From 4-7 December 2023, the United Nations World Food Programme will host the first Impact Evaluation Forum at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Bringing together governments, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, academia and WFP colleagues, the WFP Impact Evaluation Forum will share new evidence, facilitate collaboration, and exchange experiences on WFP’s innovative work in impact evaluation.

As the international community takes action to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals, funders and partners are increasingly calling for greater proof that programmes based on their investments are effective and value for money.

The critical role that evidence plays in learning, accountability and decision-making is recognised by WFP in its Strategic Plan (2022-2025) and exemplified in its commitment to impact evaluation.

Impact evaluation helps show the difference interventions make to people and demonstrate which interventions do – and do not – work. The rigorous evidence that impact evaluations deliver is both globally significant and operationally relevant to better design WFP programmes and policies, maximise cost efficiency, improve performance and support better decision-making.

Today, through its Impact Evaluation Strategy (2019-2026), WFP is spearheading work to increase the use of impact evaluations in humanitarian as well as development settings.

The Forum aims to bridge gaps in evidence generation, enhance practitioner capacity, and drive positive change by inspiring the next phase of impact evaluations supported by WFP and its partners.

**EVENT OBJECTIVES**

Organised within three streams, the event has three overarching objectives:

**EVIDENCE:** Showcase how evidence generated through implementation of WFP’s Impact Evaluation Strategy could improve WFP programmes and policies, while feeding into the global evidence base for achieving the SDGs.

**PARTNERSHIP:** Provide open forums for discussions on collaborative opportunities to generate impact evaluation evidence within the United Nations and broader humanitarian and development sectors.

**LEARNING:** Offer capacity development opportunities for programme, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practitioners to share and learn from experts and from one another.
## AGENDA OUTLINE

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<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Forum A&amp;B</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>HIGH-LEVEL OPENING EVENT: Evidence for Impact</td>
<td>Challenges and opportunities in humanitarian impact evaluation</td>
<td>Think tank: Building a culture of evidence in your organization</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td>Building resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings</td>
<td>Design clinics (invitation only)</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Impact insights from social protection programmes</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Funders Talk: Towards shared evidence for impact</td>
<td>Introduction to IE methods: Design and ethics</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td>Partner panel: Current state of evidence activities across NGOs</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Panel: Evidence for humanitarian action</td>
<td>NGO roundtable: Filling in the gaps with NGO evidence</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td>Introduction to IE: Challenges and evidence use</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Open networking</td>
<td>CLOSING EVENT: Partnerships, evidence, and the road ahead</td>
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<td>17:30</td>
<td>APERITIVO</td>
<td>Dialogue: Collaborating on IE across the UN Venue: Room OR00</td>
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Taking on a hybrid format, Day 1, Day 2 and the closing of Day 4 will be streamed. Register below:
DAY 1 – OPENING DAY, AUDITORIUM

High level opening: Evidence for impact | 09h30-10h30

Why we need impact evaluation evidence to drive policy and programme decisions

Dialogue: Impact Evaluation in the United Nations | 11h00-12h00

Why UN agencies need impact evaluation evidence at a time of growing needs and scarce resources

Funders Talk: Toward shared evidence for impact | 14h00-15h30

A funder’s perspective on generating impact evaluation evidence

Panel: Evidence for humanitarian action | 16h00-17h30

Busting myths on the use of data and evidence in fragile and humanitarian contexts
DAY 2 – EVIDENCE STREAM A, AUDITORIUM

Panel: Challenges and opportunities in humanitarian impact evaluation | 09h00-10h30

Setting the stage by addressing the challenges of impact evaluation upfront, making a case for impact evaluation as a feasible method in WFP & the humanitarian sector

- Anne-Claire Luzot, WFP
- Felipe A. Dunsch, WFP
- Hilary H. Cook, USAID (BHA)
- Abdoulaye Ndiaye, J-PAL
- Ghassan Baliki, ISDC
- Christy Lazicky, Causal Design

