

# Evaluation Terms of Reference



## SUMMARY TERMS OF REFERENCE

### THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA: EVALUATION OF WFP'S PORTFOLIO OF ACTIVITIES (2011–2015)

*Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. They evaluate the performance and results of the portfolio as a whole and provide evaluative insights to make evidence-based decisions about positioning WFP in a country and about strategic partnerships, programme design, and implementation. Country Portfolio Evaluations help Country Offices in the preparation of Country Strategies and provide lessons that can be used in the design of new operations.*

#### Evaluation Purpose and Priorities

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (“Mauritania”) has an environment typical of the Sahel-Saharan regions of West Africa, heavily influenced by extreme weather. Cyclic droughts due to low rainfall and environmental degradation affect the productive capacity of predominantly rural populations which are mostly dependent on agro-pastoral activities.

Mauritania is classified as a low-income, food-deficit and least developed country, with low human development. It ranks 161<sup>st</sup> out of the 187 countries in the United Nations human development index and 142<sup>nd</sup> on the Gender Inequality Index, with a score of 0.644. The incidence of poverty is high: 62 percent of Mauritanian households live in poverty, of which 42 percent live in extreme poverty.

The evaluation of WFP's portfolio in Mauritania will help orient WFP's strategy and priorities and will contribute to the preparation of strategic and operational documents. It will also contribute to drawing lessons of wider interest to WFP at the global level.

#### Objectives and Users of the Evaluation

Evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning. The main users of this evaluation are the WFP country office in Mauritania and its national partners. The CPE will contribute to the preparation of future operations, priorities and country strategies. The final evaluation report will contribute to deliberations at the WFP Executive Board Session in June 2016.

#### Key Evaluation Questions

The CPE will address the following three key questions. Collectively, the questions aim at highlighting the key lessons from the WFP country presence and performance in Mauritania, which could inform future strategic and operational decisions.

**Question 1: What has been the strategic alignment and positioning of WFP's portfolio?** In view of the country's needs, to what extent has WFP positioned itself strategically in Mauritania? Were its activities aligned with the Government's strategies and those of its partners?

**Question 2: What have been the factors driving strategic decision-making?** How and why did WFP make its strategic choices in Mauritania? What were the factors that influenced WFP's decisions in Mauritania?

**Question 3: What have been the performance and results of the WFP portfolio?** Assess the performance and results of WFP's portfolio in Mauritania on the basis of the criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Analyse the factors that explain the results obtained and the degree of operational synergy with partners (multilateral, bilateral and NGOs).

#### Scope and Methodology

The Mauritania CPE will cover the period 2011–2015. It will include WFP's country strategy for 2011–2016 and the twelve operations implemented to June 2015: five emergency operations (EMOPs), two protracted relief and

recovery operations (PRROs), two country programmes (CPs) and three special operations (SOs) which will be evaluated to the extent that they contributed to WFP’s operational results.

The CPE will examine the portfolio as a whole, its development over time, its performance and the extent to which WFP was able to position itself strategically in Mauritania.

The main activities in the portfolio are general distributions (45%), school feeding (29%), nutritional support (18%) and food assistance for work, training or assets (8%).

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The evaluation will be carried out by a team of independent experts selected by the Office of Evaluation (OEV).

Miranda Sende is the OEV Evaluation Manager. She will be the main interlocutor between the members of the team, represented by the team leader, and WFP focal points so as to ensure a smooth process.

Stakeholders at country, regional and headquarters levels are expected to provide information necessary to the evaluation. The country office is to facilitate contacts between the evaluation team and stakeholders in Mauritania, organize meetings and if necessary provide logistical assistance during field visits.

**Communications**

Preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations will be presented by the evaluation team during an end-of-mission debriefing and will include WFP participants from country, regional and headquarters (by teleconference) levels. Feedback on the initial conclusions and recommendations will be obtained from the various stakeholders. This will allow them to respond to and clarify the issues and will ensure a transparent evaluation process.

**Timing and Milestones**

The evaluation milestones are summarized in the table below.

Phases	Period	Actions and Products
1. Preparation	January/ May 2015	Review documentation / Consultations
		Concept Note
		Terms of Reference (Draft and Final)
		Recruitment of Evaluation Team
2. Preliminary briefing and mission in Nouakchott	June / September 2015	Briefing at WFP HQ
		Mission/ Initial reports
3. Evaluation mission in Mauritania	September - October 2015	Evaluation mission and data-collection
		Debriefing after mission and information analysis phase
4. Evaluation report	November 2015 - February 2016	Drafting of reports, review of comments and final evaluation report
5. Presentation of report to EB	June. 2016	Management response and preparation of Executive Board meeting



The complete terms of reference may be consulted at <http://www.wfp.org/evaluation>, together with all evaluation reports and management responses.

For further information, please contact the WFP Office of Evaluation at this email address: [WFP.evaluation@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.evaluation@wfp.org)