

Management Response from WFP Kenya to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of USDA McGovern -Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme – Final Evaluation 2016 to 2022 in Kenya from 2016 to 2022



This document, finalized in January 2023, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation Kenya USDA McGovern -Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme – Final Evaluation: 2016 to 2022

1. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Kenya covers targeted 358,000 primary school children in eight counties (Baringo, Garissa, Mandera, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot, Marsabit and Tana River) with the purpose of contributing to improved enrolment, retention, and attentiveness at school level. In the first part of the evaluation period (2016-2018) WFP provided school meals while progressively building capacity for Government of Kenya (GoK) take-over. By July 2018, school meal provision had been fully handed over and WFP's role changed to provision of technical and advisory support for the remaining four years.
2. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. The evaluation provided an evidence-based, independent assessment of the performance of the programme. It informed the Ministry of Education (MOE) and government officers at county and sub-county levels, USDA, the WFP Regional Bureau (RB), and WFP in general on the performance of the programme.
3. The evaluation made 10 key recommendations with 10 actions. 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>
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (December 2022)</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Produce a summary version of the McGovern-Dole evaluation key findings for awareness raising about the findings of this evaluation and for fund raising and advocacy purposes, and supplement this with a charter of commitments needed from different stakeholders for successful implementation of school feeding.</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ MoE</p>	<p>Agreed:</p>	<p>WFP will work with MOE to prepare an abridged version of the evaluation report. The evaluation executive summary is a good point to start from</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>End June 2023</p>

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<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 2(Continuous during implementation of the next CSP)</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Under the next CSP actively facilitate south-south cooperation on school feeding as a means to share the experience from Kenya with other countries and to support the Kenyan government in strengthening areas of school feeding that remain weak by learning and getting inputs from other countries.</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ MoE, WFP Regional Bureau, counties concerned with WFPSMP</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Incorporate the findings of this evaluation WFP’s emerging model for facilitating South-South cooperation and peer learning to share Kenya’s experience with the SMP programme.</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>Continuous during implementation of the next CSP</p>
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 3 (End of 2023)</p> <p>Actively advocate, with the experience of this McGovern-Dole programme, for enhanced use of school feeding as a social protection measure in case of emergencies, protracted crises, pandemics and</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ MoE, other relevant government ministries</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP will further develop and leverage the use of its emerging advocacy pitch with government and other partner to help raise awareness of school feeding as a critical safety net to help</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>End of 2023</p>

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<p>ensure that this covers ECD through to end of primary. This should include ensuring that scale up school feeding can be part of prevention and preparedness efforts.</p>			<p>government to mobilise additional resources</p>		
<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 4 (March 2023)</p> <p>Organize a learning/dissemination event for the findings of this evaluation with key education, agriculture, and social protection stakeholders</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ MoE, donors, social protection stakeholders</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>A dissemination event for the findings will be organised in collaboration with USDA and WFP WAS</p>	<p>WFP M&E Unit</p>	<p>June 2023</p>
<p>Priority: High Recommendation 5 (July 2023)</p> <p>Organize a high-level meeting to discuss strategies for securing more regular and better-timed transfer of resources for the provision of school meals for ECD and primary in order to achieve even stronger benefits across</p>	<p>WFP/MoE, other government stakeholders including relevant parliamentary commissions that engage in social protection efforts</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP Senior management will meet with MOE and NACONEK management to discuss ECDE and national SMP meals funding and transfer models</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>June 2024</p>

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the range of indicators where positive results are in evidence.					
Priority: High Recommendation 6 (Dec 2023 2) Conduct an internal lesson learning exercise to ensure that the findings from the approach to supporting Government over the past four years are carefully reflected on and use this to inform the future work in this area under the new CSP.	WFP Kenya/ Regional bureau	Regional bureau WFP headquarters	Prior to implementation of the next CSP, WFP M&E will make a presentation of the lessons learnt from implementation of the MGD grant to inform the next CSP. WFP will also seize opportunities to continuously share the lessons of the findings in local and international forums and hence will not rely on a single event	SO3	December 2023
Priority: High	WFP Kenya/ Regional bureau WFP headquarters	Agreed	WFP will continue to support government to advocate for continuous funding allocations to the national school	SO3	Throughout the life of the next CSP

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<p>Recommendation 7 (July 2023))</p> <p>WFP to continue secure funding to support the GoK in the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening of monitoring and information systems related to school feeding. ● Partnership and fund raising in support of school feeding continuity. ● Building on-line resources for school feeding managers – including an app and online training resources that can be accessed by counties and BOM, as well as school managers. <p>Putting in place a training of trainers’ approach to rolling out capacity for school feeding.</p>			<p>meals programme and area identified by the evaluation</p>		

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<p>Priority: Medium Recommendation 8 (July 2023))</p> <p>WFP to recruit specific expertise to support the Ministry of education in identifying innovative methods to raise funds such as school twinning and private sector fund raising.</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ Regional bureau WFP headquarters</p>	<p>Partially Agreed</p>	<p>While we agree to work with MOE to advocate for increased funding, including from private sector, new recruitment of specific expertise would be subject to availability of funding fr WFP as this McGovern Dole Grant has run out in September 2022</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>Through the life of the next CSP)</p>
<p>Priority: High Recommendation 9 (Throughout the next CSP)</p> <p>Continue to layer CSP activities/ support in ways in which benefit areas where WFP has provided support to School feeding so as to ensure that the areas where school feeding takes place benefit from support to strengthening farmer</p>	<p>WFP Kenya</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP will collaborate with MOE to ensure that key SMP activities focus in areas where the programme has been implemented so as to ensure greatest impact. WFP internally will furthermore continue to strongly coordinate in-house when it comes to planning and layering TA</p>	<p>SO3</p>	<p>(Throughout the next CSP)</p>

