







International Labour Organization

Evaluation of the Joint WFP/UNICEF/ILO Programme: "Towards a Universal and Holistic Social Protection Floor for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in the State of Palestine" From November 2019 to August 2022

Decentralized Evaluation Terms of Reference WFP / UNICEF / ILO Palestine Country Offices

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1. Background

1.1. INTRODUCTION

- 1. These terms of reference are for the final evaluation of the Joint WFP/UNICEF/ILO Programme funded under the Joint SDG Fund: "Towards a Universal and Holistic Social Protection Floor for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in the State of Palestine". This activity evaluation is commissioned jointly by the WFP, UNICEF and ILO Palestine Country Offices in line with the Joint SDG Fund requirements and will cover the period from when the joint programme started in November 2019 to end of August 2022 (noting that the Programme has been given an extension to August 2022). The purpose of this evaluation is to assess if the joint programme has been successfully implemented and to draw on learnings from the programme that can inform future efforts at strengthening the national social protection system in terms of strategic direction, coverage of needs, approach, and capacity strengthening requirements as well as to ensure transparency and accountability towards stakeholders.
- 2. These ToR were prepared based on an initial concept note and consultations with stakeholders in the three agencies. The purpose of the Terms of Reference is to provide the framework for the scope, approach, methodology, management, and governance of the evaluation. It will provide key stakeholders with information about the evaluation and will serve as the basis for the recruitment of an independent evaluation firm to develop proposals for the conduct of this joint evaluation.

1.2. CONTEXT

- 3. In the State of Palestine (SoP) almost one third of the population lives below the national poverty line (29.2%) and is food insecure (32.5%). Data from Socioeconomic and Food Security Survey 2014 shows that poverty and food insecurity are highly correlated. 80% of the extremely food insecure are poor and the percentage decreases for the moderately and marginally secured. The SoP's Voluntary National Review (VNR) recognizes poverty as a crosscutting and multidimensional problem that affects and intersects with virtually all other SDGs, recognizing that progress in reducing poverty levels is often a result of progress in other SDGs (particularly 2, 8 and 10). The SoP defines persons living in Deep Poverty (D-poverty) under a national definition of the ability to attain basic life necessities that are limited to food, shelter and clothing; while persons living in poverty fall under the national definition of those who can attain basic services of education, healthcare and transportation in addition to the basic goods above.
- 4. The SoP was already challenged by economic stagnation, external and internal conflicts related to the occupation, and a 6% drop in external (development and humanitarian assistance) support between 2017 and 2018. Since the onset of the Joint Programme (JP), the situation has been further exacerbated, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the May 2021 escalation in the Gaza Strip. In this context, the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s capacity was significantly limited in 2020, and with nation-wide lockdowns and social distancing requirements, many of the civil servants could not work, and the Ministry remained closed for an extensive period of time, with some key decision makers within the MoSD suffering from the virus. Government priorities changed to accommodate the immediate humanitarian needs arising due to the pandemic and focused attention more on the emergency response while social protection and other projects were put on the backburner through 2020.
- 5. The PA's capacity was further constrained in 2020 due to the financial crisis, with Israeli authorities withholding 80% of the PA's revenue from May to November 2020, resulting in civil service salaries unable to be paid and further constraining Government capacity to act.
- 6. The PA had announced legislative and presidential elections in early 2021; the first elections in more than a decade. In the anticipation of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Government recommended that the JP withhold the policy and legislation-related activities, such as the approval of the PwD law, until the new council comes into effect. However, a presidential decree issued in May 2021 postponed the legislative elections. The JP is seeking alternate options for the policy components, such as the option to work with the President's office to finalize the law as a "law by Presidential Decree". While the implementation of the JP had accelerated in early 2021, it saw further delays with the onset of conflict in

the Gaza Strip in May 2021. The conflict took the lives of around 250 Palestinians and displaced thousands of people within Gaza. The PA and the UN agencies necessarily reoriented their focus to immediate humanitarian needs arising from the crisis.

- 7. The SoP has seen low growth of some 1.4 percent nationally in 2018 and 2019, with a slight rebound for Gaza after a dramatic 7 percent decline in economic growth in 2018. The impact of COVID saw a further decline of some 11.5 percent in 2020. In late 2021, business activity seemed to gradually start to rebound as a result of a decline in new COVID cases, the progress of the vaccination campaign, and ease of lockdowns, enabling some improved economic performance in the West Bank, while Gaza's economy remained almost stagnant impacted by the May conflict. The World Bank noted that growth reached 5.4 percent in the first half of 2021, with a forecast of some 6 percent for this year for the SoP, however with recent travel restrictions reimposed that may not be reached. Growth in 2022 is expected to slow to around 3 percent as sources of growth remain limited.
- 8. In this context, a spiraling increase in social and economic vulnerability is expected. A 2019 UNCTAD report, envisaged a fall in per capita income by 1.7% in, unemployment increased, poverty deepened, and the environmental toll of the occupation rose in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- 9. As the PA, businesses and households exhaust their options for coping with the recent liquidity stability, a recession has been forecast for subsequent years unless a lasting agreement that enables restoration of a normal flow of revenues is achieved. Palestinians with severe disabilities and above the age of 65 (the Government of Palestine define elderly people as people aged 65 years and above, see PCBS: Women and Men in Palestine, 2018) are particularly at risk, with a poverty headcount between 5 and 7 percentage points higher than the rest of the population.
- 10. Between 1.3 million to two million Palestinians (26.3 to 36.7 per cent of the population) are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure.¹ As poverty and unemployment are the key drivers of food insecurity, the escalation exacerbated serious food insecurity in Gaza. Some 62 per cent of the population of Gaza (or 1.4 million people) were food insecure in May 2021 following the escalation.² According to the MSNA, food accounts for 50 percent of household expenditure, with 40 percent reporting buying food on credit, with a large variation between 75 percent in Gaza and 18 percent in the West Bank. Some four percent of households report that food is the primary reason for taking on debt; eight percent in Gaza and one per cent in the West Bank.
- 11. The JP is taking gender considerations into account by looking to address the specific needs of girls, boys, women and men, recognizing that women in Palestine are generally are more adversely affected by the context than men (51% of families headed by women have an income below the poverty line compared to 40% for males) and have fewer opportunities to move out of poverty (only 19% of Palestinian women participate in the labor market, the remaining 81% engage in unpaid domestic work; unemployment rate is much higher for women (54%) compared to men (25,5%); pay gap (average daily wage for women 83 NIS compared to 114 NIS for men) plus a whole range of other fundamental inequalities (regarding access to assets etc.).
- 12. At 2.1 percent, the prevalence rate of disability is reported to be severely underestimated not only due to cultural, social, and political reasons but also for technical reasons related to drawbacks in the survey questionnaires and data collection methodology. In 2011, PCBS, in cooperation with the MoSD, conducted a household survey using six pivotal questions posed by the Washington Group for Disability Statistics to measure the prevalence of disability on seeing, hearing, communication, moving, remembering and concentration, learning, and mental disabilities. Each question includes four possible answers: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulties, and cannot at all. It was on the basis that a person who suffers from a lot of difficulties or cannot at all has a disability. There is also a strong correlation between age and disability prevalence. Disability rates are significantly higher among

¹ Different sources cite different figures. The 26.3 per cent figure draws on *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP, 2021) that covers the period 2018-2020. Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey preliminary results (SEFSec - PCBS, FSS 2020) suggests that 34.5 per cent of the population is moderately or severely food insecure. According to the MSNA, 36.7 per cent of the population (about 2 million people) are moderately or severely food insecure.

² https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-june-2021, p.52

individuals aged 75 years and above, at 32.0 percent—28.9 percent among males and 34.1 percent among females. Among children, the percentage was 1.5 percent—1.8 percent among males and 1.3 percent among females.

