Evaluation of the WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)

WFP Office of Evaluation
Primary goal

“To enable WFP to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into all of its work and activities [and] to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed”
Gender Policy Theory of Change

Gender policy goal: Enable WFP to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into all of its work and activities, to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed.

Layer 1: Driving gender equality programming results

- Programme indicators linked to each gender policy objective and included in reporting on WFP projects and programmes

Layer 2: Programme processes and organizational change

- Programme processes
- Organizational change

Objective I: Food assistance adapted to different needs
Objective II: Equal participation of women and men, girls and boys
Objective III: Decision-making by women and girls
Objective IV: Gender and protection

Analysis and data
Strategy and programme guidance
Human resources
Capacity development
Communications, knowledge, information
Partnerships
Financial resources
Evaluation
Oversight
Findings – Policy Quality

• Policy built on recommendations from evaluation of previous Gender Policy
• Aligned with key international norms and standards
Findings – Policy Results (Objectives)

- **Objective 1**: WFP programmes not consistently adapted to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys
  - Limited understanding of intra-household dynamics

- **Objective 2**: Results related to equal participation are mixed
  - Examples of transformative change are not captured in corporate reporting
Findings – Policy Results (Objectives)

• **Objective 3**: Women engaged in decision-making in asset creation and livelihoods, nutrition and school-based programmes

• **Objective 4**: Moderate progress towards ensuring food assistance does no harm to the safety, dignity or integrity of the women, men, girls and boys receiving it
Findings – Policy Results (Organization)

• Human and financial resource targets not met
• Work required to achieve parity across all levels and for all functions
• Broader gender mainstreaming challenges overlooked
• Variations in investments on gender advisors and related capacity strengthening
Conclusions

Gender Policy remains relevant but requires an update to accelerate work at country level as part of the Decade for Action 2020-2030.

Commitment to gender parity led to positive change but overshadowed other aspects of WFP’s approach to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Translation of policy objectives into activities meeting the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys required.

Attention to GEWE dependent on individual leaders.

Limited financial investment has weakened the integration of gender equality and women’s empowerment into WFP’s culture.
Recommendations

1. Update the Gender Policy
2. Allocate sufficient PSA for corporate commitments and mobilize extra-budgetary funding
3. Establish a Steering Group on gender equality and women’s empowerment
4. Revise regional gender strategies and CSP-aligned gender action plans
5. Gender, diversity and inclusion in accountability framework to achieve excellence in people management
6. Invest in professional cadre of gender advisors
7. Gender analysis in guidance for mid-term reviews and evaluations of CPSs
8. Mainstream gender into CSPs