



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of WFP's Technical Assistance Activities and Refugee Response in Angola from 2017 to 2022

Decentralized Evaluation Report – Volume 1
(Main Report)

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Executive Summary

Background

1. This is the activity evaluation of the World Food Programme's (WFP) Technical Assistance (TA) to the Government of Angola (GoA) and Refugee Support in Angola from 2017 to 2022. It covers four thematic areas in the WFP Angola Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) Strategic Outcomes: i) TA to GoA regarding institutional capacity strengthening (Ministries of Agriculture and Forest, Education, Interior (Civil Protection), and Health); ii) Emergency response in drought-affected regions; iii) Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM); iv) Food assistance; and designated support to refugees. It focuses on Luanda City, Cunene (Ombanja municipality), Huila (Quilengues municipality), and Lunda Norte. Activity beneficiaries include refugees, drought-affected populations, GoA officials, and local communities, including women and children benefitting from CMAM programs and school feeding initiatives.
2. The WFP Angola Office (AO) commissioned this evaluation to assess the alignment, impact, and sustainability of WFP's technical assistance to GoA and support for refugees and drought-affected populations under the current ICSP, covering the period 2020-2025. The evaluation covered activities conducted from 2017 to 2022, focusing on accountability and learning. Being the first WFP evaluation in Angola, it assessed the effectiveness of past strategies and interventions, aiming to identify successes and areas for improvement, lessons learned, and recommendations to inform the next Country Strategic Plan (CSP), emphasizing gender mainstreaming and human rights. The evaluation also assessed WFP's role in enhancing food security and nutrition in Angola and in advancing the country's development goals while serving as an accountability mechanism, facilitating learning across various organizational levels for several stakeholders and evidence users, including WFP, GoA, donors, and partners.
3. Angola's socio-economic challenges underscore the evaluation's importance: a 40.6 percent poverty rate (40.8 percent men, 40.2 percent women), income disparities, and malnutrition affecting 37.6 percent of children under five (41 percent boys, 34.1 percent girls). Food insecurity affects over 77.7 percent of the population (48.8 percent men and 51.2 percent women), with women facing compounded effects due to gender disparities and economic barriers. Internal and cross-border displacements intensify humanitarian issues, with Angola hosting over 56,000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
4. Despite challenges, WFP addresses food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in drought-affected regions, amidst constrained resources. Operations are primarily funded through direct donations (84 percent of the budget), supplemented by indirect multilateral sources. However, budget execution averaged only around 50 percent, affecting the achievement of beneficiary targets.

Methodology

5. The evaluation of WFP activities in Angola (2017-2022) assessed the alignment, impact, and sustainability of WFP's interventions under the ICSP. It employed a mixed-methods approach including a desk review, the Kirkpatrick Model, 45 key informant interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders, and two gender-disaggregated focus group discussions (FGDs) with beneficiaries in Dundo, Cunene, Huila, Lunda Norte, and Luanda, prioritizing ethical and gender y considerations. Comprehensive triangulation was ensured by utilizing multiple data sources.
6. The evaluation followed the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC) criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability/ scalability, and impact to evaluate the WFP's technical assistance and refugee support in Angola and gather insights for future WFP's programming. Thirteen sub-questions were explored (see Table 4Table 4). Limitations such as data availability, time constraints, and indicator applicability were acknowledged, with measures implemented to minimize their impact on the evaluation's validity and reliability (see Annex 3, Volume II). All annexes are presented in a separate volume, in Volume II.

Evaluation findings

Relevance of WFP operations

7. Finding 1: WFP tailored food security interventions to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, including refugees and malnourished children. The general food distribution targeted vulnerable refugee populations, evidenced by WFP's impact on refugee food security across Lunda Norte, where it successfully met the food needs of 80 percent of the 28,199 refugees in 2017 and improved coverage to 86.4 percent in 2019. Despite operational challenges in 2020, beneficiaries expressed that WFP's assistance played "a crucial role" during the emergency, ensuring that nutritional needs were stabilized by adapting strategies and programmes to shifting local demographics, climate conditions, logistical obstacles, changing beneficiary needs, and shifting funding priorities. WFP's efforts remained relevant amidst evolving food security scenarios, demonstrating flexibility in utilizing various approaches –including direct food assistance, cash-based transfers (CBT), and nutritional programmes, continuing the provision of essential services despite unforeseen setbacks.

8. Finding 2: WFP effectively integrated gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights into its food security interventions, addressing women's needs and enhancing programme impact. Notable outcomes in the refugee programme included increased women's decision-making roles in households from 18 percent to 28 percent (May 2020-May 2022) and their participation in CMAM training sessions. Findings underscore the need for ongoing efforts to enhance the integration of gender-sensitive strategies, improve food security for households led by women, and ensure their equitable participation in nutrition programmes. Strengthening women's decision-making roles, particularly in refugee contexts where they are more vulnerable, is vital. Enriching TA training programs and national policy development with gender considerations will enhance both policy and operational effectiveness.

9. Finding 3: WFP's TA strategies aligned with GoA's priorities around food security and nutrition, receiving positive feedback from stakeholders. This partnership enhanced GoA's management of food security in Cunene and Namibe provinces through targeted training and collaborative efforts with United Nations (UN) agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The joint development of the National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security (ENSAN II) exemplified WFP's commitment to supporting Angola's development objectives.

Intervention coherence

10. Finding 4: The coherence of WFP's interventions with GoA policies affirmed alignment with the National Development Plan (NDP), particularly in food security, nutrition, education, and health, as demonstrated through WFP's contributions to the development of key policies, such as ENSAN II and the National Policy on School Feeding (PNASE). Harmonization and adherence to international humanitarian principles highlight the programme's integrity, neutrality, and impartiality.

11. Finding 5: WFP harnessed synergies across TA efforts, boosting programme effectiveness. Integrated food security, nutrition, and refugee support approaches optimized resource utilization and addressed complex challenges. WFP's collaboration with UN agencies and GoA entities under the One UN framework and efforts in developing the ENSAN II and school feeding guidelines while involving United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) demonstrated alignment and improved stakeholder coordination.

Effectiveness

12. Finding 6: WFP's support advanced Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving food security indicators like the Food Consumption Scores (FCS) and the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) among targeted groups. However, national data shows a rise in food insecurity from 73.5 percent in 2019 to 78.5 percent in 2022 and a rise in undernourishment from 15.2 percent to 21.6 percent over similar periods.

13. Finding 7: WFP's initiatives also bolstered SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through improved partnerships and capacity building, enhancing data collection, analysis and national strategy development. Collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs fostered a unified approach against food insecurity, while WFP's emergency responses strengthened community resilience.

14. Finding 8: WFP enhanced national institutions' capacity to implement food security and nutrition programmes through targeted capacity-building initiatives in 2021, training 84 GoA staff members in Cunene and Namibe in food security management and nutritional standards. Capacity-building extended into policy development, logistics, stock management, and community engagement for malnutrition screening. However, challenges in the supply chain, transportation, and storage of food and non-food items, especially in remote areas affected by adverse weather and transportation issues, hindered the timely delivery of assistance.

15. Finding 9: WFP activities showed strengths in technical expertise, resource management, and adaptability. Challenges included limited human resources, budget constraints, and restricted operational capacity. External factors like weather, political dynamics, economic volatility, and inconsistent funding also impacted outcomes.

Efficiency of interventions

16. Finding 10: High resource utilization efficiency was achieved, while prudent financial management ensured strategic allocation and use of funds, maximizing impact. The cost-effective implementation of CBT reduced logistical costs and improved beneficiaries' dignity.

17. Finding 11: WFP's interventions were cost-effective, translating financial investments into health and nutrition benefits for beneficiaries. Initiatives reduced costs, built local expertise, and enhanced sustainability, decreasing the cost per beneficiary from 2018 in US\$ 190.40 in 2018 to US\$ 124.79 in 2022 and the cost per cured individual in CMAM interventions is US\$ 27.62, considered efficient compared to average treatment costings globally (between US\$ 0.44 and US\$ 1,344 per child). Administrative and operational costs were reduced from 7.25 percent in 2018-2019 to 5.21 percent in 2020-2022. dispersed refugee support interventions incurred higher immediate logistical costs, whereas TA focused on long-term capacity building and policy development, illustrated by the creation of the National School Feeding and Health Policy and the establishment of eight inter-ministerial committees for coordination. However, the timeliness of resource disbursement was impacted by delays from donors and bureaucratic hurdles, particularly with funds from GoA, leading to occasional delays in programme implementation.

18. Finding 12: WFP's financial management ensured value for money by aligning inputs with outputs. The review identified opportunities for reallocating funds from underutilized areas, where underspending was observed to more pressing needs, enhancing responsiveness to evolving requirements. Continuous financial audits and adjustments to resource allocation were highlighted as critical for optimal fund utilization.

Sustainability/Scalability of TA and refugee support

19. Finding 13: The sustainability of WFP's TA and refugee support is uncertain without continued external support and integration into national systems. CMAM and Refugee support faced challenges in maintaining impacts post-intervention, indicating the need for stronger planning and more coordinated partnerships. Scaling up/replicating interventions successfully will require robust multilevel partnerships, from communities to the GoA, to mitigate external shocks. While partnerships show potential, challenges like reduced food assistance quality (20 percent drop in 2022) and financial instability remain. Delays in the ratification of ENSAN II and PNASE further hinder integration into national frameworks, refugee programmes continue to rely heavily on external support, and activities demonstrate insufficient resilience independent of WFP support.

20. Finding 14: The Kirkpatrick Model of evaluation showed that capacity-building training workshops were engaging and relevant, improving knowledge in policy development and food logistics. Trained GoA officials implemented more effective food security measures, and local institutions improved their independence in managing programmes, demonstrating potential sustainability and scalability in WFP initiatives.

Impact of interventions

21. Finding 16: WFP's initiatives improved food access and nutritional outcomes of beneficiaries, with gender-specific gains through women targeted nutritional support. CMAM treated over 108,000 children, achieving an 84 percent success rate in Luanda and 100 percent in Cunene. School feeding programs

improved school attendance and nutrition, while inter-ministerial committees were formed to sustain these efforts. Moreover, FCS and rCSI indicators showed improvements in refugee food security and coping mechanisms.

22. Finding 17: WFP's TA improved public and private/civil society institutions' capacity, benefitting women's health and nutrition. WFP's support to the Ministry of Education led to the National School Feeding and Health Policy and eight inter-ministerial committees, improving school attendance, especially for girls. TA targeted pregnant and breastfeeding women with nutritious foods and education, improving health and nutrition outcomes. From 2018 to 2023, refugee households saw a 43.46 percent increase in acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS), and the borderline and poor FCS categories reduced by 20.24 percent and 34.15 respectively. The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) dropped from 15 to 5, indicating better food security and coping mechanisms among households, although households headed by women remained more vulnerable.

Lessons learned

23. WFP's interventions underline the need for sustained external support to maintain gains but also the risk of dependency. Localizing programs, integrating them into national policies, and developing local capacity and ownership are essential for long-term sustainability. Strengthening government institutions and engaging civil society is crucial to enabling communities to progress independently of external aid. Strategic policies like ENSAN II and PNASE represent progress toward aligning humanitarian efforts with national goals. Yet, the gaps in policy integration within government frameworks suggest a need for enhanced advocacy and coordination. While WFP's capacity-building efforts in Angola have boosted intervention effectiveness and fostered more self-sufficient institutions, there remains a critical need to focus on the practical application of skills and policy implementation to ensure sustainable outcomes.

Conclusions

24. Conclusion 1: Food security and nutrition improved, with the refugee response providing consistent access to nutritious food and improving food consumption scores among refugee and local communities. Success was attributed to thorough screening, community involvement, and healthcare official training. The school feeding programme improved nutritional intake and school attendance.

25. Conclusion 2: National capacity was bolstered through extensive training for GoA personnel on food security management. Strategic policies, like the PNASE (2020) and the ENSAN II (2021), set the national food security and nutrition agenda. However, ratification of these remains incomplete.

26. Conclusion 3: WFP initiatives, although well-targeted and relevant, faced difficulties in fully meeting the populations' evolving needs, facing challenges in achieving nutritional equity in households headed by women, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and enhancing sustainability and overall impact.

27. Conclusion 4: WFP's TA supports Angola's development goals, but key policies like ENSAN II and PNASE, alongside tools like the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), require formal adoption. These policies, shaped substantially by the WFP, aim to improve food security, but the lack of official ratification undermines the interventions' potential impact and sustainability.

28. Conclusion 5: Sustainability is challenged by dependency on external support, with refugee food security at risk if WFP support ceases. Withdrawal of technical/financial assistance could jeopardize the long-term impacts of CMAM and school feeding programs, given their limited integration into national policies.

29. Conclusion 6: Adequate financial and logistical resources are critical for food delivery and CBT. However, maintaining skills post-training is challenging, highlighting the need for ongoing support and strategic adjustments for long-term sustainability.

Recommendations

30. Recommendation 1: Intensify advocacy and policy efforts by continuously engaging with GoA bodies. Strengthen collaboration to lobby for the ratification of key policies and tools; develop targeted

advocacy strategies, organize supportive events, and maintain regular meetings to ensure policy alignment and accelerate the ratification processes [Conclusion 2, 4; Findings 3, 10, 16].

31. Recommendation 2: Enhance local training programmes by identifying current gaps, developing targeted training modules for practical use, and increasing trained staff to boost capacity and address logistical, budgeting, and programming constraints. [Conclusion 2, 6; Findings 8, 9, 12, 13, 16]

32. Recommendation 3: Facilitate workshops and forums with key stakeholders to promote the integration of WFP initiatives into national frameworks, fostering mutual understanding of the benefits and practicalities [Conclusion 2, 4; Findings 4, 5, 9, 13, 15].

33. Recommendation 4: Increase investment in resilience-building activities, focusing on agricultural and livelihood development through training programmes for sustainable farming and entrepreneurship to foster community self-reliance [Conclusion 3, 5, 6; Findings 1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15].

34. Recommendation 5: Secure long-term donor funding and increase GoA financial involvement by developing risk-adjusted fundraising strategies and sustainability plans tailored to local conditions and donor priorities [Conclusion 5, 6; Findings 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15].

35. Recommendation 6: Implement targeted interventions for households headed by women to improve their access to resources and economic opportunities, enhance decision-making capabilities, and incorporate Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) inclusivity within WFP initiatives through tailored programs and training [Conclusion 1, 3, 5 Findings 2,4,7,9, 13, 15, 16].

1. Introduction

1.1 Evaluation features

1. In line with the World Food Programme's (WFP) policy on Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) and the WFP evaluation policy, the WFP Angola Office commissioned an evaluation of its interventions in Angola. These include providing technical assistance to the Government of Angola (GoA), improving the food security and nutrition support of refugees and drought-affected populations, and strengthening the institutional capacity strengthening of GoA ministries.
2. The purpose of the evaluation, in adherence with the Terms of Reference (ToR) (see Annex 1 in Volume II), is to assess the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of WFP's Technical Assistance (TA) activities and refugee support in Angola. It aims to identify successes, challenges, lessons learned, and areas for improvement to inform the design of the CSP and decision-making. Moreover, in line with the commitment to gender mainstreaming, the purpose and objectives of the evaluation integrate gender considerations to examine the programmes' impact on gender dynamics, assess their effectiveness in advancing gender equity, and identify gender-specific barriers and opportunities. By doing so, the evaluation contributes to a more inclusive understanding of the programmes' outcomes and provides recommendations for gender-responsive programme improvements.
3. The evaluation covered three thematic areas:
 - **Technical assistance to GoA:** This included a variety of support initiatives ranging from malnutrition treatment to school feeding policy development and capacity strengthening in emergency response logistics.
 - **Emergency response in drought-affected regions:** Focusing on malnutrition treatment and behaviour change communication in specific municipalities within Huila and Cunene provinces.
 - **Refugee support:** Providing food and CBT to refugees in Lunda Norte province.
4. This evaluation has the dual objectives of accountability and learning:
 - **Accountability:** The evaluation assesses and reports on the performance and results of capacity-strengthening activities and refugee assistance support, providing accountability to stakeholders.
 - **Learning:** The evaluation also determines the reasons for the occurrence or non-occurrence of certain results, draws lessons, derives good practices, and provides evidence-based findings for operational and strategic decision-making. The findings are planned to be actively disseminated, and lessons will be incorporated into relevant lesson-sharing systems.
5. The evaluation placed greater emphasis on learning through the consolidation of lessons to enhance ongoing programme implementation and inform the design processes for the second-generation CSP for WFP Angola. By prioritizing the extraction and application of key insights, the lessons from this evaluation are aimed to inform future strategies.
6. The primary audience for this evaluation report includes the WFP Angola Office (AO), the Office of Evaluation, the WFP Headquarters and Regional Bureau in Johannesburg (RBJ), and GoA. The findings will guide strategic decisions and operations for WFP Angola and are also valuable to implementing partners, donors, United Nations (UN) agencies, academia, and civil society. Key users like the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Bank (WB) will leverage the insights to refine their Angola strategies. Donors can use the report for accountability, NGOs and partners can use the recommendations to improve field activities, and suppliers of the school feeding programme can also gain insights. Furthermore, the WFP Headquarters Office of Evaluation (OEV) will incorporate the findings into syntheses for annual executive reporting. Beneficiaries of the Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) activities are central in guiding WFP's future initiatives in Angola (Annex 3 in Volume II).

7. The evaluation was conducted by a team of experts comprising Dr. Edgar Cossa, who served as the Senior Team Leader, Dr. Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Expert, Nelson Bernabé, the National Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, Samba Canga, the National Junior Evaluator, and Agnaldo Nhangumele, the Evaluation Specialist. The primary data collection took place in Angola between 5 and 18 December 2023, and the evaluation adhered to the original design outlined in the ToR.

1.2 Context¹

8. Demography and economy: Angola, with a young and growing population of 32.8 million, faces challenges stemming from a civil war legacy, including poverty, health issues, and urban migration. Despite a boom in oil, the 2014 price crash revealed the need for economic diversification. GoA reforms, like adjusting the national currency (Kwanza's) value, aim to stimulate growth, particularly in non-oil sectors like agriculture. High poverty rates, employment informality, and underutilized agricultural potential are issues compounded by climate risks like cyclical droughts.

9. Poverty: Nearly half of Angolans live in poverty, with the national rate at 40.6 percent (40.8 percent for men, 40.2 percent for women).² Rural areas have lower poverty than urban areas, while the cost of nutrition is high, with most unable to afford adequate diets. Inequality is high, with a Gini index of 0.55, while income disparities are stark, with 20 percent of the population with the highest incomes receiving 59 percent of all incomes, whilst the poorest 20 percent receive only 3 percent. Consumption rates are higher in urban regions, indicating economic divides. Future reports will explore these disparities further.

10. Food security: Angola has halved hunger rates since 2000, but progress stalled, with 5.7 million still undernourished. Food security risks affect over 77.7 percent of the population (48.8 percent for men and 51.2 percent for women),³ with rural areas particularly vulnerable and the levels of overall undernourishment among the population remaining high, at 20.8 percent (48.8 percent for men and 51.2 percent for women).⁴ Provinces vary in food insecurity levels, necessitating targeted interventions. A lack of detailed data on food insecurity hampers effective strategy formulation.

11. Malnutrition and progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Although substantial progress has been made towards SDG 2, with the hunger prevalence decreasing from 67.5 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2018/2019, malnutrition is a critical health issue in Angola, contributing to high infant mortality and being implicated in 60 percent of fatalities in this age group. Chronic malnutrition for children under five has increased from 29 percent to 37.55 percent of children under five (41 percent for boys, 34.1 percent for girls).⁵ Progress has stalled since then, with the undernourishment rate persisting above the 19 percent mark, affecting around 5.7 million Angolans as of recent years. Acute malnutrition and anaemia prevalence contribute to an under-five mortality rate of 6.7 percent (7.2 percent for boys and 1 percent for girls).⁶ Few children have diets meeting minimum standards, and nutrition services are limited. Low birth weight and insufficient breastfeeding exacerbate the problem, requiring urgent nutritional interventions. The 2021 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis indicated tens of thousands of children are at risk of acute malnutrition (AMN).

12. Public policies: GoA is pursuing sustainable development, with the National Development Plan focusing on growth and gender equality. An inter-ministerial commission, in partnership with UNHCR, is addressing the refugee situation, coordinating across multiple sectors to manage refugee assistance effectively. Angola's National Development Plan (NDP) serves as the overarching framework guiding the

¹ For a detailed overview of the Angolan context see Annex 14 of Volume II.

² Instituto Nacional de Estatística (Angola): Relatório de pobreza para Angola – Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas 2018/2019, page 29. Available at: https://www.ine.gov.ao/images/Relatorio_PobrezaIDR_FINAL_Portugues_DID.pdf

³ WFP Angola Annual Report 2022

⁴ WFP Angola Annual Report 2022

⁵ UNICEF, WHO, World Bank: Joint child Malnutrition Estimates (JME). Aggregation is based on UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank harmonized dataset (adjusted, comparable data) and methodology. Available at: <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sh-sta-stnt-zs?gender=total>

⁶ UNICEF. Country profiles: Angola. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/country/ago/>

country's efforts toward sustainable development, with a focus on food security, nutrition, and health. Under this umbrella, key public policies such as the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ENSAN II) (2021–2025) and the National Policy on School Feeding and Health (PNASE) (2021–2025) aim to address hunger and malnutrition through integrated approaches that link agriculture, education, and health. The Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Program is an ongoing initiative that tackles malnutrition by providing therapeutic and supplementary feeding, while the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA) and the Food Fortification Policy (ongoing since 2020) focus on boosting food production and improving nutritional outcomes. Together, these policies align with the NDP's goals to enhance food security, promote gender equality, and foster inclusive growth across Angola.

13. Education indicators: Angola continues to face challenges related to education accessibility, with disparities between rural and urban areas. According to the report, female literacy stands at 53 percent, which is 26 percent lower than male literacy rates.

14. WFP engagement: WFP is addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Angola, targeting drought-stricken regions in particular. WFP's initiatives include food assistance to DRC refugees, commodity voucher schemes for drought-affected households, malnutrition treatment for children, and school meal programmes to support primary school children and their families in areas most affected by drought that stimulate local markets and agricultural production.⁷

15. Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM): The National Civil Protection Commission's (CNPC) "Technical Report on Drought in Angola, March 2021"⁸ highlights that drought has affected 1.5 million people in the south, damaged agriculture, and livestock, with the 2020-2021 season worsened by locusts and resulting in the spike of AMN in some municipalities. UNICEF notes that the water shortage has disrupted education and community life, with over 400,000 households facing a potential food crisis in three provinces. Additionally, environmental challenges like floods, erosion, and desertification, alongside agricultural carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, stress the importance of environmental care. The situation is compounded by poverty, limited diets, and gender disparities, creating a multifaceted public health issue.

16. Gender equality and women's empowerment: In Angola, gender disparities persist despite constitutional rights, as reflected by its position in the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report. Women's economic potential is hindered by limited education, scarce resources, and restricted credit access. They earn less and own less land than men, although they are key players in agriculture. Health issues like high anaemia rates and low breastfeeding, along with poor service access, undermine women's economic empowerment. Low literacy rates further limit women's formal employment opportunities. While women are a large part of the workforce, they face higher unemployment and are often confined to the informal sector.

17. Humanitarian issues, migration patterns, and humanitarian protection: The country hosts over 56,000 refugees, mainly from the DRC, with many residing in urban areas and relying on food assistance. The population dynamics in the Lóvua settlement population have been marked by substantial fluctuations, with a sharp increase of 105 percent in 2018, followed by a decline of 64.8 percent in 2019. Since then, the population of refugees has remained relatively stable, varying by approximately ±2.5 percent.⁹ These variations underscore the persistent need for humanitarian protection in response to both internal and cross-border displacement. The refugee influx pressures local communities, calling for joint humanitarian efforts to deliver assistance and facilitate integration. GoA and international agencies work together to meet needs in various sectors, facing challenges from vast humanitarian demands and limited resources, emphasizing the need for continued development support in Angola.

18. Related work by humanitarian actors: Several humanitarian actors, both international and local, are actively involved in supporting food security, refugee assistance, and technical capacity building in Angola, complementing the efforts of WFP. UNHCR supports refugee needs, particularly from the DRC, by managing camps and providing food and protection. UNICEF addresses malnutrition and health through

⁷ WFP (n.d.) Angola. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/angola>

⁸ National Civil Protection Commission (CNPC). Technical Report on Drought in Angola. March 2021

⁹ UNHCR (2024) Monthly Refugee Population Statistics, Lovua Refugee Settlement, Angola, May 2024. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/angola-monthly-refugee-population-statistics-lovua-refugee-settlement-may-2024-enpt>

nutrition, sanitation, and school feeding programs, especially for children. FAO focuses on agricultural development and food security, offering technical assistance for sustainable farming. Donors like the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) fund food security and emergency response initiatives, while NGOs such as World Vision and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) also contribute to food security and capacity-building efforts within local communities.

19. SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals: Angola has partnered with international donors like the World Bank, the European Union, China, and the United States to support infrastructure, healthcare, and education, while WFP has played a key role in strengthening food security efforts. The Government is also focusing on improving domestic resource mobilization through tax reforms and fostering public-private partnerships to drive sustainable development beyond oil dependence. Additionally, Angola is enhancing its statistical systems, with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) leading efforts in data collection and analysis to support evidence-based policymaking.

1.3 Subject being evaluated

20. This evaluation focused on WFP initiatives carried out in Angola from June 2017 to June 2022. The primary subject of the evaluation encompasses two main areas:

- **Technical assistance to GoA:** This includes various activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of GoA to manage food security and nutrition challenges effectively. Specific actions include supporting the development of a school feeding plan, enhancing CMAM, strengthening the food security analysis network, and building capacity for emergency response preparedness.
- **Refugee support and assistance to drought-affected populations:** This focuses on food security and nutrition support to refugees and populations affected by drought. The activities involve general food distribution, which is implemented in collaboration with other organizations, and targeted nutritional support in certain provinces.

21. The evaluation aimed to:

- Assess the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the WFP's assistance strategies.
- Identify successes and challenges, extract lessons learned, and highlight areas needing improvement to refine the design of future CSPs.
- Integrate gender considerations effectively to examine impacts on gender dynamics, evaluate the effectiveness in promoting gender equity, and identify gender-specific challenges and opportunities.

