

Evaluation title	Evaluation of Benin WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023	
Evaluation category and type	Centralized – Country Strategic Plan	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) – overall rating	Satisfactory: 79%	
<p>The report of the Evaluation of Benin WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 provides credible findings that users can rely on with confidence for decision-making, including with respect to the strategic focus for the next CSP. The evaluation takes into account emerging issues such as climate change and humanitarian issues, as well as needed financial and technical resources, and discusses WFP's strengths while aligning with the expectations of the Benin government. The context is well described as are the evaluation objectives. A sound methodological approach was used, framed by a comprehensive evaluation matrix. However, more detail would have been needed on how the perspectives of vulnerable populations were gathered and included. The findings are well sourced but could have demonstrated stronger triangulation. They are transparent in noting shortcomings that WFP would want to consider, in areas such as institutional capacity, the emphasis on school feeding and issues of effectiveness, as well as in addressing cross-cutting issues ranging from gender and social inclusion to climate change. The conclusions cover most of the key points highlighted in the findings section while laying the foundation for the recommendations. While the recommendations offer a good mix of operational and strategic considerations, are prioritized and include timelines for implementation, some may not be realistic for WFP and should have been more specific. The issue of gender is quite well addressed throughout the report both in terms of beneficiaries and in terms of WFP's own efforts to integrate gender in its work, particularly from a quantitative perspective. The description of the CSP should have included more detail on the beneficiaries disaggregated by gender and social inclusion and with reference to them as rights holders.</p>		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The summary is well written and captures most of the key elements contained in the main report. The use of figures provides an effective complement to the narrative. However, it could have included details on the users and stakeholders of the evaluation. Issues related to human rights and vulnerable populations are not sufficiently referenced in the findings and recommendations.</p>		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The context section presents relevant and well-sourced information of the country from a political and economic perspective. There are also details on the situation in relation to social protection, education, and poverty. However, the overview of the evaluation subject could have been improved by providing more clarity. The description of the CSP should have been better summarized with less detail, focusing more clearly on key information most relevant to reader. While the context section includes reference to vulnerable populations, it is not made clear which of these groups are relevant to WFP's CSP.</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The objectives of the evaluation are noted as being a dual focus on accountability and gathering of lessons learned to be applied to the development of the next CSP for Benin. Gender and social inclusion are briefly referenced in relation to acknowledging the need to look at cross-cutting issues, although more detail on what this means and why it is important would have been useful. The scope of the evaluation could have been described more fully.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>There is extensive detail in the main section and the annexes on the methodological approach adopted. The mixed methods evaluation approach ensured the collection of quantitative and qualitative data using primary and secondary sources which enabled the capturing of diverse perspectives. The description of the limitations and mitigation strategies</p>		

is well done. Reference to ethical standards is limited to a short statement and more detail would have been needed on how gender and inclusion was accommodated.

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Satisfactory
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The findings address all the evaluation questions and sub-questions, sourcing data appropriately. However, there is disparity across sections stronger in the triangulation of data. The analysis offers a good balance of strengths and weaknesses effectively broken down to address each of WFP's strategic areas. The noting of weaknesses offers useful opportunities for WFP to make improvements in the next phase of programming. Gender and social inclusion are quite well covered, although there is limited reference to the voices of the most vulnerable. The analysis of the humanitarian dimension is well done and covered in multiple sections. However, the findings could have been more consistent in disaggregating qualitative data and noting any gender differences such as in the case of findings related to small producers.

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Satisfactory
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The conclusions are well presented and well organized. They contain a good overview of most of the key findings and make some linkages to the logic of the CSP and to key national and international commitments. The conclusions could have made more direct and consistent reference to the CSP and its anticipated results. Additionally, the inclusion dimension is overlooked in the conclusions.

CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Satisfactory
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The recommendations are well aligned with issues raised in the findings section. The report puts forward a mix of operational and strategic recommendations that are relevant to guide WFP in its planning for future programming. While the sub-recommendations are linked to the main recommendation, some would have warranted being included as separate. Some of the strategic recommendations do not properly consider issues of human and financial resources, whereas others are very general. Reference to the role of partners and other government ministries should have been noted under "other entities" since there are a few recommendations that specifically refer to these stakeholders.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Satisfactory
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The report is well written with no notable grammatical or spelling errors. Its structure in the main section and annexes adhere to WFP's required content. The length of the main report and annexes is generally acceptable. The report includes a good mix of visuals to counterbalance the narrative. The good practices are not specifically noted in the text. The report slightly exceeds maximum length requirements.

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	Approaches requirements: 5 points
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More detail should have been provided from a methodological perspective as to how the perspectives of women were gathered. The evaluation matrix, theory of change, interview guides and bibliography are stronger in demonstrating that efforts were made to gather perspectives from a gender and social inclusion perspective. The ethical considerations are weak in terms of articulating gender and social inclusion. The findings section is strong in considering gender and social inclusion although it should have been more consistent in disaggregating the data. The perspectives of diverse groups of women are well captured, although gender disaggregation is not reflected in some groups such as small producers. The recommendations consider gender as a cross-cutting issue and in relation to WFP's own challenges with technical capacity on gender and social inclusion.

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels	
Highly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: 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>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.</i>
Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: 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>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
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>