, COVID-19 and other contextual considerations.¹⁰³ All team members are fully impartial and independent and have no direct or recent interest in WFP's activities in Iraq.

127. **Limitations:** Overall, the challenges and constraints the ET encountered, together with the mitigation measures as detailed in Table 6 below.

Table 6 Evaluation constraints and mitigating measures

Limitation	Mitigation measure
Evaluation scope and questions were overly broad.	During the inception phase, the ET worked with the WFP CO to realign and revise the evaluation matrix, including removing some questions and excluding the criteria of Impact. Details of the changes made from the original evaluation matrix are available in Annex 8.
Underbudgeting of level of resources allocated to the evaluation.	Unutilised travel costs and other budget line items were converted into a small number of additional days for the ET international consultants to enable their continued input into evaluation deliverables.
Limited access for international staff to rural communities.	RMTeam local consultants conducted the field work in all selected governorates.
Time lapse in terms of participants being able to remember projects they were involved in.	Little could be done about this aspect which unfortunately led to low attendance at some FGDs, limiting the inclusion of affected population voices in the analysis.
Small number of participants at FGDs.	As above, although RMTeam and the CPs encouraged participant participation at times they were unwilling.
Challenges related to meeting CPs/relevant CP staff (some CPs unavailable for local consultant meetings).	RMTeam field staff met with CPs wherever possible, it was only when the CP was no longer working in that location that having the KIIs was an issue.
Lack of EMPACT FGDs planned for Baghdad and Dohuk and a reduced numbers in Erbil.	These were planned within the inception report, however, were not able to happen as the CP was no longer working in Baghdad. No mitigating measures could be taken.

¹⁰² UNEG. June 2020. 2020 Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation

¹⁰³ Adapted from DFID Ethics and Principles for Research and Evaluation, 2011. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67483/dfid-ethics-prcpls-rsrch-eval.pdf. Consent will be essential in any interviewee and all interviewees will be anonymised. Affected people will be included in community consultations but survivors will not be a target group of the evaluation. The approach will also be guided by sector standards of good practice such as WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies. http://www.who.int/gender/documents/OMS_Ethics&Safety10Aug07.pdf

2. Evaluation findings

128. Findings are presented in order of the DAC evaluation criteria. The original ToR evaluation questions are listed albeit in the revised order elaborated in the Inception Report and as presented in Table 3.

2.1. RELEVANCE

EQ 1: Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups.

EQ 14: Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments.

EQ 15: Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject (including Q9.2 re environmental screening).

129. **The design of the four intervention types is relevant based on priority short term contextual needs and, to a certain extent, some medium/longer term priorities of the individuals and communities supported.** This was confirmed through participant FGD feedback and KIIs with local government officials and CPs. Short-term needs supported included the provision of cash to enable the procurement of food, health and other household items, as well as paying off debts and utilizing services previously inaccessible (ECFW/FFA). ECFW activities particularly addressed the immediate consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown on casual labourers and low-income workers. EMPACT activities have particularly included the youth and unemployed, providing them with skills demanded by the digital economy, improving their chances of finding employment locally and online. According to the September 2020 process monitoring report “almost all participants confirmed that the activity is in line with priorities in their community”.

130. **Longer term priorities such as skills development, permanent employment and business creation (EMPACT/UL) have also been supported.** This is based on findings from both the EMPACT follow up study of June 2021 and the WFP Asset monitoring Report on Urban livelihood activities in Ninewa, Basrah, Thi Qar, and Missan in April 2022. In addition, FFA interventions, which supported the reclamation and utilization of agricultural land, increased crop production and improved access to water supplies. This has also addressed ongoing contextual needs in a country suffering from high unemployment and a struggling post-conflict agricultural sector, as confirmed by local government departments interviewed for this evaluation.

131. **The design of the interventions has been relevant for the different types of participants, albeit less inclusive for refugees given smaller refugee populations.** Refugees have only been significantly involved in the EMPACT intervention given lower numbers in the country. EMPACT interventions were very relevant to urban IDPs and host community employment needs. FFA agricultural activities in Anbar, Ninawa, and Salah al Din governorates have been particularly relevant for returnees, addressing the need to reinvigorate agricultural production of under-utilized land following returns to their place of origin.¹⁰⁴ Meanwhile, ECFW and UL activities have been more relevant to host community employment needs, including in Basra, Maysan, Thiqr, and Wassit governorates where the numbers of displaced were small.

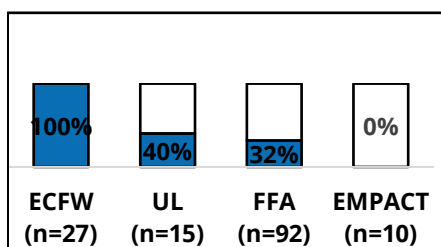
132. **Interventions have been relevant for collective community level needs.** In urban areas, urban livelihoods interventions undertook activities that local authorities couldn't afford such as maintaining, upgrading and cleaning of schools, unblocking drains, repairing sidewalks and creating clean green community spaces. Similarly, in rural areas, FFA interventions created and/or rehabilitated different types of agricultural infrastructure that local authorities had not been able to manage or repair post conflict, including irrigation and other water systems, and animal shelters for livestock.

133. Overall, the mix of intervention modalities has been appropriate supporting beneficiaries from different elements of society, with FFA focusing on rural areas while ECFW, UL and EMPACT provided support to meet urban priorities. Each intervention has addressed needs relevant to ongoing livelihood requirements for the different target beneficiary categories. As such, it cannot be said that one intervention was comparatively

¹⁰⁴ The CSP highlights the fact that “1 million people have returned home since January 2018 (...), a lack of livelihood opportunities and support for returnees at their places of origin hinders the sustainability and dignity of return”.

more relevant than another, as each intervention had a different objective and mode of implementation. Rather, each intervention was relevant in its own right. The evaluation could not determine whether there could have been a greater focus on one type of intervention in preference to another. Basically, higher levels of support would have been beneficial across the board though practicalities of funding and implementation capacities, as well as scalability through Government systems, would have to be considered.

Figure 1: Participants consulted, by interventions.



Source: RMTeam field work analysis

134. WFP has not utilized their three-pronged approach to their resilience programming implementation to the extent anticipated.

The three-pronged approach is built on incorporating contextual analysis, seasonal livelihood planning and community based participatory planning (CBPP). With respect to CBPP, although there has been some level of participant consultation, confirmed as undertaken by the CPs, according to the participants themselves, this has been inconsistent across interventions and not to an extent that would indicate an overall “bottom up” approach. As shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**, based on FGD feedback, ECFW beneficiaries were widely consulted on their preferred tasks, whereas a minority of FFA and UL

beneficiaries had been consulted on their preferred types of support. EMPACT beneficiaries had not been consulted, given the standardized approach of interventions. Though the sample size is not meant to produce representative findings, it is indicative of the varying levels of consultation.

135. Selection of governorates and districts was based on in-depth context analysis. WFP conducted some very good in-depth analysis based on social, economic, food insecurity, displacement and climate indicators to identify and prioritize the relevant governorates and districts to operate in.¹⁰⁵ Further details on the selection are provided under the criterion of Coverage.

136. Contextual considerations have been incorporated into project design but formal contextual analyses have not taken place at the proposal stage. In contrast to WFP’s selection of governorates and districts, at the community level project design stage, the CPs have relied upon their local knowledge and experience in their areas of intervention, rather than undertaking specific conflict, gender, environmental, or economic analyses. The rationale is that the allocated time between calls for proposals and submission deadlines did not allow such in-depth analyses. Environmental screening procedures have also been established by WFP, providing a checklist of environmental considerations to be investigated when starting a new project. CPs reported that, while they have not undertaken a specific environmental analysis prior to submitting each project proposal, they did incorporate environmental aspects into the project design and implementation. Considering projected temperature rise and strong likelihood of being affected by climate change, such a focus is relevant. Climate change and environmental degradation were only implemented as a cross-cutting theme without any specific focus. The gains in this respect were therefore only by-products.

137. Despite partner challenges at proposal stage, a number of WFP-funded contextual analyses and CP consultations at local level were undertaken in 2021, facilitating project selection sites and identification of priority needs. Examples of WFP-funded contextual analyses include the Mercy Hands Rapid Market Assessment and Conflict Assessment, both undertaken in Basra governorate, and localized conflict assessments undertaken in Al Qurna and Al Dair districts of Basra and in Thi Qar governorates. A national-level gender analysis has also been undertaken in March 2021, and all projects are checked for compliance by the WFP Gender Officer at the submission stage. Further, CPs reported that community level security considerations were discussed with local government authorities and local leaders to ensure projects did not generate serious tensions locally.

138. The timing of seasonal livelihood programming could be improved. Lastly on the three-pronged approach, feedback was received from FGDs in Anbar and Ninawah that the timing of some FFA projects were not aligned with the seasonal calendar. Though only a small number of complaints were received in this

¹⁰⁵ WFP Iraq Annual Country Report 2020.

respect, there is a need for compliance with the agricultural calendar to ensure relevance of activities and maximization of benefits.

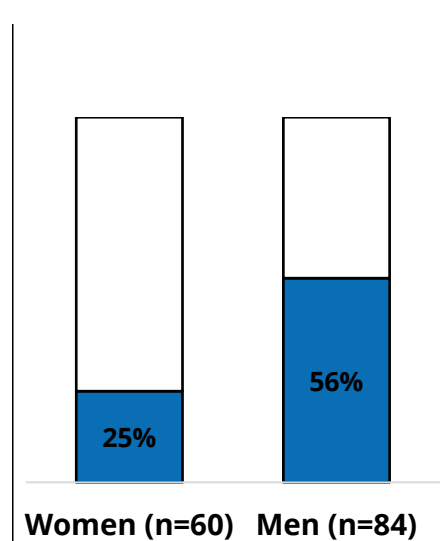
139. **Interventions were adapted in response to COVID-19.** COVID-19 considerations, such as masks, fogging and social distancing, were reported as being utilized on site, as necessary. EMPACT was moved online to facilitate the continuation of trainings.

2.2 RELEVANCE – GENDER

EQ 3 and EQ 13: Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs.

140. In general, the SO2 activities (2020-2021) had a strong focus on gender as outlined by the CSP. However, evidence suggests gender considerations lacked consistency in application in terms of WFP's programmatic approach towards gender sensitivity, selection, capacity building and gender mainstreaming, as indicated in the following paragraphs.

Figure 2: Percentages of women and men beneficiaries consulted on project design.



Source: RMTTeam field work analysis

141. **There was some outreach by WFP in the initial design of the projects.** In 2019, WFP conducted several FGDs and outreach sessions with women and men. The CP focused mainly on 1) criteria and indicators for reporting on gender, 2) focus on women, 3) focus on women's participation, and investigation into complementary activities.¹⁰⁶

142. Notably, among participants interviewed for this evaluation, far fewer women reported having been involved in initial consultations on project design compared to men (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) though, one fourth stated their views had been listened to by project teams. CP reports do not specify whether an equal number of men and women were consulted.

143. **Insufficient human resources with gender expertise seem to have been available in the CO.** The current WFP CO staff responsible for gender was originally hired as an Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) officer supporting IDPs and returnees. These responsibilities were expanded to include the recently added gender and 'conflict sensitivity' portfolios. These functions cover a wide range of activities including the coordination of the Project Technical Evaluation

Committee (PREC) and Gender Results Network Committee (GRN), as well as other duties and tasks related to the WFP country programmes. Little gender consideration seems to have been allocated within the CO Programme Team for women's participation in the selection process or as members of project committees in community-based activities.

144. **The ET found that little gender consideration was incorporated in the CPs' proposals.** More work would be required on gender mainstreaming, especially gender analysis in the design of activities, participant selection and market assessments. A key element to achieve this work would be to capacitate both WFP and CP staff to mainstream gender in their respective tasks. The ET did confirm that, during the SO2 programme design stage, the Gender Officer, as a member of the CO's Project Review Committee (PREC), reviewed the participation of women (percentages) especially in activities traditionally dominated by men, such as irrigation canals and others which require strong physical work like digging canals.

145. **The extent to which the design of the various individual SO2 activities was based on a sound gender analysis is unclear.** The selection of participants, and particularly women, has been the responsibility of the CPs. The CO does hold orientation workshops with CPs including a session on gender, but the ultimate responsibility for women's inclusion lies with CPs. The level of gender inclusion in projects

¹⁰⁶ Interview with WFP Programme Staff

depended mainly on the CPs' capacities.¹⁰⁷ The ET found that the CO had little oversight on whether women were eventually included. However, there are some good examples of programme inclusion as detailed below.

146. The CO subsequently took steps to identify what improvements are needed to enable gender mainstreaming in programme design and delivery. The CO finalized a comprehensive gender analysis in Iraq with support from the Regional Bureau in Cairo in February 2021.¹⁰⁸ The analysis focused on the gender gap in Iraq, comparing Iraq with the MENA region and international levels. The report also offers a gendered review of WFP's programmes in Iraq and outlines areas of improvement for their design and delivery. The main recommendations are focused on three areas: 1) assessments, analyses, and monitoring, stating the need for the disaggregation of data and relaying data and analyses requirements to CPs; 2) gender tailored activities; and 3) strengthening gender capacities. Furthermore, it recommends additional investment in conducting gender informed needs assessments; the development of a gender responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system with clear gender equality activities, outcomes and output and their indicators. The report generally aimed at refining implementation and integrating gender-transformative approaches or strategies throughout programmes to achieve benchmarks of gender equality and women's empowerment across its work. This informed the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP) in Iraq, part of the response to the WFP Global Gender Policy adopted in October 2021, which involved rigorous benchmarking aligning ongoing activities with WFP's gender policy. It also fed into the CO's progress in the GTP and contributed to information which informed the CO gender action and improvement plan (further details are included in section 1.3 above).

147. The CO endorsed the 2021 prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) action and work-plan to sensitize staff on this critical issue in accordance with WFP guidelines. The CO is also part of the GBV sub-cluster, and the Gender Task Force to support the mainstreaming of sexual and gender-based violence and gender in coordination with the inter-agency task force. This participation contributes to inter-agency referral pathways.

148. More needs to be done to promote gender awareness amongst WFP and partners' staff. The CO held advanced training sessions for internal and CP staff on conflict sensitivity and conflict analysis tools and approaches nationwide. Yet, gender awareness training for internal and CP staff was limited to a single one-hour session in the orientation workshops for CPs.¹⁰⁹

149. Partners interviewed in Basra, Sala Al Din, Thi-Qar, and Wassit governorates reported that their staff have adequate gender experience to achieve gender-specific results. However, those in Anbar governorate were not as confident. In Sulaymaniyah governorate, the University staff were "unsure" whether their staff had adequate gender experience. Even with positive self-reflections of gender experience, the limited incorporation of gender in proposals and varying success of CPs in including women in current project activities indicates a gap in at least some partner capacities. Self-reported gaps combined with inconsistent achievement of gender-specific results strongly suggests further efforts should be dedicated to guiding and training University staff in key gender sensitivity topics, as the EMPACT activity had moved towards direct implementation with public universities.

150. Women were more effectively included in UL and EMPACT compared to FFA and ECFW interventions. Women were specifically selected within UL (vocational training, small business support, etc.) and EMPACT. In contrast, FFA and ECFW interventions had low women inclusion rates, reportedly due to low social acceptance particularly in selected

Figure 3: FFA participants' gender, in 2020

¹⁰⁷ Interview with WFP CO Staff

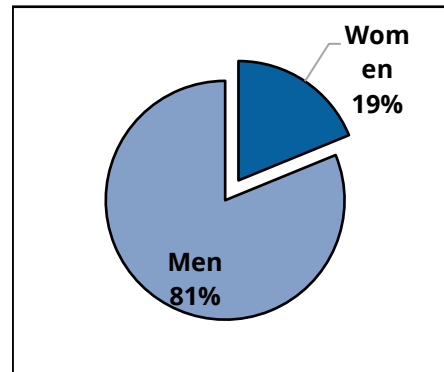
¹⁰⁸ WFP Iraq Gender Analysis February 2021

¹⁰⁹ Interview with WFP programme staff.

rural areas. FFA and ECFW participant teams appear highly gender-unbalanced (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).¹¹⁰

151. Nonetheless, some gender and inclusivity aspects were incorporated into some FFA interventions. For example, Mercy Hands' (MH) FFA project in Sala Al Din in 2020 and 2021 is one of the best examples of a gender transformational project. In 2020, two of three of its activities directly contributed to women's empowerment, namely:

- Home garden activity supporting 200 women farmers receiving temporary income for 22 days and agriculture-related items (seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural tools) to cultivate their own land.
- Cash-for-training activity supporting 171 women and 29 men receiving a 10-day training, a temporary income (for 10 days) and greenhouses.



Source: WFP documentation on actual reach figures n=10,290

152. In 2021, MH dedicated further attention to mainstreaming gender sensitivity across the FFA project supporting women in all three activities. This increased the proportion of women participants to 43 percent, a substantially larger proportion of women participants compared to 2020. Furthermore, when the MH project team found that engaging with women participants was challenging given the "very restrictive tribal traditions" in target areas, the CP hired additional women staff and a sensitization session was held with participants.

153. Another example of how gender can be transformational is the "Revitalize Livelihoods in 2020 and 2021" project in Ninewa governorate implemented by Samaritan's Purse (SP). This project changed the lives of women returnees and empowered them to build their own livelihoods. Specifically, this intervention selected women in both of its two main activities in 2021, namely the Women's Value-Added Group, and Agroforestry.

154. For the Women's Value-Added activity, a training company was contracted to conduct ten training sessions in literacy, business and technical (food processing, dairy production, hatchery management) training sessions. They were linked to markets and started selling their produce resulting in economic empowerment.¹¹¹ Agroforestry site visits were completed in all 9 selected communities, evaluating each site's available land, water and labour assets as well as verifying land ownership documents. The 80 selected participants from 8 communities received fencing installation and trainings.¹¹²

155. SP engaged with women and increased their participation in the activities after undertaking a conflict analysis in Hamdaniyah. The project exceeded its target numbers of women participants and active women's groups in 2020. In 2021, there were 180 Women's Added-Value participants in 8 communities, representing an increase from 2020.¹¹³ Thus, the Women to Women support group model is a good example to be replicated elsewhere in the country.

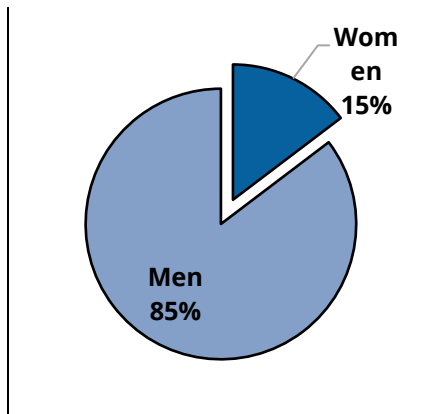
¹¹⁰ There is no gender disaggregated data for some activities, for example FFA in 2021 (as per annex 11).

¹¹¹ Samaritans Purse Progress Report.

¹¹² SP Progress Report July 2021

¹¹³ The activities were also highly relevant in terms of the rehabilitation of agriculture lands and livestock.

Figure 4: ECFW participants' gender, in 2020



Source: WFP documentation on actual reach figures (n=11,762)

156. **Overall, ECFW activities seemed unsuitable to women given prevailing social norms.** In general, ECFW interventions reached a low number of women (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). Several WFP respondents justified this stating it had not been possible to achieve the aim of gender balance among participants due to the prevailing conservative social norms in target areas and the type of work involved (namely construction work which was physically demanding). Refined gender-sensitive selection may have been challenging in such emergency interventions.

157. For example, Mercy Hands noted during their project implemented in Baghdad, where most participants were men, that several women had withdrawn from the project due to difficulties working in open areas due to customs and tribal norms as well as difficulties to find balance between home duties and work. A Mercy Hands key informant stated that the labour-intensive workload required more male workers.