22. The summarized Strategic Outcomes of WFP in Angola are:

- **Strategic Outcome 01** of WFP in Angola focuses on ensuring that refugees and crisis-affected populations can fulfil their basic food and nutrition needs during crises. This is monitored through indices measuring coping strategies for food consumption and livelihoods. WFP provides food or cash transfers and livelihood support to enhance self-reliance, including unconditional resource transfers and asset creation to support food access and improve livelihoods.
- **Strategic Outcome 02** aims to build the capacity of Angolan national institutions by 2022 to bolster food security and nutrition programmes. Indicators include the enhancement of national policies and systems through WFP's support and the strengthening of school feeding programme capacities. WFP offers TA to enhance institutional capacities, impacting children's school life and nutrition, as well as broader food security and nutrition outcomes, including food fortification efforts.
- **Strategic Outcome 03** is about providing access to WFP expertise and services for humanitarian and development actors, as well as national systems. This includes offering supply chain services and maintaining coordination platforms to assist stakeholders.

23. During the period from 2018 to 2020, WFP Angola solely focused on providing food and/or CBT to refugees and other crisis-affected populations. With the approval of WFP's ICSP 2020-2023, other modalities have been integrated, including broader institutional support and engagement strategies aimed at enhancing sustainability and local capacity building. While the ICSP is a key document guiding WFP's overall efforts to improve food security, nutrition, and institutional capacity, this evaluation specifically focuses on the components of TA and refugee support within the ICSP. These targeted interventions aim to boost the effectiveness of WFP's operations in Angola, especially for vulnerable groups. The ICSP outlines WFP's collaboration with GoA and development partners to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), with detailed strategic objectives and metrics outlined in its logical framework. This evaluation distinguishes the TA and refugee support components from the broader ICSP framework to provide a clear assessment of their impact and effectiveness.

24. During the inception phase, the evaluation team analysed the theory of change (ToC) based on document review and insights from different stakeholders, including the WFP AO. The ToC, summarized in Box 1 and depicted in Figure 1 below, outlines the evaluation framework:

Box 1: Reconstructed Theory of Change narrative

If, WFP and partners have adequate resources to:

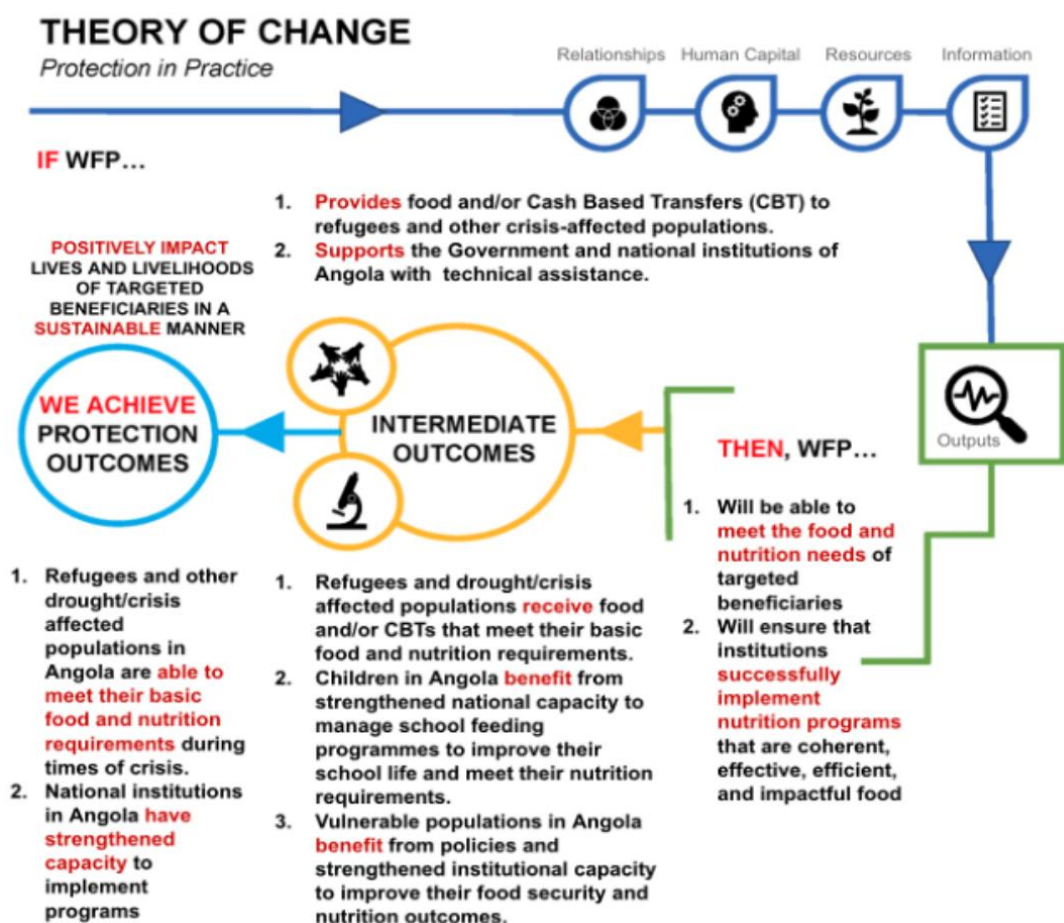
- Provide food and CBT to refugees and crisis-affected populations,
- Strengthen the capacity of GoA at the environmental-, organizational/institutional-, and individual levels,
- Design innovative food and nutrition programmes for a resilient food system, and
- Implement integrated programming for sustainable food production and consumption to promote self-reliance among targeted communities.

Then:

- Targeted communities (men, women, and children) will be able to meet their food and nutrition needs, and
- Institutions will successfully implement coherent, effective, efficient, and impactful food and nutrition programmes, and
- Enhanced resilience in food systems will lead to improved sustainability of food security efforts.

Thus, contributing to the improvement of lives and livelihoods of targeted communities in a sustainable manner, reducing dependence on external assistance.

Figure 1: Reconstructed Theory of Change



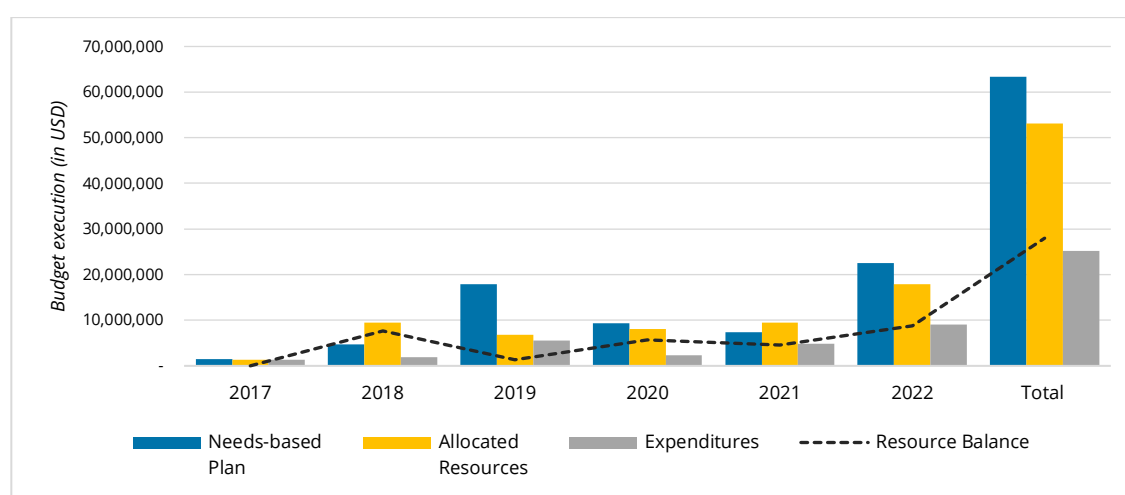
Source: "WFP Protection and Accountability Policy" (p.8), adapted by the Evaluation Team (ET).

25. Based on the ToC, the project's immediate results were aimed to be that:
- Institutions will successfully implement coherent, effective, efficient, and impactful food and nutrition programmes.
 - Targeted communities and populations will be able to meet their food and nutrition needs.
26. The underlying assumptions of the theory of change can be summarized as follows:
- **Adequate resources:** WFP and its partners have sufficient resources, both financial and logistical, to provide food and CBT to refugees and crisis-affected populations.
 - **Strengthening capacity:** Efforts to enhance the capacity of GoA at various levels (environmental, organizational, institutional, and individual) were successful in enabling them to implement food and nutrition programmes effectively.
 - **Coherent implementation:** The implemented programmes are well-designed and implemented in a coordinated and consistent manner to ensure their coherence and effectiveness.
 - **Impact and sustainability:** The programmes' impact leads to the improvement of the lives and livelihoods of targeted beneficiaries in a sustainable and gender-equitable manner beyond the immediate term.
27. A review of the data revealed the involvement of various stakeholders in the implementation of the activities covered by the evaluation, including WFP, GoA, and several of its ministries, Donors, UN Agencies, relevant national and international NGOs, and local governments, which are mapped in detail in section 1.6.

The conduct of the evaluation did not deviate from the original evaluation design as specified in the ToR. Moreover, the evaluation closely examined gender, equity, and wider inclusion dimensions of WFP's operations, with special attention to how these factors influenced programme design and delivery and whether the interventions were accessible and beneficial to all segments of the population, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups.

28. Analysis of annual reports from 2017 to 2022 reveals the ICSP's moderate success in financial execution and adhering to the plan, with notable efforts in gender integration within beneficiary assistance. The implementation of the CBT modality achieved less than 40 percent of the targeted beneficiary coverage, affected by delays in resource allocation and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacts. Figure 2 below shows the budget execution levels of the five years under analysis, indicating that the execution levels are relatively low, reaching approximately 50 percent, which partially explains the low achievement of the planned coverage targets for beneficiaries.

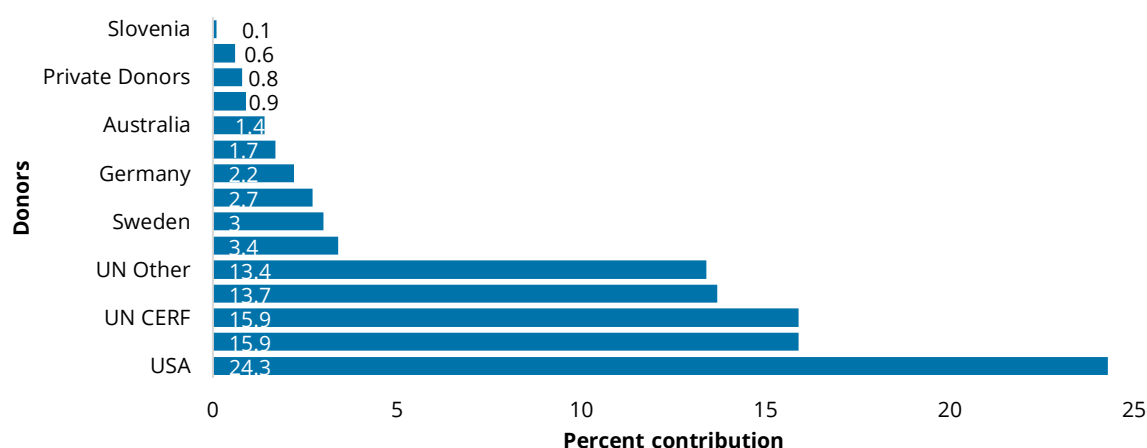
Figure 2: Budget Execution Levels (2017 – 2022)



Source: WFP Angola Annual Country Reports (ACR) 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

29. From 2017 to 2022, WFP Angola was primarily funded through direct donations, accounting for 84 percent of funds aimed at specific ICSP objectives. The other 16 percent was from indirect multilateral sources through WFP's Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC). The United States was the largest donor at 24.3 percent, followed by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF) at 15.9 percent, GoA at 13.7 percent, and various UN entities at 13.4 percent, demonstrating a varied but targeted funding profile (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: WFP Angola Donors contributions (2017 – 2022)



Source: Grant Balances Report – Angola IRM (2022)

30. From 2017 to 2022, WFP Angola's funding came from a mix of international and national sources and various donors, focusing on immediate humanitarian needs towards assisting vulnerable groups. The funding aligns strategically with WFP's regional operations and crisis response, with 62.6 percent of the budget dedicated to emergencies.

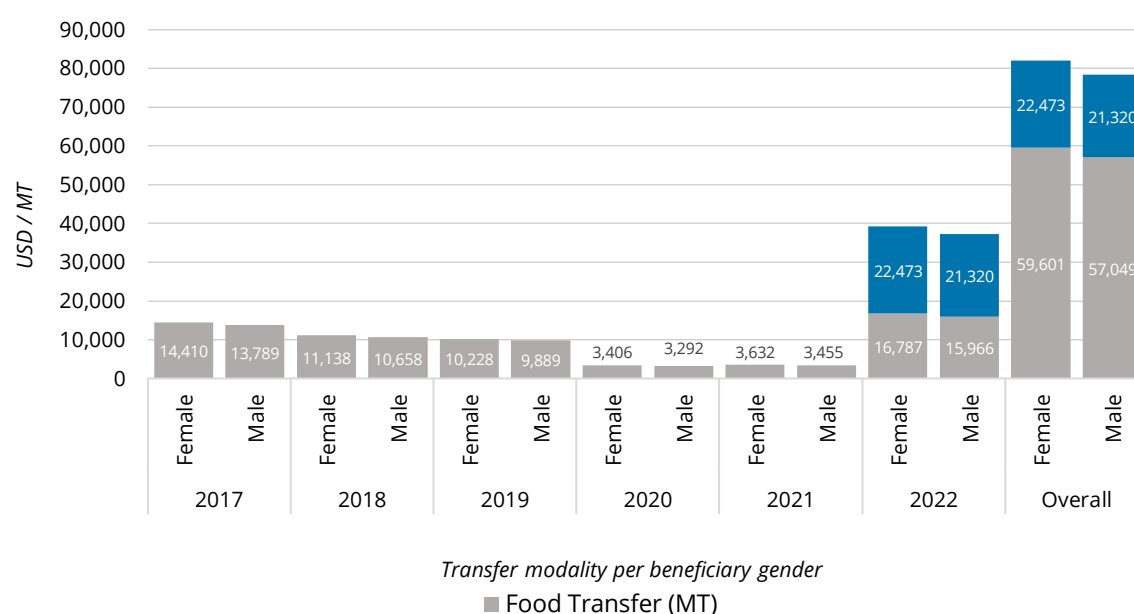
Refugee Response

31. After conflicts in DRC's Kasai region in mid-2016, Angola became a refuge for over 30,000 individuals. GoA, along with WFP and various partners, provided food assistance and resettlement support, notably through the Transitional ICSP (August 2018 – December 2019), targeting refugees' food and nutrition needs. By December 2018, food assistance reached over 21,000 refugees, despite COVID-19, and halted repatriation efforts, leading to a slight increase in refugee numbers in 2021.

32. Support from USAID and Japan facilitated WFP's ongoing efforts, with a partnership with UNHCR, to foster livelihood activities and lessen reliance on assistance. In 2022, WFP assisted 73,000 beneficiaries in Angola, of which 16,634 were refugees, and 6,493 of them were in the north of the country, missing targets primarily due to limited funds. Historical data from 2017 to 2022 reveals fluctuations in planned versus actual beneficiaries, with overachievement in some years. A detailed breakdown by sex, age, and year is presented in Annex 15 of Volume II, indicating equitable assistance distribution between genders.

33. Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) methods included reaching individuals through interpersonal approaches, involving nutrition education sessions, targeted messaging on health and nutrition practices, and community engagement activities designed to encourage the adoption of positive behaviours. Over six years, food distribution, mainly maize meal, fell below projections. Trends indicate inconsistencies between actual and planned distribution, with food transfers prevailing as the chief method. Although planned repeatedly, the use of CBTs in emergency responses in Huila and Cunene in 2022 was constrained by funding, affecting outcome fulfilment (see Table 1).¹⁰

Figure 4: Crisis response beneficiary trend by type of (realized) modality and sex per year



Source: WFP Angola ACR, 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

¹⁰ Planned CBT for refugees were not implemented in 2018-2021. In 2022, the CBT that was carried out targeted residents, and refugees were not included in the planned figures, while only 14.7 percent of planned beneficiaries were reached.

Table 1: Annual cash-based transfers (2017–2022)

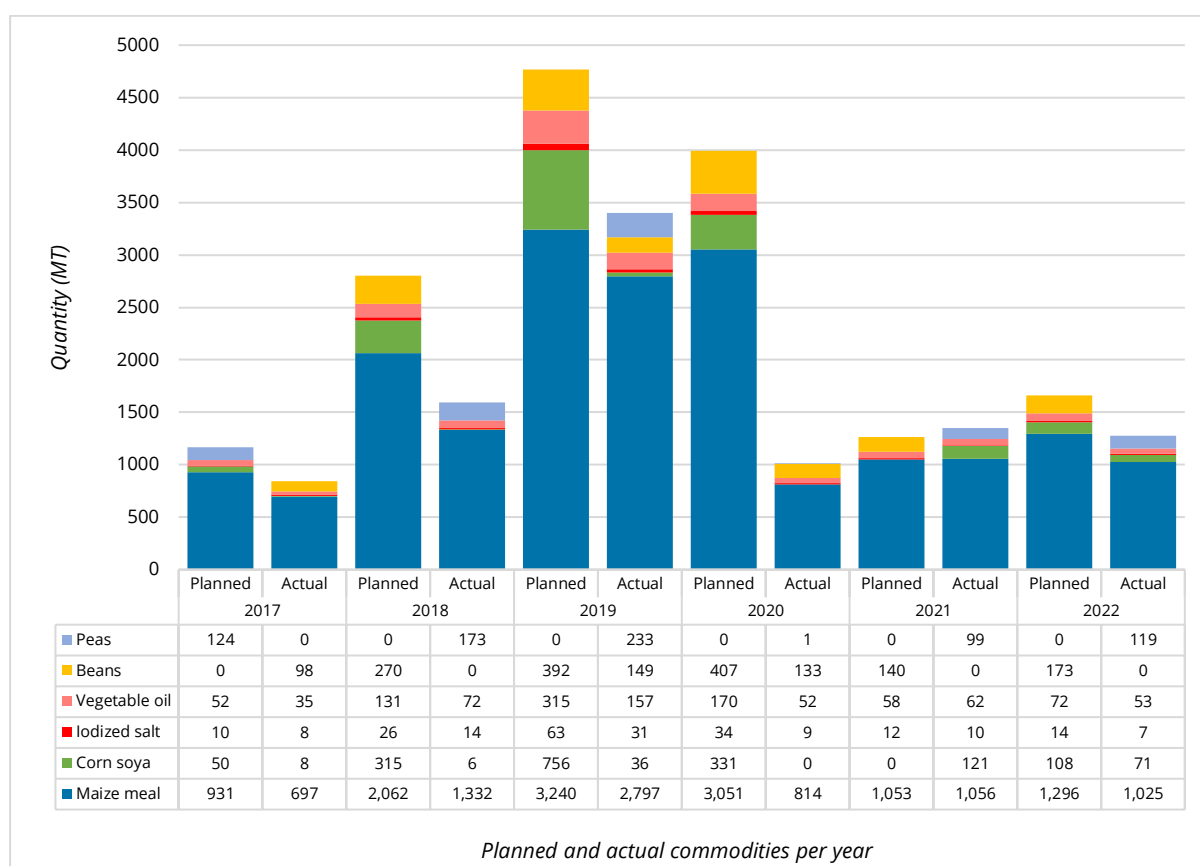
Year	Planned	Actual	Balance
2017	-	-	-
2018	600 000	-	- 600 000
2019	4 859 980	-	- 4 859 980
2020	3 992	-	- 3 992
2021	-	-	-
2022	7 402 101	1 087 914	- 6 314 187

Source: WFP Angola ACR 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

34. Across six years, fluctuations in actual versus planned distributions were evident, particularly with CBT in 2019, where no planned transfers were executed due to financial and logistical challenges despite budget allocations (see Figure 4). In 2020, while food targets were met, the quantities were smaller than planned, primarily due to supply chain disruptions and operational challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These shortages were notable in maize meal distributions (which constituted the majority of the food distributed), indicating financial management and logistical challenges.

35. WFP combined food distribution with SBCC for nutrition education, adapting operations to COVID-19 protocols. Methods included interpersonal approaches, nutrition education sessions, and community engagement to encourage positive health behaviours. A July 2020 agreement between WFP and GoA aimed to enhance national capacities in food security, nutrition, and nutrition response. Throughout the years, WFP managed to meet or exceed its targets in various instances, notably in 2019 for food transfers, where actual numbers surpassed targets. Additionally, interventions effectively balanced gender and demographic participation, distributing benefits equitably among men and women beneficiaries. Strategic interventions, such as CBT and the development of the ENSAN II and the PNASE, were crucial, with 2022 demonstrating record numbers for CBT and vouchers for the emergency response in Huila and Cunene (see Figure 5) despite pending government endorsement, reflecting a gap between policy development and formal adoption.

Figure 5: Food distribution trends in metric tons (MT)



Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition

36. From 2020 to 2022, WFP worked with partners (GoA Provincial Education Sector and Social Affairs, UNICEF, World Vision International (WVI), and municipal authorities) in Cunene, Huila, and Luanda to manage AMN, focusing on children aged 6-59 months and reaching approximately 1.1 million against a 1.13 million target. Training on supplementary food use treated over 15,000 children, and nutrition counselling raised awareness. Capacity-building and awareness initiatives for mothers, caregivers, and health technicians exceeded goals.

37. During this period of treatment, approximately 84 percent of treated children showed recovery. In Cunene, there was an 8.5 percent abandonment rate, 11.3 percent were transferred, and the death rate stood at 0.1 percent. While Huila lacked comprehensive data, Luanda experienced a 16 percent transfer rate. The CMAM programme, striving for recovery rates above 75 percent aligned with international standards, sought to combine treatment with other child services such as vaccinations, nutrition, and sanitation education. These initiatives align with GoA's strategy to tackle malnutrition community-wide.

Emergency response in drought-affected areas: CMAM and food assistance

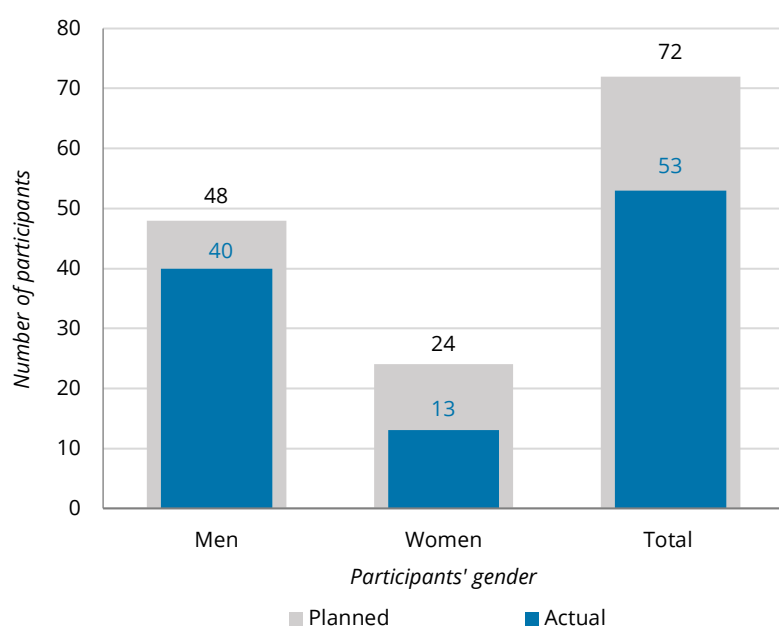
38. Emergency response activities targeted the provinces of Cunene, Huila, and Luanda, which experienced severe drought conditions affecting food security and increasing AMN rates among children under five. The CMAM program, supported by WVI, Provincial Health Cabinets, and local partners, included the distribution of ready-to-use-supplementary food (RUSF) and training for health centre staff and community health agents. Alongside CMAM, general food distributions and SBCC initiatives were implemented and adjusted for COVID-19 protocols. Key stakeholders included the WFP AO, various GoA ministries, international and local NGOs, and UN agencies like UNICEF, UNHCR, and FAO.

School feeding

39. WFP's new sub-office in Lubango, Huila province, is collaborating with local authorities for a school feeding plan for Huila, Namibe, Cuando Cubango, and Cunene provinces and negotiating with GoA to

establish a multisectoral committee for a National School Feeding Policy. WFP provides technical support to GoA, helping to set up an inter-ministerial committee for national and local school feeding programmes, facilitating a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment for national capacity, and assisting in action plan development. Additionally, WFP conducted a feasibility study for a home-grown school feeding (HGSF) pilot in the south and developed an operational plan for eight municipalities, incorporating local preferences, seasonal food availability, and market conditions, complemented by extensive consultations and workshops (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: School feeding workshops (2021)



Source: WFP Angola ACR [2021](#)

40. Moreover, WFP supported the school feeding programme by financing the kitchen kits and procuring stoves for meal preparation in targeted schools.¹¹ Coordinating the daily preparation and provision of nutritious hot meals, including soup, premix, and 'canjica',¹² WFP aimed to improve nutrition, increase school attendance, and raise hygiene awareness among children, caregivers, and teachers in food-insecure municipalities.

41. Cyclical droughts in southern Angola have caused pastoralist households to migrate in search of livestock resources, leading to boys leaving school to assist their fathers and girls missing school to fetch water. In response, WFP launched a school feeding program in Huila Province in November 2022 to encourage school attendance. Although the program aimed to benefit 12,000 primary school children, it only reached 1,205 children, achieving just 10 percent of the target. Additionally, out of the planned 30 primary schools, only four were assisted, and 4 Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) were supported, also falling short of the target of 30. However, the establishment of intersectoral municipal committees fared better, with 7 out of the planned eight committees formed (see Table 2). This underperformance was largely due to financial constraints, logistical challenges, and inadequate school facilities, which limited the programme's reach and effectiveness.

¹¹ World Food Programme. 2022. Concept note School Feeding WVA, 29 May 2022.

¹² Canjica is an Angolan dish made from hominy, which is dried maize kernels that have been treated with an alkali in a process called nixtamalization. This dish is known for its comforting texture and flavor, often cooked in water or milk until the kernels are tender and creamy.

Table 2: School feeding achievement

	2022	
	Planned	Actual
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	30	4
Number of PTAs or similar school governance structures supported	30	4
Number of intersectoral municipal committees established	8	7

Source: WFP Angola ACR [2022](#).

Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping

42. The TA on VAM in Angola stemmed from a 2019 agreement, guided by a capacity assessment of Angola's National Vulnerability Assessment Committee in 2018 by the Southern African Development Community (SADC)/ Regional Vulnerability Analysis (RVAA) and consultations with the Office of Food Security (GSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Angola (MINAGRIP). The project aimed to tackle the deficiency in human capital within GSA/MINAGRIP,¹² evaluate the substantial demand for food security monitoring and analysis from GoA and SADC/RVAA and provide on-the-job training for TA. Key achievements of the project are outlined in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Technical assistance to the Government of Angola on vulnerability assessment and mapping

	2021		2022	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Number of GoA /national partner staff receiving TA and training	704	704	100	353
Number of training sessions/workshop organized	9	9	5	9
Number of tools or products developed	20	20	4	5
Number of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) assessments done	-	-	-	3
Number of provinces covered by VAM	18	18	18	18
Number of Enumerators trained	-	-	-	93 ¹³
Number of officials trained on food security assessment, analysis, and reporting	54	54	-	252
Tablets purchased for FSN	-	-	-	30
Number of officials of Civil Protection Service trained on logistics and operations management		-	-	50
Number of capacity-strengthening activities facilitated	24	24	-	-

Source: WFP Angola ACR [2021](#), [2022](#), WFP/GoA 2020¹⁴

¹³ 67 trained by WFP

¹⁴ WFP/GoA . 2020. Agreement for provision of technical assistance. School feeding nutrition, early warning system and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) response.

43. WFP conducted food and nutrition security assessments and offered TA in response to the drought, which spanned from 2020 to 2021, including Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) surveys and support for IPC nutrition and food security assessments in collaboration with MINAGRIP in Cunene, Huila, and Namibe. Additionally, training was provided to the Civil Protection Service for logistics and operations management.

Gender, equity, and wider inclusion dimensions

44. Gender equality and women's empowerment were integral to the design and implementation of ICSP interventions. The programme specifically focused on targeted food assistance to address the unique needs of women and children, ensuring that they received adequate nutrition and support. Additionally, capacity-building training programmes were implemented to empower women and enhance their skills and decision-making roles within their households. These programmes aimed to increase women's participation in economic activities and improve their overall status in the community. Furthermore, community engagement activities were conducted to involve women in local decision-making bodies, although their representation in these bodies remained relatively low.

1.4 Scope of the evaluation

45. The WFP AO commissioned the evaluation of the implementation of the TA and refugee support provided to GoA from 2017-2022 in the provinces of Luanda, Cunene (particularly in Ombanja municipality), Huila (specifically in Quilengues municipality), and Lunda Norte. The evaluation aims to promote both accountability and learning and focus on the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of WFP's technical and humanitarian assistance. This includes targeting strategies within the period covered by the evaluation, identifying successes, areas for improvement, and lessons learned to inform the next CSP, with a strong emphasis on gender and human rights.

46. The evaluation encompassed three thematic areas, namely: i) TA to GoA, ii) emergency response in drought-affected regions, and iii) support to refugees, as explained above in detail. It prioritized insights that contribute to learning and improvement of programme implementation and guide the design of the next generation CSP. It used an evaluation matrix (see Annex 4 in Volume II) to track capacity strengthening and refugee assistance efforts, drawing on a theory of change.

47. During the inception phase, interviews with the evaluation committee informed the evaluation's alignment with the Angola office's goals. Key focus areas were identified, including organizational structure, the impact of school feeding programs, the balance of WFP's role with GoA's responsibilities, training, and knowledge transfer for local resilience, the robustness of monitoring and evaluation processes, and the effectiveness of stakeholder partnerships.

1.5 Evaluation methodology, limitations, and ethical considerations

Evaluation design

48. The evaluation of the WFP's assistance in Angola adopted a mixed-methods framework, prioritizing qualitative data collection and analysis based on extensive desk review (see Annex 9 in Volume II) and consultation of secondary data sources. The Kirkpatrick Model was used to assess the effectiveness of training activities. The evaluation was supported by an evaluation committee (EC) and an evaluation reference group (ERG), whose full membership can be found in Annex 10 in Volume II. To ensure the well-structured and impactful flow of information both internally and externally to targeted stakeholders, a detailed communication and knowledge management plan was put together, which can be found in Annex 11 in Volume II.

Evaluation framework

49. The evaluation followed a mixed-methods approach to answer the following overarching evaluation question:

To what degree has the technical assistance provided by WFP to the Government of Angola, and WFP's refugee support accomplished their intended goals, and what insights can shape the future direction of WFP's assistance in the country, and beyond?

50. The ToR incorporated all six OECD-DAC criteria, with the addition of scalability, demonstrating WFP's comprehensive approach to evaluating its activities in Angola. The evaluation explored the interventions' relevance, coherence, effectiveness, sustainability/scalability, and impact, underpinned by 14 sub-questions. These criteria were assessed using a combination of methods (desk review, quantitative data analysis, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs) as outlined in Table 4 below. Furthermore, the results and learning from WFP's training activities were evaluated using the Kirkpatrick model. The evaluation team (ET) prioritized the integration of gender equality, women's empowerment (GEWE), and age, gender and diversity (AGD) considerations, emphasizing participatory methods and data disaggregation by relevant indicators.

Table 4: Evaluation criteria and their corresponding evaluation questions

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Sub-questions	Data Sources
Relevance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did WFP approach the targeting and improvement of the relevance of food security interventions, including refugee response and nutrition activities, to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in Angola? 2. To what extent were gender equality, women's empowerment issues and human rights considerations taken into account in the design and implementation of food security interventions, particularly in refugee response and nutrition activities? 3. How well do the strategies for providing TA to GoA align with their priorities, and were they perceived as effectively addressing the food security needs of the country? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Quantitative secondary data • KIIs • FGDs
Coherence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To what extent were WFP's food security, nutrition, TA, and refugee support interventions coherent with policies and programmes of GoA, and in line with humanitarian principles? 5. What synergies have been observed between the various TA interventions being evaluated in the areas of food security, nutrition, and refugee support? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • KIIs
Effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. To what extent is WFP's provision of TA to GoA contributing to the achievement of SDG2 and SDG 17? 7. To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results of the TA to GoA and CMAM been achieved? 8. What were the main factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement and non-achievement of WFP's interventions and technical assistance objectives and what challenges were faced? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Quantitative secondary data • KIIs • FGDs
Efficiency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. What lessons can be learned regarding the value for money and cost-efficiency of food security interventions, including beneficiary targeting and the provision of TA to GoA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • KIIs

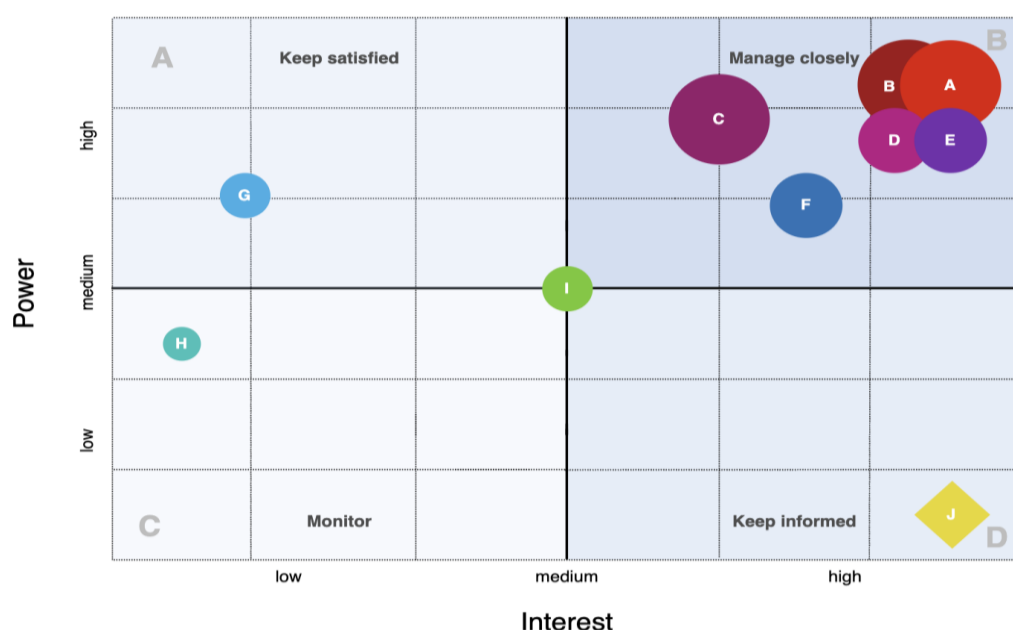
Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Sub-questions	Data Sources
Sustainability/ Scalability	10. To what extent are the benefits of the WFP TA programmes sustainable and likely to continue after the interventions of WFP cease? 11. To what extent did WFP's support build the capacity of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners? 12. What lessons can be learned from the implementation of the refugee response, CMAM, and TA interventions with a view to scaling up or replicating the interventions to reach a bigger pool of beneficiaries in the context of Angola, and elsewhere?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • KIIs
Impact	13. What difference have the programmes, under the food security thematic areas, made on the targeted beneficiaries including specifically the most vulnerable and marginalized groups and their households? How did the programme change their lives and livelihoods? Were there any gender-specific impacts? 14. To what extent did the TA to the GoA impact both public and private institutions? Were there any gender-specific impacts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Quantitative secondary data • KIIs

Stakeholder mapping

51. The stakeholder mapping process was a systematic approach to identifying, analysing, and prioritizing the involvement of various entities affected by or affecting the outcomes of the WFP's activities in Angola. This process began with identification during the inception phase, where a range of stakeholders was catalogued through desk research and consultations and then was supplemented with the results of the KII and FGD interviews (see Figure 7 below for final mapping and Annex 12 of Volume II).

52. Stakeholders were categorized based on their levels of power and interest, reflecting their influence and concern for project outcomes. This facilitated a visual representation of the stakeholder landscape, enabling WFP to strategically engage with each entity. This analysis ensures that stakeholders with high power and interest are managed closely, those with high power but lower interest are kept satisfied, and those with high interest but less power are kept informed, optimizing WFP's efforts toward effective and sustainable interventions.

Figure 7: Stakeholder power/interest analysis visualization



Source: Analysis of primary data for this evaluation by the evaluation team

A WFP	E Government Ministries	I Other UN Agencies/UNCT
B Angolan Government	F Local Government	J Beneficiaries
C Donors	G Relevant NGOs/INGOs	
D UNHCR	H Peripheral NGOs/INGOs	

Sampling

53. The evaluation used a non-probabilistic, purposive/convenience sampling method chosen for its practicality and efficiency in selecting knowledgeable stakeholders for KIIs and available refugee beneficiaries with first-hand experience of WFP activities for the FGDs during the fieldwork timeframe. Participants were identified through consultations and recommendations by the WFP Angola team and stakeholder mapping. While purposive qualitative sampling facilitated efficient data collection, it did not yield a fully representative sample. Therefore, findings should be interpreted with caution. Of the 45 planned KIIs across Luanda, Luanda Norte, Huila, and Cunene, 27 were conducted in-person and remotely. The FGDs with male and female refugee beneficiaries were conducted in Dundo. Locations were, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Details of the fieldwork agenda and achieved sample are presented in Annex 6 of Volume II and Table 5 respectively.

Table 5: Achieved sample size

Data Collection Method	Planned Sample	Total Planned Sessions	Total Planned Sample	Total Achieved Sessions	Total Achieved Sample
KIIs with stakeholders	5 per crisis/drought-affected province (Dundo, Cunene, Huila) 5 in Luanda City 5 in Lunda Norte	45	45	27	27

Data Collection Method	Planned Sample	Total Planned Sessions	Total Planned Sample	Total Achieved Sessions	Total Achieved Sample
FGDs with beneficiaries	2 with refugee beneficiaries (Dundo)	2	24	2	24

54. The exact operations/programmes that were evaluated under each thematic per location are presented in Table 6 below:

Table 6: Data collection locations and respective WFP operations/programmes evaluated

Operations/Programme	Fieldwork Location
Thematic Area 1 – Technical Assistance to Government	
CMAM Luanda / COVID-19 WFP Nutrition Response Luanda	Luanda City
School Feeding Plan, School feeding and health policy, home grown school feeding guidelines	Cunene (Ombanja municipality) & Huila (Quilengues municipality)
Strengthening Food Security Analysis – Technical Assistance to Food Security Department	Luanda City
Capacity Strengthening to Civil Protection and MINAGRIP	Cunene
Thematic Area 2 – Emergency response in drought affected regions a: Nutrition (CMAM) and b) Food Assistance	
Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition	Cunene (Ombanja municipality) & Huila (Quilengues municipality)
Thematic Area 3 – Designated Support to Refugees	
Refugees' Response through General Food Distribution (GFD)	Lunda Norte

Data collection

55. A mixed methods approach was used, starting with the extraction of quantitative data from WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), post-distribution monitoring (PDM) datasets, and annual reports. This analysis identified patterns and trends to provide quantitative evidence for the evaluation indicators. Following the quantitative analysis, qualitative data were collected from key stakeholders and refugee beneficiaries (men and women) through KIIs and FGDs (see Annex 2 of Volume II) during field visits. This qualitative data was systematically analysed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes and understand the contextual dynamics like gender roles, resource access, and community engagement.

56. The sex-disaggregation of data allowed the assessment of the programme impact, efficiency, and effectiveness across gender and age group lines, examining roles, access to resources, participation, power dynamics, and vulnerabilities, which informed the sustainability and scalability of the interventions.

Data analysis

57. The data analysis process integrated both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Quantitative analysis utilized secondary data from WFP's monitoring and assessment on relief and transition and PDM datasets, along with annual reports, focusing on patterns, trends, and gender-disaggregated impacts. The qualitative analysis involved KIIs and FGDs with stakeholders and beneficiaries, using NVivo for coding and thematic analysis. The Kirkpatrick Model was applied to assess training effectiveness across reaction,

learning, behaviour, and results levels, highlighting improvements in national institutions' capacity for food security management. Data triangulation and validation through cross-verification of quantitative and qualitative findings ensured credibility, depth, and a contextual understanding of WFP's interventions in Angola.

58. Quotes from the KIIs and FGDs cited in this report will be identified using the following format: the acronym KI or FGD followed by a unique number (e.g., 06) corresponding to the interview sequence, and followed by either FEM (female) or MAL (male) to denote the participants' gender. Similarly, quotes from focus group discussions are labelled as "FGD01MAL Dundo" or "FGD02FEM Dundo" to indicate the discussions with women and men in Dundo.

Ethical Considerations

59. WFP decentralized evaluations must conform to WFP and United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical standards and norms. The evaluation team was responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics during the conduct of the evaluation. 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.

60. Participant protection was prioritized, with rigorous procedures and secure data handling and storage. The WFP Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System's (DEQAS) systematic quality checks were employed across all phases. For details on ethical aspects see Annex 3 of Volume II.

61. A gender-balanced team conducted this research, prioritizing gender equity and equality. Throughout the analysis, the ET examined how gender intersected with factors like age, ethnicity, and disability, which are crucial for understanding individual vulnerabilities and variations in access to resources.

Limitations

62. Unclear definition of certain indicators that posed difficulties in consistently measuring and analysing them.

- **Mitigation:** The ET strategically focused on those indicators that were directly related to the evaluation questions and strategic outcomes. This approach ensured that the most relevant and impactful aspects of the programmes were thoroughly assessed, despite the constraints posed by unclear definitions, timeframes, and data availability.

63. The selection of a non-experimental evaluation design was recommended due to practical, ethical, and contextual considerations minimizes the ability to rigorously control variables. This limitation hinders the establishment of clear causal relationships between interventions and observed outcomes, restricting the generalizability and reliability of conclusions.

- **Mitigation:** Cross-verifying findings through multiple data sources and methods to strengthen the validity and reliability of the results (triangulation) enhanced the overall credibility of the evaluation.

64. Certain indicators were not analysed due to a) relevant activities falling outside the 2017 to 2022 evaluation period, b) activities were not implemented, and c) supporting data were missing.

- **Mitigation:** Both primary and secondary data were utilized to understand baseline conditions and track impact evolution over time, integrating these insights into the analysis even when specific indicators could not be fully evaluated. In cases of non-implemented activities or missing data, every effort was made to identify data sources to address gaps, and instances that obtaining missing data was not possible were noted.

65. Overall, these constraints were sufficiently mitigated, and as such, they did not materially affect the outcome of the evaluation, and the available data has allowed the proper measurement of progress on human rights and gender equality results.

2. Evaluation Findings

66. This section presents the findings from the evaluation of WFP's TA activities and refugee support in Angola from 2017 to 2022. The findings are structured around effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, sustainability, and impact of WFP's interventions. Each subsection addresses specific evaluation questions, offering detailed analysis supported by quantitative and qualitative evidence. The evaluation findings aim to inform stakeholders about the achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement in WFP's initiatives, thereby guiding future strategic planning and decision-making.

RELEVANCE / APPROPRIATENESS

67. This subsection examines the relevance of WFP's interventions in Angola. It explores how well the programmes addressed the food security challenges and met the needs of the target population, including refugees and drought-affected communities. The analysis focuses on the alignment of WFP's activities with the local context, the integration of gender equality and human rights considerations, and the overall suitability of the interventions to the specific conditions and requirements of the beneficiaries.

2.1. Evaluation Question 1

TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY WFP IN ANGOLA RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE TO ADDRESS THE FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE TARGET POPULATION?

Key Findings on Relevance

Relevance and Impact on Food Security

The WFP interventions effectively addressed food insecurity and malnutrition among refugees, meeting essential needs despite challenges with food quality and quantity related local suppliers' and supply chain limitations. The CMAM intervention was highly relevant, addressing critical nutrition needs and achieving high satisfaction levels among beneficiaries.

WFP's nutrition programmes, in partnership with UNICEF and NGOs like WVI, effectively targeted vulnerable groups, including children and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), providing specialized nutritious foods and support mechanisms.

Beneficiary Satisfaction and Preferences

Beneficiary households were generally satisfied with the quantity and quality of food provided by WFP, although satisfaction levels varied over time. Most beneficiaries preferred in-kind food assistance over cash or vouchers, highlighting the need for adaptable food security interventions that combine in-kind assistance with the flexibility of cash transfers.

Gender Equality and Empowerment

WFP effectively integrated gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights considerations into its food security interventions. Programmes were tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups, promoting gender equality, and ensuring women and children received necessary support. There was progress in involving women in decision-making within households and ensuring equitable food assistance, although female representation in local decision-making bodies remained low.

Technical assistance and GoA Alignment

WFP's TA to GoA aligned well with government priorities and effectively addressed food security needs. Successful areas included capacity building, intersectoral coordination, and policy development, particularly for school feeding programmes.

Challenges included discrepancies between planned and actual beneficiary numbers, mobility issues, procedural delays, and resource constraints.

Evaluation question 1.1: How did WFP approach the targeting and improvement of the relevance of food security interventions, including refugee response and nutrition activities, to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in Angola?

WFP's approach to targeting and improvement of relevance

68. WFP in Angola effectively targeted and enhanced the relevance of the food security interventions by providing targeted assistance to vulnerable populations, implementing diverse intervention modalities, focusing on refugee support, and strengthening local capacities for sustainable development. WFP has adopted a range of approaches to target and improve the relevance of food security interventions in Angola, including the involvement of community agents who conducted screenings and outreach to ensure that even remote populations were reached. This method allowed WFP to accurately identify and assist those in greatest need, particularly in drought-affected regions.

"The involvement of community agents ensured that the programme reached the most affected families even in remote areas" – KII06FEM

69. WFP focused on providing support to populations affected by food insecurity and undernutrition, especially in drought-affected areas. This includes regular food assistance to refugees from the DRC and nutrition interventions to treat MAM in children. In the FGD with male participants, respondents emphasized WFP's critical role and how this assistance was vital in addressing immediate nutritional needs and stabilizing conditions for vulnerable populations like themselves.

"The WFP played a crucial role during the emergency by providing necessary food assistance to refugees who arrived in Angola in extreme vulnerability without sufficient means of sustenance" – FGD01MAL Dundo

70. WFP utilized different modalities of intervention, such as unconditional resource transfers to support access to food, livelihood support activities to improve self-reliance among refugees and other crisis-affected populations, and TA to GoA to strengthen national capacity to manage food security and nutrition programmes.

"The government of Angola has been open to discussions and has even provided land to support agricultural activities, moving away from only providing free food assistance" – KII07MAL07

71. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Empowerment (MASFAMU) and the UNHCR, WFP managed refugee assistance and operations, ensuring that the refugee population's basic food and nutrition requirements were met during times of crisis.

72. WFP, in coordination with its implementation partners, carried out activities to improve the quality and coverage of services for the screening, early detection, referral, and treatment of children under-five with AMN in the provinces of Cunene, Huila, and Luanda. As part of its strategy to address food insecurity and promote local agriculture, in 2022, WFP implemented school feeding programmes in four primary schools (out of a target of 20) located in drought-affected areas. These programmes not only provided meals to vulnerable children but also stimulated local agricultural production. WFP's activities also included providing technical support and capacity building to national institutions. This was aimed at enhancing their abilities to identify, target, and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations.

Targeting of beneficiaries of interventions

73. Over the six years from 2017 to 2022, WFP's efforts to reach the refugee population in Angola¹⁵ demonstrated varying levels of relevance, generally achieving substantial coverage. In 2017, WFP managed to reach 80.2 percent of the refugee population, showing a strong initial response. Despite facing operational challenges in 2018 and 2019, WFP still achieved coverage, reaching 83 percent and 86.4 percent of the refugee population, respectively. The coverage dipped to 68.7 percent in 2020, suggesting reasonable but slightly lower. However, in 2021, WFP improved its reach, covering 76.6 percent of the population.¹⁶ Notably, in 2022, WFP exceeded its target by a wide margin, reaching 197.9 percent of the refugee population, indicating that it not only covered all refugees but also addressed additional needs. This overall trend highlights WFP's adaptability and commitment to supporting vulnerable populations, irrespective of their residence status (Angolan resident or refugee), despite challenges and fluctuating refugee numbers (see Figure 8 on the following page).

Relevance of interventions to beneficiaries (Vulnerable Groups and GoA.)

Refugee response – Food security (In-kind, Cash Based Transfer and Voucher)

74. **Relevance Finding 1:** The GFD intervention effectively addressed critical challenges related to food insecurity and malnutrition among the refugee population, meeting their essential needs. Beneficiaries emphasized the importance of the food assistance provided, acknowledging its role in their initial assistance and sustenance despite challenges with the quality and quantity of the food distributed.

75. The GFD intervention was highly relevant to the needs of the refugee population, primarily addressing critical challenges related to food insecurity and malnutrition. The intervention directly targeted the essential needs of refugees who had limited access to food resources, as evidenced by beneficiaries' feedback highlighting the importance of the food assistance received. For instance, one refugee noted the role of the programme in providing initial assistance.

76. Additionally, despite some challenges with the quality and quantity of food distributed, the intervention managed to sustain basic health among the population, as indicated by statements made by beneficiaries who participated in the FGDs. Concerns about food quality were raised during the FGD with the women beneficiaries (FGD02FEM), including reports of beans being infested with pests or expired. Ultimately, the non-retroactive distribution system, where missed months aren't compensated, created challenges in maintaining a consistent food supply, potentially leading to periods of food insecurity, and exacerbating nutritional deficiencies among refugees.

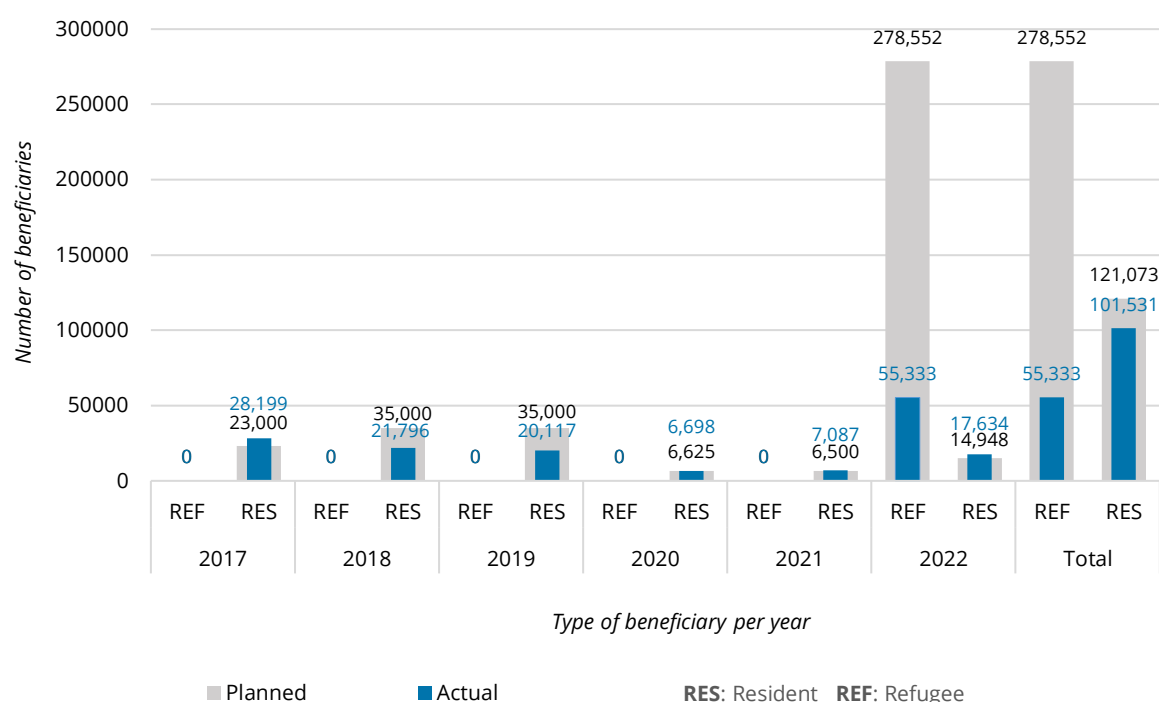
"When we got here, there was no one to help, then HC decided to start helping but over time they changed something. Then for me, they started giving food" – FGD01MAL Dundo

"The only result that I see is that they are in good health." – FGD01MAL Dundo

¹⁵ For a detailed breakdown of refugee programme beneficiaries from 2017 to 2022 by sex and age group see Annex 16 of Volume II.

¹⁶ Data Source: UNHCR Angola Field Office, Dundo.

