



WFP EVALUATION

Updates on impact evaluations, inter-agency humanitarian evaluations and system-wide evaluations

Annual Consultation on Evaluation – 13 May 2026



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Impact evaluations



PART 1: Spotlight on impact evaluation evidence 2025

Impact evaluation (IE)

WHAT IS IT?

- **Impact evaluations** measure **changes** that can be **attributed** to a specific programme through a **credible counterfactual**.
- WFP uses a **demand-led model** for impact evaluations. This involves **identifying priority evidence gaps** and seeking **expressions of interest from country offices** to fill these gaps using their programmes.
- WFP **standardises data** across IEs to conduct **meta-analyses**.

WHY DO WE USE THEM?

- Impact evaluations are **useful to demonstrate** the direct effects of an intervention to support **decision-making**, particularly to:
 - Inform strategic decisions on whether to scale up innovations and pilots;
 - Test whether a programme is replicable in a new context;
 - Test causal pathways and delivery mechanisms.
 - Measuring cost-effectiveness and efficiency.

Impact evaluation reports published in 2025

REPORT	COUNTRY	TOPIC	2025 PUBLICATION MONTH
1	Gambia	School Meals	March
2	Nepal	Anticipatory Action (AA)	April
3	Guatemala	School Meals Pilot	May
4	Mali	Resilience	July
5	Ghana	Resilience	July
6	Rwanda	Cash Transfers and Resilience	August
7	Kenya	Cash Transfers	November
8	Haiti	Cash Transfers	December

IE Spotlight: Nepal Anticipatory Action impact evaluation

Key question:

What is the impact of delivering cash at the moment of a climate-related extreme weather disaster?

Potential trade-offs:

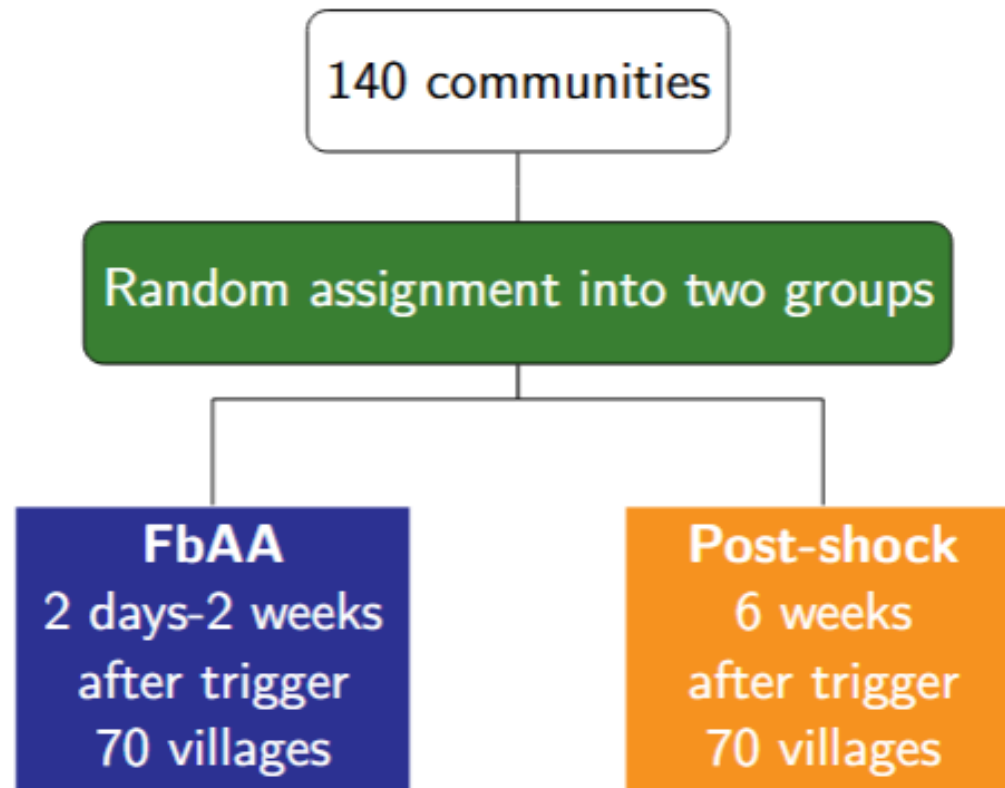
Impacts of cash earlier could be bigger or smaller than cash later because:

Cash earlier can help avoid worst outcomes when marginal utility of consumption is highest, for example supporting food security when food stocks are damaged and reducing stress during disasters.

