

Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System (DEQAS)

Management Response

Final evaluation of the World Food Programme USDA/McGovern Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme (FFE 615-2013/041/00) in Kenya.

Rec. #	Recommendation	Response	Actions to be taken	Action By	Implementation timeframe [Month, Year]	Status
1	<p>WFP should continue to implement SMP in the ASAL counties while supporting the handover of counties to HGSMF as per the current transition plan. The support recommended for continuation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * WFP should continue to support the MoE capacity development. This includes supporting schools to understand the requirements for implementing SMP through a cash-based modality. This is coherent with the government's HGSMF approach. * WFP should continue to collaborate with other development actors such as World Vision to support interventions that contribute to increased school attendance, especially for girls. * WFP should continue to support the MoE to actively seek partnerships for the provision of 	Accepted	<p>WFP will continue supporting capacity strengthening initiatives to ensure that Ministry of Education (MOE) implements school meals programme in an effective manner. A capacity gaps and needs assessment is planned for the first quarter of 2018 to inform better implementation.</p> <p>WFP shall continue undertaking activities aimed at creating awareness on education to promote enrolment, attendance and transition. This shall be undertaken in collaboration with other stakeholders in education.</p> <p>In collaboration with MOE, WFP shall support advocacy activities to stimulate investment in</p>	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office; MOE	Dec-18	

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	school infrastructure that WFP currently provides support for, including kitchen facilities, energy efficient stoves, food storage, and water. *WFP should continue to invest in public awareness campaigns to encourage school attendance and improve parents understanding on the benefits of education. This should be done together with local authorities, church groups or other well-respected parties.		infrastructure with respective county governments. Public awareness campaigns through various fora such as community meetings, radio spots, information, education and communication materials shall be done to encourage attendance and improve parents' understanding on benefits of education.			
2	In recognition that WFP Kenya has been successfully implementing mVAM in the arid counties, this evaluation recommends that the WFP CO support the MoE to digitize their School Meals reporting system. This would improve the timeliness of data delivery and support improved implementation. Use of electronic reporting that utilizes mobile network for instant uploading of data, in place of the paper based form (SMP 6, 7 and 8) could be piloted in one county and if successful scaled up to cover the entire program. Integration	Accepted	WFP has already initiated preliminary discussions with MOE on improving the current reporting system. This shall begin with a pilot in a county near Nairobi to inform the feasibility and appropriateness of the new system. Results from the pilot shall inform scale up by 2020.	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office	Dec-18	

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	with mVAM monitoring system could also be considered. The evaluation team recommends that WFP pilot digital monitoring in some or all of the SMP locations, either as a stand-alone monitoring strategy or combined with SMS, or paper-based monitoring. Results for the pilot should then be used to identify challenges before upscaling to areas where connectivity, security or other concerns makes it possible.					
3	As per the Mid-Term Evaluation findings, this evaluation recommends that WFP Kenya and its partners carry out community-level sensitization on the threats to pupils' safety. This is due to the high level of threats still reported by parents in relation to the commute to school. SFP stakeholders should also increase awareness on these topics during the program implementation. Strategic partnerships with agencies focusing on Child Protection (i.e. UNICEF, Plan International,	Partially accepted	Where possible, WFP shall work with partners to advocate for safety of the school children. Noteworthy, the safety concerns encountered by children commuting to school are not as a direct result of WFP assistance. WFP shall incorporate safety concerns during planned Gender and Protection assessment with a view to informing appropriate intervention.	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office and partners	Dec-18	

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	Save the Children etc.) would be an added value in helping reinforcing synergies and complementarity with the SFP.					
4	WFP Kenya, with support from the Regional Bureau as needed, should implement additional awareness campaigns on the presence and purpose of programme feedback mechanisms, especially the new feedback hotline. The evaluation found that less than half the surveyed households were aware of any feedback mechanism, and only 14 households mentioned the possibility of using the hotline.	Accepted	Ongoing efforts to increase awareness and encourage use of complaints and feedback mechanism/helpline shall be enhanced. Specifically, radio spots, community meeting and IEC materials shall be used to increase awareness.	Beneficiary Services and School Meals Programme team	Dec-18	
5	WFP Kenya should ensure that all cooks and storekeepers in SMP schools provided with training on safe food preparation and appropriate food storage. More work is needed to ensure that all school kitchens have a valid health certificate, and that pest/insect control measures are adequately	Accepted	Training of cooks and continuous monitoring to promote safe food preparation and handling shall continue. In 2018, training of cooks shall be done in West Pokot, Baringo, Marsabit and Turkana. Advocacy to encourage all food	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office and partners	Dec-18	

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	carried out, as the evaluation found evidence of presence of rodents or presence of insects in almost half the stores.		handlers/preparers to have medical certificates shall also continue in all arid counties.			
6	WFP Kenya should assess why Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana and Marsabit counties have consistently achieved poorer results on several indicators than other counties. The specific indicators include school attendance, children eating meals before school, the percentage of days that school meals are provided, attentiveness of students, and the presence of energy efficient stoves. Each county has different areas of weakness, so WFP Kenya should ensure that each county receive tailored, additional support on the areas where they are weak, to bring them up to the standard of the other counties, and ensure that they will eventually be able to successfully transition to the HGSMP.	Accepted	WFP and MOE have agreed to conduct a rapid capacity assessment in the four counties during joint monitoring exercise in March 2018. Based on the findings from the assessments, an action plan shall be developed in consultation with both national and county governments to address the findings. The action plan will take into consideration roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders in bridging gaps identified, with WFP committing to support activities within its control by December 2019.	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office and MOE	Dec-19	

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7	WFP Kenya, with support from the Regional Bureau as needed, should conduct a gender and protection assessment to identify and contextualize issues related to school feeding in the ASALs. The assessment should provide recommendations for implementing targeted measures to improve gender parity in school participation as latest figures show that girls enrolment in all the targeted counties is still below 50%, while boys enrolment is 51-63%.	Accepted	WFP shall conduct gender and protection assessment with a view to developing appropriate activities to promote gender equity.	Gender Results Network and School Meals Programme Team	Dec-18	
8	Based on the financial challenges of the MoE, this evaluation recommends that WFP Kenya continue to support the Government of Kenya to find solutions to improve the management of financial resources for the SMP. This should include the following: • Helping to identify ways to advocate for, and allocate a sufficient, and annually indexed budget to the HGSMF. The budget should include sufficient funds for procurement, transportation,	Accepted	Advocacy to ensure sustainable funding to school meals programme shall continue. WFP is also planning to second a staff member to MOE to support implementation of HGSMF including advocating for adequate funding by the Government of Kenya. A Local Economy Wide Impact Evaluation(LEWIE) has been launched. This will provide evidence and be used as an	School Meals Programme team-Kenya Country Office	Dec-18	

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	<p>storage and preparation of school meals each school day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to identify ways to ensure existing SMP funding is not reallocated, while helping to secure additional funds. • Providing technical support to improve the efficiency of financial allocations to the schools. 		<p>advocacy tool for funding HGSMP.</p> <p>Where possible WFP shall participate in pre-budget allocation meetings organized by the National Treasury to advocate for more funding to the HGSMP</p>			