



MINISTRY OF PLANNING, INVESTMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESULT MONITORING

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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WFP PROGRAMS IN SOMALIA

2024

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

WFP	World Food Program
NDP9	National Development Plan -9
COVID-19	Corona VirusDisease
MED	Monitoring and evaluation Department
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
IOM	International Organization for Migration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FGDs	Focus GroupDiscussions
IDIs	In-depth Interview Guide
UN	United Nation
KIIs	In-depth interviews/ Key Informant Interviews
CSP	country strategic plan
MoPIED	Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
SCI	Save the Children International
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
EVC	Electronic VoucherCard
JME	Joint monitoring exercise



FORWARD BY DIRECTOR



“

I am pleased to present the Joint Monitoring Report of the World Food Programme (WFP) programs in Somalia as the Director General of the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development. This report signifies the collaborative commitment between the Ministry and WFP to improve the lives of vulnerable populations in Somalia.

Somalia has faced various challenges including conflict, natural disasters, and food insecurity, which have greatly impacted its socio-economic landscape. Effective monitoring and evaluation play a crucial role in assessing intervention impact, enhancing accountability, and guiding evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development.

The partnership between the Ministry and WFP leverages expertise and resources to address the complex humanitarian and developmental needs of Somalia. Through this collaboration, we aim to ensure assistance reaches those most in need while fostering resilience and empowering communities to build a better future.

This report offers a comprehensive overview of the joint monitoring of WFP programs implemented in Somalia, highlighting achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement. It serves as a valuable tool for stakeholders, including government agencies, donors, civil society organizations, and the international community, to gain insights into intervention effectiveness and chart the way forward.

I commend the dedication and commitment of all those involved in planning, implementing, and monitoring WFP programs in Somalia. Your unwavering efforts are instrumental in making a positive difference in the lives of millions of Somalis, particularly in their pursuit of food security, nutrition, and resilience.

As we embark on the journey towards sustainable development in Somalia, let us remain steadfast in our resolve to leave no one behind. Together, we can build a brighter and more prosperous future for all Somalis.

Mohamed Shire

Director General

*Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
Federal Government of Somalia*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



This report provides a thorough Result Monitoring Report, evaluating the WFP program's coverage and exploring the targeting procedures used, especially for socially and economically marginalized groups, to guarantee the most vulnerable populations are fairly reached and supported. The insights gained from this study will help shape interventions and programming in the future that will better serve the needs of the society with-in the nation.

My profound gratitude goes out to the committed team leaders who painstakingly worked on the creation of this report, as well as the WFP personnel who offered priceless advice and assistance during the monitoring procedure. Their dedication and knowledge were crucial in gathering this important data for the benefit of all program participants.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire M&E department team for their unwavering commitment and persistent effort during this process. The success of this report owes much to your dedication and hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mohamud Said Nur

*Director for Monitoring and Evaluation
Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development The Federal
Government of Somalia*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings from a comprehensive joint monitoring exercise carried out by the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED). The exercise focused on Monitoring the implementation and performance of programs and interventions supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) across five selected districts (*Kismayo, Baidoa, Galkacyo, Dhusamareeb and Banadir*) in Somalia.

The monitoring teams utilized a mixed-methods approach, including desk reviews of program documents, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and field observations. The review aimed to assess the alignment of WFP's interventions with the National Development Plan objectives, particularly related to economic and social development priorities.

Key areas covered include relief assistance, nutrition programs, school feeding initiatives, and resilience-building efforts implemented by WFP in coordination with federal and state-level authorities. The report highlights achievements, challenges faced, and provides recommendations to improve program delivery and developmental impact.

Overall, the assessment results from the joint monitoring reveal that while the programs supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) largely align with the objectives of the Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9), there are notable gaps that hinder the attainment of long-term goals for building resilience. These programs tend to focus on immediate benefits and do not adequately prioritize capacity building and the promotion of community resilience.

The nutrition program supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) plays a pivotal role in tackling malnutrition and enhancing nutrition outcomes, which aligns with the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP-9). In a similar vein, the relief program is instrumental in addressing immediate food necessities and assisting vulnerable populations. Nonetheless, both programs fall short in implementing strategies for fostering long-term resilience, a concern underscored by the assessment.

The relief program encounters obstacles that curtail its efficacy and scope. Scarcity of resources results in an incomplete reach to households in dire need, leaving certain vulnerable families devoid of essential aid. Complications in resolving issues and the insufficient value provided on assistance cards further amplify the vulnerability of the recipients. Moreover, the brief duration of the program does not adequately tackle long-term food security challenges or contribute to resilience building. Regarding school feeding initiatives, while they have notably boosted enrollment and attendance rates, issues such as limited space, kitchen inadequacies, and the nutritional quality of meals pose significant challenges that need to be addressed to enhance effectiveness.



To amplify the impact of WFP-supported programs and ensure their alignment with the long-term objectives of the NDP-9, it is imperative to confront challenges including resource constraints, issue resolution mechanisms, program longevity, and nutritional standards. Concentrating on these areas will enable the programs to more effectively foster resilience and promote sustainable development.

The Key recommendations based on gaps identified across the five districts (Kismayo, Baidoa, Galkacyo, Dhusamareeb and Banadir) visited include- Enhancing the effectiveness and reach of programs supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) is paramount. Our recommendations stem from an in-depth analysis of gaps identified across various districts. At the heart of our suggestions is the need to improve feedback mechanisms, which are vital for refining and responding to program needs. By enhancing feedback systems, particularly those that include considerations for persons with disabilities, we can ensure that all beneficiaries have a say in the development and assessment of programs. Additionally, forging stronger partnerships with government agencies and communities is crucial. Such collaborations leverage local insights and resources, significantly enriching program implementation throughout its lifecycle.

Our findings also underscore the importance of fostering deeper engagement with communities, particularly those including persons with disabilities, to co-create disability-inclusive programs. This approach not only ensures accessibility and inclusiveness but also enhances the relevance and effectiveness of programs. Additionally, there is a pressing need to enhance accountability and coordination with local authorities, improve transparency, and address logistical challenges. By increasing community engagement, programs can become more aligned with the needs and aspirations of those they intend to serve. Moreover, creating stronger linkages between nutrition interventions and relief and cash transfer programs will provide a more holistic approach to addressing food security and nutritional needs.

