



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of the Policy on WFP's Role in Peacebuilding in Transition Settings

February 2023

Round Table on evaluations



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Clarify expectations for WFP's role in conflict, post-conflict and transition settings
- Leverage opportunities to contribute to peace

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Assess quality of the policy, effectiveness of implementation measures and effects that WFP's presence and interventions have on peace and conflict dynamics



EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY



- Reconstruction of **Theory of Change**
- Primary data collection between Sep 2021- Apr 2022
- Mixed methods for data collection, analysis and triangulation
 - ✓ **field missions and in-person survey** of 2,155 affected people in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Iraq
 - ✓ **desk reviews “plus”** in Ethiopia, Libya, Sudan, Syria
 - ✓ 156 **Key informant interviews**
 - ✓ Extensive desk review including **semi-automated document analysis** of over 11,000 annual planning and reporting documents covering all COs from 2012 to 2021
 - ✓ **Comparative review:** FAO, UNICEF, OXFAM International

POLICY CONTEXT



EXTERNAL

- Increased emphasis on triple nexus and addressing root causes of conflicts;
- UN Sec Council Resolution 2417
- Nobel Peace Prize award
- Increased emphasis on intersection of food security and conflict



INTERNAL

- Evolving institutional set up and capacity for WFP work on conflict and peace
- WFP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 features aspects related to peacebuilding

COUNTRIES IN/OR AT RISK OF CONFLICT (2020)



* The desk review plus and field mission countries are represented in blue

POLICY FEATURES

Principles

- Understand context
- Maintain hunger focus
- Avoid harm
- Support national priorities and humanitarian principles
- Support UN coherence
- Be responsive to dynamic environment
- Ensure inclusivity & equity
- Be realistic

Directions

- Conducting conflict and risk analyses
- Using conflict-sensitive programming
- Working with peacebuilding partners

Implementation measures

- Capacity building
- Practical operations support from HQ and RBs
- Broadening of the evidence base
- Process adaptations

EVALUATION FINDINGS – QUALITY OF THE POLICY



FULLY MEETS QUALITY

- Coherence with strategic objectives
- Draws from gap analysis
- Well-defined scope and prioritized actions
- External coherence
- Consistent terminology



PARTIALLY MEETS QUALITY

- Vision outlined but no ToC
- Limited reflections on internal coherence and gender
- Selective reflection on evidence



SHORTCOMINGS

- Selective consultations on policy formulation
- Limited investments in institutional arrangements and resourcing
- Limited integration of M&E and reporting

EVALUATION FINDINGS – RESULTS



- Conflict analysis: conflict-sensitive programming inconsistent and constrained; high awareness on do-no-harm, but blind spots remain
- Programme adaptation: mainly strengthening impartiality and programme quality to avoid harm; coordination with peacebuilding actors rare but promising
- Positive and/or negative effects on conflict and peace dynamics: mainly driven by wellbeing linked to food assistance, social cohesion linked to participatory programming and effective targeting
- Overall strong WFP reputation as a neutral actor

EVALUATION FINDINGS – WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE RESULTS OBSERVED



ENABLING FACTORS

- Management buy-in
- Strong awareness of do no harm and humanitarian principles
- Efforts towards increased staff capacity
- Size and scale of WFP operations



CONSTRAINING FACTORS

- Lack of clarity on WFP's ambition
- Limited dedicated positions for conflict analysis
- Limited funding
- Focus on standalone efforts to peacebuilding
- Urgency culture and short-term programmes
- Limited role of Cooperating Partners

CONCLUSIONS



Policy remains relevant also in light of 'changing lives' agenda



While there were gaps in systematic policy implementation, efforts towards increased capacities in countries are in the right direction



While conflict-sensitivity requires more attention, WFP's core mandate on food security delivers important contributions to peace



Potential to contribute to already existing peacebuilding initiatives and partnerships remains



Limited engagement with cooperating partners and analytical blind spots on WFP's intersection with conflict dynamics are key hindrances

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Strengthen actionable, country-level analysis of WFP's influence on conflict dynamics



2. Create incentives and take steps to adapt organizational culture to make conflict sensitivity more central



3. Mainstream conflict sensitivity in WFP programmes and processes with partners and contractors



4. Contribute to peacebuilding by supporting existing peacebuilding processes while drawing on WFP's core mandate on alleviating food insecurity