

Management Response from WFP Malawi to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of Tsogolo la Thanzi - Healthy Future Home-Grown School Feeding Project in Malawi (DE/MWCO/2023/2021) from 2020 to 2023



1. This document, finalized in December 2024, presents the management response to the recommendations of the Evaluation of Tsogolo la Thanzi - Healthy Future Home-Grown School Feeding Project in Malawi (DE/MWCO/2023/2021) from 2020 to 2023.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Malawi Country Office, covers the period September 2020 to August 2023. The subject of the evaluation, the Tsogolo la Thanzi (TSOLATA) – healthy future home-grown school feeding programme (HGSF,) refers to a European Union-funded (EUR 16 million) school feeding three-year programme (2020-2023) implemented with the Ministry of Education (School Health and Nutrition-SHN department), in coordination with Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) and Ministry of Health (MoH). The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. The objective of the evaluation is to highlight the existing circumstances and performance of TSOLATA-HGSF during the project period, determine the progress made towards achieving TSOLATA-HGSF objectives to equitably and in a transformative manner, assess the extent to which TSOLATA adequately adopted and mainstreamed gender, disability, protection and inclusive approaches, compatibility of TSOLATA-HGSF with other interventions, and assess TSOLATA's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability in delivering results and underline the critical lessons learned that can inform future strategic and operational decisions.
3. The evaluation made 7 key recommendations with 17 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 <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Support the Government of Malawi in creating an enabling learning environment for children with disabilities.</p> <p>(January 2025)</p>	<p>WFP Country Office (CO) [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Sub-recommendation 1.1: WFP (in collaboration with partners such as UNICEF) should consider sensitising and building the capacities of teachers and Ministry of Education representatives so that they can adapt school curricula for individualised teaching and devise learning approaches for children with disabilities. Further, WFP should train teachers and staff to understand these students' needs and provide the necessary support to accommodate them.</p> <p>(January 2025)</p>	<p>WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>1.1.1 WFP will work in collaboration with UNICEF to advocate for adapting of school curricula to accommodate children with disabilities.</p> <p>1.1.2 Through the School feeding intervention, WFP to sensitize and train the school feeding committees at school level to understand and provide necessary support to children with disabilities and provide a to better learning environment for children with disabilities.</p>	<p>Malawi Country Office – Programme unit</p>	<p>30 November 2025 (This activity will require more time than allocated in the recommendation)</p>

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Sub-recommendation 1.2: WFP should support the Government of Malawi in standardising the design and construction of disabled-friendly school facilities (infrastructure). (June 2025)	Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi [WFP CO]	Agreed	1.2.1 WFP in 2025 has committed to supporting the Government of Malawi to review its School Feeding policy and related strategies, this also include guidelines related to WASH. WFP will use this opportunity to support standardisation of the design and construction of disabled-friendly school facilities including kitchens, storerooms, and toilets.	Malawi Country Office – Programme unit	30 November 2025 (This activity will require more time than allocated in the recommendation)
Priority: High Recommendation 2: With a focus on improving the quality of education, WFP, in collaboration with partner organisations such as UNICEF, should provide technical assistance to the Government of Malawi in facilitating digital learning. (January 2025)	Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi [WFP CO, UNICEF]	Partially agreed. (WFP does not have the capacity to provide technical assistance in digital learning)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 2.1: WFP should create a digital library that hosts updated content for primary classes and can be accessed by both students and teachers.	Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi [WFP CO, UNICEF]	Not Agreed (Not the mandate of WFP, but WFP has shared the report with UNICEF and	N/A	N/A	N/A

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(January 2025)		Ministry of Education)			
Sub Recommendation 2.2: WFP should create a platform for online classes. (January 2025)	Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi [WFP CO, UNICEF]	Partially agreed. (It is not in the mandate of WFP to create a platform for online classes. However, WFP will be able to advocate for schools implementing School Feeding)	2.2.1 Not the mandate of WFP. However, since the government is implementing a platform for online classes, WFP will advocate for schools where it is operational, especially those serving children with disabilities, for digital learning tools.	Malawi Country Office – Programme unit	30 November 2025 (This activity will require more time than allocated in the recommendation)
Sub Recommendation 2.3: WFP should equip teachers with the competencies to become digitally competent and exploit digital technologies' potential to enhance teaching and learning. (January 2025)	Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi [WFP CO, UNICEF]	Not Agreed (Not the mandate of WFP, but WFP has shared the report with UNICEF and Ministry of Education)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority: High Recommendation 3: Strengthen programme monitoring through	WFP CO [Ministry of Education,	Agreed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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management information systems (MIS). (January 2025)	Government of Malawi]				
Sub Recommendation 3.1: WFP should invest in designing and implementing a comprehensive gender-disaggregated M&E Framework (indicators) to monitor and track the programme's impact and ensure equitable outcomes. (Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and protection indicators into a gender action plan for TSOLATA-HGSF and conduct yearly gender and protection assessments) (January 2025)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]	Agreed	3.1.1 WFP Gender unit to work with M&E to design gender disaggregated M&E indicators	WFP Country Office / Gender and Protection Unit (WFP CO Research, Assessment & Monitoring [RAM], CO Programme - School Meals)	January 2025
			3.1.2 WFP will conduct an integrated context risk analysis (I-CARA) to inform gender and protection activities	WFP Country Office / Gender and protection Unit (CO Programme – School Meals)	June 2025 (I-CARA is to be conducted together with HQ, and HQ will only be available in June)
	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]	Agreed	3.1.3 WFP will conduct a rapid gender analysis that will document and analyse different barriers faced by girls and women using the Reach Benefit Empower Transform (RBET) framework	WFP Country Office / Gender and protection unit (WFP CO Programme -	November 2025 (This activity will require more time than allocated in the recommendation)

