GLOBAL CONTEXT

rise in humanitarian **needs**

people facing acute **food insecurity**

319 million in 2025 **+136%** since 2019

drop in global humanitarian **funding**

needs funded **64%** in 2019

needs funded **23%** in 2025

WFP is forced to **prioritize** more sharply whom to assist, where and for how long

TARGETING: Selecting people based on programme objectives and needs assessments

PRIORITIZATION: Deciding who within a targeted population receives assistance when resources are insufficient

WFP's approaches to **targeting** and **prioritization** for food and nutrition assistance: normative framework and operational application
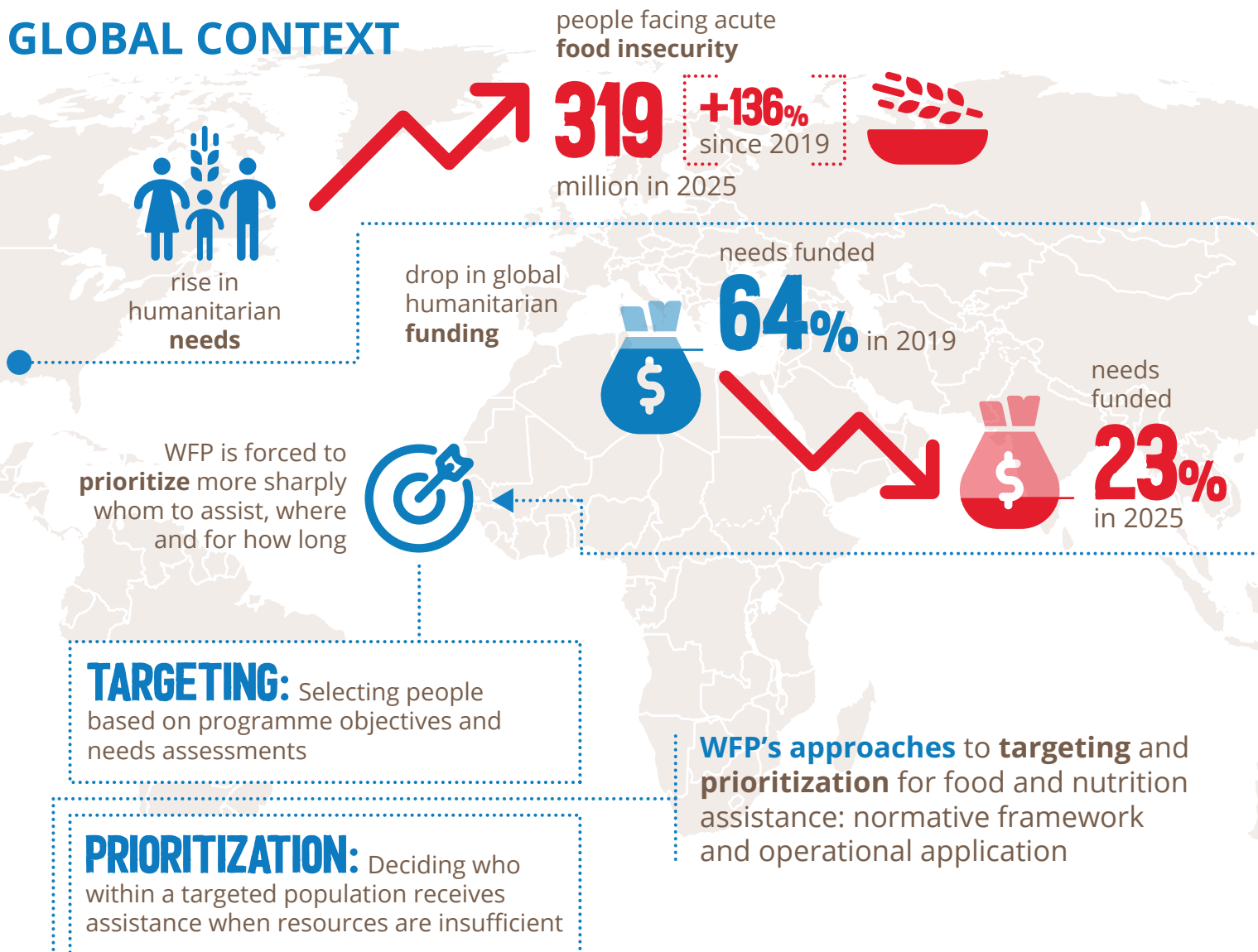
EVALUATION KEY INSIGHTS

● WFP'S NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES

WFP's normative framework is largely fit for purpose, but fragmented and with some gaps

Global and regional support was key to improving country office practice but is now at risk due to workforce reductions

APPROPRIATENESS, AGILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Approaches used are context-appropriate, but rationale is rarely documented and there is limited evidence on costs of each approach. Limited agility to adapt targeting and prioritization approaches to changing circumstances

COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Internal cross-functional engagement and collaboration with external partners have improved, but deeper engagement is needed. Use of national registries remains limited

EFFECTIVENESS

Limited data on inclusion and exclusion errors hinders WFP's ability to assess targeting effectiveness

Overall, targeting approaches allow WFP to identify the most vulnerable people

Ration cuts led to assistance being too thinly spread, reducing its effectiveness. Limited programme integration due to different programmes' objectives and targeting logics

DISCONNECT BETWEEN STANDARDS AND PRACTICE

Uneven partners' capacities, insufficient communication and inconsistent beneficiary verification and deduplication processes create operational and reputational risks

Limited transparency with affected communities weakened trust and social cohesion

WFP'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PRINCIPLES

Sharper prioritization creates ethical dilemmas over who to assist, where and for how long

Vulnerability-based targeting improves fairness but raises costs. Country offices seek clearer corporate guidance on how to navigate these trade-offs

Strategic Plan 2026-2029 shifts toward higher quality assistance and greater integration of emergency and resilience support

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Support country offices by providing a clearer articulation of WFP's strategic focus and positioning to strengthen their targeting and prioritization rationales

2 Uphold targeting and prioritization standards by making guidance and tools more accessible, enforcing compliance with minimum standards, and safeguarding capacity

3 Support country offices in adopting more transparent, agile and cost-effective targeting and prioritization approaches

4 Strengthen the interoperability of WFP's own data systems and common data systems or data sharing with other humanitarian agencies for targeting and prioritization

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Brief

Summary Report

Full Report