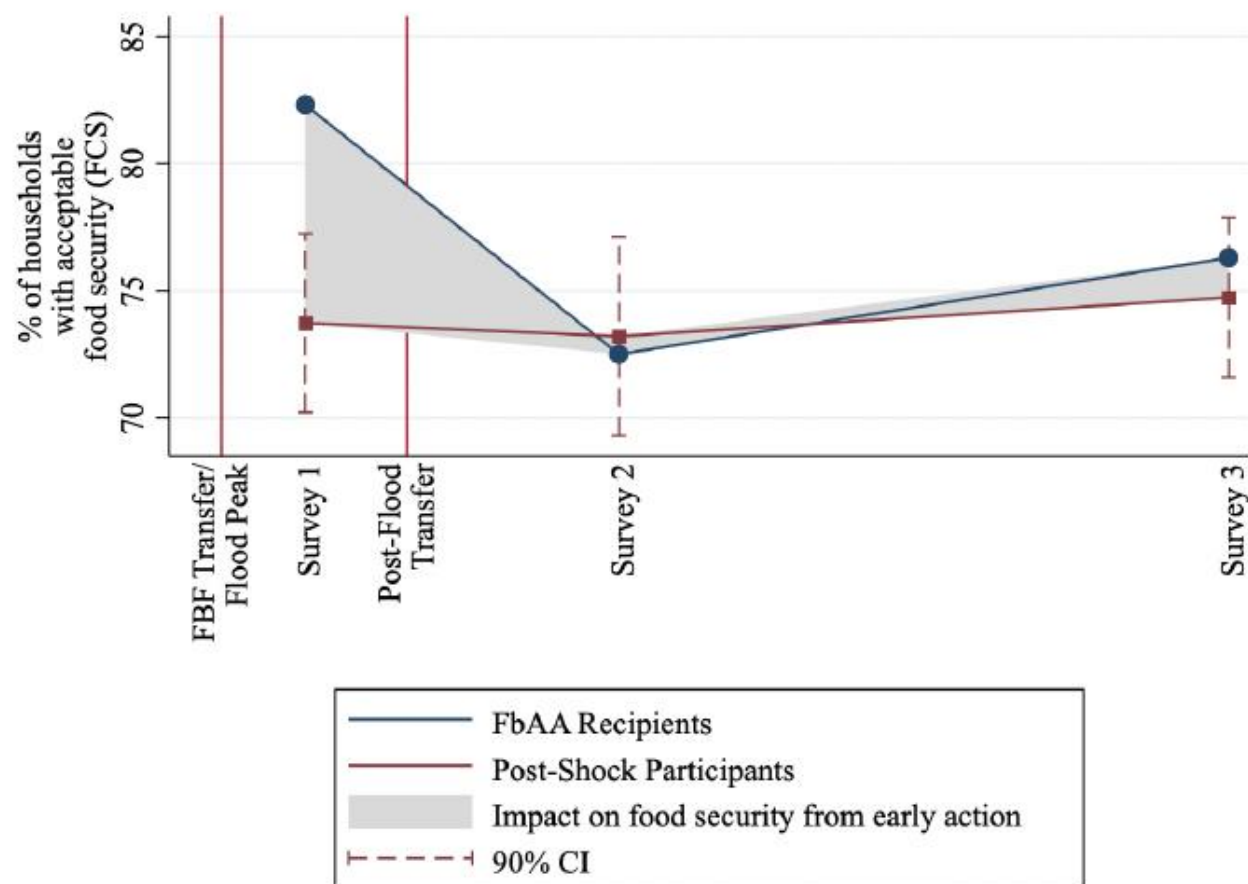
Cash earlier can facilitate recovery, for example financing next season's planting without high-cost loans.

Cash right after disaster hits could be less effective because of missing markets or harder targeting when we do not yet know who is affected.

