

WFP Bangladesh – Midterm Evaluation
MGD
02/05/2020

Implementer Response to Evaluation Recommendations

Evaluation Recommendations	Management Response	Time Frame
<p><i>Please include all evaluation recommendations identified in the evaluation report. USDA and the Program Participant/Grantee may include additional findings, conclusions, and recommendations listed throughout the narrative of the report, as appropriate.</i></p>	<p><i>Please include the Program Participant's/Grantee's response to each of the evaluation recommendations. This should include a discussion of the key actions the project intends to take to address the evaluation findings.</i></p>	<p><i>Please include the relevant time frame necessary to address and implement the various actions described in the Management Response. Multiple time frames may be given.</i></p>
<p><i>Evaluator provided a comprehensive table of recommendations on pgs. 38-42; please see table for additional context.</i></p>		
<p>Recommendation 1:</p>		
<p>P. 38, Policy Advocacy (National Level): Provide technical assistance to MoPME in developing guidelines and plan for implementation of National School Meal Policy.</p>	<p>WFP is currently supporting the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to draft the Development Plan Proposal (DPP) for 2020-2025, which acts as the road map for the rollout of the National School Meal Policy (NSMP). The DPP also mentions the funding allocation from the GoB, as well as the personnel and the technical support required from WFP to ensure an effective and efficient rollout of the NSMP. In addition, WFP is supporting the GoB in developing operational guidelines for the school feeding programme and menu diversification.</p>	<p>Expected approval of DPP and operational guideline by June 2020 (Some delays are expected due to the COVID-19 situation).</p>
<p>Recommendation 2:</p>		
<p>P. 38, Policy Advocacy (National Level): Engaging into advocacy activities for mainstreaming of new techniques and methods with the existing curriculum prescribed by GoB and adoption of these techniques at scale.</p>	<p>WFP supports the adoption and mainstreaming of new teaching techniques and methods in the Bangladesh curriculum through the dissemination of evaluation findings (validation workshops for the midterm evaluation and evaluation report), which highlight their importance and impact in the</p>	<p>Ongoing until December 2020</p>

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	community, and through joint monitoring visits to schools by local and central level officials of the Department of Primary Education (DPE) and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), as well as other relevant ministries.	
Recommendation 3:		
P. 39, Policy Advocacy (National Level): Utilization of alternative spaces for vegetable gardens.	WFP continuously advocates for schools and communities to utilize alternative spaces for vegetables gardens. Some schools in GoB funded areas have already utilized roof gardens as a consequence of WFP's advocacy efforts.	Continuous
Recommendation 4:		
P. 40, Policy Advocacy (National Level): Strengthening community engagement for their enhanced participation in supporting implementation of activities under the programme.	WFP continuously works with School Management Committees (SMCs) and parents to improve their participation in the school feeding and school meal programmes. WFP is also working to include the mention of an expected higher participation of communities in the DPP for the NSMP rollout.	Until December 2020
Recommendation 5:		
P. 40, Policy Advocacy (National Level): Exploring alternate packaging of biscuits.	WFP is currently exploring multiple avenues to address the issue of alternate packaging of biscuits. These include working with Dr Khan from the Ministry of Textiles and Jute to utilize his jute polymer material as an alternative to the existing biscuit packaging, as well as thinking of larger volumes of packaging and procuring biodegradable biscuits containers.	Until mid-2021
Recommendation 6:		

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<p>P. 41, Actionable (Specific to SFP implementation in Cox's Bazar): Support the school administration in ensuring access to safe water in schools.</p>	<p>WFP advocates with local and central level government officials to allocate funding from the Primary Education Development Plan Phase 4 (PEDP-4) and the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) to improve water sources in schools. WFP also works with SMCs to increase their engagement in the improvement of water sources in schools.</p>	<p>Until December 2020</p>
<p>Recommendation 7:</p>		
<p>P. 41, Actionable (Specific to SFP implementation in Cox's Bazar): Revitalizing Joint Monitoring Visit mechanisms.</p>	<p>WFP has been increasing the number of joint monitoring visits in Cox's Bazaar to further influence and motivate local level officials to mainstream education interventions, and to encourage their support of the school feeding programme. National level officials planned to participate with WFP in a joint monitoring visit to Cox's Bazar in April 2020, but this was cancelled due to the COVID-19-related movements restrictions and will be resumed once the situation allows.</p>	<p>Until December 2020</p>
<p>Recommendation 8:</p>		
<p>P. 41, Actionable (Specific to SFP implementation in Cox's Bazar): Strengthening Healthy Meal Preparation Day initiative and providing more opportunities to Little Agriculturists for demonstrating their skills.</p>	<p>WFP will advocate with teachers, through Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs), to organize ad-hoc Healthy Meal Preparation Days and also actively use education materials at their disposal, as well as empowering Little Agriculturalists to disseminate messages during school assemblies.</p>	<p>From September 2020 to December 2020</p>
<p>Recommendation 9:</p>		

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<p>P. 42, Actionable (Specific to SFP implementation in Cox’s Bazar): Promoting enhanced participation of women in SMC activities.</p>	<p>With the SMCs, WFP continuously advocates for the increased participation of women through specific training sessions that include workshops on women’s leadership. In addition, WFP will review its activities to ensure a gender-specific approach to improve women’s participation in the SMCs is employed.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>Additional Findings or Recommendations in the Body of the Report</p>		
<p>Page 23, Point 109: Can WFP please elaborate on which donor funds provided for the distributions of bags, lunch boxes and water bottles?</p>	<p>In Ukhiya and Kutubdia, this distribution has been funded by USDA. Tiffin boxes and water bottles were provided as per the recommendations from the baseline report. School bags are provided to improve literacy outcomes for students and backpacks are used to transport students’ textbooks, as well as the books checked out from the classroom’s library.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Additional Findings/Recommendations in the Body of the Report</p>		
<p>P. 30, Point 141: It is stated that monitoring of activities such as vegetable gardens and classroom libraries is done by sub-recipients. Can WFP please elaborate on how they monitor their sub-recipients?</p>	<p>WFP monitors schools to verify data collected by sub-recipients on a regular basis through WFP Field Monitors. Additionally, WFP collects monthly and quarterly monitoring reports, both qualitative and quantitative, from each sub-recipient and holds monthly and quarterly meeting to discuss targets and troubleshoot any areas of concern. Finally, WFP regularly monitors events organized by cooperating partners in the field.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Additional Findings/Recommendations in the Body of the Report</p>		

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<p>Page 34, Point 158: The lack of willingness from the Government of Bangladesh at the national level to take over the distribution of biscuits has been going on for years. How does WFP plan to address this, if there is ever a plan for full sustainability?</p>	<p>The GoB has committed to manage the procurement of biscuits as from 2021, as outlined in the new DPP. WFP has been working with the GoB to strengthen their capacity to manage this process and the GoB officials are eager to lead this process, following the procurement rules of the government.</p>	<p>Until December 2020</p>