To further amplify the impact of WFP-supported initiatives, it is crucial to incorporate comprehensive nutrition education for beneficiaries and community members, thereby empowering them with knowledge to make healthier dietary choices. Improving coordination among stakeholders is vital for efficient program implementation, ensuring that efforts are synergistic and impactful. Additionally, considering cultural and dietary preferences in program design, through co-creation with local communities, will enhance program acceptance and effectiveness. Lastly, promoting sustainable solutions through support for local agricultural initiatives and income-generating activities will contribute to long-term food security and resilience. Implementing these recommendations will significantly improve the scope and impact of WFP-supported programs, aligning them more closely with the overarching goals of enhancing food security and nutrition outcomes.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT BACKGROUND

Somalia is a low-income, food-deficit^[1] country that over the past decade has been undergoing the difficult transition from a “failed” to a “fragile” state.^[2] Modest political gains are stymied by widespread insecurity, recurrent climate-related disasters, environmental degradation, underinvestment in basic social services, population growth outstripping economic performance, fragile governance, and low state capacity. Nearly seven in ten Somalis live on less than USD 1.90 per day,^[3] the sixth-highest poverty rate in sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty is both widespread and deep, particularly for households in rural areas and internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements.^[4] Almost 80 percent of the population is at risk from external shocks such as natural disasters, conflict, and economic disruption.^[5] Somalia is ranked as the most vulnerable to climate change of 181 countries.^[6]

Forty-five percent of Somali boys and men and 48.4 percent of girls and women have never participated in formal schooling. Somalia has one of the world’s lowest overall school enrolment rates, with only 30 percent of children enrolled at the primary level (6–13 years) and 25 percent at the secondary level (14–17 years). IDP children are at higher risk of not attending school.



1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2019. The State of World Food Security and Nutrition: Safeguarding against Economic Slowdown and Downturns.

2 Data is often non-existent, insufficient, outdated, or inadequately disaggregated, impeding measurement of progress against the 2030 Agenda – exemplified by Somalia’s continuing absence from Human Development Index rankings.

3 United Nations Somalia. 2020. Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda in Somalia: A Companion to the United Nations Common Country Analysis.

4 World Bank. 2019. Somali Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment: Findings from Wave 2 of the Somali High Frequency Survey.

5 Somalia, Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development. 2019. Somalia National Development Plan 2020 to 2024

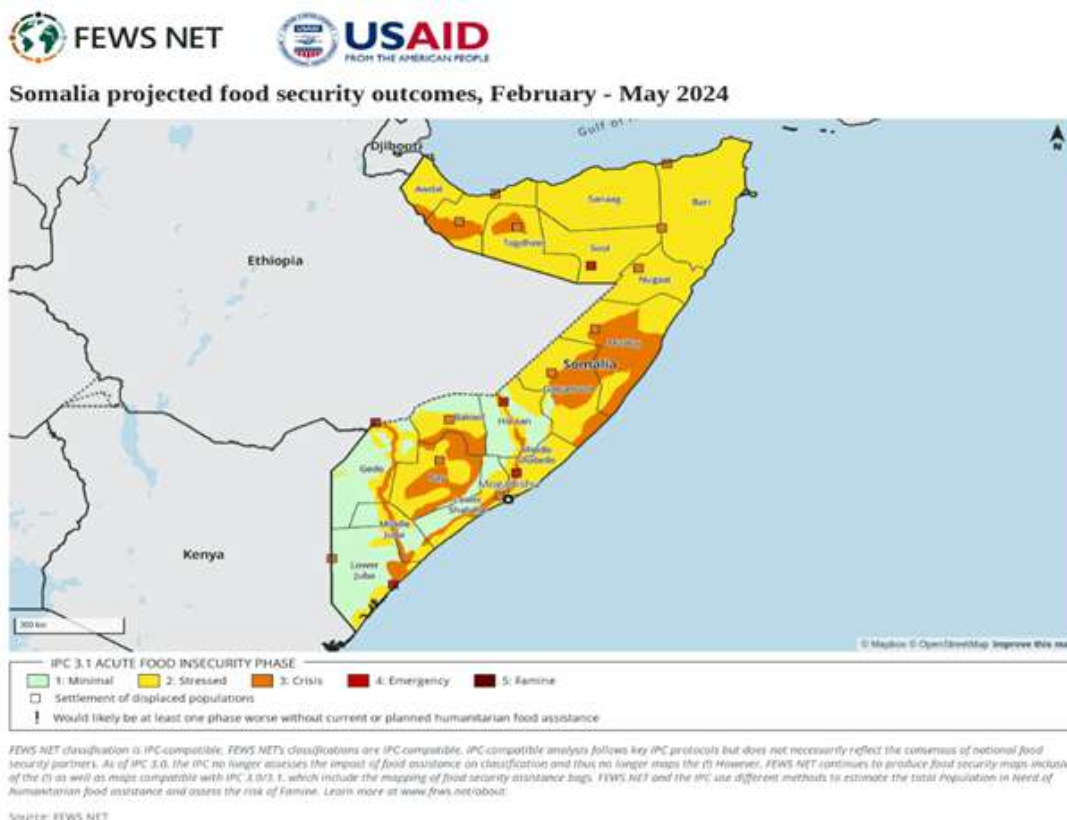
6 See <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/country/somalia>. Accessed on 28 May 2021



Despite legislative progress, women and girls remain at greater risk of socioeconomic exclusion. Maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Female genital mutilation is nearly universal. Early and child marriage is commonplace, deterring adolescent girls from continuing their educations, limiting their employability, and increasing their vulnerability to gender-based violence and adverse maternal and child health outcomes.

Before the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Somalia’s economy had been in recovery; however, the combined impact of the pandemic, locust infestation, cyclones, floods, and drought saw it projected to contract by 2.5 percent in 2020.[7] Economic slowdowns, declining remittances, and falling exports have reduced household income and consumption, disrupted supply chains, and entrenched poverty.

The main season deyr harvesting started in January 2024 in most areas, boosting market and household food stocks. However, according to crop data collected by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) during the annual 2023/24 post-deyr seasonal assessment, main season cereal production across southern Somalia is projected to be 34 percent below the long-term average (1995-2022) and 14 percent below the five-year average. This is mainly due to the impacts of severe flooding during the October to December deyr rainy season, which affected over 50 percent of cropping land. In the badly affected Hiiraan and Gedo regions, 6,000 hectares and 2,250 hectares of standing crops, respectively, were destroyed. Most of the irrigated farms (80-95 percent), including citrus fruit farms in the Gedo and Middle Shabelle regions, were also damaged due to prolonged submersion.[8]



7 Randa, John, and others. 2020. Somalia Economic Update: Impact of COVID-19 – Policies to Manage the Crisis and Strengthen Economic Recovery

8 FEWS NET. Somalia Key Message Update January 2024: Deyr harvest improves food availability, though crop production is below average, 2024

Households continue to experience displacement due to the impacts of recent conflict and flooding and the lasting impacts of the historic 2020–2023 drought. From December 10 to January 6, the IOM recorded nearly 45,000 new arrivals in southern Somalia. With limited access to income-generating activities and minimal productive assets, IDPs are heavily reliant on humanitarian food assistance. However, the provision of food assistance continues to be scaled down both at the national level and among IDPs despite their high levels of need. On average in the October to December 2023 period, 15 percent of registered IDPs were reached with monthly assistance, down from 19 percent in the July to September period, according to data from the Food Security Cluster. According to UNOCHA, there are approximately 3.86 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia as of January 2024.