IE Spotlight: Nepal impact evaluation design



IE Spotlight: In Nepal, Anticipatory Action (AA) improved food security



- **Main takeaway:** Impact on food security mostly comes from **acting quickly**, with better food security during the early acute stress period when only the AA group has received transfers.
- For **the most flood affected households** (as verified by remote sensing data), AA group had higher expenditure and earned more.

IE Spotlight: Nepal impact evaluation findings



Benefits of forecast-based cash transfers mainly come from realizing impacts as **early as possible**.



Households receiving anticipatory transfers show **better food security and mental health** in the immediate aftermath of floods, leading to positive overall welfare impacts for AA.



More flood-affected recipients tend to **benefit more** from AA.



There is a trade-off: acting quickly has benefits, but some recipients are less affected or not affected at all.

A photograph of a man, a woman, and a baby in a rural setting. The man, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, is holding a black smartphone and pointing at the screen. The woman, wearing a red hijab, is smiling and looking at the phone. A baby is sitting between them, looking at the phone. They are standing in front of a building with a corrugated metal roof and a mud-brick wall.

IMP

ACT

PART 2: Impact evaluation evidence to support cost-effectiveness

Example 1: Burundi school meals

- Compared procurement models (**A/B testing**): centralized procurement vs commodity voucher (CV) model.
- CV model delivered a statistically significantly **higher number of meal days** compared with the status quo.
- School **meal quality**, measured by the GDQS-Meal, decreased in the CV model schools.
- On average, during the pilot, the CV model was **less expensive** than the centralized model.
- Now currently exploring the impact on children's outcome.



Pilot Impact Evaluation of the Commodity Voucher Procurement

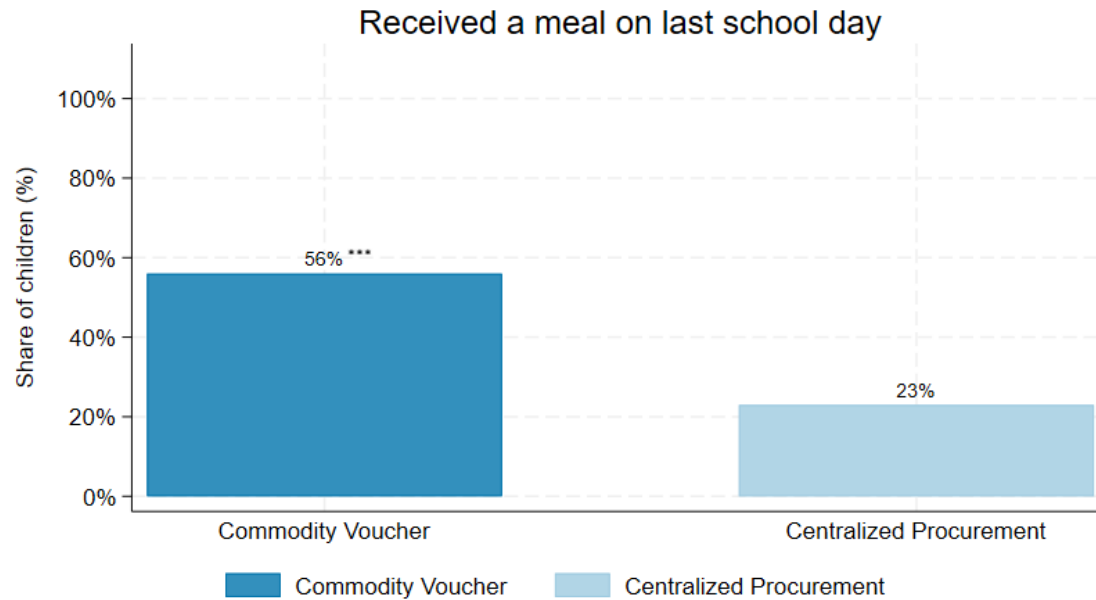
WFP
World Food Programme
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Example 1: Burundi school meals

Annual cost to feed a child in the pilot study (costs in USD)

