

## **EB Annual Consultation on Evaluation 2020**

### *OEV Work Plan 2021-2023 Talking Points*

#### **SLIDE 1: Title slide**

- I am pleased to present the Office of Evaluation work plan for 2021.

#### **SLIDE 2 Key priorities for the evaluation function**

- Building on key priorities highlighted this morning for WFP Evaluation Function in 2020 and beyond, this presentation covers:
  - i) an overview of planning for centralized evaluations from 2021-2023,
  - ii) activities required to implement of the corporate evaluation strategy in 2020, including support to the decentralised evaluation function, and
  - iii) the indicative needs-based budget for OEV and the wider evaluation function in 2021.
- While OEV was preparing the workplan, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to restrictions that impact significantly on WFP programmes and evaluations. I will explain the implications for the 2021 evaluation workplan throughout this presentation.

#### **SLIDE 3 TRANSITION SLIDE:**

- Starting with the overall perspective for centralized and decentralized evaluations 2016-2023.

#### **SLIDE 4 Overview of centralized evaluations 2016-2023**

- These graphs provide an overview of centralized evaluations completed between 2016 and 2019 and the centralized evaluation outlook 2020-2023
- The graph on the left side shows lower levels of evaluation completed over time (2018-2019). This is due to the ending of operation evaluations and the volatility in CSP planning. In addition, completed IAHEs are not factored in as they are not formally presented to the Executive Board.
- The graph on the right side provides an analysis of the actual starts, ongoing and planned evaluation over the period 2020-2023. The most significant change here will be the steep increase in country strategic plan evaluations from 2021. The level of global strategic, policy and synthesis evaluations will be similar to recent years.
- Turning to the decentralized evaluations,

#### **SLIDE 5 Overview of decentralized evaluations 2016-2023**

- The graph on the right provides a snapshot of the ongoing and planned decentralized evaluations as of April 2020. Projections are lower for 2022 and 2023 as Country Offices still need to confirm their evaluation plans in light of their Country Strategic Plans. This data is mostly based on plans elaborated prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result of the pandemic, Country Offices are adjusting their plans and so far 26 decentralized evaluations are postponed which may have an impact on activity in 2021.

- How is the WFP evaluation function adapting to the COVID-19 crisis?

## **SLIDE 6 Scenarios for adjusting evaluations during COVID-19**

- Our first priority has been to ensure that evaluation activities do not pose a risk to any WFP staff, evaluators, cooperating partners or beneficiaries. This approach has been informed by consultation with the UN Evaluation Group, Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group, and the OECD DAC Evalnet to ensure that our approach is consistent with evaluation bodies globally.
- All evaluation activities to be undertaken in 2020 and 2021 are being carefully planned and managed to ensure that corporate accountability and learning needs are still met, but wherever possible avoid placing unnecessary burden on WFP operations and partnerships at this time of unprecedented emergency response.
- We have prepared a guidance note with detailed information to support decision making.
- For 2020: with the exceptions for evaluations which have already completed field data collection and that can largely continue as planned – we have made a number of decisions on:
  - a) how to redesign/reschedule ongoing evaluations
  - b) whether to postpone or cancel evaluations that are due to start before the end of this year.
  - c) for evaluations that are at inception or data collection stages, another scenario has been envisaged – which could be remote evaluation or desk study if conditions to conduct an evaluation remotely are not met.

## **SLIDE 7 How is WFP's evaluation function changing its approach?**

- Some of these decisions are already reflected in OEV work plan 2021 and we will be continuing to work in partnership with other entities and adapt decisions as required.
- We will also aim to ensure that whenever appropriate for new evaluations, evaluation questions and approaches will capture information on the organisational response to this crisis to support learning and accountability needs.

## **SLIDE 8 TRANSITION SLIDE: Outlook for the centralized evaluation function 2021-2023**

- I would like now to present OEV's proposed priorities for new centralized evaluations through to 2023.

## **SLIDE 9 Policy evaluations 2020-2023**

- The prioritization of Policy Evaluations is based on WFP's Policy Compendium and OEV consultations with the WFP policy owners.
- OEV will commence an evaluation of the policy on Peacebuilding and Transition Settings.

## **SLIDE 10: Strategic evaluations 2020-2023**

- Building on the 2017 review of strategic evaluation priorities: 2 new strategic evaluations are envisaged each year

- In 2021 this will be:
  - Managing organizational change and
  - Nutrition and HIV/AIDS which will bring together and assess two closely related policies

### **SLIDE 11: Evaluation syntheses 2020-2023**

- Evaluation Syntheses bring together evaluation evidence to enhance learning. One new synthesis will commence in 2021.