- 13. While disability among the older age group is widespread, the development indicators for younger cohorts are not very encouraging. Around 37.6 percent of all disabled individuals aged 15 years and older in the Palestinian Territory have never been enrolled in school. Also, the majority of disabled persons do not work. During the implementation period of the survey, 87.3 percent of all disabled individuals in the Palestinian Territory were not employed; 85.6 percent in the West Bank and 90.9 percent in the Gaza Strip.
- 14. Social protection (SP) has become a key tool for the government and the international community response to these challenges, with the Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) 2018-2022 placing emphasis on strengthening the national SP system. The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) run the Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP), however, fiscal constraints have meant that there has been only one disbursement in 2021, with WFP providing monthly top-ups. The World Bank (WB) and the European Union (EU) support SP system strengthening. The SP system is under strain to cope with increasing vulnerability, and the rising number of severely food insecure households.
- 15. The NCTP is only reaching 40% of the extreme poor, compared to an estimated 1.5 million poor and 1.6 million food insecure (EU, 2019). The proxy means testing (PMT) based targeting selection formula has been developed on the basis of 2011 living conditions survey, and the poverty dynamics have significantly evolved (deteriorated) since. As a result, there are increasing concerns that the current formula leads to large exclusion and inclusion errors. This raises a dual concern in the case of the NCTP as not only eligibility determination but also the level of the transfer (which is set to equate to the poverty gap) depend on the accuracy of the PMT formula. PCBS and MoSD are collaborating at developing a multidimensional poverty index which could serve as a basis for a revised targeting mechanism. For the time being, to correct what are perceived to be problematic exclusion errors, MoSD has introduced a "secondary" targeting mechanisms that allows access to households (approximately 15% of the total caseload) who are not below the extreme poverty PMT line but considered otherwise vulnerable and identified on a case-by-case basis.
- 16. The 2019 Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support (MAPS) analysis done for the SoP reflected on the option to shift from a proxy means testing process to establish a beneficiary eligibility process towards universal social protection and multi-dimensional poverty measures. In particular, the MAPS report highlighted that "there could be efficiency and effectiveness gains made through dedicated programmes for the Elderly and Persons with Disability", where "experience has shown that universal social protection measures tend to make social protection more efficient and equitable while reallocating the time of the national social welfare workforce away from routine checking towards response to the most serious cases".
- 17. Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Older Persons (OP) are the most prone to being left behind as they tend to be overlooked and have little voice to claim their entitlements, alongside associated stigma on being a PwD. Exclusion errors are particularly concerning in regard to the exclusion of PwD and OP amongst the most socially excluded groups and particularly vulnerable to the deteriorating social and economic landscape from existing social assistance mechanisms and the lack of a holistic care support systems.
- 18. PwDs face many challenges, including the lack of enforcement of laws and legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly those related to the compatibility of public spaces with the needs of persons with disabilities. The prevailing societal culture towards persons with disabilities, the inability of persons with disabilities to access and benefit from public services, and the limited programs for the training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are also challenges facing reducing poverty amongst disabled persons. For the elderly in Palestine, they rely primarily on traditional systems whereby their families are their main source of upkeep, care and support. The physical and mental health of the elderly is negatively affected as a result of having limited or no support systems, lacking access to social protection and health services and being exposed to discrimination, violence and abuse.
- 19. They face barriers in accessing SP due to socioeconomic and cultural exclusion, limited awareness and voice, and in benefitting from SP due to lack of sensitivity in the design and administration of SP schemes.

According to all data and knowledge available all this is especially true for women who are doubly affected: as OP and PwD and as women. The SoP's 2019 Voluntary National Review and a draft MAPS report recognize the importance of and potential efficiency and effectiveness gains that can made through dedicated programmes for (female) the PwB and OP.

- 20. Currently, the flagship component of the national social protection system, the NCTP, as well as social services provided do not address the specific needs of PwD and OP.
- 21. Against this background MoSD has been considering options for adopting Social Protection Floors (SPF) including for (female) PwD and OP. It is of paramount importance to overcome the current fragmented and financially unsustainable social support system, to develop more cost efficient and rights-based approaches, based on solid evidence basis for decision making and programming. While ongoing SP reform efforts focus on building the infrastructure for a modern SP system, no explicit effort has been dedicated so far to enhancing the relevance, adequacy and impact of SP on the lives of (female) PwD and OP.

2. Reasons for the evaluation

2.1. RATIONALE

22. The evaluation is being commissioned for the following reasons: a) accountability purposes, to look at progress of the JP against plans; and b) learning purposes, to look at the extent to which the Joint SDG fund has enabled a catalytic acceleration of support to the national SP system at policy and capacity strengthening levels, and learnings from the engagement that can enable future support to the national SP system.

23. The evaluation will have the following uses: for the WFP commissioning office and other JP stakeholders, it will aim to provide learnings for future scale-up of engagement on support to social protection; for the Joint SDG Fund, it will provide learnings on the extent to which the Joint SDG fund has enabled a catalytic acceleration of support to the national SP system at policy and capacity strengthening levels.

2.2. OBJECTIVES

24. The joint evaluation serves the dual and mutually reinforcing objectives of accountability and learning.

- **Accountability** The evaluation will assess and report on the performance and results of the joint programme in Palestine as required by the Joint SDG Fund secretariat.
- Learning The evaluation will determine the reasons why certain results occurred or did not occur to draw lessons, derive good practices and provide pointers for learning. It will also provide learnings for future scale-up of engagement on support to social protection, the extent to which the Joint SDG fund has enabled a catalytic acceleration of support to the national SP system at policy and capacity strengthening levels the extent to which the Joint SDG fund has contributed to the acceleration of the SDGs that are in the focus of the JP, and the extent the Joint Programme contributed to UNDS reforms, including improved collaboration and coherence of the UNCT under RC leadership. Finally, It will also provide evidence-based findings to inform operational and strategic decision-making. Findings will be actively disseminated, and lessons will be incorporated into relevant lesson-sharing systems.

2.3. STAKEHOLDERS OF THE EVALUATION

25. The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a broad range of internal and external stakeholders. A number of stakeholders will be asked to play a role in the evaluation process in light of their expected interest in the results of the evaluation and relative power to influence the results of the programme being evaluated. A detailed stakeholder analysis will be conducted by the evaluation team as part of the inception phase. Table 1 provides a preliminary list of main stakeholders in the evaluation.

26. Accountability to affected populations, is tied to WFP commitments to include beneficiaries as key stakeholders in WFP work. WFP is committed to ensuring gender equality, equity and inclusion in the evaluation process, with participation and consultation in the evaluation of women, men, boys and girls from different groups (including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with other diversities such as ethnic and linguistic).

Stakeholders	Interest and involvement in the evaluation
Joint SDG Fund	Key informant and primary stakeholder – This evaluation has been commissioned in line with the Joint SDG Fund requirements. The Joint SDG Fund Secretariat have an interest in both the accountability and learning sides of this evaluation which will

Table 1: Preliminary stakeholder analysis

	provide them with evidence on the performance and results of the JP, on possible enablers and constraints, lessons learnt, good practices and concrete recommendations which may have potential implications in view of a possible second phase of the programme, and the extent to which the Fund served as a catalyst for policy enabling and future scale-up of support to social protection. The evaluation will also inform donors on whether their funds have been spent effectively and efficiently.
Agencies Palestine Country Offices (WFP, UNICEF, ILO)	Key informants and primary stakeholders - Responsible for the planning and implementation of the JP at country level. The three agencies have an interest in both the accountability and learning sides of this evaluation, which will provide them with evidence on the performance and results of the joint programme, lessons learnt, good practices and recommendations. The country offices will be involved in using evaluation findings for programme implementation and/or in deciding on the next programme and partnerships.
Regional bureaus (WFP, UNICEF, ILO)	Key informants and primary stakeholders - Responsible for both oversight of country offices and technical guidance and support, the regional bureau management has an interest in an independent/impartial account of operational performance as well as in learning from the evaluation findings to apply this learning to other country offices. The regional bureaus will use evaluation findings and recommendations to provide strategic guidance and programme support for a future phase of the JP as well as to replicate its approach to other countries within the region. The regional evaluation officers support country office/regional bureau management to ensure quality, credible and useful decentralized evaluations.
Agencies Headquarters (WFP, UNICEF, ILO)	Key informants and primary stakeholders – Responsible for issuing and overseeing the rollout of normative guidance on corporate programme themes, activities and modalities, as well as of overarching corporate policies and strategies. They also have an interest in the lessons that emerge from evaluations, as many may have relevance beyond the geographical area of focus. Relevant headquarters units should be consulted from the planning phase to ensure that key policy, strategic and programmatic considerations are understood from the onset of the evaluation. They may use the evaluation for wider organizational learning and accountability.
Offices of Evaluation (WFP, UNICEF, ILO)	Primary stakeholders – Responsible for giving strategic direction to the joint evaluation and ensuring the evaluation is conducted according to the ToR and in compliance with the UNEG Norms and Standards. Although the WFP quality assurance mechanism will be applied to this joint evaluation, all agencies' offices of evaluation have a stake in ensuring the evaluation quality and will be engaged in an advisory capacity throughout the evaluation process.
	The offices of evaluation may use the evaluation findings, as appropriate, to feed into centralized evaluations, evaluation syntheses or other learning products.
Governing Bodies (WFP, UNICEF, ILO)	Primary stakeholders – Upper decision-making bodies responsible for providing intergovernmental support, leadership, direction and supervision to the respective UN Agency. Strong partnerships and effective collaboration among UN agencies have been on the agenda of the Governing Bodies in the context of the UN Reform. The Evaluation will provide them with evidence on the enablers and constraints of UN collaboration within the JP, lessons learnt, good practices and recommendations to inform decision-making on future strategic direction towards enhancing collaboration in the frame of the UN Reform and the 2030 Agenda.
Government [Palestinian Authority's Ministry of	Key informants and primary stakeholder – The Ministry of Social Development is a key partner and direct beneficiary of the programme. The Government has an interest in learning how the JP performed and delivered results in the country, and whether the programme was aligned with its priorities, policies and plans. Their views on effective engagement /collaboration between agencies and government (different levels), as well

Social Development]	as their opinions on what worked well or not so well throughout implementation will be key for this evaluation.
Beneficiaries [Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons]	Key informants and primary stakeholders - As the ultimate recipients of this JP, beneficiaries have a stake in determining whether the programme is appropriate and effective. As such, the level of participation in the evaluation of women, men, boys and girls from different groups will be determined and their respective perspectives will be sought.
UN Resident Coordinator / UN Country Team (UNCT)	Secondary stakeholder - Responsible for a better coordination and more coherent use of UN capacities towards delivering support to countries. Responsible for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level. It has an interest in ensuring that the programme is effective in contributing to the United Nations concerted efforts and an interest in learning from the JP experience and results at a country level.
Key actors involved in social protection in the country [EU, World Bank]	The European Union and World Bank support key aspects of the social protection system in the country, including through policy and programmatic support and support to underlying delivery mechanisms (e.g. management information systems). With aspects of this JP linking to these activities supported by the EU and WB, learnings from this evaluation could inform considerations for such stakeholders.