1.2 INTEGRATING SDGS AND NDP-9 WITH WFP PROGRAMS: A STRATEGIC PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOMALIA

In the pursuit of sustainable development, Somalia has embarked on a significant journey through its [9] National Development Plan for 2020–2024 (NDP-9), which intricately aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embodies the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[10]. This plan not only integrates the SDGs into the government's broader agenda but also establishes a clear roadmap complete with priorities, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and development targets tailored to the unique context of Somalia. Despite challenges such as weak statistical systems that hinder comprehensive assessments, the NDP-9 represents a robust commitment to utilizing localized SDG targets to streamline funding, interventions, and reporting processes.

Amid two decades of conflict, Somalia's adoption of a provisional constitution in 2012 marked a pivotal moment, laying the groundwork for a federal political system and a parliament. This constitutional change coincided with the development of the National development plan, further reinforcing the commitment to sustainable development and inclusive governance. Supporting these ambitions, the United Nations has closely aligned its strategic priorities within the Somalia United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021–2025 with the four pillars of the NDP-9, covering inclusive politics, security, economic development, and social progress. The World Food Programme (WFP) has played a crucial role in this alignment, contributing to the evidence base and participating in defining a theory of change that fosters pathways to peace and sustainable, inclusive development.

9 Somalia, Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development. 2019. Somalia National Development Plan 2020 to 2024.

10 United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks are normally referred to by the acronym "UNSDCF". In Somalia, however, the sustainable cooperation development framework is commonly referred to as the "UNCF". Consistent with that practice the present document uses the acronym UNCF.



WFP's commitment to achieving Zero Hunger[11] in Somalia is unwavering. As the largest humanitarian organization in the country, WFP collaborates with the government, UN agencies, and other partners to provide immediate relief from hunger and malnutrition while also investing in long-term solutions to build resilience against future crises. In 2022, WFP's efforts were instrumental in averting famine during Somalia's severe drought, reaching a record



6.9 million people with humanitarian assistance. Beyond emergency relief, WFP's initiatives such as school feeding programs, livelihood support, and food systems development are critical for fostering long-term resilience. As an active member of the UN country team, WFP continues to lead in shaping strategies for achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and supporting Somalia's sustainable development aspirations.

WFP is committed to Zero Hunger in Somalia. As the largest humanitarian organization in the country, WFP works with the Government, sister United Nations agencies, and the wider humanitarian and development community to save lives at risk from hunger and malnutrition during crises.



This is complemented by longer-term investment to change lives by building the resilience of Somalia's people and institutions against recurrent climate shocks and other crises in the future, breaking the cycle of dependence on humanitarian aid. Through 2022, WFP's life-saving work in Somalia was largely defined by an unprecedented scale-up of humanitarian relief and nutrition, responding to the looming threat of famine amid the most protracted drought in recent history. With WFP reaching a record 6.9 million people with relief assistance (delivered mostly via cash that has also strengthened local economies) these efforts have helped to keep famine at bay so far but must be sustained as the drought continues. WFP has also maintained investment into life-changing resilience building, work that must be continued and expanded in 2023 to support recovery and mitigate the impact of future crises.

11 United Nations Somalia. Common Country Analysis 2020.



1.3 RATIONAL AND PURPOSE

The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development (MoPIED) is tasked with the overall monitoring, review, and evaluation of National Development Plan (NDP-9), programs, and projects to determine if they are achieving their intended objectives and track the progress concerning their implementation.

Recognizing the need to join forces to tackle the humanitarian situation in Somalia, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are actively collaborating to ensure the alignment of objectives towards the NDP-9 and the UN SDGs. This joint initiative included the establishment of mechanisms aimed at enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices and fostering a culture of continuous learning. Beyond just the distribution of humanitarian aid, the MoPIED and WFP work together to provide careful oversight of ongoing projects and initiatives, demonstrating a common dedication to optimizing tactics, guaranteeing program effectiveness, and promoting the welfare and advancement of Somali communities.

With this background, the MoPIED and WFP embarked on the joint monitoring of ongoing WFP programs across selected districts in Somalia seeking to measure the outcomes or results of programs implemented by WFP and its implementing partners and assess alignment with the NDP-9. The joint result monitoring focused on key interventions funded by WFP Somalia and implemented by partners across these districts viz Galkayo, Dhushamareb, Baidoa, Kismayo and Banadir.



1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE JOINT MONITORING EXERCISE

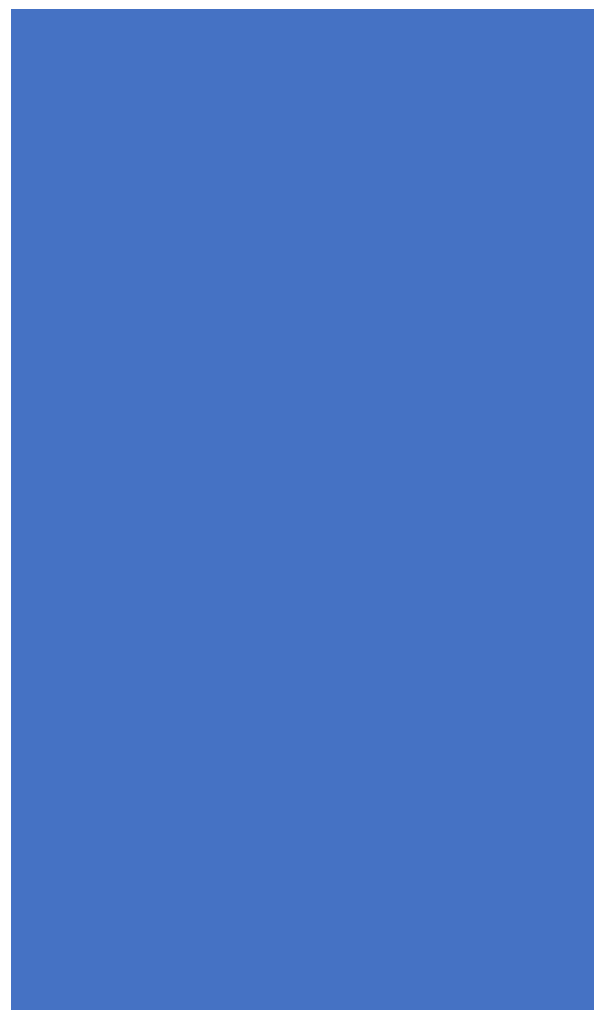
The specific objectives of the Joint Monitoring as set out in the Terms of Reference, amongst others, were to:

1. Determine the extent to which WFP-supported programs, projects, and initiatives are aligned and relevant to the goals and objectives of the NDP-9.
2. Establish the extent to which WFP-supported programs, projects, and initiatives are producing outcomes and impacts envisioned in the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework and the NDP-9.
3. Determine the extent of the beneficiary's accessibility to the ongoing WFP-supported programs in target communities.
4. Document lessons learned for the implementation of WFP-supported programs, projects, and initiatives.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 GENERAL APPROACH

The process of monitoring was guided by principles of the surveillance and monitoring for Evaluation of Development Programs provided by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC). Qualitative and quantitative information was gathered in a participatory manner using multiple data collection techniques that were informed by the general and specific project monitoring objectives as spelled out in the ToR to capture all critical information for the assessment of the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coordination, impact, and sustainability. Tools for the monitoring were developed by the MoPIED team in consultation with the WFP project team. To ensure the information collected is representative of all segments of the population, a deliberate effort was made to capture the opinions of the general communities, women, youth, minority groups, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



2.2 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The Joint Monitoring used a mixed method approach comprising of desk review of programme documents, and qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies.