### **SLIDE 12: Joint evaluations and activities 2020-2023**

- In light of UN reform towards Agenda 2030, this slide provides an overview of OEV plans for joint evaluations and activities with other UN evaluation offices. We do not have full details yet, however we expect the establishment of the UN system wide evaluation function and joint evaluations of the global COVID response to increase demands in this area: this is already requiring careful coordination UNEG, IAHE steering group, the Secretary General's Office and OECD-DAC Evalnet.

### **SLIDE 13: Country strategic plan evaluation 2020-2023**

- In 2021, it is expected that 21 country strategic plan evaluations will be conducted to feed into the preparation of second generation CSPs.
- However, it is unlikely that all will go ahead as envisaged reflecting the increased volatility of CSP planning, especially in light of COVID.

## **SLIDE 14: Evaluations of emergency responses 2020-2023**

- Due to COVID, one multi-county complex emergency evaluation due to start in 2020 is postponed. OEV has decided to refocus effort on preparatory work for a probable major COVID-19 evaluation in 2021 and on activities to support organisational learning.
- 2 Inter-agency humanitarian evaluations are planned per year in alignment with the rolling 4-year workplan of the inter-agency humanitarian evaluation Steering Group, which is being reviewed in light of COVID.
- The planned 2020 evaluations of the emergency response in Yemen and of the Ebola crisis in DRC are postponed until further notice. The steering group is currently considering evaluation needs in relation to the COVID humanitarian, in consultation with the ERC.

## **SLIDE 15 Impact evaluation windows**

- Impact evaluations entail extensive face to face data collection with beneficiaries and are tightly connected to programme implementation.
- OEV is working to adapt the plans of ongoing impact evaluations under the two existing windows to align with any changes in programme timelines or interventions in response to the COVID-19 situation.
- Work will commence on a third window focused on school-based programming, but this will be formally launched in 2021. In 2021 work will comment on the design of a fourth window and the impact evaluation strategy will be reviewed.

## **SLIDE 16 TRANSITION SLIDE: Resources for provisional plans 2021**

- I will outline the resource requirements needed to deliver this plan.

## **SLIDE 17 Resources for WFP's evaluation function 2018-2021**

- This slide shows resources for the Office of Evaluation (OEV) (left side of the dotted line) alongside resources for evaluation for Regional Bureaux and country offices (right side of the dotted line) by source and by year.
- Figures until 2019 are based on actual expenditures.
- For 2020 we have the available resources (as presented in the AER) and the planned cost in view of number of ongoing and planned evaluations. To note that due to COVID 19 OEV and the Regional Bureaus reviewed the multilateral funding to relinquish parts of it and are in the process of reprioritizing activities under the PSA budget line.
- 2021 figures are projections based on the indicative programme of work with 21.6 mln projected for OEV for both the centralised and decentralised evaluation function and 7.5 mln for the decentralised evaluation function
- To explain further on the various funding sources for the evaluation function, and noting how these have diversified since 2016.
- Focussing on 2021 PSA funding is shown in various shades of blue.
  - On the left side it reflects the funding for centralised evaluations
  - On the right side it reflects the funding going to the regional evaluation teams. To note that in 2020 the investment case put forward for the Regional Bureaus resulted in an increased PSA

allocation to each Regional bureau which explains why no investment case has been put forward so far for 2021

- In red we see the investment case we are putting forward for 2021 for the centralised evaluation function.
- This is complemented with the following resources:
  - In yellow the multilateral allocations for decentralised evaluation function
  - In green programme sources used for both the conduct of CSPE (left side) which will more than double in 2021 and the conduct of DE (right side).
  - In violet the indicative multi-donor funding for impact evaluation activities.

## **SLIDE 18 Expenditure on evaluation**

The graph on the right shows:

- From 2016 to 2019 the level of expenditure for the evaluation function as proportion of the contribution income
- For 2020 the graph shows on CE side (blue) resources available and in green an estimation of allocation for ongoing and planned DE for the year
- 2021 reflects the planned budgets.

These show a clear progression in terms of allocations to evaluation in proportion of the overall income contribution to the organisation

The graph on the left compares the annual growth rate of contribution income (light blue) and the annual growth rate of resources dedicated to the



evaluation function (dark blue). It shows clearly that resources for evaluation grew more rapidly than income contribution these last three years showing the level of commitment of WFP as an organization to the strengthening of its evaluation function.

**SLIDE 19: Human resources for on evaluation**

In terms of human resources for 2021, I am pleased to note that we are moving towards a stabilization of evaluation staffing in OEV following the uplift carried out in 2019 and 2020. Similar trend is expected at the decentralised level. Continued capacity strengthening and retention of qualified staff within the evaluation cadre is the priority in coming years.

Thank you for your attention.

Word count : 1690 (including titles).