Figure 8: Beneficiaries by residence status (resident/refugee) (2017-2022)¹⁷



Source: WFP Angola ACR 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

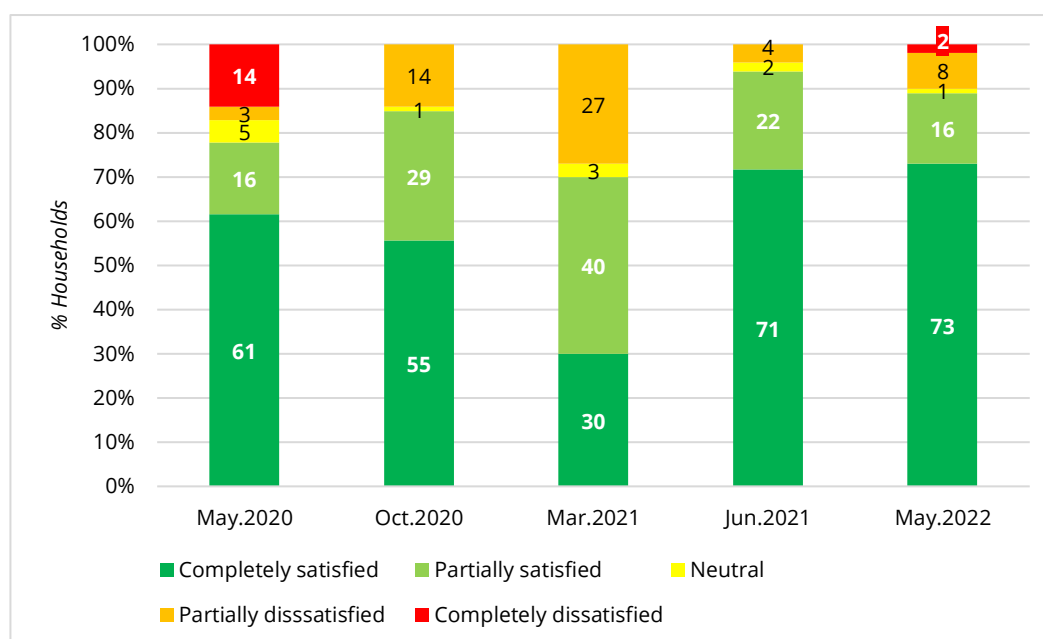
77. **Relevance Finding 2:** The majority of beneficiary households (ranging from a minimum of 70 percent to a maximum of 93 percent) expressed satisfaction with both the quantity and quality of food provided by WFP assistance. However, satisfaction levels fluctuated over time, indicating variability in the consistency of food distribution.

78. Assessing the improvement of the relevance of food distribution intervention to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in Angola, in the context of the present evaluation, is also measured by the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the quality and quantity of food provided. The majority of the beneficiary refugee households expressed being satisfied with both the quantity and quality of food assistance provided by WFP. However, the satisfaction levels have exhibited noticeable fluctuations over time. Regarding quantity and quality, there was considerable variability in experiences throughout the implementation period of this activity. While an overall improvement appears in food quality satisfaction levels over time, concerns persist regarding consistency (see Figure 9 and Figure 10 below).

79. In March 2021, both quantity (23 percent) and quality (30 percent) were at their lowest levels. Based on the IPC Food Security & Nutrition Snapshot for Southern Angola, in March 2021, satisfaction with food quality and quantity among households (HH) was at its lowest due to severe drought, high food prices, poor harvests, and the impact of COVID-19. These factors reduced food availability and quality across the country, leading to high levels of acute food insecurity (AFI) and malnutrition.

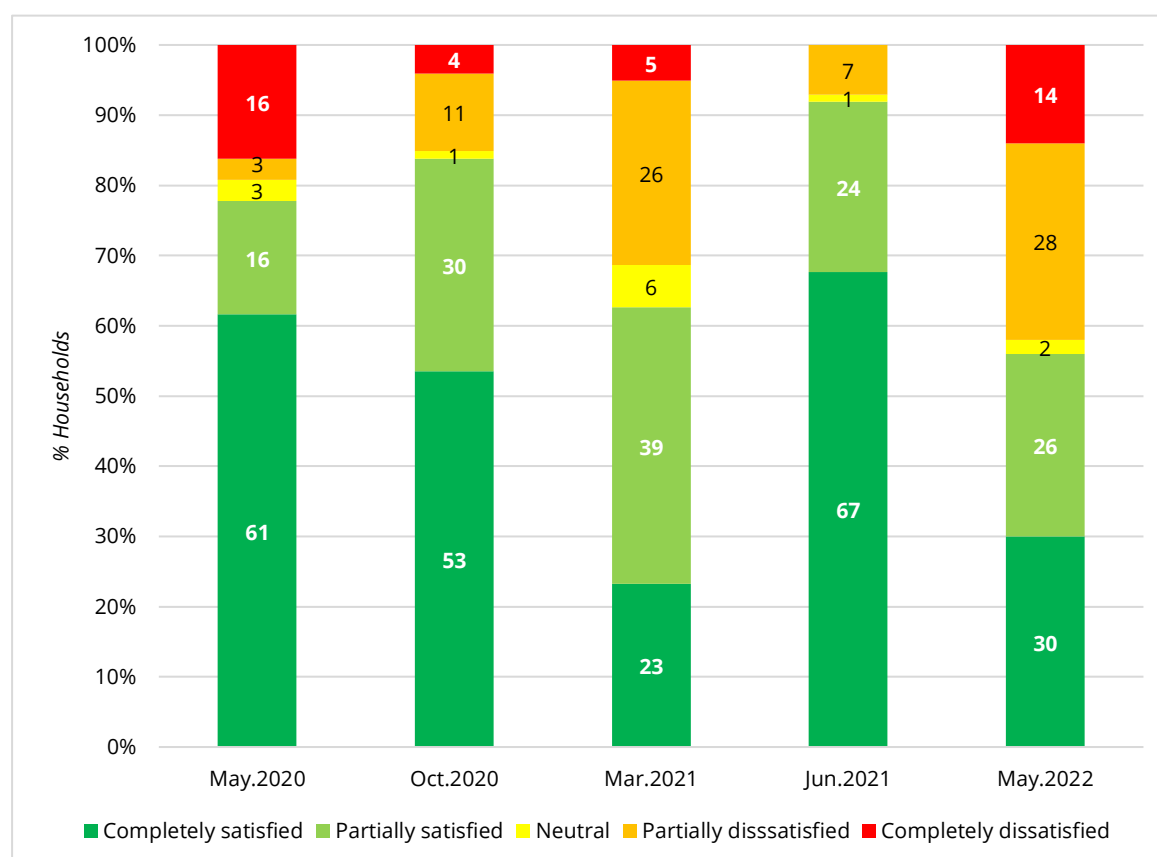
¹⁷ The same refugees were targeted; therefore, they were double counted over the years, noting the maximum/denominator of 35 000.

Figure 9: Satisfaction with food quantity



Source: WFP, PDM report 2019 – 2022

Figure 10: Satisfaction with food quality



Source: WFP, PDM report 2019 – 2022

80. This fluctuation in levels of satisfaction highlights areas for improvement, particularly in ensuring consistent quality and adequacy of food supplies. Beneficiaries reported inadequate quantities of staples

(particularly maize flour), which posed challenges, especially for families with young children, pregnant women, and people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) who have higher nutritional needs. Additionally, the lack of diversity in distributed food items, such as beans, for an entire month presented hurdles for beneficiaries. As one of the FGD respondents mentioned:

"The monotony of the diet, with repetitive meals of beans and maize flour, does not provide the necessary nutrients and leads to health problems," while another shared, "The quality of beans distributed was poor, often infested with insects, causing diarrhoea among our children and the elderly." – FGD01MAL Dundo

81. Moreover, concerns about food quality were raised, including reports of beans being infested with pests or expired. Ultimately, the non-retroactive distribution system, where missed months are not compensated, creates challenges in maintaining a consistent food supply, potentially leading to periods of food insecurity, and exacerbating nutritional deficiencies among refugees.¹⁸

82. **Relevance Finding 3:** Regarding the relevance of the assistance modality (in-kind, CBT, or voucher), most beneficiaries (76 percent) expressed a preference for in-kind food assistance, as they perceived that cash or food vouchers would not ensure the same quality and quantity of the food provided by WFP.¹⁹ The beneficiaries' preferences for in-kind assistance highlight the necessity for food security interventions to be adaptable to local conditions, needs, and supply chain limitations. Tailoring the modalities to combine the reliability of in-kind assistance with the flexibility of cash transfers could increase the relevance of interventions and could be a potential solution, allowing them to choose and purchase food items according to their needs, thereby addressing both the quality and variety issues in their diet.

Nutrition interventions – CMAM

83. **Relevance Finding 4:** The CMAM intervention is highly relevant to the beneficiaries, as it addresses their pressing nutrition needs. The data reveals a high level of satisfaction, with 96 percent of households reporting overall satisfaction with the CMAM programmes.²⁰ The available data did not distinguish satisfaction levels for specific aspects of the intervention; thus, the reported satisfaction levels refer to the overall intervention.

Table 7: Satisfaction with CMAM programmes.

Schedule	Percent of households satisfied with the programme (n=311)
Response to drought in Cunene and Huila provinces, April 2022	96%

Source: WFP, PDM report April 2022

84. In April 2022, the drought response program in Cunene and Huila provinces showed a high level of satisfaction among households, with 96 percent expressing satisfaction (Table 7 above), which is also illustrated in the following quote by a female KII participant:

¹⁸ It is important to bear in mind that food quality concerns can be broadly categorized based on their sources: (1) Processed foods like maize meal often fail to meet WFP standards due to local suppliers' limitations, which is a common issue in Angola. (2) Quality incidents in whole grains such as cowpeas are typically related to long transport times, increasing infestation risks. It is thus suggested that local procurement of whole grains, among other staples, might mitigate these issues.

¹⁹ WFP. 2022. Post Distribution Monitoring Report. December 2022

²⁰ WFP. 2022. Post Distribution Monitoring Report CMAM Cunene and Huila. April 2022

“The acute malnutrition was high due to droughts affecting local agriculture, which is a primary food source. This context made the CMAM programme highly relevant, addressing urgent nutritional needs in an area more severely affected than other regions” – KII03FEM

85. However, 4 percent of the households were dissatisfied with the programme for various reasons. In Cunene, a total of 311 households were interviewed. Among the dissatisfied households, 77 percent felt the CMAM programme was too short, 46 percent indicated that children over five years old did not benefit, 38 percent said the quantity of the assistance package for special use (ASPU) was too small, and no data was provided regarding COVID-19 prevention concerns. In Huila, with 498 households interviewed, 65 percent of dissatisfied households felt the CMAM programme was too short, 50 percent indicated that children over five years old did not benefit, 28 percent said the quantity of ASPU was too small, and 35 percent expressed concerns about COVID-19 prevention. These reasons highlight specific areas where the programme could be improved to better meet the needs of all beneficiaries.

86. In contrast, a small percentage reported dissatisfaction (4 percent) with the CMAM programme's duration (71 percent) as it was too brief to meet their needs. Additionally, in Cunene (38 percent) and Huila (28 percent), beneficiaries found the food supplement quantities inadequate, especially for those facing AMN.

Nutrition interventions – SBCC Messages

87. **Relevance Finding 5:** By educating caregivers on effective nutritional and health practices, including the significance of colostrum in providing immunity and essential nutrients to infants, WFP's intervention directly addressed the pressing needs of the community.

88. The relevance of the SBCC intervention, especially in addressing caregivers' lack of knowledge about beneficial practices, is underscored by the gaps in understanding critical health and nutrition practices among caregivers. Focus group discussions highlighted that, despite recognizing the benefits of breastfeeding practices like the use of colostrum, some caregivers still erroneously view it as unsuitable for newborns.²¹

Evaluation sub-question 1.2: To what extent were gender equality, women's empowerment issues, and human rights considerations taken into account in the design and implementation of food security interventions, particularly in refugee response and nutrition activities?

89. In addressing the extent to which GEWE issues and human rights considerations were incorporated into the design and implementation of food security interventions, particularly in refugee response and nutrition activities, the WFP demonstrated a strong commitment to these principles through its collaborative approach.

90. **Relevance Finding 6:** WFP's nutrition programmes, in partnership with UNICEF and NGOs like WVI, effectively targeted vulnerable groups, including children and PBW. These programmes provided specialized nutritious foods, community-level nutrition screening, referral systems, and nutrition education initiatives such as SBCC. The use of gender-disaggregated data ensured responsive and equitable food security interventions, while monitoring frameworks with gender-specific indicators ensured that women and children received the necessary support.

91. At a design level, WFP tailored nutrition programmes specifically for vulnerable groups, including children and PBW, through activities that not only supplied specialized nutritious foods but also included support mechanisms such as nutrition screening at the community level, referral systems for advanced care, and nutrition education initiatives such as the SBCC. These efforts were crucial, by design, in empowering women by equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions

²¹ WFP Angola, Focus Group Analysis Report - Community Malnutrition Management Project - Luanda

about their households' nutritional health, thereby enhancing their autonomy and promoting gender equality.

92. The implementation of SBCC played a pivotal role in educating the beneficiaries (refugee and vulnerable populations) on proper nutrition and health practices. This focus on behaviour change was aimed at long-term improvements in health outcomes and supported women's rights to information and health, which are fundamental to their empowerment.

93. Moreover, WFP planned interventions using sex-disaggregated data, such as the Food Consumption Score, disaggregated by the sex of the household head, and the Coping Strategy Index. This approach ensures that the food security interventions are responsive to the different needs and vulnerabilities of men and women, thereby supporting equitable food assistance.

94. The programme's monitoring frameworks included outcome and output indicators specific to gender and vulnerable populations. For instance, the proportion of the eligible population that participated in the programme and the adherence rates were monitored, ensuring that women and children received the necessary support.

95. **Relevance Finding 7:** WFP has effectively integrated GEWE and human rights into its food security interventions through tailored nutrition interventions for vulnerable groups, including children and PBW. Strategic partnerships and the use of gender-disaggregated data have helped target programs effectively, as evidenced by i) improved malnutrition cure rates among females, ii) the maintenance of gender balance in assistance distribution with slight favouring of women in CBT and commodity vouchers, iii) women's participation in household decision-making increased (from 18 percent in May 2020 to 28 percent in May 2022), although female representation in local leadership remains low at 10 percent; iv) the improvement of the nutritional status of children under five indicated by WFP CMAM data from the Annual Country Reports (ACRs). Among all provinces and periods, a total of 1,084,306 beneficiaries received RUSF.²² The cure rate for MAM was consistently higher among females compared to males, indicating potential gender-specific variations in nutritional outcomes. This analysis highlights the importance of targeted interventions to address gender disparities and ensure equitable access to nutrition services for children under five.

96. Analysing the distribution of WFP's assistance modalities by gender from 2017 to 2022 reveals a commitment to equitable support for both males and females. The percentages indicate a balanced approach, with females slightly more represented in both CBT and commodity vouchers in certain years. For CBT, in 2019, females constituted 50.84 percent of CBT recipients, and this proportion remained consistent, with 50.85 percent in 2020 and slightly increasing to 51.2 percent in 2021.²³ In 2022, females represented 50.78 percent of the CBT recipients, showing a slight preference for women beneficiaries in CBT. Regarding commodity vouchers, females were slightly more represented than males in receiving commodity vouchers, with 51.1 percent in 2017 and a similar percentage in 2018. This pattern continued in 2022 when females constituted 51.2 percent of voucher recipients. This gender distribution further demonstrates the WFP's attention to gender equality in its food security interventions. The slight over-representation of females in both modalities suggests an effort to address the specific needs of women, aligning with the broader objectives of GEWE and human rights considerations in humanitarian and development programmes.

97. Moreover, the decision-making regarding the allocation of food/cash/vouchers and disaggregated by transfer modality, as presented in Figure 11 and Figure 12 below,²⁴ illustrates a pattern indicating shared responsibility between men and women, with joint decision-making emerging as the predominant mode across all periods. The majority of households reported the involvement of both genders in decision-making concerning resource utilization. Particularly noteworthy is the increasing percentage of households where women hold decision-making roles, climbing from 18 percent in May 2020 to 28 percent in May 2022. Conversely, the proportion of households with sole male decision-makers remains relatively stable and registers the lowest among the categories. KIIs (KII03FEM) revealed a notable dynamic around the

²² WFP Angola Annual Country Reports: [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

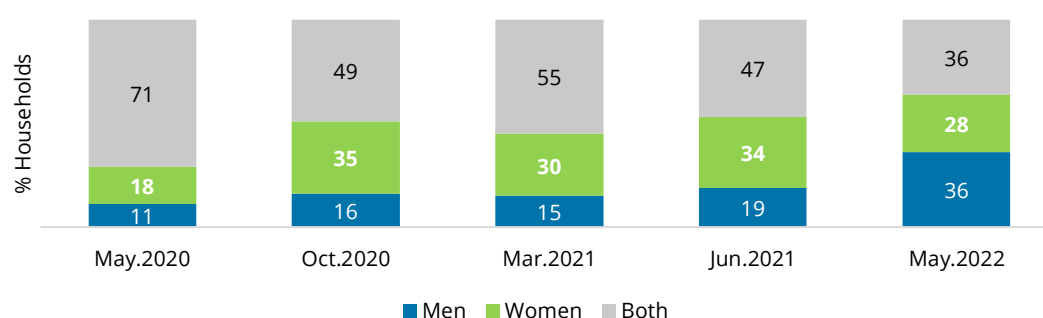
²³ WFP Angola Annual Country Reports: 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

²⁴ WFP PDM report [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

frequent absence of men from home, which compels women to make urgent decisions regarding daily household management by themselves. This notable dynamic was expressed by one of the key informants. However, it is important to note that this insight was supported by trends observed in multiple interviews.

98. The WFP PDM report from 2020 to 2022 presents an evolving pattern of decision-making roles in households concerning the use of food items. In May 2020, women were primary decision-makers in 18 percent of households, a figure that notably increased to 35 percent by October 2020. This peak suggests a temporary shift towards greater female involvement. However, the trend did not maintain a steady ascent; it fluctuated, dropping to 30 percent by March 2021, increasing slightly to 34 percent by June 2021, and then diminishing to 28 percent by May 2022. These oscillations indicate periodic regressions in the sustained empowerment of women in these roles, pointing to external or systemic factors that may intermittently reinforce traditional gender roles, hence affecting the consistency of progress toward gender equality in decision-making (Figure 11).

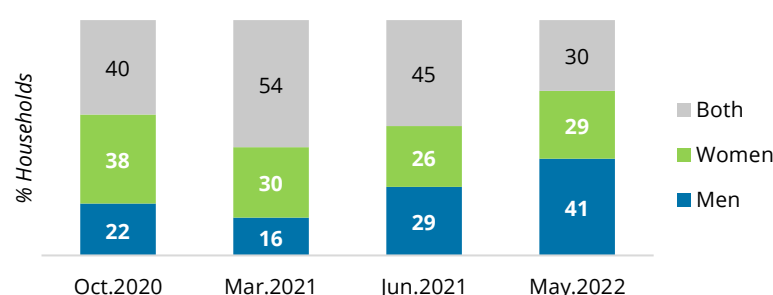
Figure 11: Who decides on the use of food items



Source: WFP, PDM Report 2020 – 2022

99. The PDM report also suggests a general increase in female involvement in decisions about non-food items, progressing towards gender inclusivity. Yet, the specific data for 2022 shows a concerning divergence from this trend, with male decision-making surging at 41 percent, surpassing female involvement at 29 percent. This indicates a reversal or stalling in the progress towards gender-balanced decision-making, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to sustain and advance the gains made in previous years (Figure 12).²⁵

Figure 12: Who decides on the use of non-food items



Source: WFP, PDM Reports 2020 – 2022

100. The involvement of women in decision-making concerning food assistance is crucial not only for achieving gender equality but also for empowering women within their communities. Despite some positive trends, the overall low representation of women in decision-making roles—both within households and in broader organizational or community structures—underscores persistent gender inequalities. It is reported that women's representation in decision-making bodies at the local level is still critically low at around 10 percent, as reported by one of the managers interviewed. Although unconfirmed by other participants or

²⁵ Data for May 2020 are not available and therefore not included in the graph.

further evidence, this figure reflects a potential ongoing challenge in translating household-level changes into broader institutional and societal shifts.

101. Despite the intermittent setbacks in gender equality presented in the PDM data, field observations indicate that, overall, WFP has effectively integrated GEWE and human rights considerations into its food security interventions, particularly in refugee response and nutrition activities. Strategic partnerships have enabled WFP to tailor nutrition programmes specifically for vulnerable groups such as children and PBW. These programmes not only provide specialized nutritious foods but also incorporate support mechanisms like nutrition education and community-level screenings.

Challenges to Relevance

102. While WFP interventions were largely relevant, they faced some challenges in consistently addressing the diverse and evolving needs of the target population, including achieving broader improvements in food security and nutrition. Inconsistencies were noticed in the quality and quantity delivered to beneficiaries, with participant narratives and secondary documentation highlighting that the food staples provided, particularly maize flour, were often inadequate in quantity, impacting beneficiaries with higher nutritional needs. The lack of diversity in food items that led to beneficiaries receiving the same type of food (e.g., beans) for extended periods posed challenges, as it affected the nutritional outcomes, leading to dissatisfaction among the communities served.

COHERENCE

103. This section delves into the coherence of WFP's interventions with national policies and other development and humanitarian initiatives in Angola. It assesses how well WFP's activities were aligned with the GoA's strategies and priorities, and whether there were synergies or overlaps with the efforts of other organizations.

2.1. Evaluation Question 2

TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE WFP IN ANGOLA COHERENT IN THEIR DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND COORDINATION WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS?

Key Findings on Coherence

WFP's efforts in Angola align well with GoA policies, adhere to humanitarian principles, and collaborate effectively with stakeholders. Despite needing to enhance capacity-building engagement and impact, WFP's work shows a strong commitment to coherent and integrated approaches in tackling food security and nutrition challenges.

Alignment with GoA policies and programmes

WFP's interventions closely align with key priorities and objectives of the Government of Angola's national policies and programmes across several sectors, including population welfare, education, health, social assistance, and agricultural development. This alignment indicates a strong coherence in the design and implementation of WFP's food security, nutrition, TA, and refugee support interventions with the national development agenda of Angola.

Refugee support and adherence to GoA policies

WFP's refugee support interventions adhere well to the GoA's policies and guidelines for refugee response and protection, contributing to the country's commitments under international laws and conventions. This adherence underlines WFP's commitment to aligning its refugee assistance programmes with the legal and policy frameworks of the Angolan Government.

Adherence to humanitarian principles

The high levels of satisfaction reported by beneficiaries regarding the conditions at food distribution points and the engagement with complaints and feedback mechanisms, despite some fluctuations, demonstrate WFP's efforts to adhere to humanitarian principles and ethical standards. These efforts indicate a commitment to ensuring dignity, safety, and accountability in the delivery of assistance.

Synergies and collaborative efforts

The frequency and effectiveness of coordination and collaboration between WFP, GoA ministries/agencies, and other stakeholders reveal strong synergies in addressing food security, nutrition, and refugee support. Joint initiatives, enhanced coordination under the One UN Framework, and collaborative efforts in policy development, capacity building, and programme implementation exemplify the coherent and integrated approach adopted by WFP and its partners.

Capacity building and joint training

Despite some challenges in meeting targeted goals for capacity-building activities, the collaborative efforts in organizing joint training sessions and workshops, especially in VAM, highlight a proactive approach to enhancing the skills and expertise of personnel across different interventions. These efforts contribute to the overall coherence of WFP's TA initiatives by ensuring that they are grounded in enhancing local capacities and aligned with GoA strategies.

Evaluation sub-question 2.1: To what extent were WFP's food security, nutrition, TA, and refugee support interventions coherent with the policies and programmes of GoA and in line with humanitarian principles?

104. The alignment between WFP's TA initiatives and GoA's plans and strategies for food security and nutrition, which is evident across multiple policy areas, indicates a concerted effort to address key challenges and priorities in Angola's development agenda. Key informants emphasized the close collaboration and alignment between WFP and GoA, stating:

"There are collaborative efforts with the Angolan government, especially in aligning with the government's plans for food security and nutrition" – KII06FEM

"WFP's interventions were coherent with Angola's national policies and international humanitarian principles. Coordination with government bodies ensured that the interventions complemented national food security strategies" – KII08FEM

105. **Coherence Finding 1:** WFP's food security, nutrition, TA, and refugee support interventions were highly coherent with the policies and programmes of GoA, aligning with national priorities in local development, child protection, gender equality, education, health, and refugee protection, and adhere to humanitarian principles such as humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

106. Angola's NDP 2023-2027 emphasizes economic diversification and sustainable development with a focus on reducing poverty. WFP's initiatives, including agricultural project support, food security enhancement, and direct food assistance, are closely aligned with these objectives. WFP TA and support for local food production systems significantly contribute to Angola's development efforts aimed at long-term poverty alleviation.

107. The Law on the Protection and Comprehensive Development of the Child (Law No. 25/12)²⁶ outlines Angola's commitment to child welfare by safeguarding rights to nutrition and health. WFP's nutritional programmes, targeting malnourished children and school feeding schemes, align with this legislation, supporting GoA's objectives to enhance child welfare and protect children's rights.

108. The new General Labor Law of Angola (Law No. 12/23 of 27 December),²⁷ replacing Law No. 7/15 of 15 June, promotes fair labour practices and improved working conditions, including aspects related to gender equality. WFP's focus on nutritional support for women, particularly PBW, and their participation in food security programmes align with these legislative changes, furthering gender equality and strengthening women's roles in their communities.

"Special attention was given to households headed by women. These households received tailored support to address their unique needs, ensuring equitable access to food and resources" – KII12MAL

109. WFP's TA activities in primary education, social action, health, and school sports align with GoA's priorities, particularly through school feeding programmes and nutrition education initiatives that improve children's health and educational outcomes. These activities support PNASE's objectives to enhance public health infrastructure, expand quality health service access, and improve health system management and sustainability. PNASE focuses on equitable healthcare access, health service quality improvement, and the integration of health services across various GoA levels.

110. WFP's CMAM activities contribute directly to these goals by upgrading health facilities to better treat AMN, thereby supporting the PNASE's aim to improve health infrastructure. Moreover, by providing training and resources for malnutrition treatment, WFP enhances the quality of health services available to vulnerable populations, especially children, in line with the PNASE's focus on health service quality. Additionally, WFP's nutritional interventions that target malnourished children align with the PNASE's emphasis on improving health outcomes for all, particularly vulnerable groups, aiming to reduce child mortality and boost child health – a fundamental aspect of children's rights (PNASE 2012-2025).