3. Subject of the evaluation

3.1. SUBJECT OF THE EVALUATION

27. This joint programme (JP) "Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor (SPF) for persons with disabilities (PwD) and older persons (OP) in the State of Palestine Joint Programme", supported by ILO, UNICEF and WFP, aims at supporting national efforts by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to adapt the national social protection (SP) system to address the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups, whose specific needs are not currently addressed, notably Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Older Persons (OP), as part of ongoing SP reform efforts. The JP aimed to initiate specific efforts that can then be taken to scale by the authorities, and in so doing, accelerate efforts towards poverty reduction (SDG 1), reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and increasing food security (SDG 2) amongst PwD and OP, with the intent of giving special attention to women. The programme aimed to pilot integrated solutions for PWD in Hebron governorate, which is one of the most vulnerable areas in the West Bank, taking geopolitical developments into consideration.

28. Specifically, the programme aimed at the following results:

UNDAF Strategic Priority 4 (Leaving No One Behind: Social Development and Social Protection) Outcome 4.2: All Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable, have greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems

- Output 1. Policy makers utilize improved data and evidence base on Persons with Disability and Older Persons to inform social policies and programs
- Output 2. Policy makers and other national and international stakeholders utilize the updated Social Protection legal, financing and programming framework for Persons with Disability and Older Persons to enhance response to the multi-dimensional needs of these target groups
- Output 3. Persons with Disability and Older Persons are utilizing more adequate social protection systems including in target locations where capacity strengthening, and service roll out has been piloted
- Output 4. Persons with Disability and Older Persons have enhanced awareness of their rights to effectively take up services through the national Social Protection system

The specific results are included in the **results framework – see Annex 8**.

- 29. One significant shift in the Activities under the JP will entail the following main areas of intervention:
 - Supporting efforts to build the evidence base to inform policy and programming as regards the rights and needs of (female) PwD and OP, including developing an integrated database for PwD which will aim to link with longer term efforts by the WB towards a more comprehensive Social Registry.
 - Mainstreaming the Social Protection Floors (SPF) concept and finalization of a legal/strategic/financing framework for protection of (female) PwD and OP;

30. The systems strengthening output will entail work on the following pillars:

- Defining possible service packages that can be made available for (female) PwD and OP, scoping and costing them.
- A disability assessment to determine the exact needs of individual PwD;
- A service access system based on a disability card,
- Rights-based mechanisms for selection of (female) PwD and OP in social assistance.
- Enhancing demand for rights-based design and implementation of social protection services amongst (female) PwD and OP by building capacity and awareness of civil society organizations and social partners, including through a more sensitive design of the existing Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) system.

31. The programme was approved in December 2019 with a view to starting in January 2020 for a twoyear period. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the May 2021 escalation in the Gaza Strip and financial constraints faced by the Palestinian Authority (PA), its capacity was significantly limited in 2020 to take forward some of the activities, exacerbated further by nation-wide lockdowns with many of the civil servants unable to work and the Ministry closed for an extensive period of time. Government priorities changed to accommodate the immediate humanitarian needs arising due to the pandemic and focused attention more on the emergency response while social protection and other projects were put on the backburner through 2020. This required the need for no-cost project extension that was granted through August 2022. Moreover, the Fund allows a reprogramming of up to 25 percent of funds, with changes proposed including:

32. Following the COVID-19 crisis and the May 2021 escalation in the Gaza Strip, the JP will update an assessment of needs among PWD and OP as a precursor to the definition and costing of services packages tailored to the two groups. This additional work is designed to capture new needs and vulnerabilities emerging out of the two crises and to adapt the diagnosis being made with respect to services offerings to new realities. This request has come from MoSD to reflect the impact of COVID and recent escalation on poor people. It is estimated that the needs assessment phase will continue until December of 2021, pushing subsequent work on packages definition and costing into Q1 of 2022.

33. Based on the election announcements in early 2021, policy and legislation-related activities, mainly the PwD law, had been delayed in anticipation of a newly elected Palestinian Legislative Council. Unfortunately, as the elections have been postponed, the JP will resume working with the President's office seeking to finalize the law by other means, most notably the option of a "law by Presidential Decree".

34. Recognizing these delays, especially on the policy front, and with the recent crises demonstrating the need for the social protection system to become more flexible and shock responsive, the JP adapted some of its activities and developed a cash pilot to test the shock responsiveness of the social protection system for PwD and to generate lessons for future policy and programming. This amended approach to the initial pilot, will target around 1,500 households with PwD in the Hebron governorate of the West Bank. The pilot aims to test categorical approaches through targeting households with PwDs registered in three different lists and provide differentiated transfer value depending on the number of PwD per households. By targeting different categories of potential beneficiaries and providing differentiated transfer value, the pilot aims to generate learnings on multiple aspects of shock responsiveness of the system and also on the impacts of this cash transfer. The pilot will also provide an opportunity for the Ministry of Social Development to revisit its lists of beneficiaries, update the data and expedite verification and cross-check process. The practice can better prepare the Ministry and relevant stakeholders for future emergencies. The details of the activity have been finalized through extensive consultation with the relevant stakeholders and the concept note is available. The activity will be implemented through early 2022.

35. With the JP undertaken jointly by ILO, UNICEF and WFP, in support of the MoSD, the split of activities undertaken by the agencies is as per below:

36. Building on ongoing support to the SPF assessment in SoP, ILO will mainstream the SPF concept in the JP. ILO will support the implementation of the SP floor for PwD and OP based on the existing SP floor assessment and to conduct the necessary cost assessment for non-contributory SP services, vision for progressive realization and sustainable financing of SPF in oPt , and roadmap for implementation of SPF for (female) PwD and OP. ILO will lead the development of a programming and financing framework for PwD and OP, and operationalization of the linkages between social assistances, social insurance, access to health and access to employment.

37. To finalize the legal framework for PwD and OP, UNICEF will work on the legal and policy framework for PwD building on the ongoing revision of the Disability Law with MoSD. ILO will work with MoSD on conducting a vulnerability assessment for senior citizens in SoP – based on secondary and qualitative data – to form the basis for mainstreaming of elderly protection agenda in the new social development strategy. UNICEF will be working on developing an action plan for the law implementation, focusing on areas of implementation that can be achieved before the law endorsement, costing the law. In the original Programme Document (PD), UNICEF was to support the Government to develop the disability bylaws; due to delay of the new disability law endorsement, UNICEF is scoping the option of working with the MoSD, the Council of Ministers and the President's office to finalize and endorse the law as a "law by presidential decree". UNICEF

will also reinforce capacity of the Disability Directorate within MoSD and Disability Sections in regional offices and the capacity of the General Union for PwD.

38. On the development of the PwD and OP service package management, UNICEF will be working on mapping of available services for (female) PwD and OP, including geographical distribution of services. ILO will be working on identification and costing of standard support packages depending on conditions (e.g. deep poor vs poor), and development of service routes/pathways for(female) PwD and OP. will be working on what will be the service package for PwD and OP. While these activities will be jointly implemented, UNICEF will lead on OP and provide specific inputs on adults with disabilities.

39. UNICEF will work on developing the new proposed assessment modality for PwD (functional modality) in the revised law. The objective of this activity is to prepare the current disability assessment and determination mechanisms and to develop a CRPD-compliant disability assessment and determination mechanism and corresponding tools for the State of Palestine which rely on current international principles of inclusion and good practice from other similar country contexts, and based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). A training and guidance on introducing these tools into practice and linking them to the determination of eligibility for services will be provided. ILO will support the development of an inclusive selection and identification model for PwD and OP building on the SPF assessment and proposal for use of a multidimensional deprivations approach / the multidimensional poverty approach / Essential Needs Assessments for selection in social assistance.

