

Evaluation title	Malawi, School Meals Programme (2013-2015): an evaluation	Evaluation report number	DE/MALAWI/2016/013
Type	Activity evaluation	Centralised/ decentralised	Decentralised
Global/region or country	Malawi	PHQA date	January 2019
Overall category – Quality rating		Gender Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) – Overall report category and rating	
Exceeds requirements: 76%		Meets requirements: 8 points	
<p>The evaluation of the School Meals Programme in Malawi during the period 2013-2015 exceeds WFP requirements. The context and subject of the evaluation are described in detail, the methodology is clear and findings answer systematically to each evaluation question in a transparent, unbiased manner. The narrative provides a balanced assessment of the successes and challenges encountered in the Programme and identifies appropriate lessons and relevant recommendations. Although there are no gender specific evaluation questions, gender dimensions are well addressed in the narrative. The report could have been enhanced by providing greater information on WFP's presence in Malawi, the Strategic Planning Process and the data gaps found.</p>			

CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Category	Meets
<p>The executive summary presents clearly and succinctly key elements of the evaluation, including the purpose, objectives, scope, findings, lessons learned and recommendations. The evaluation subject, which consists of two school meals projects, is also comprehensively described with information on timeframe, geographic coverage, budget, and main beneficiaries. However, the summary omits other essential aspects such as the statement of rationale for the evaluation the major methodological limitations and the conclusions present in the evaluation report.</p>		
CRITERION 2: OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Category	Exceeds
<p>The report systematically provides project information about each of the School Meals Programmes (SMPs), such as key activities, intended outcomes, resourcing levels and main partners. The results framework underpinning each SMP is also discussed. Furthermore, the overview maps out findings and recommendations from a previous mid-term review and evaluation and is based upon relevant and well-referenced project documents. The section could have been further improved by situating the SMPs within the wider context of WFP's work in Malawi and referencing the development of a Country Strategic Plan (CSP).</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION CONTEXT, PURPOSE AND SCOPE	Category	Exceeds
<p>The evaluation context presents key data trends for both SDG 2 and SDG 17 and includes reference to surveys and assessments conducted by USAID and the Government of Malawi. The humanitarian situation in Malawi in terms of drought and subsequent emergency donor support, as well as relevant national policies and priorities, are also clearly described. Furthermore, equity dimensions related to education and food security are presented. On the other hand, the evaluation rationale, objectives and beneficiaries could have been made more explicit. Finally, beneficiaries are not included as potential users of the evaluation.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Category	Meets
<p>The methodology presents clearly both evaluation criteria and questions, which are well defined and relevant to the purpose and subject of the evaluation. The methodology applies triangulation principles for the validation of data, the data collection methods applied are realistic and feasible and ethical safeguards are explicitly outlined in this section. However, the methodology would have benefited from the inclusion of well-defined performance indicators in the evaluation matrix as well as of a detailed explanation of data gaps and mitigation efforts, which are not adequately presented in this section.</p>		
CRITERION 5: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	Category	Exceeds
<p>Evaluation questions are answered systematically, explicitly drawing on evidence gathered during the data collection phase. The report is clear about what each of the SMPs is achieving and where each SMP has fallen short and annexes provide details about internal and external factors affecting the results as well as the extent to which recommendations from previous evaluations have been addressed. The sections could have been strengthened by including some discussion of unintended effects, assessment of WFP's use of available resources and how WFP has influenced policy direction.</p>		

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS	Category	Meets
Conclusions respond to the 'so what question', provide a clear rationale and are logically structured and balanced, discussing both positive and negative findings. The two lessons identified, however, are framed in general terms and do not provide an analysis of how they should be applied and under what circumstances.		
CRITERION 7: GENDER and EQUITY	Category	Exceeds
The inclusion of gender equality and empowerment of women (GEEW) dimensions in the intervention design is clearly analysed. The methodology describes how data collection methods have been designed to avoid gender bias and the narrative outlines how specific resources were allocated to implement a gender-responsive approach. Gender analysis is largely present in the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The evaluation matrix could have been strengthened by including more gender-specific indicators.		
CRITERION 8: RECOMMENDATIONS	Category	Exceeds
The recommendations are relevant to the purpose and objectives of the evaluation, flow logically from the analysis and feed into the critical areas identified by the evaluation. They identify challenges and inform the design and implementation of government-led initiatives. They are also prioritised and clustered into strategic and operational recommendations, with timeframe for action and responsible actors clearly defined. This section could have been strengthened by considering resource implications and defining in more detail the 'how to' of proposed changes.		
CRITERION 9: ACCESSIBILITY/CLARITY	Category	Exceeds
The report is clear, well written and free of jargon, which makes it accessible to the intended audience. It is logically structured and sequenced and uses an objective and balanced tone. Visual aids are also used effectively throughout.		

Gender EPI	
1. Scope of Analysis, Evaluation Criteria and Questions	2
2. Methodology	3
3. Findings, Conclusions & Recommendations	3
Overall EPI score	8

Quality rating scale legend: Evaluation reports	Overall scoring of gender EPI scale legend: Evaluation reports UNSWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator
Exceeds requirements: 75–100%	
Meets requirements: 60–74%	
Approaches requirements: 50–59%	7–9 points = Meets requirements
Partially meets requirements: 25–49%	4–6 points = Approaches requirements
Does not meet requirements: 0–24%	0–3 points = Missing requirements