Executive Board
First regular session
Rome, 14 January 2026
and
Rome, 24–27 February 2026

Distribution: General	Agenda item 6
Date: 23 January 2026	WFP/EB.1/2026/5-A
Original: English	Policy issues
	For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (https://executiveboard.wfp.org).

Compendium of policies relating to the strategic plan

Introduction

1. At its second regular session in 2010, the WFP Executive Board requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual update of its compendium of WFP policies relating to the strategic plan. The submission of the present document follows the approval of the WFP strategic plan for 2026–2029 by the Executive Board at its 2025 second regular session.

2. The 2026 edition of the compendium reflects a strategic shift from a primarily descriptive document to a concise, high-level reference tool. By consolidating key elements into a focused document, the compendium aims to facilitate quick access to essential policies and strategies, a list of which is set out in the annex.

3. While the policies and strategies presented are interlinked and complementary, the compendium arranges them in the following four categories:

> ➢ Strategic outcomes: the areas of work set out in the strategic plan for 2026–2029, which provide the strategic orientation of WFP programmes;

> ➢ Cross-cutting priorities: thematic areas mainstreamed across all programme areas to ensure WFP's commitment to quality in all contexts;

> ➢ Enablers: essential ingredients for the implementation of the strategic plan; and

> ➢ Planning and tools: key instruments and mechanisms that guide and facilitate the implementation of the strategic plan.

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Gap analysis

4. During the first year of implementation of the strategic plan for 2026-2029, WFP will focus on aligning country strategic plans with the new strategic plan, including, as necessary, updating and upgrading existing guidance. This gap analysis draws on evaluation findings and recommendations. While no evaluations of policies are planned for 2026, in 2027 the Office of Evaluation will undertake the evaluation of the 2020 protection and accountability policy (WFP/EB.2/2020/4-A/1/Rev.2) and the WFP people policy (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-A).

Strategic outcome 1

5. Building on the recommendations from the strategic evaluation of its capacity to respond to emergencies (WFP/EB.1/2020/5-A), WFP continues to enhance the corporate alert system to facilitate inter-functional early warning and early action. During 2026, WFP will continue to strengthen its ability to respond to emergencies in an efficient, effective, and timely manner through the development of staff deployment capacity, corporate guidance and tools. This work encompasses high quality programming, including in prioritization, transition and handover.

6. Following the evaluation of the emergency preparedness policy (WFP/EB.1/2025/7-A/2) in 2024, WFP will update operational guidance on emergency preparedness, response and transition across its functional areas. This will include a comprehensive review and update of the technical note and directive on the Immediate Response Account, the purpose of which is to enhance access to preparedness funding for country offices.

7. The strategic evaluation of WFP's support for refugees, internally displaced people and migrants (WFP/EB.A/2025/7-G/2/Rev.1) revealed gaps in WFP's assistance for these populations. In response, WFP will establish a corporate position and strategy to address the specific food and nutrition insecurity of refugees and internally displaced people, by the end of 2026.

8. In accordance with the 2018 evaluation of WFP's policies on humanitarian principles and access (WFP/EB.A/2018/7-C) and the 2024 internal audit of WFP humanitarian access management (AR/24/21), WFP will continue to update its guidance on operational humanitarian access, ensuring a more effective corporate approach to access management. This will include establishing minimum access standards and ensuring robust risk management and accountability for decision-making.

Strategic outcome 2

9. In light of the approval of the update of WFP's resilience policy (WFP/EB.2/2024/4-A) in 2024, WFP management recommends that the 2003 policy on food aid and livelihoods in emergencies (WFP/EB.A/2003/5-A) and the 2011 policy on disaster risk reduction and management (WFP/EB.2/2011/4-A) be decommissioned. The resilience policy update supersedes both policies, better reflecting contemporary approaches to enhancing and diversifying livelihoods prior to, during and after emergencies, including strengthening the capacities of local and national actors to support communities exposed to shocks.

Strategic outcome 3

10. While there are no new recommendations that warrant the introduction of normative instruments to deliver strategic outcome 3, WFP will produce guidance to support country offices in implementing "changing lives" activities that are high quality and impactful. This guidance will include recommendations on prioritization, transition and handover.

Cross-cutting priorities

11. Consistent with recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the 2017 environmental policy (WFP/EB.1/2025/7-A/1), environmental sustainability is a core component of the strategic plan and is reinforced as a standalone cross-cutting priority. In 2026, WFP will continue to strengthen and update the implementation of the environmental and social sustainability framework and will develop guidance aimed at embedding environmental sustainability across its programmes and supply chains.

12. The outcomes of the evaluation of the 2018 enterprise risk management policy (WFP/EB.2/2018/5-C) were presented to the Executive Board at its 2025 second regular session (WFP/EB.2/2025/6-B/2). WFP will update the policy by 2027, in line with evaluation recommendations to revise, update and consolidate the policy and accompanying guidelines and to ensure their coherence with other policies and corporate documents.

13. The 2018 evaluation of WFP's policies on humanitarian principles and access (WFP/EB.A/2018/7-C) found that the policies continued to be relevant to WFP programmes and operations. Following a request from the Executive Board, in 2026 the Office of Evaluation plans to produce a synthesis of evaluation evidence regarding WFP's adherence to the humanitarian principles. WFP will defer the formulation or updating of related normative instruments until the completion of the synthesis.

Enablers

14. A review of the 2022 evaluation policy (WFP/EB.1/2022/4-C) is planned for 2026 to inform any necessary revisions identified through the external peer review process of the United Nations Evaluation Group and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. WFP will defer the formulation or updating of related normative instruments until the completion of the evaluation.

