



WFP EVALUATION

Strategic evaluation of WFP's support to refugees, IDPs and migrants

22 May 2025 – Round table on evaluation reports



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Context

1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol enshrines protection of refugees, however

- no legally binding international instruments ensuring the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and irregular migrants.

Adoption and implementation of international agreements and legal framework

- varies by country;
- varies by population group.

122.6
Million people
forcibly displaced in
2024

70%
Shortfall for
refugee aid in 2023

WFP's support to RIMs

35.5

million RIMs
supported by WFP in 2023

WFP assistance to refugees, IDPs and migrants (RIMs) spans all programmatic areas:

- food assistance;
- prevention and treatment of malnutrition;
- food assistance for assets and training;
- school feeding;
- capacity strengthening and advocacy.

WFP has a **critical role** in meeting the **immediate needs** of RIMs but also, where possible, aims to transition **from emergency response to self-reliance and durable solutions**.

Scope

CORPORATE
THEMATIC
STUDY



HQ

REGIONAL
THEMATIC
STUDY



X 6 BUREAU

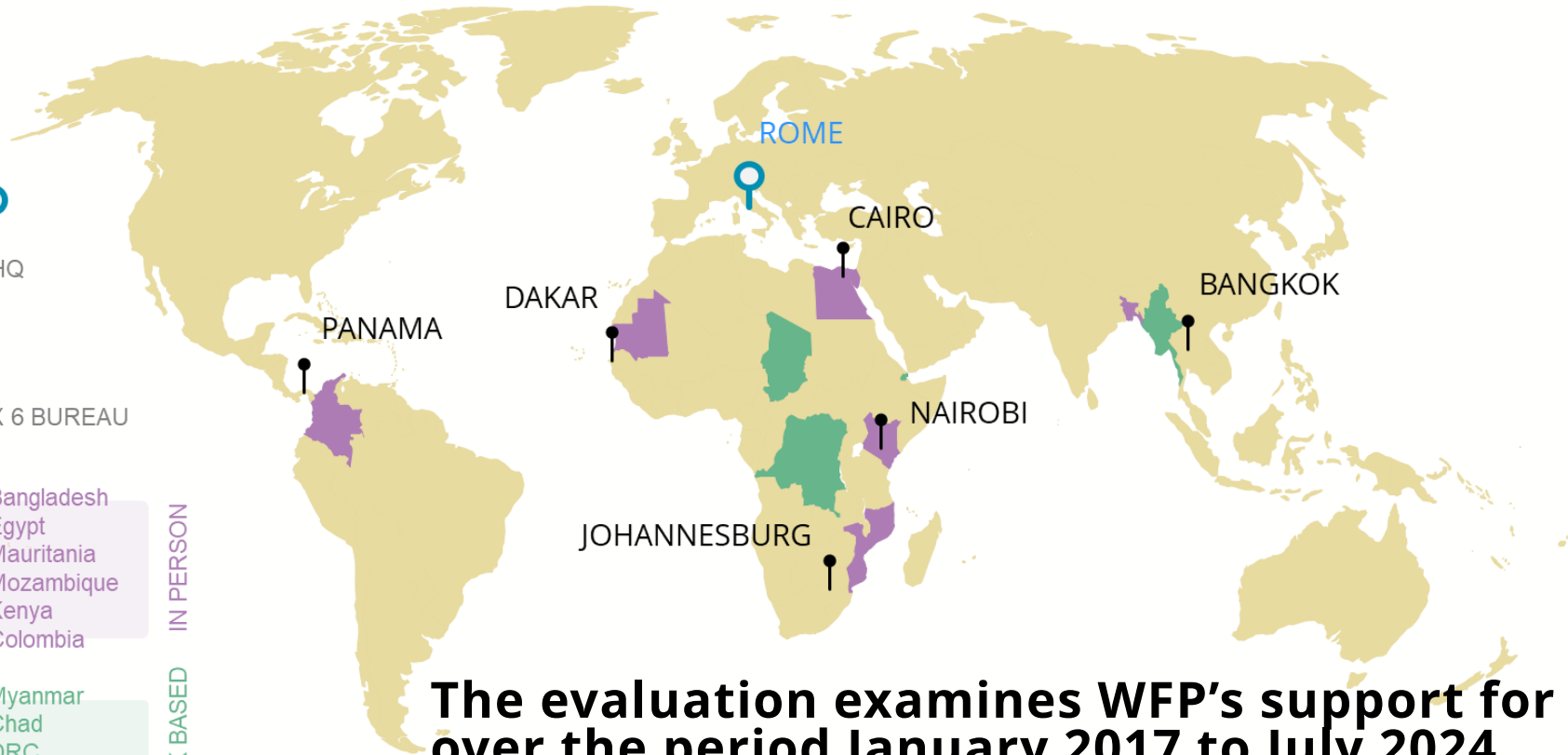
COUNTRY
THEMATIC
STUDY

Bangladesh
Egypt
Mauritania
Mozambique
Kenya
Colombia

IN PERSON

Myanmar
Chad
DRC
Djibouti

DESK BASED



The evaluation examines WFP's support for RIMs over the period January 2017 to July 2024, examining:

- Performance;
- Enabling environment;
- Strategic partnerships;
- Engagement on cross-cutting dimensions.

Evaluation conclusions and supporting findings

Conclusion 1:

WFP's strategic vision and position towards RIMs remains unclear.

WFP's policies are aligned with Global Compacts, however:

- No corporate policy explicitly addresses refugees, IDPs or irregular migrants.
- Corporate guidance is insufficient, especially on irregular migrants.
- WFP support for RIMs reflects how RIMs populations are recognised and prioritised by governments.
- WFP faces trade-offs in applying humanitarian principles when supporting RIMs.



Conclusion 2:

WFP's responses to refugees and IDPs reflect its traditional strengths.

- In response to displacement crises, WFP can achieve scale quickly & contributes significantly to addressing the immediate food security needs of refugees and IDPs.
- In some countries WFP has made important contributions to integrating RIMs in national systems (social protection, school feeding, food markets and environment).
- There is room to improve approaches towards self-reliance and nutrition of RIMs.
- WFP provides very limited emergency assistance to irregular migrants.



Conclusion 3:

Intersecting vulnerabilities of RIMs are poorly integrated into policy and guidance and accounted for in monitoring activities.

WFP has relevant, general policies and guidance in place for targeting assistance along individual, specific needs.