158. **WFP Urban livelihood activities (UL) were more successful in including women.** In Basrah, the UL activity implemented by Mercy Hands (April - December 2021) introduced i) skills development (VT), ii) cash for training, iii) business development, and iv) business support services in urban areas. Approximately half of the participants were women.¹¹⁴ The same project was also implemented in Ninewa, Thi Qar, and Missan in 2022. These trainings, which worked to increase women's participation in the labour market, were identified as relevant to the local labour market by nearly all participants (98%) interviewed for a WFP UL monitoring exercise. This is a positive reflection of the relevance of the gender mainstreaming meeting the objective and provided women with ways to generate income, helping them to rebuild their livelihoods.

159. **MH tailored project activities and involved women staff to increase women's participation.** For trainings, governmental public venues were selected in Basra, Abu Al-Khassib and Khor Al-Zubair to increase acceptance of women participation from their husbands, parents or brothers, adapting to the social norms. A particular consideration was given to specific categories such as widows, householders, mothers with children with disabilities and vulnerable young women. MH training focused on topics such as cooking and food industry, hair and body care, and sewing. These workshops increased women's participation and ownership and economic women empowerment, reducing the gender disparity.

160. During implementation, MH team involved women staff in supervision, data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities so participants could feel comfortable discussing sensitive issues. To address conservative and restrictive tribal traditions present in the area discouraging the participation of women, MH teams (particularly the women staff) held awareness and advisory sessions to let girls/women participate in the trainings. MH collaborated with two local associations: "Sanaaat al-Musatqbl" a local women's association located in Al Zubair district in Basrah governorate and "Al Maqel" a blind people's association located in Basrah. The Al Maqel association was very cooperative, providing accurate information about women in need with disabilities, to enable them to participate in the project activities.

161. The project offers a good example of how conservative cultural norms on gender issues were mitigated. MH's actions also included: increasing women staff in the MH team to ensure a comfortable environment for women participants as it allowed them to have the space to learn in addition to conducting sensitization sessions among the participants, to improve their knowledge about the objectives of the project.

162. EMPACT had a strong focus on women, which was highlighted in the calls for proposals. Most classes were mixed, except in some areas in Anbar governorate where women requested to have gender-segregated classes. Women received the same support as men – justified along "the concept of equity" by the EMPACT head.

¹¹⁴ Interview with WFP Programme staff

163. That said, EMPACT women graduates interviewed reported facing greater difficulties than men in attending classes, due to challenges in balancing the EMPACT training with their home duties. The switch to online courses during the COVID-19 had the positive effect of encouraging women to participate and attend.

164. **Protection issues were incorporated into programme design.** As mentioned above (paragraph 147), the CO endorsed the WFP Global 2021 Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy and initiated a work-plan to sensitize staff on this critical issue in accordance with WFP headquarters guidelines. The CO is also part of the GBV sub-cluster, and Gender Task Force to support mainstreaming of sexual and gender-based violence, and gender in coordination with the inter-agency task force. This contributes to inter-agency referral pathways.

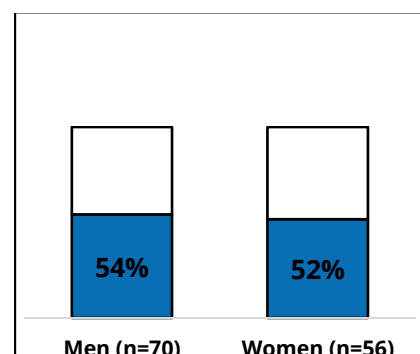
165. The protection measures taken by the CPs included selecting safe sites for project implementation, analyzing the security situation prior to beginning work, and avoiding any potentially hazardous areas from project activity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CPs adopted practices such as social distancing, wearing masks, and fogging of centers.¹¹⁵ Several CP reports also mentioned that the principle of "no harm" was mainstreamed into project activities to ensure the safety of personnel and people.

166. All participants interviewed in all locations and in all activities, reported that they felt safe and at ease during project activities, i.e., when working on the activity and when receiving their financial entitlements from the CP office or local exchange offices. Several interviewees in various locations, including women, noted that project staff treated them very respectfully. Most local authority representatives interviewed confirmed that project activities included relevant safeguards. No interviewees were aware of any security concerns resulting from the project's operations.

167. Over half the FGD participants interviewed were aware of the available complaint mechanisms. Slightly fewer women interviewed were aware of complaint mechanisms than men, though the margin is very small. Participants can provide feedback on projects through complaints boxes and hotlines, as well as speaking with field staff directly. CP project reports also highlighted the availability and usage of participants feedback mechanisms.¹¹⁶

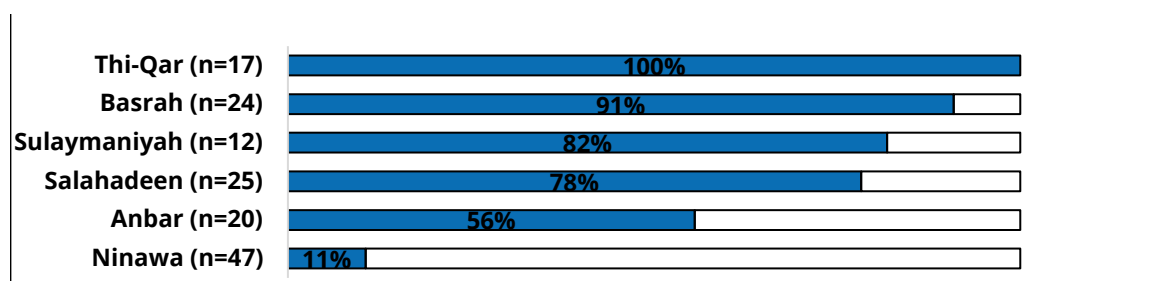
168. Overall, 53% of participants interviewed by the Evaluation Team knew of the existence of such mechanisms with wide discrepancies from one location to another, as detailed in **Error! Reference source not found.**¹¹⁷ Among interviewees, awareness was particularly high in Basrah, Thi qar¹¹⁸, Sulaymaniyah and Salah Al Din governorates, but nearly non-existent in Ninawa

Figure 5: Percentages of women and men participants aware of available complaint mechanisms



Source: RMT team field work analysis

Figure 6: Interviewee awareness of feedback mechanisms



Source: RMT team field work analysis

¹¹⁵ Various CP reports.

¹¹⁶ For example, Mercy Hands Basra, Final draft report, January 2022.

¹¹⁷ RMT team field work analysis

¹¹⁸ Albeit the September 2020 Internal Monitoring report mentioned most interviewees in Thi Qar were not aware of feedback mechanisms.

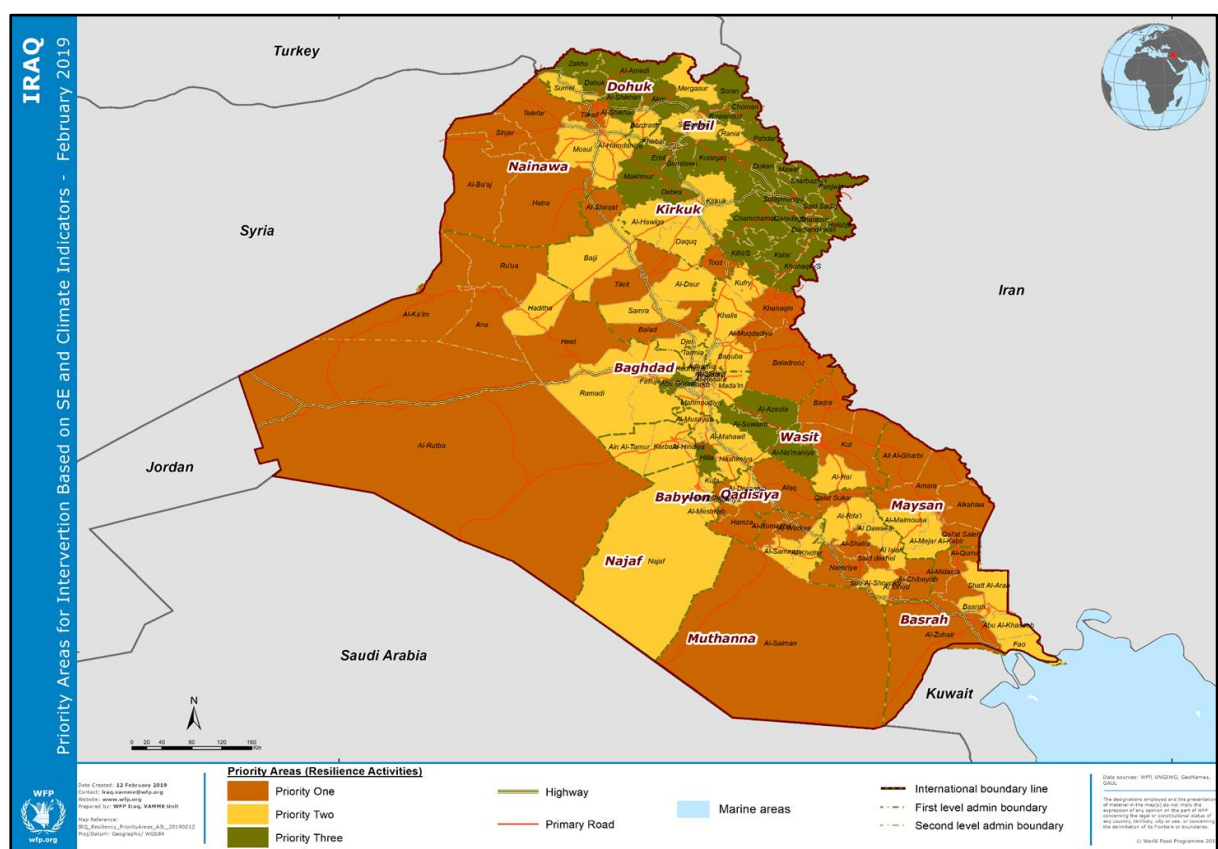
169. Governorate where 42 of 47 FGD participants were not aware how to give feedback or complaint.¹¹⁹ Participants mostly knew about hotlines (nearly 48%), the possibility to report feedback to project staff (23%) and complaint box (15%).

2.3. COVERAGE

Q11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided.

170. WFP's resilience interventions were determined according to a resilience priority geographic targeting (RPGT) map developed by WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) department at the governorate level in 2019 that layered "social, economic, food insecurity, displacement and climate indicators",¹²⁰ from which a selection of "Priority 1" areas were identified considering security, access and partner presence. As per **Error! Reference source not found.** below, priority 1 areas selected are predominantly Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah Al Din governorates, in the North and West, and Basra and other governorates in the South.

Figure 7: Priority Geographic Targeting



Source: WFP Iraq VAM Department

171. Looking at the distribution of SO2 participants, as per Table 7 below, nearly all FFA participants were located in priority one areas in both 2020 and 2021. Most ECFW and UL participants were similarly located in priority one areas, although to a lesser extent. Selection outside of priority 1 areas was justified by the selection of urban areas most affected by COVID-19 pandemic measures taken by government authorities.¹²¹ In contrast, most EMPACT participants were located in priority two and three areas. This may be justified given the type of activities requiring a minimum level of assets, and in particular internet connection during

¹¹⁹ In addition, none of the three FGD participants in Thi Qar governorate knew about feedback mechanisms, but the data is not reported here due to the particularly small sample size.

¹²⁰ Resilience – 2019 Strategic Operational Brief, November 2019

¹²¹ KII with WFP staff

the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²² Overall, it is reasonable to state that the geographical targeting of participants was based on socio economic factors that affect vulnerability as well as other relevant contextual considerations.

Table 7 Percentage of SO2 participants supported by Governorate, CP and activity (2020 and 2021)

Activity	Governorate	Priority Level	2020		2021	
			CP	% of total	CP	% of total
Food for Assets (FFA)	Anbar	1	ACTED	9%	Orokom	5%
		1	CCR	3%	MH	19%
	Basra	1	ACF	6%	-	-
	Ninewa	1	WHH	9%	WHH	8%
		1	SP	12%	SP	15%
		1	GOAL	21%	HA	8%
	Salah Al Din	1	-	-	Reach	5%
		1-2	MH	17%	MH	24%
Thi Qar	1-2	-	-	PIN	4%	
Thi Qar	1	SWEDO	23%	SWEDO	11%	
Emergency Cash for Work in 2020	Baghdad	2	MH	27%	-	-
	Basra	1	MH	30%	MH	24%
Urban Livelihoods (UL) in 2021	Missan	1-2	-	-	MH	24%
	Ninewa	1	GOAL	29%	RIRP	34%
	Thi-Qar	1	-	-	SWEDO	18%
	Wassit	2-3	Orokom	14%	-	-
EMPACT	Anbar	1	MH	17%	MH	21%
	Baghdad	2	RIRP	17%	RIRP	17%
	Duhok	3	WVI	20%	WVI	17%
	Erbil	2	WVI	15%	WVI	12%
	Ninewa	1	WVI	17%	WVI	21%
	Sulaymaniyah	3	Uni of Sul.	15%	-	12%

Source: ET Analysis

172. **District level prioritization seems to have been well founded and mostly evidence based.** The WFP CO also undertook an in-depth district level analysis taking into account the food security situation, (see Annex 6), together with a resilience targeting matrix utilising literacy rates, unemployment rates, poverty ranking and rainfall levels, amongst other criteria. Of the 126 districts reviewed, 40 were selected as priority one districts. Although a full analysis of districts supported has not been undertaken by the ET, it can be seen from the WFP intervention reports¹²³ that at least 21 of the 126 districts reviewed in the resilience targeting matrix had been supported, including 7 of the 40 food insecure districts indicating that activities have been implemented where needed most.¹²⁴ Furthermore, according to some CPs, UL activities selected specific southern districts based on population density, average household income levels and, at times, relevant vulnerability index scores. Beyond this, local government authorities have also confirmed having been included in discussions on which communities to support.

173. **It is more difficult to confirm whether community-level selection consistently reached the most vulnerable.** CPs are responsible for the identification of participants at the community-level based on WFP-provided participant selection criteria (see examples in Table 8 below). Though WFP participant selection criteria include a high level of detail, CPs have some leeway to interpret them, as no scoring is attached. As a

¹²² KII with WFP Staff

¹²³ For example, the FFA project report, the consolidated GPS report, and the UL project tracker.

¹²⁴ Sinjar, Tilkaef, Al Chibayish, Al Shatra, Tikrit, Heet, and Shirkat.

result, FFA project reports show that CPs departed at times from WFP criteria. There may be further discrepancies as evidence shows participant data verification had not been consistently conducted.¹²⁵

Table 8 Participant selection criteria examples

ECFW activities ¹²⁶	FFA irrigation canal cleaning activities ¹²⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day laborers who lost employment opportunities due to the economic downturn triggered by the COVID 19 crisis. • Households with elderly or disabled persons. • Households with pregnant and/or lactating women. • Preference was given to households where the head of household or the main breadwinner is a woman. • Preference was given to IDPs. • Participants were between 18 and 59 years old. • Only one family member per household. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sons of working age in a HH that is woman-headed. • HHs including disabled and sick people. • HHs main income is unskilled labour. • HHs relying on negative coping strategies to maintain minimum living standards (i.e. Selling assets to pay for food or rent, borrowing from relatives, etc.). • HHs relying on child labour. • Ability and motivation to work. • Motivation to begin home gardening for household consumption.
FFA home gardens activities	FFA home gardens activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity to improve agricultural production. • Experience and skill in farming. • Land ownership. • Motivation to improve. • Woman-headed Households (HHs). • HHs including disabled and sick persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong priority to woman headed HHs. • HHs including disabled and sick people. • HHs main income is unskilled labour. • HHs relying on negative coping strategies to maintain minimum living standards (i.e. Selling assets to pay for food or rent, borrowing from relatives, etc.) • HHs relying on child labour. • Space to garden within the home property limits.

Source: CP partner reports

¹²⁵ FFA CP and beneficiary selection Iraq Mission Final Package, and MH FFA final project reports, 2020 and 2021.

¹²⁶ Mercy Hands ECFW Basra.

¹²⁷ Mercy Hands FFA Anbar

174. Most participants interviewed by the Evaluation Team (80%) thought the selection had been fair overall, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found..** However, interviewees voiced some discontent such as “there were highly vulnerable families excluded, including poor women-headed households” (Basra governorate) or “participants who had work and salaries were included, but participants who needed work and have a precarious financial situation were left out” (Anbar governorate).

175. **The design of EMPACT (and UL) interventions were unlikely to include the most vulnerable within their activities as most participants were either comparatively well-educated or had skills enough to undertake small businesses.** Regarding EMPACT specifically, several participants found the eligibility criterion of ‘academic achievements’ irrelevant to the EMPACT’s two courses, English language and digital skills. Others regretted that university students had been excluded from the programme as they felt they would have been able to commit to classes, particularly if they were delivered remotely.

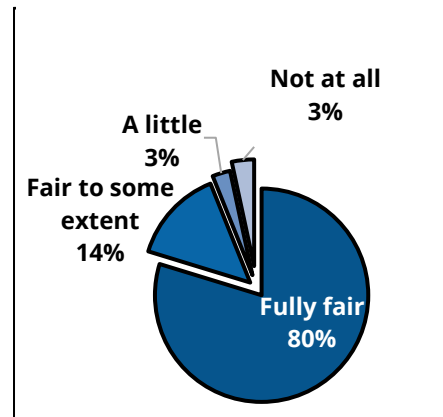
176. Evidence also suggests selection criteria lacked clarity or clear communication in at least some locations, as some EMPACT participants stated, ‘those who had dropped university courses because of the war had been purposively excluded’. This was not used as a selection criterion.

177. Importantly, this lack of certainty with respect to including only the most vulnerable could be due to a lack of funding to cover all of those in need, rather than the CPs supporting the wrong participants. In Basra governorate, most participants interviewed noted participant selection “was fair to some extent” given “there were many households in need of such projects” concluding that participant selection had been akin to ‘a lottery’. For EMPACT, one WFP staff member reported that “we had thousands of applicants” and Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program Organization (RIRP) stated that they received 5000 responses to the EMPACT training advertisement on Facebook, out of which only 200 respondents could receive places on the course.¹²⁸ Given the breadth of need and complexity of the context, it would be unrealistic to expect participant selection to be undertaken perfectly without any difficulties.

178. **The inclusion of women faced many challenges due to the conservative cultural context with their inclusion being somewhat dependent on the activity and the gender related expertise of the CP.** Women were less effectively included in FFA/agricultural work activities compared to other interventions, though partners took active steps to improve inclusivity aspects. These findings are further detailed in section 2.2 above (see paragraphs 150-152).

179. **The four main target groups of returnees, IDP, refugees and host communities have generally been incorporated into the resilience building activities wherever possible according to local population trends. Refugees have been a less relevant population group based on limited presence in the country.** As mentioned above, returnees have particularly benefited from FFA agricultural activities in Anbar, Ninawa and Salah al Din governorates.¹²⁹ Urban livelihood activities have supported mostly host communities, in particular in the south. ECFW interventions similarly included a large number of host communities, although to a varying extent across project sites reflecting localised population trends. This variation by project site is illustrated by the Mercy Hands Salah al Din FFA project whose main participants were returnees, with large numbers of IDPs and host community participants also supported (see **Error! Reference source not found.8**).¹³⁰ EMPACT activities for which World Vision (WVI) in Duhok, Erbil and Ninawa

Figure 8: Perceived fairness of participant selection



Source: RMTeam field work analysis (N=148)

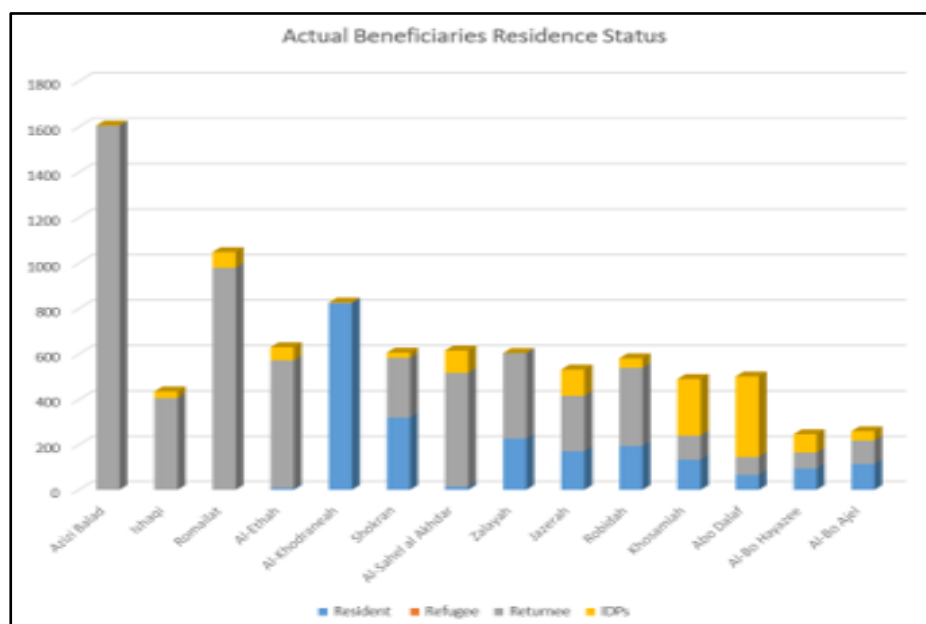
¹²⁸ RIRP EMPACT Project Report August 2021.