40. Building on existing capacity to provide assistance through national social safety nets, monitoring, targeting and complaints mechanisms, WFP will work to build the comprehensive and integrated database for the PwD based on the on the ongoing analysis for the NCTP database and the joint work with MoSD. As the World Bank has been supporting the MoSD to build a single registry, the disability component will be undertaken in the auspices of the wider single registry development. WFP will support efforts at strengthening the monitoring system and refinement of tools to enhance data collection to enable vulnerability analysis (multidimensional poverty approach / Essential Needs Assessments) and gender analysis.

41. The JP includes a strong component on the legal, policy and financial framework of social protection in the country, which unfortunately faced significant challenges in passage and implementation given delays in the approval of the revised disability law due to COVID-19. To address this setback, in 2021 the three agencies got approval to re-programme some \$330,000 (the JP allows up to 25 percent of budget to be reprogrammed) to reorient the planned piloting of services to instead pilot more shock-responsive support through cash transfers, or social allowances, for PWD under the project's mandate and to develop more inclusive targeting approaches. Through providing cash assistance to PwD, the JP will test categorical and more shock-responsive approaches, document the procedures and learnings to make policy recommendations for introducing and administering more horizontally and vertically flexible social allowances to make the system more shock-responsive. The pilot comes at a time when COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of more flexible means of assistance and of national institutions' readiness to respond to shocks in a swift and efficient manner. The activity is also in line with some of the key documents and frameworks of Palestine. The Updated Social Development Sector Strategy (2021- 2023) of the Palestinian Authority prioritizes shock responsive social protection noting it "seeks to develop national systems...with the aim of these systems becoming more responsive to cases of emergency." The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2018-2022) also aims to support the development of a shockresponsive social protection system.

42. The pilot aims to test categorical targeting approaches by targeting households with PwDs in Hebron registered in three different lists: a) the national cash transfer programme (CTP); b) those on a waiting list; and, c) the new poor who have received a one-off cash transfer as part of the COVID-19 response. The pilot will provide one payment of an amount of between 600 shekels (NIS) to 1000 NIS per household depending on the number of PwD in the HH. By targeting different categories of potential beneficiaries and providing differentiated transfer values based on the needs of PWD, the pilot aims to generate learnings on multiple aspects of shock responsiveness of the system and also on the impacts of this cash transfer to inform future social assistance adjustments. The pilot will also provide an opportunity for the MoSD to revisit its lists of beneficiaries, update its data and expedite verification and cross-check processes for beneficiaries. The pilot can better prepare the Ministry and relevant stakeholders for future emergencies. The piloting of cash-based

benefits in lieu of planned services comes at a time when service-delivery is constrained by movement restrictions due to COVID-19.

43. ILO, with UNICEF, will lead on capacity development and awareness raising for enhanced participation of non-state actors representing the interest of (female) PwD and OP in the designing and implementation of SP interventions, while WFP, with ILO, will lead on the enhancement of existing GRM systems to ensure they are sensitive to the specific needs of the two target populations and to the specific needs of women in both target groups.

44. The ultimate goal for (female) PwD and OP is therefore a situation in which whereby there is a great understanding of specific needs, a set of costed services that can be made available to them, within a comprehensive policy and financing framework and a universal and holistic system run by a capacitated MoSD (supply side) and these populations being aware of their rights and able to claim services that meet their needs (demand-side). The specific needs of women, men and, girls and boys are given special consideration looked at through comprehensive assessment, to ensure that services developed cater for these.

45. The Joint Programme (JP) will take gender considerations into account by looking to address the specific needs of girls, boys, women and men, recognizing that women in Palestine are generally are more adversely affected by the context than men (51% of families headed by women have an income below the poverty line compared to 40% for males) and have fewer opportunities to move out of poverty (only 19% of Palestinian women participate in the labour market, the remaining 81% engage in unpaid domestic work; unemployment rate is much higher for women (54%) compared to men (25,5%); pay gap (average daily wage for women 83 NIS compared to 114 NIS for men) plus a whole range of other fundamental inequalities (regarding access to assets etc.). The IP will target the integration of gender and youth into the IP design, and acceleration strategy. Gender will be mainstreamed and given priority throughout all dimensions of the JP analysis, implementation and monitoring, ensuring a gender marker of 1 (direct influence). This JP will support the rights of elderly women, women and girls with disabilities, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, by ensuring that women are closely consulted and actively involved in decisionmaking processes from the very beginning and by ensuring that the IP does not only capture the priorities and rights of women and girls with disabilities and of elderly women ("gender sensitive"), but also targets women specifically ("gender specific") and prioritizes women in the delivery of key programme results ("gender transformative"). The JP has a Gender Marker overall score of 2.1.

46. The total budget for the programme is US\$ 2, 647,500, with US\$ 2,000,000 contributed by the Joint SDG Fund and USD\$ 647,500 by the partner UN agencies, split as follows: ILO US\$ 989,150, UNICEF US\$ 958,060, WFP US\$ 700,290.

47. As this is a new initiative, no past evaluations for the specific activities exist; however, the JP utilized related evaluations such as the 2017 World Bank Impact Evaluation of the Cash Transfer Programme in Palestine, and the preliminary results from the MoSD Mid-Term Review of the National Social Development Sector Strategy.

3.2. SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

48. The scope of the evaluation covers the period 2020 through August 2022, for activities with the State of Palestine and the specific pilot in Hebron. It should look at all activities undertaken by the Joint Programme, and related target groups (people with disabilities and older persons), including gender considerations.

4. Evaluation approach, methodology and ethical considerations

4.1. EVALUATION QUESTIONS AND CRITERIA

49. **Evaluation Criteria**: The evaluation will address the following key questions, which will be further developed and tailored by the evaluation team in a detailed evaluation matrix during the inception phase. The evaluation will apply the international evaluation criteria of Relevance, Appropriateness, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Coherence. Please refer to the OECD footnote for agreed definition of each criteria³. Changes in outcomes will be included in this evaluation, rather than impact measurement. The evaluation will analyse gender components in the full spectrum of the programme cycle of the projects.

50. **Evaluation Questions**: Allied to the evaluation criteria, the evaluation will address the following key questions as outlined in Table 2, which will be reviewed and further developed by the evaluation team during the inception phase. Collectively, the questions aim at highlighting the key lessons and performance of the JP activities, which could inform future strategic and operational decisions.

Evaluation questions EQ 1- Effectiveness 1.1 To what extent were the results of JP achieved/ are likely to be achieved (including any differential results across groups. a. Have the objectives been achieved for each activity? If not, what could have been done better? b. Have the objectives targeting specific groups (persons with disabilities - PWD, and older persons - OP, including considering the gender dimension) been achieved? If not, what could have been done better? 1.2 What are the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the outcomes/objectives of the joint programme? 1.3 Were there unintended (positive or negative) outcomes of assistance for participants? 1.4 How well do the JP activities contribute to nationally owned strategies and solutions? **EQ2 – Efficiency** 2.1 To what extent has the joint programme intervention delivered results in a cost-efficient way? 2.2 Are the JP activities implemented in a timely way (taking account of any changes in circumstances)? EQ3 - Relevance and appropriateness 3.1 51. Is the intervention in line with the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups (PWD and OP, cutting across men and women, boys and girls)?

Table 2: Evaluation questions and criteria

³ https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

	 To what extent have PWD and OP, in particular children and women with disabilities, or organisations representing these persons, been consulted during the design of the JP?
	 To what extent did the programme target the needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly?
	 To what extent did the programme contribute to creating a more enabling environment for support to be provided to persons with disabilities and the elderly?
3.2	 To what extent is the design of JP based on a sound gender analysis?
	 To what extent is the design and implementation of the intervention Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) sensitive?
	 Are protection needs met for project beneficiaries?
3.3	Was the design of the intervention relevant to the wider context?
	Is the intervention design and objectives aligned with the needs of the government?
	 Is the intervention aligned with ILO, UNICEF, WFP and partners' strategies?
EQ4 - 9	Sustainability
4.1	To what extent are the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue after the completion of the JP?
EQ 5- 0	Coherence
5.1	To what extent has the JP Contributed to UN reforms? (Including greater UNCT joint working and coherence)
5.2	To what extent has the JP Contributed to SDG acceleration (including prevention of loss of development gains in the context of a more challenging contextual environment)?
5.3	To what extent has the JP contributed to improving the situation of PwD and OP?
	 What is the added value of the collaboration between the 3 organizations on the achievement of the JP results?

