

PRESS RELEASE

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MOPAN assessment highlights crucial areas for World Food Programme amid funding cuts and restructuring

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Rome – The Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) has released its latest assessment of the World Food Programme (WFP), emphasising both strengths and critical areas requiring urgent action to ensure the organisation remains fit for purpose in the face of acute global hunger and escalating crises.

Suzanne Steensen, head of the MOPAN Secretariat, acknowledged WFP's significant contributions to addressing food insecurity around the world at today's launch, stating "WFP has exceptional global presence, scale and speed of response, technical expertise in many areas, and committed staff. However, MOPAN's report shows that WFP must act in four key areas if it is to perform and deliver results in a period of funding cuts and internal restructuring". These include:

** Shoring up the organisation's stability **

The MOPAN assessment highlights the need for WFP to bolster its internal stability. As the organisation navigates structural changes, it must ensure that the restructuring is seen through, especially as regards its regional offices; alongside clarifying the saving lives / changing lives mandate in a context of significantly reduced resources; integrating IT systems; and improving knowledge management.

** Addressing financial challenges **

With ongoing funding cuts, WFP faces substantial financial constraints. MOPAN's report highlights the need to sustain donor confidence, including shoring up relationships with key funders, assuring donors that the causes of aid diversion have been dealt with, consistently demonstrating value for money, and stepping up efforts seek diversified funding sources to maintain and expand its critical programmes.

** Maintaining access to vulnerable people **

The ability to reach and support the most vulnerable populations is at the core of WFP's mission. The MOPAN report stresses the importance of working with member states to maintain and improve access to these communities, particularly in new conflict zones and hard-to-reach areas. This will require core work to negotiate aid delivery, ensure security measures to protect both staff and partners, and addressing the issues around reputational risk facing the organisation.

** Strengthening the relationship with staff **

Staff are the backbone of WFP's operations, and their well-being and engagement are crucial for success. MOPAN's report advises strengthening the relationship with employees through addressing concerns on contractual terms and incentives, and helping foster a positive organisational culture by improving communication between senior leadership and staff.

Cindy McCain, Executive Director of WFP, responded to the assessment, stating, "WFP appreciates MOPAN's work and its valuable insights, which support our efforts to continuously improve performance. We remain steadfast in our commitment to maximizing the impact of every donation we receive, and to ensuring that our global operations are even more efficient, innovative and strategic, as we work every day to save lives and deliver lasting solutions to hunger."

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**** About MOPAN ****

The Multilateral Performance Network (MOPAN) is an independent network of 22 member states who have a shared vision to promote an effective multilateral system trusted to deliver solutions to evolving global goals and local challenges. Together, MOPAN members and collaborators provide over USD 100 billion in annual contributions to and through the multilateral system – the majority of the system’s official development assistance.

This MOPAN assessment of WFP was championed by Switzerland and the United States, with Türkiye as observer.