Desk Review:

The monitoring team conducted a thorough review of various program documents and relevant sources to enhance the monitoring process. The documents reviewed included the WFP Country Strategic Plan, the Indicator Compendium, WFP ACR (2022), annual country report, logical framework, and MRE (Monitoring and Reporting Exercise). This comprehensive document review was instrumental in shaping the monitoring process by providing essential insights for setting measurement objectives and methodology. It also helped in understanding the project context better and developing monitoring tools. Furthermore, it facilitated the triangulation of information gathered from primary sources, ensuring a more robust and reliable monitoring process.



QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

The quantitative methodology consisted of three methods, namely FGDs, KIs, and observation, which served to capture information from the program's target beneficiaries and stakeholders to help gain an in-depth understanding of the program performance from their perspectives. The following is a description of the specific methods:

In-depth Interviews (IDIs)

The IDIs utilized an open-ended, discovery-oriented interviewing technique that facilitated a more in-depth exploration of the interviewees' feelings and perspectives on the monitoring questions.

The IDIs utilized face-to-face interviews to engage with targeted representatives from various entities, including relevant ministries at both federal and state levels, district administrations, WFP program staff, IP teams, village/camp elders, and women leaders. The monitoring team conducted a total of 20 Key Informant Interviews (KIs) across five districts, with each district hosting 4 KIs.

The monitoring team were using a semi-structured approach, allowing for flexibility in questioning and encouraging participants to share their experiences, insights, and recommendations. They employed probing techniques to delve deeper into the discussed issues and ensure comprehensive coverage during the interviews. Through Key Informant Interviews, valuable qualitative data was gathered, complementing findings from other data collection methods. The insights obtained enriched the overall assessment, validating and providing a holistic understanding of the project's outcomes and impacts.



Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs)

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with some segments of the beneficiaries and were disaggregated based on sex, age, and diversity enhancing group dynamics and observing cultural sensitivity

The monitoring team conducted a total of 20 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with participants/beneficiaries of the World Food Programme (WFP) program, including school committees, Community Leaders Committees, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The team employed the purposive sampling technique to select FGD participants, ensuring that individuals with in-depth knowledge of the program implementation processes were included. Each FGD comprised 6-8 participants and was carried out across five selected districts



Observation: A beneficiary observation was also conducted with program beneficiaries to objectively ascertain the certain aspects of the WFP-supported programs.



Table 1. The Description of the Methodology for the Data Collections

Methodology	Approach	Target group	Tool
Desk research	The monitoring team reviewed some of the WFP program documents focusing on the country's strategic plan, objectives, activities, and outputs. These documents included: the WFP Country Strategic Plan; WFP 2022 country report; and Process monitoring tools. All these have been integrated into the analysis to produce the monitoring report.	Relevant documents	Relevant documents
Qualitative	Focus group discussions (FGDs in each sample community each district 4 FGDs were conducted the 5 districts in The total of 20 FGDs were conducted each	WFP Program stakeholders in the participant communities (community Members and beneficiaries) in the sampled villages.	FGD guide
	In-depth interviews with program stakeholders. 4 KII were conducted in the 5 districts in total of 20 KII were conducted.	-WFP staff, -Implementing Partner -staff, Line Ministries (the focal person) -ministry of health and education	KII guide
	observation of physical aspect of the program	The physical aspect of the program - School feeding - Relief programs /nutrition	Observation checklist

Table 2. The Sampled sites and interventions and Key Respondents

STATE	District	Intervention	Key respondents	Sites
Banadir	Kahda	Nutrition /relief	Community Resilience Committee (CRC)	Kamil
	Daynile /	Nutrition /relief		Liiqliqato
Jubaland	Kismayo,	School feeding	WFP staff	Khalid binwalid
		Nutrition		Farjanno
Galmudug	Galkacio	School feeding	Implementing Partner staff FMS	Horn of Africa primary/IMS
		Relief (Nutrition)		Buur bisharo IDP camp
Southwest	Baidoa	School feeding	Teachers and Community Members Program Beneficiaries Health workers	Mustaqbal I.School
		Nutrition		Buulo Jaay and Cadaada MCH
Galmudug	Dhuusamareeb	Nutrition	Community Resilience Committee (CRC) WFP staff	WAXAR CADEE
		School Feeding		Daryeel Primary School

3. FINDINGS

3.1 ALIGNMENT AND RELEVANCE TO NDP-9 OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

NDP-9, laying out Somalia’s poverty reduction, peace, and development priorities for the period 2020–2024, was adopted on 23 December 2019. It prioritizes inclusive and accountable politics, improved security, the rule of law and economic and social development, with gender, youth, capacity development, human rights, and the environment as cross-cutting themes.

As a fully engaged member of the United Nations country team, WFP has been a leading participant in developing the common country analysis, especially for SDG 2 (zero hunger), and in developing the theory of change of the Somalia United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (UNCF)¹⁵ and articulating its outcomes and outputs for strategic priorities 2 and 3.

All of WFP’s work in Somalia is guided by its 2022–2025 country strategic plan (CSP). Launched at the beginning of 2022, the CSP was developed in consultation with Government and aligns with Somalia’s National Development Plan NDP-9 the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and the Humanitarian Response Plan.

3.1.1 DESK REVIEW FINDINGS

Following desk review of relevant documents, the team sought to assess the alignment and linkage of the WFP-supported programs and objectives with the NDP-9 objectives and goals. Findings from the desk review which had indicated strong linkage and alignment reflects some of the realities on the ground, although there were major gaps and challenges identified, especially with resilience building of the affected population. The table below outlines the findings from desk review:

Strategic Outcome	Linked NDP-9 Pillar
S.O 1 - Food-insecure and nutrition-insecure people, in disaster-affected areas, have access to adequate and nutritious food and specialized nutritious foods that meet their basic food and nutritional needs, during and in the aftermath of shocks	Pillars 3 & 4
S.O 2 - Vulnerable people in targeted areas have improved nutrition and resilience, and benefit from inclusive access to integrated basic social services, shock-responsive safety nets, and enhanced national capacity to build human capital, all year round	Pillar 4
S.O 3 National institutions, private sector, smallholder farmers, and food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations in Somalia benefit from climate-smart, productive, resilient, inclusive, and nutritious food systems by 2030	Pillars 3 & 4
S.O 4 National institutions and government agencies in Somalia benefit from strengthened capacities, policies, and systems by 2025	Pillars 3 & 4
S.O 5 - The humanitarian community in Somalia is better able to reach vulnerable people and respond to needs throughout the year	Pillars 3 & 4



3.1.2 FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD –

Although respondents from the Focus-Group Discussions revealed generally a linkage and alignment of the WFP-supported programs with the NDP-9 objectives, further analysis, based on gaps and challenges elicited from the respondents indicated the lack of alignment of WFP-supported programs with the long-term goal of the NDP-9 which seeks to build resilience of the crisis affected communities against sudden shocks. In-depth interrogation of the beneficiaries revealed that advantages of the programs supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) across all locations are purely short-term with no definitive plans for building capacity of the communities towards resilience.

