

# WFP IMPACT EVALUATION FORUM

4-7 Dec 2023 | Rome, Italy

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

	MONDAY	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
	Auditorium	Auditorium	Forum A&B	Auditorium	Forum A&B	Auditorium	Forum A&B
09:00		Challenges and opportunities in humanitarian impact evaluation	Building resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings	Introduction to IE: What, why and when	Think tank: Building a culture of evidence in your organization	Design clinics (invitation only)	Nutrition evidence priorities for impact evaluation
09:30	<b>HIGH-LEVEL OPENING EVENT:</b>						
10:00	Evidence for impact						
10:30	Coffee break	Coffee break		Coffee break		Coffee break	
11:00	Dialogue: Impact Evaluation in the United Nations	Designing cash-based programmes	Impact insights from social protection programmes	Introduction to IE methods: Design and ethics	Partner panel: Current state of evidence activities across NGOs	Design clinics (invitation only)	Round-up: Roadmap for an impact evidence agenda
11:30							
12:00	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH	
12:30		LIVE INTERVIEW (Auditorium): Dean Karlan & Tomson Phiri		LUNCH		LUNCH	
13:00		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH	
13:30		LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH	
14:00	Funders Talk: Towards shared evidence for impact	Exploring evidence and gaps in climate and anticipatory action	Learning and evidence from school-based programmes	Introduction to IE: Measurement, data and costs	NGO roundtable: Filling in the gaps with NGO evidence	Future IEs: Country office marketplace	
14:30							
15:00							
15:30	Coffee break	Coffee break		Coffee break		Coffee break	
16:00	Panel: Evidence for humanitarian action	Cost-effectiveness analysis in impact evaluation	Optimizing targeting for humanitarian assistance	Introduction to IE: Challenges and evidence use	Open networking	CLOSING EVENT: Partnerships, evidence, and the road ahead	
16:30							
17:00							
17:30	APERITIVO						
18:30							

Taking on a hybrid format, Day 1, Day 2 and the closing of Day 4 will be streamed. Register below:



Internal learning sessions, not streamed



## 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*



**Carl Skau**  
Deputy Executive  
Director,  
WFP



**Anne-Claire Luzot**  
Director of Evaluation,  
WFP



**Arif Husain**  
Chief Economist,  
WFP



**Dean Karlan**  
Chief Economist,  
USAID



**DAY 1 MODERATOR**  
**Tomson Phiri**  
Head of Communication,  
Advocacy & Marketing,  
WFP Southern Africa

### 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*



**Clemencia Cosentino**  
Director of Evaluation,  
FAO



**Lori Bell**  
Director of Evaluation,  
UNHCR



**Robert McCouch**  
Director of Evaluation,  
UNICEF



**Anne-Claire Luzot**  
Director of Evaluation,  
WFP

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

*A funder's perspective on generating impact evaluation evidence*



**Anne-Claire Luzot**  
Director of Evaluation,  
WFP



**Dean Karlan**  
Chief Economist,  
USAID



**Jochen Kluge**  
Director of Evaluation,  
KfW Development Bank



**Erik Aakre**  
Head of Knowledge  
Management, Norad



**Claire Zanuso**  
Head of Impact  
Evaluation team,  
Agence Française de  
Développement (AFD)

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

*Busting myths on the use of data and evidence in fragile and humanitarian contexts*



**Jonas Heirman**  
Head of Impact Evaluation  
Unit, WFP



**Tilman Brück**  
Founder & Director,  
ISDC



**Arif Husain**  
Chief Economist,  
WFP



**Florence Kondylis**  
Research Manager,  
Lead Economist,  
World Bank



**Jeannie Annan**  
Chief Research &  
Innovation Officer,  
IRC

## 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