



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Executive Board
Annual session
Rome, 23–26 June 2025

Distribution: General

Agenda item 5

Date: 9 May 2025

WFP/EB.A/2025/5-B

Original: English

Policy issues

For decision

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Amendment to the WFP evaluation policy 2022

Background

The roles and accountabilities of regional directors in relation to evaluation, particularly regarding evaluations commissioned by regional bureaux or country offices, were established in the 2016 evaluation policy and updated in the 2022 policy. The reporting lines and budget responsibilities related to regional evaluation officers are specified in the 2022 evaluation policy.

Considering the:

- Executive Director's request to ensure implementation of a "one integrated global headquarters" model;
- the principle of functional consolidation whereby a single director ensures that the country offices have the capabilities – in terms of guidance, tools and employee profiles – that they need to carry out evaluations in consultation with the evaluation function steering group and in alignment with the direction of travel in the WFP management accountability framework issued in March 2025; and the
- Executive Board's oversight of the evaluation function,

the amendments to the evaluation policy are proposed to consolidate the budgets of regional evaluation units into the Office of Evaluation's (OEV) programme support and administrative budget; and to change the reporting line of regional evaluation officers to the Director of Evaluation or designate.

Draft decision*

The Board approves the amendments to the WFP evaluation policy as set out in document WFP/EB.A/2025/5-B.

* 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.

Focal point:

Ms A.-C. Luzot
Director of Evaluation
email: anneclaire.luzot@wfp.org

Proposed policy amendments

WFP proposes to introduce the following modifications to the 2022 evaluation policy¹ in the sections on the roles and accountabilities of the Director of Evaluation, described in paragraph 51 and table; the regional directors, described in paragraph 52 and table; and human resources, described in paragraph 56.

Roles and accountabilities: Director of Evaluation (paragraph 51)

Quality assurance	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) Updating and disseminating evaluation methods and other guidance materials through EQAS to ensure that WFP evaluation practices meet UNEG and other relevant international standards and draw from the latest evaluation practices; ii) ensuring that all OEV-commissioned evaluations adhere to EQAS and designing and operationalizing systems that support adherence to EQAS by all other evaluations; and iii) systematically and comprehensively mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into WFP evaluation processes while ensuring that the differing needs of women, men, girls, boys and other affected populations are taken into consideration through programme design and implementation.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>i) Updating and disseminating evaluation methods and other guidance materials through EQAS² to ensure that WFP's evaluation practices meet UNEG³ and other relevant international standards and draw from the latest evaluation practices; ii) ensuring that all OEV-commissioned evaluations adhere to EQAS, and designing and operationalizing systems that support adherence to EQAS by all evaluations; and iii) systematically and comprehensively mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into WFP evaluation processes while ensuring that the differing needs of women, men, girls, boys and other affected populations are taken into consideration through programme design and implementation.</p>
-------------------	---

Regional directors

Current Text:

52. Regional directors play an important role in management oversight of the evaluation function, particularly regarding evaluations commissioned by regional or country offices, and are accountable for the following:

Revised text:

52. Regional directors ensure that country offices effectively use evaluations to enhance learning, strengthen accountability, and enable evidence-based decision-making in the areas of their accountabilities.

¹ "WFP evaluation policy 2022" (WFP/EB.1/2022/4-C).

² EQAS = evaluation quality assurance system.

³ UNEG = United Nations Evaluation Group.