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				School Meals team)	
			3.1.4 WFP will develop an action plan following the HGSA following Rapid Gender Analysis.	WFP CO Programme - Gender and protection unit	December 2025 (The action plan will depend on the findings of the gender analysis whose timeline is in November)
			3.1.5 WFP will engage with targeted communities to advocate for girls' access to education	WFP Country Office/ Gender and protection unit, School Meals team	December 2025 (This activity will require more time than allocated in the recommendation)
Sub Recommendation 3.2: WFP should support the Government of Malawi in strengthening monitoring (through MIS) across all relevant levels (school, district, and EMIS ¹ levels). It should also support digitising templates for home-grown school feeding (HGSA)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]	Agreed	3.2.1 WFP has supported the schools and districts by digitizing the budgeting process. WFP has also provided training on financial management.	WFP Country Office/ School Feeding Unit	Completed
			3.2.2 WFP will broaden the scope of digitization to include bidding, food storage and record keeping.	WFP Country Office/ School Feeding Unit	December 2025 (This activity will require more time)

¹ Education Management Information System

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management processes, including budgeting, financial management, food procurement, food storage, and record-keeping procedures. (January 2025)					than allocated in the recommendation)
			3.2.3 WFP will utilize the School Menu Planner PLUS digital tool to design costed, localized and nutritious school meal menus and support evidence-based budgeting for school feeding programmes.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit	January 2025
Priority: Medium Recommendation 4: WFP should integrate TSOLATA-HGSF with other climate resilience programmes, particularly those aimed at addressing climate-induced vulnerabilities. The combined investments should focus on asset creation, increased food systems resilience, strengthening education, and health and nutrition services. This will promote livelihoods, empower women and marginalised groups, and improve coping mechanisms for climate-induced vulnerabilities.	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]	Agreed	4.1 WFP will work with the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the number of farmer organizations (FOs) who are registered to better position them for government support and trainings provided through the HGSF. HGSF provides trainings in post-harvest loss management, climate smart agriculture, business management and collective marketing to FOs supplying commodities to schools and promotes women empowerment.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (WFP CO Resilience unit)	June 2025
			4.2 WFP will continue to coordinate efforts in the four HGSF districts of Phalombe, Mangochi, Chikwawa and Nsanje so that HGSF farmers also benefit from the resilience interventions which focus on asset	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (CO Resilience unit)	February 2025

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(June 2025)			creation and enhanced food systems.		
			4.3 WFP will continue to use fuel efficient rocket stoves in HGSF and will continue piloting the use of biogas in HGSF.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (CO Resilience unit)	February 2025
Priority: High Recommendation 5: Integrate community-driven alternate learning approaches with support from partners such as UNICEF (for out-of-school children, especially girls) within HGSF. (March 2025)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi, UNICEF]	Not Agreed (Not the mandate of WFP, but WFP has shared the report with UNICEF and Ministry of Education)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub Recommendation 5.1: WFP should conduct awareness campaigns in collaboration with community leaders, emphasising the benefits of alternative learning programmes and encouraging the enrolment of out-of-school children. (March 2025)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi, UNICEF]	Not Agreed (Not the mandate of WFP, but WFP has shared the report with UNICEF and Ministry of Education)	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Sub Recommendation 5.2: WFP should organise training sessions for parents to familiarise them with the alternative learning approaches (March 2025)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi, UNICEF]	Not Agreed (Not the mandate of WFP, but WFP has shared the report with UNICEF and Ministry of Education)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority: High Recommendation 6: WFP should strengthen the capacities of Ministry of Education representatives (at the national level) in operationalising and coordinating activities under the HGSE. (March 2025)	WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi]	Agreed	6.1 As per joint workplan with the Ministry of Education, WFP will conduct training of trainers on SMP management.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (Malawi Ministry of Education)	June 2025 (This will be conducted together with Ministry of Education, and according to their workplans, the trainings will be conducted in June)
			6.2 WFP will cascade the training of district level government counterparts on HGSE implementation.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (Malawi Ministry of Education)	July 2025 (This action will be dependent on Action 6.1 which will only be implemented in June 2025)

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			6.3 WFP is in the process of recruiting a National Officer to be based at the Ministry of Education to support the Ministry in operationalising and coordinating activities under the HGSF programme.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit (Malawi Ministry of Education)	January 2025
			6.4 WFP will continue to link the Ministry of Education to the WFP Centre of Excellence to support the operationalization and coordination of activities under the HGSF programme.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit	January 2025
			6.5 WFP will continue to support the Secretary for Education and the Deputy Director for School Health and Nutrition to support their capacity in operationalizing and coordinating activities under the HGSF programme.	WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit	January 2025

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<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 7: TSOLATA HGFS should strengthen its existing linkages with formal financial institutions to design different financing instruments/mechanisms and engagement models to meet the working capital requirements of smallholder farmers (SHFs)/FOs. Addressing delayed payments from schools is crucial to alleviating cash flow issues and ensuring farmers can meet their basic needs and manage agricultural inputs effectively. (March 2025)</p>	<p>WFP CO [Ministry of Education, Government of Malawi] Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<p>Partially Agreed (The delays experienced are independent of the financing mechanism)</p>	<p>7.1 WFP Malawi CO to commence the sending of funds before the beginning of school term. This will provide adequate time for the district to action and send funds to the schools and allow feeding to start at the beginning of each school term.</p>	<p>WFP Country Office / School Feeding Unit</p>	<p>January 2025</p>