

# Evaluation of Central African Republic WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022

## Summary Terms of Reference

*Country Strategic Plan Evaluations (CSPEs) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to provide evaluation evidence and learning on WFP's performance for country-level strategic decisions, specifically for developing the next Country Strategic Plan and 2) to provide accountability for results to WFP stakeholders*

### Subject and focus of the evaluation

The WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Central African Republic (2018-2022) centres around five Strategic Outcomes focusing on access to food, nutrition, smallholder farmers, capacity strengthening on social protection and partnership. Under the ICSP, WFP planned to shift from the provision of interventions to handing over to the Government some responsibilities in food programme management, particularly in the areas of home-grown school meals and food assistance for assets.

The overall budget of the Central African Republic ICSP approved by the Executive Board in November 2017 was USD 228.8 million for a total of 1.29 million beneficiaries over three years (2018-2020). The last budget revision, extended the duration of operations till 2022, brought the overall budget to approximately USD 926 million and the planned number of beneficiaries to 1.17 million.

The evaluation will assess WFP contributions to CSP strategic outcomes, establishing plausible causal relations between the outputs of WFP activities, the implementation process, the operational environment and changes observed at the outcome level, including any unintended consequences. It will also focus on adherence to humanitarian principles, gender equality, protection and accountability to affected populations.

The evaluation will adopt standard UNEG and OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability, as well as connectedness and coverage.

### Objectives and stakeholders of the evaluation

WFP evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning.

The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a range of WFP's internal and external stakeholders and presents an opportunity for national, regional and corporate

learning. The primary users of the evaluation findings and recommendations will be the WFP Country Office and its stakeholders to inform the design of the new Country Strategic Plan. The evaluation report will be presented at the Executive Board session in November 2022.

### Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following four key questions:

**QUESTION 1: To what extent is WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs as well as WFP's strengths?**

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the ICSP is relevant to national policies, plans, strategies and goals, including achievement of the national Sustainable Development Goals. It will further assess the extent to which the ICSP addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people in the country to ensure that no one is left behind; whether WFP's strategic positioning has remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, national capacities and needs, in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and to what extent the ICSP is coherent and aligned with the wider UN cooperation framework and includes appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP in the country.

**QUESTION 2: What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes in Central African Republic?**

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP delivered the expected outputs and contributed to the expected strategic outcomes of the ICSP, including the achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected populations, gender equality and other equity considerations). It will also assess the extent to which the achievements of the ICSP are likely to be sustainable; and whether the ICSP facilitated more strategic linkages between humanitarian, development and, where appropriate, peace work.

**QUESTION 3: To what extent has WFP's used its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?**

The evaluation will assess whether outputs were delivered within the intended timeframe; the appropriateness of coverage and targeting of interventions; cost-efficient delivery of assistance; and whether alternative, more cost-effective measures were considered.

#### **QUESTION 4: What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?**

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP analyzed and used existing evidence on hunger challenges, food security and nutrition issues in the country to develop the ICSP. It will also assess the extent to which the ICSP led to the mobilization of adequate, predictable and flexible resources; the development of appropriate partnerships and collaboration with other actors; greater flexibility in dynamic operational contexts, in particular as regards adaptation and response to the COVID-19 and other unexpected crises and challenges; and how these factors affect results. Finally, the evaluation will seek to identify any other organizational and contextual factors influencing WFP performance and the strategic shift expected by the ICSP.

### **Scope, methodology and ethical considerations**

The unit of analysis is the Interim Country Strategic Plan approved by the WFP Executive Board in November 2017, as well as any subsequent approved budget revisions.

The evaluation covers all WFP activities (including cross-cutting results) from 2017, i.e. one year prior to the launch of the ICSP, to better assess the extent to which the strategic shifts envisaged with the introduction of the CSP have taken place.

The evaluation will adopt a mixed methods approach using a variety of primary and secondary sources, including desk review, key informant interviews, surveys, and focus groups discussions. Systematic triangulation across different sources and methods will be carried out to validate findings and avoid bias in the evaluative judgement.

In light of recent developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the inception phase will be conducted remotely. Depending on how the country and global contexts evolve, the data collection phase will be conducted through either fully or partially in-country fieldwork. Should the contextual and security situation allow it, a final learning workshop will be held in Bangui.

The evaluation conforms to WFP and 2020 UNEG ethical guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results in no harm to participants or their communities.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

**EVALUATION TEAM:** The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with a mix of relevant expertise related to the Central African Republic ICSP (i.e. humanitarian assistance, food and nutrition security, school-based programmes, nutrition-specific interventions, smallholder farmers support, institutional capacity

strengthening, gender equality, humanitarian protection and accountability to affected populations).

**OEV EVALUATION MANAGER:** The evaluation will be managed by Filippo Pompili, Evaluation Officer in the WFP Office of Evaluation. He will be the main interlocutor between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and compliance with OEV quality standards for process and content. Second level quality assurance will be provided by Michael Carbon, Senior Evaluation Officer.

An **Internal Reference Group** of a cross-section of WFP stakeholders from relevant business areas at different WFP levels will be consulted throughout the evaluation process to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

The Deputy Director of Evaluation will approve the final versions of all evaluation products.

**STAKEHOLDERS:** WFP stakeholders at country, regional and HQ level are expected to engage throughout the evaluation process to ensure a high degree of utility and transparency. External stakeholders, such as beneficiaries, government, donors, implementing partners and other UN agencies will be consulted during the evaluation process.

### **Communication**

Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in the Country Office, the Regional Bureau and Headquarters during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase. A more in-depth debrief will be organized in July 2021 to inform the new CSP design process. A country learning workshop will be held in October 2021 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings and preliminary recommendations by country stakeholders.

Evaluation findings will be actively disseminated, and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP's website.

### **Timing and key milestones**

**Inception Phase:** March-May 2021

**Data collection:** June-July 2021

**Remote Debriefing:** July 2021

**Reports:** August 2021 – February 2022

**Learning Workshop:** October 2021

**Executive Board:** November 2022