

Evaluation Terms of Reference



SUMMARY TERMS OF REFERENCE

PALESTINE –WFP COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION (2011- mid 2015)

Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. They evaluate the performance and results of the portfolio as a whole and provide evaluative insights to make evidence-based decisions about positioning WFP in a country and about strategic partnerships, programme design, and implementation. Country Portfolio Evaluations help Country Offices in the preparation of Country Strategies and provide lessons that can be used in the design of new operations.

Subject and Focus of the Evaluation

The evaluation covers the 2011 - mid 2015 period of WFP's portfolio operations in Palestine. It will assess the appropriateness of the current Country Strategy (CS 2014-2016), and the performance and results of WFP's portfolio over that period.

The portfolio evaluation will focus on two Emergency Operations (EMOP 108170 and EMOP 200298), two Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO 200709 and PRRO 200037) and two Special Operations (SO 200560 and SO 200757). The beneficiaries of the Palestine country portfolio have been supported through general food distributions (73%), school feeding programmes (26%), and Food-For-Assets programmes (1%).

Objectives and Users of the Evaluation

Evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning. The primary user of the evaluation findings and recommendations will be the WFP Palestine Country Office (CO) and the national stakeholders. The CPE is the opportunity for the CO to benefit from an independent assessment of its operations in order to optimize alignment to the country's priorities, the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) and the new WFP strategic plan 2014-2017. The evaluation report will contribute to the formulation of the new Country Strategy and will provide lessons that can be used in the design of new operations. The evaluation report will be presented at the Executive Board session in February 2016.

Key Evaluation Questions

The CPE will be addressing the following three key questions. Collectively, the questions aim at

highlighting the key lessons from the WFP country presence and performance in Palestine, which could inform future strategic and operational decisions.

Question 1: Portfolio Alignment and Strategic Positioning of WFP's Country Program. Reflect on the extent to which: i) main objectives and related activities have been relevant to Palestine's humanitarian and developmental needs (including those of specific groups), priorities and capacities; ii) objectives have been coherent with the stated agenda and policies, including sector policies; iii) objectives have been coherent and harmonized with those of partners, especially UN partners, but also with, bilateral and NGOs; iv) WFP has been strategic in its alignment and positioned itself where it can make the biggest difference; and v) there have been trade-offs between aligning with national strategies on one hand and with WFP's mission, strategic plans and corporate policies on the other hand.

Question 2: Factors and Quality of Strategic Decision Making. Reflect on the extent to which WFP: i) has analysed (or used existing analysis of) the hunger challenges, the food security and nutrition issues in Palestine - including gender issues in light of WFP's Gender Policy; ii) contributed to placing these issues on the national agenda, to developing related national or partner strategies and to developing national capacity on these issues. The evaluation will identify the factors that determined existing choices (perceived comparative advantage, corporate strategies, national political factors, resources, organizational structure and staffing, monitoring information, etc.) to understand these drivers of strategy, and how they were considered and managed.

Question 3: Performance and Results of the WFP portfolio. Reflect on: i) the level of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the main WFP programme activities and explanations for these results (including factors beyond WFP’s control); ii) the level of synergy and multiplying effect between the various main activities regardless of the operations; and iii) the level of synergies and multiplying opportunities with HCT/UNCT partners, especially UNRWA, the Food Security Cluster, government partners, bilateral agencies and NGOs at operational level.

point for communication with WFP stakeholders at all levels.

Evaluation preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in CO, RB and HQ during a debriefing session (teleconference) after the fieldwork. This feedback is important to verify the findings of the team with stakeholders, to give them the opportunity to clarify issues and to ensure a transparent evaluation process.

Scope and Methodology

For the purpose of this evaluation, the Palestine portfolio is defined as WFP’s Country Strategy 2014-2016 and its six operations implemented in Palestine during the 2011- mid 2015 period and all geographic areas covered by the portfolio.

In light of the strategic nature of the evaluation, it is not intended to evaluate each operation individually, but to focus broadly on the portfolio as a whole, its evolution over time, its performances, and the strategic role played by WFP in Palestine. The field work will focus on a sample of WFP operation sites.

Timing and Key Milestones

Main Phases	Timeline	Tasks and Deliverables
1. Preparation	December 2014 - April 2015	Terms of reference; Hire evaluation team
2. Initial briefing and inception mission in Palestine	June 3-5, 2015 June 13-19, 2015	HQ briefing in Rome; Inception mission and inception report
3. Evaluation mission and data collection in Palestine	August 1 – August 21, 2015	Evaluation mission and data collection; Exit debriefing and analysis
4. Evaluation Report	September, 14 – November 16, 2015	Report drafting; comments process and final evaluation report
5. Dissemination	February 2016 onwards	Presentation of report to WFP Governing Body with the Management Response. Public dissemination.

Roles and Responsibilities

Evaluation Team: The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with relevant expertise for the Palestine portfolio.

OE Evaluation Manager: This evaluation is managed by the WFP Office of Evaluation (OEV) with Mr Dawit Habtemariam as the Evaluation Manager (EM). The EM will be the main interlocutor between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts to ensure a smooth implementation process.

Stakeholders: WFP stakeholders at Country Office, Regional Bureau (RB) and Headquarters (HQ) levels are expected to provide information necessary to the evaluation and facilitate the evaluation team’s contacts with stakeholders in the country; set up meetings and field visits and provide logistic support during the fieldwork.

Findings will be actively disseminated and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP’s website.



Full Terms of Reference are available at <http://www.wfp.org/evaluation> as are all Evaluation Reports and Management Responses.

Communications

An internal reference group (IRG) for the evaluation has been established to serve as contact

For more information please contact the WFP Office of Evaluation at: WFP.evaluation@wfp.org
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