111. WFP's support for refugees complements Angola's policy on population management, particularly through initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions and integration of refugees and displaced populations. Under the Law on the Right of Asylum and the Refugee Status (Law No. 10/15 of 2015 – Republic of Angola, 17 June 2015),²⁸ GoA commits to protecting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, aligning with WFP's efforts to support food security and nutrition for these vulnerable groups. Male FGD participants particularly highlighted the vital role of WFP's interventions in supporting these national policies and complementing humanitarian efforts.

"The WFP's efforts are in sync with our government's guidance; this is the basis of our collaboration. In sectors like Agriculture and Health, the active involvement of the respective ministries is evident."- KII10MAL

Coherence with Humanitarian Principles

112. Humanity: WFP's adherence to the foundational principle of humanity manifests in its efforts to prevent and alleviate human suffering, ensuring that vulnerable populations such as children, PBW, and refugees receive essential nutritional support. WFP's programmes directly contribute to fulfilling this right by enhancing the health and nutrition of affected populations, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources to sustain life.

²⁶ Republic of Angola, Law n° 25/12 - Lei sobre a Protecção e Desenvolvimento Integral da Criança (Law 25/12 - Law on the Protection and Comprehensive Development of the Child). Available at: <https://extranet.who.int/mindbank/item/3455>

²⁷ Republic of Angola. 2023. General Labor Law of Angola, Law No. 12/23. Enacted 27 December 2023."Available at: <http://www.parliament.am/library/ashxatanqayinorensqreger/ANGOLA.pdf>

²⁸ Republic of Angola: Law No. 10 of 2015, Law on the Right of Asylum and the Refugee Status. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2015/en/122780>

113. Neutrality and impartiality: WFP maintains neutrality and impartiality, ensuring that assistance is provided without discrimination. By distributing assistance based on need alone and avoiding any form of discrimination based on political, racial, religious, or ideological identities, WFP upholds these principles, fostering an environment of trust and respect among the populations it serves.

114. Independence: WFP's independence ensures its operations are designed and implemented based on objective assessments of needs and not influenced by the political agendas of donors or local authorities. This principle is enshrined in the Humanitarian Charter, emphasizing the autonomy of humanitarian organizations in governance and operational decisions, ensuring that the primary motive is always the welfare of the affected populations, as corroborated by a female FGD participant:

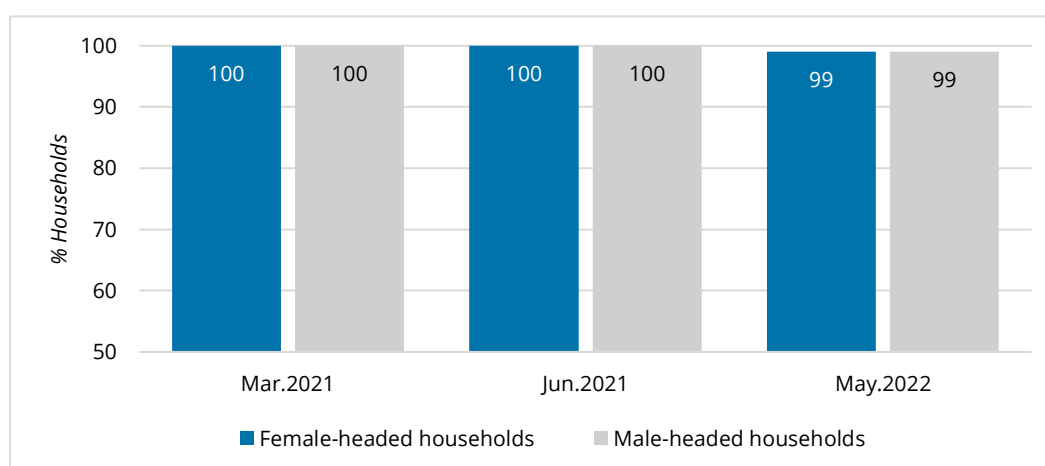
"Our rights and our status as refugees are respected" – FGD02FEM Dundo

115. WFP's adherence to humanitarian principles in Angola is evidenced by the satisfaction with food distribution conditions and utilization of complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM). According to WFP data,²⁹ households' perception of the conditions at food distribution points provides insight into adherence to humanitarian principles. The consistently high levels of satisfaction, with 100 percent of both groups finding the conditions satisfactory in October 2020, March 2021, and June 2021, followed by a slight decrease to 99 percent in May 2022, suggest that humanitarian standards are being upheld. Issues reported typically included concerns about the quality and quantity of food, delays in distribution, and the overall management of food assistance programmes. WFP's response to the issues raised through the CFM involved consistent monitoring, adaptive strategies, capacity building, community engagement, and flexible financial management.

"We often manage to navigate these constraints by utilizing what we call 'non-grant relevant funds.' This approach allows us a degree of flexibility in managing resources across different projects especially when they fall under the same activity category." KII11FEM

116. This indicates that efforts are being made to ensure that distribution points meet basic standards of safety, dignity, and accessibility, as reflected also in the quantitative data in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Households that believe the conditions at food distribution points are satisfactory

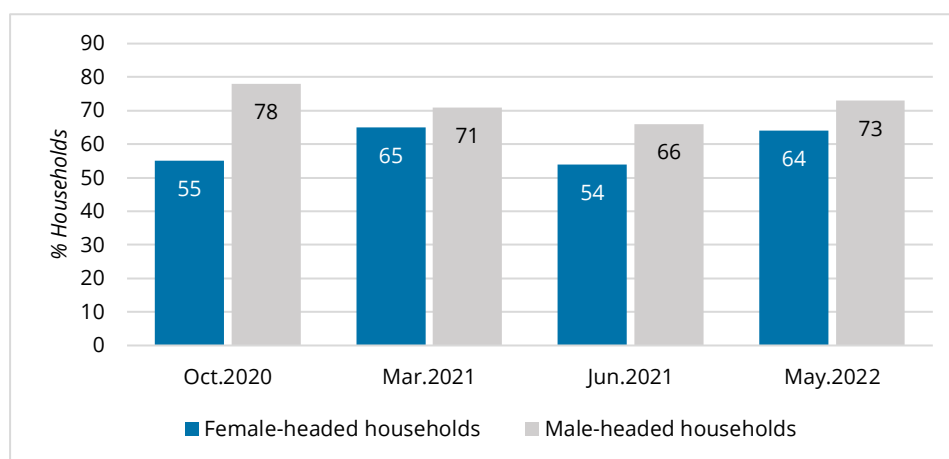


Source: WFP, PDM Reports 2020 – 2022

²⁹WFP, PDM Reports 2020 – 2022

117. **Coherence Finding 2:** The engagement of households with complaints and feedback mechanisms reflects the degree to which humanitarian principles such as accountability, transparency, and participation are upheld. The general decrease in households no longer using these mechanisms in March 2021, followed by a slight increase in June 2021, may indicate fluctuations in engagement levels. However, the notable decline in engagement by May 2022, with only 64 percent of households headed by women and 73 percent by men no longer using these mechanisms, suggests a potential decrease in the utilization of these systems (see Figure 14).

Figure 14: Households no longer using the complaints and feedback mechanisms



Source: WFP, PDM Reports 2020 – 2022

118. This could raise concerns regarding accessibility, effectiveness, or awareness of these mechanisms, which are essential for ensuring accountability and responsiveness to beneficiaries' needs. Overall, satisfaction with food distribution conditions remains consistently high, indicating adherence to certain humanitarian principles related to service delivery. The decline in engagement with complaints and feedback mechanisms raises questions about the ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and beneficiary participation.

Evaluation sub-question 2.2: What synergies have been observed between the various TA interventions being evaluated in the areas of food security, nutrition, and refugee support?

119. **Coherence Finding 3:** Synergies have been observed between TA interventions in food security, nutrition, and refugee support. These synergies are evidenced by regular, effective collaboration with donors, UN agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and GoA bodies, resulting in enhanced coordination under the One UN framework. Joint initiatives like the National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security and school feeding guidelines, along with the MoU signed with UNICEF in 2021 and the partnership with UNHCR (Joint Livelihood Strategy), have contributed to improved data collection and monitoring. Collectively, these efforts are delivering more impactful and sustainable outcomes for vulnerable populations.

120. Evidence shows that contributions from long-standing donors and agencies, such as UNHCR, UNICEF, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), along with funding from entities like the WB, African Development Bank (ADB), USAID, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the European Union (EU), and various embassies, bolster community development and emergency response efforts, particularly in drought-affected areas and refugee support. Synergies and complementarities mentioned in the datasets indicate that WFP's regular collaborations with UN agencies and GoA entities are crucial components of the humanitarian response in Angola.

121. The sustained support for refugees and drought-affected communities is indicative of the ongoing collaborative commitment. KIIs highlighted the effectiveness of these efforts, particularly noting the UN CERF's role in reinforcing coordination within the One UN framework. The thematic strategy encompasses

areas such as food security, nutrition, health, education, social protection, and agriculture, indicating a well-coordinated approach that not only ensures consistency but also maintains high standards in collaborations essential for tackling the complexities of humanitarian crises. Documentary evidence underscores these synergies across TA efforts in food security, nutrition, and refugee support, highlighting the cooperative interactions between WFP and GoA ministries/agencies, as well as other key stakeholders.³⁰

Enhanced coordination under the One UN framework

122. CERF-facilitated collaboration has strengthened coordination between WFP and other UN agencies under the One UN framework. This involves partnerships with UNICEF and FAO and extends to engaging with the health, agriculture, and education sectors at both central and local government levels, including municipalities.

Joint initiatives and collaborative effort

123. A variety of joint initiatives and collaborative efforts have been undertaken by teams working on food security, nutrition, and refugee support, aiming to address various aspects of these complex challenges, as demonstrated in WFP Annual Reports (2017–2022):

- **TA in the development of the ENSAN II:** Collaborative support for the development of the national strategy on food and nutrition security in cooperation with FAO and UNICEF.
- **School feeding guidelines:** Development of frameworks to guide the provision of food in schools, ensuring alignment with national policies and health objectives.
- **Policy on school feeding and health:** Formulation of policies aimed at ensuring effective delivery of school nutrition and health programmes, integrating nutrition into educational systems.
- **Dialogues on food systems:** Engagement of stakeholders in discussions to improve understanding and enhance the resilience of food systems, promoting sustainable practices.
- **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) assessments:** Collaborative efforts for FSN evaluations and IPC workshops, involving partners such as Food Resilience Through ‘Strengthening Resilience and Food and Nutritional Security in Angola’ (FRESAN) FAO, UNICEF, WVI, SADC/RVAA, and IPC/SADC.
- **Support with data collection equipment:** Provision of tablets to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data collection efforts, facilitating evidence-based decision-making and monitoring.

124. Within the TA component, joint initiatives included:

- **Nutrition Unit and Refugee Program:** WFP’s Nutrition Unit supported refugee programs by integrating nutritional screening and treatment in camps. Community health agents trained under MAM response worked in these camps, ensuring efficient malnutrition treatment.
- **Sharing of resources:** RUSF and other nutritional supplies procured for malnutrition programs were also distributed in refugee camps, ensuring consistent support across populations (WFP-2021 Annual Report, p. 1).
- **Educational and nutritional support:** School feeding programs in refugee camps were aligned with WFP’s broader initiatives, promoting school attendance and integration of refugee children into the education system (WFP-2019 Annual Report, p. 9).
- **Collaborations on local procurement:** Joint initiatives with other organizations and local entities to secure locally sourced food for school feeding programs in refugee camps supported local agriculture and ensured fresh, locally produced food for refugees.

³⁰ WFP Angola Annual Country Reports, 2017, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

- **Capacity building:** Training for officials on vulnerability assessment and early warning included modules on refugee needs, ensuring they were not overlooked in emergency planning.
- **Inclusivity in data collection and feedback mechanisms:** Vulnerability assessments and early warning systems included refugee populations, ensuring their specific needs were considered in broader strategies (WFP-2021 Annual Report, p. 2). Moreover, refugees were involved in feedback mechanisms through Food Management Committees, ensuring their concerns were addressed and fostering inclusion (WFP-2020 Annual Report, p. 11).
- **Protection and GEWE integration:** Efforts to promote gender equality and protect vulnerable populations were integrated across all interventions, including those targeting refugees. Moreover, training on gender sensitivity and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was provided to staff and refugees.

125. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, these collaborations enhance the impact and sustainability of interventions, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes for vulnerable populations. Additionally, WFP's interventions align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) by promoting economic transformation, social development, environmental resilience, and governance through programmes such as school feeding, food security, and nutrition interventions. These initiatives enhance health and educational outcomes, build resilience to food insecurity, and support GoA capacity building. WFP's contributions to the UNSDCF results framework include strengthening GoA institutions through capacity-building initiatives and enhancing social protection by reducing vulnerability to shocks through emergency food assistance. WFP's comparative advantages lie in its expertise in emergency food assistance, technical support in food security, and capacity building, bolstered by its strong logistical capabilities, extensive experience in managing large-scale food distribution, long-term presence in Angola, and strengthened relationships with GoA and local partners.

Challenges to Coherence

126. Although WFP's interventions were generally aligned with GoA's policies aimed at reducing hunger and improving nutritional outcomes, there were challenges related to fully integrating WFP's actions with national systems, which sometimes resulted in duplicated efforts or inefficiencies. Despite WFP fostering effective synergies among various TA efforts, there were challenges in coordinating these efforts smoothly between different stakeholders, including GoA bodies, international NGOs, and other UN agencies, which occasionally led to overlaps in initiatives or gaps in areas that required more focused attention.

EFFECTIVENESS

127. This section evaluates the effectiveness of WFP's interventions in achieving the desired outcomes and objectives. It also considers the factors that influenced the success or limitations of the programmes, providing insights into what worked well and what could be improved.

2.2. Evaluation Question 3

TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE WFP IN ANGOLA EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING THEIR INTENDED OUTCOMES AND ADDRESSING THE FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES?

Key Findings on Effectiveness

WFP's interventions in Angola have shown effectiveness in achieving targeted outputs and strategic results. Improvements in GoA capacity, reductions in malnutrition rates, enhanced policy frameworks, and strengthened data analysis capabilities all point to the positive impact of WFP's work. However, the effectiveness of these interventions also hinged on overcoming both internal and external

challenges, including logistical constraints, capacity limitations, and the need for greater community engagement.

Contribution to SDG2 and SDG17

- **Improvement in nutritional status and food security:** The interventions contributed positively towards the achievement of SDG2 (Zero Hunger) by treating AMN of children under five, with cure rates of 80 percent in Cunene and 89 percent in Huila.³¹ Furthermore, food security improvements are evident in the positive trend of acceptable FCS among refugee households, which increased from 56 percent in 2019 to 76 percent in 2022. These outcomes reflect improved food security and access to essential services for vulnerable populations.
- **Partnerships and collaborations:** The establishment of numerous partnerships and collaborations with GoA entities and other stakeholders indicates progress towards SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). These partnerships facilitated the planning and implementation of interventions, enhancing their effectiveness and sustainability.

Achievement of Targeted Outputs, Outcomes, and Strategic Results

Refugee Support

- **Outcomes and effectiveness:** The refugee support programme has successfully increased food security and access to essential services, as evidenced by more refugee households reporting improved food consumption. This marks progress in the programme's effectiveness. However, some households still experience inadequate food consumption, pointing to areas needing attention. The programme's impact is subject to external factors like logistical challenges and changing refugee demographics, highlighting the need for flexible strategies to address shifting requirements.

CMAM

- **Outcomes and effectiveness:** The CMAM programme has been effective in curbing AMN in children, surpassing its treatment goals, with the treatment success rate being 84 percent in Luanda (with some cases of abandonment, transfer, or death) and some regions reporting a 100 percent cure rate for MAM cases in Cunene and exceeding screening targets by 97 percent. These results underline the programme's success in improving child health outcomes.

School Feeding

- **Outcomes and effectiveness:** The school feeding programme adopted a holistic strategy to improve nutrition and education, effectively using local products for school meal plans and forming intersectoral municipal committees to bolster nutrition-related outcomes.
- **GoA capacity and policy frameworks:** Strides have been taken in enhancing GoA capacity and policy infrastructure through the development of PNASE of 2020, reflecting the programme's dual success in delivering immediate nutritional assistance and establishing a lasting, holistic school feeding system.

VAM

- **Outcomes and effectiveness:** The VAM programme's effectiveness is highlighted by its contribution to improving the quality and accessibility of food security and nutrition services. Through training GoA staff and improving data collection and analysis, the programme enhanced decision-making and policy development related to food security.

³¹ Source for cure rates: WVI CMAM Reports and CERF Project Report 21-RR-WFP-024

- **Strengthening policies and strategies:** The TA provided through VAM supported the development policies and strategies, indicating progress in institutional capacity and the effectiveness of policy frameworks. This strategic support ensures an integrated approach to addressing food security and nutrition challenges.

Main factors influencing achievement and non-achievement.

- **External challenges:** External factors, including climatic challenges, political instability, economic volatility, and logistical constraints, impacted the effectiveness of WFP's interventions. These factors underscore the need for adaptable and resilient programme planning and implementation strategies.
- **Internal challenges:** Internal factors such as budgetary constraints, limited operational capacity, and coordination issues within partners also influenced the achievement of objectives. However, positive internal factors like the adaptability and flexibility of the WFP team, efficient financial resource management, and emphasis on transparency and accountability contributed to overcoming some of these challenges.

Evaluation sub-question 3.1 To what extent is WFP's provision of TA to GoA contributing to the achievement of SDG2 and SDG 17?

128. **Effectiveness Finding 1:** WFP's provision of TA to GoA contributes to the achievement of SDG 2 in Angola by improving key food security indicators, such as the Food Consumption Score and consumption-based Coping Strategy Index, although challenges in food insecurity and undernourishment persist. Additionally, WFP's TA has substantially contributed to SDG 17 in Angola by fostering strong partnerships, enhancing GoA capacity, and supporting national development initiatives, leading to improved coordination and more effective interventions in food security and nutrition.

SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

129. This section evaluates the extent to which WFP's provision of TA to GoA is contributing to the achievement of SDG2, using key indicators such as the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the reduced consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), and hunger eradication.

130. WFP's TA to GoA has contributed to improvements in key food security indicators such as the FCS and CSI during the intervention period. These improvements indicate progress towards achieving SDG2 by enhancing food security and reducing reliance on coping strategies. In recent years, Angola has made remarkable strides in food security and nutrition, reducing hunger significantly across the population. Notably, Angola was among the countries that, by 2015, achieved the Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1) target of cutting hunger by more than half, with the prevalence of hunger falling from 67.5 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2015. This decrease not only brought Angola closer to the African average but also placed it below the sub-Saharan regional average, underscoring substantial national progress³². However, this progress has stalled in the past five years, with hunger levels remaining above 19 percent. Currently, 5.7 million Angolans still face the challenges of undernourishment, reflecting a concerning trend that aligns with recent global increases in hunger. To meet the 2030 Agenda goals, a renewed and intensified commitment is essential to support these 5.7 million individuals and work toward full hunger eradication in Angola.

131. WFP's contribution to achieving SDG2 was often highlighted by key informants:

³² FAO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020

"The WFP's technical assistance, especially through CMAM and other nutrition programmes, has reduced the cases of acute malnutrition and improved the nutritional status of affected populations." **KII08FEM'**
"WFP's efforts, particularly in providing consistent food distribution, contributed to achieving SDG2 by addressing hunger and malnutrition among refugees. Additionally, the partnerships formed under these programmes supported SDG17 by enhancing cooperation between international and local stakeholders."
KII10FEM

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

132. SDG 17 focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. WFP supported GoA in implementing school feeding programmes aimed at improving educational outcomes and nutrition for school-aged children. These programmes also promoted local agriculture by sourcing food locally, thus contributing to the local economy and food security. Moreover, WFP provided technical support to improve nutritional outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children under five, PBW, and people living with HIV/AIDS. This included the provision of fortified foods and nutrition-sensitive messaging to promote healthier eating practices.

133. WFP's TA included conducting VAM to identify the most food-insecure regions and populations, a data-driven approach that enabled GoA and other partners to target interventions more effectively and develop livelihood opportunities that promoted self-reliance and reduced dependence on food assistance. The support to refugees from the DRC in Lunda Norte is indicative of these approaches, as they not only addressed immediate needs in a data-driven manner but also built the resilience of affected communities, enabling them to cope better with future shocks, including climate-related ones.

134. Regarding progress and achievements in key areas, WFP supported the Ministry of Health in enhancing its capacity to manage nutrition programmes through the development of guidelines and training materials for health workers. WFP also played a crucial role in fostering crucial partnerships between GoA, UN agencies, and NGOs, ensuring a unified approach to addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. The establishment of the Food Security and Livelihood Working Group (FSWG), led by WFP, facilitated regular communication and collaboration among stakeholders, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of interventions. Despite the progress made towards the achievement of SDG 17, the persistent challenges in food security and nutrition call for ongoing support and collaboration to ensure sustainable development and realization of SDG 17.

Evaluation sub-question 3.2 To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results of refugee and TA to GoA, CMAM, and school feeding programmes been achieved?

Achievement of key outcome/output indicators for refugees and crisis-affected populations

135. **Effectiveness Finding 2:** WFP's interventions have led to notable improvements in food security, as evidenced by the increased percentage of households with an acceptable FCS and the reduction in the rCSI, indicating that refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Angola were increasingly able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during the assistance period. Additionally, the CMAM programme's success in screening and treating AMN, coupled with the effective implementation of school feeding programmes, highlights the achievement of targeted outputs and outcomes, contributing to the reduction of malnutrition and improving the overall food security and nutrition status of vulnerable populations in Angola.

136. The FCS improved from the overall 2017 (baseline) values of poor (28.7 percent), borderline (33.1 percent), and acceptable (38.2 percent) to overall 2022 values of poor (3 percent), borderline (21 percent), and acceptable (75 percent) (see Figure 15). By improving the FCS among vulnerable populations and

enhancing GoA capacities, WFP has directly supported efforts to end hunger and improve nutrition. The consistent increase of households with an acceptable FCS over the years signifies the effectiveness of WFP's interventions and highlights the importance of continued support and collaboration to sustain these gains and further advance towards fully achieving SDG 2.

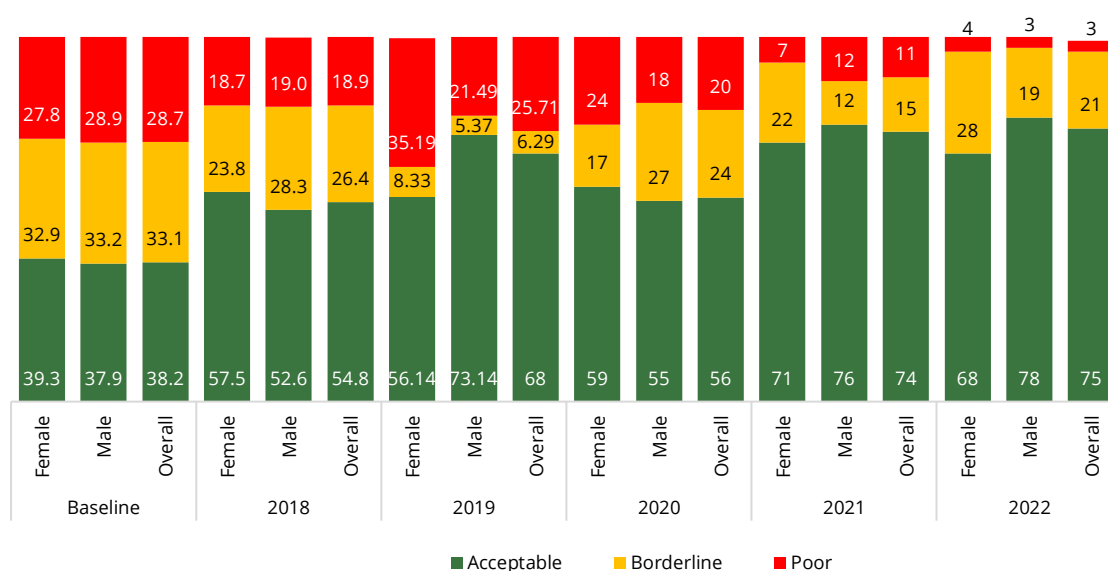
137. Both genders show an overall increase in "Acceptable" FCS, with households headed by men reporting slightly higher percentages compared to households headed by women throughout the years, with the biggest gap in 2019 (17 percentage points higher for households headed by men). By 2022, both genders achieved high levels of acceptable scores (78 percent for men and 68 percent for women). Accordingly, the highest score for households headed by men is observed in 2022 at 78 percent and for households headed by women in 2021 at 76 percent.

138. There has been fluctuation over the years in the "borderline" category. The trend for households headed by men generally decreases, starting from 33.2 percent at baseline and dropping to 19 percent in 2022. For households headed by women, "borderline" scores peaked in 2022 at 28 percent, indicating that in the most recent year, a larger percentage of households headed by women compared to those headed by men have less stable access to diverse and adequate food sources.

139. The "poor" category shows a noticeable decrease for both genders over the years, indicating an improvement in food security among the refugee population. Notably, in 2019, households headed by women had a disproportionately higher "poor" score of 35.19 percent compared to households headed by men at 21.49 percent. This gap narrowed by 2022, with both genders recording a "poor" score of 3 percent.

140. In every year from the baseline through 2022, the data indicates gender disparities in each category. Households headed by men tend to have higher "acceptable" scores than those headed by women, especially notable in 2019 and 2022. Conversely, households headed by women generally have higher "borderline" and "poor" scores, particularly in 2022 for "borderline" and 2019 for "poor," suggesting issues related to food access and nutritional quality that affect households headed by women more than households headed by men. The decreasing trend in "poor" scores for both genders is positive, reflecting successful nutritional support interventions and/or improved conditions overall that allow for more stable access to food resources for vulnerable populations.

Figure 15: Refugees: Food Consumption Score (Percentage of households)



Source: WFP, Angola ACR [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

141. WFP's TA, particularly in logistics and supply chain management, has been crucial in overcoming challenges like COVID-19-related disruptions and customs delays that led to reduced FCS due to restrictions on movement and economic activities that hindered access to markets and disrupted the supply chains, affecting the availability and regularity of food distributions. By ensuring that food distributions are

consistent and timely, WFP has directly impacted the availability and stability of food supplies to be distributed in Angola, thereby improving the FCS and overall food security of its beneficiaries, including refugees. In addition to COVID-19, logistical delays, and economic conditions such as high food inflation and economic instability, particularly in 2019, affected the purchasing power of households. Economic constraints forced households to sometimes resort to negative coping strategies, such as reducing meal sizes or selling food assistance, which in turn impacted FCS. The combination of these factors has periodically affected food security, as reflected in the fluctuating FCS above.