¹²⁹ RM Team FGDs, and the WFP Resilience Activity “Food for Asset” Baseline and End-line Monitoring December 2021.

¹³⁰ Mercy Hands, End of the Project Report, FFA, Salah Al-Din p20.

governorates selected participants had a more balanced mix of participants by migration status, in line with local population demographics.¹³¹

Figure 9: Salah al Din FFA project actual participants' residence status



Source: Mercy Hands Field Report Salah al Din FFA project. Note the ET has requested the raw data to recreate this figure for clarity to be re-formatted for the final report.

2.4. COHERENCE

EQ 2: Alignment with government, partners, donors' policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies

180. At a global level, WFP Iraq resilience activities undertaken during 2020–2021 were in alignment with the 2017–2021 WFP Strategic Plan, specifically Strategic Objective 3 related to achieving food security, and Strategic Result 3 “Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes”. This is compliant with UN SDG target 2.3 that by 2030, smallholders’ have higher incomes and greater productivity than in 2015. The resilience activities also align with Strategic Result 4 “Food systems are sustainable”, complying with SDG target 2.4, that by 2030, food systems are sustainable and utilize resilient practices that help maintain ecosystems and strengthen capacities for adaptation to climate change.

181. Similarly, at a national level, the resilience interventions fall within Strategic Outcome 2 of WFP’s 2020-2024 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) “targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024” to support country achievement of SDG 2.

182. **WFP resilience activities have tried to incorporate gender considerations but have not always achieved full alignment in practice.** Success has varied based on project, location, and CP, as mentioned in section 2.2 above and under the effectiveness section below. Within this strategic framework, cross-cutting considerations such as gender have been prioritised and incorporated into the CSP indicators for example C.3 Improved gender equality and women’s empowerment among WFP-assisted population, and C.3.1 Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions. Furthermore, an analysis of what “socio-economic, political, institutional, and cultural contexts in Iraq and their links to gender equality and food security” has been undertaken by the Iraq Country office to “identify barriers and opportunities for WFP to advance Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) through food

¹³¹ Namely, in Erbil governorate: 48 IDPs, 48 refugees and 41 host community individuals; in Ninewa governorate: 130 host community and 120 returnees; and in Duhok governorate: 50 IDPs, 50 refugees, 50 host community, and 50 returnees. World Vision, EMPACT, Monthly Narrative Report, April 2021

security, nutrition, and livelihood interventions”.¹³² The 2020 CSP states WFP will implement activities in collaboration with the Ministry to Women’s Affairs and the High council for Women’s affairs.¹³³ To what extent this has happened has not been reviewed.

183. The extent to which projects have aligned with environmental protocols has differed by project and location. Protocols for how to take into account environmental considerations have been outlined at headquarters level. Such climate change activities contribute to the objective expressed in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and are meant to be aligned with the Ministry of Environment. Indicators for other cross-cutting considerations such as protection and climate adaptation/environmental considerations have been incorporated into the CSP and utilised within project interventions.

184. WFP Resilience activity outcomes and objectives are in line with other UN agencies and cluster members including the UNSDCF priorities. This is evidenced by the fact that the 2019 Resilience Strategy Outcome has been coordinated and agreed with the Jobs Creation and Livelihoods working group (JCLWG). Similarly, WFP’s activities are in alignment with the UN 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) which has a post conflict strategic objective of transitioning towards durable solutions. WFP’s focus of activities in Anbar and Ninewa governorates, areas where there are significant numbers of returnees and IDPs, demonstrates alignment with the 2020 HRP which has an objective of “enabling in-camp IDPs and out-of-camp IDPs and returnees to achieve self-reliance”.

185. Resilience-building activities are in line with government sectoral priorities. Government officials interviewed for this evaluation reported a strong alignment between the resilience activities and government planning. The Iraqi government’s National Development Plan (NDP) for 2018–2022 includes sectoral priorities that focus on reconstruction and recovery. To match this, WFP prioritises projects “in locations which government authorities (Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture) have submitted official requests for interventions that fall within priority 1 districts and that fit within WFP’s programming mandate”, as per the WFP resilience strategy’s targeting framework. One government official said about their relationship with WFP that “we are working in the same direction”. This is especially the case with respect to agricultural (FFA) interventions that have reclaimed land previously idle and projects that have improved agricultural production, in addition to projects that provide improved water supplies to drought affected areas, all being government priorities. According to KIs conducted for this evaluation, the government is also very supportive of any activities that are aimed towards job creation and small business development (EMPACT/UL), as joblessness is especially high amongst young people.¹³⁴

186. On a practical level, FFA interventions have extensively engaged with relevant federal Ministries – mostly of water resources, and agriculture – and their respective directorates at governorate level. Similarly, UL interventions strategically engaged with the Directorates of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) for joint implementation by public vocational training centres at governorate level. EMPACT interventions developed partnerships with the federal Ministry of Higher Education, and with some public universities bilaterally, following the overall successful pilot project with the University of Sulaymaniyah. Both WFP and government officials specified that their mutual engagement consisted of i) defining priorities jointly, and ii) piloting joint implementation to foster government authorities’ ownership of programming. Beginning in 2023, efforts to align with government priorities were further strengthened as WFP begins shifting to a more direct implementation approach alongside its government partners. The results of this joint implementation are outside of the scope of this evaluation.

187. Alignment with the programme’s main donor is also positive. Both WFP and the main programme donor align with respect to a move away from a humanitarian approach towards a developmental mindset with a longer-term perspective. Both are committed to working alongside and developing the capacity of the Iraqi government, in both urban and rural areas. However, moving forward, WFP’s aim to work predominantly alongside government institutions diverges somewhat from the primary donor’s wish to develop local organisations.

¹³² Summary of Iraq’s Gender Analysis March 2021

¹³³ Iraq CSO 2020-2024 p19.

¹³⁴ RMTeam Government KIs

188. **Both CP and local government authority key informants reported that localised coordination mechanisms were in place to ensure no duplication of activities occurred.** One reported incidence in Salah Al Din governorate of two partners working on the same irrigation canal was addressed through collaboration with all parties concerned.¹³⁵ No other duplications were reported by government representatives. Local government involvement at community level seems to have facilitated this process, although several government officials interviewed lacked awareness of what NGOs were doing in their respective communities.¹³⁶

189. External coordination between WFP and other UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs occurs through the nationwide UN cluster system in which WFP is actively involved, notably in the food security and the livelihoods clusters. The ET did not identify any complementarity with development or other agencies in terms of coordination between resilience activities and other agency activities.

2.5. EFFECTIVENESS

EQ4: Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results.

EQ 5: Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes.

190. The expected resilience programme outputs, as mentioned in the 2019 WFP Iraq Resilience Strategy, are as follows (supported by a number of associated indicators):

- Key Infrastructure enabling economic development is rehabilitated and developed.
- Increased access to finance for the private sector.
- Skill supply improved and expanded in line with market demands.

191. These outputs are geared towards a general intended outcome of expanding “Livelihoods and Employment Opportunities”.

192. The Resilience Strategy outputs are very similar to the outputs indicated in the 2020–2024 CSP (supported by a narrative on key activities) leading towards strategic outcome 2: “Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks”, namely:

- Targeted communities benefit from new or rehabilitated assets that improve their agricultural productivity, adaptation to climate change (SDG 13) and social cohesion (SDG 16).
- Targeted farmers benefit from strengthened technical capacities and marketable skills that increase agricultural incomes and improve livelihoods.
- Targeted farmers and food-insecure people, especially women and young people, receive conditional assistance in exchange for participating in livelihoods and asset creation activities that enhance their self-reliance.

193. Resilience activities, overall, can be said to have reasonably achieved their expected outputs, albeit to a lesser extent for some activities from one year to the next. Government officials interviewed confirmed that “activities supported individuals and communities at the same time.”

194. In terms of outcomes at individual level, activities have also seen mixed success in terms of contributing to improving food security based on the indicators captured.¹³⁷ While nearly all food consumption score indicators¹³⁸ improved, food security measured using the livelihood coping strategy and food expenditure share performed more variably with trends less consistently positive in 2021 compared to 2020. The narrative in 2020 and 2021 ACRs ignore these issues, offering no explanation as to why they could have happened.

¹³⁵ RMTeam’s Local government KII.

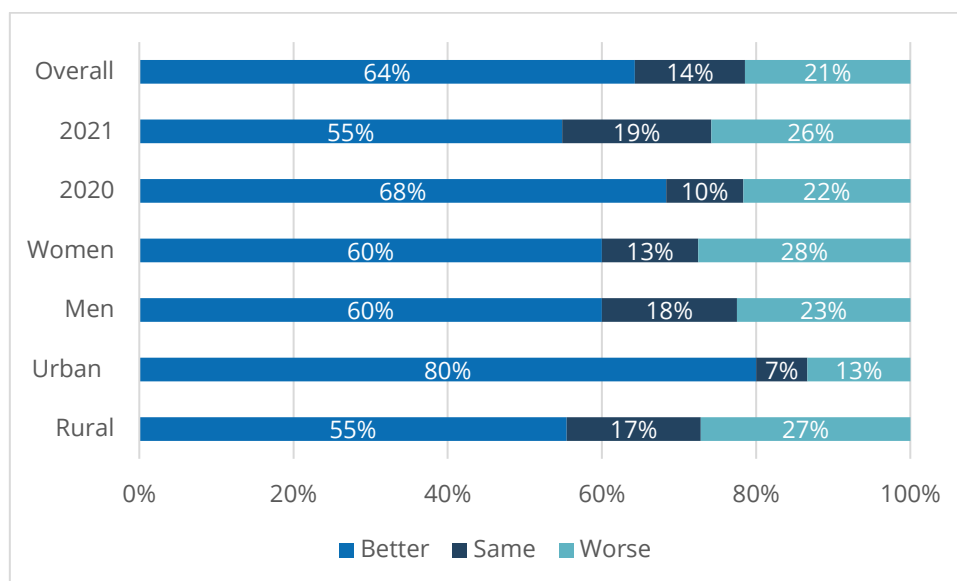
¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ While it is generally considered that WFP activities have had a positive impact, the actual level of contribution is not definitively clear, as there are always other contributing facts that can be either supportive or detrimental to such changes.

¹³⁸ Average or percent with acceptable/borderline/poor FCS

When disaggregated by gender, there is not a clear pattern with men and women generally following the same trends. Indicators measured for urban populations (only in 2021) were more likely to have improved (80 percent) compared to indicators measured within rural populations (55 percent). More detail on outcome achievements is provided in Annex 9. There are important limitations in measuring success using ACR data. First, available data is disaggregated by modality and population type without details on sample calculations or methodology. Therefore, it is not possible for the ET to provide an overall quantitative analysis of activities at strategic objective level. Additionally, these indicators, when not measured longitudinally, assess short term capacity to meet food needs, rather than longer term resilience outcomes. Given these limitations, the ET relies primarily on additional monitoring data and primary data collected for the evaluation to provide insight on effectiveness.

Figure 10 SO2 outcome indicator trends



Source: 2020 and 2021 ACRs

195. Details of output and outcome achievements by activity type are provided below. An important caveat is that output and outcome indicators, as provided in the ACRs, cannot adequately capture the overall effect such activities have had, and cannot confirm whether participation necessarily enhanced self-reliance. However, primary data collected by the ET provides some insight.

196. In Anbar, one benefit identified included temporary job opportunities and agricultural supplies to support productivity. Most stated that these opportunities strengthened their livelihoods 'for a better life', by temporarily increasing their income. Some also mentioned that support helped them pay off some of their debts. Similarly, in Basrah, beneficiaries identified benefits including job opportunities, improving the community environment, increasing individual production and strengthening skills through training. At a community level, support helped them cultivate their lands, which allowed them to secure food for their families and at times, marginally increased their incomes through selling part of their harvests. In addition, ECFW beneficiaries emphasized the projects contributed to providing a clean and safe environment for their communities. In Sinjar, beneficiaries stated that support had improved access to food and increased agricultural output. In Salahdeen, vegetable cultivation has provided a source of income and improved access to food. While the qualitative sample was not meant to draw representative findings, the positive examples highlight contributions to self-reliance, particularly through agricultural production.

197. For FFA interventions, the extent to which output indicators have been achieved is provided for selected indicators in Table 9 drawing on internal WFP monitoring data. This data illustrates good achievements against targets for FFA CBT interventions in 2020. WFP was able to sustain participant numbers in 2021, though participant achievements were far below the significantly increased targets for this year. According to feedback from CO key informants, achievements below targets are due to three main reasons. Firstly, the

targets were calculated based on the needs-based plan while the SO was not fully resourced.¹³⁹ Secondly, targets were perhaps over ambitious, where the CO was anticipating a significant post COVID-19 rebound, which did not materialize.¹⁴⁰ Finally, implementation was disrupted by the transition in implementation approach to direct implementation and collaboration with the government. This transition required time for the CO to maximize participation, and therefore achievements.

198. The main assets created or rehabilitated in 2020 were greenhouses, animal shelters, bread ovens, sheep dips, home gardens, box culverts, water pumps, water wheels and tree plantation/reforestation. Achievements in 2020 regarding rehabilitating infrastructure have gone well in terms of hectareage of land benefiting from irrigation schemes (152 percent of target). However, fewer family gardens were established than expected (38 percent achieved) and the number of assets restored was lower than expected (67 percent).¹⁴¹ In 2021, targets were more consistently achieved.

199. While FFT planned a slight decrease of participants between 2020 and 2021, the actual number of participants nearly doubled. Training activities focused on agroforestry, food processing, dairy production, and the promotion of modern agricultural techniques – especially in areas affected by water scarcity.

Table 9 Planned versus Actual FFA and FFT Participants and outputs 2020, 2021

		2020			2021		
		Planned	Actual	% Achieved	Planned	Actual	% Achieved
FFA CBT participants	Women	34,337	36,713	107%	124,324	39,390	32%
	Men	35,313	45,034	128%	127,856	44,343	35%
	Total	69,650	81,747	117%	252,180	83,733	33%
FFT CBT participants	Women	8,830	5,288	60%	8,282	10,001	121%
	Men	9,080	5,639	62%	8,518	10,569	124%
	Total	17,910	10,927	61%	16,800	20,570	122%
FFA Agro LLH	Total	2,930	2,630	90%	3,357	3,180	95%
FFT Agro LLH	Total	2,825	2,544	90%	2,350	2,311	98%
KM of Irrigation Canal rehabilitated	Total	519	544	106%	458	411	90%
Boreholes created	Total	15	15	100%	10	10	100%
Number of assets built or restored	Total	7,298	4,893	67%	550	557	101%
Hectares of land benefited from irrigation repair	Total	432	655	152%	27,360	24,350	89%
Family garden established	Total	699	263	38%	1,090	1,265	116%

Note: red <50% of target, orange 50-89%, green 90%+

Source: WFP annual reports 2020 and 2021. Note the table only includes activities that had figures in the annual reports for both 2020 and 2021 for comparative purposes.

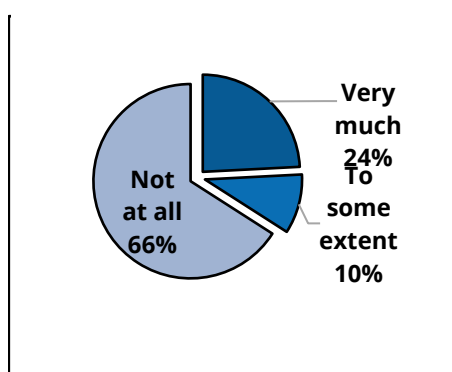
¹³⁹ In 2021, available resources accounted for 72.6 percent of the SO2 NBP (2021 ACR)

¹⁴⁰ Feedback on anticipated changes post COVID was provided by the CO at report finalization; thus the ET did not have time to triangulate this explanation.

¹⁴¹ Ibid

200. **FFA activities have increased food production and income for participants through CFW and have also improved local agricultural production through the rehabilitation and reclamation of agricultural land.** According to WFP’s Food for Asset endline study based on an assessment of approximately 2,000 participants and non-participants, 57% of participants reportedly increased their area of land cultivated,¹⁴² consequently generating increased productivity. Evidence from FGDs supports these findings with participants noting the FFA interventions “increased employment and agricultural production locally” and “increased food access.” Participants predominately used cash received for food, debt repayment, health and utilities.¹⁴³ Cash for farmer training activities has improved farmer knowledge and agricultural practices, for example in terms of “water conservation, pest control, seasonal crops and animal care”.¹⁴⁴

Figure 11 : Perceived improved community-level resilience as a result of FFA interventions



Source: RM Team FGDs (N=91)

201. However, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**, two-thirds of FGD participants interviewed felt there were no community-level resilience outcomes resulting from FFA interventions, in particular in Salah Adin and Ninewa governorates where most participants found FFA interventions had not increased the overall resilience of their communities.

202. Challenges reported as being detrimental to the success of FFA projects included poor quality seeds in Ninewa governorate and in Abu Al Khasib, as well as delays in planting trees, and concerns about the quality of greenhouse nylon sheets, and inadequate age of livestock distributed in some locations. Utilising the expertise of the FFA workers themselves has been beneficial.

203. **As planned, the UL interventions have provided a broad range of trainings, some predominantly male focused and some targeting women.** Table 10 provides details of workshop participants by gender.

Table 10 Workshops participants by activity and gender

Workshop name	Men	Women	Total
Food Industry	4	23	27
Barber	62	57	119
Car Mechanical	10	0	10
Sewing	0	45	45
Decoration and roofing sheathing	20	0	20
Electrical Establishing	14	0	14
Health management	16	39	55
Installing air conditioners	53	0	53
Mobile Maintenance	16	0	16
Photographer	29	8	37
Pipefitter Establishing	3	0	4
Total	228	172	400

Source: Mercy Hands UL report December 2021

204. **UL activities have generated some positive results.** For example, WFP’s Urban livelihood report for activities in Ninewa, Basrah, Thi Qar, and Missan reported that 47 percent of the vocational training

¹⁴² WFP Food for Asset endline report December 2021..

¹⁴³ WFP Cash for work under FFA activities” baseline and endline monitoring report, November 2021.

¹⁴⁴ Mercy hands FFA Anbar Report, December 21, p16.

interviewed participants have engaged in a job opportunity (April 2022). The same report identified that “Eight out of ten interviewed participants of small cash grant activity recovered their business confirming WFP grant enabled them to recover the business”.

205. EMPACT activities aim to “train and equip vulnerable youth with digital and English language skills”. The number of planned participants per CP and Governorate are provided in Table 11. Actual numbers for 2020 were lower than anticipated. This was mostly due to COVID-19 constraints. In 2021, each participant received IRD600,000 towards the procurement of equipment for their business, normally a laptop to replace the one lent to them for the duration of the course.

