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WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of China WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021

October 2021

Round Table



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Context

- Upper-middle income country
- Progress in poverty reduction and social development
- High inequality - Gini index of 38.6
- 30.5 million people below poverty line (2018)
- Food insecurity in poverty pockets in remote areas



WFP Country Strategic Plan in China

Five Strategic Outcomes



Pre-school
nutrition

1



Farming
livelihoods
and
resilience

2



Natural
disaster
response

3



South-South
Cooperation

4



Partnerships

5

Evaluation methods



- Document review
- Online survey of 13 WFP country offices
- 103 Key informant interviews
- Hybrid approach to data collection due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- Gender-sensitive and ethical approach

Findings

Q1 To what extent are WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs, as well as WFP's strengths?



Aligned with China's Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) and poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture and resilience initiatives



Specific **targeting** of counties with high poverty incidence



Gender sensitive CSP design



WFP China **strategically positioned** for convening stakeholder groups, donor negotiations and leveraging resources



Strong alignment with the **UNDAF**

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (1/3)

STRATEGIC
OUTCOME

1



Preschool **nutrition** activities contributed to more varied diets for young children and improved nutritional health awareness

STRATEGIC
OUTCOME

2



Support to smallholder farmers in the kiwi fruit value chain and with zinc-enriched potato cultivation was promising

STRATEGIC
OUTCOME

3



Disaster preparedness and response capacity strengthening activities were not implemented as they were not a priority

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (2/3)

STRATEGIC
OUTCOME

4



A network of Chinese experts and **learning events** benefited about 70 countries

STRATEGIC
OUTCOME

5



Partnerships with public institutions and private enterprises were expanded. Procedures to access China's international development funding remain too complex

SYNERGIES



Synergies between strategic outcomes were not established

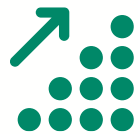
Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (3/3)



Women's participation and targeting were encouraged. Nonetheless, some trainings reinforced traditional **gender** roles



Accountability to affected population responded to the views of affected communities.



Network of Chinese experts built by the Centre of Excellence has good potential for **sustainability**.

Sustainability of domestic projects varied by context and depended on government funding.

Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to CSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



Timely activity delivery



There was **no evidence of inefficiencies**



Increased agility and reduced costs sometimes meant reduced relevance of technical assistance by the Centre of Excellence

Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?



Limited funding predictability and strong **earmarking**



WFP China **uniquely positioned** and strongly engaged in the development of **partnerships** with public and private institutions



CSP had little influence on **programme flexibility** and **monitoring** was insufficient

Conclusions



CSP was aligned with the direction of the government and relevant to needs



Evidence generation on added value of WFP-China partnership in domestic programme is insufficient



Conclusions



Centre of Excellence **technical assistance was appreciated** but could be better adapted to the specific contexts



Stabilizing the current CSP's financial model through a more **strategic funding approach** is needed for WFP to access development funding from China



Recommendations

1

Strengthen **strategic engagement** with China on WFP and China's priorities and areas of expertise as entry points to maximize global impact of the WFP-China partnership

2

Identify effective ways of **working with internal and external stakeholder groups** in China

3

Strengthen **processes** in domestic programme and the Centre of Excellence for capturing, sharing and communicating results, and enhancing learning

4

Develop a **clear plan** for firming up China's long-term contributions to WFP