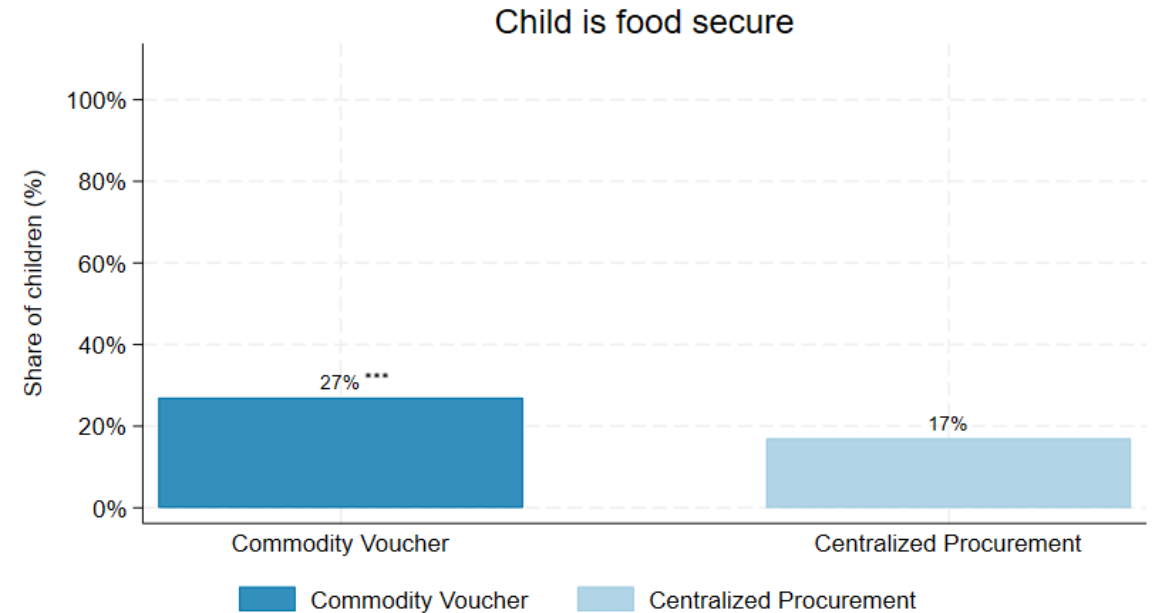
	<i>Commodity Voucher (15% maize + 85% rice)</i>	<i>Centralized Procurement (68% maize + 32% rice)</i>
Maize	2.85	8.51
Rice	26.89	12.84
Beans	5.06	6.50
Vegetable oil	2.14	2.14
Salt	0.09	0.09
<i>(1) Commodity cost</i>	<i>37.03</i>	<i>30.07</i>
<i>(2) Transfer cost</i>	<i>2.49</i>	<i>14.50</i>
<i>(3) Monitoring cost</i>	<i>1.09</i>	<i>2.28</i>
Grand total (1)+(2)+(3)	40.61	46.85

Example 1: Burundi school meals



N=1416

More than twice as many children reported having received school meals in decentralized schools (56%) compared to centralized schools (23%).



N=1416. Child is considered food secure if their reversed CFIES score is 20 (on a 0-20 scale)

The decentralized model **increases food security by 10 percentage points.**

Example 2: DRC targeting

Compared two methods for targeting humanitarian assistance in the Tanganyika Province:

1. **“PMT Plus”**. This approach is primarily data-driven but combines limited community-informed elements. The main component is a common Proxy Means Testing (PMT) model that builds on training data from past outcome monitoring exercises and relies on machine learning methods to predict the Food Consumption Score (FCS) across households in all communities.
2. **Community-based targeting (CBT)**. This approach entailed creating committees within each bloc to define the criteria to identify households for inclusion in the programme. Each committee consisted of 12 members, with equal representation from both men and women, and representation from various vulnerable groups but excluding the village chief.

