

RMP Talking Points
Annual Consultation on Evaluations 2019
May 08, 2020

Management response to the 2019 annual evaluation report
(approx. 7 mins talking time)

1. Mr. President– in my position as Director of the Performance Management and Reporting Division, I am pleased to present the management response to the fourth Annual Evaluation Report, in line with the Evaluation Policy (2016–2021).
2. As the report does not present specific recommendations, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some comments in view of the importance management places on the report findings and conclusions.
3. Firstly, we value the continued commitment of the office of evaluation (OEV) to delivering effective and efficient evaluations and the important role evaluation plays in supporting organisational learning, accountability, transparency and overall performance and results.
4. We also acknowledge the continuing progress made by OEV in aligning the evaluation function with the strategic direction of WFP and trends in its operating environment.
5. Specific reference is made to the overview of centralised and decentralised evaluations, the performance of the evaluation function and highlighting the evaluation evidence available to support the strategic priorities of WFP.
6. Management recognises that centralised evaluations are designed to be as relevant as possible to WFP’s dynamic programming. Seventeen centralized evaluations were completed or ongoing in 2019 with two impact evaluation windows ongoing or initiated in WFP priority areas.
7. With the expansion of safety nets, management notes the strategic relevance of the evaluation of the Update of WFP’s Safety Net’s Policy which has led to the development of a Social Protection Strategy.

8. The evaluation of the policy evaluation of the WFP People Strategy is welcomed, highlighting the importance of creating a more people centered organization. The findings will support the development of the new People Strategy.
9. Strategic evaluations on topics central to the WFP Strategic Plan is noted. The evaluation of WFP's Capacity to Respond to Emergencies, one of WFP's leadership priorities, provided management with valuable feedback for ongoing and future emergency operations.
10. Management looks forward to the two strategic evaluations which will be presented in 2020. The first is Funding of WFP's Work, where reducing the gap between resources and needs remains a priority for the organization. The second is the School Feeding Contributions to SDG's, given the increased focus on school meals in line with WFP leadership priorities.
11. Five CSPEs are progressing as planned and management appreciates the flexibility of OEV in rescheduling evaluations in response to changing circumstances.
12. The contribution of the corporate emergency response evaluations is acknowledged. The WFP Level 3 Emergency Response in North Eastern Nigeria evaluation was presented in November 2019. It informed the development and implementation of the first Nigeria CSP as well as providing information for the design and delivery of future corporate responses.
13. Also noted is the continued investment by OEV in interagency humanitarian evaluations, contributing to achieving evaluative coverage of WFP corporate emergencies through collective inter-agency action on the ground.
14. In 2019, the first synthesis of WFP's country portfolio evaluations in the Sahel and Horn of Africa was presented. Management appreciated the

recommendations and findings which were relevant and applicable for all regions where WFP operates.

15. OEV continues to participate in joint evaluations and partnerships, including identifying areas of collaboration. It is welcomed that preparation for a joint evaluation of Rome-based Agency Collaboration with FAO and IFAD has started.
16. The overall number of planned decentralized evaluations during the period 2016-2019 has substantially increased compared with the original projections made in early 2016. Twenty-five decentralised evaluations started in 2019 and eighteen were completed. Management recognises that while the demand for decentralised evaluations remains high, a stabilisation in the number starting each year is expected.
17. Management also notes the continued work of OEV and regional evaluation officers to support country offices to ensure that decentralised evaluations address their main learning needs and inform decision making to improve operational performance.
18. The continued support and strategies to strengthening national evaluation capacities is also noted.
19. Decentralised evaluation coverage does not reflect WFP Programme of Work in terms of programmatic areas. It is welcomed that the range of themes covered is expected to broaden in line with regional evaluation strategies.
20. Management appreciates that the Monitoring and Evaluation FIT Pool initiative was prioritized during 2019, responding to demands from all levels of the organization to ensure a stable and competent global workforce.
21. In addition, with the WFP organisational restructure of the field monitoring function into the Research and Monitoring Division, OEV continued their collaboration to ensure monitoring and evaluation requirements are met at the regional bureau and country office level.

22. The development of two new strategies in 2019 to further support the implementation of the Evaluation Policy is welcomed. WFP published its first Impact Evaluation Strategy aimed to utilise impact evaluation as a tool for evidence generation and organisational learning.
23. The second is the Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) Strategy which will be finalised and rolled-out in 2020.
24. Management also looks forward to the Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy which was commenced in 2019 to ensure that evaluation results are accessed and fully utilised across WFP.
25. The use of evaluation evidence in key areas is welcomed, in particular to inform policy development, strengthen emergency response, inform Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) and in the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan.
26. Management recognises the value of maintaining the Contingency Evaluation Fund (CEF) and continues to support the cross-divisional Task Force to develop a strategic approach to sustainable financing of the evaluation function.
27. The results of the *evaluation coverage* in 2019 and the evolution of the minimum coverage is noted, recognizing the challenges related to CSP alignment to UNSDCF has impacted the ability of OEV to conduct some evaluations.
28. The results of the quality of evaluations as assessed by an independent assessor are welcomed, particularly noting the integration of gender showing 86% of evaluations assessed met requirements and 14% approaching requirements.
29. The trend in the number and variety of joint initiatives and partnerships is positive. These collaborative engagements, particularly in the context of UN reform and SDG targets, are important instruments for assessing the effectiveness of joint approaches in achieving results.

30. Management welcomes the delivery of the 2019 workplan, completing all planned evaluations, commencing one additional synthesis and launching one impact evaluation window.
31. The positive developments in the evaluation function are well noted. Looking ahead management agrees with the priorities identified by OEV in support of WFP's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude here my remarks to the annual evaluation report 2019.

Thank you.