



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Response to the Peer Review of the Evaluation Function at WFP

May 2021

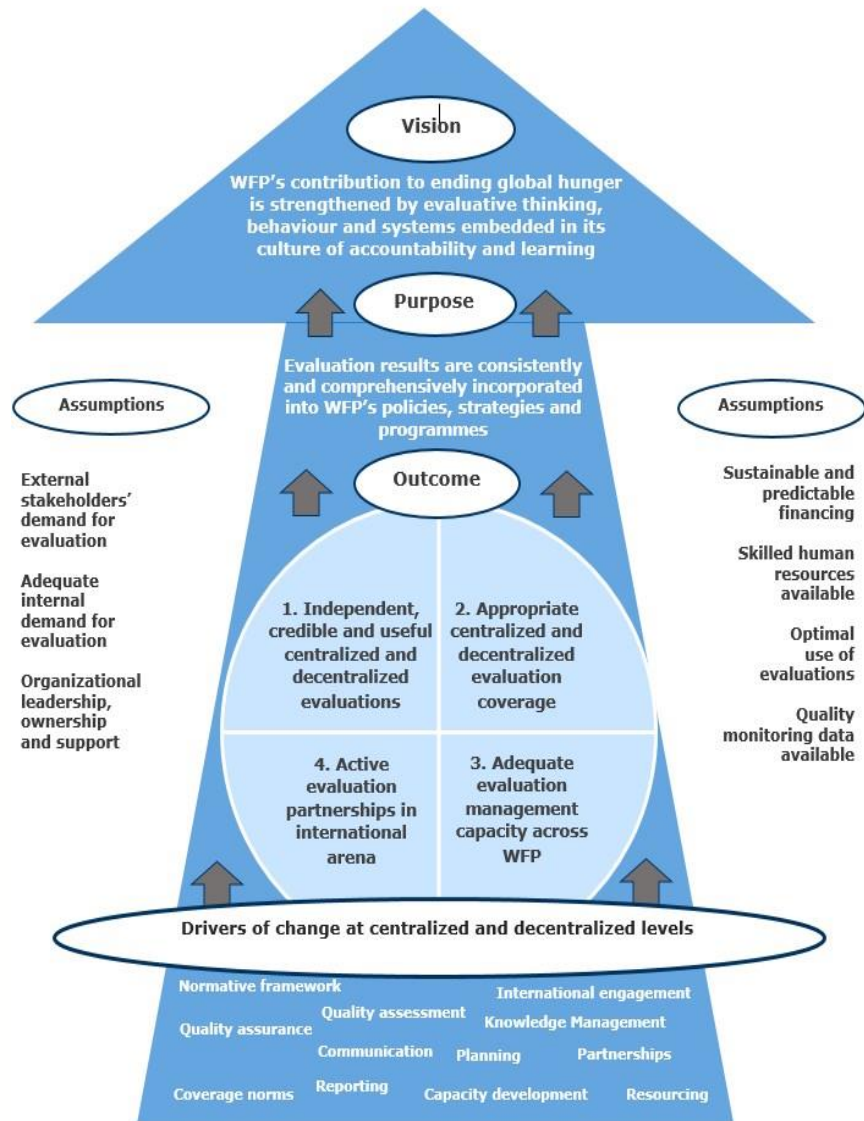
Annual Consultation on Evaluation 2021



World Food Programme

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LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# About the 2020 Peer Review



## ○ PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- Assessing the independence, credibility, and utility of the WFP evaluation function
- Intended to inform next Evaluation Policy

## ○ PROCESS

- Office of Evaluation produced a comprehensive Self-Assessment Report
- Panel's consultant produced a Preliminary Assessment
- Panel held interviews
- Entirely remote due to COVID-19

# Peer Review Findings



## OVERALL ASSESSMENT

- WFP has established a strong and mature centralized evaluation function
- The decentralized evaluation system is less mature, but significant progress has been made



## INDEPENDENCE

- WFP's central evaluation function has a high degree of structural and functional independence – finding in line with previous assessments



## CREDIBILITY

- Evaluation function and its products have high degree of credibility
- Office of Evaluation has established very robust principles, guidance and practices for both centralized and decentralized evaluations



