



Resilience in a Changing Climate: Impact Evaluation Window

Together with conflict and economic downturns, climate change and extreme weather events increase the likelihood and severity of shocks associated with food crises. Combinations of interventions which focus on supporting the short-term and long-term resilience of individuals and communities are essential in humanitarian situations and protracted crises. WFP supports a range of interventions that contribute to resilience building within the humanitarian-development nexus. Today, rigorous evidence on the effect of WFP's interventions on the resilience of individuals, households and communities is needed to better design programmes that simultaneously address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition while meeting immediate food needs. To support country offices to produce this evidence, WFP's Office of Evaluation (OEV) has developed this impact evaluation window, in collaboration with the Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit (OSZPR) and Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (OSZIR).

WHAT IS A WINDOW?

Windows are OEV led initiatives to coordinate a portfolio of impact evaluations on WFP programmes in priority areas. They allow country offices to learn what works in a way that informs their own programming and also contributes to a global evidence base.

Participation in the window means you will receive expert advice and support from OEV and a dedicated technical specialist in your country. OEV will co-fund your impact evaluation.

WHAT IS AN IMPACT EVALUATION?

Impact evaluations measure positive and negative, short- or long-term changes in development outcomes that can be attributed to a specific programme or a policy. This is achieved by using a credible counterfactual.

Impact evaluations rely on data collected primarily at the individual or household level to measure expected or unexpected programme outcomes.

For WFP, most impact evaluations will be conducted ex-ante. This means that, the impact evaluation design is built into the programme planning and involves at least baseline and end-line data collections.

WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS CAN WE ANSWER?

While specific evaluation questions for each impact evaluation largely depend on country office priorities, some possible questions for the window are:

- *What WFP interventions are best suited for building and sustaining anticipatory, absorptive, adaptive and transformative resilience capacities relevant to food security and nutrition outcomes?*
- *How can various WFP interventions be combined (multiple interventions for same target populations), layered (interventions at individual, community, and institutional levels), or sequenced (a series of back to back interventions) to strengthen multiple resilience-capacities?*
- *When do prevention- and response- focused interventions impact the resilience of communities? Which resilience capacities do WFP interventions contribute the most to?*

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE WINDOW?

- Effective, efficient, equitable and empowering programming that supports transformative change
- Timely production of **rigorous evidence** around key questions of country programming
- Increased support to strengthen the programme's **results-based monitoring** system
- Opportunity for **national capacity building** in impact evaluation
- Evidence to **improve outcomes** in future programming
- Valuable and compelling material for **current and future funding and implementing partners**

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any WFP country office with upcoming programmes that have a component to enhance resilience are invited to express interest.

The window is best suited for programmes that **start in 2020** or later, though programmes with earlier implementation dates may also be considered.

TIMING

Country offices have until **31 December 2019 to express interest**. It is important to note that expressions of interest do not imply commitment — OEV is happy to receive any questions and engage in discussion about your programme to decide together if the window is a good opportunity for your office.

By **10 February 2020**, OEV will follow up with you to conduct an initial phone-based feasibility assessment.

OEV will then host a **workshop in March 2020** for country offices and impact evaluation partners to work together on the impact evaluation planning and concept notes. Concept notes will be reviewed and approved by the **end of April 2020**.

After the concept note is approved, the timing of the impact evaluation depends on the timing of programme implementation. Preparation and contracting for data collection will take place as soon as possible. The baseline data collection will then take place in the months leading up to the **programme start date**.

The duration of your involvement in the window then depends largely on the programme and outcomes of interest. High-frequency data collection on key resilience outcomes will be required to capture seasonal variations in resilience. OEV will work with country offices to set up high-frequency data collection frameworks.

Finally, OEV aims to analyse the data and produce results based on a **timing useful for informing programme and policy decisions**. Timely analysis will accompany key data collection cycles, and the final analysis will occur after end-line data collection.

FUNDING

Country offices participating in the window commit to funding the data collection activities of their impact evaluation. While the most likely source of this funding is the programme M&E budget, OEV both encourages and supports country offices to leverage any donor interest to garner additional funding.

The remaining costs will be funded by OEV, including the analysis and technical support.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For Country Offices: Upon approval of the concept note, OEV will begin discussions with the country office to solidify the design and the tools for data collection. Country office and cooperating partner feedback is crucial at this stage in order to ensure the impact evaluation is both feasible and useful for programme teams.

Before and during implementation of the programme, country teams will work closely with OEV to collect data that complements existing M&E needs, and to ensure adherence to the impact evaluation design throughout the programme. This involves ensuring that the programme is targeted to the pre-specified beneficiary group and the comparison group appropriately.

Country teams will also be responsible for liaising with data collection firms and supervising the baseline, mid-line and end-line data collection.

For OEV: OEV will provide the additional capacity needed, including managing the planning and design stages of all impact evaluations in the window, and providing technical guidance throughout the lifecycle of the window. OEV will manage the data analysis and production of window outputs, as well as their dissemination.

OVERSIGHT

OEV will establish a WFP Steering Committee to oversee the functioning of the window. The Steering Committee will be supported by a Reference Group and a Technical Advisory Group to draw on global expertise and capacities.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To express interest, please send an email to include the following information:

- Programme Title
- Programme Start (Month and Year)
- Main programme inputs (programme components contributing to resilience)
- Main anticipated outcomes of programme
- Any comments or questions you may be interested in exploring regarding gender
- Donor interest (if any)

OEV strongly recommends that you initially discuss these points with your **Regional Evaluation Officer**.

The closing dates for expressions of interest is **31 December 2019**. Please send your email to **Hanna Paulose** (hanna.paulose@wfp.org) with CC to **Jonas Heirman** (jonas.heirman@wfp.org) and to your Regional Evaluation Officer.