Moderator: Jonas Heirman, WFP

Panel: Designing cash-based programmes | 11h00-12h30

Featuring impact evaluation designs and findings on cash-based programming & making a case for using impact evaluation to optimize programme design

- Cheryl Harrison, WFP
- Felipe A. Dunsch, WFP
- Florence Kondylis, World Bank
- Benjamin Davis, FAO
- Vaidehi Krishnan, Mercy Corps
- Said Mohamoud, Save the Children

Moderator: Anne-Claire Luzot, WFP

Panel: Exploring evidence and gaps in climate and anticipatory action | 14h00-15h30

Sharing the latest impact evaluation evidence on anticipatory action in Nepal, Nigeria and Malawi, with a discussion on evidence gaps in relation to climate change and adaptation

- Daisuke Horikoshi, GCF
- Paul Christian, World Bank
- Kriti Malhotra, WFP
- Bedru Balana, IFPRI
- Nicholas Sitko, FAO

Moderator: Jesse Mason, WFP

Panel: Cost-effectiveness analysis in impact evaluation | 16h00-17h30

Advocating for the use of cost-effectiveness analysis in impact evaluation and provide examples in humanitarian impact evaluations, unpacking challenges and opportunities of collecting cost data

- Erik Aakre, Norad
- Jane Hammaker, 3ie
- Nathanael Goldberg, IPA
- Kayla Hoyer, IRC

Moderator: Jonas Heirman, WFP
DAY 2 – EVIDENCE STREAM B, FORUM A&B

Panel: Building resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings | 09h00-10h30

Presenting evidence on the impact of development programmes on resilience in ultra-poor settings, including findings from the first four impact evaluations from WFP’s Climate Change & Resilience window

• David Kaatrud, WFP
• Zalynn Peishi, WFP
• Jennifer Waidler
• Patrick Premand, World Bank
• Frank Otchere, UNICEF

Moderator: Sarah Longford, WFP

Panel: Impact insights from social protection programmes | 11h00-12h30

Showcasing evidence on government social protection programmes from a wide range of contexts and countries

• Clare O’Brien, WFP
• Tia Palermo, University of Buffalo and Transfer Project
• Marcus Holmlund, World Bank
• TBC

Moderator: Jennifer Waidler, WFP

Panel: Learning and evidence from school-based programmes | 14h00-15h30

Presenting WFP’s School-Based Programme Impact Evaluation Window and ongoing evidence generation for school-based programmes, with experiences from the School Meals Coalition Research Consortium, World Bank, and IFPRI

• Maria Jose Rojas, WFP
• Simone Lombardini, WFP
• Anna Hamilton, WFP
• Florence Kondylis, World Bank
• Aulo Gelli, IFPRI

Moderator: Sarah Longford, WFP

Panel: Optimizing targeting for humanitarian assistance | 16h00-17h30

Introducing evidence on the effectiveness of different targeting strategies for humanitarian assistance, elaborating on challenges and theories of change regarding targeting and providing examples of potential ways to optimize targeting in WFP and beyond

• Nauoar Labidi, WFP
• Cinzia Papavero, UNHCR-WFP Joint Targeting Hub
• Aysha Twose, WFP
• Onur Altındağ, Bentley University

Moderator: Felipe A. Dunsch, WFP
DAY 3 – LEARNING STREAM, AUDITORIUM

Learning session: Intro to impact evaluation – What, why and when? | 09h00-10h30

Covering impact evaluation policy, WFP impact evaluation strategy, impact evaluation windows and examples of ongoing impact evaluations.

- Simone Lombardini, WFP
- Nidhila Adusumalli, WFP
- Ola El Toukhi, WFP

Learning session: Intro to impact evaluation – Design & ethics | 11h00-12h30

Establishing counterfactuals and experimental methods (RCTs, A/B testing, multi-arm phase-in designs). Practical examples from ongoing impact evaluations for incorporating variations into programme interventions. Discussion on ethics and ethical practices in impact evaluations.

