



MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUMMARY REPORT ON THE EVALUATION SYNTHESIS OF WFP'S COOPERATING PARTNERS



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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BACKGROUND

- The synthesis covered centralized and decentralized evaluations completed between **2020 – 2023**, to understand the contribution and role of Cooperating Partners in WFP's work and the factors affecting the quality of Cooperating Partners engagement, performance, and the nature of WFP's relationships with Cooperating Partners over time.
- The synthesis makes **five recommendations** focused on prioritizing long-term, sustainable partnerships based on respect and trust; adopting strategic, tailored capacity strengthening with a localization focus; embedding Cooperating Partners engagement throughout the program cycle; aligning Cooperating Partners with cross-cutting priorities through clear contracts and capacity building; and improving Cooperating Partners management efficiency and learning.
- **Operation Partners Unit**, together with **Programme Policy and Guidance, Programme Cycle and Quality, Ethics, Knowledge Management and Library** and the **Financial Operations and Insurance Service**, have contributed and agreed on the responses and several actions will be implemented during the next months

MAIN AGREED ACTIONS

REC.1 – PRIORITIZE SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

- Develop and disseminate **Cooperating Partners Spot Check Guidance** which will reference the role of Country Offices and Headquarters under the Assurance Framework
- Develop guidance for when **governments act as a cooperating partner** or WFP transfers resources through government systems and develop **contract templates** for engagement with government Cooperating Partners

MAIN AGREED ACTIONS

REC.2 – ADOPT STRATEGIC & TAILORED APPROACHES TO CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- Develop **Localization Strategy** and Incorporate Localization Guidance in Cooperating Partners Management Guidance
- Develop Global **Cooperating Partner Onboarding Package**
- Develop a **capacity strengthening strategy for local Non-Governmental Organizations**

MAIN AGREED ACTIONS

REC.3 – INCORPORATE PLAN FOR ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLANS

- Finalize the design, roll-out and socialization of a new **Country Strategic Plan formulation and development framework** which embeds **conducting comprehensive mapping and analysis** of government and Non-Governmental Organizations cooperating partnerships - including strengthened consultation, joint planning and feedback from both government and Non-Governmental Organizations cooperating partnerships - as well as engagement with Cooperating Partners in programme design as key steps of the Country Strategic Plans design and formulation phases.

MAIN AGREED ACTIONS

REC.4 – STRENGTHEN ALIGNMENT WITH CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

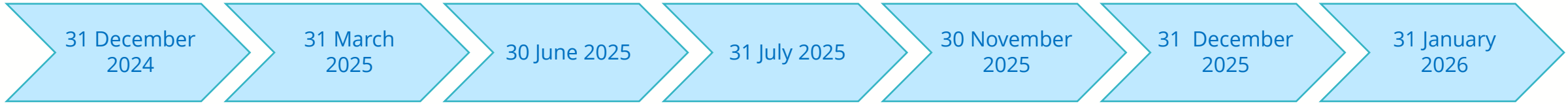
- Annual review of **Field Level Agreement Template**
- **Gender Protection and Inclusion Cooperating Partners induction training** and Sensitization of the Cooperating Partners guidelines and the Disability Inclusive section.
- Make the **UN Implementing Partner Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Capacity Assessment** mandatory (by updating the UN Partner Portal directive or developing a new circular) and contribute to **interagency efforts** (Implementing Partner Protocol Working Group) of rolling out the adapted tool of the UN Implementing Partner Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Capacity Assessment for Government Partners.

MAIN AGREED ACTIONS

REC.5 – IMPROVE COOPERATING PARTNERS MANAGEMENT

- Issue an **Executive Director Circular and/or Assistant Executive Director Directive** on Cooperating Partners Management to officialize the Non-Governmental Organizations partnership management framework
- Following Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers white paper submission, adoption will be potentially piloted in 2025;
- Implement **Partner Connect** which provides data optics on the timeliness of contractual management, enabling the continued monitoring of relevant KPIs
- Develop **Communication Package** which will include multiple communication channels across WFP functional domains, including the Viva Engage community, information sessions
- With support from the Knowledge Management and Library Unit, we will assess the existing **Non-Governmental Organizations Partnership community** and determine if further steps are needed to enhance knowledge sharing.

ACTIONS ROADMAP



Rec 1. Guidance + template for govts, CPs
 Rec 4. UN Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment made mandatory

Rec 1 CP spot check guidance
 Rec 2 Global CP onboarding package

Rec 4. Annual review of FLA template
 2 Rec Localization policy developed
 Rec 2 Disseminate Global CP onboarding package
 Rec 2 Capacity strengthening strategy for local NGOs
 Rec 5 Circular/directive on CP management & NGO framework
 Rec 5 Develop communication package
 Rec 4 GPI CP induction training
 Rec 4 Sensitization of CP guidelines

Rec 4 Contribute to interagency efforts to roll out UN IP PSEA assessment

Rec 1 Templates for engaging with government CPs
 Rec 3 New CSP formulation and development framework developed and socialized
 Rec 5 HACT white paper submitted

Rec 5 Implement Partner Connect

Rec 2 Update CP Management Guidance with localisation policy elements



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