3.2 LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION OF WFP PROGRAM TO NDP-9 OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

From the outset of the Country Strategic Plan for the WFP in Somalia, the programs were designed to contribute to the NDP-9 objectives and goals given the approach of deliberate alignment with the NDP-9 goals. These interventions, as they are rolled out, would help steer Somalia towards the realization of its NDP-9 goals and objectives.

Although few respondents in the field monitoring highlighted some general contribution of the WFP programs to the NDP-9 objectives, detailed assessment of the specific programs highlighted specific gaps and challenges. One of the respondents shared that the WFP nutrition program has contributed to the goals and objectives outlined in the NDP-9 through its contribution to ending malnutrition. Malnutrition in Somalia is driven by a combination of factors such as child illnesses, high morbidity, micronutrient deficiencies, low immunization levels, gender inequality and discriminatory sociocultural attitudes leading to poor care practices. This is being addressed by the WFP nutrition programs. Another respondent opined that the WFP-supported relief program contributes significantly to the achievements of the NDP-9 goals and objectives by addressing immediate food needs, improving nutrition, and supporting social services for vulnerable populations. This helps create an enabling environment for economic development and resilience-building, which are vital components of the NDP-9.

However detailed assessment findings (in Section 3.2) suggest that the contribution of the WFP program to NDP-9 objectives and goals are short-term as they focus on addressing the emergency needs of the beneficiaries and does not have built-in measures to build resilience. Most of the WFP programs are short-term and are not long enough to help the vulnerable households get the full support they need to be resilient.

3.3 EXTENT OF OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF WFP-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO UN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND THE SOMALIA

The World Food Programme (WFP) has been pivotal in generating significant outcomes and impacts across Somalia, through the implementation of various lifesaving interventions, notably the school feeding and community relief programs. These initiatives have been instrumental in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of communities, fostering a sense of security, well-being, and sustainable development.

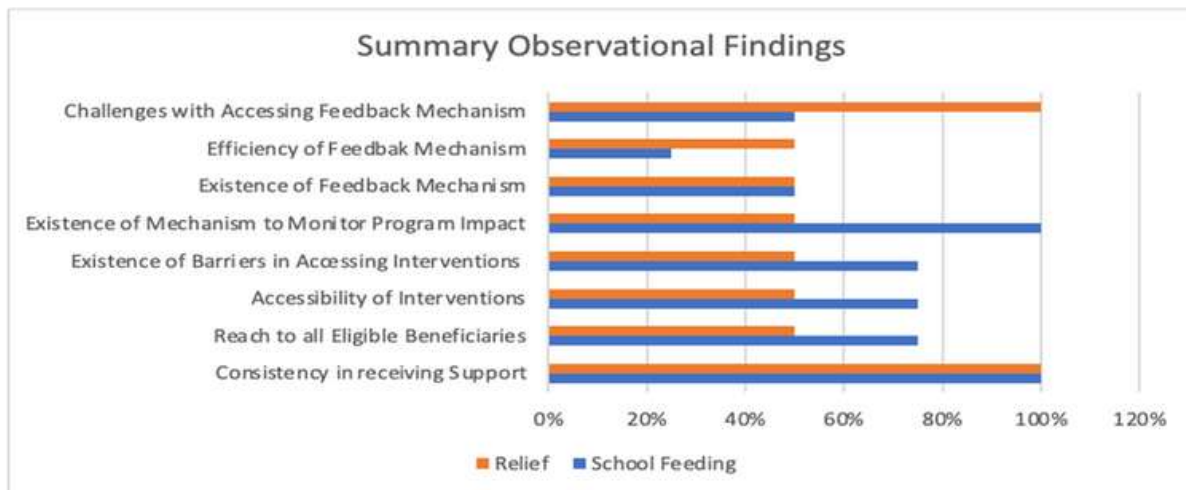
For example, of the transformative impact of these programs can be seen in the feedback from a community respondent. They highlighted the profound positive change brought about by the relief program, stating, "Before the initiation of the program, our community was grappling with numerous concerns and challenges, primarily due to a severe shortage of food. This scarcity threatened our daily survival and led to a heightened sense of vulnerability among community members." The respondent further elaborated on how the relief program has been a beacon of hope, "The introduction of the relief program marked a turning point for us. It provided an ample supply of essential food items, directly addressing our immediate concerns related to food scarcity." According to the respondent, "The provision of sufficient food has catalyzed a positive change in terms of development within our community. It has not only alleviated our immediate worries but has also significantly contributed to enhancing our overall well-being and resilience." The impact of the program is multifaceted, touching on various aspects of community life. "As a result of the program's intervention, community members now experience a heightened sense of satisfaction and have witnessed tangible improvements in their quality of life. The program has played a crucial role in fostering positive changes within the community, creating an environment where residents feel more secure and supported."

This testimonial underscores the critical role that WFP-supported programs play in not just providing immediate relief but also in contributing to the broader development and improved quality of life for communities in Somalia. The provision of essential food items has been a cornerstone in this effort, directly impacting the community's resilience and paving the way for sustainable development. The relief program's success is indicative of its ability to address both immediate needs and contribute to long-term positive changes within communities, highlighting the importance of such interventions in promoting security, well-being, and development.

A summary of the observational finding provides a comparative analysis between Relief and School Feeding programs across various metrics, revealing key insights into their effectiveness and accessibility. Both programs face challenges in accessing feedback mechanisms, with Relief experiencing slightly more difficulties. However, the efficiency of these feedback mechanisms is relatively better, with School Feeding having a slight edge. The existence of feedback mechanisms and systems to monitor program impact is strong in both programs, but School Feeding scores higher, indicating more robust systems.



Significantly, School Feeding outperforms Relief in terms of lower barriers to access, higher accessibility, better reach to eligible beneficiaries, and more consistent support. This suggests that School Feeding is more effective and efficient in delivering its interventions and support. While both programs have their merits, especially in terms of feedback and monitoring mechanisms, School Feeding appears to be the more effectively administered program according to these observational findings.