15. The core principles of the WFP resource mobilization strategy aim to enable the implementation of the strategic plan for 2026–2029, emphasizing agile and adaptive approaches to a changed funding landscape. WFP will continue to partner with traditional donors, broaden and diversify the funding base with private sector donors, tap into innovative financing streams and engage programme countries.

Planning and tools

16. WFP recommends that the 2004 policy on emergency needs assessments (WFP/EB.1/2004/4-A) and the 2006 policy on the application of economic analysis (WFP/EB.A/2006/5-C) be decommissioned. These policies are no longer aligned with the introduction of normative guidance such as the minimum monitoring requirements or the evolution of corporate tools and measures of food insecurity such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and Cadre Harmonisé systems.

17. WFP recommends that the 2000 policy on participatory approaches (WFP/EB.3/2000/3-D) be decommissioned. Participation has been mainstreamed in various policies including the 2025 localization policy (WFP/EB.A/2025/5-A), the 2020 protection and accountability policy (WFP/EB.2/2020/4-A/1/Rev.2) and the 2024 resilience policy update (WFP/EB.2/2024/4-A), each emphasizing more current frameworks for participatory approaches.

ANNEX

Table of WFP policies and strategies

1. The table below lists existing WFP policies and strategies relating to the effective implementation of the strategic plan. It is intended to enhance efficiency, clarity and alignment with organizational priorities.

Strategic outcome 1		
	2005	Definition of emergencies *Definition of Emergencies (WFP/EB.1/2005/4-A/Rev.1)*
	2004	Emergency needs assessment *Emergency Needs Assessments (WFP/EB.1/2004/4-A)*
	2006	Targeting in emergencies *Targeting in Emergencies (WFP/EB.1/2006/5-A)*
	2005	Exiting emergencies *Exiting Emergencies (WFP/EB.1/2005/4B)*
	2003	Food aid and livelihoods in emergencies *Food Aid and Livelihoods in Emergencies: Strategies for WFP (WFP/EB.A/2003/5-A)*
	2017	Emergency preparedness *Emergency preparedness policy – Strengthening WFP emergency preparedness for effective response (WFP/EB.2/2017/4-B/Rev.1)*
	2006	Humanitarian access *Note on Humanitarian Access and its Implications for WFP (WFP/EB.1/2006/5-B/Rev.1)*
Strategic outcome 2		
	2024	Resilience *Resilience policy update (WFP/EB.2/2024/4-A)*
	2024	Climate change *Climate Change Policy (WFP/EB.2/2024/4-C)*
	2011	Disaster risk reduction and management *WFP Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (WFP/EB.2/2011/4-A)*
	2002	Urban food insecurity *Urban Food Insecurity: Strategies for WFP (WFP/EB.A/2002/5-B)*
Strategic outcome 3		
	2022	Country capacity strengthening *Country capacity strengthening policy update (WFP/EB.A/2022/5-A)*
	2012	Social protection and safety nets *Update of WFP's Safety Nets Policy (WFP/EB.A/2012/5-A)*
	2024	School meals *School Meals Policy Update (WFP/EB.2/2024/4-B)*
	2023	South–South and triangular cooperation *South–South and Triangular Cooperation Policy Update (WFP/EB.A/2023/5-C)*
	2019	Local and regional food procurement *Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (WFP/EB.2/2019/4-C)*
	2023	Aviation *Aviation Policy (WFP/EB.1/2023/4-A)*

Cross-cutting priorities		
	2025	Localization *Localization Policy (WFP/EB.A/2025/5-A)*
	2017	Nutrition *Nutrition Policy (WFP/EB.1/2017/4-C)*
	2010	HIV and AIDS *WFP HIV and AIDS Policy (WFP/EB.2/2010/4-A)*
	2022	Gender *Gender Policy 2022 (WFP/EB.1/2022/4-B/Rev.1)*
	2020	Protection and accountability *WFP's Protection and Accountability Policy (WFP/EB.2/2020/4-A/1/Rev.2)*
	2017	Environmental sustainability *Environmental Policy (WFP/EB.1/2017/4-B/Rev.1)*
	2004	Humanitarian principles *Humanitarian Principles (WFP/EB.A/2004/5-C)*
	2013	Peacebuilding in transition settings *WFP's Role in Peacebuilding in Transition Settings (WFP/EB.2/2013/4-A/Rev.1)*
	2023	Conflict sensitivity *Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Strategy*
	2018	Oversight and assurance *WFP Accountability and Oversight Framework (WFP/EB.2/2025/6-A)*
	2021	Fraud and corruption *Revised Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-B/1)*
	2018	Enterprise risk management *Enterprise Risk Management Policy (WFP/EB.2/2018/5-C)*
Enablers		
	2021	People *WFP People Policy (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-A)*
	2026	Partnerships and funding *Resource Mobilization Strategy 2026-2029*
	2025	Innovation *Innovation Strategy 2025-2027*
	2026	Technology *Digital Business Transformation Plan 2026-2029*
	2022	Evaluation *WFP Evaluation Policy 2022 (WFP/EB.1/2022/4-C)*
Planning and tools		
	2016	Country strategic plans *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*
	2025	Policy formulation *Policy Cycle Framework (WFP/EB.1/2025/6-A)*
	2023	Cash *Cash Policy* (WFP/EB.A/2023/5-A)
	2006	Economic analysis *The Role and Application of Economic Analysis in WFP (WFP/EB.A/2006/5-C)*
	2000	Participatory approaches *Participatory Approaches (WFP/EB.3/2000/3-D)*