

# Decentralized evaluation of WFP's Support for Smallholder Farmers and Sustainable Food Systems in Nigeria, 2023-2025



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## Summary terms of reference

August 2025

The decentralized evaluation of WFP's Support for Smallholder Farmers and Sustainable Food Systems will assess WFP's interventions in Nigeria aimed at enhancing the productivity of smallholder farmers and strengthening their role in transforming local food systems, as outlined in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). This evaluation is commissioned by the WFP Nigeria Country Office and will cover the period from March 2023 to December 2025.

### Subject and focus of the evaluation

This thematic evaluation will examine WFP Nigeria's support to smallholder farmers under strategic outcome 3 (SO3) of the 2023–2027 Country Strategic Plan (CSP). It will focus on Activities 4 and 5, implemented across Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Kano, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara. Since 2023, WFP has implemented a series of integrated activities aimed at enhancing the resilience, productivity and income-earning capacity of smallholder farmers by improving agricultural production, post-harvest loss management and farming as a profitable venture. These include:

- **Activity 4:** Provision of an integrated package of nutrition-sensitive and climate-adaptive livelihoods support to vulnerable households, with a special focus on nutritionally at-risk groups (children under two, pregnant and nursing women, adolescent girls, and people living with HIV), to promote improved dietary diversity.
- **Activity 5:** Delivery of gender-transformative, climate-smart, and youth-inclusive support for food production, post-harvest handling, quality management and market access for smallholder farmers.

Through these activities, WFP has supported smallholder farmers with the provision of training, improved seeds, asset creation and linkages to agricultural extension services. This evaluation will assess progress towards the CSP expected outcomes and cross-cutting results, including any unintended consequences, positive or negative.

The evaluation will adopt standard UNEG and OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, as well as sustainability, as applicable.

### Objectives and stakeholders of the evaluation

This evaluation serves the dual objectives of **accountability** and **learning** and has been commissioned for the following reasons: 1) to **assess** and report on the performance and results of Nigeria's CSP 2023-2027 SO3 (from March 2023 until the end of data collection), including their sustainability; 2) to **guide** the design and formulation of the next CSP; 3) to **identify** learning on the relevance and effectiveness of the implementation strategy, plans and partnerships, of livelihood interventions for smallholder farmers.

The evaluation will potentially serve as an **advocacy tool** for raising awareness of donors and partners around WFP's contributions towards around WFP's contribution towards resilience building and strengthening market systems.

The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a range of WFP's internal and external stakeholders, such as the Government of Nigeria, affected populations, donors, other UN Agencies and cooperating partners.

### Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following key questions:

**QUESTION 1: To what extent is the intervention relevant to the needs of the target population and the local context?**

The evaluation will examine the degree to which WFP's assistance addresses the needs of the most vulnerable populations, especially smallholder farmers, food-insecure households, women, youth, and other marginalized groups. The sub-questions will provide a comprehensive picture of how relevant and responsive WFP's interventions are to the complex, evolving needs of its target beneficiaries within the Nigerian context.

## **QUESTION 2: How effective is WFP support in responding to the needs of its target beneficiaries?**

This question and sub-questions will provide insights into how well WFP's livelihood and smallholder support activities are functioning on the ground, what gaps exist, and what lessons can be drawn to improve future delivery.

**QUESTION 3: To what extent did the intervention achieve an optimal use of resources?** The evaluation will explore how efficiently WFP has utilized its resources in implementing livelihood and smallholder support interventions.

**QUESTION 4: To what extent is WFP's work coherent and aligned with government, WFP, and other partner priorities, policies, strategies, and programmes?** The evaluation will assess how well WFP's support aligns with national policies, WFP's strategies, and the priorities of other development partners. It will also review the extent of coordination within the UN system to ensure a unified and effective response.

**QUESTION 5: How likely did or will the interventions generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended effects?** The evaluation will assess their contribution to sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion, and nutrition, while also identifying any unintended effects and progress in empowering women and youth.

## **Methodology and ethical considerations**

The evaluation will adopt a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative, qualitative, and participatory techniques to triangulate findings. To maintain impartiality and minimize bias, it will draw on diverse sources. Primary data will be collected through structured and semi-structured interviews with WFP staff, government counterparts, UN agencies, donors, and cooperating partners, as well as focus group discussions with community members. A variety of secondary data will also be used. The evaluation methodology, approach and data collection tools will be developed by the evaluation team, in consultation with the EM, during the inception phase.

The evaluation conforms to the WFP and 2020 UNEG ethical guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting the 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 in no harm to participants or their communities.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

**EVALUATION TEAM:** The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with a mix of relevant technical expertise, knowledge and understanding of the Nigerian context, and soft skills.

**EVALUATION CHAIR:** The evaluation will be chaired by the Deputy Country Director, **Guy Adoua**, who nominates the evaluation manager, approves all evaluation deliverables, ensures the independence and impartiality of the evaluation at all stages, participates in discussions with the evaluation team, oversees the dissemination and follow-up process, including the management response.

**EVALUATION MANAGER:** The evaluation will be managed by **Adeyinka Timothy**, M&E Officer. He will be the main interlocutor between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and compliance with quality standards for process and content. Support will be provided by the Regional Evaluation Unit throughout the evaluation process.

**EVALUATION REFERENCE GROUP:** An advisory group composed of a cross-section of WFP and external stakeholders from relevant business areas. It provides advice and feedback at key moments of the evaluation process. It is guided by the principles of transparency, ownership, use, and accuracy. It is composed of WFP Nigeria members, WFP WACARO, and UN agencies, NGOs & partners.

**STAKEHOLDERS:** WFP key stakeholders are expected to engage throughout the evaluation process to ensure a high degree of utility and transparency. External stakeholders, such as beneficiaries, government, donors, implementing partners, and other UN agencies, will be consulted

## **Timing and key milestones**

**Inception:** September - November 2025. Includes: desk review, inception meetings and inception report. The Inception report will outline how the team plans to conduct the work, with an emphasis on methodological and planning aspects.

**Data collection:** November - December 2025. The fieldwork will span over three weeks and will include visits to project sites and primary and secondary data collection. A debriefing presentation of preliminary findings will be conducted.

**Reporting & Analysis:** December 2025 - March 2026. The evaluation report will present the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Detailed debriefing material and support to WFP in conducting interactive sessions to inform beneficiaries and partners on relevant evaluation findings.

**Dissemination:** Findings will be actively disseminated, and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on the WFP's website. A mini documentary (3 minutes) should be produced by the firm summarizing the evaluation findings and results, in consultation with the WFP Nigeria team. Full Terms of Reference are available at [wfp.org](http://wfp.org)