

# Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of the World Food Programme - 2026

## Summary Terms of Reference



In March 2022, the WFP Executive Board approved the *WFP Evaluation Policy 2022*, thereby reaffirming the organization's commitment to benefiting from evaluation in its performance management, accountability, and learning systems, and to complying with UN evaluation principles, norms, and standards. After four years of implementation of the policy, the WFP Office of Evaluation is conducting a UNEG/OECD-DAC Peer Review, the recognized mechanism within the UN system for assessing the performance of an organisation's evaluation function against established standards and principles. This document provides a brief summary of the terms of reference for the exercise.

### Introduction

The vision for the [WFP Evaluation Policy 2022](#) is that by 2030 the WFP contribution to achieving zero hunger will be strengthened by a culture of accountability and learning supported by evaluative thinking, behaviour and systems.

Contributing to this vision, the goals are to ensure that evaluation evidence consistently and comprehensively informs decisions on WFP policies, strategies, plans and programmes and that the WFP evaluation function contributes to global knowledge and supports decision making and SDG achievement at the global, regional and national levels.

### Peer Review Objective and Rationale

To ensure that the evaluation function remains fit for purpose, the policy mandated an independent peer review of the function with a view to informing any revision to the policy deemed necessary. The review is expected to follow the standard approach outlined in the [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\) Guidelines for Professional Peer Reviews](#) ultimately seeks to answers the question, *"Are the WFP's evaluation function and products independent, credible, and useful for learning and accountability purposes?"*

The primary audiences for the peer review are the WFP Executive Board (EB), Leadership Team, Senior Management Team, Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC), Evaluation Function Steering Group (EFSG), as well as staff of the Office of Evaluation (OEV) and other relevant functions.

### Peer Review Scope

The peer review will focus on all elements of the evaluation function as defined within the policy, which notably extends beyond OEV to include evaluation integration and implementation across the organization. The review will cover WFP centralized, decentralized and impact evaluations as well as evaluation synthesis. It will also assess WFP's engagement in joint evaluations.

The review will cover the period from March 2022 when the policy was approved through September 2026. It will consider the ongoing changes in the global funding landscape, as well as global UN initiatives including UN80 and the Humanitarian Reset and their implications for evaluation.

### Peer Review Criteria and Questions

In line with the UNEG Guidelines for Professional Peer Reviews, the evaluation function will be assessed against the core criteria of independence, credibility, and utility. Impartiality and transparency will also be considered. The review will seek to answer the four questions below; those will be adjusted as appropriate by the Panel.

#### Question 1. Relevance - To what extent are the evaluation framework and governance mechanisms fit for purpose?

Clarity and coherence of Policy's vision, grounded in a sound theory of change, and effectively supported by the corporate evaluation strategy and related strategies.

Policy's alignment with UNEG Norms and Standards

Policy's coherence with WFP corporate policies and plans

Effectiveness of governance arrangements in safeguarding independence while supporting corporate decision-making

#### Question 2. Effectiveness - What results have the evaluation function achieved against the five outcomes defined in the evaluation policy?

Independence, credibility, and utility of WFP's evaluations

Relevance of evaluation coverage effectively serving accountability and learning

Accessibility and timeliness of evaluation evidence for decision-making

WFP's capacity to commission, manage, and use evaluations

Contribution of WFP's partnerships in strengthening the evaluation environment and UN system coherence at global, regional and national levels

#### Question 3. Resourcing - To what extent does WFP invest adequate resources to support its evaluation function?

Adequacy of evaluation function's skillset, capacities, and staff profiles

Suitability of WFP financing mechanisms for the evaluation function

Adequacy of WFP financial resources for centralized, decentralized, and impact evaluations

**Question 4. Looking Forward** - Is the evaluation function appropriately equipped for the future considering the global and WFP reality?

Positioning and structure of the evaluation function and agility to adapt to future change

Engagement of the evaluation functions with other parts of WFP to deliver on its mandate

Evaluation function's ability to maximize value for money

Leveraging of partnerships under the humanitarian reset and UN80

- **Dr. Lena Johansson de Chateau:** Head of Evaluation at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

The review panel will be supported by **Alan Fox**, Independent Consultant

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**Full terms of reference are available at:**

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/peer-review-evaluation-function-world-food-programme-2026>

**For more information please contact:**

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## Peer Review Approach & Timeline

The approach to the review will include the following phases:

- **Dec 2025 - Feb 2026: Self-Assessment:** The WFP Office of Evaluation will conduct a self-assessment following the [UNEG Self-Assessment Maturity Matrix for UN Evaluation Functions](#).
- **Mar 2026 - Aug 2026: Initial Written Assessment:** The consultant will conduct an extensive document review, undertake a mission to WFP HQ to conduct interviews with staff, and assess the quality of a sample of evaluations. This will inform the development of an initial written assessment.
- **Sept 2026: Panel Mission:** Equipped with the initial written assessment, the panel will conduct a mission to WFP HQ. They will additionally interview staff at all levels of the organization, as well as key external stakeholders.
- **Sep 2026 - Nov 2026: Preliminary Reporting and Consultations:** A preliminary draft report will be developed for consultations with the EB, Senior Management, IOAC and EFSG.
- **Dec 2026 - Jun 2027: Final Reporting and Consultations:** A final draft report will be developed for consultation and presentation with the EB, Senior Management, IOAC, and EFSG.

## Peer Review Panel Composition

The review panel will include the following members:

- **Isabelle Mercier:** Director of Independent Evaluation Office at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Chair of UNEG
- **Dr. Candice Morkel:** Head of Program at the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)
- **Dr. Professor Robert Darko Osei:** Professor of Development Economics at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana, Legon
- **Juliet Parker:** Director of Action Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)