

ONLINE

18 MAY 2026 - 18 SEP 2026

Theory-Based Approaches to Evaluation

Data and Evaluation



 LANGUAGE English	 DURATION 4 months	 ENROLL BY 08 May 2026	 PRICE Free	 LOCATION ONLINE	 TARGET UN Only
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 **CONTACT** elp@unssc.org

This course has been designed for evaluation staff at [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) interested in exploring the use of theory-based approaches to evaluation in their work. The training is in line with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and tailored to the context of WFP.

Introduction

In 2022, the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and the WFP Office of Evaluation launched a certification scheme for evaluation, targeting WFP's evaluation cadre in the form of micro-credentials. To read more please click [HERE](#). The **Theory-based Approaches to Evaluation** course is a part of this initiative and aims to enhance the capability of evaluation managers to use a theory-based approach in their evaluation.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Define a theory-based approach to evaluation;
- Develop evaluation questions or sub-questions and testable hypotheses which are specific to the context and the intervention;
- Understand the different types of approaches used in theory-based evaluation (e.g., contribution analysis, process tracing, etc) and which approaches are suitable to answering different types of evaluation questions and sub-questions;
- Verify that the evaluation design will allow the testing of hypotheses to assess whether and how an intervention contributed to results;
- Review a draft evaluation report to determine if the theory-based evaluation design was used consistently and appropriately.

Course methodology

The course includes a range of synchronous and asynchronous activities. This approach ensures that participants not only gain solid knowledge and skills but also apply them to real-world cases applicable to their day-to-day job responsibilities.

Each module consists of:

- Selected readings, videos and discussion forums where participants consolidate and reflect on learning through the creation of micro-content;
- Live instructor-led thematic sessions. The orientation is scheduled for the week of 18 May. The first thematic webinar will be held during the week of 22 June, and the second during the week of 20 July.
- Two mentoring sessions;
- On-the-job guided practice where participants can apply the knowledge acquired in the micro-credential.

To view the study plan please click [HERE](#).

Instructor-led webinars will be conducted on Zoom. UNSSC will send access instructions to registered participants, and we recommend that you download the application and test your setup in advance.

The asynchronous component is designed and structured on UN Learn platform, one of UNSSC's online learning platforms.

Course contents

The micro-credential is composed of three thematic modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to Theory-Based Approaches to Evaluation
- Module 2: Key features of Theory-based Approaches to Evaluation
- Module 3: Quality Assuring Theory-Based Evaluation Design components within an overall evaluation design
- Module 4: Quality Assuring Theory-Based Evaluation findings within an overall Evaluation Final Report

Target audience

Evaluation staff at WFP.

The requirements to register for this micro-credential are the following:

For M&E officers working on decentralized evaluations

- Completion of the WFP How to Manage a Decentralized Evaluation course
- Experience as evaluation manager in at least one WFP evaluation that is either completed or reached inception phase or a completed evaluation at another entity

For evaluation officers and research analysts

- Experience as evaluation manager (or experience as research analyst substantively engaging in and supporting the one WFP evaluation that is either completed or reached inception phase) in at least one evaluation in WFP or another entity

Additional requirements

Additional requirements to register for this micro-credential are the following:

- The completion of the micro-credential on Theories of Change. OR
- Basic knowledge about theories of change, including:
 - Defining what a theory of change is, its key elements and how they fit together
 - Why and when to use a TOC for different evaluation purposes, including testing underlying assumptions and the causal chain between outputs and outcomes
 - What is a nested TOC and when it is useful to have one
 - How to construct and reconstruct a theory of change for evaluation purposes.

To apply

Applicants should include in their motivation statement:

- **The title of the evaluation they will use** for their on-the-job practice component and what phase it is in – planned, preparation, inception, reporting and analysis, or dissemination and follow-up.
- **Details of previous training or experience with theories of change.**

This course is offered to WFP staff only.

Applications will be carefully reviewed and only nominated participants will be contacted.

Cost of participation

Free for WFP staff whose application is accepted.