Table 11 EMPACT planned participant caseload, 2020 and 2021

Cooperating Partner	Governorate	2020 Caseload	2021 Caseload
WVI	Erbil	450	275
	Duhok	600	400
	Ninewa	500	500
RIRP	Baghdad	500	400
MH	Anbar	500	500
University of Sulaymaniyah	Sulaymaniyah	275	275
Total planned		2825	2350
Total achieved		2544	4256
% achieved		90%	181%

Source: WFP programme staff

206. **EMPACT employment outcomes are reasonable given the economic context.** The EMPACT 2021 Outcome Monitoring Report states that 36 percent of participants (39% of men, 32% of women) were engaged in full-time or informal jobs in local or online/remote labour markets,¹⁴⁵ an increase of 15 percentage points compared to the previous survey in June 2021 for graduates of 2019-2020. Given the economic context and low employment rate for youth in Iraq, especially for women, these figures might be the best that could be expected, particularly as women face difficulties travelling far from home. Positively, eighty-two percent of graduates who secured a job reported an increase in income, and 73 percent (81% men, 65% women) were "still engaged in these jobs" by September 2022.

207. Detrimental factors affecting the success of EMPACT interventions include high initial dropout rates and women participants finding it more difficult to find work due to cultural constraints and not being able to travel for work easily. That said, “More than 91 percent of participants thought that the level of training was appropriate for them.”¹⁴⁶ WFP monitoring reports repeatedly confirm that participants found the trainers to be qualified and that the course met their expectations. However, EMPACT participants had trouble accessing the internet when training was moved online due to COVID-19 and suffered electricity shortages. They were also initially not used to learning online. Furthermore, not being able to pay online in Iraq due to banking constraints is detrimental to all online businesses, reducing in-country opportunities to work online as promoted in the EMPACT programme.

208. **More effort was reportedly needed to help EMPACT participants secure employment, a sentiment strongly supported by the participants themselves.** In 2021, WFP and partners held career fairs in Anbar, Erbil, Ninewa, Duhok, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah governorates where graduates were introduced to key companies from different sectors. However, WFP monitoring reports found that students were not proactive with respect to the online support provided to help participants find work; "only 24% of interviewed participants participated in additional online sessions from other external partners". Two thirds

¹⁴⁵ Follow-up Exercise Results of WFP EMPACT activity, September 2022

¹⁴⁶ WFP EMPACT follow up exercise , June 2021.

of those were not aware about the sessions, and one fourth "did not have time." As of 2023, the EMPACT programme (renamed 'Jousour') aims to have a larger focus on linking participants to markets, relying on public universities' career development centers and corporate networks as well as through enhanced digital skills curriculum and inclusion of life skills coaching and entrepreneurial and financial literacy trainings. Universities will be in charge of implementation in all but one governorate.

209. **Employment outcomes were understandably lower for women given the prevalent discriminatory local labour markets.** No additional support was provided to women to enter local job markets. The fact that EMPACT women graduates in Erbil faced challenges making the commute to the offices for interviews - required for getting jobs - highlights the difficulties faced, regardless of regularly applying for advertised positions.¹⁴⁷

210. In terms of the intended capacity building of women, and the longer-term sustainability of interventions, about half the women participants interviewed stated the projects had a "great impact" on their status as women in their households and/or in their respective communities, across all activities (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).¹⁴⁸ These women indicated that the project activities had a positive effect on their self-confidence and family relationships. Some specified this was due to being able to work and contribute to their households' income (Anbar, Sinjar). Others mentioned that their intra-household relationships improved as a result of their greater role in their family and society, and their ability to provide for their families' needs.¹⁴⁹ In addition, some respondents stated that the project activities had led to a modest increase in their income or an improvement in their living conditions (Basrah, Sala Al Din, Thi-Qar).¹⁵⁰

211. In contrast, over one third of interviewed women participants – across all activities – stated the incomes generated had been too small to positively impact their status as women.¹⁵¹ Nevertheless, a few of these respondents did emphasise the project activities had a positive impact on their self-confidence and personality, in part due to the encouragement of trainers.

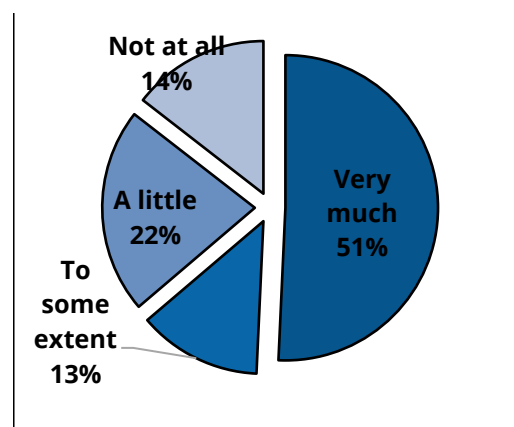
212. The only unintended benefit identified has been the improved participation of women due to the switch of EMPACT activities to online tutorials as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.6. EFFICIENCY

EQ 6 Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery.

213. **In general, "projects started and finished on time"**¹⁵². This is based on feedback from participants, CPs¹⁵³ and government authorities and corroborated by WFP monitoring reports which consistently quote projects as running smoothly and on schedule.¹⁵⁴

Figure 12 : Projects' impact on women's status



Source: RMT team field work analysis (n=69)

¹⁴⁷ FGD with women graduates of EMPACT in Erbil

¹⁴⁸ RMT team field interviews.

¹⁴⁹ RMT team field work analysis

¹⁵⁰ Ibid

¹⁵¹ Ibid

¹⁵² Local government KII.

¹⁵³ Eight of eleven CP stated this during RM Team KIIs.

¹⁵⁴ For example, the October 2021 Asset monitoring report.

214. **However, delays have been reported regarding specific activities.** For example, delays were noted by participants receiving UL equipment in Missan, as well as the availability and sufficiency of livelihood equipment elsewhere.¹⁵⁵ There were also some complaints about delays in participants receiving CFW entitlements.¹⁵⁶ EMPACT has apparently seen delays at the start of activities with respect to the distribution of computers,¹⁵⁷ and the late arrival of some participants (related to early phase dropouts) and difficulties incorporating women into the programme.

215. Levels of productivity from greenhouses were offset by delays in seed distributions as well as pest infestations (for example, white flies infecting pumpkins and cucumbers).¹⁵⁸ A lack of pesticides and peat moss was also reported.¹⁵⁹ Delays have also meant that distributions have not always been timed well with respect to the seasonal calendar.¹⁶⁰

216. Time spent waiting for local governments to approve of projects¹⁶¹ and issues regarding the procurement of equipment were identified by a number of CPs as contributing to delays. The slow processing of Field Level Agreements (FLAs) and contractual payments from WFP has also been reported by CPs as an issue. Insecurity and COVID-19¹⁶² also delayed WFP and CP staff access to field locations. COVID-19 has also meant that the EMPACT intervention had to expand its timeline from an eight-weeks in person course to a five-months online course.¹⁶³

217. Factors enabling efficient delivery identified by WFP staff interviews include good coordination with local government authorities, local leaders, and CP knowledge, experience,¹⁶⁴ and expertise as well as an existing presence in the location.

218. The WFP CO's ability to integrate success in one intervention into subsequent activities is uncertain. Albeit this evaluation is a good example of formal learning, knowledge management processes remain unclear. There has been no evaluation to inform the adoption of the new resilience approach.

2.7. SUSTAINABILITY AND CONNECTEDNESS

EQ 10: Capacity building/development results.

EQ12: Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy.

219. **There is no explicit sustainability strategy built into resilience programme design.** As indicated above, a broad range of inputs and capacity building initiatives that include physical assets, such as irrigation canals, greenhouses, water pumps and sheep dips, as well as practical training on agricultural best practices and urban vocational and business management training, should have been enough to generate a medium to long term positive impact, which seems to have happened to a certain extent. A range of medium to long term benefits have accrued from the WFP resilience interventions, notably in terms of land reclamation, increased agricultural production and employment/income generating opportunities, in addition to the knowledge and skills acquired by participating in FFT, UL, and EMPACT interventions. However, how to ensure the long-term sustainability of interventions does not appear to have been consistently incorporated into programme design, rather it has been assumed or anticipated.

220. This is evident in the lack of built-in programmatic follow-up mechanisms. Once a project activity is completed, it is assumed that the government will maintain any gains while a formal handover of assets was

¹⁵⁵ WFP Internal Process Monitoring Report December 2021

¹⁵⁶ OROKOM Wassit ECFW Report December 2020.

¹⁵⁷ RMTTeam EMPACT FGDs.

¹⁵⁸ Mercy hands FFA Anbar Report, December 21, p19.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid

¹⁶⁰ WFP Asset Monitoring Report December 2021.

¹⁶¹ WFP Asset Monitoring Report December 2021.

¹⁶² For example, Caritas had to close their FFA Anbar project from June-August 2020.

¹⁶³ WFP staff KII

¹⁶⁴ For example Mercy Hands had extensive experience in CFW initiatives.

lacking at times,¹⁶⁵ and handover plans should have been more detailed¹⁶⁶. This is particularly evident with respect to FFA activities. For example, it is assumed that any repairs, e.g., irrigation canals, will continue to be maintained, but this is not always the case.¹⁶⁷ The level of local authority ownership of WFP activities is unclear and to some extent dependent on the type of intervention. It is seemingly more difficult to handover projects to the government when they have been implemented by CPs¹⁶⁸, one reason for the switch towards the current implementation methodology of implementing projects in partnership with the Government.

221. Urban training activities seemingly have closer links to local government departments, evident in the closer collaboration witnessed between government and CPs, compared to some government agricultural department interviewees who stated they do not feel any ownership of agricultural projects “which were implemented independently of their support”.¹⁶⁹ Other government department interviewees reported their engineers helped facilitate the interventions.¹⁷⁰ The ET has seen no evidence of any government capacity building initiatives, and some projects have been handed over without due consideration as to what local authority capacity levels were¹⁷¹, significant at a time when local government capacities post conflict were low.

222. The contracting process is also not conducive to sustainable interventions. CPs have no further contractual responsibilities once their contracts have expired, even though longer-term support would have been beneficial as it is unlikely that participants will sustain benefits from the intervention within the short implementation timeframe.¹⁷² Furthermore, a lack of available funding at the end of 2021¹⁷³ led to a gap in implementation activities, exacerbating the shortfall in follow up activities. The short-term nature of funding and contracts is detrimental to sustainable approaches.¹⁷⁴

223. Feedback from participants and local government officials suggests that longer term benefits could have been generated had greater attention been paid to longer term considerations.¹⁷⁵ Some participants in Anbar governorate believe their communities to be better prepared for future shocks or challenges,¹⁷⁶ though this sentiment is not consistently reported, and most communities report mixed feelings as to whether they feel more resilient following WFP interventions.¹⁷⁷ This is largely due to the uncertainty as to whether the evident short term benefits will continue to exist. For example, there are concerns about the durability of greenhouse plastic sheets, and some small business participants have reported a lack of quality tools, materials or the necessary knowledge to sustain their business ambitions.¹⁷⁸

224. That said, positive medium to long term impacts are likely to be generated through activities such as grants for Solar Energy and kitchen gardens, and participant capacities have been utilised in FFA activities and strengthened in terms of improved knowledge of agricultural practices¹⁷⁹ as well as technical and business skills.

225. In general, and in line with a number of other thematic issues, no sustainability analysis seems to have been undertaken for individual projects, and WFP internal procedures at that time have

¹⁶⁵ WFP FFA baseline/Endline report.

¹⁶⁶ WFP staff interview.

¹⁶⁷ WFP FFA baseline/Endline report.

¹⁶⁸ WFP staff interview.

¹⁶⁹ RM Team Government Klls.

¹⁷⁰ Kll with Government Department

¹⁷¹ WFP staff interview.

¹⁷² Mercy Hands FFA Project Report Anbar.

¹⁷³ WFP staff interview.

¹⁷⁴ This was repeated in 2022 when the long awaited resilience funding had to be spent within six months.

¹⁷⁵ FFA FGD Feedback in Anbar.

¹⁷⁶ RM Team FGD feedback.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid

¹⁷⁸ WFP Asset Monitoring Report April 2022.

¹⁷⁹ WFP FFA baseline/Endline report.

seemingly made it difficult for the organisation to quickly recruit international and local expertise with the relevant developmental skill set at the outset of the implementation period. As such, resilience activities were initially implemented by WFP staff more familiar with emergency response focused activities. There was also no “tool kit” which would provide guidelines or facilitate interaction with the government.¹⁸⁰ Although there does not appear to have been a strategic HR development plan in place during 2019-2020 to replace or retrain SO1 focused staff as SO2 specialist staff, a blended approach was utilised from late 2021 onwards whereby specialized expertise was brought in to specifically address this issue, including new heads of programme, livelihood, and climate change team in mid-2022, and online training was made available for incumbent staff.¹⁸¹

226. There is also no evidence of any formal programmatic ties in terms of the connectedness of WFP resilience activities from 2019-2022 to long term development actors. However, WFP has had some discussions with UNDP and other UN agencies following Government requests for larger scale interventions. Going forward, the new 2023 onward resilience interventions have incorporated longer term planning much more into their programmatic structure with a strong role for local and national government authorities.

¹⁸⁰ WFP staff interview.

¹⁸¹ The ET is unable to assess the effectiveness of this approach as it is outside the temporal scope of the evaluation.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

227. In line with the evaluation ToR, with the aim of being strategically useful and meeting the evaluation objectives of improving accountability and learning, the following conclusions and lessons learnt are drawn from the analysis and findings and presented in line with the evaluation DAC criteria and evaluation questions.

228. Understanding that programmatic implementation methodologies have changed since the end of 2021, the following conclusions and recommendations will endeavour to incorporate such changes. Importantly, the ET has not witnessed the revised implementation practices to assess their quality, they have only been discussed in theory.

3.1. CONCLUSIONS

229. WFP resilience activities are concluded as being coherent with governmental and other UN agency ambitions and have been well targeted at a governorate and community level, providing activities relevant to beneficiary needs. Output targets have been generally met and activities have generated short- and medium-term benefits. The concern remains, however, as to how well the most vulnerable beneficiaries have been reached, and how sustainable the interventions will prove to be.

Relevance:

230. The four interventions address short, and - to some extent - medium/long term needs of participants, in both rural and urban settings, relying on appropriate implementation methodologies and context analysis. However, CBPP approach and seasonal livelihood planning could have been better integrated.

231. In terms of cross-cutting considerations, while CPs' own knowledge on localised do no harm/conflict analysis have been incorporated in activities to some extent, the incorporation of other key cross-cutting considerations (environmental, economic, and gender analyses) has been limited. There is a need to further imbued these points into project management design and implementation cycle.

Gender:

232. There has been a lack of investment from WFP in gender resources and awareness training to address needs identified within the 2021 national level gender analysis, and that shall be considered for future implementation methodologies. As a result, gender-sensitive considerations have not been showed positive gender transformative implementation methodologies and results, concerns have been raised across the SO2 programme regarding shortfalls in gender consultation, selection, analysis and levels of gender programming knowledge amongst WFP and CP staff.

Coverage:

233. Both governorate and district level targeting were well undertaken. Resilience activities have been implemented in selected governorates and districts based on sound vulnerability criteria. There is less confidence, however, as to whether the most vulnerable have been consistently selected at a community level. Although categorical selection criteria have been provided to the CPs, those were not systematically applied at field level. As such, the overall success of the responses in terms of covering the most vulnerable remains questionable.

Coherence:

The coherence of WFP's resilience focused activities can be said to be positive. Activities are well aligned with government priorities both at a local and national level, providing a solid basis for future cooperation moving forward. Similarly, the resilience programming aligns well with WFP global strategies and the CSP, in line with UN SDG global agenda. Resilience programming and longer-term thinking fit in well with UN HRPs, thereby ensuring coherence with UN partners and with the main resilience donor.

Effectiveness and efficiency:

234. Programmes can be generally considered as effective at an output level, but the attainment of outcome indicators is less consistently positive. Output level objectives have been achieved for the majority of interventions with activities generally starting and finishing on time and improving the short and medium-

term circumstances of the communities and individuals concerned. However, a number of internal issues such as the poor quality of goods procured by implementing partners- sometimes tardily - and a failure to implement agricultural projects in line with the seasonal calendar, reduced the programmatic effectiveness.

235. The switch to direct implementation is expected to have tangible benefits in terms of value for money and improved oversight of field activities. Concerns were raised that WFP staff did not initially have the necessary developmental and co-operative skills to undertake their roles effectively. A blended approach to capacity building was implemented starting in late 2021 to address this issue; the effectiveness of this approach in redressing capacity gaps is outside the scope of this evaluation.

Sustainability:

236. Despite medium/longer term benefits from the interventions, more attention should be given to ensure a sustainable project design and secure the sustainability of interventions. No sustainability analyses seems to have been undertaken at the start of activities, local authority ownership has been inconsistent, and no evidence indicated government capacity building initiatives to date.

237. WFP's shift in implementation towards mainstreaming activities within Government initiatives aims to embed sustainability within their resilience programming. Moving forward, sustainability considerations will remain important as WFP engages with relevant government authorities – including Ministries, Directorates, public universities and public vocational training centres - setting priorities and piloting projects. This is a concern, as the levels of local authority ownership of projects have been inconsistent to date. Furthermore, sustainability outcomes at the individual/household level should be embedded into programme design and implementation for successfully achieving the humanitarian-development nexus. Beyond government, it is unclear at present as to which development organisations or donors WFP is hoping to partner with for future resilience programming support, particularly funding. Overall, the sustainability of resilience activities needs more focus.

3.2. LESSONS LEARNT

238. The following is a selected list of key lessons learnt identified and documented during the course of the evaluation. They are directed towards the CO resilience team and general management to improve future interventions:

- I. Affected populations' participation in both programmatic design and implementation needs to be consistently mainstreamed in intervention methodologies to maximise the relevance of interventions.
- II. Insufficient resources have been allocated to gender considerations. As a result, these elements have not been consistently incorporated within the programmatic activities evaluated.
- III. WFP cannot rely on CPs to undertake detailed cross-cutting analysis during the project proposal stage, as time and financial constraints are prohibitive.
- IV. Cross-cutting environmental, economic, and conflict considerations appear to have been very limited in resilience interventions to date.
- V. WFP should proactively ensure selection criteria provided are consistently used, and verification of participant lists consistently undertaken at field level.
- VI. Joint implementation with public authorities in Iraq requires sustained efforts in capacity-building and awareness-raising to achieve inclusion of women and vulnerable groups throughout the project implementation cycle.
- VII. Disaggregating CP/project reports by number of participants from different category groups would enable WFP resilience staff to monitor how interventions are reaching the different groups.
- VIII. WFP partner monitoring procedures need to be reviewed in line with recurring quality and timeliness issues.
- IX. Embedding longer-term considerations to project design would maximise the potential effectiveness and ultimate impact of interventions. The move towards a longer term more developmental focus, incorporating more resilience building and climate change adaptation, can be deemed as relevant.

- X. Solid business development support activities need to be systematically included alongside capacity-building interventions such as UL and EMPACT. Adequate analysis of local market needs will be essential in future resilience programming.
- XI. WFP staff would have benefited from more capacity building activities at the outset of the resilience and development activities implementation.

3.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

239. The following recommendations are based on the aforementioned conclusions and lessons learnt. The ET finds all programmatic recommendations relevant for immediate incorporation into ongoing resilience activities. Recommendations have been split between programmatic and programme support. Priority levels are indicated as high in all cases knowing that the new resilience activities have already started, as detailed in Table 12 below.

