



Two Minutes on Country Capacity Strengthening (CCS)

WFP support to national capacity development

A changing global context

Complex emergencies that threaten the food security and nutrition of millions worldwide have been increasing in recent decades. At the same time, rapid globalisation brings potential for unprecedented technological, economic and socio-cultural growth, maturation in national institutions and governance systems, as well as greater space for civil society voice.

Populations are increasingly calling for – and governments are increasingly taking on – greater accountability for the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. The unanimous adoption in 2015 of the [2030 Agenda](#) for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a testament to the growing desire of nations to take the lead in sustainably improving the wellbeing of their populations and building their own capacities to design and deliver effective anti-hunger solutions and meet food security and nutrition objectives.

Meeting food security objectives

To meet food security objectives, nations can articulate response capacities through specific plans or programmes; these can also be called National Hunger Response Capacities and can take the form of comprehensive disaster risk management plans, social protection systems and inclusive economic and social programmes.

However, and regardless of the specific response, for national response capacities to be relevant and effective, they must be rooted in strong and effective national institutions.

At the same time, a number of circumstances and/or conditions need to be in place to support these institutions and create an enabling environment for effective national responses. All of these components together – i.e., the response capacities, the anti-hunger institutions and the other enabling conditions are critical factors that influence a nation's capacity to reduce hunger.

WFP's response to the SDGs

WFP fully embraces the vision set in the 2030 Agenda for a world free from hunger in a context of equitable and environmentally responsible sustainable development. This vision is global and universal, and reflects a commitment to leaving no one behind.

Reflecting its own history and mandate, and recognizing that all 17 SDGs are interconnected, WFP's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) aligns with the Agenda 2030 by focusing on ending hunger (SDG 2) and building global partnerships (SDG 17) with national governments, donor governments, the private sector and others to achieve the SDGs, while contributing to other goals depending on country contexts and national priorities.

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WFP's five new Strategic Objectives (End hunger, Improve nutrition, Achieve food security, Support SDG implementation and Partner for SDG results) represent the elements of SDG2 and SDG17 on which WFP will focus.

Similarly, under these Strategic Objectives, WFP's eight Strategic Results align its support to national and global SDG efforts, and focus WFP's programmatic and operational responses on what countries actually need to achieve them. Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) outline WFP's approach to strategic and programmatic planning at the country level.

Each CSP is informed by a National Zero Hunger Strategic Review, an independent, analytical and consultative exercise that provides a comprehensive and detailed understanding of a given national food security situation and identifies high-level gaps in national capacity as relevant to both SDG 2 and SDG 17. As warranted by context, the WFP CSP will comprise a balance of direct hunger support or, increasingly, will support national capacities to end hunger and improve food security by offering nationally-tailored, demand-driven technical assistance and capacity strengthening across a wide range of domains.

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WFP can support nations in strengthening the underlying conditions that are critical to enhancing national response capacities by facilitating change at three fundamental levels: (1) the enabling environment, (2) the organizational or institutional level, and (3) the individual level.

Whilst operating at these three levels as needed and appropriate, WFP can engage along five critical pathways that collectively impact the effectiveness and sustainability of any given national anti-hunger response. These relate to supporting:

1. Effective anti-hunger policies & legislation;
2. Effective and accountable anti-hunger institutions;
3. Strategic anti-hunger planning and financing;

4. Effective anti-hunger programme design & management; and

5. Engagement and participation of non-state actors.

Ideally, all five domains should be well established for national (and/or sub-national, and/or local) zero hunger capacity to be strong, effective and sustainable. These five pathways therefore also lay out the paths of engagement through which WFP can offer appropriate technical assistance to strengthen national capacities.

WFP areas and modalities for CCS

WFP support will always be articulated around national development priorities, demand, critical needs and available resources. Appropriate sustainable food security and nutrition solutions are jointly decided by the national government and all development partners, including WFP.

These solutions may entail strengthening capacity for emergency preparedness and response, logistics, and supply chain management; strengthening risk reduction capabilities through social safety nets; bolstering climate risk management, adaptation and resilience; and enhancing food security and nutrition vulnerability assessment, to name a few. Frequently included in WFP country programmes is support to smallholder markets and capacity building in crosscutting areas such as nutrition, social protection and HIV/AIDS programmes.

Technical assistance and capacity strengthening may be provided through WFP's own staff as part of the WFP Country Office programme activities, or supported through the deployment of external experts as needed. WFP may also facilitate the transfer of knowledge by third parties, for example through South-South or triangular cooperation models, which promote peer-to-peer sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise between developing nations.