Evaluation of the WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation policy

October 2021
Overview of the evaluation

Selected evaluation features:

- Retrospective construction of the **theory of change**
- **Remote field missions** in Benin, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Sri Lanka
- **Desk reviews “plus”** in Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe
- **Review of comparator organizations**: IFAD, FAO, UNICEF
- **Thematic case studies**:
  - social protection and safety nets, including school feeding
  - smallholder support and market access
  - nutrition
  - emergency preparedness and response
Policy context

**EXTERNAL**
- SDGs commitments; BAPA+40; UN development system reform;
- SSTC as preferred approach for capacity strengthening and networking
- Growing demands driven by climate crisis and pandemic

**INTERNAL**
- WFP’s engagement predates the 2015 policy
- Introduction of CSPs
- Greater emphasis on capacity strengthening and work across the triple nexus
Policy objectives

• Support country-led efforts towards strengthening national capacities to make progress towards the SDGs
• Stimulate innovative practices
• Expanding funding sources for food security and nutrition
Evaluation findings – Quality of the policy

FULLY MET QUALITY CRITERIA

• Context analysis
• Consultation during policy development
• Conceptual clarity

MAIN SHORTCOMINGS

• Implementation requirements
• Resourcing
• Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities
• Gender, diversity and inclusion
Evaluation findings – Results

- Improvement in national capacities
- Strengthened regional and global partnerships
- Some examples of resource mobilization
- Support to capacity strengthening and partnership objectives
- WFP expanded its reach to populations
- WFP better recognized for its dual mandate
Evaluation findings – Results

**SSTC mainstreaming**

- Most advanced in nutrition, and climate and disaster risk reduction
- Still nascent in the areas of smallholder support and market access, and emergency preparedness and response
Evaluation findings – Factors explaining results

**ENABLING FACTORS**

- Increased emphasis on *Changing Lives* agenda
- Role of SSTC Team in PRO
- Role of Centres of Excellence
- Championing from individual staff members
- Access to earmarked funding

**CONSTRAINING FACTORS**

- Unclear roles and responsibilities
- Unclear interface between regional bureaux, country offices and Centres of Excellence
- Lack of clear expected results, set objectives and guidance for SSTC mainstreaming
Conclusions

Evaluation results largely positive

Broader scope, quality of support and systematization of WFP's engagement in SSTC

WFP seen as respected SSTC broker in school feeding and, increasingly, in nutrition

Normative framework adequate in 2015 – now partly outdated

Margins to expand WFP’s strategic use of SSTC – building on known comparative advantage (field presence and networks)

Risks derived from reliance on extra-budgetary resources
Recommendations

Strategic

Revise the SSTC policy based on an agreed upon and widely shared corporate vision

Ensure that SSTC considerations are reflected in second-generation CSPs and any relevant new corporate frameworks and policies
Recommendations

Operational

- Strengthen approaches for evidence generation and learning from WFP-supported SSTC
- Support development and dissemination of guidance for programme staff on integrating SSTC in different areas
- Continue to strengthen staff capacity for SSTC at different levels
- Continue to contribute to system-wide SSTC engagement including by leveraging partnerships with other UN entities and RBAs