

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DECENTRALIZED EVALUATION OF WFP'S USDA MCGOVERN- DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMME SUPPORT IN HAITI FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 TO APRIL 2023



Latest update date: 12 April 2024
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BACKGROUND

This document presents the WFP management response to the recommendations from the decentralized evaluation of WFP's USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme support in Haiti from September 2020 to April 2023 on school meals. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the project's progress and long-term effects from its start in 2020 to April 2023.

The evaluation made a total of eight key recommendations with 21 sub-recommendations. The response presented below sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees, or disagrees with the evaluation recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities, and timelines.

Recommendations and sub-recommendations [one recommendation/sub-rec per row, deadlines in brackets]	Recommendation and sub-recommendation lead office ¹	Management response ²	Actions	Action lead office ³	Action deadline (Indicate month and year)	Status ⁴
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 1: WFP should monitor further whether the meals are making the expected contribution in terms of intake for all pupils receiving school meals. This needs to be done through enhanced monitoring questionnaires and continued logistic adaptation.	WFP CO	Agreed	<i>For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell</i>			
1.1 WFP should investigate why a notable proportion of pupils, cooks and SFMC members say that meals often do not satisfy pupils' hunger. (December 2023)	WFP CO (school feeding with support from monitoring and evaluation)	Agreed	1. WFP will develop a study to inquire on the different underlying factors such as age, type of meal, household food security, pipeline breaks.	WFP CO (school feeding with support from RAM)	June 2025	Not started
1.2 WFP should continue to strengthen the responsive monitoring and CFM systems that are in place to confirm that pupils receive enough food. (September 2024)	WFP CO (school feeding with support from monitoring and evaluation)	Agreed	2. Activity monitoring will be enhanced with additional questions to confirm that pupils are receiving enough food.	WFP CO (school feeding with support from RAM)	September 2024	Ongoing

¹ Indicate the lead office, with any supporting offices in brackets

² Indicate whether each recommendation and sub-recommendation is 'Agreed', 'Partially agreed' or 'Not agreed'. Briefly justify partially or not agreed

³ Indicate the action lead, with any supporting offices in brackets

⁴ Indicate the current status of the action – Not started/ Ongoing/ Completed

			3. WFP CO via the field officer, TPM and Cooperating Partner, will continue sensitizing the school children, Parents and school staff on the use of the CFM.	WFP CO (school feeding with support from RAM)	September 2024	Ongoing
1.3 WFP should continue refining its logistical capacity, taking into consideration two issues that have arisen over the course of the project: road blockages seriously disrupting food transportation to the south of the country, and difficulty reaching remote parts of the northern departments. (September 2024)	WFP CO (school feeding unit with support from logistic)	Agreed	4. For the next phase of the McGovern dole project, the in-kind supplies will be delivered and pre-positioned in Cap-Haitian which allows easier access to the Nord and Nord-Est departments, where phase 3 will be implemented. Fresh produce will be locally sourced in the same department of the intervention	WFP Haiti CO (school feeding unit with support from logistics)	September 24	Ongoing
			5. Private transporters were added to the fleet – mixed approach.	WFP Haiti CO (school feeding unit with support from logistics)	September 2024	Completed
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 2: To align with national school feeding policies, WFP's school feeding policies and the general trend of school feeding actors in Haiti, WFP should systematically use all means provided by the	WFP CO	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			

McGovern-Dole Programme to prioritise buying food locally over imports. In addition, WFP should prioritise locally grown food over local procurement of imported food as far as possible.						
2.1 WFP should use the USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement programme for all future McGovern-Dole project implementations. (September 2024)	WFP CO	Agreed	1. Under the new phase of the project 15% of inputs will be procured locally. The percentage will gradually increase from 15% in 2024/5 school year to 100% in 2027/8 school year. This is included under the 2023 award agreement signed in September 2023.	WFP CO (school feeding)	September 2024	Ongoing
2.2 WFP should undertake a market assessment in each of the departments in which it operates to map the availability of locally produced food throughout the country and throughout the year. (December 2023)	WFP CO	Agreed	2. Market assessment was carried out in December 2023 in the Nord and Nord-Est departments where the new phase of the project will be implemented.	WFP CO (RAM with support from school feeding)	December 2023	Completed
2.3 Data and trends from the market assessment should be used to inform future project steps (logistics, contracting, etc.) and for further advocacy of home-grown school feeding to donors. (December 2023)	WFP CO	Agreed	3. The Market analysis was presented by the RAM team to the Programme team to inform the decisions about local purchases.	WFP CO (RAM with support from Programme)	December 2023	Completed
			4. WFP will continue monitoring the markets to identify any effects of the local purchases on food	WFP CO (RAM with support from Programme)	December 2025	Ongoing

