



Executive Board informal session, 8 July 2021

'Measuring Impact'- Invitation to join the impact assessment framework journey

Session three summary

Context

Strategic imperative: In 2019, WFP launched its private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy (2020–2025), which focuses on: i) ensuring all partnerships are needs-based and support WFP's mandate; ii) ensure partnerships benefit those in need, through WFP work but also support national governments to deliver on their priorities; and iii) the need to measure and assess the value and impact of partnerships beyond the dollar value.

Understanding and measuring: WFP has a long history of creating impactful partnerships that provide not only financial contributions, but also industry-leading expertise and technical support to improve operations, drive efficiencies, or create new and more efficient ways of working for the benefit of the people we serve. While WFP highly values its many "technical partnerships", the organization is aiming at equipping itself with a robust and consistent way to measure and assess their true value and the wider impact they have over time.

Details

To address this gap: WFP has engaged an external consultancy, EY, to support the development of an Impact Assessment Framework (IAF). The IAF will provide an effective approach to measuring and assessing the impact of both impact/technical and income/fundraising partnerships, those at headquarters and country office levels.

Impact beyond WFP: Importantly the IAF will seek to assess the impact of partnerships at three levels:

1. WFP's programmes and operations
2. National development priorities
3. SDGs and other global priorities

Five elements: The framework will consist of several interconnected elements that will support partnership managers capture and report on the changes that result from partnerships:

1. Central methodology with practical tools and impact indicators/metrics
2. Overarching guidance note that supports ongoing advocacy, training and education work
3. A suite of processes and training materials to support adoption and implementation
4. Risk analysis and mitigation actions
5. Selection of real-world examples to support adoption and implementation

Governance: From the inception, an advisory group, drawn from across the organization was established to provide critical guidance and bring needed insights, to ensure the resulting IAF is both fit for the field and WFP's policy and programmes.

Progress to date and next steps

The project takes a staged approach to ensure adequate time is given to each stage. Stage one involved in the gathering of needed insights from key stakeholders within WFP and external, particularly WFP's sister agencies. Stage one has now been finalized and stage two commenced. This next phase focuses on the development of the IAF itself. Following the development, the next stages include piloting, testing and refining of the IAF on a selected number of partnerships, in preparation for full rollout, towards the end of the year.

Key take-aways

- There are great levels of support from across all levels of WFP and externally, within our sister agencies, for this work
- This is a pioneering project, not only for WFP but also across the United Nations
- It must be designed and implemented carefully, taking into account ownership from WFP stakeholders

Session breakdown

- Overview of the project: purpose, aims and process involved
- Progress to date
- Next steps
- Discussion