4.2. EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

52. The methodology will be designed by the evaluation team during the inception phase. It should:

- Employ the relevant evaluation criteria above.
- Demonstrate impartiality and lack of biases by relying on a cross-section of information sources (stakeholder groups, including beneficiaries, etc.)
- Apply an evaluation matrix geared towards addressing the key evaluation questions taking into account the data availability challenges, the budget and timing constraints
- Ensure through the use of mixed methods that women, girls, men and boys from different stakeholder's groups participate and that their different voices are heard and used.
- In order to elicit information from various stakeholders, separate tools will be applied to various primary sources of information.
- The data collection tools and sampling methodologies should ensure availability of gender and age disaggregated data, and relevant triangulations to ensure voices of both men and women are included.
- Account for comparisons with existing information collected throughout the programme cycle.

- Ensure the triangulation of information through a variety of means to help achieve a thorough understanding of the different design, operational, or contextual factors that may have fostered or hindered the achievement of the programme's results.
- Consider WFP's approach to protection and AAP, as per, respectively, WFP's Policy on Humanitarian Protection and WFP strategy on AAP.

53. The methodology chosen should demonstrate attention to impartiality and reduction of bias by relying on mixed methods (qualitative, participatory etc.) and different primary and secondary data sources that are systematically triangulated (documents from different sources; a range of stakeholder groups, including beneficiaries; direct observation in different locations; across evaluators; across methods etc.). It will take into account any challenges to data availability, validity or reliability, as well as any budget and timing constraints. The evaluation questions, lines of inquiry, indicators, data sources and data collection methods will be brought together in an evaluation matrix, which will form the basis of the sampling approach and data collection and analysis instruments (desk review, interview and observation guides, etc.).

54. The methodology should be sensitive in terms of GEWE, equity and inclusion, indicating how the perspectives and voices of diverse groups (men and women, boys, girls, the elderly, people living with disabilities and other marginalized groups) will be sought and taken into account. The methodology should ensure that primary data collected is disaggregated by sex and age; an explanation should be provided if this is not possible.

55. Looking for explicit consideration of gender and equity/inclusion in the data after fieldwork is too late; the evaluation team must have a clear and detailed plan for collecting data from women and men in gender and equity-sensitive ways before fieldwork begins.

56. The evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations must reflect gender and equity analysis. The findings should include a discussion on intended and unintended effects of the intervention on gender equality and equity dimensions. The report should provide lessons/challenges/recommendations for conducting gender and equity-responsive evaluations in the future.

57. Mechanisms to ensure the independence and impartiality of the evaluation include the hiring of an impartial third-party Evaluation Team without any linkages to the design or implementation of the joint programme and with full access to information, as well as the formation of a Steering Committee (SC) and Evaluation Reference Group (ERG). The SC members will be providing the overall strategic direction and making key decisions about the evaluation, all while ensuring the independence and impartiality of the evaluation. The ERG will act as an advisory body consisting of internal and external experts, including a gender expert. The two groups will review and comment on key deliverables throughout the evaluation: The ToR, the inception report and the evaluation report.

58. A detailed data analysis plan will be laid out by the evaluation team during the inception phase that will state how the data collected will be converted into meaningful findings resulting in relevant recommendations. The data analysis plan will be guided by the four humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The analysis plan will also include a gender analysis and the findings for which will be included in the evaluation conclusions and recommendations which will be subsequently followed upon to improve gender performance.

59. The following potential risks to the methodology have been identified:

- The political and security situation in Palestine during the time of the data collection will determine access to the field and beneficiaries. These constraints can be mitigated through early preparations of logistics related to the data collection mission to take place and seeking the recruitment of an evaluation firm that has presence in the State of Palestine.
- The covid-19 situation and potential movement restrictions during the inception and data collection phases. The evaluation methodology should take the covid-19 pandemic into consideration and ensure applying the "do no harm" principle".
- Additional risks related to the methodology include the availability of key competencies required for the Evaluation Team, availability and competing interests of ERG members, and potential gaps in data that cannot be covered through primary data collection during the evaluation mission. In order to mitigate these risks, some flexibility with regards to the timeline and means of data collection including remote solutions is accounted for. Regular online meetings between the Evaluation

Manager and representatives of the Evaluation Team will be held throughout the process, to address potential challenges at an early stage.

60. The evaluation team will be expected to expand on the methodology presented in the ToR and develop a detailed evaluation matrix in the inception report.

4.3. EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

61. The evaluation team will have access to the corporate externally available documents such as the Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), the Gender and Age Marker Report (GAM), Standard Joint Project Reports, and the Annual Country Reports (ACRs).

62. The evaluation team will have access to key national documents that shape the context of this JP, as well as studies on vulnerability analysis and (for example, the 2019 World Bank study 'Assessing Situation and Services for People with Disabilities (PWD)' and 2016 UNICEF study, 'Every Child Counts: understanding the needs and perspectives of children with disabilities in the State of Palestine') and analysis of national social protection programmes (notably the National Cash Transfer Programme).

63. The JP partners will provide the evaluation team with relevant JP planning documentation and its results framework, JP monitoring and progress reports, and annual reports. The evaluation team will have access to all internal and external Joint programme monitoring/VAM reports.

64. During the inception phase, the evaluation team will be expected to perform an in-depth evaluability assessment and critically assess data availability, quality and gaps expanding on the information provided in Section 4.3. This assessment will inform the data collection and the choice of evaluation methods. The evaluation team will need to systematically check accuracy, consistency and validity of collected data and information and acknowledge any limitations/caveats in drawing conclusions using the data during the reporting phase.

4.4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

65. The evaluation must conform to <u>UNEG ethical guidelines for evaluation</u>. Accordingly, the selected evaluation firm is responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics at all stages of the evaluation process. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of respondents, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of respondents, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results do no harm to respondents or their communities.

66. The evaluation firm will be responsible for managing any potential ethical risks and issues and must put in place, in consultation with the evaluation manager, processes and systems to identify, report and resolve any ethical issues that might arise during the implementation of the evaluation. Ethical approvals and reviews by relevant national and institutional review boards must be sought where required.

67. The team and evaluation manager will not have been involved in the design, implementation or monitoring of the Joint Programme nor have any other potential or perceived conflicts of interest. All members of the evaluation team will abide by the <u>2020 UNEG Ethical Guidelines</u>, including the Pledge of Ethical Conduct as well as the WFP technical note on gender. The evaluation team and individuals who participate directly in the evaluation at the time of issuance of the purchase order are expected to sign a confidentiality agreement and a commitment to ethical conduct. These templates will be provided by the country office when signing the contract.

4.5. QUALITY ASSURANCE

68. The Evaluation Management Group is responsible for quality assurance of all substantive aspects of the evaluation, including the evaluation team selection and first-level quality assurance of the inception report, the draft report, and the final evaluation report. The members of the Evaluation Management Group may forward deliverables for internal peer review within their respective organizations and will consult with the Management Advisory Group and external advisors periodically throughout the evaluation.

69. Quality assurance checklists and technical notes from WFP will be used with adaptations as needed. The WFP evaluation quality assurance system sets out processes with steps for quality assurance and

templates for evaluation products based on a set of <u>Quality Assurance Checklists</u>. The quality assurance will be systematically applied during this evaluation and relevant documents will be provided to the evaluation team. This includes checklists for feedback on quality for each of the evaluation products. The relevant checklist will be applied at each stage, to ensure the quality of the evaluation process and outputs.

70. The WFP Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System (DEQAS) is based on the UNEG norms and standards and good practice of the international evaluation community and aims to ensure that the evaluation process and products conform to best practice. This quality assurance process does not interfere with the views or independence of the evaluation team but ensures that the report provides credible evidence and analysis in a clear and convincing way and draws its conclusions on that basis.

71. The evaluation management group will be responsible for ensuring that the evaluation progresses as per the <u>DEQAS Process Guide</u> and for conducting a rigorous quality control of the evaluation products ahead of their finalization.

72. To enhance the quality and credibility of decentralized evaluations, an outsourced quality support (QS) service directly managed by the WFP Office of Evaluation reviews the draft ToR, the draft inception and the evaluation reports, and provides a systematic assessment of their quality from an evaluation perspective, along with recommendations.

73. The evaluation manager will share the assessment and recommendations from the quality support service with the team leader, who will address the recommendations when finalizing the inception and evaluation reports. To ensure transparency and credibility of the process in line with the <u>UNEG norms and standards</u>.^[1] a rationale should be provided for comments that the team does not take into account when finalizing the report.

74. The evaluation team will be required to ensure the quality of data (reliability, consistency and accuracy) throughout the data collection, synthesis, analysis and reporting phases.

75. The evaluation team should be assured of the accessibility of all relevant documentation within the provisions of the directive on disclosure of information. This is available in the <u>WFP Directive CP2010/001</u> on information disclosure.

76. The Evaluation Management Group expects that all deliverables from the evaluation team are subject to a thorough quality assurance review by the evaluation firm in line with the WFP evaluation quality assurance system prior to submission of the deliverables to WFP.

77. All final evaluation reports will be subject to a post hoc quality assessment (PHQA) by an independent entity through a process that is managed by the Office of Evaluation. The overall PHQA results will be published on the WFP website alongside the evaluation report.