142. Key informants have noted that delays in fund disbursement, bureaucratic hurdles, and downsizing affected resource allocation. As the following quote points out, adaptability was required to manage funds effectively under challenging circumstances:

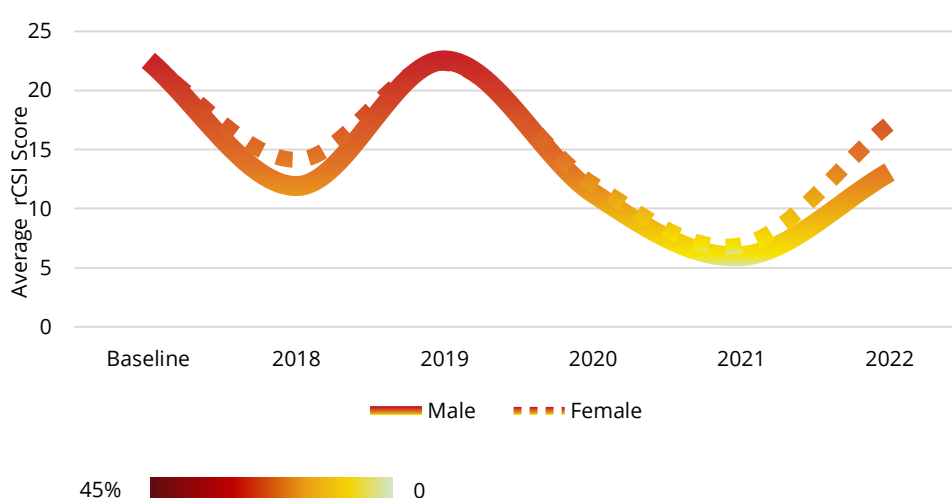
"With many partners and donors, delayed disbursements by the Angolan Government and non-adherence to agreements necessitated more flexible financial and budget management to maintain execution within established rules." - **KII16FEM**

143. The qualitative data from FGDs corroborates the quantitative improvements observed in FCS over the years, with findings reflecting a tangible enhancement in the living conditions and food security of the community members involved:

"Today the situation has improved a lot, we have food and we are not hungry" – **FGD01MAL Dundo**
"Our lives have improved; we previously suffered from severe hunger, but now our nutrition is much better." – **FGD01MAL Dundo**
"During this period, in municipalities with the CMAM project, there was a notable reduction in severe malnutrition cases, indicating effective control and management of moderate cases." – **KII22MAL**

the consumption-based reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures household stress from food shortages, using coping strategies over a 7-day recall period. Strategies include using cheaper food, borrowing food, limiting portions, restricting adult meals for children, and reducing meals.³³ Higher scores indicate more severe coping tactics. WFP Angola's ACRs from 2019 – 2022 show a decrease in rCSI scores from the baseline to 2018, suggesting improved coping methods (see Figure 16). Yet, ongoing rCSI score fluctuations highlight ongoing challenges and the need for continuous monitoring and support to sustain food security progress.

Figure 16: Average Consumption-based rCSI over time



Source: WFP, Angola Annual Country Reports [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

³³ World Food Programme. 2022. WFP Indicator Compendium (2022-2025), p. 36.

144. The analysis also focused on gender differences within each year. On average, households headed by women reported higher rCSI scores than households headed by men, with average scores of 16.7 percent for households headed by women and 15.6 for households headed by men, indicating that women tend to adopt more negative coping strategies compared to men, possibly due to varying socio-economic pressures and responsibilities. The higher rCSI scores among women suggest that households headed by women may be more vulnerable and rely more on reduced coping strategies to manage food shortages.

145. When analysing comparatively, the FCS and rCSI indicators provide valuable insights into the overall food security and coping strategies of households in Angola regarding the improvement in food security and vulnerability of households headed by women. Households are not only consuming a more diverse and acceptable diet but are also relying less on severe coping strategies. Additionally, both indicators show that households headed by women are more vulnerable. Women have higher rCSI scores and higher scores in the borderline and poor FCS categories, suggesting they face greater food security challenges. This highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the specific needs of women.

146. Overall, the initial downward trend in rCSI scores, coupled with the improvement in FCS, indicated that the interventions by WFP were contributing positively to the food security of targeted populations. However, in 2022, rCSI scores returned to levels close to the baseline. This reversal highlights the challenge of maintaining long-term improvements in food security without sustained support. It emphasizes the critical need for sustained support and monitoring to ensure that the gains achieved during the intervention are not lost.

147. Reviewing CMAM efforts in Cunene, Huila, and Luanda from the WFP Angola ACRs 2017-2022, the programme's success in lowering AMN is clear. In Cunene, it screened 9 percent above targets, treated 80 percent of MAM-affected children, and had a 100 percent cure rate. Huila overcame a screening deficit to cure 89 percent of MAM cases. Luanda exceeded screening by 97 percent, with an 84 percent treatment success and a 100 percent cure rate. These results indicate that CMAM interventions reduce malnutrition in these areas.

148. The programme's effectiveness is evident across provinces, with 1,084,306 beneficiaries screened, exceeding the goal by 6 percent. The cure rates for female and male targets highlight the efficacy of the CMAM interventions. The treatment success and cure rates reflect a notable decrease in AMN among the target groups. In Cunene, Huila, and Luanda provinces, CMAM interventions have proven effective in screening, treating, and curing cases of AMN, contributing positively to the well-being of the targeted populations. The high success rates of treating MAM cases indicate the programme's effectiveness in reducing the prevalence of AMN in these regions.

149. Improvements in the cure rates for women across the different municipalities were noted. In Cunene, the cure rate for women reached 80 percent by April 2022. In Huila, the cure rate increased to 89 percent by April 2022. Luanda also saw an improvement, with the cure rate for women reaching 84 percent by November 2021. The data for men is not fully provided, but the overall trends suggest improvements in cure rates. These results highlight the effectiveness of the CMAM programme interventions, despite some challenges in data completeness for males.

150. The ACRs highlight a consistent gap between the planned and actual implementation of CBT programs over the five years. The data in the table underscores a substantial difference in the effectiveness of these programs, with 2022 seeing the largest planned amount of US\$ 7,402,101 but only US\$ 1,087,914 being transferred. This shortfall of US\$ 6,314,187 points to challenges in the effectiveness of program execution. These gaps in implementation suggest that logistical issues, political factors, financial constraints, or programmatic difficulties hindered the timely and efficient disbursement of funds, thereby reducing the overall effectiveness of the CBT interventions during this period. However, this shortfall does not alter the overall effectiveness of WFP's technical assistance in Angola during the period under review, as other aspects of WFP's support, such as capacity building, food distribution, and infrastructure improvements, continued to positively target vulnerable populations.

Achievement of key outcome/output indicators for strengthening national institutions

151. WFP implemented various initiatives aimed at strengthening national capacities to improve food security and nutrition. These efforts were part of a strategic plan aligned with Angola's national development goals and the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, to achieve food security and improved nutrition and

promote sustainable agriculture. This chapter evaluates the effectiveness of these initiatives, focusing on the strategic outcomes and leveraging WFP's ACRs from 2018 – 2022.

152. **Effectiveness Finding 3:** The interventions have contributed to strengthening Angola's national institutions, enabling the better implementation of food security and nutrition programmes. Training and TA led to improved knowledge, skills, and effective policy integration, particularly in school feeding programmes. Despite some financial and logistical challenges, enhanced supply chain management and robust policy frameworks ensured sustainable progress towards improved food security and nutrition.

153. Throughout the project's implementation, WFP has made substantial progress in enhancing the capacity of national institutions through targeted training and TA. For instance, training sessions were held in provinces like Cunene and Namibe, focusing on food security management and nutritional standards, enhancing their capability to effectively manage food assistance programmes. In 2021, 84 GoA staff members participated in training sessions focused on establishing and strengthening provincial food security working groups, a key component of this capacity-building effort. Through the recruitment and training of community health workers, the programme aimed to recruit and train 500 community health workers, meeting the target precisely. 478 were successfully trained, achieving 96 percent of the planned goal. The target for training health officials, originally planned to train 80 officials, was revised down to 60. Of these, 51 were trained, achieving 85 percent of the adjusted target. Examples of the success of training programmes were brought up by interview respondents who highlighted the importance of enhancing local staff's capacity to operate independently.

“WFP's programmes built substantial capacity among local health workers and community agents, enhancing their ability to manage nutritional interventions independently. Training and resources provided by WFP have equipped local institutions to continue managing food security issues” –
KII14MAL

154. To assess the effectiveness of conducted training, the Kirkpatrick Model was applied. The Kirkpatrick Model consists of an analysis of the effectiveness of training through four levels: reaction, learning, behaviour and results. The ultimate impact of the training conducted under the project can be observed in the enhanced capacity of the national institutions of Angola to manage food security programmes. As summarized below:

- **Level 1 – Reaction.** At this level, the evaluation focused on the participants' initial reactions to the training. It sought to understand how well the training was received by assessing aspects such as engagement, relevance, and satisfaction. Feedback from training sessions indicated that participants generally found the workshops engaging and relevant, particularly those focused on nutritional standards and local food procurement practices. The use of local examples and the incorporation of interactive elements were frequently cited as highlights that enhanced the learning experience. The establishment of 8 intersectoral municipal committees (Namibe - Moçamedes e Tômbwa, Cuando Cubango - Cuchi e Cuito Cuanavale, Huila - Quilengues e Chipindo, Cunene - Ombadja e Cuanhama) also points to a strong commitment and favourable reaction to improving food security through capacity building, but also, a shortfall in achieving the planned one workshops, with only a fraction of the intended 72 sessions being conducted in 2021.
- **Level 2 – Learning.** This level measured the extent to which participants have gained knowledge or skills as a result of the training. It evaluated the effectiveness of the training content and its delivery. Post-training assessments revealed improvements in knowledge, particularly in areas such as policy development, food distribution logistics, and nutritional good practices. For example, GoA staff in Cunene and Namibe showed marked improvement in their understanding of food security frameworks and were better equipped to apply this knowledge practically. In the CMAM program, there was a decrease in the number of mothers and caregivers who benefited from sensitization, dropping from 173,728 in 2021 to 10,444 in 2022. Additionally, health staff training saw a reduction from 244 trained individuals in 2021 to just 51 in 2022.

- **Level 3 – Behaviour.** Level three assessed whether the training led to changes in behaviour, specifically looking at how participants applied the learned skills and knowledge in their workplaces. Reports indicated that trained GoA officials began implementing more effective food security measures and engaging more proactively with local communities. There was also noted improvement in the management of school feeding programmes, where local officials used new skills to optimize food supply chains and integrate nutritional education into the school curriculum. The initiative showed a positive trend in 2022, with a total of nine joint training sessions or workshops organized, surpassing the planned number of five. This successful execution suggests effective changes in behaviour, reflecting an enhanced capacity for vulnerability analysis and mapping. This improvement in actual practice and application of learned skills indicates that the training likely led to actual changes in how food security challenges are addressed, demonstrating an effective translation of training into action.
- **Level 4 – Results.** The final level of the Kirkpatrick Model assessed the tangible results of the training on broader organizational goals, in this case, the strategic outcomes related to food security and nutrition improvements. The ultimate impact of the training programmes can be observed in the enhanced capacity of national institutions to manage food security programs. Notably, the integration of the school feeding programme into national policy frameworks and the enhanced ability of local institutions to independently manage these programmes underscore the success at this level.

155. The positive findings across all four levels indicate that the training not only improved individual knowledge and skills but also led to organizational and strategic enhancements. To further strengthen the capacity of the national institutions to implement programmes to improve food security and nutrition, WFP has successfully incorporated nutrition education within schools. This included the development of nutritionally balanced school menus that incorporated local dietary preferences and nutritional needs. Moreover, local food procurement practices were also integrated, which not only supported local agriculture but also ensured the freshness and cultural appropriateness of the food provided, thereby boosting local economies. Finally, a community participation element was incorporated into the school feeding programme. This was done through the promotion of active community participation by involving parents, local leaders, and other stakeholders in the planning and implementation of school feeding activities.

156. The school feeding activity aimed to strengthen the integration of nutritional programmes within schools to improve educational outcomes through better nutrition. The programme results highlight the progress achieved, particularly in education. Although the program was only implemented during the second half of 2022 (for about two and a half months) and reached just 10 percent of the target, a positive impact was observed in infrastructure improvements, such as the installation of kitchens and water systems, including boreholes in Humpata municipality were essential in enabling the program's execution, despite the limited results achieved within the short implementation period.³⁴

157. On the contrary, financial limitations frequently impacted the scope and sustainability of the school feeding initiatives. For example, in 2022, despite planning to assist a larger number of schools, the actual reach was constrained by available resources.³⁵ Moreover, many schools lacked proper facilities for meal preparation and storage, which posed challenges. This was addressed partially through the creation of temporary solutions like take-home rations during the pandemic and other infrastructural developments. Documentary evidence (ACRs) highlighted that the distribution of school meals was not always equitable, with some regions receiving less frequent support due to logistical challenges and limited reach of the programmes, including delays in food delivery and high transportation costs, particularly in remote areas, affecting the timely and effective implementation of the school feeding programmes.

158. Technical assistance initiatives aimed to strengthen national institutions and were strongly aligned with government priorities, particularly in enhancing the skills and expertise of personnel involved in

³⁴ WFP Angola Annual Country Reports, [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

³⁵ *ibid*

various interventions. The training of technicians in Luanda, Cunene, and Huila to manage MAM in communities, along with capacity-building in VAM and FSN, was specifically targeted at addressing localized food security issues. A notable achievement was the training of 353 individuals, surpassing the initial target of 100. This outcome indicates a high level of engagement and proactive involvement from government officials and communities. However, it also highlights potential gaps in the initial planning process, particularly in estimating engagement levels and allocating resources.

159. WFP's efforts have supported the development of robust policy frameworks that assist in the systematic implementation and expansion of food security programmes. This includes technical support for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. One of the key policy advancements facilitated by WFP is the contribution to the National School Feeding and Health Policy,³⁶ which aims to institutionalize school feeding programmes across the country, ensuring every child has access to nutritious meals. The policy adopts a holistic approach to child development by focusing on providing meals and integrating health and nutritional education. WFP provided TA and capacity-building support to GoA officials, assisting in drafting, refining, and implementing this policy. This has enhanced GoA's understanding and management of nutrition programmes, aligning them with broader health and education objectives. The formulation of ENSAN II marked a milestone, developed through extensive national dialogues and public consultations involving over 930 participants across various sectors. This strategy aims to eradicate hunger and ensure adequate nutrition across Angola while promoting sustainable food systems.

160. WFP's support has expanded the scope and impact of school feeding programmes. These programmes have been enhanced to not only include meal provision but also components of nutrition education, parent and community involvement, and local food procurement. The capacity-building efforts have enabled local schools and communities to take a more active role in managing these programmes, which has been crucial for their sustainability and effectiveness.

161. Improvements in supply chain management and logistical support have been critical in enhancing the delivery and distribution of food assistance. WFP provided on-demand supply chain services to GoA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve the efficiency of these systems, which are essential for the timely and effective implementation of nutrition programmes. The ongoing collaboration between WFP, GoA, and other partners continues to be pivotal in advancing these efforts for long-term sustainability and scalability of food security and nutrition strategies and achieving a hunger-free and nutritionally secure Angola.

162. Despite these positive outcomes, certain challenges were identified that suggest areas for improvement. For instance, discrepancies in the planned and actual numbers of beneficiaries in some interventions, like the number of school feeding workshops conducted, highlight potential obstacles in programme implementation or resource allocation. Additionally, feedback from key informants, including GoA officials, pointed out challenges such as mobility issues for WFP technicians, delays in meeting targets due to procedural delays, and difficulties in measuring the true impact of the assistance provided. Moreover, WFP's TA to GoA still grapples with challenges in achieving expected results and meeting GoA's aspirations due to resource constraints and interruptions in programme funding. This impedes the establishment of sustainability conditions, including GoA's ability to autonomously manage nutrition programmes.

163. Overall, while WFP's TA to GoA aligns well with national priorities and effectively addresses the food security needs of the country, ongoing challenges require continued focus. Enhancing coordination, addressing logistical and bureaucratic hurdles, and ensuring the sustainability of interventions are crucial for maintaining and building upon the current successes. The overall feedback attests to the importance of continuous collaboration and capacity building to enhance the effectiveness of TA programmes.

164. Engagement from GoA was observed during meetings, indicating strong involvement at various stages of the policy development process. However, this engagement did not consistently extend to high-level document approval processes, such as the finalization of ENSAN II and PNASE and the 2021 vulnerability assessment report.

³⁶ Government of Angola. 2018. Angola National Development Plan (NDP, 2018-2022). Available at: <https://www.ucm.minfin.gov.ao/cs/groups/public/documents/document/zmlu/njax/~edisp/minfin601408.pdf>

Evaluation sub-question 3.3: What were the main factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement and non-achievement of WFP's interventions and TA objectives, and what challenges were faced?

165. **Effectiveness Finding 4:** The main factors influencing the achievement and non-achievement of WFP's interventions in Angola included a mix of external and internal challenges. External factors like adverse weather conditions, political instability, security concerns, economic volatility, and financial constraints impacted the implementation and effectiveness of WFP's programmes. Internally, while strengths like a well-trained technical team, adaptability, and efficient resource management supported success, challenges such as budget constraints, limited operational capacity, and coordination issues with partners hindered the overall effectiveness of the interventions.

External factors (e.g., natural disasters, political instability) that influenced the implementation and outcomes of WFP's interventions.

166. External factors play a crucial role in shaping the context within which WFP operates, impacting the implementation and outcomes of the programmes. The following analysis, based on the WFP Angola ACRs 2017- 2022 and KIIs, provides insights into these factors:

167. Climate-related challenges: Weather conditions, including the severity of drought and climatic adversities, were identified as challenges. These conditions affected the timely delivery and distribution of food assistance, compounded by transportation issues, and posed logistical challenges that potentially impacted the overall success of interventions.

168. GoA policies and stability: GoA policies related to customs regulations, immigration laws, and the overall political stability of the region where WFP operates emerged as external factors. These factors influenced the regulatory environment in which WFP operated, affecting the ease of access, distribution, and the overall success of interventions.

169. Security concerns: The political instability in Angola, mentioned as a challenge, likely affected the safe implementation of interventions and restricted access to certain areas, affecting the reach and effectiveness of WFP's programmes.

170. Refugee and internal displacement dynamics: The issue of forced migrations, involving both refugees and internally displaced populations, was highlighted. Complex social dynamics and population displacements posed challenges to the distribution and access to food assistance, impacting the overall success of interventions.

171. Economic volatility: Economic volatility, including fluctuations in food prices and changes in macroeconomic conditions, were identified. These economic challenges likely affected the purchasing power of vulnerable populations, influencing food access and nutritional outcomes.

172. Financial challenges: Delays in receiving funding and inconsistent financial commitments from GoA as a donor were identified as external challenges. Financial constraints impacted the timely implementation of programmes, potentially affecting the overall success and sustainability of WFP's interventions.

Internal factors (e.g., capacity gaps, coordination issues) that affected the achievement of objectives.

173. Internal factors identified through interviews have played a role in influencing the outcomes of WFP's interventions in Angola. Understanding these internal dynamics is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of the programmes. The range of internal factors identified was based on the WFP Angola 2017 ACR, which cumulatively affected the achievement of objectives presented below:

- The presence of a well-trained and motivated technical team emerged as a positive internal factor contributing to the success of WFP's interventions. This indicates that the team's expertise and dedication positively influenced the programme implementation and outcomes. However, the mobility of technicians and the prevalence of precarious contracts have impacted the quality and continuity of WFP's TA to GoA.

- The financial capacity of WFP directly influenced its ability to implement programmes effectively. Budgetary limitations may have affected the scale and scope of interventions, potentially impacting the achievement of objectives.

174. The operational capacity of WFP in terms of logistics and distribution, which is crucial for the success of interventions, came up as one of the main factors that posed challenges to delivering assistance effectively. These are reflected in the following quote, which also highlights the importance of flexibility and strong partnerships in overcoming challenges:

"Price fluctuations are a regular occurrence, making budgeting and planning difficult. For example, an unexpected 100% increase in fuel prices overnight drastically affects our transportation costs." KII13FEM

175. Internal coordination and communication were identified as factors affecting programme outcomes. Effective collaboration between internal teams and partners is essential for streamlined implementation. Ineffective coordination may lead to gaps in communication, potentially impacting the execution of planned activities.

- The ability of WFP to adapt and be flexible in response to emerging challenges was highlighted as a positive internal factor. This adaptability ensures that programmes can be adjusted as needed, demonstrating an internal commitment to addressing evolving needs and improving effectiveness.
- The mention of limited institutional capacity in certain areas suggests internal challenges that may have hindered effective programme implementation. Strengthening internal capabilities in these areas is crucial for overcoming obstacles and improving overall effectiveness.
- Efficient management of financial resources emerged as a positive internal factor. The ability to allocate and manage funds efficiently positively influenced programme implementation, ensuring that resources were utilized effectively to achieve objectives.
- The emphasis on transparency and accountability within WFP's internal operations is a positive factor. This commitment to responsible governance enhances the organization's credibility and trust, both internally and externally.
- While effective coordination within the WFP team was crucial, there were indications of coordination challenges with partners such as WVI. These internal coordination issues may have affected the overall efficiency of the interventions.

Challenges to Effectiveness

176. Findings indicate that factors such as economic instability and logistical challenges occasionally hindered the effectiveness of the programmes. This included difficulties in transporting supplies to remote areas, which affected the timely delivery and distribution of aid. Financial constraints were another challenge as they affected the consistency and reach of interventions. Budget limitations impacted the ability to fully implement planned activities or to expand successful initiatives to a broader beneficiary base. These challenges were primarily collected from the narratives of interview participants, including the following:

"Challenges included logistical difficulties, understaffing, and lack of resources which affected the implementation and monitoring processes. The perception of Angola as not being a low-income country also impacted the level of support and engagement." – KII08FEM

EFFICIENCY

177. This section evaluates the efficiency of WFP's interventions in planning/design, implementation, or delivery.

2.3. Evaluation Question 4

TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE WFP IN ANGOLA EFFICIENT IN UTILIZING RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THEIR INTENDED OUTCOMES AND MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY?

Summary Findings on Efficiency

WFP's efforts in Angola were found to have effectively utilized resources, particularly in tackling malnutrition and serving vulnerable groups, despite challenges such as cost variability and resource allocation timeliness. Financial prudence allowed for efficient resource management, though it also raised considerations about fully utilizing available funds. The WFP intervention has excelled in adapting to these challenges, ensuring precise and economical delivery of assistance. Strategic financial management and accurate targeting of beneficiaries have been crucial in maximizing both impact and cost-effectiveness.

Cost per beneficiary

The annual average cost per beneficiary from 2017 to 2022 was US\$ 190.40, with notable fluctuations over the years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in cost in 2022 to US\$ 124.79, even with the inclusion of a number of residents, indicates a move towards more efficient operations, leveraging economies of scale and community-integrated approaches. This suggests an evolving efficiency in programme delivery, adapting to external shocks and expanding beneficiary bases.

Cost-effectiveness in nutrition interventions

The annual cost per cured individual in CMAM interventions, approximately US\$ 27.62, serves as a proxy for the efficiency of the programme's nutrition interventions, as average treatment costings globally range between US\$ 0.44 and US\$ 1,344 per child.³⁷ Despite the absence of baseline prevalence data for AMN, this cost reflects a relatively efficient utilization of resources in treating malnutrition within the operational context. This figure underscores the programme's focused efforts on delivering targeted nutrition interventions efficiently.

Funds allocated to targeting

With 48.7 percent of funds dedicated to targeting beneficiaries and a weighted average effectiveness of 82.3 percent, WFP demonstrates a strategic focus and high efficiency in identifying and reaching the most vulnerable populations. This highlights the programme's precision and adaptability in response to dynamic needs, particularly during global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comparison of different interventions

The cost-effectiveness of various interventions reveals diverse efficiencies:

- Crisis response and root causes: Demonstrates prioritized and effective use of funds for direct programme activities, enhancing service delivery.
- Strategic outcomes: Varied cost per beneficiary figures reflect the diverse nature of interventions, from direct crisis response to capacity building and specialized services, each with its own set of efficiency metrics.

Administrative and operational costs

³⁷ Njuguna RG, Berkley JA and Jemutai J. 2020. Cost and cost-effectiveness analysis of treatment for child undernutrition in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review [version 2; peer review: 2 approved]. Wellcome Open Res 2020, 5:62

The reduction in administrative and operational costs from 7.3 percent to 5.2 percent between the periods 2018-2019 and 2020-2022 indicates an improvement in operational efficiency. This shift suggests a more effective allocation of funds towards programme implementation, enhancing the overall efficiency of the programme.

Targeting efficiency and timeliness of resource allocation

The programme has shown adaptability in targeting, with specific methods for refugee assistance, CMAM, and drought response programmes. However, variability in targeting efficiency and timeliness of resource allocation and disbursement across different years and interventions points to areas for improvement. Streamlining processes and enhancing programme planning could further improve efficiency.

Evaluation sub-question 4.1 What lessons can be learned regarding the value for money and cost-effectiveness of food security interventions, including beneficiary targeting and the provision of TA to GoA?

178. Efficient resource use and financial management: WFP's interventions demonstrated the importance of efficient resource use and strategic financial management. While the interventions consistently delivered planned outputs within budget, underspending raised concerns about financial planning and absorptive capacity. Outcomes from 2018 to 2022 indicate a total budget of US\$ 61,882,488, and actual expenditures amounting to US\$ 51,742,429, resulting in a remaining balance of US\$ 27,981,637. While this underspending might suggest a high level of financial prudence, it also raises concerns regarding the program's absorptive capacity. Such a substantial unspent balance could indicate potential gaps in program delivery or an opportunity to better address unmet needs. Therefore, while the financial management appears effective in terms of adherence to budget constraints, the implications for program efficacy and resource utilization warrant further examination to ensure that financial resources are optimally aligned with programmatic goals.

179. **Cost per beneficiary and contingency planning:** The annual cost per beneficiary fluctuated between 2017 to 2022, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the impact of external factors, such as disruptions in the supply chain and increased food prices, on programme costs. The reduction in annual cost per beneficiary in 2022 to US\$ 124.79, despite an increase in the number of beneficiaries (from 6,698 in 2020 to 72,967 in 2022), indicates improvements in operational efficiency, highlighting the need for contingency planning to account for unexpected events, and to ensure that budgets remain adaptable to shifting needs.