However:

- WFP assessments do not build an understanding of intersecting vulnerabilities associated with displacement or irregular migration.
- It is rare for WFP's assistance to actually be targeted to RIMs' specific needs & vulnerabilities.
- WFP has limited ability to analyze its contributions to specific outcomes for RIMs populations.



Conclusion 4:

RIMs protection risk management is centered on WFP access and food assistance.

- Protection is duly considered within the sphere of food assistance.
- Significant efforts have been made to improve feedback mechanisms.
- However, capacity remains limited to:
 - address the protection risks RIMs face beyond distributions, and
 - respond to feedback from targeted population groups, including on sexual exploitation and abuse.



Conclusion 5:

WFP increasingly capitalizes on a range of strategic and operational partnerships for RIMs support (UNHCR, IOM).

WFP is regarded as a critical partner in assisting displaced persons in both rapid onset emergencies & protracted settings.

However:

- There is a need for greater leadership, collaboration & clarity on roles and responsibilities.
- There is significant scope to improve engagement with governments, regional institutions, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), other UN agencies, & cooperating partners.



Conclusion 6:

WFP's ability to support RIMs at scale and towards self-reliance has been limited by funding constraints and staffing gaps.

- Funding for RIMs has been largely short-term and earmarked, and recently decreasing.
- The lack of a clear business proposition constrained the building of strategic donor partnership needed for transition.
- WFP faces staff capacity gaps in the fields of displacement and migration, self-reliance programming & for addressing specific vulnerabilities and protection risks of RIMs.

Recommendations

1

Formulate a **clear corporate vision and position** on WFP support to refugees, IDPs & migrants; embed this position within relevant WFP strategic and normative frameworks.

EPR

2

Specify **WFP's programme offer & required partnerships** to integrate RIMs across all areas from emergency response to self reliance; introduce **transition pathways** from the start.

EPR

3

Strengthen **WFP's data systems & analytical capacity** to improve WFP's understanding of the intersecting vulnerabilities of RIMs.

APP

4

Ensure all **WFP support** to RIMs is based on **comprehensive analysis** of status in relation to gender, protection & contextual risks, & includes robust AAP mechanisms.

EPR

5

Strengthen **strategic & operational partnerships** with mandated displacement and migration agencies.

EPR

6

Strengthen WFP's **resource mobilization focus to** more effectively meet the immediate **humanitarian needs** of RIMs & host populations & better **support transitions toward longer-term solutions** from the start.

PCS