<p><u>Current text</u></p> <p>Normative framework</p> <p><u>Revised text</u></p> <p>Institutional arrangements</p>	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) ensuring application of the provisions of the evaluation policy for evaluations commissioned by regional bureaux and country offices, including coverage norms and impartiality; ii) taking appropriate action to strengthen evaluation at the regional and country levels with the support of OEV; iii) leading the formulation and operationalization of regional evaluation strategies in line with this policy and the corporate evaluation strategy; and iv) chairing the regional evaluation committees, which should be convened regularly.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>i) supporting the operationalization of regional evaluation strategies by chairing the regional evaluation committees, which should be convened regularly to support the implementation of the evaluation policy and enhance coherence in evaluation activities across the region.</p>
<p>Planning</p>	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) engaging in regular consultations with OEV and country offices to ensure complementarity among evaluations commissioned across the function; ii) ensuring that plans for evaluations are included in the design of regional strategies, interventions and other initiatives; and iii) ensuring the preparation and annual update of regional evaluation plans.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>i) engaging in regular consultations with OEV and country offices to ensure complementarity among evaluations commissioned across the function; ii) ensuring that plans for evaluations are included in the design of regional strategies, interventions and other initiatives;</p>
<p>Resourcing</p> <p>Resourcing</p>	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>ensuring that resources are budgeted for and allocated to the management of independent evaluations, including those commissioned by country offices, and providing regional-level support and oversight; and ii) ensuring that resources are budgeted for and allocated to the maintenance of the regional evaluation units.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>Ensuring that resources are budgeted for and allocated to the management of independent evaluations, including those commissioned by country offices, and providing regional-level support and oversight; ii) ensuring that resources are budgeted for and allocated to the maintenance of the regional evaluation units.</p>
<p>Quality assurance</p> <p>Quality assurance</p>	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>Overseeing the application of evaluation quality assurance procedures.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>Overseeing the application of evaluation quality assurance procedures.</p>

Capacity development	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) with OEV, providing technical advice to country offices managing evaluations; ii) contributing to the strengthening of evaluation capacity across the region; and iii) facilitating evaluation capacity development initiatives in line with the WFP evaluation capacity development strategy.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>i) With OEV, providing technical advice to country offices managing evaluations; i</p> <p>i) contributing to the strengthening of evaluation capacity across the region; and ii) facilitating evaluation capacity development initiatives in line with the WFP evaluation capacity development strategy.</p>
Management responses and follow-up actions	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>Ensuring that management responses to evaluations commissioned by regional and country offices are prepared and made publicly available and that relevant follow-up actions are undertaken.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>Ensuring that management responses to evaluations commissioned by regional and country offices are prepared and made publicly available and that relevant follow-up actions are undertaken.</p>
Use	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) ensuring that CSPs and new programmes, initiatives and strategies prepared in the region are based on evidence from evaluations; ii) ensuring that all reports on evaluations commissioned within the region are publicly available; iii) promoting the development of evidence products such as evidence summaries; and iv) facilitating learning from evaluation evidence within the region and among countries.</p> <p><u>Revised text:</u></p> <p>i) promoting the development of evidence products such as evidence summaries; ii) facilitating the use of and learning from evaluation evidence within the region and among countries.</p>
Regional engagement	<p><u>No change to the current text:</u></p> <p>i) in partnership with other United Nations entities, supporting national evaluation capacity development at the country and regional levels; and ii) supporting the commissioning and management of joint evaluations at the country and regional levels.</p>
Reporting	<p><u>Current text:</u></p> <p>i) ensuring the quality and provision of data and information on the evaluation function across the regions; and ii) ensuring the provision of inputs to OEV for corporate reporting on the evaluation function.</p> <p><u>Revised text</u></p> <p>i) Ensuring the quality and provision of data and information on the evaluation function across the regions; ii) ensuring the provision of inputs to OEV for corporate reporting on the evaluation function.</p>

Current Text**Human resources**

56.

- ii) **WFP evaluation officers:** Dedicated evaluation officers may be appointed by larger country offices and by headquarters divisions; however, the majority of evaluation officers are appointed to serve in OEV and the regional bureaux.

➤

- Each regional bureau will continue to maintain a regional evaluation unit headed by an experienced evaluation specialist reporting directly to the regional director or deputy regional director, with technical reporting to OEV. These posts are financed through regional bureau programme support and administrative budgets in order to ensure predictability, independence from programmes and adequate staffing. Depending on the needs of the evaluation function at the regional level, the regional bureaux may recruit additional evaluation specialists.

Revised text

- Each regional bureau will continue to maintain a regional evaluation unit headed by an experienced evaluation specialist reporting directly to the Director of Evaluation or designate. These posts are financed through OEV's programme support and administrative budgets or alternative funding sources that ensure predictability, independence from programmes and adequate staffing for evaluation.