

# Evaluation of WFP's Environmental Policy

## Summary Terms of Reference



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

*Policy evaluations focus on a WFP policy and the guidance, arrangements, and activities that are in place to implement it. They evaluate the quality of the policy, its results, and seek to explain why and how these results occurred.*

### Subject and focus of the evaluation

WFP's Environmental Policy, approved in February 2017, commits WFP to develop mechanisms to systematically identify, avoid and manage risks to the environment arising from WFP's activities. It also recognizes that WFP's food assistance activities can generate environmental benefits and commits WFP to pursuing such benefits while seeking to avoid harm. It includes an external component: avoidance and managing of environmental risk in WFP's programmatic activities; and an internal component: WFP's footprint on in-house operations. The Policy outlines five objectives:

- i) enhancing environmental sustainability of activities and operations, improving efficiency and outcomes over time;
- ii) protecting the environment and preventing pollution by managing risks and maximizing the environmental opportunities;
- iii) minimizing the carbon footprint and increasing resource-efficiency;
- iv) aligning WFP's approach to environmental sustainability with global standards and good international practice, including in donors' policies and expectations; and
- v) strengthening the understanding and capacities of national governments, cooperating partners, suppliers and, particularly beneficiary communities in planning and implementing sound activities for food security and nutrition.

### Objectives and users of the evaluation

Evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning.

**Accountability** - The evaluation will assess the quality of the policy and the results achieved. The associated tools, guidance and activities rolled out to implement it will also

be considered. A management response to the evaluation recommendations will be prepared and the actions taken in response will be tracked over time.

**Learning** - The evaluation will identify the reasons why expected changes have occurred or not, draw lessons and, as feasible, derive good practices and learning around further implementation and eventual development of new policies and/or strategies. The evaluation will be retrospective to document actions since the policy was approved.

An assessment of the policy from a GEWE and inclusion perspective more broadly will also be undertaken.

The target users of the evaluation are: i) Programme Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO), particularly the Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Service (PROC); ii) the Management Services Division (MSD), particularly the Infrastructure and Facilities Management Branch (MSDI); (iii) the Supply Chain Division (SCO), specifically the Supply Chain Strategic Engagement Branch (SCOE); iv) other HQ Units with a role in the policy's discussion and support in its implementation; iii) WFP senior management; iv) policy-makers and programme designers and implementers at HQ, Regional Bureau, and CO-level; v) Executive Board members; v) humanitarian and development actors, academics and networks; vi) UN agencies; vii) donors; viii) host governments of countries where WFP operates; ix) communities and individuals that WFP works with.

### Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following three key questions:

#### QUESTION 1: How good is the Environmental Policy?

The evaluation will assess quality of the policy's design and content. It will also assess to what extent the policy is coherent with: i) WFP Strategic Plans and other relevant WFP corporate policies or normative frameworks; ii) intergovernmental-and UN System wide changes.

#### QUESTION 2: What are the results of the Environmental Policy on WFP's programme activities and management operations?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP has integrated environmental considerations, avoided

“harming the environment” and contributed to “maximizing environmental benefits” as per the Policy’s aims. It will also assess the extent to which the Policy contributed to the social sustainability of WFP activities.

### **QUESTION 3: What has enabled or hindered results achievement from the Environmental Policy?**

The evaluation will assess the extent to which: i) the institutional architecture facilitated implementation; ii) adequate incentives, human and financial resources were in place; iii) appropriate systems and tools to ensure monitoring and reporting of environmental and social outputs and outcomes were in place; and v) whether partnerships (e.g., IFIs, Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund;) and other external factors enabled or inhibited achievement of results.

## **Scope, methodology and ethical considerations**

The evaluation will cover the period between February 2017 and September 2024. The evaluation is global in scope. Thematically, it will cover activities related to improving the environmental sustainability of WFP’s programmatic activities as well as its in-house operations and aspects of social sustainability.

The methodology will adopt a mixed methods (quantitative, qualitative) approach for data collection and analysis including but not limited to the following methods:

- Literature review of internal and external documents
- Reconstruction of a Theory of Change
- Developing a rubric for assessing what performance towards environmental sustainability looks like
- Key informant interviews and focus group discussions
- Country studies, including in-person missions and desk reviews
- Comparative analysis of other international organisations

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 strong capacity in undertaking complex global, policy evaluations. Additionally, the team will have familiarity with environmental and social concepts as well as experience with evaluations in the UN system.

**OEV EVALUATION MANAGER:** The evaluation is managed by WFP Office of Evaluation with Catrina Perch as evaluation manager and Raffaella Muoio providing research and data analysis support. Second-level quality assurance will be provided by Judith Friedman, Senior Evaluation Officer, while the Director of Evaluation, Anne Claire Luzot, will approve the final evaluation products and present the Summary Evaluation Report to the WFP Executive Board for consideration.

An **Internal Reference Group** of a cross-section of WFP stakeholders from relevant business areas at different WFP levels has been established. The Internal Reference Group will be consulted throughout the evaluation process to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

**STAKEHOLDERS:** WFP stakeholders at country, regional and HQ level are expected to engage throughout the evaluation process to ensure a high degree of utility and transparency. External stakeholders, such as government, donors, partners, and other UN agencies will be consulted during the evaluation process.

## **Communication**

The Evaluation Manager will consult with stakeholders during each of the evaluation phases. Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in Headquarters, the Regional Bureaus and the Country Offices, during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase in June 2024. A stakeholder workshop will be held in September 2024 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings and preliminary recommendations by stakeholders. Evaluation findings will be actively disseminated and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP’s website.

## **Timing and key milestones**

**Inception Phase:** November 2023-May 2024

**Data collection:** May-June 2024

**Debriefing:** June 2024

**Analysis and reporting:** July-December 2024

**Stakeholder Workshop:** September 2024

**Executive Board:** February 2025