



Evaluation Quality Assurance System (EQAS)

Management Response from WFP Bangladesh to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of WFP School-Feeding USDA McGovern Dole Grant in Bangladesh [DE/BDCO/2018/019] from 2017 to 2021

1. This document presents the management response to the USDA McGovern Dole Grant evaluation recommendations.
2. The evaluation, which the Bangladesh Country Office commissioned, covered the School Feeding Programme (SFP), implemented during January 2018-June 2021 in Cox's Bazar district, supported by the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Grant through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning and informs the extent to which the program achieved results, explored the strength of the exit strategy with a focus on program sustainability, and compared the end-term values with the baseline and mid-term values, through the lens of relevance, efficiency, impact, effectiveness, and sustainability.
3. The evaluation made 10 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 <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 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>
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Provide technical assistance to MoPME and DPE in operationalization and coordination of activities under NSMP</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The new school feeding was supposed to start in January 2021, and WFP was ready to provide technical assistance to relevant areas to the Government to operationalise the programme. However, the proposed new project was not approved. Implementation of all planned technical assistance support is therefore delayed. The Government is now on the way to developing a new school feeding project in 2023 after a feasibility assessment. WFP will provide technical support to MoPME and DPE based on the requirement of the new project such as essential trainings to core officials at national level; development; guidelines preparations operational, local purchase if needed; monitoring and reporting data base system development food safety and quality etc.</p>	<p>WFP School Feeding team ; at CO</p>	<p>April to September 2023</p>

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<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Provide technical assistance to MoPME in establishing a Research and Development (R&D) Centre that can draw from and contribute to (based on learnings from Bangladesh) the global experiences on school feeding / school meals programme. The Centre would also conduct research on applied nutrition in the local context. The evidence and knowledge generated will be utilized by GoB officials at national and local level for informed decision making.</p>		Agreed	WFP will provide technical assistance to MoPME in establishing the Research and Development Center (R&D) once the new school feeding project starts in 2023. In setting up this center, well-established specialized institutions in the country (such as Nutrition and Food Science Institute at Dhaka University, Institute of Public Health and Nutrition, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh Agricultural University, etc.) may be linked.	WFP School Feeding team at CO	July to September 2023

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<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 3: Increased engagement and advocacy for mainstreaming new techniques and methods with the existing curriculum prescribed by GoB and adopting these techniques at scale.</p>		agreed	The Government has its curriculum, an established system, and methods. Any changes to the existing curriculum, procedures, and system require a series of consultations. WFP will increase the engagement of Government officials around the new techniques/methods and will continue advocacy through organising visits and related events at the national and sub-national levels.	WFP School Feeding team at CO	July-December 2023
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 4: Explore alternate packaging of biscuits.</p>		Not agreed	WFP CO follows global specifications, including packaging for biscuit production. Suppose there is a revision to the specification and detailed instructions for recycling the empty packets. In that case, WFP CO will advocate for national school feeding to adhere to the new specification and guidelines.		

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<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 5: Conduct pilots on school feeding/meals programme in schools in urban areas</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The Government provided school feeding assistance (biscuit distribution) to seven education thanas in Dhaka urban. The Government plans to expand the assistance to other urban locations when the new national school feeding project commences in 2023. In addition, WFP planned to pilot the hot meals initiative in two urban areas to develop learning and evidence generation for the Government to scale up the programme to other urban locations under the new school feeding project, which was supposed to begin in July 2022. It has, however, been delayed and may start in 2023. WFP will work with Government to initiate urban school meals as piloting.</p>	<p>WFP School Feeding team at CO</p>	<p>December 2023 (Note: dependent on Government's final implementation approach)</p>
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 6: Enhance focus on improving</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP continued support to the children even during the closure of the schools due to COVID to avoid any gap in children's education and nutrition</p>	<p>Lead: WFP and</p>	<p>January 2021 to September 2023</p>

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resilience of the communities in addressing inequalities with regard to (i) access to learning opportunities; (ii) food and nutritional security and responding to crisis such as COVID-19, natural calamities.			requirements. WFP, with its partners, took alternative initiatives such as home delivery of fortified biscuits and education materials for children to continue and practice learning, establishing a Community Reading Forum at local level and creating online educational content such as digitalized story books, using national and local cable channels. WFP supported developing an online training package for capacity strengthening schoolteachers on library management and teaching instruction. Also, sub-recipient NGO staff continued building awareness on health issues and education to continue children's study at home.	Supporting Entity: Room To Read and RIC	
Priority: Medium		Agreed	The Government and WFP have been undertaking a feasibility study to identify and determine suitable modality/s for the next national school	School Feeding team at CO	July to December 2023

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Recommendation 7: Develop menu for nutritious food in schools			feeding project. Based on the chosen modality/s, WFP will support the Government in developing a menu for nutritious food for school feeding programs.		
Priority: Medium Recommendation 8: Strengthen community engagement for their enhanced participation in supporting implementation of activities under the programme.		Agreed	WFP will provide technical assistance to the MoPME and DPE to strengthen community engagement based on the following national school feeding programme requirement. It will include articulating the community role in the school feeding project proposal, developing guidelines, and providing essential training to the Govt. core officials for facilitating and overseeing community engagement in the next national school feeding project. WFP in direct implementation areas promotes community participation through community reading forums,	WFP School Feeding Team at CO and in Cox's Bazar Field Office	Jan 2021 to Sept 2023

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			strengthening SMC and parents' role in schools' activities.		
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 9: Strengthen the Healthy Meal Preparation Day initiative and providing more opportunities to Little Agriculturists for demonstrating their skills.</p>		Agreed	<p>WFP has been providing necessary support (technical and financial) to the schools, such as the training to the children by the Govt. technical officials on vegetable gardening at schools, the formation of the group by the children to look after the gardens, regular monitoring and follow up by WFP and CP officials.</p> <p>WFP developed guidelines to orient little agriculturists and teachers to organize a practical observation where they can demonstrate their skills and provide nutrition messages to peer students. The guidelines are in use.</p>	WFP Cox's Bazar Field Office	October 2022 to September 2023
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Promote enhanced participation of women in</p>		Agreed	SMC is formed at school as per Govt. Rules which is a minimum 4 in 11-member committee. Women members of the SMC also participate in the	WFP Cox's Bazar Field Office	December 2023

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SMC activities and incorporate gender aspects in future programming			activities at school along with other male SMC members. WFP promotes enhanced women's participation in SMC meetings and decisions through community mobilization workshops. Regarding incorporating gender-related indicators, WFP follows the USDA's standard indicators for designing and implementing the programme and reports accordingly.		