Summary of Validation workshop of USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme November 2019

WFP Bangladesh conducted two validation workshops on the 11 and 13 of November 2019 of the evaluation findings of the USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme midterm evaluation, which was conducted in July-Aug 2019.

To reach relevant users and ensure buy-in from different stakeholders, two workshops took place:

1. Cox’s Bazaar workshop
   Purpose: To validate the midterm evaluation findings.
   Participants: Local level officials, implementing partners, teachers, headmasters, school management committees and parents. A total of 33 participated.

2. Dhaka workshop
   Purpose: To validate the findings from the evaluation and as well as having in depth discussion on its recommendations.
   Participants: relevant officials from MoPME, DPE, and other relevant ministries including IMED, DAE, BIRTAN. A total of 21 participated.

The following stakeholders participated in the organization of the workshops: NRMC (2 staff in Cox’s Bazar and 4 in Dhaka), ESDO for the organization of the events, WFP Evaluation Manager, WFP School Feeding team, WFP regional evaluation officer, visual facilitator.

As this was the first time for WFP Bangladesh to conduct a validation workshop on an evaluation, it was deemed important to draw some lessons learned that will foster organizational learning and that will be useful to those who will conduct validation workshops in the future.

Recommendations:
1: If the visual facilitation is to be used, it is advised to expand it not only to graphic recording but also to active facilitation, making sure that participants make use of the visualizations during the workshop and not only at the end of it.

2: The evaluation team should tailor the evaluation findings presentation to the audience, as well as translating the slides into the local language, and the evaluation manager should review the slides prior the start of the workshop in case any adjustment is needed. There is a need for effective preparation regarding presentation and explanation.

3: In countries where English is not the predominant language, the workshop should be run in the local language at any level (local and national), both during the presentation and especially during the group discussions.

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Visual facilitation:
WFP hired a visual facilitator to pilot the use of drawings and graphics to help participants assimilate the information and help visualizing the discussions.

The combination of standard facilitation and visual facilitation seemed to work well in the sense that participants enjoyed it and it will be an innovative addition to the preparation of the workshop reports. The presentation of evaluation findings was relevant in the sense that it captured all essential elements of the evaluation. The discussions on the evaluation recommendations was relevant and very useful for the participants, as well as for the evaluation team and WFP.
USDA-supported School Feeding Midterm Evaluation Validation Workshop
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Recommendations