^[1] <u>UNEG</u> Norm #7 states "that transparency is an essential element that establishes trust and builds confidence, enhances stakeholder ownership and increases public accountability"

5. Organization of the evaluation

5.1. PHASES AND DELIVERABLES

78. The evaluation will be conducted in five phases. The overall timeline for the evaluation is January 2022 to December 2022. Table 4 presents the structure of the main phases of the evaluation, along with the deliverables and deadlines for each phase. Annex 2 presents a more detailed timeline. The timeline will be monitored carefully. Given the current context with the implications of the Covid pandemic and political situation, adjustments will be made as needed.

Tal	Table 4: Summary timeline – key evaluation milestones			
Ma	in phases	Indicative timeline	Tasks and deliverables	Responsible
1.	Preparation	January – May 2022	Preparation of ToR Selection of the evaluation team & contracting	Evaluation management group
2.	Inception	June-July 2022	Inception mission Inception report	Evaluation Team
3.	Data collection	August 2022	Fieldwork Exit debriefing	Evaluation Team
4.	Reporting	September- November 2022	Data analysis and report drafting Commenting process Learning workshop Evaluation report Evaluation Brief	Evaluation Team
5.	Dissemination and follow-up	December 2022	Management response Dissemination of the evaluation report	Steering Committee / Evaluation Management Group

5.2. EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION

79. The evaluation team is expected to include 4 members, including an experienced team leader, a senior evaluator, one evaluator, and one data analyst. To the extent possible, the evaluation will be conducted by a gender-balanced and geographically and culturally diverse team with appropriate skills to assess gender dimensions of the subject as specified in the scope, approach and methodology sections of the ToR. At least one team member should have experience with WFP evaluations.

80. The team will be multi-disciplinary and include members who, together, include an appropriate balance of technical expertise and practical knowledge in the following areas:

- Expertise in evaluating social protection programmes.
- Good knowledge of the Palestinian context with previous experience working within Palestine.

- Good knowledge of protection, gender, equity and wider inclusion issues.
- All team members should have strong analytical and communication skills, evaluation experience with a track record of written work on similar assignments.
- All evaluation team members should have the ability to carry out an evaluation in English. At least one of the team members should be fluent in Arabic to ensure quality in primary data collection. The team must be gender balanced, including female members who are capable of leading focus groups and interacting with beneficiaries.

81. The team leader will have expertise in one of the key competencies listed above as well as expertise in designing methodology and data collection tools and demonstrated experience in leading similar evaluations. She/he will also have leadership, analytical and communication skills, including a track record of excellent English writing, synthesis and presentation skills, fluency in Arabic is highly desirable.

82. Her/his primary responsibilities will be: i) defining the evaluation approach and methodology; ii) guiding and managing the team; iii) leading the evaluation mission and representing the evaluation team; and iv) drafting and revising, as required, the inception report, the end of field work (i.e. exit) debriefing presentation and evaluation report in line with DEQAS.

83. Team members will: i) contribute to the methodology in their area of expertise based on a document review; ii) conduct field work; iii) participate in team meetings and meetings with stakeholders; and iv) contribute to the drafting and revision of the evaluation products in their technical area(s).

84. Expected deliverables: 1) Inception Report, 2) Evaluation Report, 3) two-page summary evaluation brief (both in English and Arabic), 4) PPT for debriefing.

85. The evaluation team will conduct the evaluation under the direction of its team leader and in close communication with the Evaluation Manager. The team will be hired following agreement with the Evaluation Management Group and Steering Committee on its composition.

5.3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

86. The three commissioning agencies will assign one Evaluation Manager (EM) from WFP Palestine CO to be responsible for day-to-day management of the evaluation, liaise with stakeholders involved and ensure that quality assurance mechanisms are operational. Structures have been put in place for the governance and management of the joint evaluation.

87. **Evaluation Steering Committee (SC)**: A SC will be formed to help ensure the independence and impartiality of the evaluation. It is responsible for giving strategic direction to the joint evaluation and comprises the senior leadership from WFP, UNICEF, ILO and MoSD. The Steering Committee would have a key decision-making role throughout the evaluation process and will take responsibility to:

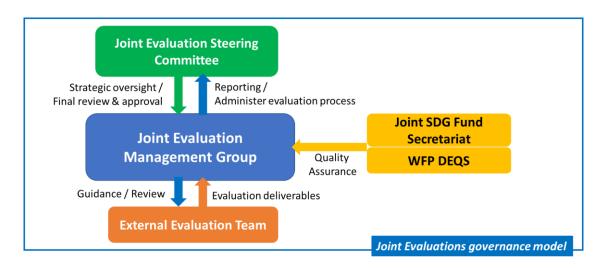
- Assign an evaluation manager for the evaluation
- Compose the evaluation reference group (see below)
- Approve the final ToR, inception and evaluation reports
- Approve the evaluation team selection
- Ensure the independence and impartiality of the evaluation at all stages
- Engage in discussions with the evaluation management group and evaluation team around the evaluation design, validation of findings as well as shaping recommendations to ensure that they are useful and implementable
- Organize and participate in two separate debriefings, one internal and one with external stakeholders
- Oversee dissemination and follow-up processes, including the preparation of a management response to the evaluation recommendations.

88. Annex 3 provides further information on the composition of the steering committee.

89. **Evaluation Management Group**: The evaluation management group comprises evaluation staff from the three commissioning agencies. The Evaluation Management Group ensures that the evaluation is conducted according to the Terms of Reference and in compliance with the UNEG Norms and Standards. The Evaluation Management Group is expected to pay particular attention to ensuring that the evaluation is independent, credible and meets the quality standards. 90. While WFP Palestine Evaluation Officer will serve as the day-to-day evaluation manager, other EMG members may be co-opted to assist with certain evaluation management tasks. The EMG is responsible for managing and quality assuring key deliverables at all phases of the evaluation, with specific responsibilities to:

- Provide inputs on key evaluation decision points and quality assure key deliverables:
 - Terms of Reference; Criteria for selection of company to conduct the evaluation, and the selection of the company; preparing and managing the budget
 - Inception report (including final clearance of the methodological approach and the selection of sites for field missions)
 - Ensuring that the team has access to all documentation and information necessary to the evaluation
 - Evaluation report (drafts for circulation and final draft)
 - Organize and oversee the interviews conducted and field visits
- Act as a liaison for the evaluation with their respective organizations.
- Keep the Evaluation Steering Committee informed of progress with the evaluation and alerting the Committee to issues that require intervention by the Committee. EMG updates on progress to the Evaluation Steering Committee and the reference group will be in joint form.

91. **Evaluation Reference Group**: The ERG is formed as an advisory body with representation from key internal stakeholders (WFP/ UNICEF/ ILO) regional and country office representatives, programme officers and focal points from relevant technical units) and external stakeholders (representatives from key government ministries, cooperating partners, sister UN agencies, donors). The evaluation reference group members will review and comment on the draft evaluation products and act as key informants in order to contribute to the relevance, impartiality and credibility of the evaluation by offering a range of viewpoints and ensuring a transparent process. Annex 4 provides further information on the composition of the ERG.



5.4. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

92. **Security clearance** where required is to be obtained from the Palestine CO Security unit. As an "independent supplier" of evaluation services to WFP, the contracted firm will be responsible for ensuring the security of the evaluation team, and adequate arrangements for evacuation for medical or situational reasons. However, to avoid any security incidents, the evaluation manager will ensure that the WFP country office registers the team members with the security officer on arrival in country and arranges a security briefing for them to gain an understanding of the security situation on the ground. The evaluation team must observe applicable United Nations Department of Safety and Security rules and regulations including taking security training (BSAFE & SSAFE), curfews (when applicable) and attending in-country briefings.

5.5. COMMUNICATION

93. To ensure a smooth and efficient process and enhance the learning from this evaluation, the evaluation team should place emphasis on transparent and open communication with key stakeholders. These will be achieved by ensuring a clear agreement on channels and frequency of communication with and between key stakeholders. The team will communicate remotely on a regular basis with the Evaluation Manager who will also support requests for remote meetings with stakeholders outside of the data collection phase.

94. Based on the stakeholder analysis, the communication and knowledge management plan (in Annex 5) identifies the users of the evaluation to involve in the process and to whom the report should be disseminated. The communication and knowledge management plan indicates how findings including gender, equity and wider inclusion issues will be disseminated and how stakeholders interested in, or affected by, gender, equity and wider inclusion issues will be engaged.

95. Should translation be required for fieldwork, this should be included in the proposed budget by the evaluation firm. The inception report and the main report will be produced in English. The evaluation team will also produce an Evaluation Brief. The Evaluation Brief and Management Response will be translated in Arabic.

96. The Evaluation Management Group will ensure that information on the evaluation and key deliverables, including the final evaluation report and management response, will be uploaded onto the websites of all three agencies in line with their respective evaluation policies. The Evaluation Management Group will organize stakeholder consultations at critical points of the evaluation, for example, during the inception phase and debriefings following the fieldwork to discuss draft evaluation findings and emerging conclusions and recommendations.

