Management response to the annual evaluation report for 2022

1. Management welcomes the annual evaluation report for 2022 and notes the continued commitment of the Office of Evaluation to an effective evaluation function that is independent, credible and useful and is implemented in line with United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards in support of organizational learning, accountability, transparency and overall performance. Management also recognizes the adoption of an updated evaluation function governance framework in 2022, with a new evaluation policy, corporate evaluation strategy and charter.

2. Management values its excellent collaboration and engagement with the new unit in the Office of Evaluation mandated to focus on the use of evidence and good practices beyond the evaluation function. Over 92 percent of WFP draft policies and draft country strategic plans now refer explicitly to evaluation evidence, and management remains fully committed to the timely implementation of evaluation recommendations.¹

3. The increased effort made by the Office of Evaluation to collaborate with internal and external audit teams on evaluation planning is highly appreciated. The use of a joint dashboard to assist in identifying overlaps and potential synergies, combined with an ongoing consultative process, has the potential to significantly advance the agenda of evidence and learning embedded in the strategic plan and corporate results framework.²

¹ Management notes an improved rate of implementation of evaluation recommendations (66 percent in 2022 compared with 58 percent in 2021), as reflected in the implementation status of evaluation recommendations prepared for consideration by the Board at its 2023 annual session.

² Management result 5 of the corporate results framework for 2022–2025 is focused on evidence and learning.

Focal points:

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4. Management also values the commitment of the Office of Evaluation to fostering synergies between interrelated evaluative processes, as seen in the management of the evaluations of WFP policies on resilience for food security and nutrition and on disaster risk reduction and climate change. These evaluations were conducted synergistically and made optimal use of stakeholder time, with good alignment between the findings and follow-up actions.

5. Management takes note of the various activities that the Office of Evaluation is planning to undertake in 2023 to promote the normative framework for evaluation and roll out the new corporate evaluation strategy and its related regional evaluation strategies.

6. Towards the end of 2023 WFP will undergo its third performance assessment by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network, which will provide an independent diagnostic snapshot of the functioning of the organization for the purposes of institutional learning. In this context, the annual evaluation report will prove an important repository of knowledge on the evolution of the evaluation function and, more broadly, on evidence generation and learning in the organization.