Update of WFP’s Safety Nets Policy (2012): Evaluation

WFP Office of Evaluation
Context

- The ‘Update of WFP’s Safety Nets Policy: The Role of Food Assistance in Social Protection’ - approved June 2012

- Global use of safety nets and social protection has grown considerably since 2012: including the use of social protection systems to respond to shocks
Findings – policy quality

- 2 clear pathways
- Aligned with prevailing concepts of its time and with national governments
- Lack of clear vision, purpose, results framework
- Limited uptake and dissemination of guidance
Findings – policy results

- Limited investments made for implementation
- Development of global evidence base
- Tens of millions reached directly each year
- Systems supported through technical assistance and capacity strengthening
- Partnering success but competition for resources
- Short-term, unpredictable funding
Findings – factors affecting implementation

Comparative advantages:
- FIELD PRESENCE
- DELIVERY ORIENTATION
- LOGISTICS
- LINKS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
- ANALYTICAL CAPACITY
- ABILITY TO DELIVER AT SCALE

Shortcomings:
- CAPACITY
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- MONITORING
- REPORTING
Conclusions

Strengths

- Policy was relevant and remains important
- Supported dual approach – direct implementation and support to national efforts

Weaknesses

- Lack of positioning in broader social protection context
- No clear results framework, poor dissemination of policy and guidance
- Gender-responsive and disability considerations omitted
Conclusions

Opportunities

• Increasing CO and RB experience provides platform to develop WFP approach
• Attention to the “nexus” brings humanitarian response and SP into focus

Threats

• Senior management commitment remains unclear
• Challenging to operationalize and coordinate across WFP
• Work in partnership required to avoid competition and fragmented support to governments
Recommendations

Prioritization and leadership

Cross-functional coordination and coherence

Knowledge management and positioning

Internal capacity

Monitoring and reporting