



WFP EVALUATION



**World Food
Programme**

**SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES**

Evaluation of China WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Centralized Evaluation Report – Volume I

OEV/2020/002
Office of Evaluation

October 2021

Acknowledgements

The evaluation team wishes to express appreciation to the Government of China representatives and other stakeholders who actively contributed their knowledge and experience during the conduct of this evaluation, WFP head office staff who assisted in providing strategic information and other WFP country office staff who participated in a survey. In particular, thanks are due to the WFP China country office management and staff for their support to the evaluation activities, particularly given the challenges of conducting the evaluation during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we thank the people met during the field visits. The oversight and guidance of the WFP Office of Evaluation was instrumental in the design of the evaluation and oversight of quality.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed are those of the evaluation team and do not necessarily reflect those of the World Food Programme. Responsibility for the opinions expressed in this report rests solely with the authors. Publication of this document does not imply endorsement by WFP of the opinions expressed.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Photo credit

Cover photo: courtesy of IFENG.com

Key personnel for the evaluation

OFFICE OF EVALUATION

Andrea Cook	Director of Evaluation
Michael Carbon	Senior Evaluation Officer
Dawit Habtemariam	Evaluation Manager
Aboh Anyangwe	Research Analyst

EXTERNAL EVALUATION TEAM (KONTERRA)

Dorothy Lucks	Team Leader
Claude Saint-Pierre	Senior International Evaluator
Zhigang Chen	National Senior Evaluator
Xinjie Shi	National Senior Researcher
Yue Zhan	National Research Assistant

Contents

Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Evaluation Features.....	1
1.2 Country Context	2
1.3 WFP Country Strategic Plan in China	8
1.4 Evaluation Methodology, Limitations and Ethical Considerations	14
2. Evaluation Findings	16
2.1 EQ1: To what extent is the WFP strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and appropriately aligned to people’s needs as well as WFP strengths?.....	16
2.2 EQ2: What is the extent and quality of the WFP specific contribution to country strategic plan strategic outcomes?	23
2.3 EQ3: To what extent has WFP used its resources efficiently in contributing to country strategic plan outputs and strategic outcomes?	40
2.4 EQ4: What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the country strategic plan?	43
3. Conclusions and Recommendations	48
3.1. Overall Assessment	48
EQ1 – To what extent is the WFP strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and appropriately aligned to people’s needs as well as WFP strengths?.....	48
EQ2 – What is the extent and quality of the specific contribution of WFP to country strategic plan strategic outcomes in China?	49
EQ3: To what extent has WFP used its resources efficiently in contributing to country strategic plan outputs and strategic outcomes?	49
EQ4 – What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the country strategic plan?	50
3.2. Recommendations.....	52
List of Acronyms	56

List of Tables

Table 1: Country strategic plan strategic planned outcomes and key activities	10
Table 2: China Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) resourcing as of March 2021	13
Table 3: Donations from China to WFP by beneficiary country 1-1-2017 to 31-12-2020	13
Table 4: Thematic coherence between country strategic plan activities under the three pillars	21
Table 5: SO1- Reported outcome achievements.....	24
Table 6: SO2 – Reported outcome achievements	25
Table 7: Progress on SO3.....	27
Table 8: SO4 – Status of SO4	29
Table 9: SO5 – Outcome achievements.....	32
Table 10: Number of WFP country offices having received a contribution through the China country strategic plan.....	35
Table 11: China country strategic plan budget cumulative financial overview (1-1-2017 to 1-12-2020).....	44

List of figures

Figure 1: Three pillars of support through the WFP China country strategic plan	9
Figure 2: China context and WFP activities	11
Figure 3: School feeding beneficiaries of the preschool nutrition project in Xiangxi, Hunan.	23
Figure 4: WFP country offices' perception of the relevance of the Centre of Excellence's thematic areas and country strategic plan objectives	30
Figure 5: Current thematic spread of events organized or co-organized by the China Centre of Excellence.	31
Figure 6: Private partnerships: activity sectors and current status	34
Figure 7. Public and private financial contributions through the China Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020) .	35

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

1. The evaluation of the WFP country strategic plan (CSP) for China covered the period from 2017 to 2020. It assessed WFP's strategic positioning and role in China, WFP's contributions to CSP strategic outcomes, efficiency and the factors that explain WFP's performance and the extent to which WFP made the strategic shift expected from the CSP. The evaluation served the dual objective of enhancing accountability and learning and informing strategic decision making for the development of the next CSP. Commissioned by WFP's independent Office of Evaluation, the evaluation was conducted by an external team from August to December 2020, with fieldwork conducted by national consultants in China between 9 November and 8 December 2020.