## UTILITY

- Evaluation increasingly seen as enhancing learning and good practice, as well as accountability
- Need continued focus to drive transition from: "Accountability for results" to "accountability for learning for results", striking an optimal balance between accountability and learning

# An opportunity to strengthen utility and value added of the evaluation function



**Peer Review does not recommend any fundamental changes** to the strong existing model: it works well



The Panel makes **six overarching recommendations**, with associated sub-recommendations

# WFP Response to the Peer Review



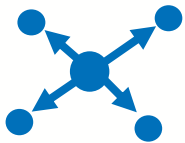
We welcome the recommendations of the review



WFP is committed to the vision that embedding evaluative thinking and systems will strengthen our contribution to ending global hunger



Responding to the review will move us further towards this vision through adequate financing of the function, effective capacity, and role in enhancing organizational learning from evaluative evidence



The recommendations and actions are consistent with those proposed in the Mid-Term-Review of the Regional Evaluation Strategies



An updated Evaluation Policy will ensure that the evaluation function is in harmony with the next WFP Strategic Plan

# Recommendation 1

## INDEPENDENCE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EVALUATION POSITION



### **RESPONSE:**

#### **Agree with all sub-recommendations**

- Action on these recommendations will ensure clarity on the independence of the Director of Evaluation
- Changes in practice will be reflected in the updated Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Charter

## Recommendation 2

# FUNDING THE EVALUATION FUNCTION



### RESPONSE:

#### Agree with all sub-recommendations

- The proportion of income for evaluation has steadily increased. A specific target will be informed by an analysis of the future direction of the function
- Progress has been made on harmonizing funding sources for different types of evaluation, especially at Office of Evaluation and regional level
- Office of Evaluation will support processes for budgeting country level evaluations, encourage funding partners to fund evaluations, and consider options for the CEF especially for smaller country offices
- BUSBE will help to determine funding across the function

## Recommendation 3

# ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND DIVERSITY



### RESPONSE:

**Partially Agree with sub-recommendation a.**

**Agree with sub-recommendations b and c**

- Utilizing a range of recruitment processes, Office of Evaluation will work with HR to ensure a pipeline of staff with appropriate skills
- Evaluation Capacity Development Strategy will support skill development and credentialling; Office of Evaluation and HR will develop a recognition scheme for the evaluation cadre
- Work to enhance diversity will be guided by the new WFP People Policy and WFP's Diversity and Inclusion Framework



## Recommendation 4

# ENHANCING EVALUATION'S CONTRIBUTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING



### RESPONSE:

#### Agree with all sub-recommendations

- Existing mechanisms which contribute to learning should be used effectively
- Office of Evaluation fosters innovation to support better utilization of evaluation evidence and continues to diversify evaluation products and build knowledge particularly around the priorities of the next WFP Strategic Plan
- The evaluation function can be more proactive in supporting learning, becoming a valued learning partner within the organization
- An update to the evaluation Theory of Change will add an outcome on learning and use of evaluation evidence

## Recommendation 5

# ENHANCING UTILITY OF DECENTRALIZED EVALUATIONS AND STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRATED FUNCTION



**RESPONSE: Partially Agree with sub-recommendations a and c.**

**Agree with sub-recommendations b and d**

- WFP values a more coherent approach to learning from evaluation evidence but does not agree this needs a learning plan. An update of the Theory of Change and the evaluation strategy will identify specific actions
- CSPE coverage will be reviewed as part of the CSP Policy evaluation (2023)
- Office of Evaluation and GPD will continue to engage with donors to ensure that learning and accountability is based on evidence needs of the organization
- Quality assurance mechanisms have increased the quality of DEs, and human and financial resources have increased capacity. The ECD strategy will further build capacity in country offices to commission and manage evaluations

## Recommendation 6

# POSITIONING AND PARTNERSHIPS



### **RESPONSE: Agree with all sub-recommendations**

- Office of Evaluation will continue its work with partners to enhance practices in humanitarian evaluation, to support the United Nations System Wide Evaluation and joint evaluations at global, regional and country levels, and to ensure that the “leave no-one behind” agenda is mainstreamed into evaluations
- Specific principles regarding National Evaluation Capacity Development will be amplified in the updated Evaluation Policy. There are outstanding questions on capacity within WFP to support this potentially extensive agenda