Table 12 Evaluation recommendations

#	Recommendation	Recommendation grouping (By type):	Responsibility	Priority: High/medium	By when
1	To increase programmatic relevance and effectiveness, the WFP resilience team needs to ensure greater compliance with their own three-pronged approach. This should enable new programmatic interventions, to improve population participation at all stages of project implementation and ensure the representation of relevant participant category groups, whose disaggregated numbers need to be consistently included in project reports so that they can be monitored. Within the revised direct implementation methodology, project management cycles need to allow enough time for cross-cutting analysis to be undertaken.	Programmatic	WFP Resilience Team	High	By the end of Q3 2023
2	Similarly, whether working through CPs, public authorities, or directly implementing activities, the resilience team management need to ensure selection criteria are consistently applied at field level, participant lists thoroughly verified, and communities aware of participant selection criteria. This will support improved community level confidence in selection processes, as well as donor confidence in WFP programmatic achievements.	Programmatic	WFP Resilience Team	High	By the end of Q3 2023
3	To improve sustainability, the resilience team management needs to ensure that ongoing and future resilience interventions have built in follow up and sustainability activities to monitor and maximise longer-term programme effectiveness and ultimate impact. Specifically for the UL and EMPACT interventions, this should include business development support activities imbedded in capacity-building interventions based on relevant local market need assessments.	Programmatic	WFP Resilience Team Management	High	By the end of Q4 2023
4	To increase efficiency and sustainability, Government ownership of initiatives needs to be prioritised by resilience programme staff from the outset of interventions and incorporated into programme design. Similarly, capacity building within government departments to enable their current and future management of interventions will need to be augmented as the resilience programmes move forward. Realistic indicators will also need to be set up for both so these elements may be monitored and measured. This is particularly relevant in	Programmatic	WFP Resilience Programme Staff	High	By the end of Q3 2023

	terms of gender considerations and the inclusion and selection of vulnerable populations within programme implementation.				
5	WFP country team senior management need to bolster the number of staff responsible for gender, as well as other cross-cutting thematic areas – environmental, economic, and conflict. Training and awareness raising activities need to be initiated as WFP implement directly through their own staff and in collaboration with local government counterparts.	Programme Support	WFP Country Team Senior Management	High	By the end of Q3 2023
6	Internal partner monitoring procedures need to be jointly reviewed by the resilience team and procurement management to identify why there were recurring complaints regarding the quality and timeliness of items procured, and to establish what systematic corrections need to be made.	Programme Support	WFP Resilience Team and Procurement Management	High	By the end of Q3 2023
7	Given WFP's move towards direct implementation, WFP senior management and resilience team management need to elaborate a medium/long term staff planning strategy to ensure adequate levels of expertise are available for each thematic element within their resilience interventions.	Programme Support	WFP Senior Management and Resilience Team Management	High	By the end of Q3 2023

Annexes

Annex 1. Summary Terms of Reference

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/iraq-evaluation-wfp-livelihood-support-asset-creation-and-climate-adaption-activities>

Annex 2. Timeline

Originally, the CO planned to conduct a decentralized evaluation in 2021. However, the proposed evaluation did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the resilience-building activities' implementation in 2020. As a result, the CO shifted the evaluation to 2022 enabling them to review the resilience-building activities that were implemented in 2020 and 2021.

The initially revised timeline proposed by the ET was based on the contract beginning at the end of July 2022. However, the timeline and work plan have been updated below based on the actual start date of the contract in September 2022.

Item	Responsible	Dates
Inception		
PO signing	WFP – KT	Sept 19
Kick-off meeting	WFP - ET	Sept 28
Desk review and data reliability assessment	ET	Oct 3 – Oct 14
Development of data collection tools, workplan, and inception report	ET	Oct 10 – Oct 27
Inception mission in Iraq	WFP - TL	Oct 24 – Oct 27
Internal QA of the Inception Report	KT - TL	Nov 2-4
Submission of the Inception Report	KT	Nov 7
QA of draft inception report by EM and REO and follow-up call	WFP	Nov 7 – Nov 11
Revision and submission of draft inception report	ET	Nov 16
Review of draft IR by Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)	WFP	Nov 23
Consolidation of comments by EM	WFP	Nov 25
Revision of draft inception report and submission of final inception report	ET	Nov 30
Review of final inception report by EM and submission to evaluation committee	WFP	Dec 5
Approval of final inception report by EC Chair	WFP	Dec 12
Recruitment of field enumerators	RMTeam	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Training of field enumerators	RMTeam	Dec 1 – Dec 2
Data collection – local consultant		
Data collection tool piloting – Local Consultants	ET - RMTeam	Dec 5 – Dec 6
Revision of data collection tools (if necessary)	ET - RMTeam	Dec 7

Item	Responsible	Dates
Data collection	ET - RMTeam	Dec 10 – Dec 17
Data Analysis	ET - RMTeam	Dec 18 – Dec 23
Data collection – International consultants		
Data collection Erbil and Dohuk	ET	Jan 29 - Feb 2
Data collection Baghdad	ET	Jan 29- Feb 2
Briefing Presentation (remote)	ET	Feb 9
Final reporting		
Preparation of draft evaluation report	ET	Feb 13 - 28 th
Internal QA of evaluation report	KT - ET	Mar 7 – Mar 9
Submission of first draft of evaluation report	KT	Mar 10
Quality assurance of draft by EM and REO	WFP	Mar 17
Revision and resubmission of draft evaluation report	ET	Mar 24
Circulation of draft evaluation report for review and comments	WFP	Mar 27
Review of draft evaluation report by ERG	ERG	Mar 27 – Mar 31
Consolidation of comments by EM	WFP	April 3
Revision of draft final report and submission of final report	ET	Apr 10
Review of final report and submission to evaluation committee	WFP	Apr 12
Approval of final evaluation report	WFP	Apr 19
Dissemination and follow-up		
Preparation of management response by EC Chair	WFP	Mar 16- Mar 23
Sharing of report and management response for publication and end-of-evaluation lessons learned call	WFP	March 31

Annex 3. Evaluation Matrix

The table below presents the evaluation matrix, which include the evaluation criteria and corresponding evaluation questions, sub and sub-sub questions, indicators, data collection methods, sources of data/information, and data analysis methods/triangulation.

Relevance, appropriateness					
EQ 1: Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups					
Sub questions	Sub-sub questions	Indicators	Data collection methods	Sources of data/information	Data analysis methods/ triangulation
1.1 To what extent was the design of the intervention relevant to the wider context (availability of food, economic shocks, seasonal factors, gender considerations, ¹⁸² tensions within communities etc.)?	<p>What factors and analysis have been taken into account during the design of the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?</p> <p>Have beneficiaries (men and women) been consulted during the design stage?</p> <p>Environmental Analysis? Food Security Analysis?</p> <p>Employment situation analysis?</p> <p>Protection/Conflict analysis?</p> <p>How has the evidence generated by these analyses informed the design of the interventions?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of: HH Food Security and needs analysis Gender analysis Protection/Conflict analysis Environmental analysis Marketplace analysis VAM analysis Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received)</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Analysis documentation Participatory process documentation M&E reports Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

¹⁸² Duplicated in EQ3 – see that section for gender questions.

<p>1.2 To what extent was the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups by gender¹⁸³ and beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable community population)?</p>	<p>How were the specific needs and priorities of IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees and vulnerable community population respectively, considered in programme design?</p> <p>How were such needs and priorities identified?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of: HH Food Security and needs analysis Nutritional analysis Beneficiary financial and economic assessments Protection analysis Environmental analysis Marketplace analysis Conflict analysis Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received) Targeting analysis</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Analysis documentation Participatory process documentation M&E reports Beneficiaries Targeting frameworks</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
<p>EQ 3 and EQ 13: Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs</p>					
<p>3.1 To what extent was the intervention based on a sound gender analysis?</p> <p>3.2 To what extent was the design and implementation of the intervention gender-sensitive?</p> <p>9.3 To what extent did the interventions' implementation consider sustainability of capacity building of women's and women-related organisations in decision-</p>	<p>Has a gender analysis been undertaken during the design phase?</p> <p>Have sufficient resources been allocated to gender sensitive activities?</p> <p>What specific gender and inclusivity aspects have been incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?</p> <p>Do interventions benefit women as individuals/beneficiaries? Or</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of: Gender analysis Gender transformation framework Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received) Higher percentage of women beneficiaries within interventions Female beneficiary feedback on the impact of the interventions Evidence of life changing experiences for women beneficiaries</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Gender Analysis documentation Participatory process documentation M&E reports Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

¹⁸³ Ibid

<p>making at the community and national levels?</p>	<p>their inclusion within community project management structures? In what way?</p> <p>Have interventions been designed to be transformative? In particular, is there any evidence that the power balance within families or the community have been altered as a result of the interventions, to the extent possible?</p> <p>What is considered as gender transformative?</p> <p>Did staff have sufficient gender expertise to achieve gender specific outcomes?</p> <p>What nature of complaints, if any, come from woman regarding their participation in project activities?</p> <p>To what extent did interventions promote women's and women-related organisations in actively participating in interventions so this may continue after intervention completion?</p> <p>To what extent did interventions promote the leadership of women so it may continue after intervention completion?</p>				
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<p>13.0 To what extent were protection and ethics issues considered in design and implementation?</p>	<p>What specific protection aspects – including do-no-harm – have been incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?</p> <p>Have specific community members faced protection issues as a result of the interventions?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of: Protection analysis Conflict analysis Do no harm analysis Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received) Targeting analysis</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Analysis documentation Participatory process documentation M&E reports Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
<p>EQ 14: Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments</p>					
<p>EQ 15: Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject (including element of EQ9).</p>					
<p>14.2 To what extent was the design and implementation of interventions informed by a robust conflict analysis and were conflict sensitivity considerations integrated?</p> <p>15.1 To what extent were context factors (political stability/instability, population movements, etc.) considered in the design and delivery of the intervention?</p>	<p>Has a conflict analysis been undertaken during the design phase? If so, how did the evidence generated inform programme design?</p> <p>Have the interventions adapted to the changing context and the reality on the ground during implementation? What measures have WFP undertaken?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of: Protection analysis Conflict analysis Population Movement analysis Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received)</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Analysis documentation Participatory process documentation M&E reports Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

<p>9.2 To what extent did environmental screening and mitigation plans inform the design and implementation of the interventions?</p>	<p>What environmental assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?</p> <p>What programmatic adjustments did such analysis generate?</p> <p>Was there sufficient climate adaptation expertise available to the interventions?</p> <p>What positive or negative environmental outcomes have interventions generated?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of:</p> <p>Environmental assessments</p> <p>Positive or negative environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>Secondary Research</p> <p>KIIs</p> <p>FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Analysis documentation</p> <p>Participatory process documentation</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
Coverage					
Q11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided					
<p>11.1 To what extent was the targeting of beneficiaries (geographically and community-based) based on sound vulnerability analysis?</p>	<p>What geographical and community level targeting criteria have been utilised? How were such criteria decided upon?</p> <p>Were any inclusivity aspects missing in targeting?</p> <p>Were such criteria effectively used at field-level? Have there been any exclusions of particular groups/ categories of populations that should have been prioritized over others that were included?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of:</p> <p>HH Food Security and needs analysis</p> <p>HH economic analysis</p> <p>Nutritional analysis</p> <p>VAM analysis</p> <p>Gender analysis</p> <p>Protection analysis</p> <p>Environmental analysis</p> <p>Marketplace analysis</p> <p>Conflict analysis</p> <p>Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received)</p> <p>Targeting analysis</p>	<p>Secondary Research</p> <p>KIIs</p> <p>FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Analysis documentation</p> <p>Participatory process documentation</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Targeting frameworks</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

	Within target areas, have the most vulnerable households been successfully prioritised?				
11.2 To what extent was WFP's assistance provided coordinated with that provided by others to ensure complementarities, avoiding duplication and gaps?	<p>What synergies are evident with activities ongoing through other partners and stakeholders working with the communities?</p> <p>Has there been any evidence of duplication or overlaps with other stakeholder activities, including government programmes?</p>	Evidence of co-ordination and complementarity with other operating agencies Cluster level 4W analysis Evidence of duplication/overlaps	As above plus cluster level consultations	4W documentation	As above
Coherence					
EQ 2: Alignment with government, partners, donors' policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies					
2.1 To what extent were the interventions aligned with WFP and UN agencies' policies and priorities?	<p>Which individual UN Policies are interventions aligned with?</p> <p>Which individual WFP policies are interventions aligned with?</p>	Evidence of alignment with individual internal policies	Secondary Research KIIs	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Relevant UN, and WFP policies.</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

<p>2.2 To what extent was the design of activities and objectives aligned with partners, donor¹⁸⁴ and government priorities and policies?</p>	<p>Which individual govt policies are interventions aligned with?</p> <p>What is the govt strategy with regard to resilience programming, if any?</p> <p>What coordination mechanisms exist between WFP, partners, donors and the govt depts? How well did they work?</p> <p>What donor polices and strategies are interventions aligned with?</p>	<p>Evidence of alignment with govt policies (as mentioned in the CSP and elsewhere)</p> <p>Evidence that coordination mechanisms are fit for purpose</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Relevant UN, and WFP policies.</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
Effectiveness					
EQ4: Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results					
EQ 5: Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes					
<p>4.1 To what extent were the outputs/outcomes/objectives of the intervention achieved for women, men, IDP, refugee, and vulnerable community members?</p> <p>5.1 What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the</p>	<p>To what extent have project outputs/outcomes been met? And which have not? Why?</p> <p>Has the achievement of project outputs led to the expected outcomes?</p> <p>How did the interventions change beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries' livelihoods?</p> <p>How was this differed between Men/Women/Boys/Girls?</p>	<p>Project output and outcome indicators (actual v planned)</p> <p>Changes in beneficiary status (e.g., unemployed to employed) or location (e.g. IDP to returnee)</p> <p>Gender specific outcomes</p> <p>Population group specific outcomes</p> <p>Perceived quality of the interventions implemented.</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs</p> <p>FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p> <p>Field observation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

¹⁸⁴ Included by the evaluation team.

<p>outcomes/objectives of the intervention for both men and women, IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations?</p>	<p>How has this differed between beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations).</p> <p>Have outputs/outcomes been qualitative and not just quantitative?</p> <p>Have influencing factors been identified by programme staff/M&E? (E.g., Covid being a negative factor)</p> <p>Have interventions been modified as a result?</p>				<p>Quantitative analysis</p>
<p>4.2 Is the achievement of outcomes leading to/likely to lead to meeting intervention objectives?</p>	<p>Is there a clear correlation between achieving outputs – outcomes – and objectives?</p> <p>Were the interventions’ expected outcomes and objectives coherent with contextual realities?</p>	<p>Examples of project based correlations and achieved objectives, or the opposite.</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation Field observation</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes Project monthly and Annual reports Annual Country Reports M&E reports Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types Data analysis spreadsheets Quantitative analysis</p>
<p>8.1 What were the intended and unintended impacts of</p>	<p>What have been the outcomes of each individual resilience building</p>	<p>Identified positive impacts</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIIs</p>	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p>

the different interventions on participants?	<p>initiative on particular target groups and communities? Were some initiatives more successful than others?</p> <p>What impact have such outcomes generated?</p> <p>Have interventions led to significant changes in the lives of targeted beneficiaries?</p> <p>What changes have interventions generated in terms of gender equality locally?</p> <p>Were these intended or unintended?</p>	Evidence of increased resilience	FGDs and beneficiary consultation Field observation	<p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
Efficiency					
EQ 6 Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery					
6.1 To what extent were interventions implemented in a timely way?	<p>Did interventions start and finish on time?</p> <p>If not, what factors affected this?</p> <p>Were consequences of delays minimised, to the extent possible?</p> <p>What intervention challenges were identified?</p> <p>Have interventions been allocated enough financial and human resources?</p>	Evidence of the timely completion of activities on a project by project basis	Secondary Research KIIs FGDs and beneficiary consultation	<p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>

	Did staff have the necessary expertise to manage interventions?				
Sustainability and connectedness					
EQ 10: Capacity building/development results					
10.1 To what extent did (or is it likely that) the intervention benefits will continue after WFP's work ceases?	<p>What sustainability assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?</p> <p>What long term benefits were expected? To what extent were they achieved?</p> <p>What expected long term benefits materialised/did not materialise? Why not?</p> <p>Is there evidence of any unexpected benefits likely to be sustainable after WFP's work ceases?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of:</p> <p>Sustainability assessments</p> <p>Project indicators</p> <p>Examples of long term benefits</p> <p>Examples of positive capacity building</p>	<p>Secondary Research</p> <p>KIIs</p> <p>FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p> <p>Field observation</p>	<p>Relevant analysis documentation</p> <p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
10.2 To what extent did the intervention implementation consider sustainability, such as capacity building of national and local government institutions,	<p>In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?</p> <p>In what way have local government expertise and</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of:Community consultation (and adoption of feedback received)</p> <p>Consultation with relevant local government depts</p>	<p>Secondary Research</p> <p>KIIs</p> <p>FGDs and beneficiary consultation</p>	<p>Relevant analysis documentation</p> <p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection</p>

<p>communities, and other partners?</p>	<p>capacity been incorporated into the interventions?</p> <p>What capacity building initiatives were implemented (national and local Govt institutions, CP, communities, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders)?</p> <p>What resulted from such CB initiatives?</p> <p>What government focused sustainability assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?</p> <p>What long term benefits were expected within local authority and national government partners? To what extent were they achieved?</p> <p>Was govt staff high turnover an issue? How was this mitigated?</p> <p>To what extent do the local govts feel ownership of the projects?</p> <p>Were CB activities sufficient to build the capacities needed for the benefits to continue?</p>	<p>Examples of local capacity utilisation</p> <p>Sustainability assessments</p> <p>Project indicators</p> <p>Examples of long term benefits</p>	<p>Field observation</p>	<p>Participatory process documentation Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Govt departments</p>	<p>techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
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EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy

<p>12.1 To what extent did the intervention link to any transition strategies in the context or to development goals?</p>	<p>What nexus focused assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?</p> <p>What linkages were established with developmental agencies and government bodies?</p> <p>What programmatic linkages were designed/implemented to generate synergies with partners on longer term development interventions?</p> <p>What has been the role played by WFP?</p>	<p>Evidence/usage of:</p> <p>Nexus analysis and assessments</p> <p>Examples of synergies with partner long term interventions</p>	<p>Secondary Research KIs</p>	<p>Relevant analysis documentation</p> <p>Projects Proposals and logframes</p> <p>Project monthly and Annual reports</p> <p>Annual Country Reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Development Partners</p>	<p>Thematic Analysis</p> <p>Triangulation between team members, data sources, data collection techniques and data types</p> <p>Data analysis spreadsheets</p>
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Annex 4. Data collection Tools

Semi structured Questionnaires/Interview Guides – Cooperating Partners, Donors, Government officials

1. Profile of interviewee: Cooperating Partner (MH, WVI etc.)

Date of Interview:

In person/remote:

Team member leading the interview:

Other team members participating:

Protocols:

Introduce self.

State interview should last two hours (might go over slightly – is that ok?).

State interviews are confidential and anonymous and that the interviewees will never be quoted in the report. As such it is hoped they feel free to express themselves.

The interviews will not be recorded. But I will take notes if that's ok?

State objectives of the interview:

- Part of a study to look at the effectiveness of WFP resilience building activities within Iraq.
- To gather key stakeholder feedback that will influence how future activities are implemented.

State that the interview is voluntary.

Ask for their agreement to continue. Yes/No – circle their answer

Fill in later:

Key points from the interview:

-

Any emerging issues to follow-up?

-

Useful documents recommended?

-

Other key people to speak to?

Initial questions:

Profile of the interviewees:

- Name(s):
- Male/Female:
- Location of key informant(s):
- Functional title(s):
- Organisation:
- Role(s):

How long have you been in that role? Based where?

Within your role or a previous role have you been involved with the WFP resilience building activities? Which aspects? FFA/CFW/Urban Livelihoods/EMPACT?

What activities are your organisation implementing alongside WFP? Which location?