180. Beneficiary targeting strategies: Accurate targeting of the most vulnerable populations is crucial for maximizing the impact of interventions. From 2020 to 2022, nearly half of the funds (48.72 percent) were allocated to precise targeting strategies within the "crisis response" and "root causes" focus areas. This prioritization enhanced both the value for money and cost-effectiveness of WFP's interventions. It also demonstrates the importance of strategic investments in targeting to ensure that resources are used where they are needed most.

Challenges to Efficiency

181. Programme delivery efficiency faced logistical challenges, including disruptions in supply chains and difficulties with transportation and storage of food and non-food items, particularly in remote areas or in situations where unexpected changes in context or beneficiary needs occurred. These issues highlight the need for adaptive strategies that allow for real-time adjustment in logistics and resource allocation when unexpected changes occur.

"The implementation of a food ration voucher or card system has been suggested as a way to improve efficiency and satisfaction of beneficiaries by allowing them to choose food according to their needs."
FGD01MAL Dundo

SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALABILITY

182. This section addresses the sustainability and scalability of WFP's interventions. It explores whether the benefits of the programmes are likely to continue after WFP's support ends and how well the interventions can be scaled up or replicated in other contexts. The analysis considers the capacity building of local institutions, the involvement of community stakeholders, and the integration of WFP's activities into national systems.

2.4. Evaluation Question 5

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE WFP IN ANGOLA SUSTAINABLE AND SCALABLE, ENSURING LONG-TERM IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY BEYOND THE INTERVENTION PERIOD?

Summary Findings on Sustainability and Scalability

WFP's TA and refugee programs in Angola demonstrate potential for long-term sustainability through robust partnerships with international and local organizations and continuous local stakeholder engagement. However, they face challenges such as a decline in food assistance quality, difficulties in post-program support, and a lack of Government of Angola (GoA) approval for key strategies. These issues, along with limited advocacy and financial instability, underscore the need for stronger GoA integration and resource allocation. Ongoing dialogue and efforts to align with national policies are crucial, but delays in policy ratification and insufficient prioritization within the WFP framework pose barriers to sustainable success.

Sustainability of benefits post-intervention

- The sustainability of WFP's TA and refugee programmes in Angola shows potential through strong partnerships, local stakeholder engagement, and GoA collaboration. However, it faces challenges like reduced food assistance quality, post-programme support difficulties, lack of GoA approval for key strategies, limited advocacy, and financial instability. These emphasize the need for improved integration, resource allocation, and robust partnerships.
- WFP's support in Angola has improved the capacity of national and local institutions through effective skill development, promotion of local governance, and community engagement, although challenges like high staff turnover, sporadic funding, and the need for ongoing support remain.

Evaluation sub-question 5.1 – To what extent the benefits of the WFP TA programmes, and refugee programs are sustainable and likely to continue after the interventions of WFP cease?

183. **Sustainability/Scalability Finding 1:** The sustainability of WFP's TA and refugee programmes in Angola faces several challenges but also shows potential for long-term impact. Positive steps include strong partnerships with international and local organizations, ongoing local stakeholder engagement, and collaborative efforts with GoA, all of which contribute to a solid foundation for sustaining benefits. However, challenges persist, such as the reduction in food assistance quality, difficulties in maintaining support post-programme, the lack of GoA approval for key strategies, limited advocacy, and financial instability. These challenges highlight the need for improved GoA integration, financial resource allocation, and robust partnerships to ensure the continuation of benefits even after WFP interventions cease.

Positive steps toward sustainability

184. The sustained assistance from international partners like UNICEF, WVI, FRESAN, and others, especially in drought-affected regions, exemplifies a solid foundation for ongoing support. These

partnerships are critical in maintaining the flow of resources and expertise necessary for the continuation of food security and nutrition interventions. Moreover, engagement and feedback from local stakeholders, including the efforts to maintain subsidies for community agents, shows a commitment to integrating local community needs and perspectives into the programme's framework. This local engagement is crucial for the adaptability and relevance of the interventions, ensuring they are tailored to the specific needs of the communities they serve. Lastly, despite delays and challenges in the approval of key strategies, the ongoing dialogues and collaboration efforts with GoA indicate a move towards better alignment with national policies and frameworks. These collaborative efforts are essential for embedding WFP's interventions into GOA's agenda and securing GoA support and recognition'.

"WFP's support was coordinated with the Angolan government and other organizations, including UNHCR and religious institutions, ensuring a coherent approach aligned with humanitarian principles." - FGD01MAL Dundo

"The Government of Angola advocated with WFP requesting support for refugees, which demonstrates good coordination between government strategies and WFP initiatives to meet food security needs." - FGD01MAL Dundo

Challenges to Sustainability

185. Sustainability issues emerged from the analysis, particularly regarding the notable 20 percent decrease in the quantity and nutritional value of food distributions, impacting the dietary health of beneficiaries. As of early 2022, the ceasing of CMAM activities and struggles with health system capacities exacerbated these issues, compounded by shortages in nutritional supplements noted in regions like Huila and Cunene by January 2024. Additionally, the reductions in malnutrition reporting further highlight gaps in sustained nutritional support despite ongoing assistance from partners such as UNICEF, WVI, FRESAN, and WB. Qualitative feedback from local stakeholders emphasized the difficulty in continuing support for households and children post-programme, particularly in maintaining subsidies for community agents, which are crucial for the continuation of community-based health and nutrition activities.

186. The notable lack of GoA approval for key strategies developed through WFP's TA, such as ENSAN II and PNASE, influenced by a delicate political context and GoA changes, poses one of the biggest barriers to the institutionalization and sustainability of these interventions. In the same vein, the limited high-level advocacy, and the delay in the GoA ratification of key strategies suggest challenges in national ownership and engagement, which are critical for the long-term sustainability of the programmes. Statements from key informants highlight the challenges in local advocacy efforts, affected by both the lack of prioritization for Angola within WFP at the Regional Bureau (RB) and Headquarters (HQ) levels and constraints in financial resource allocation.

"The limited high-level advocacy and the delay in government ratification of key strategies suggest challenges in national ownership and engagement, critical for the long-term sustainability of the programmes." - KII10FEM

"The absence of prioritization for Angola poses challenges locally in advocacy efforts, affecting both technical assistance and the allocation of financial resources." - KII10FEM

187. The absence of designated budget lines for WFP activities in the national budget and development plans jeopardizes the sustainability of WFP efforts, reflecting challenges in securing targeted resources and accountability for the outcomes of WFP's support. Additionally, the WFP ACRs (2017 – 2022) indicate that partnerships during this period experienced short implementation phases and were affected by budget cuts and delayed disbursements. These factors created challenges for developing impactful, long-lasting programmes and establishing resilient collaborations necessary for sustained food security and nutrition solutions.

Evaluation sub-question 5.2 – To what extent did WFP's support build the capacity of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners?

188. WFP's efforts in capacity building for national and local government institutions, communities, and partners in Angola were assessed through reviewing training initiatives, collaborations, and community engagement. Key conclusions highlight the effectiveness of these initiatives while also identifying future needs for further capacity enhancement.

189. **Sustainability/Scalability Finding 2:** WFP's support in Angola has built the capacity of national and local government institutions, communities, and other partners. Effective skill development is evident from the training of 335 technicians in food security analysis, utilizing the IPC protocol, and the professional development of health technicians in logistics and stock management. The promotion of local governance through the establishment of provincial and municipal food and nutrition security councils has fostered local ownership and responsiveness to community-specific needs. Community engagement initiatives, such as training community agents in malnutrition screening and health practices, have empowered grassroots-level capacity and ensured the sustainability of interventions. However, challenges like high staff turnover, sporadic funding, and the need for ongoing support highlight areas requiring further attention to maintain and expand these capacity-building benefits.

190. Approximately 40,000 individuals received counselling on early detection of malnutrition signs, appropriate complementary feeding, and preventive health and hygiene practices. The training of 33 health technicians in logistics and stock management within health units also highlights efforts to sustain improvements in supply chain efficiency. WFP also facilitated the training of 221 technicians to establish provincial and municipal food and nutrition security councils. The initiative to train technicians for decentralized governance structures supports Angola's broader decentralization goals, fostering local ownership and enhancing the responsiveness of interventions to community-specific needs. This strategic focus on local governance was a crucial step toward the sustainability of food security efforts.

191. The training of community agents and the focus on community engagement through various educational programmes have strengthened the grassroots-level capacity to address malnutrition and improve health practices. The focus on community engagement is highlighted by the training of community agents in AMN screening and the preparation of a small group of 12 trainers for food security and nutrition assessments. These efforts were vital steps towards sustainability, extending essential knowledge to the community level and fostering a group of educators. This approach not only promotes immediate health benefits but also ensures the longevity of these benefits through community-led initiatives.

192. Despite these successes, several challenges threaten the long-term sustainability of the capacity-building initiatives. High staff turnover within WFP, sporadic funding, and the brevity of the TA activities have hindered the full internalization of skills and continuous programme momentum. These challenges highlight the need for more stable and prolonged support mechanisms. The effectiveness of capacity-building efforts hinges on the need for ongoing training and support. GoA officials and community leaders expressed concerns about the sustainability of improvements, indicating that without continued education and reinforcement, the advancements may not be maintained, as the following quote illustrates:

"Our work with data collection, unapproved as it may be, shows gained knowledge, yet we're not at a point where it can be deemed sustainable. Ongoing training is essential." – KII25MAL

193. Although it is evident that strides have been made in policy development and capacity building, the complete handover of these processes to the government has not been achieved. WFP continues to play a crucial role in policy development and capacity building, and as the relevant policies have not been formalized, WFP's continued involvement is deemed crucial to steer the efforts towards successful policy integration and maintain the momentum in capacity development within the government structures in alignment with national priorities and international standards.

Evaluation sub-question 5.3 – What lessons can be learned from the implementation of the refugee response, CMAM, and TA interventions to scale up or replicate the interventions to reach a bigger pool of beneficiaries in the context of Angola and elsewhere?

194. WFP's interventions in Angola offer valuable lessons for future humanitarian and development projects. As these programmes aim to alleviate food insecurity and enhance local capacities, analysing their execution and outcomes provides critical insights into how similar interventions can be scaled up or replicated effectively. This analysis sheds light on the successes and challenges faced by WFP in Angola while highlighting strategic elements essential for ensuring the sustainability and broader applicability and scaling of such programmes in other regions facing similar challenges.

195. **Sustainability/Scalability Finding 3:** WFP's implementation of refugee response, CMAM, and TA interventions in Angola highlights the importance of strong partnerships, local capacity building, and adaptability in programme implementation, which are crucial for scaling up and ensuring sustainability. Effective community engagement, alignment with national policies, and consistent monitoring and evaluation practices enhanced programme impact and acceptance.

196. Effective interventions rely heavily on strong partnerships with local and international bodies. In Angola, WFP's collaboration with UNICEF, WVI, and others has been instrumental in maintaining programme delivery amidst the challenges. Solidifying partnerships that bring technical expertise and financial resources is crucial for scaling up. These partnerships were crucial for pooling resources and expertise and for bridging gaps between different operational areas. The sustained assistance from these partners, particularly in regions affected by climate challenges, was essential in maintaining service delivery when WFP faced operational hurdles such as funding shortages or logistical issues. Effective partnerships provided financial and material resources and enhanced programme credibility and community acceptance.

"The collaboration with UNICEF, World Vision International, and other partners was vital in ensuring the continuity of programme delivery, even in the face of funding shortages and logistical challenges." – KII22MAL

197. The focus on building local capacity, particularly through training GoA officials and community workers in areas like food security analysis and malnutrition treatment, was essential. These capacity-building efforts contributed towards sustainability and empowerment of local stakeholders to manage and adapt interventions according to evolving needs.

"Training provided to local health workers and community agents enhanced their ability to manage nutritional interventions independently." – KII12MAL

198. **Sustainability/Scalability Finding 4:** WFP's interventions in Angola, particularly in areas such as the school feeding programme and CMAM, have demonstrated potential for scalability. The use of community agents and partnerships with local and international organizations has been effective in reaching remote and vulnerable populations. However, the scalability of these interventions is challenged by a reliance on external funding and the incomplete integration of these initiatives into national systems. Additionally, while the capacity building of local staff has been successful, there is still a need for sustained support to ensure the long-term sustainability of these programmes.

199. The ability to adapt to local conditions and challenges is vital for the success of any intervention. In Angola, WFP showed flexibility by adjusting programme scopes in response to funding variability, logistical challenges, and changing beneficiary needs. Adaptability was observed in how WFP managed to recalibrate its resource allocation and programme focus in response to fluctuating funding levels and logistical challenges. Moreover, engaging the community at all levels of the intervention fostered transparency and trust and enhanced effectiveness. Training community agents and enhancing local governance capabilities encouraged community ownership, which was critical for long-term success. This flexibility and community engagement allowed the continuation of crucial services despite unexpected setbacks. Future programmes should incorporate adaptable frameworks that allow for adjustments based on ground realities.

"Community engagement, through training of community agents and enhancement of local governance capabilities, encouraged local ownership and was critical for the long-term success of interventions." – KII05FEM

200. Securing GoA buy-in and ensuring that interventions align with national policies are imperative for scaling up efforts. Delays in policy ratification and lack of GoA prioritization impacted the sustainability of

the programmes implemented by WFP Angola. Continuous advocacy and alignment with national development plans enhance programme integration and acceptance. The slow pace of GoA approvals and the need for policy alignment were major barriers to institutionalizing WFP's initiatives. Nonetheless, continuous advocacy efforts are still required to institutionalize the activities implemented by WFP.

"The delays in Government ratification of key strategies impacted the sustainability of programmes. Continuous advocacy is needed to align interventions with national development plans." – KII12MAL

201. The noted dependency on permanent technicians suggests that the integration of new practices into local systems is incomplete. Local sectors have not yet fully assimilated new capabilities introduced by WFP, indicating a gap between knowledge transfer and practical application. While relying on permanent technicians has been crucial, the transition towards a self-sustaining model must proceed vigorously. Embedding new skills within the fabric of local institutions is essential for ensuring their longevity and relevance in a post-assistance era.

202. The feedback from GoA officials and local partners provides critical insights into the status of TA activities. Seeking feedback from local stakeholders, including GoA officials and local partners, is a vital component of assessing and refining humanitarian and development programmes. This practice not only reinforces the transparency and accountability of the intervention but also enhances its relevance and effectiveness by aligning it more closely with the needs and expectations of those it aims to serve.

IMPACT

203. This final question assesses the overall impact of WFP's interventions on the target populations, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. It examines the long-term changes brought about by the programmes in terms of food security, nutrition, and socio-economic conditions. The impact analysis also looks at gender-specific outcomes and the broader effects on public and private institutions involved in food security and nutrition support.

2.5. Evaluation Question 6

WHAT HAS BEEN THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMMES AND TA ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE WFP IN ANGOLA ON FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES, LIVELIHOODS, AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE TARGET POPULATION?

Summary Findings on Impact

WFP's technical support to Angola has impacted public and private institutions, making substantial progress in nutrition, school feeding, and VAM. This assistance has strengthened stakeholder abilities to tackle food security and nutrition challenges. Still, there is room for improvement in achieving gender parity in participation and in addressing gender-specific issues to ensure inclusive and equitable results.

CMAM

- **Training impact:** The CMAM initiative trained 295 technicians in Luanda, Cunene, and Huila to address MAM in the community, enhancing the healthcare system's capacity to respond to nutritional challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Gender-specific outcomes:** Even without specific gender-disaggregated data for CMAM training, the emphasis on community health workers and caregivers likely means involvement of women, who often occupy central roles in healthcare and family care.

- **Beneficiary reach:** The CMAM programme demonstrated impact in reducing AMN among children in the targeted provinces, screening a total of 1,084,306 beneficiaries. In Cunene, Huila, and Luanda, thorough screening efforts led to high cure rates, ranging from 80 to 89 percent among diagnosed children. Specifically, in Cunene, 5,815 children were diagnosed with MAM, with an 80 percent cure rate. In general, out of 47,613 children under 5 years with malnutrition, 40,771 were treated, with 50 percent being girls, and approximately 84 percent of these children were cured during the period of care.

School Feeding Programme

- **Policy and committee formation:** TA initiatives led to the formation of an Interministerial Committee and the crafting of policies and guidelines for school feeding, involving 53 national-level participants. This reflects a strategic move to embed school feeding into national education and nutrition frameworks, aiming to improve child nutrition and educational outcomes.
- **Gender considerations:** The design of the school feeding programme intrinsically supports gender equality by providing nutritious meals to all schoolchildren, which helps level educational opportunities and may notably improve school attendance and performance among girls.
- **Engagement of ministries:** The engagement of multiple ministries in the multisectoral committee for school feeding reflects a holistic approach to addressing child nutrition, supporting local economies through the development of local product-based feeding plans, and establishing a legal framework for sustained implementation.

VAM

- **Capacity building:** The VAM initiative trained 287 GoA officials and national partners, improving their ability to analyse and make decisions about food security. This included 252 staff members trained in evaluation, analysis, and reporting, plus 93 enumerators. The goal was to provide precise tools for food security monitoring.
- **Gender distribution:** The 70 percent male and 30 percent female participation among officials and partners shows that there is a clear gender gap. This discrepancy underscores the need for continued efforts to attain better gender balance in technical training and capacity-building, ensuring women have equal representation and can offer their insights in food security analysis and planning.

Impact on public and private institutions

- WFP's TA to GoA has led to substantial knowledge transfer and capacity building across public, private and the civil society sectors. By training technicians, health workers, and GoA officials, WFP has bolstered institutional capacities to tackle food security and nutrition challenges more efficiently. Furthermore, its role in policy development and committee formation sets a foundation for sustainable, nationally aligned interventions.

Gender-specific impacts

- Explicit data on the gendered impacts of WFP's TA to GoA may be scarce, but incorporating women into training and decision-making, especially in CMAM and VAM programmes, is critical for advancing gender equality. It remains vital to persistently elevate women's involvement in all programme stages—planning, execution, and assessment—to ensure that interventions meet the entire community's needs effectively.

Refugee Support

- **Food consumption trends:** The programme noted fluctuations in food consumption scores, peaking at 79 percent in May 2020. However, households headed by men (52 percent) differed notably from those led by women (71 percent), revealing gender-specific impacts on food security outcomes among refugees.
- **Reduction in nutritive value:** A 25 percent reduction in both quantity and nutritional quality of rations could impact refugees' diet and food security, highlighting the difficulties in maintaining nutritional assistance in refugee environments.

Unintended Impacts

- **Positive:** WFP's initiatives in Angola have positively impacted gender equality by increasing women's decision-making power over food-related matters from 18 percent to 42 percent and boosting their participation in CMAM training sessions from 48.1 percent to 55.3 percent, aligning with the UN System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) Criterion 3c³⁸.
- **Negative:** However, unintended negative effects include persistent gender disparities in food consumption scores, with households headed by men benefiting more, and the underrepresentation of women in coordination roles, which poses challenges for inclusive decision-making. Moreover, the termination of programmes like CMAM led to reduced health system capacity, highlighting the need for sustained support to maintain nutritional gains.

Evaluation sub-question 6.1 – What difference have the programmes, under the food security thematic areas (refugees, CMAM, and school feeding) made on the targeted beneficiaries, including specifically the most vulnerable and marginalized groups and their households? How did the programmes change their lives and livelihoods? Were there any gender-specific impacts?

204. **Impact Finding 1:** WFP's interventions in Angola, focusing on refugee support, CMAM, and school feeding, have impacted the lives and livelihoods of targeted beneficiaries, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. The refugee support programmes improved food security, evidenced by higher FCS during intensive intervention phases, although disparities persist between households headed by males and those headed by females. CMAM interventions achieved high cure rates, improving health outcomes among malnourished children. WFP school feeding programmes in Angola have been previously found to be an incentive for pupils and parents to increase attendance and improve performance at primary schools, especially for girls.³⁹ Participants' narratives underlined the long-term benefits of school feedings (both hot meals and take-home rations) not only for students and their families but for communities as well as for supporting local economies and agricultural production, highlighting the potential of these initiatives despite their current small implementation scale. Additionally, WFP's efforts enhanced women's decision-making power within households, promoting gender equality, though gender-specific consumption disparities highlight areas needing further improvement.

205. The FCS among refugee households provides a quantitative measure of dietary diversity and nutritional quality. While there have been periods of high acceptable food consumption scores (79 percent

³⁸ Criterion 3ci: Programmatic results on gender equality and the empowerment of women are met, and Criterion 3cii: Programmatic initiatives consistently include transformative gender equality and the empowerment of women results.

³⁹ IRIN. 'Angola: School feeding an incentive for pupils and parents'. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/angola-school-feeding-incentive-pupils-and-parents>

in May 2020), the data also highlights persistent disparities, especially between households headed by men and households headed by women, indicating different levels of access to food security. Periods with higher FCS align with intensive WFP intervention phases, suggesting direct programme effectiveness. The direct correlation between WFP's active intervention periods and the spike in FCS implies that the programme's food distributions were timely and met the nutritional needs, thereby temporarily enhancing food security among refugees.

"WFP programmes helped improve the health of well-nourished children and provide a food base for refugee families." – **FGD01MAL Dundo**

206. High cure rates from CMAM programmes across regions like Cunene and Huila indicate substantial recovery rates among treated individuals. Reports show an 80 percent cure rate in Cunene and an 89 percent cure rate in Huila, demonstrating programme success. These high recovery rates validate the effectiveness of targeted nutritional interventions provided by CMAM. The success here can be correlated to the well-implemented treatment protocols and adequate resource allocation, ensuring malnourished children and vulnerable groups receive necessary care. This data shows that AMN management via WFP's interventions has contributed to improved health outcomes in targeted regions.

"The programmes have led to a reduction in severe malnutrition cases with improvements in children's nutritional status and enhanced community awareness about nutrition and hygiene practices." – **KII03MAL**

207. While the data specific to school attendance and retention rates during the evaluation period was not analysed, school feeding programmes are generally recognized for improving school attendance rates, particularly among girls. These programmes ensure that children receive nutritious meals, which not only help in alleviating short-term hunger but also contribute to long-term educational outcomes by keeping children in school. References to increased school attendance and improved academic performance emerge through the qualitative data in areas where WFP implemented school feeding programmes, indicating positive impacts. The provision of meals encourages regular attendance, particularly among girls, helping to mitigate gender disparities in education access.

"The most notable impact was the improvement in the health of children who were well-nourished and free from malnutrition." – **FGD02FEM Dundo**

208. While the methodology hinders the possibility of creating the linkage between the provision of school meals and improved educational outcomes through higher attendance rates and enhanced student engagement, the qualitative data suggests that the project took steps in this direction. The involvement of local food suppliers in these programmes also supports local economies, contributing positively to both educational support and economic development.

209. WFP's interventions have made positive contributions towards gender equality by enhancing women's decision-making power within households. This is a crucial step in promoting gender equity and empowering women, aligning with broader developmental goals such as the SDGs, particularly Goal 5 on achieving gender equality. The increase in women's participation in decision-making about food and non-food items reflects broader social changes influenced by the WFP's interventions.

210. However, the persistence of gender-specific consumption disparities and fluctuations in decision-making involvement highlight areas for improvement. The data highlighted a dip in women's involvement in non-food decision-making at certain points, suggesting areas where gender-specific barriers still exist. These gaps present opportunities for WFP to refine and adapt their interventions to more effectively address gender disparities and support households headed by women.

"Women reported that technical assistance and support from WFP were essential in ensuring that they and their families had access to necessary food, highlighting the importance of a gender approach in aid distribution" – **KII12MAL**

211. WFP's training initiatives have been instrumental in enhancing the technical skills of GoA officials and technical staff across various sectors, such as health, nutrition, agriculture, and disaster response. These programmes have not only equipped personnel with advanced analytical skills, especially in food

security analysis using IPC protocols crucial for accurate vulnerability assessments and programme planning, but they have also increased GoA ownership and leadership in managing food security and nutrition programmes. This shift towards greater autonomy is essential for the long-term sustainability of these initiatives, enabling GoA to implement and adapt these programmes independently of international support. As a result, with improved skills and strengthened institutions, GoA is now better equipped to Implement food security and nutrition Interventions more effectively and efficiently, leading to more targeted and responsive programmes that can adapt to changing conditions and needs on the ground.

" WFP's support included collaboration with health partners and administrative managers in the camps, enhancing local capacity for managing refugee needs and health services " – KIIF10FEM

212. WFP has played a pivotal role in contributing to the drafting of critical policies, such as ENSAN II and PNASE. These policies are crucial for structuring the national approach to critical food security and nutrition issues, aligning them with international good practices, and ensuring they are embedded within the national legislative framework. Moreover, by supporting the establishment of provincial and municipal food and nutrition security councils, the WFP has helped decentralize food security governance. These efforts not only bring decision-making closer to the affected communities but also build local governmental capacity to manage food security initiatives independently, enhancing sustainability.

213. Implementing data-driven strategies and maintaining consistent monitoring and evaluation frameworks are essential for assessing the impact and effectiveness of interventions. These practices enable timely adjustments and help demonstrate the value of interventions to stakeholders and donors, which is crucial for securing ongoing support. WFP's data-driven approaches helped in assessing the effectiveness of interventions and in making necessary adjustments. For example, ongoing monitoring of food distribution and nutrition programmes allowed WFP to optimize its strategies based on real-time feedback and outcomes. Therefore, establishing strong monitoring and evaluation practices is key to understanding the impact of interventions and to making evidence-based adjustments that improve programme outcomes.

"Data-driven approaches were instrumental in assessing the effectiveness of interventions and making necessary adjustments. This helped optimize strategies based on real-time feedback." – KII05FEM

Evaluation sub-question 6.2 – To what extent did the TA to GoA impact both public and private institutions? Were there any gender-specific impacts?

214. **Impact Finding 2:** WFP's TA GoA has contributed to positive changes both within public, private, and civil society institutions as well as local communities and enhanced their capacities in various crucial areas of food security and nutrition. Training programmes improved healthcare providers' abilities to manage malnutrition, fostered public-private collaborations in school feeding and emergency responses, and promoted local food procurement, benefiting the local economy. While gender considerations were evident in training participation rates, with efforts to include women in capacity-building initiatives, the absence of gender-responsive policy development indicates a need for more focused efforts to ensure systematic integration of gender-specific outcomes in policy influence and leadership enhancement.

