Evaluation title	Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022
Evaluation category and type	Centralized Evaluation - Country Strategic Plan
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) – overall rating	Highly Satisfactory: 93%

The Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022) is overall a high-quality document that can effectively be used to inform decision-making. The report provides a good description of the CSP's objectives, theory of change (ToC), strategic outcomes, implementation modalities and evolution, in terms of its planning, design and changes during the period covered by the evaluation. Although no specific gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and/or human rights criterion was included as part of this evaluation, the collection of data related to GEWE was mainstreamed through the evaluation questions and sub-questions corresponding to other criteria. The report explains the challenges of assessing the performance of a country programme consisting entirely of Country Capacity Strengthening (CCS) and states that there is no corporate requirement for the India Country Office to report on cross-cutting indicators when there are no direct beneficiaries. However, even considering the lack of direct beneficiaries, it would have been pertinent for the methodology to cover, in greater detail, the way in which the voices of the most vulnerable beneficiaries would be captured to inform the CSPE. The report should have discussed the occurrence of any unintended effects of the CSP, as stated in the evaluation terms of reference and inception report. The report presents conclusions that draw on the information presented in the findings yet pitched at a higher level of analysis. They are grouped together under themes such as relevance, strategic positioning, etc. Similarly, the report presents recommendations that are formulated in a clear fashion and logically derived from the evaluation findings and conclusions. Recommendations are realistic, feasible, and clearly identify target actors for their implementation.

CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The report summary highlights key evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations. A succinct yet quite informative description of the most important elements of the CSP evaluation is provided, including the evaluation rationale, its objectives (i.e., institutional learning and accountability), purpose, and the main findings. Conclusions and recommendations also successfully capture the main messages presented in the key findings, including addressing GEWE-related and inclusion issues. However, it would have been useful for the summary to identify the intended users of the evaluation as well.

CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The evaluation report provides a succinct overview of the CSP and the national context, including India's socioeconomic, demographic and territorial characteristics, and development indices, such as per capita GDP, HDI, among others. The report also covers the livelihood and food security situation, relevant national policies and priorities, and includes some analysis of the specific vulnerabilities of the Indian population. The overview of the CSP addresses cross-cutting priorities and inclusion dimensions, as well as the evolution of CSP planning and, design, referencing contextual changes over time. However, the overview should have covered the alignment between national policies and SDG 17, i.e., Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The scope of the evaluation is addressed in the opening paragraphs in geographic, chronological and operational terms. The report points out that the CSPE adopted the WFP principles for integration of GEWE in the evaluation process, as appropriate within the frame of a CSP fully focused on country capacity strengthening. While the report does not include a specific objective related to human rights and gender equality as such, GEWE considerations were mainstreamed into the evaluation criteria through sub-questions and indicators. Moreover, though stakeholders of the evaluation are listed, the report should have explicitly identified the users of the evaluation. Finally, beneficiaries of CSP activities, even if indirect, could have been further identified.

CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The evaluation used a mixed methods approach to data collection, involving key informant interviews, focus group discussion, and document review, allowing for the evaluation questions to be answered. In the purposive sampling of evaluation participants, the evaluation selected the most relevant stakeholders against a number of criteria. The report discusses the difficulties encountered in assessing the performance of a country programme consisting entirely of Country Capacity Strengthening (CCS) and explains that there is no corporate requirement for the India Country Office to report on cross-cutting indicators when there are no direct beneficiaries. Methodological limitations are identified as are suggested mitigation measures in each case. Finally, ethical considerations in the evaluation are duly discussed.

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Satisfactory

Findings present a good amount of evidence drawn from a wide range of sources to substantiate the assertions made. All evaluation questions and sub-questions are answered and the report effectively and clearly articulates how WFP's activities/outputs contributed to outcome-level results. In addition, the findings highlight the ways in which the evaluation questions were answered on the basis of qualitative evidence, collected and triangulated from different sources. Findings include some sex-disaggregated data although it is acknowledged that more needs to be done to enhance capacities to gather disaggregated and specialized real-time data. The report should have discussed any unintended effects of CSP implementation.

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The conclusions draw on the information presented in the findings and are pitched at a higher level of analysis. They are grouped together under themes such as relevance and strategic positioning. Conclusions address GEWE-related aspects under the theme Gender, Inclusion and Leave No One Behind (LNOB), and conclude that more can be done to accompany the Government of India in addressing the challenges faced by disadvantaged groups in accessing their entitlements under government programmes. Finally, conclusions comment on the validity of the CSP's explicit logic and state that WFP has established itself in India as a credible and long-standing trusted partner of the government, as well as effectively informing decision-making since they identify the future implications of findings.

CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory

The report presents six main recommendations and 20 sub-recommendations that are formulated in a clear fashion and logically derived from the evaluation findings and conclusions. Recommendations are well aligned with the evaluation's dual objectives, i.e., accountability and learning. All sub-recommendations are classified as either strategic (1,2 and 3) or operational (4-6) in nature and the level of prioritization (high or medium) is indicated. The report also indicates the explicit links between recommendations, findings, and a number of conclusions they draw from in each case, as per WFP requirements. Recommendations identify target actors within the WFP Country Office in India, the Regional Bureau, and Headquarters that can contribute to their implementation.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Satisfactory

The evaluation report observes the WFP template for CSPEs and in general includes all of the required elements and lists. The report consistently provides sources for all data presented and data sources are explicitly mentioned in each case at the beginning of answers to each question. Key messages are captured in bold and colour boxes throughout the report. On the other hand, the report could have benefited from including maps, as visual aids, to understand the geographic coverage of the CSP and/or WFP operations. The annexes exceed WFP word length requirements for CSPEs.

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: 7 points

The report provides a description of the status of gender equality, equity and inclusion in India. The evaluation design adopted a gender-sensitive lens as the methodology followed the United Nations Evaluation Group guidance on gender (part of a UN Systemwide Action Plan) to inform the evaluation approaches and results assessment. Even though no specific GEWE and/or human rights objective or criterion was included as part of this evaluation, the collection of data related to GEWE and the LNOB principle was mainstreamed through other criteria, and gender-related questions

embedded in enquiry tools. The triangulation design whereby the quantitative and qualitative methods were applied independently and simultaneously based on a range of data sources appears to have ensured accuracy, and credibility. Nevertheless, while considering the lack of direct beneficiaries of the CSP, the methodology section could have covered in greater detail the way in which the voices of the most vulnerable beneficiaries would be captured to inform the CSPE. Furthermore, the report could have discussed any unintended effects of the CSP on human rights and gender equality.

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels	
Highly Satisfactory	_Definition at overall report level_: 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.
	Definition at criterion level: The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.
Satisfactory	_Definition at overall report level_: Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.
	Definition at criterion level: There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.
Partly Satisfactory	_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.
	Definition at criterion level: There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.
Unsatisfactory	_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.
	Definition at criterion level: There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.