

Evaluation title	Evaluation of the Joint Programme for Girls Education (JPGE) with financial support from the Norwegian Government (July 2014 – October 2017)	
Evaluation category and type	DE – Activity Evaluation	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) – overall rating	Highly Satisfactory: 93%	
<p>This is a high-quality evaluation report that presents a solid assessment of the Joint Programme for Girls Education (JPGE) in Malawi. A robust methodological design based on mixed methods produced credible findings, substantiated through evidence that was extensively triangulated. Conclusions provide a higher level of analysis that can inform decision making and clearly flow from the findings for each evaluation criterion. The report includes lessons learned that are correctly identified, demonstrating wider relevance and value for WFP. Recommendations are realistic, actionable, prioritized, and each identifies specific implementing actors. Although the evaluation did not include a stand-alone criterion on gender and human rights, GEWE dimensions are abundantly covered throughout the report given the nature of the subject of the evaluation. However, equity and wider inclusion dimensions are not prominent in the report which also does not include a reconstructed theory of change (ToC) as explicitly projected in the evaluation inception report.</p>		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The executive summary of the report provides a complete overview of the most salient features of the JPGE initiative and does not include any information that is not discussed in further detail in the main report. Findings, lessons learned, and recommendations are clearly summarized and faithfully reflect the most relevant elements of the corresponding sections in the report. However, the summary's conclusions are too succinct and do not reflect many of the main messages while, conversely, some methodological details could have been omitted.</p>		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The report presents a fair overview of the country context and the JPGE initiative, including its coverage, design, main objectives, logical framework, and main intervention partners. However, the context should have further addressed alignment between the national policy framework and the JPGE as well as other WFP work in the area. Importantly, there is lack of clarity around the ToC which was not reconstructed and presented as per the inception report. Instead, only the original ToC included in the evaluation terms of reference is presented and it is incomplete. Moreover, a summary of findings from previous evaluations should have been presented along with more details on changes in the external and internal environment of this programme in Malawi.</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report presents a clear overview of the purpose, objectives, main users, and intended use of the evaluation. The evaluation scope is also well described in terms of its thematic, geographic, and temporal coverage, as well as target groups. However, the evaluation report could have been more explicit in its consideration of human rights.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The methodology used in the evaluation is well described, providing a complete portrait of the evaluation design, data sources, data collection and analysis methods, as well as methodological limitations. The sampling frame and rationale were adequate to enable effective assessment of the evaluation questions. Given the often-sensitive nature of the questions, particularly around gender violence and sexual and reproductive health, the methodology paid particular attention to treating the respondents in accordance with ethical standards. Finally, this being a GEWE initiative, gender issues were fully addressed.</p>		

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>Findings are organized according to evaluation criteria and punctually respond to each evaluation question. Findings present both the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluation and are substantiated by evidence that is clearly presented and explicitly sourced, including perspectives of a varied range of stakeholders while not compromising their confidentiality and anonymity. Findings are well outlined, showing clear evidence of triangulation and a balanced assessment of the JPGE. Building on an analysis of the strength of available programme monitoring data, the evaluation effectively demonstrated contributions by WFP- and other partner-supported activities- towards strategic outcomes. However, the discussion on unanticipated effects is limited and could have been further expanded.</p>		
CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>Conclusions capture the most salient findings across evaluation criteria and outcomes and provide a forward-looking perspective that can be used for decision making. Lessons learned are logically derived from both the strengths and weaknesses of the JPGE in line with information presented in the findings and conclusions.</p>		
CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The recommendations are realistic, taking into consideration WFP internal constraints. They are clearly derived from the findings and conclusions, and their level of priority and targeted actors for implementation are clearly indicated. Furthermore, recommendations contribute towards the fulfilment of the evaluation objectives related to learning, accountability, and an in-depth assessment of the underlying assumptions that guided programme implementation.</p>		
CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>This is a well written report that uses precise and professional language, without jargon or excessively complex sentences. Data sources are consistently provided, cross-references within the report are clearly signposted, and all annexes are included and correctly listed. The use of text boxes to summarize key findings for each evaluation question is particularly helpful and enhances readability. However, in other sections of the report, key messages could have been more effectively captured through the use of bold.</p>		

Integration of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) considerations in the evaluation report based on the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) scorecard		
UN-SWAP EPI – individual evaluation score	Meets requirements: 8 points	
<p>The evaluation report effectively considers gender, as this is a gender-specific programme. The methodology was comprehensive in its coverage of gender issues, including gender-segregated focus group discussions, clearly indicated gender composition of respondent categories, particular attention to ethical safeguards given the gender-sensitive issues raised, and clear and explicit measures in the evaluation matrix not only to collect disaggregated data, but to apply a gender lens within the data analysis. The gender analysis in the country and policy context is pertinent but could have been somewhat improved in terms of how gender intersects with other vulnerabilities, especially for girls/boys with disabilities which, while included in the evaluation matrix, are not reflected in the data analysis. The report contains specific gender recommendations, including some promoting the full involvement of both parents and indicating the importance of including boys in a way that makes them supportive rather than resentful of interventions targeting girls only.</p>		

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels		
Highly Satisfactory	<p><i>Definition at overall report level:</i> Evaluation users can rely on the credible and useful evaluation findings provided and can use the evaluation with a high degree of confidence for decision-making. The report is considered an excellent example.</p> <p><i>Definition at criterion level:</i> The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.</p>	
Satisfactory	<p><i>Definition at overall report level:</i> Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.</p>	

POST HOC QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF WFP EVALUATIONS

	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the evaluation findings provided and may use it for decision-making noting that there are some gaps/shortcomings in the information provided.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Unsatisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can use some of the learning from the evaluation, noting that there are significant gaps/ shortcomings in the evaluation findings provided. The report may still contribute to decision making but should be used with caution.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.</i>