5.6. BUDGET

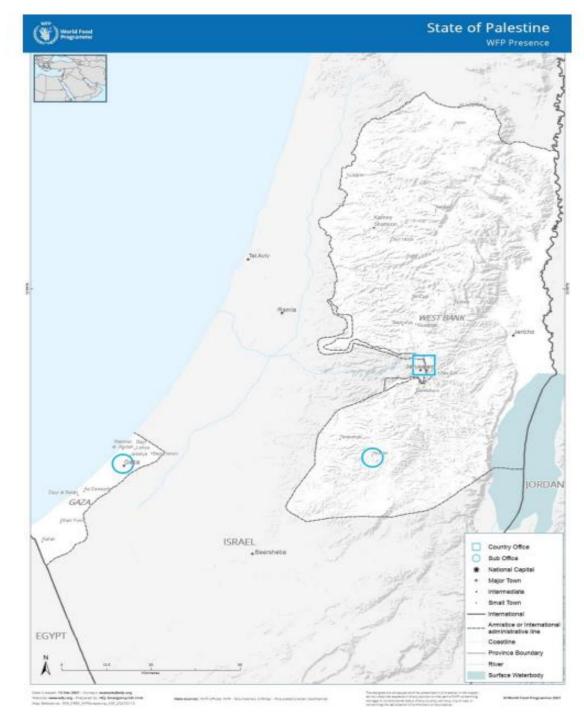
97. The evaluation will be funded jointly with contributions from WFP, UNICEF, and ILO Palestine COs, as per the JP budget.

98. The offer will include a detailed budget for the evaluation, including consultant fees, travel costs and other costs (interpreters, etc.).

99. Please send any queries to Arwa Smeir, at <u>arwa.smeir@wfp.org</u>;

Annexes

Annex 1: Map



Source: WFP GIS unit

Annex 2: Timeline

	Phases, deliverables and timeline	Key dates
Phase 1 -	Preparation	Up to 20 weeks
EM	Development of draft ToR	January 2022
EM/SC	Draft ToR revised with consolidated comments from Evaluation Steering Committee (SC)	February 2022
EM/SC	Draft ToR reviewed by the RCO and SDG fund	March 2022
EM	Share draft ToR with quality support service (DEQS) and organize follow-up call with DEQS	01-08 April 2022
EM	Review draft ToR based on DEQS feedback and share with Joint SDG Fund	09-12 April 2022
EM	Start identification of evaluation team	1 April 2022
ERG	Review and comment on draft ToR	13-22 April 2021
EM	Review draft ToR based on comments received and submit final ToR to SC Chair	23-27 April 2022
SC Chair	Approve the final ToR and share with ERG and key stakeholders	28 April 2022
EM	Assess evaluation proposals and recommends team selection	EARLY May 2022
EM	Evaluation team recruitment/contracting	May 2022
SC Chair	Approve evaluation team selection and recruitment of evaluation team	May 2022
Phase 2 -	Inception	Up to 8 weeks
ET	Evaluation Team desk review and preparation prior to EMG Briefing	Early June 2022
EM	Briefing to the Evaluation Team	Early June 2022
ET	Inception mission in the country (if applicable)	Week 2 June 2022
ET	TL submits draft inception report to EM	Week 3 June 2022
EM	Quality assurance of draft IR by EM using QC, share draft IR with quality support service (DEQS) and organize follow-up call with DEQS	Week 4 June 2022
SC	SC review and comment on draft IR	June – early July 2022
ET	Review draft IR based on feedback received by DEQS, EMG, and SC	Week 2 July 2022
EM	Share revised IR with ERG	
ERG	Review and comment on draft IR	Week 3 July 2022
EM	Consolidate comments	
ET	Review draft IR based on feedback received and submit final revised IR	Week 4 July 2022

SC Chair	Approve final IR and share with ERG for information	31 Jul 2022
Phase 3 -	- Data collection	Up to 3 weeks
SC Chair/ EMG	Brief the evaluation team at CO	01 Aug 2022
ET	Fieldwork, Data collection and Desk review	02 August -23 August 2022
ET	In-country debriefing (s)	24 August 2022
Phase 4 -	Reporting	Up to 11 weeks
ET	Draft evaluation report	25 Aug-15 Sep 2022
EM	Quality assurance of draft ER by EM using the QC, share draft ER with quality support service (DEQS) and organize follow-up call with DEQS	16-23 Sep 2022
SC	SC review and comment on draft ER	23-30 Sep 2022
ET	Review draft ER based on feedback received by DEQS, EMG, and SC	30-Sep- 10 Oct 2022
EM/ERG	Circulate draft ER for review and comments to ERG	11-17 Oct 2022
ET	Stakeholder validation workshop	Mid- End Oct 2022
EM	Consolidate comments received	
ET	Review draft ER based on feedback received and submit final revised ER	18-25 Oct 2022
EM	Review final revised ER and submit to the steering committee	25 Oct-01Nov 2022
SC Chair	Approve final evaluation report and share with key stakeholders for information	11 Nov
Phase 5 -	Dissemination and follow-up	Up to 4 weeks
SC Chair	Prepare management response	Dec 2022
EMG	Dissemination of final Evaluation Report, posting on respective websites	Dec 2022

Annex 3: ToR for the Role and Composition of the Evaluation Steering Committee

Purpose: The establishment of an evaluation committee for each joint decentralized evaluation is part of the impartiality provisions. The Evaluation Steering Committee (SC) is a temporary group responsible for overseeing the evaluation process, making key decisions and reviewing evaluation products submitted to the Chair/s for approval. It helps ensuring due process in evaluation management and maintaining distance from programme implementers (preventing potential risks of undue influence), while also supporting and giving advice to the Evaluation Managers. Key decisions expected to be made by the EC relate to the evaluation purpose, scope, timeline, budget and team selection as well as approving the final TORs, inception report and evaluation report. The overall purpose of the steering committee is to ensure a credible, transparent, impartial and quality evaluation process. It will achieve this by supporting the evaluation manager through the process, reviewing evaluation deliverables (TOR, inception report and evaluation report) and submitting them for approval by the co-chairs of the committee. The Evaluation Committee is composed of several staff, who, de facto, are also members of the Evaluation Reference Group.

The composition of the evaluation steering committee:

- Evaluation co-Chairs: management representatives of RCO, WFP, UNICEF, ILO
- Observer: Evaluation Manager (EM)-
- Member- Head of External Relations WFP, UNICEF, ILO
- Member- Head of Ops WFP, UNICEF, ILO
- Member- Head of M&E WFP, UNICEF, ILO (if other than EM)
- Member- WFP Regional Evaluation Officer-
- Other Technical staff considered useful for this process

Responsibilities of the Evaluation Steering Committee (SC) and Time commitment: The table below summarizes the areas of engagement and responsibilities with which the EC will be tasked throughout the evaluation process. The table also indicates the estimated number of days required by phase and main tasks, as well as the approximate timeframe within which inputs by the EC will be required.

Input by Phase	Estimated time per member (excluding EM)	Approximate dates
 Phase 1: Planning Evaluation Chairs nominate a Deputy Evaluation Chair and evaluation manager. Decides and approves the indicative evaluation budget. Decides the contracting method, well in advance to enable the evaluation manager to plan for the next phase of the evaluation. 	3 days	Dec 2021
 Phase 2: Preparation Reviews the TOR on the basis of the outsourced Quality Support service feedback, Evaluation Reference Group 	3 to 4 days	Jan-March 22

 (ERG) comments, and The EM responses documented in the comment's matrix. Approves the final TOR. Approves the final evaluation team and budget 		
Phase 3: Inception		
 Briefs the evaluation team including an overview of the subject of the evaluation Informs the design of the evaluation during the inception phase as key stakeholders of the evaluation Supports the identification of appropriate field visit sites on the basis of selection criteria identified by the evaluation team noting that the EC should not influence which sites are selected Reviews the draft IR Approves the final IR 	3 days	June July 22
Phase 4: Data Collection		
 Act as key informants during the data collection. Act as sources of contextual information and facilitating data access Attend the end of field work debriefing meeting and support the team in clarifying/validating any emerging issues and identifying how to fill any data/information gaps that the team may be having at this stage. Facilitate access to stakeholders and information as appropriate 	3 days	Aug 22
Phase 5: Data Analysis and Reporting		
Review the draft Evaluation Report (ER)Approve the final ER.	3 days	Oct-Nov 22
Phase 6: Disseminate and Follow-up Phase		
 Facilitate preparation of the management response Ensure that all follow-up actions adequately address the recommendations, include a specific timeline and are allocated to a specific team/ unit Approve the Management Response Disseminate evaluation results Ensure the evaluation report and the management response are publicly available 	3 days	Dec 22

Procedures of Engagement

- The evaluation managers will notify the members of the time, location and agenda of meetings at least a week before the meeting and share any background materials for preparation.
- Approval can be made via email based on submission to the EC chair after endorsement by all EC members.
- EC meetings will be held face-to face and/or via electronic conference call and/or email depending on the need, the agenda and the context.

