

Strategic Evaluation on WFP's support to refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants

Summary Terms of Reference



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Strategic evaluations in WFP focus on systemic issues of corporate relevance as defined in strategic documents, policies, and directives. The purpose of this evaluation is to meet both accountability and learning needs with a stronger emphasis on learning and forward looking.

Subject and focus of the evaluation

Displaced persons – whether internally or across international borders, and whether for short or protracted periods, in acute or chronic situations – are often more vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

The current WFP's Strategic Plan (2022-2025) outlines how issues relating to displacement and migration pressure are closely linked to the drivers of hunger. It also reaffirms the organisation's commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in key policy areas targeting refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants among others.

While WFP's engagement with IDPs and refugees – including in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) – has been long established, its assistance in migration contexts is more recent. However, WFP's engagement in refugee, IDP, and irregular migration contexts, features only minimally in WFP's policy documents with no dedicated policy addressing any of the three groups.

Objectives and users of the evaluation

The evaluation is expected to:

- (i) assess and draw lessons from the performance of WFP's interventions and organisational arrangements (normative, programmatic and operational) to assist refugees, IDPs and irregular migrants;
- (ii) reflect emerging learning around WFP's partnerships for advocacy and policy engagement on displacement and irregular migration issues; and
- (iii) highlight any gaps or inconsistencies, particularly around Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, protection, and any areas of emerging priority for WFP's engagement.

The aim is to generate evidence to inform WFP's policies, strategies, approaches in the areas of displacement and irregular migration moving forward.

Primary intended users include WFP's senior leadership and management, particularly within the Programme

and Policy Development Department, the Partnership Department, and the WFP Offices in Geneva and New York; Regional Bureaux and country offices. Secondary stakeholders include partner agencies such as UNHCR, the International Organization on Migration (IOM) and other Inter-Agency Standing Committee members, the WFP Executive Board; partner governments, regional bodies, and International Financial Institutions.

Communities and people affected by displacement and irregular migration situations, including the refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants themselves but also the communities that host them, are central stakeholders in this evaluation.

Scope, methodology and ethical considerations

The evaluation will focus on all types of WFP assistance and engagement including all activity types and transfer modalities to support refugees and IDPs, including in situations of recent return. Irregular migrants are considered as a secondary focus. The evaluation will cover the period 2017 to mid-year 2023 to include (a) the current and previous WFP's Strategic Plans to assess any relevant shift in priorities and approaches; (b) the introduction of all components of WFP's Integrated Road Map, including CSPs; and (c) the introduction, in 2018, of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration. It will have a global scope and consider contexts of sudden-onset crisis; situations of protracted displacement, and return; and situations characterised by mixed movements.

Evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following five questions:

QUESTION 1: What effects has WFP's support had on refugees, IDPs and irregular migrants, in the short and long term, positive or negative, intended or unintended, for whom, with which gender differentials, and in which contexts?

QUESTION 2: Does WFP have an appropriate, internally and externally coherent, enabling environment to support refugees, IDPs and irregular migrants?

QUESTION 3: Does WFP have in place appropriate and adequately contextualized assistance modalities and programming approaches to support refugees, IDPs and irregular migrants on food security, nutrition, and, whenever possible, self-reliance and more sustainable solutions to displacement?

QUESTION 4: How effective are WFP partnerships to leverage resources, improve coordination, enhance the effectiveness and complementarity of its interventions, strengthen national systems and maximize contributions to inter-agency policy development and advocacy regarding refugees, IDPs and irregular migrants?

QUESTION 5: What other factors (e.g., staffing, funding levels) can explain WFP's current performance and results in its engagement in refugee, IDPs, and irregular migration settings?

Methodology and ethical considerations

The evaluation will adopt an overarching theory-based approach, combined with elements of a system-based approach, and analysis of thematic cases. The methodology is expected to:

- adopt mixed methods (quantitative, qualitative) for data collection and analysis;
- demonstrate attention to impartiality and reduction of bias by relying on different primary and secondary data sources and stakeholders and adopting systematic triangulation;
- mitigate challenges to data availability and validity, and budget and timing constraints, further expanding and validating elements included in the initial evaluability assessment;
- include a desk-based summary of evaluation evidence, expanded with relevant research and evaluations commissioned by others; and
- ensure that the views of both targeted populations and host communities, disaggregated by age, gender, and other diversity considerations (including disability) are included in different data collection activities as much as possible.

The evaluation will cover and draw information from all six regions where WFP operates and feature a deeper analysis (through field visits or desk-based reviews) on a purposefully selected sample of ten countries to contribute to the overall evidence base.

The evaluation is expected to adhere to the 2020 UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting personal data, confidentiality and anonymity of informants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation cause no harm to participants, their communities, and to WFP operations.

Roles and responsibilities

EVALUATION TEAM: The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with proven capacity to conduct global evaluations of complex emergencies and/or protracted situations and have a strong thematic expertise in displacement and migration issues.

OEV EVALUATION MANAGEMENT: The evaluation will be managed by Michael Carbon, Senior Evaluation Officer with the support of Michele Gerli in a Research Analyst capacity. They will be the main interlocutors between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and adherence with OEV quality standards for evaluation process and deliverables.

An **INTERNAL REFERENCE GROUP** and an **EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUP** will be established and asked to be available for interviews with the evaluation team, review and comment on draft evaluation reports and provide feedback during evaluation debriefings.

The **DIRECTOR OF EVALUATION** will provide quality assurance and approve all evaluation products.

Communication

All WFP strategic evaluation products will be produced in English. As part of the international standards for evaluation, WFP requires that all evaluations are made publicly available. The evaluation team will propose/explore communication/feedback channels to appropriate audiences (including affected populations as relevant) as part of the inception phase.

Timing and key milestones

Preparation phase: May-Oct 2023

Inception phase: Nov 2023-Apr 2024

Data collection: May-Aug 2024

Draft reporting stage: Sep-Dec 2024

Stakeholder workshop: Nov 2024

Reporting finalisation stage: Jan-Mar 2025

Executive Board presentation: June 2025