

Evaluation title	Evaluation of Malawi WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023	
Evaluation category and type	Centralized Evaluation – CSPE	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) – overall rating	Satisfactory: 85%	
<p>The evaluation of the WFP Country Strategic Plan for Malawi 2019-2023 constitutes a satisfactory report which can be used with confidence for decision-making. The report addresses all the evaluation questions and sub-questions, drawing upon a range of primary and secondary data sources and using a variety of data collection methods. It also formulates a set of well-crafted conclusions which synthesize the findings across evaluation questions and discuss their implications for the future CSP. It puts forward a set of five relevant, prioritized, targeted and actionable recommendations which strike a good balance between being specific while allowing the WFP to adjust as needed. Gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) and intersectionality (e.g. refugees) considerations are addressed in specific sections, and additional consideration across all evaluation questions would have strengthened the analysis and findings. Finally, the report uses clear, understandable language and presents a variety of tables, graphs, and figures.</p>		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The report summary provides a clear and comprehensive synthesis of the evaluation, addressing all requirements of the Terms of Reference. It briefly captures contextual issues, summarizes the main evaluation findings with supporting evidence, presents a summary of the evaluation conclusions, and includes a clear presentation of the evaluation recommendations and proposed timelines for action. However, this section would have benefited from a more thorough reflection of the discussions on gender and intersectionality presented in the report.</p>		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The overview provides a summary of the evaluation subject and context, using quantitative data and narrative to explain Malawi’s demographics and geography in relation to the CSP. The context includes updated information on socioeconomics, gender, refugees and internationally displaced people, COVID-19, food and nutrition security, agriculture, environment and education. However it could have presented a more detailed description of the key elements of the CSP intervention logic, risks and assumptions, as well as of stakeholders and lessons learned from past studies. In addition, an elaboration of the importance and nature of gender issues and intersectional challenges would have added more depth to the evaluation subject.</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The rationale, objectives and purpose of the evaluation are consistent with the Terms of Reference, and the report identifies intended users. This section would have benefited from expanding on gender data and intersectionality to go beyond a single question would strengthen the overall analysis, particularly in terms of economic and structural challenges. This would also demonstrate the use of transformative concepts within the evaluation.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The evaluation methodology applies multiple methods and varied sources in an ethical, respectful manner. The evaluation used a range of qualitative and quantitative data, applying evidence from relevant sources of responses from key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) to explain findings of patterns, changes, shortfalls, barriers and emerging solutions. The methodology could have been strengthened by addressing gender challenges and context in greater detail, referring to GEWE considerations. For example, while several tables indicate gender-disaggregated data, there is no discussion or analysis to explain the patterns and implications on WFP outcomes on women as compared to men.</p>		
CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>Evaluation findings are well substantiated and informed by a range of information sources and methods of enquiry, drawing on past studies, operational reports and monitoring data. They are presented in a clear and transparent way that appears impartial. Each evaluation question (EQ) is addressed in a systematic way analyzing policy and programme context, referencing previous studies, and providing relevant primary and secondary data with triangulation. The analysis covers strengths and weaknesses of WFP activities and programmes in a balanced way, taking note of WFP’s course corrections and responses to unanticipated crises (COVID-19), major tropical storms and cyclones. Findings also</p>		

make note of trends and gaps in WFP reach and effectiveness, offering explanations and identifying areas for further enquiry. They also discuss WFP's success and challenges in applying cash or food provision modalities with programme data. However, the findings could have been strengthened by integrating gender and intersectional analysis in a more transversal manner..

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Satisfactory
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'The evaluation presents seven conclusions which are balanced and connect to the questions, themes, and findings of the assessment, noting strengths and actionable areas for improvement. They are well substantiated and flow logically from the findings. No new information is apparent, and no major gaps or omissions are evident. However, the conclusions should have done a better job to address relevant gender and intersection dimensions.

CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
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The recommendations flow logically and connect to the findings of the evaluation. They are reasonable and actionable, reflective of country context and WFP parameters and responsibilities are clearly identified for country office management and operational units. They are also prioritized and include timeframe for implementation, indicating whether they are strategic or operational. The summary table of recommendations is a useful grouping of potential actions which are pragmatic and reasonable, prioritized for specific responsibility centres. Gender-relevant actions could have been integrated with other recommendations.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
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The evaluation is well written and organized coherently. Language is clear and without jargon, acronyms are spelled out at first instance and appropriate places. Sources are provided for all references and quotes as footnotes. The report uses visuals including maps, graphs, tables, textboxes, flow-charts to clearly present and synthesize data and findings.

Integration of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) considerations in the evaluation report based on the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) scorecard

UN-SWAP EPI – individual evaluation score	Misses requirements: 3 points
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The evaluation methodology, analysis, findings, conclusions and recommendations could have been more robust and pragmatic if gender and intersectionality were incorporated as transversal issues relevant to success, as opposed to a single set of questions and findings. This is particularly relevant because the Inception Report indicated that the methodology would address gender and intersectional issues as a cross-cutting topic. The evaluation report, at the same time, does not elaborate on the gender aspects of the methodology. While the analysis and discussion of each EQ demonstrates triangulation and data validation to confirm findings, scant attention is put to presenting and interpreting gender-relevant data, and the analysis of gender and intersectionality is limited to EQ 2.2. Annex 12 of the Inception Report confirms that these issues were not explored or probed during interviews and focus groups. Similarly, the conclusions and recommendations address gender and equality under specific sections and are not discussed more broadly as relevant to other EQs.

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels

Highly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level:</i> Evaluation users can rely on the credible and useful evaluation findings provided and can use the evaluation with a high degree of confidence for decision-making. The report is considered an excellent example.
	<i>Definition at criterion level:</i> The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.
Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level:</i> Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.
	<i>Definition at criterion level:</i> There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level:</i> Evaluation users can rely on the evaluation findings provided and may use it for decision-making noting that there are some gaps/shortcomings in the information provided.
	<i>Definition at criterion level:</i> There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.

Unsatisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can use some of the learning from the evaluation, noting that there are significant gaps/ shortcomings in the evaluation findings provided. The report may still contribute to decision making but should be used with caution.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.</i>