

# Evaluation of WFP Support to Social Protection (2019-2025)

## Summary Terms of Reference

Strategic evaluations contribute to institutional accountability and learning by focusing on systemic and thematic issues of corporate relevance as defined in strategic documents, policies, and directives.

### Subject of the evaluation

In 2021 WFP adopted a Strategy for Support to Social Protection which sets out the following vision:

*By 2030 people will have substantially increased access to national social protection systems that safeguard and foster their ability to meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs, and to manage the risks and shocks they face.*

To achieve this vision, WFP pursues four areas of work:

i) contributing to strengthening the national social protection system architecture; ii) supporting national social protection programmes; iii) improving the effectiveness of social protection in the shared space between humanitarian, development and peace actors; and iv) building social protection evidence and partnerships globally.

Ultimately, in the longer-term WFP intends to contribute to food availability, access, utilization, and stability for people with diverse and often intersecting vulnerabilities and inequalities.

### Objective and users of the evaluation

The objective of the evaluation is to take stock of and analyse the experience accumulated so far to help strengthening WFP's approach to social protection in the delivering of the new strategic plan and in the light of the evolving global aid and partnership landscape.

Key intended users of the evaluation include WFP's Executive Board, WFP managers, national governments, and a range of partner organizations including other UN agencies funds and programmes, private sector entities, and international finance institutions.

### Evaluation scope and questions

The evaluation will assess the outcomes of WFP interventions and analyze the reasons that explain progress. Particularly, it will focus on WFP contributions to: a) conducive policy environments for social protection; b) strengthened social protection systems architecture and national institutional capacities to design and

implement social protection programmes; c) adequacy, coverage, comprehensiveness and efficiency of WFP supported social protection programmes, as well as other qualitative aspects such as protection of and accountability to affected populations; d) where relevant and feasible, enhanced food security and nutrition and greater resilience to shocks among targeted population.

Covering from 2019 to 2025, the evaluation will be global in nature and will include a purposive sample of country cases to analyse WFP's contributions to social protection through different modes of support and in different contexts, as well as covering WFP's policy engagement at regional and global levels

The evaluation will address the following key questions:

#### QUESTION 1: How relevant and in which ways, is WFP engagement in social protection?

- 1.1. To what extent is WFP support to national social protection systems and programmes relevant to food and nutrition security goals and to the wider framework of the Agenda 2030?
- 1.2. To what extent is the Social Protection Strategy aligned with current international thinking and priorities on SP?
- 1.3. To what extent has WFP's SP engagement aligned to national priorities and goals on SP?

#### QUESTION 2: To what extent and how is WFP engagement in social protection effective?

- 1.1. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to more conducive policy environments for social protection at national, regional and global level?
- 1.2. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to increased allocation of domestic resources for implementing national social protection programme?
- 1.3. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to strengthening national social protection systems' architecture?
- 1.4. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to national institutional capacities to design and deliver specific social protection programmes and, when applicable, to coordinate them in the framework of national social protection system?
- 1.5. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to the coverage, comprehensiveness, adequacy and efficiency of national social protection programmes in stable contexts and in responding to emergencies?

- 1.6. To what extent and how are WFP-supported programmes contributing to enhanced food security and nutrition and to greater resilience to shocks among targeted population?

### **QUESTION 3: How internally and externally coherent are WFP interventions in social protection?**

- 1.1. Is WFP social protection strategy encouraging and supporting an integrated approach to social protection programming?
- 1.2. Is WFP institutional architecture conducive to implement integrated programming and to operational synergies across different type of intervention related to social protection?
- 1.3. Is WFP approach to partnership with IFI, private sector, national and local governments and other actors as relevant, contributing to synergies and complementarities?
- 1.4. What are WFP comparative advantages for supporting social protection and how has the organization leveraged them when engaging with national and international partners?

### **QUESTION 4: How sustainable and in which way are the results achieved with WFP support?**

- 1.1. How well has WFP supported handover/transition, where relevant?
- 1.2. To what extent and how has WFP contributed to the development of long-term social protection systems as part of its humanitarian programming

### **QUESTION 5: What are other critical factors internal to WFP and context related that may explain progress?**

#### **Methodology and ethical considerations**

The evaluation will adopt a theory based, mixed methods approach to systematically address the evaluation questions and sub-questions in a way that meets the dual purpose of accountability and learning. In doing so, it should demonstrate attention to impartiality and reduction of bias.

The evaluation team will have to ensure the quality of data (validity, consistency, and accuracy) throughout the data collection/analysis and reporting phases.

The methodology should be sensitive in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), equity, disability and inclusion, indicating how data collection methods will ensure the inclusion of women and marginalized groups.

OEV will ensure that the methodology is compliant with UNEG guiding ethical principles for evaluation (Integrity, Accountability, Respect, Beneficence).<sup>1</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting

privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results do no harm to participants or their communities.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

**EVALUATION TEAM:** The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with proven capacity to conduct complex global evaluations and solid understanding of the subject matter.

**OEV EVALUATION MANAGEMENT:** Sergio Lenci, Senior Evaluation Officer at WFP Office of Evaluation will manage this evaluation with the support of Lia Carboni in a Research Analyst capacity. They will be the main interlocutors between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and adherence with OEV quality standards for process and content. Second level quality assurance will be provided by the Deputy Director of Evaluation, Julia Betts.

An **INTERNAL REFERENCE GROUP** of a cross-section of relevant WFP stakeholders at different levels will be consulted throughout the process to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

The **DIRECTOR OF EVALUATION**, Anne-Claire Luzot, will approve the final versions of all evaluation products.

#### **Communication**

The emphasis on learning will require ongoing communication with stakeholders throughout the evaluation. Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase.

A stakeholder workshop will be held to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote understanding and ownership of the findings and preliminary recommendations.

A summary evaluation report (SER) will be presented to the Executive Board and findings will be actively disseminated. The final evaluation report will be publicly available WFP's website.

#### **Timing and key milestones**

**Inception phase:** June – July 2025

**Data collection:** August – November 2025

**Reporting:** December 2025 – February 2026

**Stakeholder workshop:** January 2026

**Executive Board presentation:** June 2026

<sup>1</sup> Beneficence means striving to do good for people and planet while minimizing harms arising from evaluation as an intervention.