

Evaluation of Algeria WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Summary Terms of Reference



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Country Strategic Plan Evaluations (CSPEs) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to provide evaluation evidence and learning on WFP's performance for country-level strategic decisions, specifically for developing the next Country Strategic Plan and 2) to provide accountability for results to WFP stakeholders

Subject and Focus of the Evaluation

WFP has provided live saving assistance to Sahrawi refugees based in five camps, close to the city of Tindouf in the south-western corner of Algeria since 1986. Under the current Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Algeria (2019–2022) this assistance is provided through two strategic outcomes and four activities focussing on crisis-response that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Strategic outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year. Activities include provision of general food assistance, nutrition-sensitive school feeding and complementary livelihood activities in the camps.

Strategic outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022. Activities include prevention and treatment of malnutrition in vulnerable camp residents such as pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6-59 months.

Over 90 percent of resources were budgeted and received under Strategic Outcome 1.

The evaluation will assess WFP contributions to ICSP strategic outcomes, establishing plausible causal relations between the outputs of WFP activities, the implementation process, the operational environment and changes observed at the outcome level, including any unintended consequences.

It will also focus on adherence to humanitarian principles, gender equality, protection and accountability to affected populations.

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

Objectives and Stakeholders of the Evaluation

WFP evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning.

The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a range of WFP's internal and external stakeholders and presents an opportunity for national, regional and corporate learning. The primary users of the evaluation findings and recommendations will be the WFP Country Office and its stakeholders to inform the design of the new Country Strategic Plan.

The evaluation report will be presented at the Executive Board session in June 2022.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following four key questions:

QUESTION 1: To what extent is WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on refugee's needs as well as WFP's strengths?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the ICSP addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people in the camps to ensure that no one is left behind; whether WFP's strategic positioning has remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, capacities and needs; and to what extent the ICSP is coherent and aligned with the wider UN and includes appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP in the refugee context.

QUESTION 2: What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes in the refugee camps?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP delivered the expected outputs and contributed to the expected strategic outcomes of the ICSP, including the achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected populations, gender equality and other equity considerations). It will also assess the extent to which the achievements of the ICSP are likely to be sustainable; and whether the ICSP facilitated more strategic linkages between humanitarian, development and, where appropriate, peace work.

QUESTION 3: To what extent has WFP's used its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?

The evaluation will assess whether outputs were delivered within the intended timeframe; the appropriateness of coverage and targeting of interventions; cost-efficient delivery of assistance; and whether alternative, more cost-effective measures were considered.

QUESTION 4: What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP analyzed and used existing evidence on hunger challenges, food security and nutrition issues to develop the ICSP. It will also assess the extent to which the ICSP led to: the mobilization of adequate, predictable and flexible resources; the development of appropriate partnerships and collaboration with other actors; greater flexibility in dynamic operational contexts; and how these factors affect results. Finally, the evaluation will seek to identify any other organizational and contextual factors influencing WFP performance and the strategic shift expected by the ICSP.

Scope, methodology and ethical Considerations

The unit of analysis is the Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan, approved by the WFP Executive Board June 2019, as well as any subsequent approved budget revisions.

The evaluation covers all WFP activities (including cross-cutting results) from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. The evaluation will also cover the Transitional ICSP (T-ICSP) from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019 to allow for analysis over a longer time horizon and to better assess the extent to which the strategic shifts envisaged with the introduction of the ICSP have taken place.

The evaluation will adopt a mixed methods approach calling upon a variety of primary and secondary sources, including desk review, key informant interviews, surveys, and focus groups discussions. Systematic triangulation across different sources and methods will be carried out to validate findings and avoid bias in the evaluative judgement.

In light of recent developments related to the COVID19 pandemic, some phases of the evaluation will be conducted remotely.

The evaluation conforms to WFP and 2020 UNEG ethical guidelines. 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 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 expertise related to the Algeria ICSP (i.e. political, social, economic and gender dynamics surrounding protracted refugee situations, humanitarian principles and protection, gender, food assistance and nutrition).

OEV EVALUATION MANAGEMENT: The evaluation will be managed by Vivien Knips, Evaluation Officer in the WFP Office of Evaluation. She 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 OEV quality standards for process and content. Second level quality assurance will be provided by Michael Carbon, Senior Evaluation Officer. The Deputy Director of Evaluation, Anne-Claire Luzot, will approve the final versions of all evaluation products.

INTERNAL REFERENCE GROUP: A cross-section of WFP staff from relevant business areas at country, regional and HQ level will be consulted throughout the evaluation process to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

STAKEHOLDERS: WFP 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 during the evaluation process.

Communication

Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in the Country Office, Regional Bureau and Headquarters during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase. A country learning workshop will be held in June 2021 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings, preliminary recommendations by country stakeholders and to inform the new CSP design process.

Evaluation findings will be actively disseminated and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP's website.

Timing and Key Milestones

Inception Phase: January 2021

Remote Data collection: March-April 2021

Remote Debriefing: April 2021

Reports: April-June 2021

Learning Workshop: June 2021

Executive Board: June 2022