



Evaluation of FAO's Programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

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Why an evaluation of FAO's programme in West Bank and Gaza Strip?

The occupied Palestinian territories, comprising the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (WBGS), face a protracted protection crisis with humanitarian consequences, driven by insufficient respect for international law by all sides. In 2014, as a result of hostilities over July-August, there was a sharp increase in the severity of humanitarian needs in Gaza, as well as heightened tension and intensified clashes across the West Bank. In Gaza, the agricultural livelihoods of 32 000 farming households and 8 000 agricultural wage labourers were affected, with heavy damage of assets that caused shortages and high food prices. This in turn increased the severity of food insecurity.

In the West Bank, restrictions on trade and access to land and water led to a lack of economic access to food, lower purchasing power, unemployment and overall erosion of livelihoods. All of these had a particularly heavy toll on the more vulnerable segments of the population.

In 2002, FAO established a decentralised office in WBGS, with a primary focus on the preparation for and response to food and agricultural threats and livelihoods emergencies. In more recent years, there has been a gradual shift from a predominantly relief-driven approach towards more developmental programming. For example, the projects under the 2011/2013 FAO Plan of Action focused in equal parts on response, preparedness and transition to development. The current Programme Framework 2014-2016 took this a step further with the adoption a dual track approach addressing both humanitarian and developmental needs of the Palestinians by facilitating greater economic access to food and a viable agriculture sector and focusing on resilience and economic development respectively.

The decision to undertake an independent evaluation of the WBGS programme was based on the relative size of the programme (around 80 million USD over the evaluation period) and on FAO's commitment to improve integration monitoring and evaluation into its activities, thus providing accountability to national stakeholders and member countries. A further driver was donors' pressure to provide evidence of results achieved. In addition, the programme has been a precursor in working at the edge between resilience and development programming, and can therefore provide important lessons regarding the operationalization of FAO's Strategic Objective 5, "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters".

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Tentative Evaluation Calendar

Preparation phase

October- December 2015

- Desk reviews
- Inception mission, including preliminary data collection and establishment of a consultative group
- Drafting of terms of reference

Main evaluation phase

January – May 2016

- In-depth studies
- Main mission, including field visits
- Workshop to present preliminary findings

Report writing and dissemination

June - September 2016

- Draft report
- Validation workshop
- Final report
- Report dissemination and management response

What will it cover?

This evaluation will cover the totality of FAO's programme in WBGS throughout the 2011-2015 period, broadly centred on resilience and economic growth.

The objective of the evaluation is to analyse FAO's performance in relation to global relevance of the programme (FAO's comparative advantage and strategic positioning), results achieved (impact and sustainability), programme coherence and synergies, partnerships and other crosscutting issues (gender, information, coordination).

The evaluation will look at the range of activities implemented by FAO in WBGS with particular focus on the following questions:

- How is FAO addressing the implications of doing humanitarian and development work in a situation of protracted crisis such as WBGS?
- How do the institutional setting and security situation affect the programme's design and implementation, its capacity to operate and the results achieved?
- Is FAO's current strategy, framed through a value chain model, based on a correct analysis, and has it reached the objective of preserving beneficiaries' assets and helping them regain and boost their productive capacities in a sustainable manner?

The evaluation questions will be further refined by the evaluation team following an inception mission, in collaboration with the West Bank and Gaza Strip office team and in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

What will be the process and who will it involve?

The full evaluation mission is scheduled to take place in 2016 and will last between two and three months. FAO staff, partners and programme stakeholders will be invited to participate in meetings and workshops organized by the evaluation team, and in a final workshop at the end of the mission where the evaluation team will present its initial findings.

One or more in-depth field studies may be undertaken on issues of particular relevance; the decision to do this will be taken during the preparatory phase.

The FAO WBGS Office and the head of office will ensure dissemination of the final report and will be responsible for leading and coordinating the preparation of the FAO management response.

All FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found on:

www.fao.org/evaluation
