

The Contribution of Food Assistance to Durable Solutions in Protracted Refugee Situations: its impact and role in refugee camps in Rwanda (2007-2011): A Mixed Method Impact Evaluation

Subject and Focus of the Evaluation

Rwanda has received significant refugee inflows over the past 15 years, with some 53,000 refugees still in camps in 2010. The refugee camps in Rwanda are protracted with high dependency on external assistance and few opportunities for self-reliance. The current refugee population is mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). For the Congolese, the situation will only be resolved once stability returns to DRC and the possibility of repatriation exists.

Objectives and Users of the Evaluation

This evaluation serves accountability and learning purposes. The evaluation will:

- a) evaluate the outcomes and impact of food assistance interventions within the protracted refugee camps of Rwanda, and;
- b) identify changes needed to improve food assistance interventions such that they contribute to the attainment of self-reliance and or durable solutions for protracted refugee populations of Rwanda.

This is one of a series of four impact evaluations to be carried out during 2011 and 2012 in different countries with joint WFP-UNHCR operations.

Groups directly involved in implementing or benefiting from the operations are the main users of the evaluation and comprise:

- Refugees
- Local host communities
- National authorities responsible for refugee affairs and the representatives of local authorities
- Implementing partners (NGOs)
- Country staff of UNHCR & WFP

Indirect stakeholders include: the UN Country Team, key donor agencies and regional and headquarter offices of UNHCR and WFP.

Key Evaluation Questions

Question 1: What are the differential impacts of food assistance on the protracted refugee population in Rwanda?

Question 2: What are the impacts on food security and nutritional status?

Question 3: How does food assistance affect coping strategies, including adoption of new coping strategies?

Question 4: What are the impacts on protection and the protective environment?

Scope and Methodology

The evaluation will look into how the food is used in the refugee camps. All modalities of food assistance will be evaluated including GFD to refugee populations, in terms of quantity, quality and distribution frequencies and supplementary feeding.

The evaluation will cover the time period 2007-2011 (5 years) covering two WFP operations (PRROs 10531, 200030). It will cover refugees, mainly from DRC, located in the three camps of Gihembe, Kiziba, and Nyabiheke. The study will interview refugee women, girls, boys and men considering their social diversity and economic activities.

This impact evaluation takes a mixed methods approach. The four methods are: (1) desk review of existing literature and stakeholder interviews to establish and assess the institutional logic of the programme, implementation strategies and

allocations of resources; (2) review of literature and secondary data; (3) quantitative survey(s) among beneficiaries, as necessary to complement existing data; and (4) qualitative field-based methods among beneficiaries and all key stakeholders¹.

Roles and Responsibilities

Evaluation Team: The *team leader* for the evaluation requires strong technical skills in mixed method impact evaluation and leadership skills and technical expertise in one of the technical areas. The *evaluation team members* will bring together a complementary combination of technical expertise in the fields of a) refugees, conflict and migration, b) food security & livelihoods, c) nutrition, d) protection against violence and e) evaluation, including statistical analysis, sampling and qualitative methods. The team leader will be internationally recruited and must have experience with refugee issues, ideally within Rwanda. The remaining team members may be a mix of international and national expertise. The blend of technical areas across the team will depend on that of the team leader first. At least one team member should have relevant knowledge of WFP's and UNHCR's work with refugees.

Evaluation Manager: This evaluation is managed by Marian Read, Office of Evaluation in WFP jointly with Angela Li Rossi, Policy Development and Evaluation Service in UNHCR. WFP will lead management of the process, but all communications will be sent out jointly

Stakeholders: Briefings and de-briefings and a stakeholder workshop will include participants from country, regional and headquarters levels. Four debriefing sessions following the fieldwork are planned and one stakeholder workshop.

Communication

Briefings and de-briefings and a stakeholder workshop will include participants from country, regional and headquarters level.

Four debriefing sessions following the fieldwork are planned, and one possible stakeholder workshop later in the process as follows:
(a) Informal debriefing with Country Office senior management of UNHCR and WFP in Rwanda

(b) Debriefing of UNHCR and WFP Country Office staff in Rwanda (c) Debriefing of Rwanda-based humanitarian and development stakeholders, including Government, UN, NGO and refugee representatives (d) Debriefing of WFP and UNHCR headquarter-based stakeholders, with participation of Country Office management and optionally (e) National stakeholder workshop following completion of the report, or possibly, at the stage between draft and final evaluation report to permit discussion of the proposed recommendations.

Timing and Key Milestones

Dates:

Inception Phase: The evaluation inception phase involving all team members and evaluation managers will take place in 5-9 September 2011.

Fieldwork Dates: Field visits will take place during October and November 2011.

Briefings: A number of debriefing sessions are expected to be held in mid-November 2011.

Reports: The draft evaluation report available for comments will be available in January 2012.

The **Summary Evaluation Report** will be presented to WFP's Executive Board in June 2012.

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



Reference:

Full and summary reports of the Evaluation and the Management Response are available when complete at <http://www.wfp.org/evaluation>

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¹ Qualitative methods will include semi-structured interviews, focus group discussion, observation and other participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) methods as appropriate.