			price stability.			
Priority: High December 2024: Recommendation 3: WFP should ensure that communities are involved in the design of project activities through the SFMCs to encourage stronger local ownership of the programme. This is expected to contribute to programme sustainability.	WFP CO in coordination with DAEP	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			
3.1 WFP should coordinate with the DAEP to understand and reduce the barriers to community engagement and ownership. Consultations should ensure that all voices are represented including those of pupils, cooks, parents, school staff, community leaders and caregivers. (December 2023)	WFP CO in coordination with DAEP	Agreed	1. WFP will increase engagement and support (Training) the DAEP to implement the national school committee engagement strategy.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from CP)	June 2025	Ongoing
			2. Every school committee will be trained at least once a year and WFP process monitoring tools will include questions on whether SMC exist and are functioning.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from RAM)	June 2025	Not started
			3. The new MGD project encompasses activities to reinforce SFMC for a sub-set of schools. WFP will assess the results and scalability of this approach.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from RAM)	June 2025	Not started
3.2 In coordination with MNEVT, WFP should identify whether and how responsibility for preventing	WFP CO in coordination with DAEP	Agreed	4. Develop tools that are user-friendly and allow more active	WFP CO (School feeding) in	June 2025	Not started

misuse and fraud can be shared between school directors and SFMCs. (December 2023)			engagement of the SFMCs.	coordination with DAEP		
			5. Share the sanctions table in a user-friendly manner with the community and SFMCs.	WFP CO (School feeding) in coordination with DAEP	June 2025	Not started
			6. Review the training material and the SFMC training and emphasize the sanctions table and community contribution management.	WFP CO (School feeding) in coordination with DAEP	June 2025	Not started
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 4: WFP should ensure adequate cooking environments for cooks' health and food safety.	WFP CO (school feeding with support from M&E unit)	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			
4.1 Considering the significant health risks of smoke inhalation, WFP should conduct a comprehensive review of cooking facilities and prioritise investment in infrastructure including improved stoves/cooking bags, ventilation of facilities and other relevant factors. (December 2023)	WFP CO (school feeding with support from M&E unit)	Agreed	1. On yearly basis organize a comprehensive review school cooking facility. And Advocate for funding to implement needed infrastructure and to purchase adequate equipment's including improved stoves/cooking bags.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from RAM)	August 2025	Ongoing
4.2 WFP should continue to improve the cooking environment to eliminate the smoke from open fires. This could be achieved through the improvement of all cooking	WFP CO (school feeding)	Agreed	2. Continue donations of fuel-efficient stoves and trainings in the schools where cooking facilities are identified as insufficient under	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2024	Not started

stoves and testing infrastructure innovations. (September 2024)			action 1 to address recommendation 4.1.			
			3. Advocate with the Government and UNICEF to prioritize investments in safe cooking infrastructures.	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2024	Not started
4.3 To improve food safety, WFP should ensure that all kitchens are equipped with sufficient food preparation and serving equipment, soap, and access to safe water. (September 2024)	WFP CO (school feeding)	Partially agreed	4. Minimum set of NFIs, soap, aquatabs, chlorine and handwashing buckets are provided throughout the school year.	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2024	Not started
			5. Reinforce partner monitoring regarding the availability of distributed NFIs.	WFP CO (School feeding)	June 2025	Not started
			6. Signal needs and gaps in WASH infrastructure to UNICEF.	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2024	Not started
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 5: WFP should pay cooks in alignment with national gender policy and its own policy on gender equality and women's empowerment.	WFP CO (with support from RB)	Partially agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			
5.1 In view of WFP's commitment to GEWE and the prevailing socio-economic context restricting parental contribution capacity, the WFP CO should seek funds for a budget line to pay school cooks	WFP CO (with support from RB)	Partially agreed <i>To prove the feasibility of this recommendation a pilot is required.</i>	1. WFP will pilot the compensation of cooks in non-McGovern-Dole schools to assess the effects of the payment and provide evidence	WFP CO (School feeding with support from RAM)	July 2025	Ongoing

