

Evaluation title	Evaluación del Programa País 200434 en Nicaragua y actividades complementarias	Evaluation report number	DE/NICO/2017/027
Type	Operation Evaluation	Centralised/ decentralised	Decentralised
Global/region or country	Nicaragua	PHQA date	January 2020
Overall category – Quality rating		Gender Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) – Overall report category and rating	
Exceeds requirements: 75%		Meets requirements: 7 points	
<p>The Evaluación del Programa País 200434 en Nicaragua y actividades complementarias exceeds requirements. The report provides a balanced assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the Nicaragua Country Programme and a well-developed roadmap for the implementation of recommendations. The methodology applied is appropriate and well presented, although it would have benefited from a more comprehensive description of the sampling frame. Gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout the report and equity dimensions are duly considered, providing a clear understanding of the country programme's impact on small producers. The inclusion of additional information on the country programme in the main report, instead of in the annexes, would have further enhanced the report. Moreover, conclusions could have provided a more comprehensive discussion of the challenges encountered during implementation, rather than focusing on the positive characteristics of the programme.</p>			

CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Category	Exceeds
The evaluation summary is well-written, succinct and accessible to intended audiences. It provides the reader with key information about the evaluation context and subject and clearly presents the main features of the evaluation methodology. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations are summarised in full, with findings helpfully organised by evaluation question and relevant criterion. The section would have benefited from a more detailed description of the resourcing situation in the country office and of the beneficiaries of the activities.		
CRITERION 2: OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Category	Meets
This section provides a comprehensive overview of the activities under evaluation. It includes a detailed description of the evolution of the programme and resources allocated to each activity, supported by relevant and well-evidenced information sources. Information from the mid-term evaluation of the country programme is correctly referenced and used. More information about beneficiaries, transfers and resources and a detailed analysis of the logical framework could have been provided in this section instead of in the annexes.		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION CONTEXT, PURPOSE AND SCOPE	Category	Exceeds
The description of the context is accurate and complete, including information on the key trends in the country with respect to poverty, food security, climate change, nutrition, education as well as on relevant policies. The information provided is derived from recent and credible sources. The purpose and scope of the evaluation as well as its rationale and timing are well-detailed. Although a minor weakness, the context section does not present data and trends related to Sustainable Development Goal 17.		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Category	Exceeds
The report states and defines the criteria that have been applied to the evaluation and provides a clear justification for not including the 'impact' and 'relevance' criteria. Evaluation questions are appropriate, feasible, and aligned to the evaluation criteria. The evaluation matrix is robust and detailed methods applied are appropriate, and the section provides a clear explanation of how the evidence sources were triangulated. Limitations – and their impacts on the findings – as well as mitigating actions could have been presented in greater detail. Although the sampling rationale is well-founded, more information could have been provided to determine whether the area and population covered by the evaluation was appropriate.		
CRITERION 5: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	Category	Exceeds
Findings are transparently generated and explicitly address all the evaluation questions and sub-questions which are clearly signposted in the headings of each section. The report includes a useful summary of the findings for each evaluation sub-question, which is a good practice. The gaps in the evidence base, mainly surrounding cost-effectiveness, are clearly stated. Findings are balanced, identifying achievements and areas for improvement, and draw upon diverse evidence sources which		

<p>have been duly triangulated. WFP's contribution to the programme is well-described. The section would have benefited from a more extensive consideration and use of recommendations from previous evaluations.</p>		
CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS	Category	Meets
<p>The conclusions build on available evidence and are generally comprehensive, addressing most findings without omission. Lessons are correctly identified, make useful suggestions on how the programme may have been implemented differently, and contribute to wider organisational learning, particularly to the design and implementation of other school feeding programmes. However, the section is characterized by a tendency to focus more on the positive characteristics of the programme rather than bringing together some of the challenges discussed in the findings.</p>		
CRITERION 7: GENDER and EQUITY	Category	Meets
<p>Gender is well integrated into the evaluation sub-questions and equity dimensions are duly considered. The report has a strong orientation toward gender mainstreaming and in addition to using sex-disaggregated data for boys and girls, it analyses women's and men's participation and how this relates to their respective roles within their homes. Unexpected differences in outcomes for boys and girls and men and women are presented in the analysis. Although the evaluation methodology involves a gender sensitive approach, the report does not explain in detail which steps were taken to ensure such an approach.</p>		
CRITERION 8: RECOMMENDATIONS	Category	Exceeds
<p>The recommendations are very specific, actionable and provide timelines for action and implementation. They comprehensively address the critical issues presented in the findings. A useful mapping of the links between the findings, conclusions, and recommendations is provided in annex, along with a detailed road-map for their implementation. To maximise the utility of the recommendations, it would have been useful for the recommendations to reflect on the potential contextual constraints to implementation.</p>		
CRITERION 9: ACCESSIBILITY/CLARITY	Category	Exceeds
<p>The report's language and tone are accessible, clear, and balanced. The document is well-structured and makes effective use of bold to highlight key messages and of visuals to convey data. Evidence is cited accurately and consistently throughout the document. The report's accessibility is slightly impaired by a few typos and some acronyms which are not spelt out the first time they are used.</p>		

Gender EPI	
1. Scope of Analysis, Evaluation Criteria and Questions	2
2. Methodology	2
3. Findings, Conclusions & Recommendations	3
Overall EPI score	7

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