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## Amendment to the WFP evaluation policy 2022

### Background

The evaluation coverage norms for country strategic plans (CSPs) were established in the 2016 policy on CSPs and reflected accordingly in the 2022 evaluation policy. The 2023 evaluation of the policy on CSPs recommended that those norms be revised in order to achieve more strategic, timely and cost-effective evaluation coverage. Following extensive consultation with the Board in early 2024, the WFP Secretariat proposes to modify the evaluation coverage norms for CSPs by introducing the amendments to the WFP evaluation policy described in this document.

### Draft decision\*

The Board approves the amendments to the WFP evaluation policy as set out in document WFP/EB.A/2024/5-E.

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\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

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## Amendments to the evaluation policy<sup>1</sup>

WFP proposes to introduce the following modifications to table 2 of the 2022 evaluation policy.

### Current text

- a) A CSP evaluation is required in the penultimate year of each CSP.
- b) For interim CSPs an evaluation is required every five years for the ten largest country offices and every 10–12 years for all other country offices.

### Revised text

The Office of Evaluation will conduct a minimum of ten CSP evaluations in any given year, covering at least 70 percent of all the CSPs and interim CSPs that are in the penultimate year of implementation.

All CSPs and interim CSPs that meet at least one of the following criteria will be evaluated:

- They were not evaluated in the previous cycle.
- They are implemented in a country classified as “high risk” on the Risk Management Division’s country profile risk index.
- They are implemented in an emergency setting for which corporate attention or corporate scale-up has been activated during the current programme cycle.

To meet the minimum coverage requirements, additional CSPs may be selected for evaluation based on the following criteria, in order of priority:

- i) **Major contextual and/or strategic shifts** have occurred during implementation and have altered the way in which WFP is working in the country.
- ii) There is a **learning opportunity** for WFP, for example in relation to new modalities of engagement and/or thematic areas of particular interest.
- iii) A CSP or interim CSP has been identified as a **strategic priority for the region** by the regional bureau.
- iv) There is **stakeholder demand** for a CSP or interim CSP evaluation, such as from government or other national partners.

The selection process will also take into account any decentralized evaluations under way.

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<sup>1</sup> “WFP evaluation policy 2022” (WFP/EB.1/2022/4-C).

## ANNEX

## Evaluation policy (2022): annotated table 2

The text subject to the amendments proposed in this document is indicated in red.

TABLE 2: MINIMUM EVALUATION COVERAGE NORMS	
Commissioning unit	Type of evaluation
OEV	<b>Strategic evaluations:</b> These provide balanced coverage of the core planning instruments of WFP, including elements of the WFP strategic plan and related strategies.
	<b>Policy evaluations:</b> Evaluation of policies takes place between four and six years after the start of implementation <sup>a</sup> and/or prior to policy changes.
	<b>Corporate emergency evaluations:</b> All crises classified as “corporate scale-up phase” and “corporate attention phase” <sup>b</sup> will be subject to evaluation through OEV-commissioned corporate emergency evaluations or CSP evaluations or inter-agency humanitarian evaluations. The Director of Evaluation will determine the most appropriate option in consultation with key stakeholders.
	<b>CSP evaluations:</b> <sup>c</sup> a) A CSP evaluation is required in the penultimate year of each CSP. b) For interim CSPs an evaluation is required every five years for the ten largest country offices <sup>d</sup> and every 10–12 years for all other country offices.
	<b>Impact evaluations:</b> The Director of Evaluation will determine how many windows and how many evaluations within each window can be managed at any one time, <sup>e</sup> considering organizational evidence priorities and capacity.
Country office	At least one <b>decentralized evaluation</b> (e.g. activity or thematic evaluation or CSP strategic outcome evaluation) per country office per interim CSP or CSP cycle.
Regional bureaux	No specific norms but criteria to guide decision making on evaluation (see table 3) should be applied, particularly for multi-country evaluations. <sup>f</sup>
Headquarters office/division	No specific norms but criteria to guide decision making on evaluation (see table 3) should be applied.
<b>Syntheses:</b> These summarize evidence from a number of completed evaluations. There are no specific norms for syntheses, but OEV will aim to conduct at least one synthesis each year.	
<b>Joint and system-wide evaluations:</b> WFP will seek out opportunities with other United Nations entities and at the country level in consultation with national partners to undertake more joint and system-wide evaluations including UNSDCF evaluations and inter-agency humanitarian evaluations.	

<sup>a</sup> “WFP Policy Formulation” (WFP/EB.A/2011/5-B). The policy formulation document is due to be revised in 2022, which may result in the need to adjust the policy evaluation coverage norm.

<sup>b</sup> Executive Director’s Circular OED 2022/003.

<sup>c</sup> “Policy on Country Strategic Plans” (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1). The current norm for all CSP evaluations will be reviewed in 2023 once the evaluation of the first generation of CSP and the evaluation of the CSP policy have been completed.

<sup>d</sup> Country offices have been grouped into size categories based on WFP criteria established by the Operations Management Support Office, as well as the size of the office, number of employees and number of beneficiaries.

<sup>e</sup> In 2022 there will be four evidence windows, with up to six evaluations running in each window at any one time.

<sup>f</sup> Regional programmes and projects should include plans for generating evidence through evaluation where appropriate.