



Evaluation for evidence-based decision making | WFP Office of Evaluation

Evaluation Quality Assurance System (EQAS)

Management Response from WFP China to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of Preschool Nutrition Pilot in Selected Counties of Xiangxi Prefecture, Hunan, PR China

from April/2018 to November /2021

1. This document, finalized in May 2022, presents the management response to the recommendations of the Impact Evaluation of the Preschool Nutrition Pilot in Selected Counties of Xiangxi Prefecture, Hunan, PR China.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP China office, covers the Preschool Nutrition Improvement Project in Selected Counties of Hunan, China, a project that aims to improve nutrition conditions of preschool children and to increase smallholders' agricultural production and income through providing school meal subsidy, upgrading kitchen facilities, enhancing nutrition education of caregivers and preschool personnel and involving local poor smallholder farmers in the preschool food supply chain. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. The expected primary users for this endline report are the WFP China Office and its partners in decision-making, notably related to program implementation.
3. The evaluation made seven key recommendations. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division (/possibly external stakeholder in the case of Joint Evaluation). Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i>	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed? If Partially agreed or Not agreed, provide a brief reason for this.]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division/unit. Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i>	Action Deadline <i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-)recommendation deadline.]</i>
Priority: High Recommendation 1: Building on its experience and reputation, WFP should extend the provision of interventions in the study sites. (by 2025)	WFP China		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 1.1 Extend the provision of interventions in the study sites (by 2021)	WFP China	Agreed	1.1.1 Continue WFP’s support in the project through a new Phase II for another three years intervention. This action has been done.	WFP China	By September 2021
Sub-recommendation 1.2 Increase the participation of local government without WFP support (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	1.2.1 Advocate for more engagement and participation of the local government in the project implementation through contributing government fund, and	WFP China (local government)	By December 2025

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			consider extend the national school meal programme to preschool children		
Priority: High Recommendation 2: The WFP should consider targeting at vulnerable sub-groups to optimize the impact of the project (by 2025)	WFP China		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 2.1 Attention needs to be paid to children from disadvantaged backgrounds (left-behind children, children from registered poor households, etc.) during the program design and targeting. (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	2.1.1 Apply more focused targeting when selecting project beneficiary schools with high percentage of left-behind children and from low-income families. This action has been taken in the targeting of	WFP China (local government)	By 2021

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			Phase II of Xiangxi project and the design of Sichuan project.		
Sub-recommendation 2.2 Target individual children on the basis of vulnerability and well-being indicators to ensure that project generates a maximum impact to the intended beneficiaries, especially given a finite budget	WFP China	Partially agreed. While the intention is good in theory, but practically it is hard to be operationalized as the unit of intervention is schools, not individual children. Once the school is selected, all children attending the selected school			

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		receive the school meals.			
Priority: High Recommendation 3: The WFP should pay particular attention to the rise of child overweight and obesity (by 2025)	WFP China		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 3.1 Invest in nutrition standards for school meals and ensure healthier meals (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	3.1.1 Re-visit the school menu and make regular adjustment according to the seasons and local availability. Balance the meals with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and less sodium and saturated fats	WFP China (local government)	By December 2025

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Priority: Medium Recommendation 4: WFP needs to take into consideration nutrition knowledge of caregivers to improve children’s diet at home in addition to the nutritional value of the food choices offered in schools. (by 2025)	WFP China		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 4.1 Continue and improve trainings on nutrition knowledge of caregivers (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	4.1.1 Provide dietary guidance to caregivers to ensure balanced nutrition at home and increase intake of milk, adequate fruit and egg etc.	WFP China (local government and technical support from external implementing partners)	By December 2025
Sub-recommendation 4.2	WFP China	Agreed	4.2.1 Launch online Q&A platform between teachers and parents to	WFP China (local government and technical support from	By December 2025

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Identify additional opportunities to reach parents and caregivers with literacy supportive messages. (by 2025)			address parents' queries; Develop/circulate easy-to-understand short videos catered for parents and young children; Organize parents sessions to check the nutrition knowledge level	external implementing partners)	
Priority: Medium Recommendation 5: WFP should support further research to understand reasons for the decline in child malnutrition. (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	5.1 Work closely with research institutes like IFPRI and other national academies to generate more evidence from the four ongoing pilot projects that WFP supported.	WFP China	By December 2025

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Priority: High Recommendation 6: WFP should strengthen supply-side interventions to support local smallholders. (by 2025)			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 6.1 Continuous interventions are needed to stimulate smallholder’s participation both in the school feeding and other markets beyond the school feeding project. (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	6.1.1 Provide agricultural inputs and technical trainings to stimulate and guide smallholders to plant or rear organic products needed in the school meals	WFP China (local government)	By December 2025
Sub-recommendation 6.2 The current pilot project could be extended to a broader public procurement, such as public demand from local	WFP China	Partially agreed The smallholder farmers associated with the preschool nutrition pilot are			

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governments and primary schools. (by 2025)		limited numbers. Their quantities and capacity of production are limited. Public demand from primary schools under the national school meal program has more centralized supply system with higher threshold. However WFP will provide policy recommendation to the local government as an option to consider			

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		smallholder supply.			
Sub-recommendation 6.3 Provide more school-related job vacancies such as preschool caterers and cooks may also be an avenue to increase local smallholders' income.	WFP China	Agreed	6.3.1 Create job opportunities in kindergartens for the parents to work as cooks to enhance community participation and increase their income	WFP China (local government)	By December 2025
Priority: Medium Recommendation 7: WFP should invest in rigorous evaluation at both country office and field level (by 2025)			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 7.1 WFP should invest in evaluation exercises to generate evidence	WFP China	Agreed	7.1.1 Ensure baseline and endline data collection is embedded in all pilot projects and	WFP China (local government with technical support from external partners)	By December 2025

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and inform future project design (By 2025)			strengthen project M&E component.		
Sub-recommendation 7.2 . Efforts could be made to digitize data collection and to track children between periods of receipt of interventions. (by 2025)	WFP China	Agreed	7.2.1 Encourage schools management to apply digital solution instead of paperwork. However this could be challenging in rural areas with teachers' limited capacity.	WFP China (local government)	By December 2025