

Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System (DEQAS)

Management Response from WFP Armenia to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of the Nutrition-sensitive Aspect of the "Development of Sustainable School Feeding" Project in Armenia

2018-2019

Rec. #	Recommendation <i>[as per evaluation report]</i>	Management Response	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what actions will be taken to address the recommendation]</i>	Action By <i>[WFP Country Office, WFP Regional Bureau, WFP Headquarters, External Stakeholders (UN Agency, Government body, Donor)]</i>	Implementation timeframe <i>[Month, Year]</i>	Status <i>[Not started/In progress/On hold/ Complete]</i>
1	The WFP and the Government of Armenia could give serious consideration to including such preschool snacks as an integral component of the overall school feeding programme. There is a particular case for continuing the snack pilot programme in the three marzes, expanding it to include the schools in control group [as well as the initial treatment schools] for at	Accepted	On 6th of May 2020 the Parliament of the RA adopted a law on "Amendment of the "Law on Preschool education." As a result of continuous advocacy of the WFP Armenia based on the results of the DE, the new law has a specific emphasis on organization of children	Primary - WFP Country Office With the support of- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS)	September, 2021	In progress

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	least an additional school year. This not only is an ethical response to the necessary randomization, it provides an opportunity for additional assessment of the decentralized purchasing process and the cost of implementation. Any further decisions on either continuation of the programme in the poorest marzes or on scaling up of the preschool snack to be an integral part of the national basic education school feeding programme can utilize such information. That is, continuation in the control communities should be considered as a transitional step to designing a national Early Childhood Education Strategy that includes breakfast or a snack in the Sustainable School feeding strategy.	COVID-19 pandemic is expected to affect the country's socio-economic situation, as a result, the actions to be taken to address the recommendation might be amended based on the vulnerability assessment results	feeding in preschool institutions in accordance with the relevant internal legal and exemplary dietary norms, defined by the authorized state body (Article N13). WFP Armenia will continue the intensive engagement to support the Government in development/revision of the above-mentioned relevant internal legal and exemplary dietary norms, as well as ensuring that the school snack compartment is reflected in the "National School Feeding Strategy", which is soon to be under development.	Ministry of Health WFP Regional Bureau Cairo		
2	As in many countries, the data show that levels of overweight are worrisome. The risk among preschool age children in this sample	Accepted	WFP will work closely with the MESCS to ensure that the importance of the diet diversity is reflected in	Primary - WFP Country Office	January 2021	In progress

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	appears to be more in the high end of the double burden of malnutrition than in undernutrition, although various stakeholders appear to be primarily concerned with energy intake. This limited sample does not, of course, replace more comprehensive national data but does point to a need for a balanced school feeding strategy that stresses diet diversity more than total calories. More comprehensive guidelines to school administrators in this regard may accompany the programme of local procurement	COVID-19 pandemic is expected to affect the country's socio-economic situation, as a result, the actions to be taken to address the recommendation might be amended based on the vulnerability assessment results	the "National School Feeding Strategy", which soon to be under development. WFP Armenia is actively engaged with the Ministry of Health and MESCS and provides technical support for the nutrition education curricula development and will launch a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) interventions to improve healthier dietary practices.	With the support of- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS) Ministry of Health WFP Regional Bureau Cairo		
3	Towards this end, additional dietary assessment might be conducted to determine if either protein or calories are deficient in the preschool students. Note, however, that the snack pilot programme was designed to address short term hunger and low blood sugar rather than total calories	Accepted COVID-19 pandemic is expected to affect the country's socio-	WFP Armenia jointly with UNICEF and other partners plans to conduct a malnutrition study, which might be conducted in parallel or in coordination with the planned Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	Primary - WFP Country Office With the support of- WFP Regional Bureau Cairo	Nov 2021-2022	Not started

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	or protein. Nevertheless, any continuation of the programmes needs to be conscious of the dual risks of undernutrition as well as obesity.	economic situation, as a result, the actions to be taken to address the recommendation might be amended based on the vulnerability assessment results	(MICS), thus allowing to enrich information for both studies and give a more comprehensive picture of the double burden of malnutrition in the country It will include anthropometric measurements, possibly select micronutrient testing and study of dietary diversity and behavior with focus on children under 5 and reproductive age women.	WFP Headquarters Ministry of Health		
4	The limited data obtained on the Bracken School Readiness Scores should be shared with the Ministry of Education [after any identifiers are removed] for their consideration in designing preschool curricula. Similarly, although the snack cannot address the issue of conflict and stress within a household that is reflected in the Pianta scale, experts on education in the ministry of	Accepted	WFP will share the complete anonymized datasets with the Bracken School Readiness Scores and Pianta Scale results with the Ministry.	Primary - WFP Country Office With the support of- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS)	July, 2020	In progress

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	education may use such data as part of a larger child welfare strategy as well as to identify any gaps in preschool preparation. This is a resource that can serve a purpose that goes beyond the goals of the IE					