

MID-TERM REVIEW

Reaching the Furthest Behind First

Gender transformative and nutrition sensitive programming to increase food and nutrition security for women, adolescent girls, and children in Chemba, Sofala - a contribution to the WFP Mozambique Country Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present mid-term evaluation is conducted for the Gender Transformative and Nutrition Sensitive (GTNS) innovative stunting reduction project, implemented in Chemba, Sofala (Mozambique). The mid-term evaluation serves two immediate purposes: taking stock of intermediate results and presenting recommendations for securing project success.

After a brief overview of the context and the key project components of GTNS, the mid-term review dedicates ample space to the project implementation so far. The GTNS Project was initially planned for a three-year implementation period, namely January 2019 – December 2021, but due to delays in the initial phases of the project it only began in June 2019. To address the multifaceted determinates of stunting, the GTNS project was designed to address both structural and economic barriers to accessing and affording a nutritious diet. It integrates Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programming with interventions to address Post Harvest Loss (PHL), coupled with Social Behaviour Communication for Change (SBCC) campaigns to tackle Nutrition, Gender, and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). Amongst other things, this section of the report analyses the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the activities in 2021, which has caused, for example, a complete disruption to SBCC, and partial disruption to PHL field operations.

The core of the document is dedicated to an analysis of the project intermediary results so far, with a focus both on outcome and output indicators, providing a detailed overview of the main challenges, areas for improvement and successes. One of the main observations is that the delay in the SBCC component will likely impact both project outcomes and impact, as the existing project timeframe entails the collection of end line data prior to the completion of the interpersonal sessions. In line with the project design and impact pathway, these sessions are expected to have a significant impact on key determining factors for stunting such as early pregnancy; pregnancy spacing; and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Similarly, the PHL trainings and material distribution were delayed and therefore are not yet completed. As such, this is expected to impact the overall results, as the transfers will only be fully available to beneficiaries during the final year lean season starting October 2021, thus not expected to carry any impact before the current data collection.

Despite the delays, it seems reasonable to assume that the GTNS will succeed in its efforts to reduce stunting, although this is likely to be achieved over a longer timeframe than the one currently established. This would be partially driven by the relative lack of development in women's empowerment, partially by the relative lack of access to assets, and partially through the relative lack of access to income as a consequence of poor harvesting practice. Progress in stunting reduction can be achieved only through the combined effect of an improved enabling environment, made possible through the PHL and FFA components, coupled with SBCC.

Against this backdrop, the mid-term evaluation recommends extending the project implementation period up to two years, based on comparative results of a stunting prevention programmes with a similar logical framework and integrated approach.