- Jennifer Waidler, WFP
- Minh Phuong La, WFP

Learning session: Intro to impact evaluation – Measurement, data & costs | 14h00-15h30

Focussing on data collection and measurements. Practical implications of sampling techniques and statistical power. Data collection costs and data collection processes.

- Minh Phuong La, WFP
- Kriti Malhotra, WFP

Learning session: Intro to impact evaluation – Challenges & evidence use | 16h00-17h30

Facilitated discussion on how evidence from impact evaluations can be used during and after the evaluation process. Threats and challenges to the impact evaluations.

- Simone Lombardini, WFP
- Kriti Malhotra, WFP
DAY 3 – EVIDENCE & PARTNERSHIP STREAM, FORUM A&B

Think tank: Building a culture of evidence in your organization | 09h00-10h30

This workshop offers participants the opportunity to reflect on how to improve the development effectiveness of their organizations’ work. The session uses plenary and facilitated breakout sessions to address the unique evidence culture needs of NGOs, funders, UN institutions, and other partners

Facilitator: Marie Gaarder, 3ie

Partner panel: Current state of evidence activities across NGOs | 11h00-12h30

Partners will share their organization’s current approach to evidence generation, setting the stage for the following discussion on shared evidence agendas

- Sheree Anderson, ICRC
- Jon Kurtz, Mercy Corps
- Qundeel Khattak, Save the Children
- Jeannie Annan, IRC

Facilitator: Lloyd Banwart, HAEC

NGO roundtable: Filling in the gaps with NGO evidence | 14h00-15h30

Partners share evidence priorities, discuss constraints and opportunities, and pave a way forward for a collaborative approach to on-the-ground impact evaluations

- Lloyd Banwart, TANGO
- Theresa Stienen, J-PAL
- Sheree Anderson, ICRC
- Jon Kurtz, Mercy Corps
- Qundeel Khattak, Save the Children
- Jeannie Annan, IRC

Facilitator: Lloyd Banwart, HAEC

Open networking | 16h00-17h30

Bring your coffee and snack into the Forum to meet other event participants and broaden the humanitarian impact evaluation network

Dialogue: Collaborating on impact evaluation across the UN | 16h00-17h30 (Room 0R00)

Identify opportunities for coordinated and joint impact evaluations between UN agencies

Facilitator: Jonas Heirman, with all UN agencies participating

* This session takes place in Room 0R00. Audience space is limited to better facilitate informal dialogue among colleagues
DAY 4 – LEARNING STREAM, AUDITORIUM

**Learning session:** Design clinics (by invitation only) | **09h00-12h30**

WFP country offices that expressed interest in new impact evaluations discuss potential designs

**Learning session:** Future IEs – Country evidence marketplace | **14h00-15h30**

Presenting potential designs from design clinics for feedback and discussion

DAY 4 – EVIDENCE & PARTNERSHIP STREAM, FORUM A&B

**Evidence review:** Nutrition evidence priorities for impact evaluation | **09h00-10h30**

Colleagues from WFP’s Nutrition Division discuss the recent literature review conducted in partnership with the University of California in Davis. The review serves to guide WFP’s nutrition evidence priorities for future impact evaluation activities

**Round-up:** Roadmap for an impact evidence agenda | **11h00-12h30**

Providing space to consolidate key takeaways from partnership sessions and brainstorming next steps toward a shared evidence agenda

- Jörg Langbein, KfW
- Qundeel Khattak, Save the Children
- Jonas Heirman, WFP

**Facilitator:** Tomson Phiri

DAY 4 – CLOSING, AUDITORIUM

**Closing event:** Partnerships, evidence and the road ahead | **16h00-17h00**

- Ute Klamert, WFP
- Macartan Humphreys, WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- Jonas Heirman, WFP
- Anne-Claire Luzot, WFP

**Moderator:** Tomson Phiri