DETAILED ASSESSMENT FINDINGS BY THEMATIC SCOPE

3.3.1 RELIEF PROGRAM (NUTRITION PROGRAM) – FINDINGS

The relief program has positively influenced recipient families in several key aspects, notably in significantly improving food security. By providing essential food items, the program has alleviated hunger and reduced immediate hardship, preventing starvation within beneficiary households. Families now have access to a stable food supply, ensuring their nutritional needs are met and enhancing overall well-being. For example, accessibility of nutrition services, implemented by Save the Children International (SCI), helped to address the needs of malnourished children in the Buulo Jaay and Cadaada MCH in Baidoa and surrounded villages (Makuuto, Bashaashin Ashagow).

Respondents acknowledged that the nutrition program considered the specific nutritional needs of children and mothers in the community with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) biscuits and oatmeal being provided to address deficiencies, especially during environmental challenges like droughts and heavy rains.

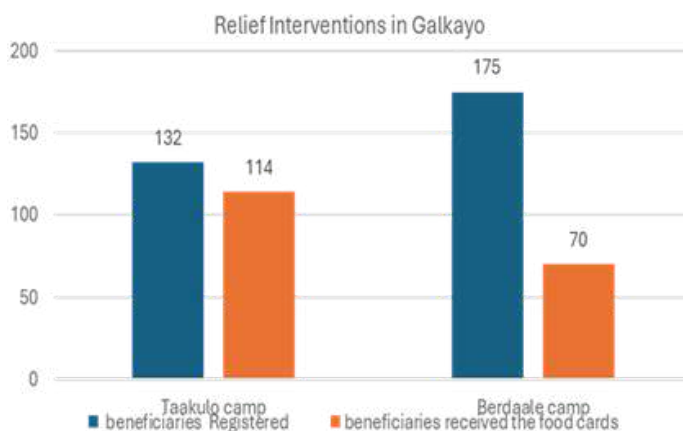
Furthermore, the program targeted malnourished and underprivileged individuals, pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5 years old. This targeted approach aimed to address the diverse nutritional requirements of different groups within the community.





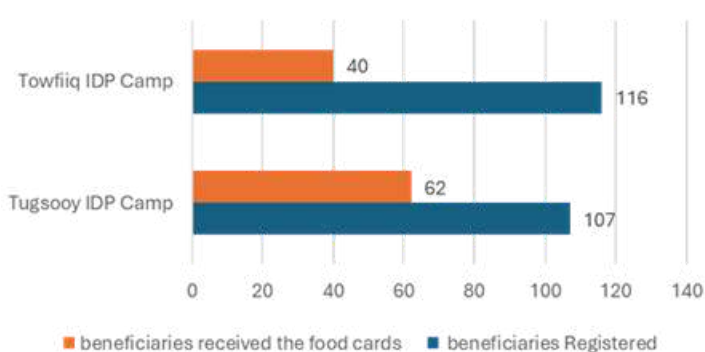
Participants had noted that the distribution of food aid and non-food items was crucial in supporting vulnerable populations affected by droughts, conflicts, and other emergencies. In some locations, nutrition programs were commended for their efforts to combat malnutrition and improve maternal and child health outcomes with respondents praising the provision of supplementary feeding, counseling, and healthcare services to vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and malnourished children.

In the Galkacto relief programs, a focused effort was made to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individuals and families in need. At the Taakulo camp over the past three years, 132 beneficiaries were identified to receive relief through scope cards, yet only 114 actually received these food cards, leaving 18 without the promised aid. A notable issue within the program was the lack of a dedicated feedback mechanism, preventing some beneficiaries from voicing their concerns or thoughts about the relief efforts.



Similarly, at Berdaale camp, out of 175 families, only 70 received food cards that were functional for six months before they ceased to work. In total, across both camps, 184 beneficiaries successfully received their cards, while 123 were left without. Additionally, after several months, a small number of these cards were distributed or became active again but were only usable for three months before becoming inactive again. A significant portion of these beneficiaries, three-quarters to be precise, now find themselves without a scope card and consequently without access to food.

Relief Interventions in Baidoa



In the Baidoa relief programs, the distribution of Scope Cards, intended to facilitate relief efforts, encountered significant challenges. At the Tugsooy IDP Camp, only 62 out of 107 registered families received these cards, with 7 cards not being recharged. Similarly, in the Towfiiq IDP Camp, just 40 out of 116 registered households received cards, despite the camp having 251 households. The process to address lost cards was notably slow, taking 2-3 months, leading to frustration among beneficiaries..



The relief program provided essential food items such as rice, sugar, oil, and flour, but was only active for 3 months, a duration deemed insufficient by beneficiaries for addressing long-term food security. The program's limited resources resulted in incomplete coverage of households in need, diminishing its potential impact and leaving vulnerable families without necessary support. Beneficiaries faced prolonged waiting times for resolving issues like lost or uncharged cards, delaying access to assistance and increasing their vulnerability. Additionally, the discrepancy between the card's value and high living costs meant that the purchasing power was insufficient, exacerbating financial strain for families.