215. The TA programmes have been crucial in strengthening capacities within both GoA and private/civil society institutions for the benefit of local communities. For instance, 295 technicians in Luanda, Cunene, and Huila were trained on CMAM, improving healthcare providers' abilities to identify and address malnutrition. Furthermore, 53 individuals participated in developing policies and guidelines for school feeding, which underscores the commitment to improving nutritional outcomes for children. Public-private collaborations were also enhanced by involving private/civil society actors in supply chain logistics and the provision of goods and services. "

"The training provided to local agents and community members, including cooking demonstrations and therapeutic food distribution, contributed to local capacity building and sustainability." – KII05FEM

216. Moreover, by promoting local food procurement for school feeding programmes, WFP has contributed to market development. This initiative has resulted in new markets for local farmers and small businesses, boosting the local economy and encouraging the private/civil sector to invest in agricultural production and distribution aligned with nutritional standards.

"The assistance reinforced the capacity of local institutions to manage refugee needs and implement food security measures, with a focus on gender-specific support where necessary." – KII08FEM

217. The capacity strengthening for VAM and FSN trained 287 GoA officials and partners has been instrumental in enhancing their analytical capabilities, enabling them to better evaluate, analyse and report on food security situations, which is crucial for effective decision-making and policy development. Training 50 technicians in Cunene and Huila on supply chain management and logistics specifically aimed at improving emergency response capabilities, especially for drought emergencies, underscoring the prioritization of strengthening of institutional readiness and response to natural disasters.

"The capacity building through VAM and has strengthened our ability to conduct comprehensive food security analyses and respond appropriately." – KII16MAL

218. The TA to GoA shows a conscious effort to maintain gender balance in capacity-building efforts, although male participants predominated in certain programmes like emergency response training. For example, in the VAM and FSN capacity strengthening initiative, 40 percent of the participants were women, indicating an inclusion strategy that attempts to balance gender participation in critical technical training. Despite the overall progress in capacity building, the review found no specific registration of gender-responsive policies or practices adopted following the TA to GoA. This suggests a gap in the explicit integration of gender-specific outcomes within the policy influence sphere, which could be an area for further emphasis to ensure that gender considerations are systematically addressed.

219. WFP's TA to GoA has substantially bolstered the capacities of both public and private/civil society institutions in technical areas relevant to food security and nutrition. However, while efforts to include gender considerations are evident in training participation rates, there is a notable absence of gender-responsive policy development. This suggests that while technical training incorporates gender balance, more focused efforts are needed to translate this into gendered policy influence and leadership enhancement. Addressing these gaps would not only strengthen the gender-specific impacts of these programmes but also enhance the overall effectiveness and inclusivity of the TA to the GoA.

220. Unintended positive impacts: The WFP's initiatives in Angola have led to several positive unintended effects, especially in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, which align with the UN-SWAP Criterion 3c, which focuses on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The programmes have increased women's decision-making power over food-related matters, rising from 18 percent in May 2020 to 42 percent by December 2022. This shift indicates progress toward gender equality within households. Additionally, women's participation in CMAM training sessions increased from 48 percent to 55.3 percent, demonstrating improved inclusivity in health-related initiatives. These outcomes align with UN-SWAP Criterion 3c by enhancing women's roles and contributions in decision-making and capacity-building efforts.

221. Unintended negative impacts: However, the initiatives also resulted in some negative unintended effects, particularly concerning gender disparities and programme sustainability. Despite overall improvements, households led by men consistently reported higher acceptable food consumption scores compared to households headed by women, highlighting an unintended gender bias in the distribution of benefits. For instance, in May 2020, 79 percent of households headed by men reported acceptable food consumption scores, while only 52 percent of households headed by women reported the same. In October 2020, 24 percent of households headed by men had poor food consumption scores compared to 29 percent of households headed by women. Additionally, the underrepresentation of women in coordination roles—only 10 percent of the coordination and TA group for refugees at the centre consist of women—poses challenges to inclusive decision-making processes. The termination of programmes like CMAM led to reduced health system capacity and stockouts of nutritional products, emphasizing the need for ongoing support to sustain the nutritional gains achieved.

Challenges to Impact

222. The degree of impact of WFP's interventions was influenced by a variety of both external and internal factors. Externally, economic instability, adverse climatic conditions, limited integration with national policies and systems, and logistical challenges hindered the consistent delivery and impact of assistance. Internally, issues such as budget constraints, limited operational capacity, and coordination failures within partnerships were identified as critical barriers to achieving the desired outcomes. The programme's long-term impact was also challenged by its dependency on external funding and technical expertise, which creates risks of regression if external support is reduced, potentially reversing gains made in food security and nutritional outcomes.

Cross-Cutting Challenges

223. Gender and inclusion: Although there was progress in promoting gender equality and ensuring women and children received the necessary support, gaps were noted in that respect. The over-representation of women in certain assistance modalities, such as CBT, did not necessarily translate into improved status. The evaluation findings revealed that food security outcomes within households and community projects were still predominantly male-driven, indicating a need for more robust strategies to genuinely empower women within the programmatic frameworks.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1. Conclusions

224. The evaluation of WFP's interventions in Angola over the period 2017-2022 provides an overview of the efforts made to enhance food security, manage AMN, and strengthen GoA and institutional capacities. This period marked strides in aligning WFP's activities with Angola's development priorities and humanitarian needs, underscored by a strong focus on gender equality and sustainable solutions. Interventions encompassed refugee support, CMAM, and school feeding programmes and were found to have collectively contributed to the temporary enhancement of food security and nutritional outcomes, improving the health, education, and resilience of vulnerable populations, including children and refugees, across the targeted regions.

Conclusion 1: Beneficiaries' food security and nutritional outcomes were enhanced

225. Refugee Response. The interventions contributed to enhancing food security and nutritional outcomes within the targeted vulnerable population. The refugee response programme successfully provided consistent and reliable access to nutritious food, helping to stabilize the food consumption scores among refugee households. Notably, the programme ensured that distributions were tailored to meet the nutritional needs of the population, which was crucial in regions affected by drought. The success of this programme is evident in the increased percentages of households achieving acceptable FCS over time. This improvement highlights the programme's effectiveness in mitigating the impact of displacement on food security and nutrition. However, these enhancements depend on continuous food distribution, and discontinuing this activity could reverse the gains in food security and nutritional outcomes.

226. CMAM. The CMAM programme specifically targeted the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in children, a critical issue in food-insecure regions. The data indicates high success rates, with numbers of children treated and cured of MAM. For instance, in Cunene and Huila, where the prevalence of malnutrition is notably high, the programme not only met but exceeded its screening targets, achieving cure rates upwards of 80 percent. This success is attributed to the training of healthcare workers, the improvement of healthcare infrastructure, and the effective distribution of therapeutic foods, all of which were facilitated by WFP's TA to GoA. The programme's contribution is particularly noteworthy in reducing the incidence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

227. School Feeding. The school feeding programme was instrumental in setting the ground for improving nutritional outcomes and educational performance among school-aged children. By providing regular and nutritious meals, these programmes helped to temporarily increase the school attendance rate and improve overall academic performance. The availability of meals in schools not only addressed immediate nutritional needs but also served as an incentive for enrolment, keeping children in educational settings where they could continue learning.

228. Despite the progress generated by the refugee response, CMAM, and school feeding activities, these enhancements depend on the continuity of respective activities, and discontinuing them could reverse the gains in food security and nutritional outcomes.

Conclusion 2: Institutional capacities of national institutions were strengthened

229. WFP interventions have successfully strengthened the foundational capabilities of both GoA and local communities/civil society entities, particularly through targeted training programmes and the development of strategic policies. This broad enhancement of institutional capacities is evident in several key areas. Through TA to GoA, WFP has delivered training to a wide range of GoA personnel. This includes training in VAM, food security, and emergency response. Such initiatives have equipped local institutions with the skills needed to independently manage and implement food security programmes. WFP's support was also instrumental in the formulation and refinement of major policies such as ENSAN II and the PNASE.

These policies, drafted with technical insights from WFP, are set to guide the national agenda on food security and nutrition if ratified.

230. WFP has also played a pivotal role in bridging gaps between GoA and private/civil society sectors as well as local communities, facilitating partnerships that enhance logistical and operational capacities crucial for food distribution. These collaborations have not only improved the efficacy of interventions but have also encouraged private sector stakeholders to invest in food security initiatives. Local communities/civil society entities benefitted from WFP's structured training sessions, which enhanced their logistical and operational readiness, particularly in areas prone to food insecurity and emergencies. These training programmes have led to better management of supply chains and more effective response mechanisms during crises. Thus, WFP's TA to GoA has been a catalyst for enhanced institutional capacity progress, improving technical capabilities, and contributing to a more resilient and inclusive framework for managing food security and nutrition in Angola.

Conclusion 3: Mixed outcomes in gender equity

231. While substantial progress has been made in enhancing women's roles in decision-making, their participation in CMAM training, and implementing gender-responsive strategies that promote gender inclusivity within the interventions' timeframe, the data reveals persistent challenges that disproportionately affect households headed by women in achieving equitable food security. "acceptable" FCS category compared to households headed by men, reflecting positive outcomes from targeted food security programmes aimed at women. However, these gains have not fully translated into overcoming deeper structural challenges. Despite efforts to empower women by increasing their participation in decision-making related to food and resource management, these households continue to exhibit fluctuating scores in the "borderline" and "poor" categories across the years.

232. Although there has been a notable increase in women's roles in household decision-making, this has not uniformly translated into improved nutritional outcomes. Households headed by women still report lower levels of acceptable- and higher numbers of poor food consumption, suggesting that the empowerment achieved has not effectively mitigated the underlying, structural challenges these women face, including economic disadvantages, limited resource access, or enduring societal norms that restrict women's full economic and community participation. This disparity underscores the critical gap between programme intentions and actual contributions to food security for vulnerable groups and highlights the need for WFP and its partners to implement more focused, gender-specific interventions that empower women while directly enhancing their access to adequate nutrition.

233. The evaluation revealed positive unintended effects, such as enhanced women's empowerment and increased decision-making power in food-related matters, which align with the UN-SWAP Criterion 3c (Programmatic results on gender equality and the empowerment of women are met or on track to be met) and 3ci (Programmatic initiatives consistently include transformative gender equality and the empowerment of women results).⁴⁰ However, challenges remain, including gender disparities in programme benefits and underrepresentation in decision-making roles.

Conclusion 4: Incomplete integration with national policies

234. While WFP's TA to GoA aligns with national development goals, the integration of these initiatives into GoA's formal policy frameworks remains incomplete. Key policies such as the ENSAN II and the PNASE — developed with contributions from WFP — alongside tools such as the IPC are crucial for enhancing food security and addressing local needs across Angola. However, these policies have not yet been approved by GoA, which limits the impact and sustainability of the interventions. The lack of formal ratification suggests a disconnect between joint policy formulation efforts and GoA endorsement, pointing to possible challenges in advocacy, coordination, or political will. This gap underscores the importance of ongoing policy advocacy and intersectoral collaboration to ensure that the advancements in food security and nutrition strategies gain formal recognition and are implemented within Angola's national frameworks.

⁴⁰ UN-SWAP 2.0 (2022) Good Practices Brochure. Available at: <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/UN-SWAP%20Good%20Practice%20Brochure%202022.pdf>

Conclusion 5: Challenges to and potential for sustainability and scalability

235. WFP's efforts have effectively improved food security and nutritional outcomes in Angola, showing promise for future sustainability and scalability. The engagement of community agents and alignment with government priorities through developing national strategies has established a strong foundation. However, the sustainability of these initiatives remains a concern, with potential regression in progress if continuous support and funding cease.

236. The food security of refugee populations in Angola has shown noticeable improvement due to regular food distributions conducted by WFP. These distributions have been essential in providing immediate nutritional support and stabilizing the food security status of displaced communities. However, these improvements are intrinsically linked to the ongoing provision of assistance. This setup establishes a direct correlation between the continuation of food assistance and the maintenance of food security levels among refugees. Without the distributions, there is a high risk that the populations will quickly return to a state of food insecurity. Additionally, the sustainability of refugee programmes heavily relies on the continuous training of local staff and the sustained provision of logistical and financial resources. The report highlights a risk where the withdrawal of technical and financial support could severely impact the effectiveness and continuation of assistance to refugees, potentially leading to a deterioration in their living conditions and food security.

237. Resilience activities are crucial as they provide communities with the tools and capabilities to manage their food security independently of external assistance. These can include livelihood programmes, agricultural support, and economic empowerment initiatives that enable communities to sustain themselves. During the current review period, no substantial resilience activities were implemented that could have mitigated the dependency on food assistance. This gap means that although refugees benefit from immediate assistance, their long-term food security remains precarious and heavily reliant on external support.

238. CMAM has been successful due to robust training programmes for healthcare providers. However, the necessity for ongoing training to address evolving healthcare challenges and to refresh the skills of medical personnel is key for the sustainability of the witnessed progress in nutritional outcomes. Without this, the initial gains in combating malnutrition could be reversed, especially in remote and underserved communities. Regarding school feeding initiatives, although they have seen considerable success, their long-term sustainability is jeopardized by the lack of integration into national education policies and consistent operational funding. The need for additional training for school staff and community volunteers to ensure the quality and continuity of feeding programmes. Furthermore, the absence of ratified GoA policies suggests potential disruptions in these programmes if WFP support, diminishes.

239. The non-integration of WFP's initiatives into national plans limits the potential for these programmes to be owned and sustained by local institutions. This disconnect not only threatens the sustainability of the interventions but also undermines the broader goal of strengthening national systems to manage food security and nutrition challenges independently. Moreover, the reliance on external funding and technical support continues, leaving the programmes vulnerable to fluctuations in donor priorities and funding cycles. Without a solid integration into national policies, the programmes face uncertain futures, potentially undoing the progress made in improving food security and nutrition outcomes.

Conclusion 6: Evaluation of assumptions of the reconstructed ToC

240. The evaluation of the reconstructed ToC for WFP's interventions in Angola indicates that there are several valid assumptions, but also areas where the assumptions may need re-evaluation or additional support to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the WFP programmes in Angola. Notably, the assumption that adequate financial and logistical resources are crucial for delivering food and CBT, and that these provisions directly enhance food security and nutritional status of beneficiaries are well supported by the ongoing efforts and the structure of WFP's interventions.

241. The ToC also assumes that capacity building at various government levels leads to the effective implementation of food and nutrition programmes. However, the evaluation highlighted some challenges in the sustainability and full internalization of skills post-training, which affected the maintenance of the capabilities in the long term. Lastly, a notable assumption in the ToC pertains to sustainable positive

impacts. The findings of this evaluation, however, indicate that while interventions are effective in the short term, they may not be fully sustainable without further strategic adjustments and enhancements.

3.2. Good Practices

242. WFP's adaptive approach to targeting and intervention modalities effectively met the evolving needs of dynamic beneficiary populations through diverse interventions—from direct food assistance to CBT and nutritional programmes—catering to specific groups, including refugees and malnourished children.

243. The alignment of WFP's efforts with GoA's priorities and the provision of TA enhanced the relevance and sustainability of food security interventions. Strategic partnerships and capacity-building initiatives strengthened local capabilities to manage food security and nutrition programmes, fostering sustained positive changes.

244. The consistent monitoring and evaluation frameworks employed by WFP ensured that programmes were adjusted to meet their objectives effectively by facilitating the understanding of the interventions' contribution and supported timely strategy modifications, enhancing overall programme effectiveness.

245. Financial management practices ensured that funds were directed toward the most critical areas, such as direct food assistance, nutritional programmes, and TA to GoA, maximizing the impact of each dollar spent, sustaining programme operations during fluctuating funding levels and external economic pressures, and meeting diverse needs efficiently.

246. Highly adaptable financial strategies allowed the programme to respond swiftly to unforeseen economic challenges. During economic downturns or funding shortfalls, WFP was able to adjust its budgetary allocations to maintain the core activities and mitigate the impact on the beneficiaries. This flexibility was critical in managing the variability in external funding and ensuring the continuity of essential services.

247. During the pandemic, WFP showcased its agility by promptly adjusting its operations, ensuring continued assistance to vulnerable populations despite disruptions. Data also indicated that the transparent handling of funds and clear accountability mechanisms have enhanced stakeholder confidence, facilitating continued support for WFP's initiatives. Lastly, acting as a bridge between the community and healthcare services, healthcare workers conducted screenings and treatments directly in the homes of children, showcasing the importance of community engagement for successful programme outcomes.

3.3. Lessons Learned

248. WFP engagement in Angola from 2017 to 2022 offers valuable insights into the interplay of humanitarian assistance and development within a transitional context. The interventions not only focused on improving food security and nutrition but also aimed to strengthen institutional capacities while aligning with Angola's national policies. This chapter distils the key lessons learned from the WFP's strategies and outcomes during this period, reflecting on both successes and the challenges that persist.

Lesson 1: Importance of sustained support for long-term sustainability

249. A recurrent theme across WFP's interventions—ranging from refugee support to school feeding programmes—is the critical dependence on continued support for maintaining achieved gains. The temporary enhancement of food security and nutritional outcomes in vulnerable populations underscores the risk of regression if these programmes are not sustained. This highlights the need for developing robust mechanisms that ensure long-term sustainability and reduce dependency on external assistance. Integrating interventions into national policies and fostering local capacities are crucial steps towards achieving this goal. While external support has been indispensable in achieving immediate improvements in food security and nutrition, it has also fostered a dependency that could jeopardize the sustainability of these gains. To avoid a cycle of dependency, it is imperative to design interventions with exit strategies that empower communities and local governments to take over their execution in the long term.

Lesson 2: Empowering local capacities as a keystone for development

250. The strengthening of institutional capabilities in Angola demonstrates the profound impact of investing in local capacities. Training GoA personnel and enhancing local communities'/civil society sector involvement have not only improved the immediate efficacy of interventions but also laid the groundwork for more resilient and self-sufficient institutions. However, the journey from capacity building to autonomous policy implementation remains incomplete, suggesting a focus not just on training but also on creating environments that encourage the application of learned skills in policy and practice.

Lesson 3: Necessity of gender-sensitive approaches

251. WFP's interventions have shown progress in promoting gender inclusivity. However, the enduring challenges faced by households headed by women, particularly in achieving acceptable food consumption scores, highlight the complexity of translating gender-focused policies into equitable outcomes. This calls for more context-specific strategies that address the underlying socio-economic and cultural barriers that impede women from experiencing equitable food security outcomes.

Lesson 4: Bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation

252. The development of strategic policies like ENSAN II and the PNASE with WFP's support marks a positive stride towards aligning humanitarian work with national development agendas. Yet, the incomplete integration of these policies into formal GoA frameworks poses challenges. This gap between policy development and ratification points to the need for enhanced advocacy, coordination, and political engagement to ensure that policy proposals are not only created but also adopted and implemented.

3.4. Recommendations

253. The following recommendations stem logically from the evaluation conclusions and findings. They were developed by the evaluation team and refined through iterative reviews by the Evaluation Reference Group. Recommendations are categorized by their short, medium-, and long-term priority, indicating the main responsible entity (and unit) along with other contributing entities. Each recommendation is assigned a priority level and a timeline for expected achievement.”

#	Recommendation	Conclusions [by number(s) of conclusion]	Findings [by number of finding]	Recommendation grouping: Short/medium/ long-term	Responsibility (one lead office/entity)	Other contributing entities (if applicable)	Priority: High/medium	By when
1	<p>Recommendation 1: Enhance and intensify advocacy and policy implementation efforts by continuously engaging with GoA bodies and stakeholders. Focus on strengthening collaboration to lobby for the ratification and formal adoption of key policies and tools, such as the IPC. Develop tailored advocacy strategies, organize events that build support, and maintain regular meetings to ensure policy alignment and accelerate the ratification process</p> <p>1.1 Identify key GoA stakeholders and maintain regular meetings to establish and maintain communication channels that foster policy alignment and adoption.</p> <p>1.2 Develop an advocacy strategy tailored to the ratification of ENSAN II (2021), PNASE (2020), and the Vulnerability</p>	<p>Conclusion 2</p> <p>Conclusion 4</p>	3, 10, 16	Long-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of VAM Unit - Head of Nutrition Unit - Partnership and Reporting Officer 	<p>Regional Bureau (RB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -VAM/ Nutrition Units -Partnerships Unit 	High	December 2025

	<p>Assessment of Food Security Report of 2021.</p> <p>1.3 Organize advocacy events and awareness campaigns to garner support for the ratification of ENSAN II (2021), PNASE (2020), and the Vulnerability Assessment of Food Security Report of 2021.</p> <p>1.4 Enhance direct engagement with GoA and relevant regulatory bodies to reform and streamline import regulations that impact the supply chain of critical food commodities, and develop collaboration with the Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) team to build the capacity of local suppliers</p>							
2	<p>Recommendation 2: Strengthen local training programmes with a focus on practical application and periodic refresher courses to maintain and update skills</p> <p>2.1 Conduct an assessment to identify gaps in current training programmes ensuring that future training initiatives are customized to address specific areas where technical staff are overstretched, and where targeted training can help reduce workload pressures.</p> <p>2.2 Develop and deploy targeted training modules based on identified needs to</p>	<p>Conclusion 2</p> <p>Conclusion 6</p>	8, 9, 12, 13, 16	Medium-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Programmes Unit - Head of VAM/Nutrition Unit - Supply Chain Officer 	<p>RB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VAM/ Nutrition Units - Supply Chain Unit 	Medium	September 2025

	<p>provide specific, practical training that addresses identified gaps and enhances skills effectively.</p> <p>2.3 Strengthen internal capacity by increasing the number of trained technical staff, with focus on roles that directly impact programme delivery effectiveness, and improve logistical issues, budgeting, and programming capacities to address human resource constraints, ensuring efficient programme implementation.</p>							
3	<p>Recommendation 3: Facilitate workshops and forums involving policymakers to discuss the benefits and practicalities of integrating WFP initiatives into national frameworks.</p> <p>3.1. Plan and schedule a series of workshops and forums with key policymakers and stakeholders, to engage directly with decision-makers, fostering a mutual understanding of benefits and needs</p>	<p>Conclusion 2</p> <p>Conclusion 4</p>	4, 5, 9, 13, 15	Short-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Programmes Unit - Partnerships and Reporting Officer 	<p>RB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships Unit 	Medium	March 2025
4	<p>Recommendation 4: Increase investment in resilience-building activities to reduce dependence on ongoing food assistance, focusing on agricultural and livelihood development.</p>	<p>Conclusion 3</p> <p>Conclusion 5</p> <p>Conclusion 6</p>	1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15	Long-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Programmes Unit - VAM Unit 	<p>RB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programmes Unit - School Feeding Unit 	High	December 2025

	4.1 Implement training programmes for sustainable farming techniques and small-scale entrepreneurship to empower local communities by providing them with the skills needed for sustainable agriculture and self-reliance.							
5	<p>Recommendation 5: Secure long-term funding commitments from donors while simultaneously building a case for increased national GoA financial involvement and developing a comprehensive scalability strategy.</p> <p>5.1 Develop a fundraising strategy that considers the unpredictable country context and donor priorities, implementing a risk-adjusted financial strategy that includes the establishment of a reserve fund to cushion the impact of delayed disbursements, and the implementation of flexible budgeting and enhanced forecasting to plan for various scenarios.</p> <p>5.2 Develop a detailed strategy for scaling up successful interventions, including a focus on the necessary infrastructure, resource allocation, and monitoring frameworks. This strategy should outline the steps for expanding</p>	<p>Conclusion 5</p> <p>Conclusion 6</p>	7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15	Long-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of VAM Unit - Head of Programmes Unit - Partnerships and Reporting Officer 	<p>RB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programmes Unit - Partnerships Unit 	High	September 2025

	programmes to new regions and populations, ensuring that scalability is achieved without compromising the quality and effectiveness of the interventions.							
6	<p>Recommendation 6: Implement targeted interventions that address the specific barriers faced by households headed by women, including access to resources and economic opportunities, and ensure that GEWE and inclusivity are mainstreamed into all TA, food security, and overall programming of WFP in Angola.</p> <p>6.1 Analyse the unique challenges and needs of households headed by women in the project areas to tailor interventions that effectively address the specific disadvantages faced by these households.</p> <p>6.2 All WFP units to develop and implement internally harmonized strategies and targeted programmes that enhance women's access to economic resources and decision-making authority. These should include training and capacity-building efforts to empower women, fostering their involvement in leadership roles within food security coordination structures</p>	<p>Conclusion 1</p> <p>Conclusion 3</p> <p>Conclusion 5</p>	2, 4, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16	Medium to Long-term	<p>WFP Angola Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programmes Unit - Gender and M&E Officer(s) 	<p>RB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender Unit - M&E Unit 	High	September 2025

	<p>to improve food security outcomes through more effective resource management and utilization.</p> <p>6.3 Establish a comprehensive system to document and monitor the gender composition and GEWE inclusivity of all WFP initiatives.</p>							
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Acronyms

ACR	Annual Country Report
ADB	African Development Bank
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AFI	Acute Food Insecurity
AGD	Age, Gender, and Diversity
ALNAP	The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance
AMN	Acute Malnutrition
AO	WFP Angola Office
ASPU	Assistance Package for Special Use
CBT	Cash-Based Transfer
CMAM	Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CERF	Central Emergency Respond Fund
CFM	Complaints and Feedback Mechanism
CNPC	National Civil Protection Commission
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CO ²	Carbon Dioxide
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DEQAS	Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EB	WFP Executive Board
EC	Evaluation Committee
EM	Evaluation Manager
ENSAN II	National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
ET	Evaluation Team
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FRESAN	Strengthening Resilience and Food and Nutritional Security in Angola
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
FSQ	Food Safety and Quality
FSWG	Food Security Working Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation

GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFD	General Food Distribution
GoA	Government of Angola
GSA	Office of Food Security
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
HGSF	Home-Grown School Feeding
HH	Household
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HQ	WFP Headquarters
IBEP	Income and Expenditure Survey
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDREA	Survey on Expenditure, Income, and Employment
IIMS	Angola Multiple Indicators and Health Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INE	National Institute of Statistics
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRA	Immediate Response Account
KII	Key Informant Interview
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MASFAMU	Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Empowerment
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MINAGRIP	Millennium Development Goals
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric tons
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NDP	National Development Plan
OEV	WFP Office of Evaluation
OECD-DAC	Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development
PBW	Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women
PDA	Agricultural Development Policy
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
PNASE	National Policy on School Feeding and Health 2012-2025
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RAM	WFP Research, Assessment and Monitoring
RB	WFP Regional Bureau

RBJ	WFP Regional Bureau for Southern Africa
rCSI	Reduced Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index
RUSF	Ready-to-Use-Supplementary Food
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme
SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
SOFI	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report
SRAC	WFP Strategic Resource Allocation Committee
TA	Technical Assistance
TL	Team Leader
TOC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UN CERF	United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN-SWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
US\$	United States Dollar
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International

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