



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of WFP's contributions to social protection 2019–2025

Round table on evaluation reports – May 2026



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Scope & approach



- **Purpose:** learning on WFP's efforts to strengthen national social protection systems and programmes
- **Timeframe:** 2019–2025
- **Methodological approach:** Mixed methods, theory-based case studies

# Relevance & quality of the Strategy

- Evidence based, clarity of intent, clear and consistent logic
- Important assumptions on WFP internal capacity and external political and economic variables missing
- Broad menu of potential activities allow for adaptation to context but can dilute focus





# Comparative advantages

- Responsiveness & problem-solving culture
- Skills & relationships in disaster risk management
- Analytical capacities, food security & nutrition expertise
- Field presence & operational capacities, particularly in fragile and conflict affected settings



# Contributions to results

- Conducive policy environments but limited role in overarching policy & strategies
- Stronger institutional capacities
- Enhanced coverage, though mostly temporary
- Limited effects on comprehensiveness & adequacy
- Enhanced shock responsiveness, efficiency & transparency
- Inclusion can be more strategically addressed



# What has worked and why?

- Providing technical assistance with a clear vision & pathways towards medium-term goals
- Providing on demand services to governments where coupled with capacity strengthening
- Piloting innovation to inform policy debate & scaling up where there are clear objectives agreed with national counterparts
- Partnering with governments and IFIs where there is flexibility to compromise on ways of working
- Retaining & strategically deploying talent is a major factor in success



# Systemic challenges to results

- Funding structure & gaps
- Over emphasis on quantitative measurement of progress
- Poor knowledge management across contexts

# Recommendations

**1**

**Sharpen strategic focus**

**2**

**Strengthen capacities & systems**

**3**

**Deepen partnerships**

# 1

## Recommendations

### Strategic focus:

- Clarify criteria for what constitutes social protection
- Prioritize working with or through national social protection programmes
- Use areas of demonstrated WFP's comparative advantage as entry points for wider engagement at system level
- Implement pilots only if requested by or conceived with governments
- Adopt a long-term perspective with adequate transition planning

# 2

## Recommendations

### **Internal capacities & systems:**

- Strengthen capacity for political economy analysis to inform choices on modalities & level of engagement
- Conduct an updated census of the social protection workforce to identify critical gaps
- Develop adequate knowledge & soft skills for WFP employees at all levels and leverage the knowledge, expertise and political awareness of senior national staff
- Strengthen results-based management for support for social protection

# 3

## Recommendations

### Partnerships:

- Develop context-specific strategies for building relationships & engaging with governments and international financial institutions
- Prioritize global social protection partnerships with other United Nations entities