

COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATIONS 2010–2011
CONCEPT NOTE



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NEW DIRECTIONS IN 2008–2009

1. The Office of Evaluation (OE) introduced country portfolio evaluations (CPE) as a new type of evaluation for the 2008–2009 biennium.
2. The WFP Biennial Management Plan (2008–2009)¹ indicated that these evaluations would “inform strategic decision-making by country and regional directors. These evaluations will (i) cover all activities and operations during a given timeframe, (ii) analyze the internal coherence of the full spectrum of WFP’s work, including strategic choices and synergies among operations in a country, and (iii) determine ways in which WFP can operate in the context of ‘Delivering as One’ and other United Nations reform and harmonization initiatives.”
3. In the 2008–2009 biennium, OE initiated three such evaluations, completing two. The country portfolios chosen for these evaluations deliberately included one large/complex portfolio, one medium and one small portfolio to establish and test the methodology under different circumstances. CPEs were completed in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (WFP/EB.2/2009/6-F) and Malawi (WFP/EB.2/2009/6-E); the CPE for Chad began in late 2009 and will be completed in 2010.
4. The evaluations address the following **three questions**:
 - (i) Did WFP align itself with government and partner strategies and position itself strategically in that context?
 - (ii) What factors have driven the choices of the current portfolio, and how should the factors be managed, if at all?
 - (iii) How did the WFP portfolio as a whole perform and what results did it produce?
5. The new initiative for country offices to develop country strategies, introduced in 2008, provided a further rationale for CPEs.

EXPANDING COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATIONS IN 2010–2011

6. The Management Plan (2010–2011) foresees that the number of CPEs will be expanded from three in 2008–2009 to eight in 2010–2011. The rationale for this expansion was the support CPEs can provide to country strategies.
7. OE identified the following criteria for selection of portfolios:
 - **Country-related:** Those countries with significant food security issues are identified. The indicators include total population and percentage of undernourished population; income group; the economic shock and hunger index; and the presence of a World Bank Food Crisis Response Programme project. The analysis also includes the relative

¹WFP/EB.2/2007/5-A/1

importance of WFP in the country, based on the Consolidated Appeals Process.

- **WFP-specific:** Those countries where WFP has a significant programme and would benefit the most from a CPE are identified. These indicators include the number of operations, the total size of the portfolio, the number of grants and the timing of the preparation of the country strategy. Included in this analysis is also the number of evaluations previously undertaken in the country.

COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATIONS WORK PLAN IN 2010–2011

8. Based on the above criteria, OE identified the following country portfolios for evaluation:

ODB: Nepal (already under implementation)

ODC: Yemen

ODD: Chad (already under implementation) and Mali

ODJ: Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia

ODP: Haiti

9. OE has resources for an additional CPE, for which the following countries are short-listed: Liberia, Niger and Zimbabwe. The choice will be made in 2010.

OUTLOOK FOR 2012 AND BEYOND

10. During the course of the 2010–2011 biennium, based on the experience it gathers OE will develop criteria for determining how many portfolios should be evaluated and at what frequency. It will also review whether the criteria need to be adjusted or expanded, and how they can be applied in ways that improve the sampling.
11. On the standby list for 2012–2013 are the Sudan and Uganda.