Management Response from WFP Egypt Country Office to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of the First 1000 Days Programme in Egypt] (DE/EGCO/2020/007) from 2017 to 2021

1. This document, finalized in January 2023, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation of the First 1000 Days Programme in Egypt from 2017 to 2021.

2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Egypt Country Office covers aimed to assess the First 1000 Days Programme in Egypt. The evaluation had dual objectives of accountability and learning, although for reasons related to funding gaps and the redesign of the programme as a result of COVID-19, this DE placed more weight on the learning objective. The evaluation identifies achievements and areas of improvement to contribute to the discussion on WFP's strategic and operational direction in Egypt. It also provides evidence-based findings to inform operational and strategic decision making and contributes to the formulation of the upcoming WFP Egypt CSP. The Evaluation assessed activities against the following evaluation criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Coverage.

3. The evaluation made 10 key recommendations with 19 actions. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) *[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]*	**Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)** *[Name of responsible WFP office/division (/possibly external stakeholder in the case of Joint Evaluation). Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]*	**Management Response** *[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed? If Partially agreed or Not agreed, provide a brief reason for this.]*	**Actions to be taken** *[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]*	**Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)** *[Name of responsible WFP office/division/unit. Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]*	**Action Deadline** *[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-)recommendation deadline.]*
Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 1:** Develop a more structured approach to programme design supported by a well-developed Theory of Change (TOC) that produces a Logframe of measurable, achievable, and attributable, (i.e., SMART) indicators	CO Programme	Partially agreed. Since this DE, the CO has developed a TOC and a logframe, within the WFP corporate results framework, for its new CSP (2023-2028).	1.1 Develop a 1000 Days Programme- specific TOC.	CO programme (MOSS, MOHP/NNI)	Q2 2024
	CO M&E		1.2 Based on the 1000 Days Programme- specific TOC, review the 2023-2028 CSP log-frame to ensure all anticipated results are captured, and add indicators, if needed.	CO M&E unit	Q2 2024

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within an overall Results Framework.					
Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 2:** Conduct detailed capacity assessments of partner GOE as part of programme information-gathering and design **(deadline 2023)**	CO Programme	Partially agreed. Since this DE, WFP has identified operational and capacity challenges though programme implementation, which is informing the CS of the programme, specifically in MOSS. MOSIT is no longer part of the programme implementation, where the programme is being implemented by MOSS. WFP is currently supporting the MOHP (	2. Continue compiling and documenting, including through operational follow-up and M&E findings, the relevant capacity gaps related to the notification and redemption of the 1000 days' beneficiaries, and sharing information on the identified gaps with government counterparts.	CO programme (MOSS, MOHP/NNI)	Q4 2024

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		in coordination with UNICEF and the National Nutrition Institute) to complement MOSS's CT part, based on capacity needs that has been already identified by MOHP/ UNICEF. WFP is complementing with UNICEF the implementation of CS for the MOHP primary health care component.			
			2.2 Based on the regular operational follow-up, reporting and M&E findings	CO programme (MOSS, MOHP/NNI)	Q4 2024.

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			mentioned in action 2.1 above, tailor and include capacity strengthening component related to Programme data/information collection and implementation mechanisms as needed		
Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 3:** Put in place data monitoring mechanisms and plans at programme start-up, designed against the	CO Programme	Partially Agreed. WFP and MOSS have, since the evaluation, identified capacity gaps related to beneficiary data, notification and redemption monitoring, where MOSS accordingly requested that WFP transfer CT to	3.1 WFP to work with MOSS to transfer the 1000 days top up CTs to the GoE Meeza card (that mainstreams all CT assistance to beneficiaries). This will ensure high-quality data on redemption is provided by the WFP partners and compliance	CO programme (MOSS, CBT WG, RBC, MOHP/NNI)	**Q4 2024**

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programme's TOC and Results Framework, and then implemented to ensure that high quality data is collected in accordance with global data quality standards. **(deadline)**		the government unified meeza card to ensure better redemption and coverage of beneficiaries. This is currently being coordinated between WFP and MOSS as it is an important activity that is aiming at mainstreaming the assistance within the GOE social protection system, as well as ensures sustainability.	with the Programme's TOC and the logframe.		

