

Management Response from WFP Nepal Country Office to the recommendations of the decentralized Mid-term Evaluation of USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme in Nepal [DE/NPCO/2021/037] from 2020 to 2024



1. This document presents the management response to the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme in Nepal (2020-2024). The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Nepal Country Office and undertaken by third party evaluator NARMA Private Limited, covers the period from July 2022 to June 2023. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning and establishing the current situation against which the evaluation (endline) will measure progress towards targets.
2. The evaluation made four key recommendations and 16 sub recommendations with 14 actions. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
Priority: High Recommendation 1: Review and prioritize project activities to achieve and sustain project results (Deadline December 2024)					
Sub-recommendation 1.1 Ensure the sustainability of LoP targets which have already been achieved. (Deadline September 2024)	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	During the design phase of the McGovern Dole FY 23' programme the sustainability aspects were carefully considered. As a result, the provision for maintenance costs for infrastructure support, replenishment of first aid kits, medicine, etc., is well reflected in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Since the target schools and Palika were included in the FY20 cycle, there will be continued minimum technical assistance (TA) provided to them.	WFP Nepal School Meal Programme (Cooperating Partners)	September 2024
Sub-recommendation 1.2 Engage parents in safe food handling and preparation. (Deadline December 2024)	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP will ensure that Cooperating Partners (CPS) will facilitate a mechanism / process to establish a system where School Management Committees and Parents Teacher Associations (PTA) oversee/ensure regular monitoring and checking of meals quality of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme in larger schools	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	December 2024

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.3</p> <p>School health and nutrition</p> <p>Mobilize child clubs on personnel hygiene and hand washing practices, for example, before and after meals by raising awareness on personal/school hygiene through different medium</p> <p>(Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)		WFP, with support from cooperating partners, will deliver personal hygiene messages, conduct personal hygiene checkups and also raise awareness on personal hygiene through child clubs, emphasizing critical moments of handwashing practices, and ensuring access to and use of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Package. WFP will also track behaviour change among students and use media to encourage students to maintain good personal hygiene practices.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	December 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.4</p> <p>School health and nutrition</p> <p>Increase collaboration with the education section of local government and health facilities on SHN-related activities.</p> <p>(Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP and its implementing partners, under the leadership of the local government, will facilitate establishing a maintenance fund and participate in various national sanitation events in collaboration with the local government.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	June 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.5</p> <p>School health and nutrition</p> <p>Improve the functionalities of facilities such as toilets, Drinking water facilities and kitchen.</p> <p>(Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP will schedule coordination/collaboration meetings with local government (LG) and ward representatives to connect with School Management Committee (SMC) members and teachers to strengthen School Health and Nutrition (SHN) initiatives. This includes improving the functionality of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools and promoting ownership through collaborating with LGs for cost-sharing during construction,	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	June 2024

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.6</p> <p>Literacy outcomes</p> <p>Facilitate/advocate classroom based early-grade reading assessment in non EGR intervention districts.</p> <p>(Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	The National Assessment of Reading in Nepal (NARN) has been promoted by the Government as a replacement for the CB EGRA (Early Grade Reading Assessment). WFP, with support from cooperating partners, will advocate with the National Early Grade Reading Programme to promote NARN in the non-EGR intervention districts.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	June 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.7</p> <p>Literacy outcomes</p> <p>Encourage and motivate students to practice reading by organizing reading competitions and material support</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Partially agreed (this is a longer-term investment than June 2024)	The program will continue the Tole Shikshya Karyakram and organize reading melas (fairs) and learning events in coordination with local governments.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	June 2024
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Facilitate linkages between LGs, Schools and Farmers Organizations for effective implementation of the HGSF approach (deadline December 2024)</p>					
<p>Sub-recommendation 2.1</p> <p>Assist to prepare local level specific HGSF guidelines</p> <p>(Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Partially Agree	The Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) guidelines have been developed at the local level in all six districts of FY20. If needed, these guidelines will be revisited or revised this year. Discussions regarding this matter will be conducted through the School Management Planning (SMP) sub-committee.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	December 2024