Specific Responses to research questions (Note there may not be time to ask all these questions – therefore select the most relevant in advance of the interview – e.g., NB OCHA questions would focus on co-ordination)

EQ 1 Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups	
1.1	To what extent was the design of the intervention relevant to the wider context (availability of food, economic shocks, seasonal factors, gender considerations, tensions within communities etc.)?
Sub questions to ask	What factors and analysis have been taken into account during the design of the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?
	Has the evidence generated by such analysis informed the design of the interventions? How?
	Have beneficiaries (men and women) been consulted during the design stage?
	What contextual analysis has been undertaken during the design phase: Environmental Analysis? Food Security Analysis? Employment situation analysis? Protection/Conflict analysis?
	How has the evidence generated by these analyses informed the design of the interventions?
1.2	To what extent was the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups by gender and beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable community population)?
Sub questions to ask	How were the specific needs and priorities of IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees and vulnerable community population respectively, considered in programme design?
	How were such needs and priorities identified?
EQ 3 and EQ 13: Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs	
3.1/3.2	To what extent was the intervention based on a sound gender analysis? To what extent was the design and implementation of the intervention gender-sensitive?
Sub questions to ask	Has a gender analysis been undertaken during the design phase?
	What specific gender and inclusivity aspects have been incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?
	Do interventions benefit women as individuals/beneficiaries? Or their inclusion within community project management structures? In what way?
	Have interventions been designed to be transformative? In particular, is there any evidence that the power balance within families or the community have been altered as a result of the interventions, to the extent possible?
	Did staff have sufficient gender expertise to achieve gender specific outcomes?
	What nature of complaints, if any, come from woman regarding their participation in project activities?
	Have sufficient resources been allocated to gender sensitive activities?

9.3	To what extent did the interventions' implementation consider sustainability of capacity building of women's and women-related organization in decision-making at the community and national levels?
Sub questions to ask	To what extent did interventions promote women's and women-related organization in actively participating in interventions so this may continue after intervention completion?
	To what extent did interventions promote the leadership of women so it may continue after intervention completion?
13.0	To what extent were protection and ethics issues considered in design and implementation?
Sub questions to ask	What specific protection aspects – including do-not-harm – have been incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?
	Are you aware of community members who faced protection issues as a result of the interventions?
EQ 14: Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments EQ 15: Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject (including element of EQ9).	
14.1	To what extent was the chosen intervention approach the best way to meet the food security and nutrition needs of affected populations and intended beneficiaries?
Sub questions to ask	What alternative intervention approaches were considered?
	What were the rationales for opting for the adopted approaches?
	What effect did interventions have on the food security situation of the beneficiaries?
14.2 15.1	To what extent was the design and implementation of interventions informed by a robust conflict analysis and were conflict sensitivity considerations integrated? To what extent were context factors (political stability/instability, population movements, etc.) considered in the design and delivery of the intervention?
Sub questions to ask	Has a conflict analysis been undertaken during the design phase? If so, how did the evidence generated inform programme design?
	Have the interventions adapted to the changing context and the reality on the ground during implementation? What measures have WFP undertaken?
9.2	To what extent did environmental screening and mitigation plans inform the design and implementation of the interventions?
Sub questions to ask	What environmental assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions, if any?
	If so, what programmatic adjustments did such analysis generate?
	Was there sufficient climate adaption expertise available to the interventions?
	What positive or negative environmental outcomes have interventions generated?

Q11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided	
11.1	To what extent was the targeting of beneficiaries (geographically and community-based) based on sound vulnerability analysis?
Sub questions to ask	What geographical and community level targeting criteria have been utilised? How were such criteria decided upon?
	Were such criteria effectively used at field-level? Have there been any exclusions of particular groups/ categories of populations that should have been prioritized over others that were included?
	Do you think there were any inclusivity aspects missing in targeting? Have people been left out that should have been included?
11.2	To what extent was WFP's assistance provided coordinated with that provided by others to ensure complementarities, avoiding duplication and gaps?
Sub questions to ask	What synergies are evident with activities ongoing through other partners and stakeholders working with the communities?
	Has there been any evidence of duplication or overlaps with other stakeholder activities, including government programmes?
EQ4: Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results	
EQ 5: Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes	
4.1	To what extent were the outputs/outcomes/objectives of the intervention achieved for women, men, IDP, refugee, and vulnerable community members?
Sub questions to ask	To what extent have project outputs/outcomes been met? And which have not? Why?
	Has the achievement of project outputs led to the expected outcomes?
	How did the interventions change beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries' livelihoods? How was this differed between Men/Women/Boys/Girls?
	How has this differed between beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations).
	Have outputs/outcomes been qualitative and not just quantitative?
5.1	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the outcomes/objectives of the intervention for both men and women, IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations?
Sub questions to ask	Have influencing factors been identified by programme staff/M&E?
	Have interventions been modified as a result?
4.2	Is the achievement of outcomes leading to/likely to lead to meeting intervention objectives?
Sub questions to ask	Is there a clear correlation between achieving outputs – outcomes – and objectives?

	Were the interventions' expected outcomes and objectives coherent with contextual realities?
8.1	What were the primary and the secondary immediate impacts of the intervention on participants (intended and unintended)?
Sub questions to ask	What have been the outcomes of each individual resilience building initiative on particular target groups and communities?
	What impact have such outcomes generated?
	Have interventions led significant changes in the lives of targeted beneficiaries?
	Were these intended or unintended?
	How could interventions/activities have been done better?
EQ 6 Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery	
6.1	To what extent were interventions implemented in a timely way?
Sub questions to ask	Did interventions start and finish on time? If not, what factors affected this?
	What intervention challenges were identified?
	Have interventions been allocated enough financial and human resources?
	Did staff have the necessary expertise to manage interventions?
	Did you face any problems regarding the timeliness of FLAs
EQ 10: Capacity building/development results	
10.1	To what extent did (or is it likely that) the intervention benefits will continue after WFP's work ceases?
Sub questions to ask	What sustainability assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?
	What expected long term benefits materialised / did not materialise? Why not?
	Is there evidence of any unexpected benefits likely to be sustainable after WFP's work ceases?
10.2	To what extent did the intervention implementation consider sustainability, such as capacity building of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners?
Sub questions to ask	What capacity building initiatives were implemented (national and local Govt institutions, CP, communities, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders)?
	What resulted from such CB initiatives?
	Were CB activities sufficient to build the capacities needed for the benefits to continue?
	What government focused sustainability assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?

	What long term benefits were expected within local authority and national government partners? To what extent were they achieved?
	Was govt staff high turnover an issue? How was this mitigated?
	To what extent do the local govts feel ownership of the projects?
	What expected long term benefits did not materialise?
1.3	To what extent did the design and implementation of the intervention consider the available capacities within the target communities and key stakeholders?
Sub questions to ask	In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?
	In what way have local government expertise and capacity been incorporated into the interventions?
EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy	
12.1	To what extent did the intervention link to any transition strategies in the context or to development goals?
Sub questions to ask	What nexus focused assessments and analysis were undertaken before and during the interventions?
	What linkages were established with developmental agencies and government bodies?
	What programmatic linkages were designed/implemented to generate synergies with partners on longer term development interventions?
Closing up: Many thanks for your time and input. Can I come back to you if I have some additional questions I have forgotten to ask? By email? Do you have anything further you wish to add? Run over any documents the interviewee has said they would forward as a reminder	

2. Profile of interviewee: Govt Official

Date of Interview:

In person/remote:

Team member leading the interview:

Other team members participating:

Protocols:

Introduce self.

State interview should only last one hour (might go over slightly – is that ok?).

State interview is confidential and anonymous and that the interviewees will never be quoted in the report. As such it is hoped they feel free to express themselves.

The interviews will not be recorded. But I will take notes if that's ok?

State objectives of the interview:

- Part of a study to look at the effectiveness of WFP resilience building activities within Iraq.
- To gather key stakeholder feedback that will influence how future activities are implemented.

State that the interview is voluntary.

Ask for their agreement to continue. Yes/No – circle their answer

Fill in later:

Key points from the interview:

Any emerging issues to follow-up?

Useful documents recommended?:

Other key people to speak to?:

Initial questions:

Profile of the interviewees:

- Name(s):
- Male/Female:
- Location of key informant(s):
- Functional title(s):
- Organisation:
- Role(s):

How long have you been in that role? Based where?

Within your role or a previous role have you been involved with the WFP resilience building activities? Which aspects? FFA/CFW/Urban Livelihoods/EMPACT?

If not then, have you heard about WFP resilience building activities? FFA/CFW/Urban Livelihoods/EMPACT?

What activities are your organisation implementing in this country relevant to such interventions?

Specific Responses to research questions (Note there may not be time to ask all these questions – therefore select the most relevant in advance of the interview)

EQ 1 Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups	
1.2	To what extent was the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups by gender and beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable community population)?

Sub questions to ask	Do you think the specific needs and priorities of IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees and vulnerable community population respectively, were considered in programme design?
1.3	To what extent did the design and implementation of the intervention consider the available capacities within the target communities and key stakeholders?
Sub questions to ask	In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?
	In what way have local government expertise and capacity been incorporated into the interventions?
EQ 3 and EQ 13: Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs	
3.1/3.2	To what extent was the intervention based on a sound gender analysis? To what extent was the design and implementation of the intervention gender-sensitive?
Sub questions to ask	What specific gender and inclusivity aspects have you seen incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant?
	Do interventions benefit women as individuals/ as beneficiaries? Or their inclusion within community project management structures? In what way?
13.0	To what extent were protection and ethics issues considered in design and implementation?
Sub questions to ask	Are you aware of any community members having faced protection issues as a result of the interventions?
EQ 14: Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments EQ 15: Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject (including element of EQ9).	
14.2 15.1	To what extent was the design and implementation of interventions informed by a robust conflict analysis and were conflict sensitivity considerations integrated? To what extent were context factors (political stability/instability, population movements, etc.) considered in the design and delivery of the intervention?
Sub questions to ask	Have the interventions adapted to the changing context and the reality on the ground during implementation?
EQ 11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided	
11.1	To what extent was the targeting of beneficiaries (geographically and community-based) based on sound vulnerability analysis?
Sub questions to ask	Within target areas, according to you, have the most vulnerable households been successfully prioritised?

11.2	To what extent was WFP’s assistance provided coordinated with that provided by others to ensure complementarities, avoiding duplication and gaps?
Sub questions to ask	Has there been any evidence of duplication or overlaps with other stakeholder activities, including government programmes?
EQ 2: Alignment with government, partners, donors’ policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies	
2.2	To what extent was the design of activities and objectives aligned with donor and government priorities and policies?
Sub questions to ask	Which individual govt policies are interventions aligned with?
	What is the govt strategy with regard to resilience programming, if any?
	What coordination mechanisms exist between WFP and the govt depts? How well did they work?
EQ 6 Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery	
6.1	To what extent were interventions implemented in a timely way?
Sub questions to ask	What intervention challenges are you aware of?
EQ4: Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results	
EQ 5: Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes	
4.1	To what extent were the outputs/outcomes/objectives of the intervention achieved for women, men, IDP, refugee, and vulnerable community members?
Sub questions to ask	How did the interventions change beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries’ livelihoods? How was this differed between Men/Women/Boys/Girls?
	How has this differed between beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations), if you know.
5.1	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the outcomes/objectives of the intervention for both men and women, IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations?
Sub questions to ask	What factors do you think influenced the success /failure of the interventions?
8.1	What were the primary and the secondary immediate impacts of the intervention on participants (intended and unintended)?
Sub questions to ask	Have interventions led significant changes in the lives of targeted beneficiaries?
	How could interventions/activities have been done better?

EQ 10: Capacity building/development results	
10.1	To what extent did (or is it likely that) the intervention benefits will continue after WFP's work ceases?
Sub questions to ask	What long term benefits materialised?
10.2	To what extent did the intervention implementation consider sustainability, such as capacity building of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners?
Sub questions to ask	What capacity building initiatives were implemented (national and local Govt institutions, CP, communities, beneficiaries)?
	What resulted from such CB initiatives?
	Were CB activities sufficient to build the capacities needed for the benefits to continue?
	Are you aware of government focused sustainability assessments undertaken before and during the interventions?
	DO you know what long term benefits were expected within local authority and national government partners? To what extent were they achieved according to you?
	To what extent do the local govts feel ownership of the projects?
1.3	To what extent did the design and implementation of the intervention consider the available capacities within the target communities and key stakeholders?
Sub questions to ask	In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?
	In what way have local government expertise and capacity been incorporated into the interventions?
EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy	
12.1	To what extent did the intervention link to any transition strategies in the context or to development goals?
Sub questions to ask	What linkages were established with developmental agencies and government bodies?
<p>Closing up: Many thanks for your time and input. Can I come back to you if I have some additional questions I have forgotten to ask? By email? Do you have anything further you wish to add? Run over any documents the interviewee has said they would forward as a reminder</p>	

3. Profile of interviewee: Donor

Date of Interview:

In person/remote:

Team member leading the interview:

Other team members participating:

Protocols:

Introduce self.

State interview should only last one hour (might go over slightly – is that ok?).

State interview is confidential and anonymous and that the interviewees will never be quoted in the report. As such it is hoped they feel free to express themselves.

The interviews will not be recorded. But I will take notes if that's ok?

State objectives of the interview:

- Part of a study to look at the effectiveness of WFP resilience building activities within Iraq.
- To gather key stakeholder feedback that will influence how future activities are implemented.

State that the interview is voluntary.

Ask for their agreement to continue. Yes/No – circle their answer

Fill in later:

Key points from the interview:

-
-

Any emerging issues to follow-up?

-

Useful documents recommended?:

- *Make sure to ask for any relevant TPM products available*

Other key people to speak to?:

Initial questions:

Profile of the interviewees:

- Name(s):
- Male/Female:
- Location of key informant(s):
- Functional title(s):
- Organisation:
- Role(s):

How long have you been in that role?

Within your role or a previous role have you been involved with the WFP resilience building activities? Which aspects? FFA/CFW/Urban Livelihoods/EMPACT?

If not then, have you heard about WFP resilience building activities? FFA/CFW/Urban Livelihoods/EMPACT?

What activities are your organisation implementing in this country relevant to such interventions?

Specific Responses to research questions (Note there may not be time to ask all these questions – therefore select the most relevant in advance of the interview)

EQ 1 Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups	
1.2	To what extent was the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups by gender and beneficiary category (IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable community population)?
Sub questions to ask	How were the specific needs and priorities of IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees and vulnerable community population respectively, considered in programme design?
	Do you know how were such needs and priorities identified?
1.3	To what extent did the design and implementation of the intervention consider the available capacities within the target communities and key stakeholders?
Sub questions to ask	In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?
	In what way have local government expertise and capacity been incorporated into the interventions?
EQ 3 and EQ 13: Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs	
3.1/3.2	To what extent was the intervention based on a sound gender analysis? To what extent was the design and implementation of the intervention gender-sensitive?
Sub questions to ask	What specific gender and inclusivity aspects have been incorporated into the interventions? Were those relevant and exhaustive?
	Have sufficient resources been allocated to gender sensitive activities?
EQ 14: Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments EQ 15: Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject (including element of EQ9).	
14.1	To what extent was the chosen intervention approach the best way to meet the food security and nutrition needs of affected populations and intended beneficiaries?
Sub questions to ask	What alternative intervention approaches were considered?
	What were the rationales for opting for the adopted approaches?
14.2 15.1	To what extent was the design and implementation of interventions informed by a robust conflict analysis and were conflict sensitivity considerations integrated? To what extent were context factors (political stability/instability, population movements, etc.) considered in the design and delivery of the intervention?
Sub questions to ask	Are you aware of any conflict analysis been undertaken during the design phase? If so, how did the evidence generated inform programme design?

	Have the interventions adapted to the changing context and the reality on the ground during implementation? What measures have WFP undertaken?
EQ 11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided	
11.1	To what extent was the targeting of beneficiaries (geographically and community-based) based on sound vulnerability analysis?
Sub questions to ask	Do you know what geographical and community level targeting criteria have been utilised? Do you agree with them?
	Are you aware of any exclusions of particular groups/ categories of populations that should have been prioritized over others that were included?
	Within target areas, have the most vulnerable households been successfully prioritised?
11.2	To what extent was WFP's assistance provided coordinated with that provided by others to ensure complementarities, avoiding duplication and gaps?
Sub questions to ask	What synergies are evident with activities ongoing through other partners and stakeholders working with the communities?
	Has there been any evidence of duplication or overlaps with other stakeholder activities, including government programmes?
EQ 2: Alignment with government, partners, donors' policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies	
2.2	To what extent was the design of activities and objectives aligned with donor and government priorities and policies?
Sub questions to ask	What donor policies and strategies are interventions aligned with?
EQ4: Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results	
EQ 5: Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes	
4.1	To what extent were the outputs/outcomes/objectives of the intervention achieved for women, men, IDP, refugee, and vulnerable community members?
Sub questions to ask	To what extent have project outputs/outcomes been met? And which have not? Do you know why?
	How did the interventions change beneficiary livelihoods?
	How has this differed between Men/Women/Boys/Girls?
	Have outputs/outcomes been qualitative and not just quantitative?
5.1	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the outcomes/objectives of the intervention for both men and women, IDPs, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable community populations?

Sub questions to ask	What factors do you think influenced the success /failure of the interventions?
8.1	What were the primary and the secondary immediate impacts of the intervention on participants (intended and unintended)?
Sub questions to ask	What were the primary and the secondary immediate impacts of the intervention on participants (intended and unintended)?
	How could interventions/activities have been done better?
EQ 6 Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery	
6.1	To what extent were interventions implemented in a timely way?
Sub questions to ask	Did interventions start and finish on time? If not, what factors affected this?
	What intervention challenges were identified?
EQ 7 Comparison of different institutional arrangements (e.g., use of local partners/systems/procurement where feasible	
Sub questions to ask	Is there evidence that the value for money of interventions was maximised as opposed to the alternatives considered?
	Do you know whether some INGOs and local partners have access that UN and other organization do not?
EQ 10: Capacity building/development results	
10.1	To what extent did (or is it likely that) the intervention benefits will continue after WFP's work ceases?
Sub questions to ask	Are you aware of sustainability assessments and analysis undertaken before and during the interventions?
	What expected long term benefits do you think materialised / did not materialise? Why not?
10.2	To what extent did the intervention implementation consider sustainability, such as capacity building of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners?
Sub questions to ask	Do you know of any capacity building initiatives that were implemented (national and local Govt institutions, CP, communities, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders)?
	Do you know if these were successful? What resulted from them?
1.3	To what extent did the design and implementation of the intervention consider the available capacities within the target communities and key stakeholders?
Sub questions to ask	In what way and to what extent have beneficiary and community level capacities been utilised within the interventions?