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Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 4:** Conduct stronger assessment to better understand the channels that beneficiaries typically use to obtain health care information. **(deadline)**	CO Programme	Partially Agreed. Since the evaluation, WFP is collaborating with MOHP, NNI, and UNICEF to implement SBCC interventions based on assessments conducted by the MOHP on the knowledge gaps related to IYCF, which has also identified the communication channels used by the beneficiaries. As such, WFP is implementing SBCC interventions through the recommended channels from the assessment of the MOHP.	4.1 Conduct and implement SBCC interventions based on the channels beneficiaries use to obtain health care information, as identified by the MOHP assessment	CO programme (MOHP/NNI/ MOSS, CO CAM))	**Q4 2024**

Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 5:** Examine how to better synchronize the receipt of assistance at the distribution point with the messaging to beneficiaries that confirm the availability of this assistance. **(deadline)**	CO programme	Partially agreed. Since this DE, WFP in coordination with MOSS sends Sms notifications at the beginning of each cycle to beneficiaries based on the challenges identified. The sms notifies the beneficiaries of the dates of receipt of assistance. This is complemented by MOSS notifying the beneficiaries through their CWs. Synchronization of the assistance provided through MOSIT is no longer applicable, the assistance modality has now been changed to CT rather than in-kind through MOSIT. With this, MOSIT is no longer part of the programme design	5.1 Discuss with the different units in the CO and MOSS to continue implanting the sms notification system before every redemption cycle	CO Programme (CO Supply chain, service providers) MOSS, MOHP/NNI)	**Q 4 2023**
Priority: High/Medium	CO programme	Disagree This is no longer applicable. Since the evaluation, the			**Q 4 2023**

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Recommendation 6: Select distribution points that more closely correspond to geographical clusters target communities. **(deadline)**		transfer modality has been changed to CT that beneficiaries redeem from any post office outlet. This replaced the in-kind assistance through distribution points.			

Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 7:** Factor in the transaction costs incurred by beneficiaries to receive the assistance. **(deadline)**	CO Programme	Disagree. The CT value is set by the GoE,to be in line with the value provided under the national safety net programme (Takaful and Karama) Additionally, the beneficiaries are no longer receiving the assistance from MOSIT retailers, where the proximity problem was identified. The CTs are currently being redeemed through post offices that are, owing to extensive geographical presence across the country (5000 branches), easily accessible to all beneficiaries.			
Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 8:** Plan and conduct joint awareness sessions that bring together beneficiaries and retailers. **(deadline)**	CO programme	Disagree. MOSIT retailers are no longer part of the programme. WFP, since the DE, is already conducting awareness raising to beneficiaries through home visits and community awareness sessions undertaken by			

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		MOSS's Community Workers.			
Priority: High/Medium **Recommendation 9:** Strengthen beneficiary complaints and response mechanisms **(deadline)**	CO programme	Agreed	9.1 Utilize input M&E unit and share findings with MOSS to strengthen response and feedback mechanisms of the government system	CO Programme (CO M&E)	June 2024
Priority: High/Medium	CO programme	Partially Agreed. Currently the 1000 days programme is being implemented by	10.1 WFP to work with MOSS on organizing periodical coordination meetings that would bring	CO programme (MOSS, MOHP/NNI)	Q4 2024

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Recommendation 10: Strengthen coordination and communication systems between stakeholders, programme implementers, and national institutions at all levels, given the First 1000 Days programme alignment with broader national Egyptian initiatives. **(deadline)**		MOSS where MOSS is leading coordination among the different implementers and national institutions.	the different stakeholders of the programme to discuss implementation progress, challenges and mitigation measures, etc.		