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<p>activities and commercialization/links to markets. The logic of cash transfers remains powerful so long as supply issues can be addressed. This includes farming methods in arid conditions, registration of small farmers, and schemes to improve their supply side, with partners such as FAO, IFAD, with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health and in the vein of continued work by WFP on food systems strengthening. This implies there is a greater need for integrated cross-sectoral policies which makes progress across the HDP (Humanitarian Development Peace) nexus. Improving local food security in counties such as Marsabit can also be an important instrument for reducing conflict.</p>			<p>activities to support the national school meals programme, as well as activities to support smallholder access to markets (such as schools). WFP will further aim to engage with FAO and IFAD will be enhanced through joint programmes where possible.</p>		
<p>Priority: High</p>	<p>WFP Kenya/ Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Service, Gender,</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>WFP will incorporate internal gender analysis reports to ensure that</p>	<p>SO3/Gender Unit</p>	<p>continuous under the next CSP)</p>

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Recommendation 10 (continuous under the next CSP) Ensure continued support to school feeding is informed by gender analyses and enhances the voice of women in decision-making and in the continued management of school feeding.	Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes		participation of women is increased, especially in School Boards of Management and training		
N. B (Evolving situation post evaluation)	<p>Addendum: Key shifts and policy developments since 2022:</p> <p>With Kenya's new Administration in place since July 2022, the National Council of Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK), a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency, has expanded its mandate under the Ministry of Education to coordinate and implement the school meals programme. The Council is responsible for food procurement and deliver to schools as well monitoring its usage.</p> <p>Kenya is currently experiencing the worst drought in 40 years, with 5 consecutive failed rainy seasons and a sixth one at serious risk. It is projected that about 4.5 million people (including 1.8m children) in the 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands will require humanitarian assistance. Projections for 2023 are that this number further rises (to about 5.4 million people) as the drought continues and worsens.</p>				

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	<p>The 2022/2023 drought has put a tremendous strain on the implementation and coverage of the national school meals programme. Kenya’s hard-won SMP gains over decades are at stake and need to be preserved before the programme can focus on further expansion of coverage.</p> <p>Challenges and key developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to UNESCO (2021), over 2.5m children have been out of school in Kenya due to the drought. There is an increase in school dropouts as children are in search of food including through child labor. There is also an increase in child marriages and other negative coping mechanisms. As livestock dies, which parents would otherwise sell to pay school fees (example Mandera), school drop outs are further on the rise. • In view of Kenya’s demographic trend and growing number of young people, more children require school meals, which puts additional pressure for Kenya’s ECDE and school meals programme to scale up coverage for the coming years. • Despite Kenya’s disbursements for the National School Meals Programme for the financial year 2022/2023, by February 2022, there was an acute deficit of over 2 billion KSH to cover 40 days of school feeding for Term II, 2023, which is why the Government of Kenya had asked WFP to come back in and procure food to cover school feeding for those 40 days. • Due to WFP’s and UNICEF’s joint strong advocacy efforts, this issue has been raised at the State House, which triggered an unprecedented strong commitment in form of President Ruto’s announcement of 6 billion KSH to be allocated to the National School Meals Programme to keep it running as critical safety net in view of the drought. This would mean tripling the national budget level for the SMP programme. • Following up with MoE/NACONEK, WFP has been informed that this commitment materializes in a financial contribution of 4 billion KSH for the school meals programme (which means doubling the current national budget level for the SMP programme). Out of this 4 billion KSH commitment, 2 billion KSH have already been released by Treasury to MoE/NACONEK, so that the short-term crisis of covering 40 days of school feeding in 				

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					<p>term 2 can be fully addressed and covered. This is an excellent sign and example of the government stepping up and addressing the drought-related gaps themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional 2 billion KSH are expected to be released at the start of the next financial year (2023/2024) from July onwards, but is going to be too little to cover a whole 12 month of school meals. Hence, there is a continued call and need for WFP, as well as all other development partners and donors to step up and support MoE/NACONEK to further advocate and mobilize additional resources to ensure continuity and gradual expansion of the programme. • As a result of this high-level advocacy effort, the importance of school feeding has been further raised to the level of the Deputy President who has called WFP for a bilateral meeting on this issue in the context of the ongoing drought response in March 2023 and echoed MoE’s call for WFP’s continued support to the SMP programme and support with mobilizing additional resources to keep children in school. • MoE/NACONEK has also explicitly asked WFP to continue providing technical assistance to them on the following key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There is a pressing need to address shortages and need for technical assistance for transport and logistics in order to ensure effective delivery of food to schools, and to avoid food losses; (2) There is a push to revive the “home-grown school meals” model – particularly in the arid-and semi-arid counties in order to harness the benefits of fresh nutritious diets as well as smallholder farming communities and strengthen their resilience; (3) There is a need to consolidate existing investments in school feeding, including the adoption of Kenya’s National School Meals Policy, County-led programmes, Digitization Project). <p>With USDA funding having ended in 2022, WFP is now in need of further funds to continue supporting MoE/NACONEK through technical assistance in the above areas, as well as to continue supporting MoE/NACONEK on their pathways towards scaling up school meals from the current level to reach 10 million children by 2030 in line with Kenya’s commitments in the Global School Meals Coalition.</p>

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