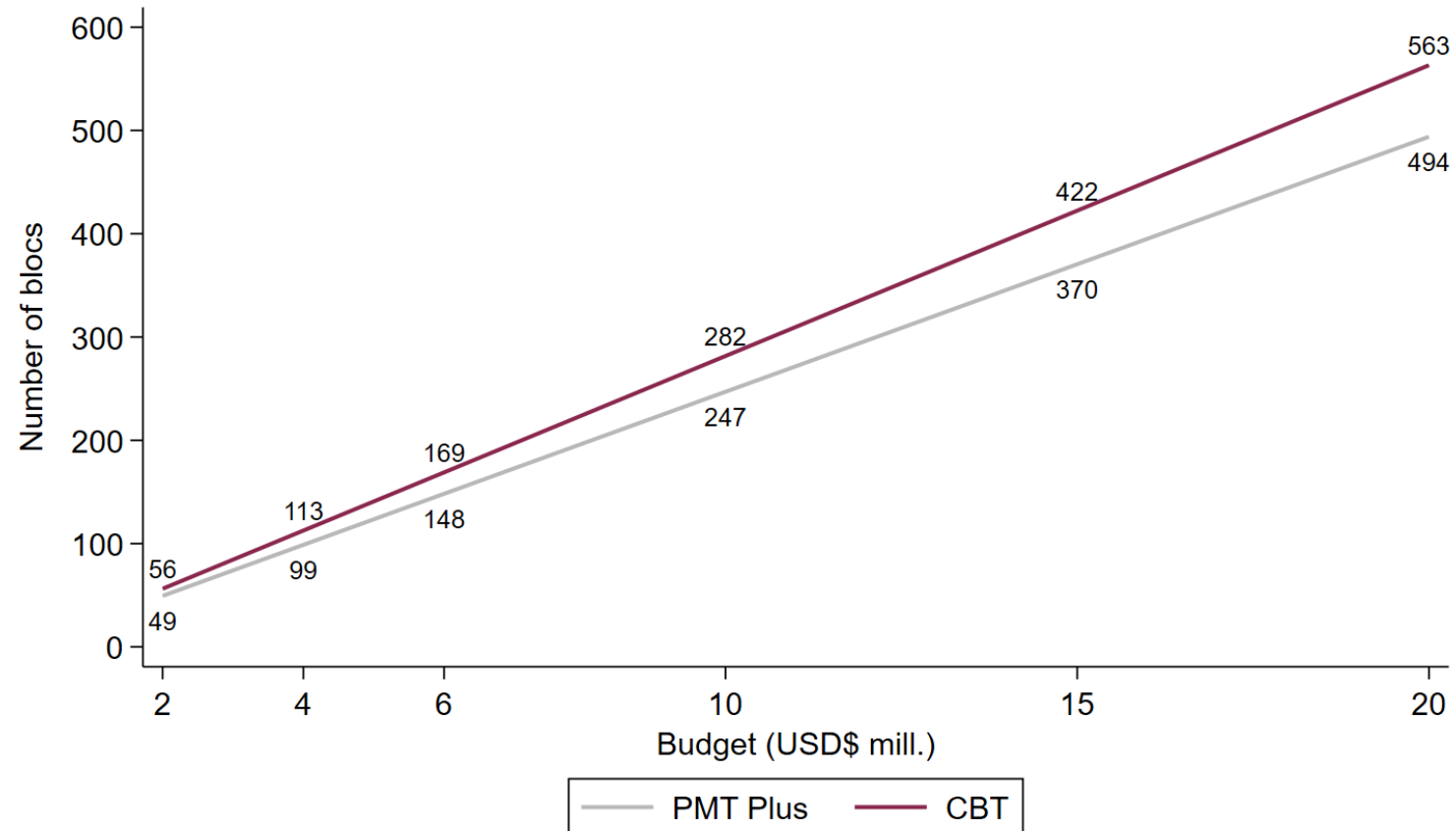
Example 2: DRC targeting

- CBT produces statistically similar food security outcomes to PMT at the community level, while leading to programme savings through lower coverage.

	PMT Plus (42 blocs)	CBT (42 blocs)
Screening		
Households screened/listed	5,809	5,923
Total screening costs	61,881	62,570
Transfers		
Households selected	4,930 (85%)	4,396 (74%)
Total transfers	3,817,970	3,463,433
Total programme costs	3,879,851	3,526,002
Cost per HH Screened	<u>668</u>	<u>595</u>
*Costs are in USD.		

Example 2: DRC targeting

- Within a fixed budget, this means that assistance could be extended to a larger number of communities.





