

165th Session of the Council

Item 17.2: Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2019 (CL 165/17.2)

I am pleased to present you with an overview of WFP's 2019 Annual Performance Report (APR). The document is a result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders including the Executive Board membership, which helped us to refine and structure the report and give every piece of evidence on our performance in 2019.

The year 2019 benefits from being the first with all WFP country offices operating under the Integrated Road Map (IRM) framework through a Board-approved Country Strategic Plan (CSP), Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) or transitional ICSP. This has allowed for more consistent reporting and stronger governance. The 2019 APR is also the first to report against only one results framework and draws on the latest additions and revisions in the revised Corporate Results Framework (CRF), such as inclusion of new outcome indicators and global targets for programme and management indicators.

To better understand the context in which we operated, I would like to take you through some of our key financial figures. Given the increased complexity in our operating environment due to instability around the world, our needs grew to over USD 12 billion. Our donors showed confidence in our abilities by providing a record USD 8 billion in contributions. However, the funding gap widened more than USD 1.3 billion compared to 2018 and was USD 4.1 billion. This inevitably led WFP to suspend or reduce the breadth and scope of its operations.

While the growth in contribution revenue was critical for meeting increasing needs, there was a disproportionate concentration in both the source and the allocation of funding. In 2019, the top five donors accounted for 76 percent of total contributions, highlighting WFP's reliance on its key donors. Further, two-thirds of the contribution revenue was allocated to Level 3 and Level 2 emergency responses. Yemen remained WFP's largest operation, registering an increase of 41 percent in contributions compared to 2018.

Looking at our programme performance, WFP reached 97.1 million people through food and cash-based transfers in 75 countries, representing an increase of 12 percent from 2018. Similarly, the amount of food provided, resources transferred through Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) and commodity vouchers, and investment in capacity strengthening and service delivery activities, also all saw increases.

As for our transfer modalities, a significant increase was observed in CBT from USD 1.8 billion in 2018 to USD 2.1 billion in 2019, demonstrating our continued evolution to cash programming as an effective investment to assist people in meeting their unique and essential needs.

In the APR, programme results from the Annual Country Reports are aggregated up to the corporate level and a consolidated WFP-wide performance is presented in terms of its contribution to five Strategic Objectives (SO). WFP made strong progress against yearly average targets under four of five Strategic Objectives, demonstrating a positive trend in indicators.

SO 1 – end hunger by protecting access to food – remained consistent in performance and also SO 4 and SO 5 which could not be assessed in 2018 due to insufficient data, now show strong performance. WFP showed a partial achievement against SO 3 – achieve food security – similar to its performance in 2018. This SO consists of Strategic Result (SR) 3 – smallholders have improved food security and nutrition, and SR 4 – food systems are sustainable. The 2019 results show there was room for improvement under SR 3, where 14 out of 28 countries met or exceeded targets, while the performance against SR 4 was satisfactory.

Now, I would like to take you through some of our management highlights. We monitor our management performance at various levels as you see in the APR. However, today I would like to focus on how we measure the overall achievement of management performance standards. This reflects how WFP offices manage their available human, physical and financial resources to facilitate implementation of CSP activities. The KPI covers ten standard functional areas that work with each other, providing internal and external services that facilitate direct implementation. One or two critical indicators, those considered as the most representative for each functional area, have been selected as standards, covering the majority of the

processes carried out by the respective units. In 2019, most functional areas were in the medium to high performance range, with *Finance* and *Security* functional areas performing particularly well against the target.

Looking ahead at our priorities, the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as one of the greatest global threats of the past century and is one of the key drivers of food insecurity in 2020. To tackle the pandemic, WFP joined the global humanitarian response and is aligning its support to governments and national stakeholders' priorities. To ensure that people continue to receive the life-saving assistance they need, WFP adapted its planning and distributions and is operating under pandemic preparedness plans for the headquarters, regional bureau and country office levels. At the onset of the emergency, WFP immediately put mitigation measures in place so that the implementation of its programmes do not put beneficiaries at a higher risk of infection (for example by reducing congestion at food distribution sites or switching to take-home rations where schools are closed). In the medium term, WFP will partner with governments to provide policy and programme advice, data analytics and operational support for saving lives, protecting livelihoods and reinforcing government leadership and accountability.

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