Evaluation of China WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021

October 2021
Context

- Upper-middle income country
- Progress in poverty reduction and social development
- High inequality - Gini index of 38.6
- 30.5 million people below poverty line (2018)
- Food insecurity in poverty pockets in remote areas
WFP Country Strategic Plan in China

Five Strategic Outcomes

1. Pre-school nutrition
2. Farming livelihoods and resilience
3. Natural disaster response
4. South-South Cooperation
5. Partnerships
Evaluation methods

- Document review
- Online survey of 13 WFP country offices
- 103 Key informant interviews
- Hybrid approach to data collection due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- Gender-sensitive and ethical approach
Findings
Q1 To what extent are WFP’s strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people’s needs, as well as WFP’s strengths?

Aligned with China’s Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) and poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture and resilience initiatives

Specific targeting of counties with high poverty incidence

Gender sensitive CSP design

WFP China strategically positioned for convening stakeholder groups, donor negotiations and leveraging resources

Strong alignment with the UNDAF
Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP’s specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (1/3)

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1**

Preschool *nutrition* activities contributed to more varied diets for young children and improved nutritional health awareness.

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2**

Support to smallholder farmers in the kiwi fruit value chain and with zinc-enriched potato cultivation was promising.

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3**

Disaster preparedness and response capacity strengthening activities were not implemented as they were not a priority.
Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP’s specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (2/3)

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4**
A network of Chinese experts and **learning events** benefited about 70 countries

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5**
**Partnerships** with public institutions and private enterprises were expanded. Procedures to access China’s international development funding remain too complex

**SYNERGIES**
**Synergies** between strategic outcomes were not established
Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP’s specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (3/3)

Women's participation and targeting were encouraged. Nonetheless, some trainings reinforced traditional gender roles.

Accountability to affected population responded to the views of affected communities.

Network of Chinese experts built by the Centre of Excellence has good potential for sustainability. Sustainability of domestic projects varied by context and depended on government funding.
Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to CSP outputs and strategic outcomes?

- **Timely** activity delivery

- There was **no evidence of inefficiencies**

- **Increased agility** and reduced costs sometimes meant reduced relevance of technical assistance by the Centre of Excellence
Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?

- **Limited funding** predictability and strong **earmarking**

- WFP China **uniquely positioned** and strongly engaged in the development of **partnerships** with public and private institutions

- CSP had little influence on **programme flexibility** and **monitoring** was insufficient
Conclusions

CSP was aligned with the direction of the government and relevant to needs

Evidence generation on added value of WFP-China partnership in domestic programme is insufficient
Conclusions

Centre of Excellence **technical assistance was appreciated** but could be better adapted to the specific contexts.

Stabilizing the current CSP's financial model through a more **strategic funding approach** is needed for WFP to access development funding from China.
Recommendations

Strengthen **strategic engagement** with China on WFP and China’s priorities and areas of expertise as entry points to maximize global impact of the WFP-China partnership.

Identify effective ways of **working with internal and external stakeholder groups** in China.

Strengthen **processes** in domestic programme and the Centre of Excellence for capturing, sharing and communicating results, and enhancing learning.

Develop a **clear plan** for firming up China’s long-term contributions to WFP.