



HUMANITARIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORKS EVALUATION SUMMARY

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned an independent evaluation by Alinea International of the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of DFAT's Humanitarian Strategic Partnership Frameworks (SPFs) between Australia and the World Food Programme (WFP); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

SPFs set out Australia's priorities, shared partnership objectives and deliverables, indicative allocations of core funding and other provisions including partnership implementation, governance, reporting requirements and risk management. The SPFs are intended to provide timely, predictable, multi-year funding to partners to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action, and to better influence and shape partner activities.

Additional funding to countries, regions, or thematic priorities is provided through a subsidiary arrangement, called an Exchange of Letters (EOL). The EOL is a pre-agreed template annexed to the SPF which is used to engage partners under their respective SPF. The EOL can be used by any Australian government agency to provide multi-year, or one-off payments to the respective partner. It incorporates the objectives and safeguards of the SPF and includes additional, optional pre-agreed clauses. The EOLs are intended to facilitate the disbursement of additional earmarked funding for specific purposes.

The evaluation focuses on the performance of the SPFs and EOLs as a modality for engaging partners to provide humanitarian assistance. It is not an evaluation of the performance of the partners.

The evaluation sought to answer the following Key Evaluation Questions (KEQs):

1. To what extent are the SPFs aligned with current Australian international development and humanitarian programming policies and priorities? (Relevance)
2. To what extent are the SPFs shared partnership objectives and deliverables being progressed? (Effectiveness)
3. To what extent are the SPFs an efficient financial, compliance, and partnership modality for DFAT and Partners? (Efficiency)
4. What alternative modalities exist?

The evaluation found that SPFs are essential to DFAT's capability to address lifesaving needs in times of crisis and found strong alignment with Australia's policies and priorities.

The evaluation generated three recommendations on partnership modality, planning and performance monitoring and DFAT has issued a management response agreeing to the first two recommendations and partially agreeing to the third.