

Evaluation of Eswatini's WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2020-2025)



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Summary Terms of Reference

Country Strategic Plan Evaluations (CSPEs) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to provide evaluation evidence and learning on WFP's performance for country-level strategic decisions, specifically for developing the next Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and 2) to provide accountability for results to WFP stakeholders.

Subject and focus of the evaluation

WFP has been present in Eswatini since the late 1960s, assisting the country with both direct assistance for school feeding and provision of technical support e.g., on social protection. The Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) from 2018 focused on:

- i) Improving the nutritional status of children under 5, antiviral therapy; tuberculosis and prevention of mother to child transmission
- ii) Strengthening the national social protection systems
- iii) Crises response to El Nino

The CSP (2020) had three Strategic Outcomes (SO):

- i) Vulnerable populations in shock-affected areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during times of crisis;
- ii) Smallholder farmers, particularly women, have enhanced capacities to supply structured markets with nutritious foods by 2024;
- iii) Vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, adolescent girls and people living with HIV, have access to integrated and shock-responsive social protection systems by 2030.

The Country Portfolio Budget as originally approved by WFP's Executive Board (Needs Based Budget) was USD 26,688,330 but increased to USD 49,913,097 through four budget revisions. As of October 2023, the CSP was funded at 64.64 percent. In 2022, WFP was able to reach a total of 142,481 beneficiaries.

The evaluation will assess WFP contributions to the CSP strategic outcomes, establishing plausible causal relations between the outputs of WFP activities, the implementation process, the operational environment and changes observed at the outcome level, including any unintended consequences.

The evaluation will adopt standard UNEG and OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability as well as connectedness, and coverage.

Objectives and stakeholders of the evaluation

WFP evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning. The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a range of WFP's internal and external stakeholders and present an opportunity for national, regional and corporate learning. The primary user of the evaluation findings and recommendations will be the WFP Country Office (CO) and its stakeholders to inform the design of the new Country Strategic Plan. The evaluation report will be presented at the Executive Board session in November 2025.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following four key questions:

QUESTION 1: To what extent is the CSP evidence based and strategically focused to address the needs of the most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the CSP design and its consequent revisions were informed by credible evidence on the food security and nutrition situation in the country. In addition, the evaluation will assess the CSP relevance to national policies, plans, strategies and goals, including achievement of the national Sustainable Development Goals and the extent to which the CSP was internally coherent. It will further assess the extent to which the CSP addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people including youth to ensure that no one is left behind. It will also assess the extent to which the CO adapted and responded to evolving needs and priorities in the country.

QUESTION 2: What difference did the CSP make to food security and nutrition in the country?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP was able to achieve its coverage and outcome targets and how it contributed to the enhancement of government capacities to design and implement evidence based social protection systems. The evaluation will also assess WFP's contribution to cross-cutting aims including protection and humanitarian

principles with focus on humanity, impartiality and independence as well as accountability to affected populations, gender, nutrition and environment. Moreover, the evaluation will investigate how the CSP achievements are likely to be sustainable, especially from a financial, social and institutional perspective, as well as its ability to facilitate more strategic linkages between humanitarian action and development cooperation.

QUESTION 3: To what extent has WFP used its resources efficiently?

The evaluation will assess whether outputs were delivered within the intended timeframe; the extent to which the country office reprioritized interventions to optimize resources and ensured continued relevance and effectiveness; and cost-efficient delivery of assistance.

QUESTION 4: What are the critical factors, internal and external to WFP, explaining performance and results?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP has been able to mobilize adequate, timely, predictable, and flexible resources (including domestic) to finance the CSP in a context of a lower middle-income country with limited donor presence. It will also assess the extent to which WFP was able to establish and leverage strategic and operational partnerships and whether the CSP framework allowed for consistent and long-term planning and budgeting. Finally, the evaluation will seek to identify how specific factors such as programme integration, human resources, and use of monitoring data enabled or hindered achievement of results.

Scope, methodology and ethical considerations

The main unit of analysis is the CSP (January 2020-mid 2024) as approved by the Executive Board as well as subsequent budget revisions. Where possible, the evaluation will also look at how the CSP builds on or departs from the T-ICSP (January 2018-June 2020).

The evaluation will adopt a mixed methods approach using a variety of primary and secondary sources, including desk review, key informant interviews and focus groups discussions. Systematic triangulation across different sources and methods will be carried out to validate findings and avoid bias in the evaluative judgement.

The evaluation conforms to WFP and 2020 UNEG ethical guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results in no harm to participants or their communities.

Roles and responsibilities

EVALUATION TEAM: The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with a mix of relevant expertise related to the Eswatini CSPE (food security, agriculture and nutrition, shock responsive safety nets, capacity strengthening and gender and inclusion).

OEV EVALUATION MANAGER: The evaluation will be managed by Catrina Perch, Evaluation Officer, in the WFP Office of Evaluation. She will be the main interlocutor between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and compliance with OEV quality standards for process and content. Second level quality assurance will be provided by Sergio Lenci, Senior Evaluation Officer.

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

The Director of Evaluation will approve the final versions of all 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 beneficiaries, government, donors, NGO partners and other UN agencies will be consulted during the evaluation process.

Communication

Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in the Country Office, the Regional Bureau and Headquarters during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase. A country stakeholder workshop will be held November/ December 2024 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings and preliminary recommendations by country 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: March – June 2024

Data collection: July 2024

Reporting: August - November 2024

Stakeholder Workshop: November/December 2024

Executive Board: November 2025