

OPERATION EVALUATION

Swaziland, Development Programme 200422:
Support to Children and Students affected by HIV and AIDS

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**Component 1 of Swaziland, Development
Programme 200508:** Support to Community-Based
Volunteer Caregivers of Children Affected by HIV and AIDS

An Evaluation of WFP's Operation (2013-2014)

Management Response

July, 2014



World Food Programme

wfp.org

Management response cleared by:

Country Director: Heather Hill/ 21 July 2014

Detailed responses to evaluation recommendations

Evaluation Recommendations	Management Accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and COMMENT on the Recommendation, providing clear reasoning for partially accepted and not accepted	Management - Action to be taken			
		Action	Responsible CO unit	Timeframe	Further funding required (Y or N)
<p>Strategic Recommendations</p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>In line with WFP's commitment to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS as well as focus on addressing the nutrition needs of vulnerable groups including children, WFP should continue to support the provision of food assistance to OVCs in NCPs until such a time as there is an effective safety net to address the food security needs of young OVCs. WFP CO, with input from RB & HQ as appropriate, should include support to food insecure OVC and their NCP caregivers in its country strategy. The strategy with regards to OVC support should build on lessons learned from both development projects and future food assistance projects targeting OVCs in NCPs as well as their NCP-based caregivers should be designed in an integrated manner.</p> <p>Timeframe: Starting now and continuing through the development of the next country strategy document.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The CO, with the relevant support from RB and HQ, will incorporate assistance to OVCs in the development of the next country strategy and country assistance framework. It has to be noted that actual design and implementation of projects would be dependent on the resourcing outlook.</p> <p>The CO agrees that the assistance to OVC and their NCP-based caregivers should be integrated into one project. This recommendation will be taken into account in future project design. Should there be donor restriction for this to realize, as it was the case in 2013, the CO will however ensure an integrated design of the activities, albeit technically divided in different projects.</p>	<p>Programme/ Management</p>	<p>By mid-2015</p>	<p>Y</p>

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<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>WFP, in collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners, should continue to flag and advocate for the placement of NCPs within the most appropriate ministry as well as the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach to utilizing NCPs to reach OVCs. In addition, WFP together with relevant UN partners, e.g. UNICEF, FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP and other relevant UN agencies, should build on current efforts and develop a multi-agency approach to tackle food insecurity in children. This approach would need to be aligned to in-country efforts as well as guide all food security/ social protection related activities undertaken by members of the UN Country Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: Ongoing.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>The recommendation for advocacy for the NCPs to be placed under an appropriate ministry is noted. The CO will continue its advocacy in relevant fora.</p>	Management /Programme	Ongoing	N
		<p>In relation to the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach, this was already developed under the NCPs Strategic Plan by government and development partners, including WFP. The CO sees, nevertheless, the opportunity to continue advocate for the actual implementation of the Plan.</p>	Management /Programme	Ongoing	N
		<p>Rather than the development of an ad-hoc UN agencies approach to tackle food insecurity for children, the CO will work with other UN partners to ensure the strategic approach is included within the next UNDAF (currently being developed), particularly as the UN country team moves towards Delivering as One. As Government and other in-country actors also participate to the development of the UNDAF, this would ensure alignment with country efforts.</p>	Management /Programme	By February 2015	N

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<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>WFP, together with relevant UN agencies and other development partners and NGOs, to intensify its advocacy to expedite the social protection agenda so that OVCs begin to benefit soon.</p> <p>Timeframe: Ongoing.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The CO will continue advocacy through the UN social protection working group.</p>	<p>Programme</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>WFP, together with relevant UN agencies and development partners and NGOs, to advocate for support to Schools and NCPs to be able to produce their own food, particularly drought-resistant vegetables, as a way of contributing to the diversity of food available to children and adolescents. Timeframe: Within 1 to 2 years.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p> <p>The issue of dietary diversity should be integrated into a country's longer term strategy for support to OVC, to which WFP together with other partners, can advocate for and contribute to. Feasibility of support to NCPs gardens countrywide to be assessed.</p> <p>WFP has been previously in discussions on the idea of NCPs gardens with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. The CO also</p>	<p>The CO will include dietary diversity, to be achieved where feasible through gardens at NCPs, in the advocacy and work with government and development partners towards a sustainability plan for support to OVCs.</p>	<p>Programme</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N</p>

