



## ADAPTATION FUND

21 May 2020

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Adaptation Fund Board

### ***Accreditation Panel Recommendation on the Fast Track Re-accreditation of the World Food Programme (WFP) as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund***

Having reviewed the fast-track re-accreditation application of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Accreditation Panel recommended that WFP be re-accredited as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund.

A summary of the review is presented in Annex I below.

#### ***Re-accreditation Decision:***

Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel and following the fast-track process approved by Decision B.28/38, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit ***the World Food Programme (WFP)*** as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund for five years, as per paragraph 38 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The re-accreditation expiration date is 20 May 2025.

***Decision B.35.a-35.b/8***

## **ANNEX I: REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) FOR FAST TRACK RE-ACCREDITATION AS A MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (MIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND.**

### **Background**

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to fight hunger worldwide by supporting national, regional and local food security and nutrition plans and programmes. Under its 2017 Climate Change Policy, WFP's goal is for vulnerable people, communities and governments to be able to address the impacts of climate on food security and nutrition and to adapt to climate change. Prior to this, WFP was already incorporating climate change considerations in its work, and it was accredited in 2010 and re-accredited in 2015 as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund (AF). Since then it has been the implementing entity for seven national projects and one regional AF project. WFP submitted its current application for re-accreditation to the Secretariat via the online workflow system on 24 January 2020.

WFP was accredited with the Green Climate Fund in March 2016 under a fast-track process, without conditions, in view of it being an AF-accredited NIE, and is eligible for fast-track accreditation under AF Board Decision B.28/38.

### **Assessment against the fast track re-accreditation criteria**

The assessment for fast-track re-accreditation has, in accordance with Board Decisions B.28/38 (Fast-track re-accreditation of implementing entities accredited with the Green Climate Fund), B.34/3 (Updated Re-accreditation Process) and B.32/36 (Accreditation Standards Related to Anti-Money-Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism), focused on the following criteria:

- **The Fiduciary Standard related to the legal status** - The Panel notes that there has been no change to the legal personality of WFP and that it continues to have the authority and capacity to receive funds, to enter into contracts or agreements with international organizations, and serve as a plaintiff or defendant in a court of law. On the basis of these elements, the ***Panel concludes that WFP continues to meet this criterion.***
- **Policies and Framework to deal with financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice** - The Panel is satisfied that WFP commits to and has maintained zero tolerance towards fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice; adopted policies and practices to deter and detect such behavior; and has the commitment and the capability to receive reports of such behavior, have them objectively reviewed and take appropriate action where the behavior is confirmed. WFP's commitments are set out in an anti-fraud and corruption policy covering both staff and third parties engaged in WFP activities, and are supported by an extensive set of procedures, mechanisms and staffing. WFP's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and WFP's Ethics Office carry out assessments, promote awareness within the organization and maintain reporting hotlines. Third parties can also use the country level Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms to communicate concerns. There continues to be a well-developed internal investigation function within OIG which observes the Uniform Guidelines for Investigations adopted by the Conference of International Investigators. WFP has policies and mechanisms in place to discipline staff and to sanction third parties found to have engaged in prohibited practices. It has appropriate internal measures for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT), supplemented by investigation capacity for suspected violations. On the basis of these elements, the ***Panel concludes that WFP continues to meet this criterion.***

- **Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy** - WFP has reaffirmed a “commitment to continue abiding by the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy in all activities financed through the Adaptation Fund”. This commitment is supported by an environmental policy framework under which WFP has established a set of core environmental standards, a process for screening and categorizing environmental risk (consistent with WFP’s Enterprise Risk Management Policy) and an environmental management system consistent with the international standard ISO 14001. Social safety standards are encapsulated in existing policies and directives (Gender, Humanitarian Protection, Accountability to Affected populations) and have been extracted from existing WFP’s normative documents to form, jointly with the environmental standards, WFP’s Environmental and Social safeguards. These are currently being tested in the field and subject to refinement based on feedback from the pilots. WFP is a leading institution with regards to gender mainstreaming as measured by UN SWAP indicators and its efforts have also been recognized in the 2019 Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) review. Its Gender Policy and Action Plan establish a comprehensive framework for promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in its programs and projects and this is subject to an extensive monitoring and evaluation system. An analysis of its actions, evaluations and third party assessments indicates good results in many aspects as well as ongoing challenges. On the basis of these elements, the ***Panel concludes that WFP continues to meet this criterion.***
- **Mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs** - The Panel is satisfied that WFP has maintained the commitment and the capability to receive, have independently reviewed and take remedial action where appropriate on complaints regarding environmental, social and gender harms caused by its programs and projects. This is being principally done through the implementation of WFP’s Strategy for Accountability to Affected Populations 2016-2021. Under this strategy, tailored Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) have been put in place at country-level and these are managed at either Country Office-level, project-level, or jointly by all UN agencies in a given country. WFP has established minimum standards for CFMs and has begun rolling out a new digital platform for the systematic management and tracking of complaints and feedback across all locations. On the basis of these elements, the ***Panel concludes that WFP continues to meet this criterion.***

### **Assessment of the implementing entity’s performance regarding quality at entry and project/programme implementation**

Where AF projects have been completed or sufficiently advanced to have performance reviews and evaluations available, the assessments available have been generally positive. Ratings on project component implementation have ranged between highly satisfactory through to marginally satisfactory, noting actions taken in lagging areas and mid-term evaluation recommendations aimed at maximizing gains made and ensuring delays addressed.

### **Recommendation**

The Accreditation Panel recommends that WFP be reaccredited as a MIE of the Adaptation Fund.