



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Social Protection

CONTEXT

Social protection addresses vulnerability, poverty and inequality by aiming to redistribute resources, and providing support to help individuals or households to manage the risks they face, on the journey towards Zero Hunger. While each country defines social protection differently, typically social protection programmes include school feeding, nutrition intervention, food for work/assets, cash and/or in-kind transfers, some contributory and some not, and some labour market schemes.

WFP's engagement in social protection is underpinned by the three concerns of needs, risks and inequalities. It focuses on populations who are food insecure or malnourished, or who are vulnerable to becoming so, and recognises governments as the key architects and delivery mechanisms in social protection systems.


WFP aims to help populations increase their access to national social protection systems to:


- meet food security, nutrition and associated essential needs; and
- better manage the risks and shocks they face.


In 2022, WFP's support for national social protection systems and programmes reached 88 countries globally.


Commissioned by the WFP Office of Evaluation (OEV)

4 LESSONS

1  **Partnership challenges.** Remaining challenges in WFP's partnerships for social protection span the range from defining and communicating WFP's role in social protection to national partners to seeking out, and formulating, strategically focused partnerships to engage in social protection at the systemic rather than project level. Key is clearer analysis of partnership needs, required scope and the most appropriate form of partnership given respective comparative advantages.

2  **Scope to link analysis with programmatic design and implementation.** Despite its comparative advantages in analytical work, piloting and modelling, and technical innovation, there is still space for WFP to join these capacities up with foundational areas of programme delivery, such as targeting, and to formulate and articulate a clear strategic approach to these intersections.

3  **Adopting a nexus lens has supported both beneficiary and community resilience, and contributions to peace.** However, there is still scope to improve both strategically and operationally, for example through a more developed and medium-term approach to capacity strengthening for social protection, including analysis of capacity gaps.

4  **Testing assumptions.** The WFP Social Protection Strategy contains valid and relevant assumptions, which evaluation evidence has frequently found untested. Subsequently, this undermines social protection design and implementation. In particular, a realistic assessment of Government engagement/commitment/capacity for handover ex-ante, and any associated capacity strengthening requirements, is fundamental.

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3 KEY FINDINGS

Evaluations offer **considerable evidence of positive social protection results** generated by WFP, at short-term, medium term and long-term level. However, since current corporate performance indicators focus on individual food security and nutrition gains, rather than on systems-strengthening, **many of WFP's systems-strengthening gains in the area of social protection are not currently being fully incentivised or captured.**



Contextual features do not define the nature of WFP's social protection programming - but adaptive elements have included:

- building emergency responses on existing national social protection programmes in emergencies;
- supporting governments in fine-tuning existing social protection programmes in more development-focused environments; and
- expanding urban social protection programming.



WFP social protection programming delivered results at four levels:

- *In the short term*, strengthening social protection system architectures and supporting national programmes to help people to meet their essential needs and/or manage risks; generating evidence and/or supporting co-ordination between national actors on social *protection*.
- *In the medium term*, improving the quality and coverage of national social protection service provision by improving needs identification systems; enhancing targeting mechanisms; expanding coverage; and/or helping provide more adequate benefits to *recipients*.
- *In the longer term*, where most results are reported, helping people achieve greater economic and physical access to adequate food and goods and relevant services – for example, by applying school feeding and/or food for assets and resilience programmes as social protection *mechanisms*.
- *Additionally*, WFP's social protection work contributed to supporting local economies, improving social cohesion, building *peace* and enhancing agricultural production through a range of interventions including insurance schemes; financial inclusion programming; engagement with local authorities on social protection; and supporting agricultural diversification.



Evaluations identify three main **comparative advantages and five strengths of WFP** in supporting social protection:

