



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Strategic evaluation of WFP's support to refugees, IDPs and migrants

Annual Session of WFP Executive Board – June 2025



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Global context

- **139 million** forcibly displaced expected in 2025;
- **70%** funding shortfall;
- **1951 Refugee Convention & 1967 Protocol**;
- **No legally binding international instruments** for internally displaced people (IDPs) and irregular migrants;
- **Highly variable national adoption and implementation** of international agreements.

# WFP's support to RIMs

**35.5 million**  
refugees, IDPs and  
irregular migrants (RIMs)  
supported in 2023

WFP's assistance to RIMs = meet **immediate needs** & support **self-reliance & durable solutions** where possible:

- food & nutrition assistance;
- capacity strengthening & advocacy.

# Evaluation conclusions and supporting findings

## Conclusion 1

WFP's strategic vision and position towards RIMs remains unclear.

WFP's policies **aligned with global compacts**, however:

- **No corporate policy** explicitly addresses refugees, IDPs or irregular migrants.
- **Corporate guidance insufficient**, especially on irregular migrants.
- WFP's support to RIMs reflects **government recognition and prioritisation**.
- WFP faces **trade-offs in applying humanitarian principles** in RIMs support.



## Conclusion 2

WFP's responses to refugees and IDPs reflect its traditional strengths.

- In displacement crises – WFP can **achieve scale quickly**.
- WFP **contributes significantly** to addressing refugees & IDPs' immediate food security needs.
- In some countries – important contributions to **integrating RIMs in national systems**.
- Room to improve approaches towards **self-reliance and nutrition** of RIMs.
- WFP provides very limited **emergency assistance to irregular migrants**.



## Conclusion 3

**Intersecting vulnerabilities of RIMs are poorly integrated into policy and guidance. Protection focused food assistance.**

WFP has **relevant, general policies and guidance in place for targeting** assistance to specific needs. However:

- Incomplete understanding of RIMS' intersecting vulnerabilities in different contexts.
- Limited ability to monitor contributions to specific outcomes.

**Protection is duly considered** within food assistance; effort made to **improve feedback mechanisms**. However:

- Limited WFP capacity to address RIMs' protection risks beyond distributions.
- Room to improve responses to feedback.



## Conclusion 4

WFP increasingly capitalizes on strategic & operational partnerships for RIMs support – but resource constraints limit ability to support RIMs at scale and towards self-reliance.

WFP considered a **critical partner in assisting displaced persons in both rapid onset emergencies & protracted settings**. However:

- Need for greater leadership, collaboration & clarity on roles.
- Significant scope to improve partner engagement re: self-reliance & durable solutions.
- Funding largely short-term, earmarked & decreasing.
- Staff capacity gaps – displacement & migration, self-reliance programming; specific vulnerabilities & protection risks.

# Recommendations

1

Formulate a **clear corporate vision and position** on WFP support to RIMs; embed this within WFP strategic & normative frameworks.

2

Specify **WFP's programme offer & required partnerships** to integrate RIMs across all areas; introduce **transition pathways** from the start.

3

Strengthen **data systems & analytical capacity** to improve understanding of RIMs' intersecting vulnerabilities.

4

Ensure all **WFP RIMs support** based on **comprehensive analysis** of status regarding gender, protection and contextual risks; includes robust AAP mechanisms.

5

Strengthen **strategic and operational partnerships** with mandated displacement and migration agencies.

6

Strengthen **resource mobilization focus** to more effectively meet the immediate **humanitarian needs** of RIMs and host populations, & better **support transitions towards longer-term solutions**.