

Evaluation of USDA McGovern Dole Grant for WFP Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Rwanda (2020-2025)

Summary Terms of Reference



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

The WFP RWCO is commissioning a baseline study, a midline and an endline evaluation for the FY 2020-2025 McGovern-Dole programme grant in support of WFP McGovern-Dole Programme activities in Rwanda for fiscal year (FY) 2020, to be evaluated from the period 1 March 2021 to 30 September 2025, to critically and objectively assess performance of the programmes and associated interventions for the purposes of accountability and learning and to fulfil a requirement of the USDA.

Subject and focus of the evaluation

These Terms of Reference (TOR) are to guide an evaluation process comprising three distinct evaluation processes over a five-year period. The evaluations are commissioned by the WFP Rwanda Country Office (RWCO) for the evaluations of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole programme) programme for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The TOR covers three deliverables: a baseline study (July-January 2021), a mid-term review (March-May 2023) and an endline evaluation (July-September 2025) for the McGovern-Dole programme. They will be undertaken in a single assignment (contract).

It outlines the evaluation requirements for the \$25 million McGovern-Dole programme grant supporting direct implementation of activities in 135 pre and primary schools in Karongi, Rutsiro, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Burera, Kayonza and Gasabo districts, reaching 117,095 students (49 percent girls, 51 percent boys) and 820 adults (including 280 teachers, 405 cooks and 135 storekeepers) who participate in the programme at school level. Household and community-level interventions will directly benefit 18,256 parents. Through local capacity strengthening, 135 School General Assembly Committees and 386 school administration members will directly benefit.

The \$25 million FY20 project builds on significant achievements of the FY15 programme. The new programme will, in its early stages transition the four current districts representing 108 schools from McGovern-Dole to National School Feeding Programme support. Three final districts representing 28 new schools will be added to McGovern-Dole support in FY20

in order to install best practices through model schools in vulnerable regions ahead of handover.

Objectives and stakeholders of the evaluation

WFP evaluations serve the dual and mutually reinforcing 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. More weight will be given to the learning objective considering that the Evaluation findings will be used to build and transition the McGovern-Dole programme into the national school feeding programme (NSFP). The evaluation reports will be presented to USDA for accountability purposes.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluations proposed will systematically employ the standard evaluation criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) should be mainstreamed throughout.

The baseline evaluation will address the proposed key evaluation questions outlined in the approved evaluation plan (see Annex IV: Baseline Evaluation Matrix) to provide high-level insight on risks and opportunities related to the OECD-DAC criteria to ground evaluation analysis at midterm and endline on 1) quality of program design, 2) quality of WFP output and outcome monitoring tools (to the extent these are available), and 3) WFP's targeting for the overall indicator set.

The evaluation will take a programme theory approach based on the results framework. It will draw on the existing body of documented data as far as possible and complement and triangulate this with information to be collected in the field.

Scope, methodology and ethical considerations

The evaluations for this programme cover all five school feeding years of implementation of the McGovern-Dole

funded programme for FY 2020-2025 related to its formulation, implementation, resourcing, monitoring,

evaluation, and reporting relevant to answer the evaluation questions for McGovern-Dole. The evaluation exercises will be designed to assess the impact of the programme's respective strategic objectives SO1: Improved Literacy of School-Aged Children, and SO2: Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices.

The evaluations will adopt a mixed methods approach and a variety of primary and secondary sources, including key informant interviews, surveys, and focus groups discussions as well as a review of the quantitative data from the monitoring data from on-going programme implementation. Systematic triangulation across different sources and methods will be carried out to validate findings and avoid bias in the evaluative judgement.

The evaluations will be carried out through the same representative sample of HGFS schools in all districts of intervention: Karongi, Rutsiro, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Burera, Kayonza and Gasabo, and a representative sample of schools with no WFP home grown school meals programme in comparison provinces.

The measurement of early reading outcomes for pre-primary and grades P1-P6 will be conducted using early grade reading assessment (EGRA) in a randomized sample of the 28 new schools added in the second phase of the programme where literacy is a key activity.

In light the COVID-19 pandemic, the inception phase for the baseline evaluation will be conducted remotely. The data collection phase will be conducted through fully in-country fieldwork. A final stakeholder workshop will be held remotely for the baseline. The midline and endline evaluations are expected to be conducted

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: will conduct the evaluation under the direction of its team leader and in close communication with the WFP CO evaluation manager. The team will be gender-balanced and multi-national, with appropriate skills to assess gender dimensions and expertise in School Feeding, WASH, Primary Education, and Small Holder Farmer support. All team members should have strong analytical and communication skills, evaluation experience

and some familiarity and/or recent work experience in Rwanda.

EVALUATION MANAGER: main focal point for these evaluations. The EM will manage the evaluation process through all phases including drafting this TOR, ensuring quality assurance mechanisms are operational and consolidating/sharing comments on draft TOR, inception and evaluation reports with the evaluation team.

An **Internal Evaluation Committee** chaired by the Deputy Country Director will be formed as part of ensuring the independence and impartiality of the evaluations. It will be comprised of a cross-section of WFP stakeholders from relevant business areas at different WFP levels to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

An **External Reference Group** with representation from WFP country office, Regional Bureau, Government partners, UN agencies and NGO partners will be formed to support a credible, transparent, impartial and quality evaluation process in accordance with WFP Evaluation Policy 2016-2021 and UNEG norms and standards. ERG members review and comment on draft inception report, baseline report, midline and endline evaluation reports.

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 country stakeholder workshop will be held in February 2022 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings and preliminary recommendations by country stakeholders.

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

Timing and key milestones

Inception Phase: July-September 2021
Remote/In-country data collection: October 2021
Remote Debriefing: November 2021
Reports: December 2021- January 2021
Stakeholder Workshop: February 2021

