

Joint evaluation on collaboration among the UN Rome-based agencies

Summary of the terms of reference

Background. As part of their approved programmes of work for 2020-2021, the evaluation offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) are undertaking an independent joint evaluation of collaboration among the UN Rome-based agencies (RBAs). The Governing Bodies of IFAD and FAO requested this evaluation.

RBA collaboration framework. In November 2016, the RBAs jointly published a paper, "Collaboration among United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda", which posits a common vision (SDG2) of ending hunger and malnutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural transformation through holistic approaches. The 2016 RBA Collaboration Paper identified four pillars of collaboration: working together at the country and regional levels, cooperating at the global level, collaborating on thematic knowledge, and joint corporate services. In June 2018, building on those same pillars, the RBAs signed a five-year tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that sets out agreed objectives, principles and areas of collaboration.

Evaluation scope. The evaluation will cover collaborations between two or three RBAs under the four pillars set out in the RBA collaboration framework and the MoU (2018). The primary focus will be on collaboration at country level, as this is where collaboration should ultimately impact on the lives and livelihoods of people and contribute directly to the SDGs and Agenda 2030. This focus is not to the exclusion of the other pillars of RBA collaboration.

Evaluation approach and methodology. The evaluation will comply with the norms and standards for evaluation of the United Nations Evaluation Group and adopt a rigorous approach to ensure the quality and credibility of the evaluation. It will address four key questions articulated around the following areas: a) Relevance, b) Results, c) Enabling and disabling factors, d) Added value of collaboration. The evaluation will use the criteria of **relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability**, applying the revised criteria definitions of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Evaluation Team. An independent evaluation company, Mokoro Limited, has been hired to conduct this evaluation and will ensure its independence and credibility. An Evaluation Management Group consisting of senior evaluation officers from the three RBAs (Rachel Sauvinet Bedouin, Senior Evaluation Officer, OED-FAO; Chitra Deshpande, Senior Evaluation Officer, IOE-IFAD; and Deborah McWhinney, Senior Evaluation Officer, OEV-WFP), will supervise and provide guidance and quality assurance of the evaluation process and products.

Risks and mitigation strategies. The Covid-19 pandemic represents the most serious risk to the completion of the entire evaluation by 31 December 2021. To address this risk, briefings, interviews and main data collection will be done remotely if travel restrictions are still in place.

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Timeline

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Preparatory	TOR Finalized and submitted to governing bodies	Mar-Jun 2020
	Contracting the evaluation firm	Aug-20
Inception	Evaluation Team Briefing	Aug-Sep 2020
	Inception Report draft to Evaluation Management Group	Nov-20
	Draft Inception Report submitted for comments	Dec-2020/Jan-2021
	Final Inception Report for RBA Stakeholders	Feb-21
Data collection and Reporting	Fieldwork, data collection, desk reviews	Feb-Apr 2021
	Draft Report to Evaluation Management Group	May-21
	Draft Evaluation Report submitted for comments	May-Aug 2021
	Final Evaluation Report submitted to governing bodies	Sep-21
Dissemination& Follow-up	Discussion with IFAD Evaluation Committee	Oct-21
	Final Evaluation Report discussed with governing bodies	Nov-Dec 2021

The findings of the evaluation will be actively disseminated. The final evaluation report will be publicly available on the websites of FAO, IFAD and WFP.

Full terms of reference are available at <https://www.wfp.org/publications/joint-evaluation-collaboration-among-united-nations-rome-based-agencies>

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