



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of WFP Environmental Policy

January 2025 - Round table on evaluation reports



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
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# Context



Environmental impact of activities on natural resources



International agreements and global standards



Immediate emergency needs vs long-term sustainability planning

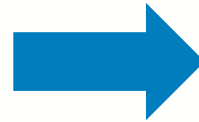


Environmental *and* **social** sustainability as a cross-cutting priority of Strategic Plan 2022-2025

# Environmental Policy: objectives and tools

## Policy objectives:

- 1) Enhance the sustainability of activities and operations
- 2) Manage risks and maximize environmental opportunities
- 3) Minimize WFP's carbon footprint and increase resource efficiency
- 4) Align WFP's approach with global standards and practice
- 5) Strengthen understanding and capacities of partners



## Policy tools:

- Environmental Standards
- Environmental risk screening and categorization ("Safeguards")
- Environmental management system (EMS)

# Conclusion 1: rationale and approach to environmental and social sustainability



Clear policy vision and approach for taking a systematic approach to environmental and social sustainability



Policy tools were narrow in scope and application, detracted from broader environmental sustainability considerations



Generally coherent with other WFP policies, although this is mostly one-way



Aligned with multilateral frameworks, national priorities and donor requirements



Divided institutional ownership of the policy affected implementation

# Conclusion 2: integration of social dimensions of sustainability

Addition of *social* standards

5: Protection and Human Rights	Additional standards
6: Gender Equality	
7: Community Health, Safety, Security and Conflict Sensitivity	
8: Accountability to Affected Populations	

**Sustainability Standards: ESSF, 2021**

- Social dimensions of sustainability not adequately considered, partially addressed through the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF)
- Limited attention to environmental and social sustainability – missed opportunity to maximize benefits and mitigate risks to affected people

# Conclusion 3: staffing and capacity for policy implementation



Structures established for implementing both Safeguards and EMS at headquarters and regional level



Limited CO-level resources, capacity and expertise; reliance on consultants; and current restructuring undermines sustainability



Governments and Cooperating Partners are supportive of WFP's environmental efforts but face similar resource and capacity constraints to WFP for implementation

# Conclusion 4: achievement of policy results

## 1. Enhancing environmental sustainability

Enhanced environmental sustainability of WFP facilities. However, substantial aspects of WFP operations not covered

## 2. Managing risks

Safeguards in place but not systematically applied

## 3. Minimizing Carbon footprint and increasing resource-efficiency

EMS reduced carbon intensity – only applied to facilities. Efforts by WFP's supply chain to better understand WFP's broader carbon footprint

## 4. Alignment with global standards

Safeguards and EMS are well aligned with global standards- some gaps for safeguards

## 5. Strengthening capacities

Safeguards training with partners systematic capacity development not in place

# Conclusion 4a: application of safeguards



Implementation largely focused on longer-term, development-focused activities



Safeguards do not have associated accountability mechanisms to support or incentivize compliance



Application of safeguards helps risk management and is key to WFP's ability to maintain and access funding and meet donor requirements which are increasingly more stringent



# Conclusion 4b: implementation of environmental management system



WFP's approach is more systematic and structured than is evident across other agencies, but covers a small part of WFP's carbon footprint



EMS is yielding a positive trajectory for WFP's environmental performance: Emissions per staff member are trending slightly downwards and WFP's waste generation has decreased by 70 percent



EMS has improved the environmental sustainability of WFP facilities on waste management and energy efficiency



Limited efforts to advocate for environmental sustainability

# Conclusion 5: policy monitoring and reporting framework



Current policy monitoring processes do not provide information to support decision making



Corporate indicators focus on the progress implementation and do not provide a basis for measuring broader progress against objectives



The forthcoming WFP's Environmental Plan of Action (EPACT) and other reports have potential for providing a stronger foundation for policy monitoring, covering areas beyond safeguards and EMS

# Recommendations

1

Establish a stronger approach and governance structure

2

Ensure that safeguards are applied across all WFP activities that are implemented through CSPs

3

Improve the extent to which environmental and social sustainability is addressed by the Environmental Management System and broaden its application

4

Strengthen the monitoring of environmental and social sustainability across WFP