

Evaluation of the WFP Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Centralized Evaluation Report - Volume I

OEV/2020/062
Office of Evaluation

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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

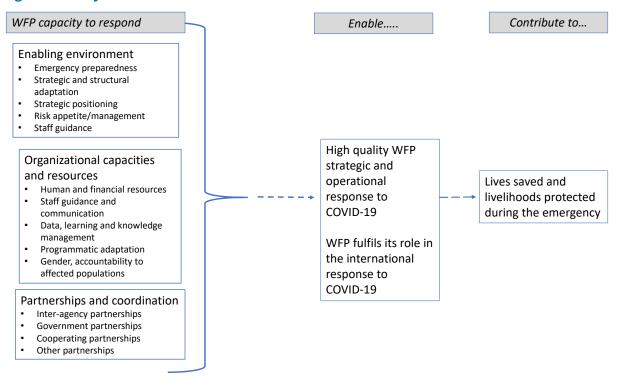
- 1. The WFP Office of Evaluation commissioned an independent evaluation of the WFP response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic to meet organizational learning and accountability needs. The evaluation covered the period from February 2020 to June 2021. It followed a previous (2020) evaluation of WFP's capacity to respond to emergencies covering the period from 2011 to 2018.¹
- 2. The evaluation asked three questions, which all aimed to explore the adaptive capacity of WFP under pandemic conditions:
 - i) How well did the enabling environment and organizational assets of WFP adapt to respond to the demands of the COVID-19 crisis?
 - ii) How well did WFP fulfil its role as a partner in the collective humanitarian response?
 - iii) What was achieved, and what was learned?
- 3. The evaluation was conducted under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, including WFP in emergency mode; travel and movement restrictions; and the need to avoid unduly burdening country offices. Accordingly, it adopted a "retrospective developmental" design, which focuses on providing evidence to support adaptation in dynamic environments. This involved the application of three principles:
 - i) prioritizing organizational learning needs;
 - ii) ensuring consultation and evidence sharing with stakeholders throughout; and
 - iii) integrating with the surrounding evidence building environment.
- 4. The evaluation applied an analytical framework that organized the WFP response around three areas: the enabling environment (the systems and structures put in place to enable the response); WFP assets and capacity to deliver the response; and partnerships. The framework also integrated the results of the response.

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¹ "Summary report on the strategic evaluation of WFP's capacity to respond to emergencies (2011–2018)" (WFP/EB.1/2020/5-A).

Figure 1: Analytical framework



Source: Evaluation team, August 2020.

5. The evaluation produced ten thematic evidence summaries on various aspects of the response (and all aspects of WFP systems and capacities) (table 1). Consultations on the evidence summaries were held from March to July 2021.

TABLE 1: EVIDENCE SUMMARIES			
1. Workforce management	6. Programme adaptation		
2. Strategic adaptation and management	7. Cross-cutting issues		
3. Evidence, data and knowledge management	8. Oversight and risk management systems		
4. Financing	9. Emergency preparedness		
5. Guidance and communication	10. Partnerships		

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