	In what way have local government expertise and capacity been incorporated into the interventions?
EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy	
12.1	To what extent did the intervention link to any transition strategies in the context or to development goals?
Sub questions to ask	Are you aware of nexus focused assessments and analysis undertaken before and during the interventions?
	What linkages were established with developmental agencies and government bodies?
	What programmatic linkages were designed/implemented to generate synergies with partners on longer term development interventions?
Closing up: Many thanks for your time and input. Can I come back to you if I have some additional questions I have forgotten to ask? By email? Do you have anything further you wish to add? Run over any documents the interviewee has said they would forward as a reminder	

Focus group discussion guide

Focus Group Discussion Guide			
Local Consultant FGD/Interview guidelines – Beneficiaries			
<p>This is a guideline for the FGD but the questions can also be used for any individual beneficiary interviews conducted.</p> <p>Objectives: To gather beneficiary feedback on the quality of the resilience programming and support provided by Cooperating Partner XXX (funded by WFP) with respect to meeting beneficiary priorities and needs. To gather beneficiary feedback on the extent to which affected population opinions were included in the assessments, design and implementation of the activity implemented. The outcomes, impact and sustainability of the activities and support provided.</p> <p>Protocols: Introduce self: State you are working for an independent data collection company RMTeam State objectives of the interview as above (less formal language). State that feedback is confidential and anonymous and that the participants will never be quoted in the report. As such it is hoped they feel free to express themselves. The FGD/interviews will not be recorded. Ask if they are comfortable with the consultant taking notes State that the FGD/interview is voluntary Ensure COVID-19 precautionary measures compliance in terms of trying to keep sufficient distance 2 metres between participants Provide hand washing facilities/gel</p> <p>FGD/Interviews: Date/time: Location (current): Location of origin (if displaced): Organisation facilitating field visit: Local consultant name: Name of interviewee/s – (a first name will suffice, plus age, gender): Number of FGD participants Male: Female: Boys: Girls:</p>			
THEME/CRITERIA	FFA	CFW/CFT	EMPACT
GENERAL	Can you please discuss your displacement status? Are you currently displaced? Were you previously displaced and now returned? Refugees? Living in your own community? (Note for enumerator: Note down the number of each category)	Can you please discuss your displacement status? Are you currently displaced? Were you previously displaced and now returned? Refugees? Living in your own community? (Note for enumerator: Note down the number of each category)	Can you please discuss your displacement status? Are you currently displaced? Were you previously displaced and now returned? Refugees? Living in your own community? (Note for enumerator: Note down the number of each category)
NEEDS/ PARTICIPATION	<p>What exactly was the project you worked on? (Asset creation? Rehabilitation? Cleaning local infrastructure?) (Capacity strengthening?)</p> <p>Were you or other members of your community consulted during the design of the project? Were men and women consulted? Have people with disabilities been consulted as to their needs?</p> <p>Has the activity made good use of the skills and capacities already available in your community?</p>	<p>What exactly was the project you worked on? (Asset creation? Rehabilitation? Cleaning local infrastructure?) (Capacity strengthening - agricultural techniques/ animal husbandry?)</p> <p>Were you or other members of your community consulted during the design of the project? Were men and women consulted? Have people with disabilities been consulted as to their needs?</p> <p>Has the activity made good use of the skills and capacities already available in your community?</p>	<p>What was the activity you were involved in? (vocational training catering, food processing, tailoring, etc.? IT/ English language skills?)</p> <p>Were you or other members of your community consulted during the design of the project? Were men and women consulted? Have people with disabilities been consulted as to their needs?</p> <p>Has the activity made good use of the skills and capacities already available in your community?</p>
TARGETING AND INCLUSIVITY	<p>Do you feel the targeting was fair and accurate? Was there anyone missed out who should have been included? If so, who? Why do you think they should have been included?</p> <p>(Note for enumerator: This question is asked to women only) Has the intervention changed your status as a woman in your community or household? (income, personality/self confidence, relationship within your family)</p>	<p>Do you feel the targeting was fair and accurate? Was there anyone missed out who should have been included? If so, who? Why do you think they should have been included?</p> <p>(Note for enumerator: This question is asked to women only) Has the intervention changed your status as a woman in your community or household? (income, personality/self confidence, relationship within your family)</p>	<p>Do you feel the targeting was fair and accurate? Was there anyone missed out who should have been included? If so, who? Why do you think they should have been included?</p> <p>(Note for enumerator: This question is asked to women only) Has the intervention changed your status as a woman in your community or household? (income, personality/self confidence, relationship within your family)</p>
PROTECTION/ COMPLAINTS MECHANISM	<p>How safe or insecure did you feel during project activities? When working on the activity? When collecting your payment?</p> <p>If you wanted to give feedback or complain to the organisation you were working with, how do you do that? Has anyone tried? What was the outcome? Was the response timely and satisfactory?</p>	<p>How safe or insecure did you feel during project activities? When working on the activity? When collecting your payment?</p> <p>If you wanted to give feedback or complain to the organisation you were working with, how do you do that? Has anyone tried? What was the outcome? Was the response timely and satisfactory?</p>	<p>How safe or insecure did you feel during project activities? When participating in the training? When collecting your training payments?</p> <p>If you wanted to give feedback or complain to the organisation you were working with, how do you do that? Has anyone tried? What was the outcome? Was the response timely and satisfactory?</p>
EFFICIENCY/ TIMELINESS OF ACTIVITIES	<p>Did you receive the amount of food or payment you expected? Were there any delays or challenges?</p> <p>Did you have enough resources to complete the task on time? Were those resources of good quality?</p> <p>What (other) challenges did the activity face?</p>	<p>Did you receive the amount of food or payment you expected? Were there any delays or challenges?</p> <p>Did you have enough resources to complete the task on time? Were those resources of good quality?</p> <p>What (other) challenges did the activity face?</p>	<p>Did you receive the amount of payment you expected? Was it on time? Were there any delays or challenges?</p> <p>Did you have enough resources to enable your full participation in the training? Were those resources of good quality?</p> <p>What (other) challenges did the training face?</p>
CAPACITY BUILDING/ SUSTAINABILITY	<p>Did you receive any training? If so, what type of training? What did you think of it? Was the training you received useful? How so? What could have made it more useful?</p>	<p>Did you receive any training? If so, what type of training? (agriculture/animal husbandry/ food processing/ dairy production, etc.) What did you think of it? Was the training you received useful? How so? What could have made it more useful?</p>	<p>Was the training well-designed? Was it relevant to market requirements? What did you think of it? Was the training you received useful? How so? What could have made it more useful?</p>
OUTCOMES/IMPACT	<p>How long did the food/financial support last? What priority needs has the project met for your household? For how long?</p> <p>What collective needs has the project met for the community? (e.g. increased productivity of land, improved access to food or water, etc.) Will this work have any lasting benefits for you and/or others you know? If so, in what way?</p> <p>Do you feel your community is more prepared for future problems? (floods/food shortages/droughts? Etc.) Please explain.</p>	<p>How long did the food/financial support last? What priority needs has the project met for your household? For how long?</p> <p>What collective needs has the project met for the community? (e.g. increased productivity of land, improved access to food or water, etc.) Will this training have any lasting benefits for you and/or others you know? If so, in what way?</p> <p>Do you feel your community is more prepared for future problems? (floods/food shortages/droughts? Etc.) Please explain.</p>	<p>How long did the food/financial support last? What priority needs has the project met for your household? For how long?</p> <p>What collective needs has the project met for the community? Which needs? Will this training have any lasting benefits for you and/or others you know? If so, in what way?</p> <p>Do you feel your community is more prepared for future problems? (food shortages/unemployment? Etc.) Please explain.</p>

Annex 5. Field work Agendas

Kon Terra Evaluation schedule for SO2 DE- Data collection Phase - 29 Jan._1 Feb. 2023 (Baghdad)							
CO unit/programme	Meeting Purpose	WFP respective staff /Coordination	staff required to meet with	Date	time	Comments	In person/ Remotely
WFP management	Brief	Sarah ALGBURI <sarah.algburi@wfp.org>	CD/Amin, Fawad	29-Jan-23	11:30:00 AM- 1:00 PM.	UN compound in Baghdad	In person
Security	Security Brief	Salah ALSHUKRI <salah.alshukri@wfp.org>	Salah ALSHUKRI <salah.alshukri@wfp.org>		1:00 PM. - 2:00 PM.	UN compound in Baghdad	In person
Head of Resilience (FFA/UL)	Interview with Head of Resilience HoU and Environment focal point	BASSEM MOUHAMMAD <bassem.mouhammad@wfp.org> Ahmed ALBOHAMED <ahmed.albohamed@wfp.org> Pshko and William	BASSEM MOUHAMMAD Ahmed ALBOHAMED Pshko and William		02:00 - 03:00 PM	UN compound in Baghdad	In person
Baghdad	Amin/Saja	Amin/ Saja	Meeting with RBC/Evaluation unit team	29-Jan-23	03:00 - 04:00 PM	UN compound in Baghdad	In person

Head of Resilience (FFA/UL)	Meeting with any Baghdad based partners (apart from RIRP and MH) – ACTED, ACF, SWEDO, OROKOM, WHH others	BASSEM MOUHAMMAD <bassem.mouhammad@wfp.org> Ahmed ALBOHAMED Pshko and William	Any Baghdad based partners (apart from RIRP and MH) – ACTED, ACF, SWEDO, OROKOM, WHH others	30-Jan-23	10:00 - 11:00 am	still not confirmed with the FPs	
External/Donor Relations	Remote Meeting with donor's representative	<u>Julia KEMPNY</u> <julia.kempny@wfp.org>	Donor's representative	30-Jan-23	01:00 to 02:30	Meeting was booked through teams	Remote
EMPACT activity	Remote meeting with EMPACT focal point	Neiaz IBRAHIM <neiaz.ibrahim@wfp.org>	Neiaz IBRAHIM		2:30- 3:30 PM.	Meeting was booked through teams	Remote
Baghdad FO	In person Meeting with MH Team (project manager and facilitators)	Khansae GHAZI <khansae.ghazi@wfp.org> Anas ALI <anas.ali@wfp.org>	Inperson Meeting with MH Team (project manager and facilitators)	31-Jan-23	09:30- 11:00 AM	MH staff as below: Mohamed Ali – mohamed.ali@mercyhands.org Mostafa Ahmed - mostafa.ahmed@mercyhands.org Nidham Mohsen - nidham.mohsin@mercyhands.org	In person

						Ali Jamal - ali.jamal@mercy hands.org Meeting was booked	
Baghdad FO	Remote meeting with local authorities in Baghdad	MH representatives and focal points	Mrs. Fadhaa Wadi, Mrs. (Director of the Municipal Awareness Department of the Municipality of Baghdad) Mr. Mahdiya Abd Hassan - Member of the Baghdad Provincial Council - Chairperson of the Civil Society Organizations Committee - Member of Parliament currently.		1:30 to 2:30 PM.	Meeting was booked through teams	Remote
Baghdad FO	Meeting with RIRP Team (project manager and facilitators)	Khansae GHAZI <khansae.ghazi@ wfp.org> Anas ALI <anas.ali@wfp.or g>	Team (project manager and facilitators)		03:00 AM.-04:30 AM.	Former RIRP Project Manager	Remote
Baghdad FO	male and female FGDs with Mercy Hands ECFW project	MH representatives and focal points	male and female FGDs with Mercy Hands ECFW project	01- Feb- 23	09:30 AM- 12:00 PM.	KII with Mukhtar: Bassem Rasheed Abd - KII with Al Hurriya School	In person

						Principal: Abeer Salomy Mohueein –	
EMPACT activity	Meeting with Sulaymaniyah University (Empact programme Focal point).	Neiaz IBRAHIM <neiaz.ibrahim@wfp.org>	Sulaymaniyah University (Empact programme Focal point). 1- Ameer Sardar ameer.empact@gmail.com 2- zana hassan zana.hassan@univsul.edu.iq		1:30:00 PM- 02:30 PM.	Meeting was booked through teams	Remote
Head of resilience Resilience	Meetings with relevant govt ministries and donors,	BASSEM MOUHAMMAD <bassem.mouhammad@wfp.org> Ahmed ALBOHAMED <ahmed.albohamed@wfp.org> Pshko and William Mohyaman	relevant govt ministries and donors,	31/01/2023	10:00 - 11:00 am	still not confirmed with the FPs	

Kon Terra Evaluation team member schedule for SO2 DE- Data collection Phase - 29 Jan_1 Feb. 2023 (Erbil/Duhok)					
Location	time	CO unit/programme	respective staff	staff required to meet with	Comment (in person/ remote)

ERBIL	09:00 AM 10:30 AM	WFP hosts/Security	Moatassim Fahim, Nawaf ALAWY <nawaf.alawy@wfp.org>	Moatassim Fahim, Nawaf ALAWY	In person_UN compount in Erbil
29-Jan-23	10:30 AM- 11:00 AM	Gender Specialist	Bina AZEEZ <bina.azeez@wfp.org>		In person_UN compount in Erbil
	11:00 AM - 11:30	Head of Erbil FO	Lawand BRO <lawand.bro@wfp.org>	Lawand BRO	In person_UN compount in Erbil
	11.30-13.0001:00 PM 02:00 PM	WFP focal point for EMPACT in Erbil FO	farid.al-maqdsi@wfp.org	Farid Al-maqdsi & Ban ALSAKAT	In person_UN compount in Erbil
	02:00 PM - 04:00	FGD	Ban ALSAKAT <ban.alsakat@wfp.org>	Meeting with EMPACT women graduates	In person_UN compount in Erbil
DOHUK	1230-1500	Head of Duhok FO	Naimat ULLAH	Aveen HADI Programme associate	In person_WFP Office in Duhok
30/01/23		WFP focal point for resilience in Duhok FO	Aveen HADI <aveen.hadi@wfp.org>	Aveen HADI <aveen.hadi@wfp.org>	In person_WFP Office in Duhok
31/01/23	1000-1330	Visits to sites			
	Sharia Camp	Interview with Dept. of Labour & Social Affairs (DOLSA)	Ms. Bama Khawaja Taha, director of the Vocational Training Center,	Kazheen DANA <kazheen.dana@wfp.org>	Sharia Camp
	same	FGD - Dohuk - IDP Sharia Camp:	Six women traniees	Kazheen DANA <kazheen.dana@wfp.org>	

	Dohuk Polytechnic University - EMPACT (Jusoor)	Meeting with Project coordinator Mr. Bewar, Project Manager, Mr. Sherwan and Dir of HR, Mr. Ammar	EMPACT/JUSOUR	Kazheen DANA <kazheen.dana@wfp.org>	Dohuk Polytechnic University
ERBIL	12.00-1300	Dept of Agriculture, Mosul	Dr. Rabie, new director started mid 2021 and Eng Mahmoud	Ban Al Sakat <ban.alsakat@wfp.org>	On-line Meeting
02/01/2023	13.00 - 14.00	Samaritan's Purse	Madelaine Clifton, Program Development Officer, Will Burdett, former Grant Manager		On Line Meeting
	14.30-15.30	WFP Regional M&E Office	Mr. Andrew Fye	Andrew FYFE <andrew.fyfe@wfp.org>	In person_UN compount in Erbil
	16.30-17.30	World Vision International	Meeting with WVI former programme coordinator for EMPACT in Erbil		On line Meeting

Annex 6. Food security zones and priority one districts

Food Security Zones and Priority One Districts

Food Security Zone	Zone Description	Districts Selected as Priority One
<p>Production Barani Agriculture</p>	<p>The breadbasket of Iraq. This zone includes the plains of Nainawa where more than 40 percent of Iraq's cereals are produced. Annual wheat production per capita exceeds 400 kilograms. The zone has around 4.8 million people of which 1.5 million are poor. With a population density of medium, it receives medium-high levels of rainfall resulting in surplus food production. The zone includes Mosul city straddling the Tigris river. The zone includes districts of Nainawa, Dohuk and Erbil governorates such as Sinjar and Telafar in the west and Makhmour, Tilafar, Erbil, Sheikhan and Shaqlawa east of the Tigris. Wheat is the main produce though the peri-urban areas of Mosul are known for high quality vegetable production. Wheat and bulgur are the main cereals consumed. Mosul, the second largest city of Iraq, is the source of urban livelihoods for its over two million population.</p>	<p><i>3 Districts Sinjar, Telefar And Tilkaef</i></p>
<p>Surplus Production Irrigated Agriculture</p>	<p>This zone constitutes the main part of the fertile crescent known since antiquity for its agricultural production. The zone has eight million people of which 2.6 million are poor. Irrigated by the twin rivers of Tigris and Euphrates, it has medium density of population and receives medium rainfall. The zone includes the capital Baghdad. It includes districts with fertile irrigated lands of central governorates of Baghdad and Babylon and southern governorates Qadisiya, Thi-qar, Muthanna, Wasit and Maysan. Populations concentrate in the riverine areas where cereals (mainly wheat and rice) and vegetables are grown. Some corn is also produced, mainly in Babylon area. Vegetables grown in this zone allow Iraq to be self-sufficient in vegetable production though certain varieties are imported from neighbouring Iran and Turkey. Annual wheat production in the zone averages</p>	<p><i>11 Districts Afaq, Al Fohod, Al-Chibayish, Al-Rumaitha, Al-Shamiya, Al-Shatra, Al-Warkaa, Hamza, Nassriya, Qalat Sukar And Said Dekhel</i></p>

	around 200 kilograms per capita. In addition to wheat, the zone is the largest producer of rice. Wheat and rice are the main cereals consumed.	
Sufficient Production	This zone has about 12 million people of which 1.4 million are poor. It covers the whole governorate of Diyala and several districts of Salah al-deen, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah. The zone has high population density and medium-low intensity annual rainfall though rivers and agriculture benefit from precipitation on the mountains to the east across the border in Iran. Annual wheat production is around 180 kilograms per capita. Wheat and rice are the main cereals consumed.	8 Districts <i>Al-Sadir1, Al-Sadir2, Al-Muqdadia, Baladrooz, Khanaqin, Balad, Tikrit And Tooz</i>
Mountain Area	This zone covers the snow clad mountains of northern Iraq. It has 2.6 million people of which 75,000 are poor. It includes districts of Dohuk such as Zakho and Amedi bordering Turkey; northern districts of Erbil including Mergasur and Choman and Sulaimaniyah districts such as Khanaqin, Dohkan, Halabja and Shahrzoor. Population density is medium. Receiving the highest rainfall in Iraq, the zone has the most vegetation. The area has extensive forests with high value products such as olives, honey and dry fruits. Wheat and bulgur are the main cereals consumed. Horticulture is predominant across the zone providing minerals in the average diet. Animal husbandry is popular with sheep and goats providing protein and dairy to the diet. Trade across the borders with Turkey and Iran is prevalent.	<i>(no district was selected as priority one</i>
Food Deficit Semi-Arid Rangelands	These are the rangelands of Iraq. There are about four million people of which 800,000 are poor. The zone covers most of Anbar governorate and arid districts of Nainawa, Kerbela, Babylon and Salah al-deen. Population density is low. Annual rainfall is low with little prospects of agriculture, though there are pockets of irrigation along the Euphrates river in Haditha, Heet and Ramadi of Anbar governorate. The main source of rural livelihoods is livestock. Protein and dairy from livestock are main	7 Districts <i>Al-Ka'im, Ana, Heet, Ru'ua, Al-Ba'aj, Hatra, Al-And Shirqat</i>

	components of food consumed in this zone.	
Drought Prone Desert Area	<p>This is the desert area of Iraq prone to drought. It receives low rainfall and has low population density. There are only 2.6 million inhabitants (640,000 poor) covering this vast land in the south western parts of Iraq including most of Anbar, Najaf and Muthanna as well as the dry lands of the poor governorates of Wasit and Maysan. Rural life is tough due to intense heat and poor soil quality. The zone includes some of the poorest populations of Iraq. The dry conditions are suitable for date palms making dates an important part of the diets. Camels are prominent in rural areas providing a means for transport and a source for meat and milk..</p>	<p>8 Districts <i>Al-Rutba, Al-Zubair, Ali Al-Gharbi, Alkahlaa, Amara, Al-Salman, Badra Amd Kut</i></p>
Marshlands and Coastal Areas	<p>With low rainfall and high density population this zone covers the famous marshlands of Iraq which have recently been classified as World Heritage sites by UNESCO. The zone includes marsh areas of Thi-Qar and Maysan governorates as well as coastal areas of Basrah province. The two rivers Tigris and Euphrates converge at Qurna in Basrah where the fresh river water joins saline sea water of Shattal Arab waterway leading into the Persian gulf. The Basrah districts of Shattal Arab, Fao, Al Khaseeb and Qurna were renowned for their production of high quality Barhi dates. Draining of the marshlands and cutting of millions of palm trees decades ago affected the production and livelihoods of the almost three million inhabitants (600,000 poor). Tribal disputes over land have also affected production. Lower water levels in the rivers due to upstream dams.</p>	<p>3 Districts <i>Al-Midaina, Al-Qurna, Qal'at Saleh</i></p>

Annex 7. Bibliography

Document type	Comment/titles & dates of documents received	Received - Y/N (N/A)
	Actual Beneficiaries and OOP 2020 CFW Emergency Programme PPT	Y
	CPs Implementation Plans 2020 CPs implementation Plans 2021	Y
	Distribution Plans 2020 Distribution Plan 2021	Y
	Resilience FLA Figures 2020	Y
	SO2 FLAs Figured 2020 Empact, FFA, and ECFW	Y
	Summary E-C4W 2020 Proposals	Y
Partner Reports	2020 Final Reports Monthly Progress Reports Narrative Reports Checklist for all CPS 2020 2021 Final Reports, Monthly Progress Reports 2021 Narrative Reports Checklist for all FFA CPs 2021	Y
	CPs contact list	Y
	2020 FLA (extensions in 2021)	Y
	Project LogFrames (2021)	Y
	Tracking Sheet (2021)	Y
UL Activity		
	Actual Beneficiaries and OOP (2020)	Y
	Contact lists (2021)	Y
	CP Plans (2020)	Y
	ECFW Partners 2020	Y
	FLAs 2020 and 2021	Y
	Participants Lists (2021)	Y
	Partners Reports 2020 and 2021	Y
	School lists (2020)	Y
	Tracking Sheet (2021)	Y
EMPACT Activity		
	CPs Evaluations 2020	Y
	Distribution Plan 2020	Y
	FLA 2020 and 2021	Y
	Partner Final and Monthly Reports (2021)	Y
FLAs		
FLAs	FLA04-FLA20 (2020) FLA03-FLA13 (2021) FLA 13, FLA 15 addendum, FLA19 addendum, FLA26 addendum (2020)	Y

Annex 8. Evaluation Questions - Original and Revised

Original Evaluation Questions	Revised Format
Relevance	Relevance and appropriateness
EQ1 – Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups.	EQ1 – Relevance of the intervention design to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups. EQ 1.3 has been incorporated into 10.2
EQ2 – Alignment with government, partners, donors’ policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies.	Moved to coherence
EQ3 – Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs.	EQ3 – Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis, and addressed diverse needs.
	EQ13-Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis
	(Sub question 9.3 will also be moved here) ¹⁸⁵
	EQ14- Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments Sub questions 14.1 will be dealt with under effectiveness in terms of changes in levels of beneficiary food security. Sub question 9.2 will be included here.
	EQ 15.1 will be included here.
Effectiveness	Effectiveness
EQ4- Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results.	EQ4- Achievement of objectives (or likelihood that the objectives will be achieved), taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results. Eq 14.1 will be address here in terms of changes in beneficiary levels of food security

¹⁸⁵ To what extent did the interventions implementation consider sustainability of capacity building of women and women related organizations in decision-making at the community, and national levels?

