

Evaluation title	Impact Evaluation of the School Meal Programme in Jordan	
Evaluation category and type	Impact Evaluation	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) – overall rating	Satisfactory: 83%	
This evaluation examines the impacts of a school feeding programme in Jordan and an intervention offering employment to women in community-based kitchens using a rigorous Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) design. Regarding the school feeding component, the evaluation does not assess the impacts per se, but rather compares two types of school feeding to each other (a centrally procured fortified bar and a locally prepared meal). For the community-based kitchens, women were offered an employment contract on a randomized basis, which also provides a control group for the intervention. In total, there are 331 Healthy Meals schools and 142 comparison schools, i.e. date bar schools. In addition, there are 243 women receiving a job offer (for the new community-based kitchens) and 356 applicants who did not receive a job offer. The impact evaluation thus uses an experimental design and employs rigorous econometric analyses. The main disadvantage of the evaluation is that only short-term effects are estimated.		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Satisfactory
The executive summary is very well written and explains the subject of the evaluation and the evaluation design comprehensively. The main findings are effectively summarized. On the other hand, considerations for future programming are not fully reflected in the summary.		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Satisfactory
The main features of the country context and the evaluation subject are discussed. The locally prepared school meals model as an alternative to the date-bar model is adequately described, together with its incorporation in the randomized controlled trial. In addition, the kitchen worker evaluation component is also well explained and summarized in Figure 2. The section could have been strengthened by providing a more thorough description of Jordan’s overall country context and education system and by providing a more elaborate Theory of Change.		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE	Rating	Satisfactory
The scope and purpose of the evaluation are explained, and a mapping of potential users and stakeholders is provided. A major aim of the evaluation is to test the benefits of providing an alternative school feeding approach, which consists of more diverse and healthier meals, as compared to the status quo provision. The report should have added a more explicit description of the objectives (i.e., accountability and or learning).		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
The evaluation is based on a randomized controlled trial design with two layers, combining the school feeding activities with an employment component for women in community-based kitchens. Thereby, one can estimate the impact of school feeding on the children, while simultaneously estimating the impact on women’s employment to learn about labour market opportunities for women. In addition, the evaluation includes a choice experiment in the worker endline survey to assess the most important characteristic in job offers for women. The design is adequately developed and executed, and a pre-analysis plan had been developed and published. The evaluation, however, only estimates short-term effects and a follow-up data collection at a later stage would have been useful to see how impacts develop over time. In addition, statistical power calculations are missing and would have been useful.		
CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Satisfactory
The results of the econometric analysis are discussed in detail and the estimated impacts are illustrated with their confidence intervals to indicate the statistical uncertainty. They are presented as control-group-mean and adjusted treatment effect. It would have been useful for a non-statistical audience if the meaning and interpretation of the graphs had been explained more thoroughly.		
CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS/LESSONS	Rating	Satisfactory

The conclusions comprehensively summarize the main findings by primary and secondary evaluation questions. Overall, they flow logically from the findings of the econometric analysis, and the section is very well crafted. On a few occasions, though, the magnitude of the estimated effects is not given explicitly here, and the reader therefore must refer to the findings section.

CRITERION 7: CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING
Rating
Satisfactory

The considerations for future programming include useful recommendations for future impact evaluations, such as improving data monitoring and considering longer evaluation windows to permit estimating long-term effects. This section, however, is somewhat disconnected from the Conclusions and Findings. It would have been useful to maintain a similar organizing structure that enabled the reader to more easily identify the logical flow.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY
Rating
Highly Satisfactory

Overall, the report is very well written and accessible to a lay audience. Technical details on the econometric methodology or survey/data collection tools are given in annexes. All main estimation results are presented in graphical form, which makes the report accessible to non-statisticians.

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
Meets requirements: 9 points

The report meets the requirements and attains all possible points⁹. The project is particularly geared towards women economic empowerment, and the evaluation design incorporates GEWE considerations throughout. In addition, one of the intervention arms particularly focuses on employment opportunities for women. Gender-responsive methods and tools are used and the discussion of findings and conclusions reflect a gender analysis.