within school feeding activities. (September 2024)			for potential scale-up.			
5.2 If WFP CO and the RB are willing to promote GEWE by paying school cooks, determine the best ways of implementing this decision with IPs taking the local and national contexts and potential unintended consequences into consideration. (September 2024)	WFP CO (with support from RB)	Agreed	<i>Will be implemented by action 1 under sub-recommendation 5.1.</i>			
5.3 The WFP CO should advocate for other school feeding actors, notably the national institutions, to provide payment for school cooks as an important initiative to promote gender equity. Relevant actors include the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, the NSFP, and school feeding actors in the country. (December 23)	WFP CO (school feeding)	Partially agreed <i>To prove the feasibility of this recommendation a pilot is required.</i>	2. Based on the results of the pilot WFP will assess the feasibility for advocating for cooks' compensations and define an appropriate strategy.	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2025	Not started
5.4 Approach donors, other UN agencies (UN Women, ILO) and private investors willing to promote GEWE interventions in Haiti. This may allow WFP to find funding, develop advocacy papers and show that as a main school feeding actor it seeks to promote GEWE by paying cooks as it pays other service providers. (December 23)	WFP CO (school feeding)	Partially agreed <i>To prove the feasibility of this recommendation a pilot is required.</i>	<i>Will be implemented by action 2 under sub-recommendation 5.3.</i>	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2025	Not started
			3. CO will be developing joint Funding proposal (UN Women, ILO) to Donors to support the roll-out of Cooks payment.	WFP CO (School feeding)	December 2025	Not started
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 6: As far as possible, WFP should ensure that budgeting for the McGovern-Dole	WFP CO	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			

project secures fulfilment of the programme’s holistic approach, bringing improved literacy and increased use of health and dietary practices to a greater number of school-age children.						
6.1 WFP should replicate the literacy activities in a larger proportion of schools. (September 2024)	WFP CO	Agreed	1. In the new project phase the proportion of the schools with the literacy component was increased from 12% of schools to 33%. This is included under the 2023 award agreement signed in September 2023.	WFP CO (School meals)	September 2024	Completed
6.2 In close collaboration with the IPs, WFP should ensure that the budget for all activities, and in particular for hard WASH, is appropriate and adjusted to changes in market prices, reviewing cooperating agreements if needed. (September 2024)	WFP CO	Agreed	2. The budget for phase 3 was developed based on pro-forma invoices collected by the sub-recipient and inflation was accounted for in their budget.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from cooperating partners)	June 2024	Completed
			3. WFP will review agreements with the cooperating partners on a yearly basis.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from cooperating partners)	December 2025	Not started
Priority: High September 2024: Recommendation 7: WFP should enhance teachers’ capacity and tools to integrate gender, WASH, health, nutrition and gender sensitisation into their teaching methods, and provide the means for schools to implement basic health and hygiene practices.	WFP CO (with support from implementing partners)	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			

7.1 School staff should be further empowered to ensure they are capable of teaching their classes the project's WASH, nutrition, and gender messages. (September 2024)	WFP CO (and CRS)		1. Teachers will be trained and provided materials to support WASH, nutrition and gender equality and girls' empowerment messages under the SBCC and Literacy activities.	School meals	December 2025	Not started
7.2 WFP should ensure that all schools are provided with sufficient quantities of soap and water-purifying tablets, and that monitoring and evaluation systems are in place allowing for early detection and replenishment of items that are running low. (September 2024)	WFP CO (with support from cooperating partners)		<i>Will be implemented by action 1 and 2 under sub-recommendation 4.3.</i>			
Priority: Medium September 2024: Recommendation 8: To properly capture the difference in literacy improvement between USDA-assisted schools benefiting from literacy activities and non-assisted schools, WFP should review and quality assure the methodology of the EGRA test.	WFP (in collaboration with CRS)	Agreed	For recs <u>with</u> sub-recs, do not indicate actions in this cell			
8.1 Ensure an appropriate control group for comparison of literacy outcomes that does not include private schools. (September 2024)	WFP CO (with support from cooperating partners)	Agreed	1. WFP will review the EGRA methodology prior to the baseline data collection.	WFP CO (School feeding with support from RAM)	August 2024	Ongoing
8.2 Ensure that baseline indicators are measured before beginning of the literacy activities.	WFP (in collaboration with CRS)	Agreed	2. The baseline for the EGRA will be carried out at the end of 2023/24 school year.	WFP CO (School feeding in	August 2024	Ongoing

(September 2024)				collaboration with CRS)		
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