2. The evaluation used a mixed method, gender-sensitive approach, which included a desk review of secondary data; 103 key informant interviews with WFP staff in Rome and China, the Government of China, other national partners – including from the private sector – and international partners; and discussions and direct observations with farmer community members and in preschools. As a result of restrictions on international travel due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the international evaluation team could not travel to China and conducted interviews remotely; national consultants were allowed to travel in China. Many interviews were followed up by email communications that deepened and clarified the information collected. To assess the quality of support provided by WFP's China office through the WFP-China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation through South-South cooperation and the mobilization of funding from China, the evaluation conducted an online survey of a sample of 13 WFP country offices.

Context

3. China's population of 1.395 billion people¹ is the largest in the world and grew by 0.5 percent in 2018.² Over the last 20 years, China has experienced substantial progress in poverty reduction and social development. Its per capita gross domestic product for 2018 was estimated at USD 9,015.³ In 2017, as an upper-middle-income country, China's Human Development Index of 0.758 made it 85th out of 189 countries.⁴ Its achievement of the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportion of its people suffering from hunger accounted for two-thirds of the reduction in global hunger.

4. Challenges remain in reducing residual poverty and inequality and extending successful national programmes to marginalized communities. In 2018, there were still 30.5 million people in China living below the national poverty line.⁵ China's Gini index of 38.5 reflects high inequality in the distribution of social gains among wealth groups.⁶ Rural poverty and its consequences for food security and nutrition are largely concentrated in specific population groups in remote and mountainous areas. China currently faces a triple burden of malnutrition from undernourishment (or hunger), hidden hunger and obesity/overweight – which are disproportionately concentrated in poor rural regions and among vulnerable groups such as children, rural households headed by single women and elderly people.⁷

5. Through its 13th five-year plan for economic and social development (covering 2016–2020),⁸ the Government of China led a major national effort to eliminate absolute poverty and substantially reduce relative poverty by the end of 2020. The Government is committed to ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed through efforts to uncover prevailing social and economic drivers of gender inequality.⁹ China is becoming a major development partner and provider of support through South-South and triangular cooperation, drawing on its economic and development experience to help

¹ China Statistics Press. 2019. [China Statistical Yearbook 2019](#).

² World Bank. [Population growth \(annual percentage\) – China](#).

³ China Statistics Press. 2019. [China Statistical Yearbook 2019](#).

⁴ United Nations Development Programme. 2019. [Human Development Report 2019](#).

⁵ WFP. August 2018. [WFP China Country Brief](#).

⁶ World Bank data – most recent value for 2016. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=CN-XT>.

⁷ International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and WFP. February 2015. *China's food security and nutrition under rapid transformation: Enhanced partnership with WFP*. Draft.

⁸ Available at: <https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/node/2509>.

⁹ United Nations. 2020. [United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the People's Republic of China \(2021–2025\)](#).

developing countries tackle their challenges in food security, nutrition improvement and poverty reduction.¹⁰

WFP country strategic plan

6. WFP has been operating in China since 1979. In March 2016, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the WFP-China partnership to promote the achievement of zero hunger and rural development globally. The China CSP for 2017–2021 was designed as a strategic framework under the memorandum of understanding. Within this framework, the WFP China office supports efforts to ensure domestic food security and nutrition (referred to as the “domestic programme”) while also functioning as the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation through South–South Cooperation and as a WFP global office that raises funds and forges partnerships in support of work to achieve global food security and nutrition targets. The strategic outcomes of the CSP are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Strategic outcomes of the China country strategic plan (2017–2021)