EQ5- Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes.	EQ5- Main results including positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes. EQ 5.2 will be included under EQ 8.1 EQ 5.3 has been removed as the financial data is unavailable.
Efficiency	Efficiency
EQ6-Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery.	EQ6-Timeliness of delivery, compliance with intended timeframes or budgets, comparison of channels of delivery. Eq 6.2 has been removed as the ET believes it is not a priority for the evaluation and such information is available for WFP senior management in house if required. Eq 6.3 has been included under the gender section.
EQ7-Comparison of different institutional arrangements (e.g., use of local partners / systems / procurement where feasible).	Removed as there would likely be minimal data on which to base a response to this question.
Impact	Moved to effectiveness
EQ8- The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects (e.g., holistic, and enduring changes in the systems or norms, and potential effects on people’s well-being, human rights, gender equality and the environment).	EQ8- EQs 8.1 and 8.2 (as a sub question) will be covered under effectiveness. EQ 8.3 and 8.4 have been removed as information will not be assessable at this stage of implementation.
Sustainability	Sustainability and connectedness (combined)
EQ9- The financial, economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities of the systems needed to sustain net benefits over <i>time</i> .	EQ 9.1 has been removed has been removed as such data is unavailable. Eq 9.2 has been included Under relevance and appropriateness, while EQ 9.3 is included under the gender section.
EQ10-Capacity building/development results.	EQ10-Capacity building/development results (including EQ 1.3)
	EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy.
Coverage	Coverage
EQ11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided	EQ11- Extent to which different groups were included/excluded, differentiation of targeting forms and assistance provided

Connectedness	Removed-combined with sustainability
EQ12- Presence of transition-focused analyses like stakeholder consultations, and the existence of a transition strategy.	Under sustainability and connectedness
Appropriateness	Removed-combined with relevance
EQ13-Extent to which design and implementation were gender-sensitive, based on gender analysis	Under relevance and appropriateness
EQ14- Extent to which WFP interventions were tailored to needs and responded to the changing demands of unstable environments	Under relevance and appropriateness
Coherence	Coherence
EQ15- Contextual factors and how they influenced the design/ implementation of the subject.	Covered under relevance and appropriateness.
EQ16- Links to the food security and nutrition policies and programmes of other actors	Covered under EQ 2
	EQ2 - Alignment with government, partners, donors' policies, and interventions; alignment and coherence with WFP policies. (Sub question 16.1 will also be moved here) ¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁶ To what extent was WFP's intervention coherent with policies and programmes of other partners operating within the same context, including Government?

Annex 9. Actual vs Plan performance 2020/2021

		2020			2021		
		Planned	Actual	% Achieved	Planned	Actual	% Achieved
FFA CBT Beneficiaries	Female	34,337	36,713	107%	124,324	39,390	32%
	Male	35,313	45,034	128%	127,856	44,343	35%
	Total	69,650	81,747	117%	252,180	83,733	33%
FFT CBT Beneficiaries	Female	8,830	5,288	60%	8,282	10,001	121%
	Male	9,080	5,639	62%	8,518	10,569	124%
	Total	17,910	10,927	61%	16,800	20,570	122%
FFA Agro LLH	Total	2,930	2,630	90%	3,357	3,180	95%
FFT Agro LLH	Total	2,825	2,544	90%	2,350	2,311	98%
Irrigation Canal rehabilitated (KM)	Total	512	544	106%	458	411	90%
Boreholes created	Total	15	15	100%	10	10	100%
Number of assets built or restored	Total	7,298	4,893	67%	550	557	101%
Hectares of land benefited from irrigation repair	Total	432	655	152%	27,360	24,350	89%
Family garden established	Total	699	263	38%	1,090	1,265	116%

SO2 Outcome Indicators by year

Indicator	Better	Same	Worse
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CCSI (Average)	42%	33%	25%
2020	50%	50%	0%
2021	33%	17%	50%
FCS: % HH with Acceptable FCS	92%	8%	0%
2020	100%	0%	0%
2021	83%	17%	0%
FCS: % HH with Borderline FCS	92%	8%	0%
2020	100%	0%	0%
2021	83%	17%	0%
Food expenditure share	58%	17%	25%
2020	50%	17%	33%
2021	67%	17%	17%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH not using livelihood based coping strategies	50%	0%	50%
2020	50%	0%	50%
2021	50%	0%	50%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using crisis coping strategies	83%	8%	8%
2020	83%	17%	0%
2021	83%	0%	17%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using emergency coping strategies	33%	8%	58%
2020	67%	0%	33%
2021	0%	17%	83%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using stress coping strategies	25%	0%	75%
2020	0%	0%	100%
2021	50%	0%	50%
LCSI (Average)	75%	25%	0%
2020	100%	0%	0%
2021	50%	50%	0%
Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks	100%	0%	0%

2021	100%	0%	0%
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base	100%	0%	0%
2021	100%	0%	0%
FCS: % HH with Poor FCS	58%	42%	0%
2020	83%	17%	0%
2021	33%	67%	0%
Grand Total	62%	15%	24%

SO2 Outcome indicators disaggregated by gender

Indicator	Better	Same	Worse
CCSI (Average)	42%	33%	25%
Overall	25%	50%	25%
Men	50%	25%	25%
Women	50%	25%	25%
FCS: % HH with Acceptable FCS	92%	8%	0%
Overall	100%	0%	0%
Men	75%	25%	0%
Women	100%	0%	0%
FCS: % HH with Borderline FCS	92%	8%	0%
Overall	100%	0%	0%
Men	75%	25%	0%
Women	100%	0%	0%
Food expenditure share	58%	17%	25%
Overall	50%	50%	0%
Men	75%	0%	25%
Women	50%	0%	50%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH not using livelihood based coping strategies	50%	0%	50%
Overall	50%	0%	50%
Men	50%	0%	50%
Women	50%	0%	50%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using crisis coping strategies	83%	8%	8%
Overall	100%	0%	0%
Men	100%	0%	0%
Women	50%	25%	25%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using emergency coping strategies	33%	8%	58%
Overall	25%	0%	75%
Men	25%	25%	50%
Women	50%	0%	50%
LCSI (% HH using coping strategies): % HH using stress coping strategies	25%	0%	75%
Overall	25%	0%	75%

Men	25%	0%	75%
Women	25%	0%	75%
LCSI (Average)	75%	25%	0%
Overall	75%	25%	0%
Men	75%	25%	0%
Women	75%	25%	0%
Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks	100%	0%	0%
Overall	100%	0%	0%
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base	100%	0%	0%
Overall	100%	0%	0%
FCS: % HH with Poor FCS	58%	42%	0%
Overall	75%	25%	0%
Men	50%	50%	0%
Women	50%	50%	0%
Grand Total	61%	15%	24%

Annex 10. SO2 CSP Budget, January 2020

Type	Value (USD)
Transfer	166,407,451
Implementation	12,700,356
Direct support costs	17,901,832
Indirect support costs	12,805,627
TOTAL (USD)	209,815,265

Annex 11. Participant numbers by year

Note: Gender-disaggregated data is not available for EMPACT, nor for FFA 2021. Age-disaggregated data is not available for any activity. Budget and spending data is not available for three projects in 2021

Sources:

Actual reached figures participants and Beneficiaries FFA 2020' (FFA 2020), 'SO2 FFA CBT Tracking sheet 2021' and 'Consolidated GPS' (FFA 2021), 'Actual reached figures participants and Beneficiaries ECFW 2020 and 2021' (UL 2020), 'UL Project Tracker edited' (UL, 2021), 'SO2 CBT Distribution Plan for EMPACT 2020' (EMPACT, 2020), 'FLAs 2021 SO2 03, 04, 05 and 06' (EMPACT 2021), 'FLA-Tracker 2020-2021'.

	Governorate	2020							2021						
		CP	Female partic #	Male partic #	Total #	Partic. %	Budget (USD)	Actual spending (USD)	CP	Female partic #	Male partic #	Total #	Partic. %	Budget (USD)	Actual spending (USD)
Food for Assets	Anbar	ACTED	217	723	10,290	9%	998,938	876,201	Orokom	420	9,014	5%	no data	no data	
		CCR	63	252		3%	575,706	573,395	MH	1,693		19%	770,935	672,545	
	Basra	ACF	44	556		6%	1,196,155	1,121,102	-	-		-	-	-	
	Ninewa	WHH	472	1,679		9%	2,030,861	1,854,464	WHH	700		8%	1,155,728	1,155,702	
		SP	352	866		12%	1,409,210	1,340,248	SP	1,396		15%	1,162,053	1,091,772	
		GOAL	189	760		21%	732,915	522,510	HA	745		8%	no data	no data	
	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	Reach	465		5%	1,047,171	892,229	
	Salah ad Din	MH	372	1,336		17%	427,694	357,289	MH	2,200		24%	770,935	672,545	
		-	-	-		-	-	-	PIN	375		4%	1,054,634	1,022,627	
	Thi Qar	SWEDO	227	2,182		23%	799,786	788,217	SWEDO	1,020		11%	1,184,981	1,112,093	
2020: Emergency Cash for Work	Baghdad	MH	603	2,572	11,762	27%	571,668	544,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Basra	MH	624	2,856		30%			MH	305	395	24%	1,168,763	1,133,987	
2021: Urban Livelihoods	Missan	-	-	-		-	-	-	MH	367	332	24%	no data	no data	
	Ninewa	GOAL	450	2,983		29%	291,917	291,906	RIRP	502	498	34%	588,423	580,924	
	Thi-Qar	-	-	-		-	-	-	SWEDO	340	180	18%	350,007	200,406	
	Wassit	Orokom	49	1,625		14%	164,964	157,545	-	-	-	-	-		
EMPACT	Anbar	MH	250	1,500	17%	348,432	281,813	MH	500	2,350	21%	277,307	273,246		
	Baghdad	RIRP	250		17%	341,520	313,470	RIRP	400		17%	261,181	255,122		
	Duhok	WVI	300		20%	888,169	711,647	WVI	400		17%	730,111	718,420		
	Erbil	WVI	225		15%			WVI	275		12%				
	Ninewa	WVI	250		17%			WVI	500		21%				
	Sulaymaniyah	Uni of Sul.	225		15%	212,176	189,502	-	275		12%	276,217	271,249		

Annex 12. UN System support for gender equality in Iraq

The UN System in Iraq coordinated work on gender equality with technical support to gender units in line ministries; the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Women's Machinery and to Parliamentarians, among others. Particularly, UN Women coordinated the drafting and validation of the second Iraq National Action Plan (2020-2024) for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The process engaged 33 national institutions, namely 23 ministries and institutions in the federal government and 10 ministries in the Kurdistan Regional Government composing the Cross-Sector Task Force (CSTF) 1325. Moreover, UN Women coordinated the Beijing+25 Report for 2019 in collaboration with the federal and Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) governments. UNFPA is coordinating efforts with the Women's Machinery in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for strengthening gender-related capacity building. Finally, the UN System coordinated with the High Council of Women's Affairs a series of conferences and trainings for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in 2019 in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.¹⁸⁷

UNDP works in collaboration with Women's Empowerment Department at the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC), the women's committee in the Council of Representatives and gender units in line ministries for the achievement of SDG 5. UN-HABITAT, in coordination with governmental organizations, particularly at the municipal level, advocates for supporting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable girls/women, with special attention to female heads of households among IDPs and returnees. UNMAS engages with National Mine Action Authorities at all levels to ensure that coordination among explosive hazard management Government of Iraq (GoI) entities, strategies/policies/standard working procedures, technical trainings and workshops are all mainstreamed using a gender responsive approach. UNAMI engaged with political leaders at the Council of Representatives, Kurdistan Regional Parliament and political parties' leaders to promote the gender, women, peace and security agenda; in particular, women's representation and participation.¹⁸⁸

UNAMI inaugurated the Women Advisory Group (WAG) on Reconciliation and Politics in Iraq in 2019, in accordance with the mission's mandate to promote and advance inclusive political dialogue and reconciliation. Comprising 22 women, the WAG will serve as a political inclusion mechanism to ensure that voices, concerns and experiences of Iraqi women are included in political processes that shape the national reconciliation vision, based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, respect for diversity and non-discrimination. UN Women worked in collaboration and strengthened coordination between the government and civil society for the development process of the Iraq National Action Plan (INAP) on UNSCR 1325, particularly Alliance 1325 and the 1325 Network, composed of 43 women's associations and civil society organizations (CSOs). Governmental and no-governmental stakeholders focused on developing a logframe, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, conducting costing analysis, and developing a communication strategy for the second INAP on 1325. UN Women, under the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, is working to advance the Women's Peace and Security (WPS) commitments in Iraq engaging 30 women's association and local community-based organizations (CBOs)/CSOs. UNFPA is coordinating efforts for service providers to prevent and respond gender-based violence through the GBV Sub Cluster.¹⁸⁹

The Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) released a report in October 2020 assessing the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and coordination of gender-responsive programming, capacity building, and the participation of women and girls in the period 2017-2019 in four case study countries, including Iraq.¹⁹⁰ Findings highlighted gaps in

¹⁸⁷ UN Women, 2019. UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard Annual Reporting, Iraq, 2019. Specifically UN Women, UNAMI, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP.

¹⁸⁸ UN Women, 2019. UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard Annual Reporting, Iraq, 2019.

¹⁸⁹ UN Women, 2019. UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard Annual Reporting, Iraq, 2019.

¹⁹⁰ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020. In the case of Iraq, the focus of the case study brief is on the IDP and returnee situation that developed

addressing underlying dynamics that prevent gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls including a need to better engage with persons with disability as well as work with adolescent boys and men and identify better mechanisms to collect and resolve feedback and complaints.

In terms of participation, the results suggested some gaps that included work with persons with disability as well as work with adolescent boys and men to address the underlying dynamics that present gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.¹⁹¹ Results also suggested that women are less likely to complain or provide feedback and that resolution of cases referred to clusters is low. Awareness of feedback mechanisms appears low despite the widespread availability of different mechanisms including feedback desks, suggestion boxes and hotlines.¹⁹²

On the one hand, the report highlighted that efforts on gender mainstreaming in policies, guidance, and tools made globally across clusters and agencies are paying off and provided the backbone for gender considerations to be reflected in cluster- and agency-specific actions. However, the report also emphasized that the lack of dedicated human resource capacity on gender has resulted in lost opportunities to build synergies across clusters and sectors, with joint efforts left to the initiative of clusters. Specifically, the report suggested that, as Iraq's stability improves, a permanent and coordinated gender capacity at senior decision-making levels is crucial to ensure that adequate attention is given to gender equality throughout the response and as the humanitarian, peace, and development nexuses converge¹⁹³.

Other key observations from the report included that tracking resources and allocations on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian response is recognized as a gap globally; in Iraq, this resulted in limited measurability of achievements.¹⁹⁴ In addition, the report mentioned that although protection and GBV issues dominate the crisis in Iraq, funding for these initiatives has remained relatively poor compared to the overall funding for the response.¹⁹⁵

following the ISIL insurgency of 2014. The case study brief does not reflect efforts made with regard to the Syrian refugee population living in Iraq

¹⁹¹ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

¹⁹² Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

¹⁹³ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

¹⁹⁴ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

¹⁹⁵ Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Case Study: Iraq. October 2020.

Annex 13. Communication and Knowledge Management Plan

When Evaluation phase	What Product	To whom Target audience	From whom Creator lead	How Communication channel	Why Communication purpose
Dissemination & Follow-up	Draft Management Response	Evaluation Reference Group; CO Programme staff; CO M&E staff. Senior Regional Programme Adviser	Evaluation manager	Email	To discuss the commissioning office's actions to address the evaluation recommendations and elicit comments
	Final Management Response	Evaluation Reference Group; WFP Management; WFP employees; public	Evaluation manager	Email	To ensure that all relevant staff are informed of the commitments made to taking actions and make the Management Response publicly available
Dissemination & Follow-up (Associated Content)	Evaluation Brief	WFP Iraq CO Management; WFP employees; donors and partners; National decision-makers	Evaluation manager	Email	Evaluation Brief
	Infographics ² , posters & data visualization	Donors and partners; Evaluation community; National decision-makers; Affected populations, beneficiaries, and communities; General public	Evaluation Team; OEV/RB/CO Communications/ KM unit	WFP.org, WFP go; Evaluation Network Newsletter; meetings	To disseminate evaluation findings
	Video ⁴		Evaluation manager		
Blog, lessons learned papers, tailored briefs, summaries of findings.					

Annex 14. Acronyms

AAP	Accountability towards Affected People
ACF	Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger)
ACR	Annual Country Reports
AUIS	American University in Sulaymaniyah
CBT	Cash-Based Transfers
CD	Country Director
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment
CFW	Cash For Work
CO	Country Office
CP	Cooperating Partners
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCD	Deputy Country Director
DE	Decentralized Evaluation
DEQAS	Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System
EB	Executive Board
ECFW	Emergency Cash for Work
EC	Evaluation Committee
EM	Evaluation Manager
EMPACT	Empowerment in Action
ER	Evaluation Report
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
EQ	Evaluation Question
EQAS	The WFP's evaluation quality assurance system
ET	Evaluation Team

EPI	Evaluation Performance Indicator
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations
FFA	Food for Asset
FFT	Food for Training
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FLA	Field Level Agreement
FSOM	Food Security Outcome Monitoring
GBV	Gender based violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEW	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GGGi	Global Gender Gap index
GOAL	Non-governmental organization (NGO)
HA	Human Appeal
HQ	Head Quarter
ICA	Integrated Context Analysis
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IFAD	International Fund Iraq for Agricultural Development
IR	Inception Report
ISIL	The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MH	Mercy Hands for Humanitarians Aid
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NDP	National Development Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OEV	Office of Evaluation
PIN	People in Need

PROR	Asset Creation, Livelihoods and Resilience Unit
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality checklist
QS	Quality Support
RB	Regional Bureau
REO	Regional Evaluation Officer
RIRP	Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program Organization (NGO)
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Iraq
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLP	Seasonal Livelihood Programming
SP	Samaritan's Purse
SEWDO	The Swedish Development Aid Organisation
SO2	Strategic Outcome 2
T-ICSP	Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
TL	Team Leader
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UL	Urban livelihood
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety & Security system
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organisation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UoS	University of Sulaymaniyah

UNSDCF	The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN-SWAP	UN system-wide Action Plan
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis Mapping
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WFP	World Food Programme
WHH	Welt hunger hilfe
WHO	World Health Organization

WFP Iraq

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq>

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