Comparative advantages



Analytical capability and use of evidence capacity



Food security and nutrition experience/expertise



Ability to engage across the triple nexus

Strengths



Applying specialist technical expertise and experience



Enhancing the capacities of local partners



Using South-South linkages



Using partnerships as a springboard for wider engagement in social protection



Piloting/modelling

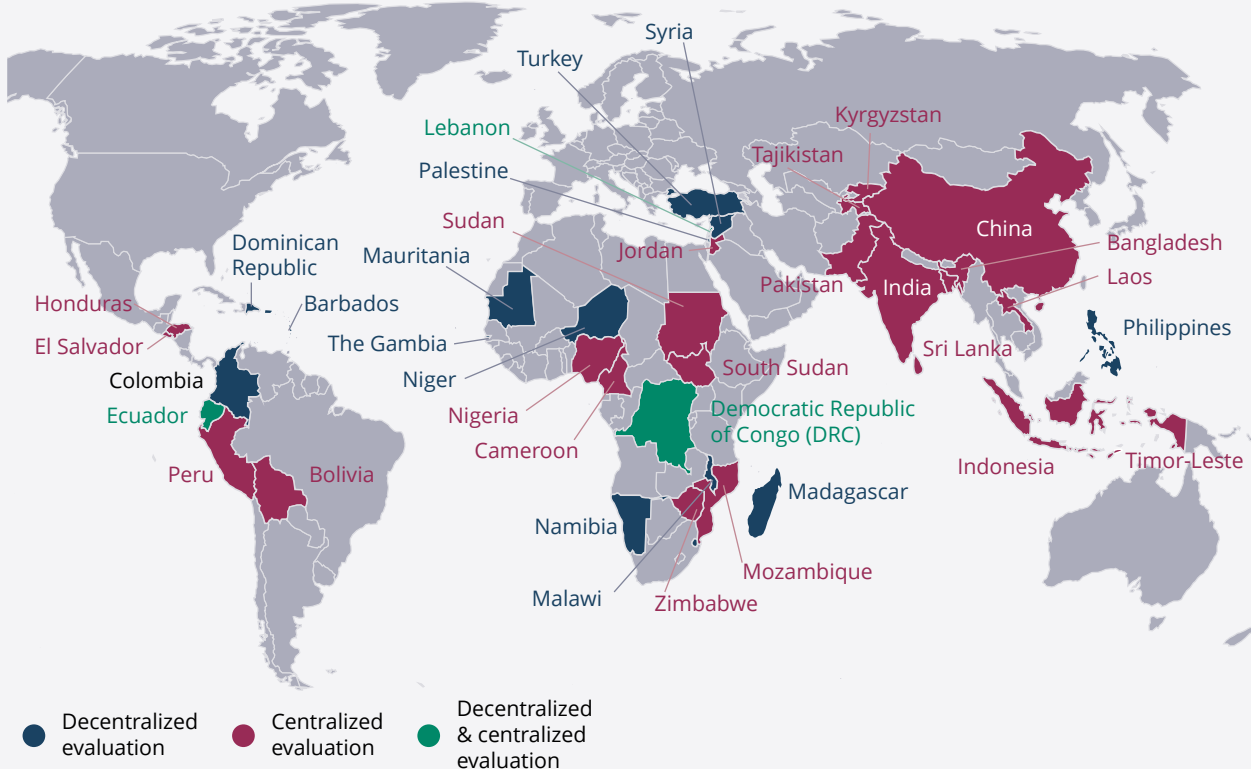
BREADTH OF EVIDENCE

This summary of evaluation evidence brings together findings from 44 evaluations commissioned by WFP, covering the period 2018-2023. It offers lessons on WFP's social protection programming to inform ongoing and future planning.

The summary has global coverage, covering WFP social protection interventions in 37 different countries. Of the 44 evaluations, 13 were decentralized evaluations of activities; the remainder included 26 Country Strategic Plan evaluations, two policy and three strategic evaluations. All were rated 'satisfactory' or above by WFP's external Post-hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA).

This summary applied the approach and methods set out in WFP's technical note on summaries of evaluation evidence, namely:

- A universe of 44 WFP independent evaluations was collected, which all included information on social protection.
- Evidence was systematically extracted from the evaluations using an analytical framework reflecting key areas of interest identified at framing stage.
- Evidence was analysed and clustered around analytical themes, with key patterns and findings identified.
- The resulting report was drafted and commented upon by stakeholders, being finalised in July 2023.



The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

- [Final Evaluation of the SDG Joint fund project Social Protection for the Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi: Accelerating inclusive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2020-2021](#)
- [Evaluation of Namibia National School Feeding Programme \(2012-2018\)](#)
- [Formative Evaluation of the Integrated Social Protection Programme in the South of Madagascar, 2020-2022](#)
- [Evaluation décentralisée de la contribution du PAM au Système de Protection Sociale Adaptative \(SPSA\) en Mauritanie depuis 2018](#)
- [Evaluación final conjunta de piloto de protección social reactiva a emergencias en Arauca, Colombia, 2020-2021](#)
- [Final Evaluation of Joint Programme 'Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean', 2020-2022](#)
- [Evaluación conjunta de la actividad articulada de Progresando con Solidaridad y el Servicio Nacional de Salud, con apoyo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, para la prevención de la desnutrición y la anemia en población nutricionalmente vulnerable de la República Dominicana 2014-2020](#)
- [Evaluación final de la relevancia del rol y la respuesta del PMA para avanzar en un enfoque de asistencia alimentaria vinculado a los sistemas de protección social en Ecuador](#)
- [Emergency Social Safety Nets \(ESSN\) in Turkey, Mid-term Evaluation](#)
- [Thematic Evaluation of WFP Philippines' Country Capacity Strengthening Activities, 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation Series on Emergency School Feeding in Lebanon 2015-2019](#)
- [Evaluation Series on Emergency School Feeding in the Democratic Republic of Congo 2015-2019](#)
- [Evaluation Series on Emergency School Feeding in Niger 2015-2019](#)
- [Strategic Evaluation of WFP's Support for Enhanced Resilience](#)
- [Strategic evaluation of the contribution of school feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Strategic Evaluation of WFP's work on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS](#)
- [Evaluation of the WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy](#)
- [Update of WFP's Safety Nets Policy Evaluation](#)
- [Evaluation of South Sudan WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#)
- [Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#)
- [Evaluación de Plan Estratégico País de PMA Peru 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024 El Salvador \(2017-2022\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Tajikistan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#)
- [Evaluation of Jordan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2020-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Sudan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#)
- [State of Palestine Country Strategic Plan Evaluation](#)
- [Evaluation of Nigeria WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of The Gambia WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021](#)
- [Evaluation of Cameroon WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020](#)
- [Evaluation of Democratic Republic of the Congo Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020](#)
- [Evaluation of the WFP Country Strategic Plan in Sri Lanka 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Pakistan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022](#)
- [Evaluation of the Kyrgyz Republic WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluación del Plan Estratégico para el País del PMA en el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluación de Honduras Plan Estratégico País de PMA 2018-2021](#)
- [Evaluation of Ecuador WFP's Strategic Plan \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Republic of Zimbabwe: An evaluation of WFP Country Strategic Plan \(2017-2020\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Mozambique WFP Country Strategic Plan \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Lao People's Democratic Republic WFP Country Strategic Plan \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Evaluation of China WFP Country Strategic Plan \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Timor-Leste WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020](#)
- [Evaluation of Bangladesh WFP Country Strategic Plan 2016-2019](#)
- [Evaluation of Lebanon WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#)


WFP EVALUATION

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