



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation synthesis of WFP's engagement in humanitarian coordination (2018–2025)

Annual session of the WFP Executive Board – June 2026



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Scope & approach



- **Aims:** support partner dialogue & WFP positioning, in the context of UN80/Humanitarian Reset
- **Scope:** WFP positioning & results in UN coordination mechanisms, HCTs and wider humanitarian collaboration
- **65 evaluations analyzed:** country & global levels + interagency evaluations
- **Timeframe:** 2018–2025



WFP: enabling leader for emergency response

- When WFP's role is clearly defined, the organization is a **fundamental enabler of collective humanitarian responses**
- In emergencies, WFP **mobilizes quickly, coordinates effectively and delivers at scale**
- **Cluster leadership** improves access, boosts efficiency and reduces duplication when resources are tight





More individualized/contextualized approaches where roles not defined



- When its role is less formally defined, WFP **engagement is sometimes individualized and context specific**
- In some cases, this allowed to WFP to take the **lead where partners lacked capacity or ability to respond**
- However, it also compromised **consultative or participatory approaches**



Support to collective coordination, data sharing

- WFP recognized as a valued partner, with scope to further enhance **communication on roles and priorities**
- **Contribution to data, information sharing and analysis** to support more focused humanitarian responses, especially at country level, though gaps observed





Localization & transition out of emergencies



- Strong engagement with partners to **support collective action for capacity strengthening** of national and local actors
- Increasing efforts to **support humanitarian community in transitioning away from collective emergency responses**
- **Clearer frameworks and early planning needed** to balance between immediate assistance and collective longer-term resilience efforts



Humanitarian imperative vs. coordination

- WFP faces **tensions between the humanitarian imperative** – including speed of delivery – **and the burdens of coordination**
- Where trade-offs arise, WFP tends to **attempt a coordinated approach first** but then **prioritise the humanitarian imperative**



Recommendations

1

Clarify and prioritize **WFP's role in coordination mechanisms** and forums beyond the clusters that it currently leads

2

Create a narrative for the WFP workforce that positions **humanitarian coordination as a fundamental requirement**