Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts

WFP Office of Evaluation

Executive Board Annual Session
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Overview of Evaluation

- Focused on the period 2012–2017
Findings – Policy Quality

- Policies largely coherent and still relevant
- Fail to meet the standards of a fully-fledged policy
- Insufficient investment in dissemination and implementation
- Variable understanding of humanitarian principles
- Lack of clarity on WFP’s approach to access
Findings – WFP Performance

ACCESS

- Strong performance in difficult operating environments
- Relatively strong access for delivering food assistance
- Restrictions on conduct of needs assessments and monitoring activities
Findings – WFP Performance

PRINCIPLES – UNEVEN PROGRESS

• Positive reputation for humanity
• Strong reputation for impartiality
• WFP’s neutrality less positive
• Operational independence least understood
Findings: Factors affecting results

- WFP’s mandate
- Organizational culture
- Relationships with partners
- Relationships with host governments
- Relationships with armed non-state actors
- Institutional processes and capacities
Conclusions and Lessons

- Humanitarian principles and access highly relevant in today’s context
- Policies demand increased institutional attention and support
- Strong access for delivery and related strong performance on humanity may imply compromises on other principles (impartiality, neutrality and operational independence)
- Greater attention to a principled approach, and principled access for needs assessment and monitoring essential
- Cross-functional approach required to successfully achieve policy aims
Recommendations

- Strengthen policy dissemination
- Prioritization of humanitarian principles
- Strengthen staff competencies
- Partnerships
- Commercial partners
- Needs assessment and data
- Security capacity
- Principled financing