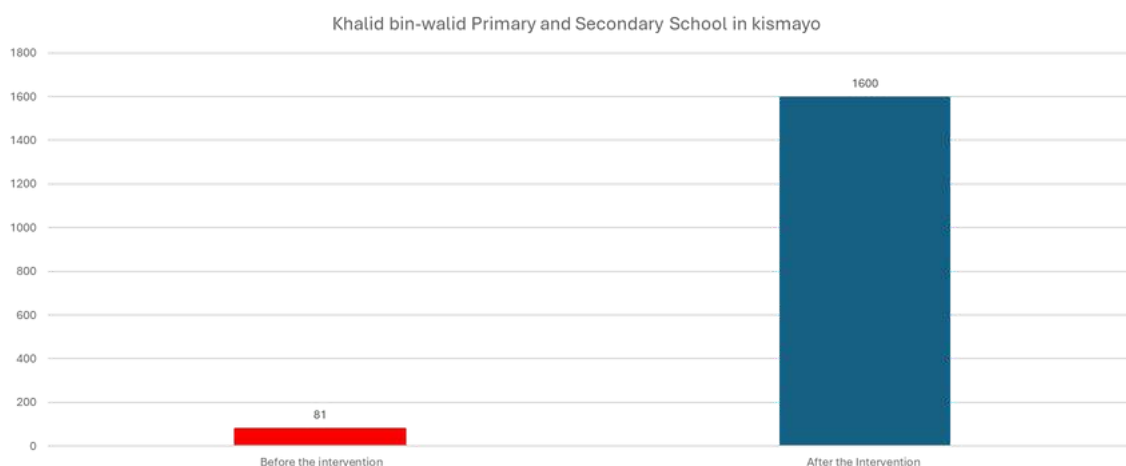
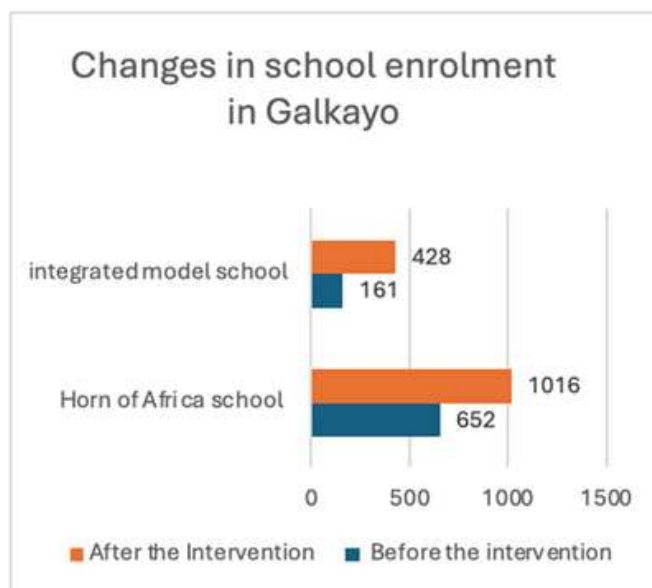
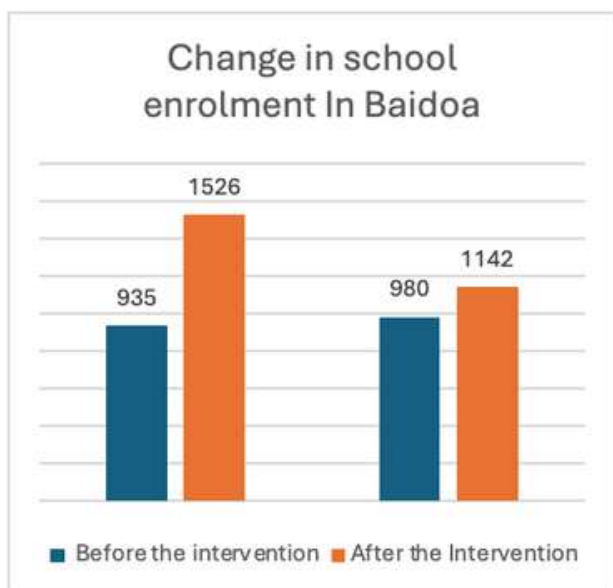
A feedback mechanism is in place through a dedicated hotline (364), allowing beneficiaries to voice concerns and suggestions free of charge. This shows a commitment to transparency and accountability. However, there's a need for improvement in the response times to these concerns to ensure beneficiaries' voices are effectively heard and their needs promptly addressed.

The relief programs operational in Kismayo, Baidoa, Galkacyo, Dhuusamreeb, and Banaadir have demonstrated significant positive impacts on the communities they serve. However, they encounter several substantial challenges that hinder their overall effectiveness and reach. One of the primary issues is the limitation posed by limited resources, which restricts the programs' ability to assist all eligible families adequately. This results in an incomplete coverage of households in need, leaving some vulnerable families without the crucial support they require. Moreover, the programs face operational challenges, including long waiting times for beneficiaries to resolve issues such as lost or un-recharged cards. This not only prolongs their access to assistance but also exacerbates their vulnerability, compromising the responsiveness of the program and its capacity to deliver timely relief to those in urgent need.

Additionally, there's a significant discrepancy between the value provided on the assistance cards and the high living costs faced by beneficiaries. The insufficient purchasing power of these cards, when compared to the rising prices of essential goods, exacerbates the financial strain on families. This limitation restricts their ability to fully benefit from the assistance provided, impacting their overall well-being and security. Furthermore, while the distribution of essential items like rice, sugar, oil, and flour aims to address immediate needs, the short duration of the program, lasting only 3 months, is perceived by beneficiaries as inadequate for addressing long-term food security issues and building resilience among the affected populations. These challenges collectively underscore the need for enhanced resources, improved operational efficiencies, and extended program durations to better meet the needs of vulnerable communities in these locations

3.3.2 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM - FINDINGS

As illustrated in the graphs, The overall impact of the school feeding program in the four locations - Kismayo, Galkacyo, Baidoa, and Dhuusamareeb - on enrolment and attendance has been significant. The graphs illustrate the positive outcomes, showcasing a notable increase in enrolment and high attendance rates. This success highlights the effectiveness of the program in enhancing access to education and promoting student engagement. By creating a conducive learning environment and fostering a culture of regular school attendance, the program has contributed to improved educational outcomes and the overall development of students within the community.



It is worth noting that the school feeding program in these locations follows the "Home-Grown School Feeding" approach, where schools frequently source their meals from smallholder farmers in the area. This practice not only benefits the students but also boosts regional economies and encourages the development of more gender- and climate-sensitive, sustainably planned agricultural systems.



However, despite the program's achievements, there are some challenges that need to be addressed. One such challenge is related to space constraints within the school premises. The limited availability of space may pose logistical difficulties during peak times when a large number of students gather to receive their meals. This issue may affect the efficient distribution of meals and require innovative solutions to ensure smooth operations.

Another challenge pertains to kitchen inadequacies. In some cases, the kitchen facilities may lack sufficient equipment or workspace, which can impede the timely preparation and serving of meals. Addressing these inadequacies and investing in improved kitchen infrastructure could help streamline the meal distribution process and ensure that students receive their meals promptly.

Furthermore, there is a need to address the nutritional aspect of the meals provided through the school feeding program. Currently, the meals offered may not be adequately diverse or nutritionally rich, failing to meet the students' adequate nutritional needs. It is crucial to prioritize the inclusion of a variety of nutritious foods in the meals, ensuring that they are well-balanced and contribute to the students' overall health and well-being.



4. KEY CHALLENGES OBSERVED IN THE FIELD

- Limited coordination among stakeholders particularly the engagement of MOPIED at state level and WFP staff at Field level which hindered efficient program implementation. This was seen in some staff in Kismayo refusing to participate the interview.
- High Living Costs vs. Card Value
- Delays in addressing concerns communicated through the feedback hotline hinder timely aid and frustrate beneficiaries.
- Gaps in targeting the most marginalized and hard-to-reach communities.
- Difficulties in renewing expired Scope Cards & Restrictions for those already receiving nutrition support.
- The commodity prices of the WFP-introduced stores are quite higher (\$2) than the other neighboring stores, this left us the power to purchase the required food items became weak, and we had no choice but to change the stores where we bought.
- A significant proportion of the selected beneficiaries are not receiving their cards which is a huge call for concern on the efficiency and effectiveness of the program in reaching all the intended beneficiaries.
- Shortage of health workers within the MCH centers leading to leading to delays and inefficiencies in service provision.
- Geographical barriers with many beneficiaries residing in remote areas travelling long distances to reach the MCH centers.
- Lengthy queues for scope card registration at the MCH centers with no waiting areas
- The requirement by beneficiaries to return empty supplement bags creates hygiene concerns and additional burdens for the family's health and well-being.
- Delayed payments of scope cards and malfunctioning scope cards.
- Delays in scope card production led to beneficiaries seeking services from multiple MCH centers.
- WFP gives conditions to the beneficiaries to find the scope card for receiving the nutritional supplements which is not sustainable.
- Limited availability of space within school premises often hinders the logistics of meal distribution.
- Lack of diversity of food options: One significant challenge was the limited diversity of food options provided through the school feeding program. The menu predominantly consisted of a few staple items, which resulted in a lack of variety and nutritional balance in the meals. This limited diversity can lead to monotony and decreased student satisfaction, affecting their overall participation and enjoyment of the program.
- Inadequacies in kitchen facilities: Another challenge observed was the inadequacy of kitchen facilities within the schools. Outdated equipment, limited cooking space, and inadequate storage facilities hindered the efficient preparation and distribution of meals.
- Lack of inclusion of Secondary school students: The school feeding program primarily focused on primary school students, while secondary school students were largely excluded. This exclusion neglected the nutritional needs of older students, who often face growth spurts and increased academic demands. The lack of inclusion of secondary school students in the program meant that they missed out on the nutritional support and benefits provided to their younger counterparts.