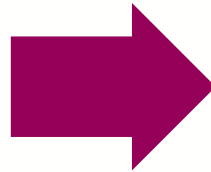
IMP **ACT**

PART 3: UN80 – Towards Multi-Agency Windows

Impact evaluation community of practice

3rd Global Impact Evaluation Forum (December 2025):

- Rigorous evidence and cost-effectiveness analysis more crucial than ever
- Moving beyond fragmented, agency-specific impact evaluations & breaking silos
- Localization and co-ownership of impact evaluations



Collective action points:

1. Support hyper-prioritization through rigorous impact evaluation and cost-effectiveness evidence
2. Identify shared impact evaluation portfolios for joint learning and global action
3. Harness local research capacities to generate evidence that supports government decision-making

Q&A

Join the WFP IMPACT EVALUATION COMMUNITY

To be added to the mailing list
fill in this form:

bit.ly/3FfBCDB

Or scan the QR code



Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs)

Finalized IAHEs in 2025 and 2026

	Ukraine IAHE synthesis	IAHE Türkiye-Syria earthquake response	IAHE synthesis
Scope	Launched in 2024, as a synthesis of 20 agency evaluation reports and additional studies and reports covering the response in Ukraine since 2022.	Launched in 2024, data collected 18 months after the disaster, coverage of response and early recovery in all areas affected by the February 2023 earthquakes.	Launched in 2025 as key evidence input to high-level discussions around the humanitarian reset. Synthesis of 7 recent IAHE reports since 2021.
Status MR		Türkiye Management Response received and implementation well-advanced, Syria not received.	Published in April 2026, awaiting management response.

Key messages from the IAHE synthesis

1

The humanitarian system is effective in preventing catastrophic outcomes but limited in addressing the wider humanitarian agenda. For example, the system is weak in its accountability to affected populations, disagrees on the application of humanitarian principles, and has failed to advance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

2

Humanitarian responses are reactive, rather than proactive, and not well configured to context. Early warning systems fail to trigger early action, and when the system responds, it bypasses and substitutes in-country systems and capacities, leading to reduced impact. Humanitarian country teams lack strategy and accountability, with agency-specific mandates taking priority over a harmonized response.

3

Recommendations include shifting to a **more anticipatory** system, adapted to the demands of recurrent and protracted crises and with clear triggers for early action; a **better fit of the supply side of humanitarian action** with national demand for assistance and leadership; and **more strategic focus and accountability for the humanitarian country teams** and their collective action.

Ongoing IAHEs

IAHE Sudan Regional Crisis	IAHE on Eastern DRC
• Evaluation of the IASC response to the humanitarian crisis and scale-up in Sudan and surrounding countries. • The evaluation is at the inception stage. An internal synthesis of existing reports has been conducted and is followed by an evaluation with a focused scope and limited budget. • Expected to be published in Q4 2026 – Q1 2027.	• Evaluation on the IASC response to the 2025–2026 crisis in Eastern DRC. • The evaluation was paused last year due to access constraints and has now been relaunched and rescoped to cover only the most recent crisis, no longer the 2023 scale-up. • Expected to be published in Q4 2026 – Q1 2027.

Q&A

System-Wide Evaluations (SWEs)

System-wide evaluations completed with WFP support



Evaluation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy

- **Cash:** US\$20,000 in 2024
- **In-kind:** Senior OEV staff in the Management Group in 2024 and 2025



Evaluation on progress towards a new generation of United Nations Country Teams

- **Cash:** US\$60,000 in 2024
- **In-kind:** Senior OEV staff in the Management Group in 2024 and 2025

Key messages from the evaluations



Evaluation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy

- **Relevant** and **timely catalyst** for change
- Established **institutional frameworks with variations in implementation** across UN landscape
- **Ambition** of becoming an employer of choice for persons with disabilities is **still to be met**



Evaluation on progress towards a new generation of United Nations Country Teams

- **Strategic vision** for a new generation of UNCTs **highly relevant**
- **Alignment** between cooperation frameworks and UN entity country programming **more formal than substantive**
- **Structural barriers** and **approaches to implementation** hindered progress

System-wide evaluations ongoing with WFP support

EVALUATION TYPE	TITLE	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION
SYSTEM-WIDE	• System-wide evaluation on the United Nations development system's approach to key transitions for SDG acceleration • System-wide evaluation of United Nation system coordination in the Sahel (2013- 2025)	Senior OEV Staff in the Management Group Senior OEV Staff in the Management Group

Q&A