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	<p>developed a concept note for the MoA to consider including in the National Agriculture Investment Plan. So far these initiatives have been received with a certain reluctance from ministries to get fully involved. The level of government commitment on this issue, needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>In relation to schools, the concept of school gardens is already included in the draft National School Feeding Framework by the MoET.</p>				
<p><u>Operational Recommendations: Short Term</u></p> <p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>WFP should continue its efforts to secure funds and build on the investments gained through both development projects – albeit as one integrated project. Should resource limitations require a reduction in scope, i.e. national vs. regional, WFP should prioritize</p>	Accepted	The CO will continue its fundraising efforts for assistance to NCPs (including continuing advocacy for support through the Global Fund; continued engagement with potential donors). The CO has also supported the building of an investment	Management /Programme	Ongoing	N

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<p>areas that have high levels of poverty and food insecurity such as rural areas and regions prone to droughts. WFP should also closely monitor results arising from the World Bank funded OVC cash transfer pilot to inform future decisions on transfer modality.</p> <p>Timeframe: Starting now and continuing until there is an effective safety net for very young OVCs.</p>		<p>case for OVC, which will also assist in advocacy.</p> <p>The recommendation on prioritization in case of limited resources is noted.</p> <p>The CO will continue follow the progress of the OVC cash transfer pilot and its results when these will be available.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>WFP should consider building the capacity of the MoET in the areas of procurement and supply chain management, quality assurance as well as in monitoring and evaluation. These efforts should be based on a rigorous needs assessment of the MoET's capacity in these and other related areas. This, and all other capacity building activities WFP undertakes should form part of an overall, country capacity building strategy.</p> <p>Timeframe: Starting within the next three to six months and continuing on as part of the overall country strategy.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>The CO agrees on the importance of capacity building. However external factors need to be considered that may limit the CO's ability to implement the recommendation: the capacity of the MoET to absorb technical assistance, currently there is only one staff dealing with school feeding in the entire ministry; the request by MoET itself for the assistance.</p>	<p>The CO will continue engagement with the MoET. Following the recommendations of the School Feeding Framework should the MoET's school feeding unit be reinforced, the CO would be in a position to propose a capacity building plan. The RB will be able to support in the area of food procurement and quality assurance.</p>	Programme	Ongoing	Y

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<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>For future development projects where on the ground implementation is required, WFP should explore maximizing the use of government structures such as MTAD and the Regional Authorities and the network of other partners to engage with communities more actively. Where appropriate and feasible, community input should be sought in the design and improvement of project implementation.</p> <p>Timeframe: Ongoing.</p>	Accepted	The CO will utilize further the local/regional authorities in community sensitizations in future project development.	Programme	Depending on project development (by June 2015)	Y
<p>Recommendation 8:</p> <p>In addition to considerations of cost-efficiency and WFP's own procurement process regulations, WFP to ensure that the selection of food baskets reflect, where feasible, the local context and preferences.</p> <p>Timeframe: Ongoing.</p>	Accepted	Accepted with emphasis on feasibility and ensuring WFP's procurement principles are respected. Indeed local context and preferences were considered in the project together with the other factors.	Programme/ Support of RB Procurement.	Depending on project development (by June 2015)	N

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<p><u>Operational Recommendations: Medium Term</u></p> <p>Recommendation 9:</p> <p>Given that MTAD is the government ministry charged with implementing the NCP strategy, WFP should consider building the capacity of MTAD to more effectively monitor output and outcome indicators at NCPs including food provision, attendance, etc. WFP can consider partnering with other UN agencies and other development partners to strengthen MTAD's overall monitoring and evaluation capacity. WFP's capacity development support to MTAD should be informed by a needs assessment and form part of WFP's country capacity building strategy.</p> <p>Timeframe: Starting within the next six months and continuing on as part of the overall country strategy.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p> <p>The value of the capacity building plan is agreed by the CO. However, before engaging in building the capacity of MTAD, issues related to its actual role on running of programmes at NCPs would need to be become clearer. As indicated also in the evaluation report there is a lack of real ownership of the programmes for OVCs provided through NCPs. The recommendation is in contradiction with recommendation n.2, whereby WFP, together, with other partners should advocate for the placement of NCPs within the most appropriate ministry.</p>	<p>The CO will continue advocate with government and development partners to review and identify the responsible government structure for support of OVCs at NCPs (see recommendation n.2)</p> <p>Based on the resolution of this issue, the CO can work together with other partners involved in promoting the multi-sectoral approach of NCPs, in assessing the needs and provide capacity building for the identified relevant government structure.</p>	Management /Programme	Ongoing	Y