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Sub-recommendation 2.2 Strengthen business linkages and supply chain management (Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	In this new cycle, the programme has been designed to increase engagement with cooperatives to strengthen business linkages and supply chain management. Cooperatives will lead capacity-building events at the Municipal/Palika level, which is expected to enhance their capacity, increase ownership, and strengthen supply chain management.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	December 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 2.3 Continue mentoring and follow-up services in transition districts (Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	In the FY20 cycle, there was a specific emphasis on enhancing the capacity of the local government in the transition district of Achham. This was achieved through training sessions and mobilization for school monitoring activities. Monitoring visits and coordination meetings with the Local Government (LG) and relevant stakeholders will be conducted during field visits to the transition districts. LG representatives from these districts will be invited to attend the programme review meetings. This will provide them with an opportunity to learn about the ongoing progress and challenges.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partners)	December 2024
<p>Priority: High Recommendation 3: Further capacity of LGs and other key stakeholders, specially, MoEST, PGs and MoALDs towards sustainable transition Deadline December 2024</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)				

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Sub-recommendation 3.1</p> <p>Explore the possibility of the formation of multi-sectoral coordination at national and provincial level.</p> <p>(Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	The programme will proactively engage with the Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), and the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperative (MoLMAC). Additionally, WFP will work closely with local governments for local-level programme monitoring and further coordinate with them to leverage resources and build capacity at the local level. At the provincial level WFP will provide technical support to the Ministry of Social Development to incorporate SMP complementary activities in government plans, policy, programmes and in the fiscal budget. To strengthen government capacity on SMP, WFP will organize an exposure visit to provincial and local governments.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	December 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 3.2</p> <p>Share global and national experiences on school feeding programs, including lessons learned and best practices.</p> <p>(Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP is planning a national-level sharing event at the end of 2024. Additionally, the programme will utilize other internal sharing platforms to disseminate lessons learned and best practices.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	December 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 3.3</p> <p>Collaborate with LGs to construct/rehabilitate facilities like kitchen, drinking water and toilets in the schools.</p> <p>(Deadline December 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP will actively engage with all three tiers of government and complement as well as advocate to strengthen school infrastructure for efficient implementation and sustainability of HGSMP.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	December 2024

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>Support affirmative actions to prioritize girls, specifically to improve literacy outcomes.</p> <p>Deadline June 2024</p>					
<p>Sub-recommendation 4.1</p> <p>Facilitate classroom based early-grade reading assessment for improving literacy outcome of girls and low performing students. (Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	WFP will utilise key evidence such as Continuous Assessment (CAs) and internal Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA), to identify low performing girl students. Targeted Tole Shikshya sessions will then be conducted to support these students.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	June 2024
<p>Sub-recommendation 4.2</p> <p>Provide teacher training and educational materials in other three districts not covered by World Education (WE), especially for inclusive teaching methods. (Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Partially Agree	The Government has been implementing National EGR/EGL programme in programme districts. WFP will coordinate with MoEST (Early Grade Reading Office) to conduct teacher training and timely delivery of learning materials in other three districts not covered by World Education (WE). WFP and World Education will support coordination linkages to ongoing EGR/EGL, however, will not directly engage in provision of training/materials.	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	June 2024

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Sub-recommendation 4.3 Adopt participatory teaching practices in the classes, providing special attention to girls.</p> <p>(Deadline June 2024)</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme)	Agree	<p>WFP will focus on assisting all partners to adopt participatory teaching practices at schools with special emphasis on girls.</p> <p>WFP and its cooperating partners will further encourage/strengthen the involvement and participation of reading motivators in both virtual and physical discussions for it, with a specific emphasis on engaging girl students, during technical support sessions.</p>	WFP Nepal (School Meal Programme) and (Cooperating Partner)	June 2024