4.2 LESSONS LEARNT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

Discussions with the respondents across the WFP implementing sites provided some valuable insights about valuable recommendations, lessons learnt, and best practices identified.

Recommendations and Lessons Learnt

- WFP should closely engage and collaborate with Ministry of planning at state level during the planning of WFP programs and M&E including JME.
- WFP to come up with a strategy to increase health workers within the MCH centers to address the shortage that is leading to delays and inefficiencies in service provision.
- Need to strengthen linkage between nutrition interventions with relief and cash transfer programs.
- Streamline payment system for scope cards to ensure timely and accurate payment.
- Improve coordination among stakeholders for efficient program implementation.
- Need to improve on the Feedback mechanisms for the WFP programs.
- WFP together with its Implementation partners should scale up their Geographical areas and ensure that remote areas have their own facilities.
- The WFP nutrition program needs to introduce more diverse food offerings to ensure a balanced and diverse diet. While RUTF biscuits and oatmeal are provided in the current program, it would be beneficial to introduce a wider variety of nutritious foods to ensure a more balanced and diverse diet for the beneficiaries. This could include incorporating locally available fruits, vegetables, and protein sources.
- Enhance community involvement and empowerment through engagement sessions and community nutrition committees.
- Provide comprehensive nutrition education and awareness to beneficiaries and community members.
- Explore cultural and dietary preferences when designing nutrition programs. This can be achieved through program design co-creation with the local communities being targeted.
- Promote sustainable solutions through support for local agricultural initiatives and income-generating activities.
- WFP should also take into consideration secondary schools as the currently interventions focuses only Primary schools.
- Expand the use of mobile money platforms like EVC PLUS to streamline salary payments for school employees and to eliminate unnecessary \$5 deductions from the food stores to ensure fair compensation and motivate staff.
- Enhance transparency and accountability by conducting regular monitoring and investigations.
- Support local agricultural initiatives and income-generating activities to promote sustainable solutions for addressing nutrition challenges in the community.

Some key lessons learned and areas for improvement in the implementation of WFP supported programs, projects, and initiatives include the importance of context-specific interventions, the need for long-term planning and sustainability, the value of data-driven decision-making, the significance of gender-responsive approaches, and the potential for leveraging technology and innovation to enhance program effectiveness.



Interesting success stories narrated by another respondent revealed that individuals who were beneficiaries of the school feeding program have now become teachers in the school, showcasing the program's impact on education and community empowerment. Also, through the program's support, people have been able to establish small-scale businesses and generate income using mobile money, leading to their transformation into successful entrepreneurs.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The World Food Programme (WFP) stands as the primary humanitarian agency in Somalia, swiftly responding to disasters to ensure families can meet their fundamental needs. Through the delivery of life-saving food assistance, WFP provides in-kind rations or cash, offering recipients more choices and fostering new markets for local producers and retailers. Additionally, WFP addresses malnutrition by distributing specially fortified nutritious foods, focusing on children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

the findings from the desk review and field assessments highlight both positive aspects and significant challenges in the alignment of WFP-supported programs with the objectives and goals of Somalia's NDP-9. While there is a strong linkage between WFP programs and some of the key priorities outlined in NDP-9, such as inclusive politics, security, and economic development, there are notable gaps in addressing the long-term goal of building resilience in crisis-affected communities. The lack of definitive plans for capacity-building towards resilience indicates a disconnect between the short-term assistance provided by WFP and the overarching objectives of NDP-9.

Moving forward, it is crucial for WFP to reassess its programs in Somalia to ensure they are not only aligned with immediate needs but also contribute to the long-term goal of enhancing community resilience. By incorporating capacity-building initiatives and sustainable solutions into their interventions, WFP can better support the objectives of NDP-9 and contribute to the overall development and stability of Somalia. Collaboration with local stakeholders, including government authorities and community members, will be essential in designing programs that address both short-term food security needs and long-term resilience-building efforts in line with the national development agenda.

The WFP-supported programs in Somalia have demonstrated positive outcomes and impacts, particularly through initiatives like the school feeding program and community relief programs. These interventions have significantly alleviated food insecurity concerns within communities, leading to improved well-being and resilience among beneficiaries. The success of these programs is evident in the positive changes observed within the community, fostering a sense of security and support among residents.



While the WFP-supported programs have shown consistency in delivering support, there are notable challenges in ensuring full access to interventions, particularly in reaching all eligible beneficiaries for the school feeding program and community relief programs. The findings underscore the importance of establishing robust feedback mechanisms to enhance program effectiveness and responsiveness to community needs. Additionally, efforts should be made to address barriers that hinder beneficiaries from fully accessing program interventions. Strengthening monitoring mechanisms, especially for community relief programs, is essential to track impact and ensure accountability. By addressing these challenges and enhancing program design based on feedback from beneficiaries, WFP can further improve the effectiveness and sustainability of its interventions in Somalia.

Additionally, the recommendations and lessons learned from the implementation of WFP-supported programs in Somalia highlight the importance of strategic collaboration with key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Planning at the state level, to ensure effective planning, monitoring, and evaluation of programs. Strengthening partnerships with government entities can enhance program coordination and alignment with national priorities, ultimately improving program outcomes. Additionally, addressing critical gaps in health worker availability within Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centers is essential to enhance service delivery efficiency and reduce delays. By developing a strategy to increase the number of health workers, WFP can improve access to essential healthcare services for beneficiaries, contributing to better health outcomes in the community.

Furthermore, lessons learned emphasize the significance of integrating nutrition interventions with relief and cash transfer programs to address food insecurity comprehensively. Strengthening feedback mechanisms and community engagement are vital for enhancing program effectiveness and ensuring that interventions are responsive to beneficiaries' needs. To promote sustainable solutions, WFP should consider supporting local agricultural initiatives and income-generating activities, empowering communities to address nutrition challenges independently. By incorporating diverse food offerings in nutrition programs and leveraging mobile money platforms for streamlined payments, WFP can enhance program impact and ensure equitable compensation for school employees. Overall, these recommendations and lessons provide valuable insights for optimizing the design and implementation of WFP-supported programs in Somalia to better serve vulnerable populations and promote sustainable development.



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