

Evaluation title	End-line Evaluation of USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme in Nepal FY17	
Evaluation category and type	Decentralized - Activity	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) - overall rating	Highly Satisfactory: 94%	
<p>The report of the End-line Evaluation of USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme in Nepal constitutes a very well written, highly satisfactory report with findings that evaluation users can rely on with a high degree of confidence. The analysis builds upon a rich variety of methodologies for primary research while demonstrating a comprehensive analysis of secondary literature to triangulate the findings and to identify relevant and principally strategic recommendations focused on high-level issues. Given the holistic nature of the programme, the analysis successfully considered all relevant dimensions, noting strengths and weaknesses, as well as specific external challenges ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to the decentralization of actions to the local level, which resulted in capacity and financial challenges in need of follow-up actions included in the recommendations. The report effectively assesses the key role played by WFP while noting challenges and key considerations related to the handover of the programme to the Government of Nepal at the national and local levels. There is a strong focus on the gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) dimensions in the methodological approach and questions, and in the analysis in the findings section. The only notable weaknesses are limited reference to human rights and broader equity dimensions, and a significant surpassing of the maximum allowable length for this report. There could also have been more in-depth and consistent analysis of vulnerable groups, including incorporating specific recommended equity-related actions. Moreover, the recommendations section could have included some operational recommendations linked to challenges identified as part of the assessment.</p>		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The executive summary is clear and concise in covering all of the required information. It is well written, summarizes the key findings for all evaluation questions, highlighting key conclusions and lessons learned. The recommendations are presented just as they are presented in the main report. However, a short reference to the gender approach to sampling would have enhanced the summary. Moreover, the executive summary could have been shortened as it is over 10% in excess of the maximum length requirement for executive summaries of decentralized evaluations.</p>		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report includes important information related to the country situation. It is particularly strong in capturing the evolution of WFP's work in the country. The report effectively presents the evolution of the programme in the form of simple tables that are reinforced by narrative descriptions related to the analysis of the logical framework and its key assumptions. However, the report overlooked the review and citation of the 2020 National Voluntary Report. While the analysis of the results framework highlights gender considerations, more could have been presented on the different vulnerable populations which are identified in the report.</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report provides comprehensive coverage of the evaluation rationale, objectives, and scope. While there is no standalone objective on gender and human rights, the report references the use of a GEWE lens. However, the report could have been explicit about addressing human rights through the evaluation rationale, objectives, and scope.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report provides extensive detail on the approach and rationale for sampling and adoption of diverse methodologies, including those to accommodate gender considerations, although there is almost no detail on how to accommodate other vulnerable groups. The report refers to the use of participatory techniques and mobility mapping exercise. Details are also provided on efforts to collect disaggregated data by gender and ethnicity, methodological limitations and the</p>		

approach to addressing ethical considerations. The evaluation framework includes a helpful assessment of data availability, but some evaluation questions identified are quite general and vague and no sub-questions were included.

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
------------------------------	---------------	----------------------------

The report presents excellent findings analyzing all dimensions of the programme using the OECD-DAC criteria. Through a diversity of methodologies (quantitative and qualitative), it ensured an in-depth analysis of the findings to capture specific nuances associated with challenges connected to COVID and to Nepal's move towards the decentralization of government. The report is also strong in terms of its analysis of gender issues, highlighting both negative and positive impacts, where appropriate. The report notes the important contribution made by WFP, while noting how the programme has contributed to achieving the commitments made by the Government of Nepal. The report could have been stronger and more consistent in noting specific issues and challenges related to gender and other vulnerable populations. In the case of vulnerable populations, it makes some reference to vulnerabilities ranging from economic disparities to being a non-native speaker that could have been unpacked in more detailed throughout the findings.

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
---	---------------	----------------------------

The conclusions are balanced in citing specific successes, such as those related to gender equality. The conclusions and lessons focus very effectively on the key findings while noting both the successes and challenges that have emerged in the programme, aligning the analysis with the OECD-DAC criteria. The lessons, particularly related to the program's ability and approach to adapting to COVID-19, clearly have global applicability and relate to a number of issues ranging from the importance of adopting a holistic approach to considering the local context, e.g., male migration when adopting a gender equality perspective. However, this section could have been more detailed and systematic in identifying issues for vulnerable populations and putting forward strategic responses that have potential applicability in Nepal and more broadly.

CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
-------------------------------------	---------------	----------------------------

The recommendations are clearly and concisely written, comprising overarching recommendations as well as sub-recommendations which are more concrete and actionable. The recommendations relate to a number of the overarching issues connected to decentralization, lack of capacity at the local government level and the need to take steps to ensure sustainability. The final section includes some reflection on gender considerations. The recommendations are all listed as either high or medium priority and are strategic in nature. It would have been useful to include some operational recommendations. There are a few places where gender and broader inclusion dimensions could have been mainstreamed while noting that there is a separate section that includes some reference to GEWE.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Satisfactory
---	---------------	---------------------

The report is well written, well organized, and well referenced overall. It includes all of the required elements with the narrative effectively supported by visual aids. Some annexes are not listed in the order that they are referenced in the main report, and the report and its annexes are much longer than the maximum allowable word length.

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	Approaches requirements: 6 points
--	--

GEWE was mainstreamed in the evaluation, with several evaluation questions in the evaluation framework focused on assessing GEWE. In most cases the report highlights the adoption of a range of processes to collect data related to gender considerations. The report notes that focus groups were conducted with male and female students separately and, through interviews, the evaluation sought to identify if the programme outreach has been equitably extended to all socio-economic groups and genders. Moreover, the report consistently reflects findings related to differences between males and females. While noting that the recommendations are principally high level and targeted more to ministries or WFP, it is understandable that there is less focus on gender. However, some of the sub-actions, such as 2.3 on sensitizing and mobilizing farmer groups or capacity building for local functionaries, could have included reference to targeted interventions to accommodate possible barriers to participation by gender (principally women).

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels	
Highly Satisfactory	<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.
	<i>Definition at criterion level:</i> The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.
Satisfactory	<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.
	<i>Definition at criterion level:</i> There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level:</i> 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>Definition at criterion level:</i> There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.
Unsatisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level:</i> 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>Definition at criterion level:</i> There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.