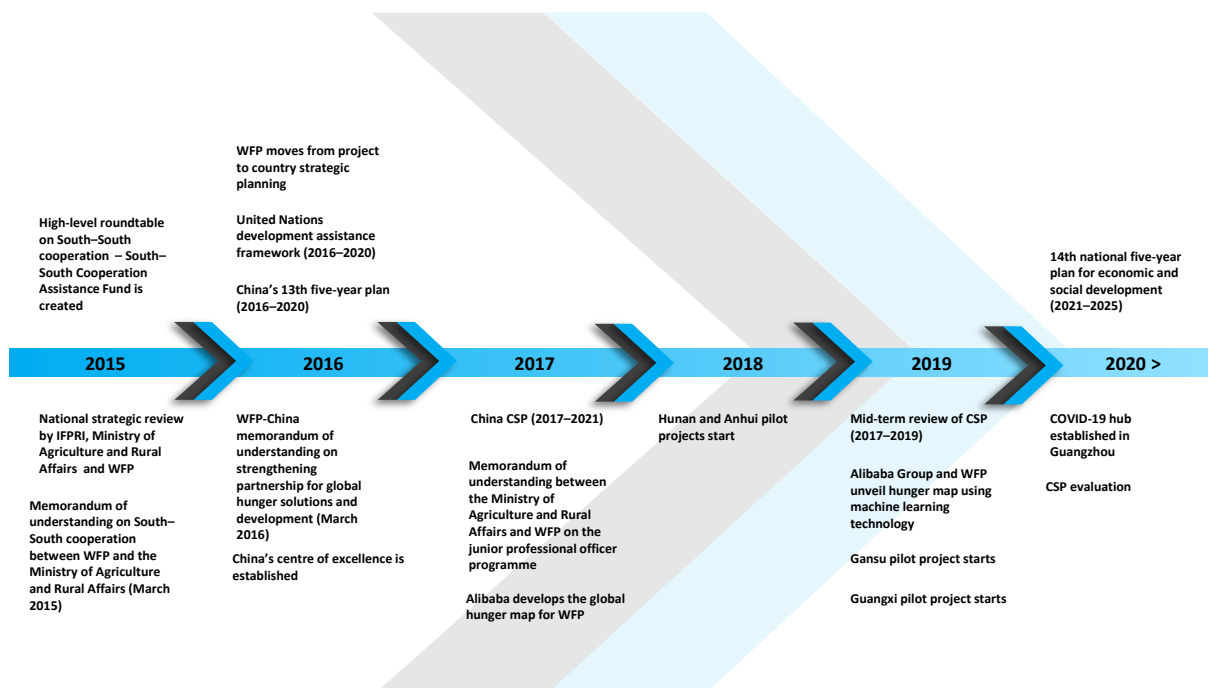
Strategic outcome 1: Malnutrition rates among children in targeted “poverty counties” reduced in line with national norms by 2020.
Strategic outcome 2: Year-round livelihoods among smallholder farmers in frequent need of food assistance in areas such as Anhui, Gansu, Guangxi, Hainan and Hunan provinces enhanced.
Strategic outcome 3: Populations regularly affected by natural disasters in Anhui, Gansu and Guangxi provinces and other poor disaster-prone areas better able to withstand and respond to shocks all year round.
Strategic outcome 4: Selected developing countries assisted in enhancing food security and nutrition in line with their prioritized targets under Sustainable Development Goal 2 by 2030.
Strategic outcome 5: Work to enhance food security and nutrition in targeted “poverty counties” and selected developing countries supported year-round by increased private-sector resources and public-private partnerships.

7. The CSP’s needs-based plan estimated needs at USD 31.25 million. Of the USD 16.97 million (54.31 percent) received by March 2021, 71.3 percent was provided by the Government of China and the rest by Chinese private sector entities, international corporations and the Chinese public. WFP has engaged in partnerships at the national and global levels with private Chinese companies such as the internet giants Alibaba and Tencent.

8. As of mid-2020, the domestic programme comprised four projects in two sectors: two preschool nutrition programmes in kindergartens and preschools in Hunan Province and Guangxi Autonomous Region; and two smallholder agriculture demonstration projects in Gansu and Anhui provinces. The CSP also includes the operation of a designated centre of excellence focusing on South–South cooperation under strategic outcome 4 and the wide range of partnership activities supported under strategic outcome 5. In addition, the WFP China office also assisted in the creation of a new global humanitarian hub in Guangzhou to support the global COVID-19 emergency response. During the preparation and implementation of the CSP, several major policy initiatives in China influenced the focus of CSP activities (see Figure 1).

¹⁰Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2019.[FAO + China: Partnering for sustainable food security](#).

Figure 1. China context and WFP activities



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team based on data provided in the terms of reference for the CSP evaluation.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

To what extent are the strategic position, role and specific contribution of WFP based on country priorities and appropriately aligned with people's needs and the strengths of WFP?

Relevance to national policies, strategies and goals, including national Sustainable Development Goals

9. Close collaboration on CSP design between the Government and WFP headquarters helped ensure alignment with China's overarching development strategy, the five-year plan for 2016–2020. Key areas of alignment include expansion of international cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation and poverty alleviation; acceleration of the development of agriculture-related e-commerce; promotion of Cloud applications in logistics; and improvement of the ways in which foreign aid is offered.¹¹ The CSP contributes to progress in the focus areas for national action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹² by targeting poverty alleviation and promoting sustainable agriculture and resilience initiatives. It is also strongly aligned with China's national poverty eradication campaign (which was due to end at the same time as the CSP), including through its focus on fundraising from the Chinese public.

10. The domestic programme is particularly well aligned with the Government's emphasis on reducing childhood stunting, as set out in the national nutrition plan for 2017–2030. That emphasis is evident in strategic outcome 1 of the CSP, which focuses on reducing stunting through the provision of nutritious

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_923



云报告
https://www.yunbaogao.cn

云报告
https://www.yunbaogao.cn

云报告
https://www.yunbaogao.cn