Annex 4: ToR for the Role and Composition of the Evaluation Reference Group

Purpose: The Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) is a temporary mechanism established to facilitate stakeholder's systematic engagement in the evaluation process. The overall purpose of the ERG is to support a credible, transparent, impartial and quality evaluation process. ERG members review and comment on draft evaluation TOR, inception report, and evaluation report. ERG members act as advisors, while the responsibility to approve evaluation products rests with the Evaluation Steering Committee Chair. The ERG:

- Provides a systematic mechanism for engaging stakeholders in the evaluation process
- Reviews draft evaluation products and provides feedback
- Attends the debriefing sessions to discuss preliminary findings
- Attends other dissemination sessions as required, and support use of evaluation findings

Composition of ERG:

- Senior staff to chair RCO, WFP, UNICEF, ILO;
- EM will be the secretariat of ERG:
- WFP, UNICEF, ILO Regional Evaluation Officer:
- Gender Advisor:
- Monitoring Advisor:
- Social Protection Advisor:
- Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Development: MOSD to nominate
- UN Resident Coordinator / UN Country Team (UNCT): UNCT to nominate
- EU: EU to nominate
- World Bank: WB to nominate
- NGO 1
- NGO 2
- Joint SDG Fund: Joint SDG Fund to nominate

Input by Phase	Estimated time per member	Approximate dates
 Phase 1: Preparation Review and comment on the draft ToR. Ensure that the ToR will lead to a credible and useful evaluation and provide additional information to inform the finalization of the TOR. Where appropriate, provide input on the evaluation questions. Identify source documents useful to the evaluation team. Attend ERG meeting/conference call etc. 	1 day	Jan-May 22
Phase 3: Inception	1 day	Jun-Jul 22

 Meet with evaluation team to discuss how the evaluation team can design a realistic/practical, relevant and useful evaluation. Identify and facilitate dialogues with key stakeholders for interviews, as required. Identify and access documents and data Help identify appropriate field sites according to selection criteria set up by the evaluation team in the inception report. Your role in this helps safeguard against bias. Review and comment on the draft Inception Report. 		
Phase 4: Data Collection		
 Act as a key informant: respond to interview questions Provide information sources and facilitate access to data Attend the evaluation team's end of field work debriefing 	1.5 days	Aug 22
Phase 5: Data Analysis and Reporting		
 Review and comment on the draft evaluation report, focusing on accuracy, quality and comprehensiveness of findings, and of links to conclusions and recommendations. The latter should be relevant, targeted, realistic and actionable. The ERG, being advisory, it must respect the decision of the independent evaluators about whether feedback is incorporated, as long as the process is transparent, including rationale for not incorporating feedback. 	2 days	Nov 22
Phase 6: Disseminate and Follow-up Phase		
 Disseminate final report internally and externally, as relevant. Share findings within units, organizations, networks and at events Provide input to management response and its implementation (as appropriate). 	2 days	Dec 22

Procedures of engagement:

- The Chairs of the Evaluation Steering Committee will appoint the members of the ERG.
- The Evaluation manager will notify the ERG members the time, location and agenda of calls or meetings at least 2 weeks before the meeting and share any background materials for preparation.
- ERG meetings will be held face-to face and/or via electronic conference call
- ERG members, representing their organizations, will be interviewed by the evaluation team as part of inception and data collection phases.
- ERG members will provide feedback electronically to the EM on the draft ToR, Inception Report and Evaluation Report. The EM will ensure that the evaluation team responds to comments, whether by incorporating them in the reports or providing rationale where feedback is not incorporated. Comments will be recorded in a comments matrix to help ensure a transparent and credible process.

Annex 5: Communication and Knowledge Management Plan

Phase Evaluation stage	What Communicati on product	Which Target audience	How & Where Channels	Who Creator lead	Who Creator support	When deadlin e
Preparation	The ToR	Evaluation Team	• E-mail	EM	EC/ERG/QS S	31 Dec
Preparation	ET Contract	 Evaluation Team WFP Country Office (in coordination with ILO, UNICEF) 	• E-mail	CO Procureme nt Unit	EM	Mar 22
Inception	Inception Meetings	 Evaluation Team WFP, ILO and UNICEF Country Offices (Programme Team, Technical Teams) WFP ILO and UNICEF Regional focal points (social protection, evaluation) Local stakeholders (Ministry of Social Development) 	Online/offli ne meetings	ET	EM	Jun-Jul 22
Inception	Inception report	 WFP, ILO and UNICEF Country Offices Management, Programme Team, Technical Teams) EC/ERG/QSS Local stakeholders (Ministry of Social Development) 	• E-mail	ET		Jul 22
Data Collection	Debriefing Sessions	 WFP, ILO and UNICEF Country Offices (Management, Programme Team, Technical Teams) EC/ERG 	• Online/offli ne meetings	ET		Aug 22
Reporting	Evaluation Report	 WFP, ILO, and UNICEF Country Offices (Management, Programme Team, Technical Teams) EC/ERG/QSS Local Stakeholders (Ministry of Social Development, EU) 	• E-mail	ET		Oct- Nov 22
Reporting	Comment Matrix	WFP, ILO and UNICEF Country Offices (Management,	• E-mail	EM	EC/ERG/QS S	Nov 22

Disseminatio n	Dissemination of the Final Report	Programme Team, Technical Teams) • EC/ERG/QSS • Evaluation Team • WFP, ILO and UNICEF Country Offices (Management, Programme Team, Technical Teams) • Division Directors • Evaluation specific stakeholders (partners) • Local stakeholders (Ministry of Social Development) and Development actors e.g. EU, World Bank) • Civil society	 Workshop Wfp.org Wfp go/ Unicef internal website/ ILO internal website . 	EM	CO Comms Unit ET	Dec 22
Disseminatio n	Management response	 WFP, ILO, and UNICEF EB/Governance/ Management WFP, ILO, and UNICEF country/regional office/local stakeholders WFP, ILO, and UNICEF Technical Staff/Programmers /Practitioners Partners (Ministry of Social Development)/Developm ent Partners/Civil society /Peers/Networks 	 Wfp.org Wfp go Wfp go/ Unicef internal website/ ILO internal website 	EC Chair	EM	Dec 22

Annex 6: Bibliography

State of Palestine. 2018. Social Development Sector Strategy 2018-2022, and its 2021 update: Social Development Sector Strategy 2021-2022

State of Palestine. 2019. Voluntary National Review

UNICEF. 2016. study, *Every Child Counts: understanding the needs and perspectives of children with disabilities in the State of Palestine*

World Bank. 2019. Assessing Situation and Services for People with Disabilities

Annex 7: Acronyms

ACR	Annual Country Report
CD	Country Director
СО	Country Office
CPs	Cooperating Partners
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DCD	Deputy Country Director
DEs	Decentralized evaluations
DEQAS	Decentralized Evaluation Quality Assurance System
DEQS	Decentralized Evaluation Quality Support service
EB	Executive Board
EM	Evaluation Manager
ER	Evaluation Report
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
ET	Evaluation Team
EU	European Union
FLA	Field Level Agreement
GAM	Gender and Age Marker
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IR	Inception Report
JP	Joint Programme
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
NCTP	National Cash Transfer Programme

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OEV	Office of Evaluation
OP	Older Persons
PA	Palestinian Authority
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality checklist
QSS	Quality Support Service
RB	Regional Bureau
RBC	Regional Bureau Cairo
REO	Regional Evaluation Officer
SC	Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSS	Social Development Sector Strategy
SoP	State of Palestine
SP	Social protection
SPF	Social Protection Floors
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

Annex 8: Logical Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Target (1 st year)	Target (2 nd year)	Means of Verification	Responsible partner		
Outcome 1: All Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable, have greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems [where this Joint Programme will focus on People with Disabilities (PwD) and Older Persons (OP)] in line with vision for Social Protection Floors in oPt							
Outcome 1 indicator: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	TBC (of the 5.8%, 255,224 disabled in SoP – 129,590 Male and 115,634 female) where 127,262 are in the West Bank as target area (67,165 M and 60,097 F)	TBC (20%)	TBC (40%)	Census, PCBS data	PCBS, MoSD		
Outcome 1 indicator: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	29.2	ТВС	ТВС				
Output 1.1							
Output 1.1 indicator: A consolidated dataset on PwD is developed	Multiple datasets exist	Data set consolidated	N/A	Data findings reports	MoSD, PCBS		
Output 1.1 indicator: National Comprehensive database of PwD established and integrated with the NCTP and other relevant databases	No database in place	Database architecture agreed	Database Built and piloted in for one governorate	Database reports	MoSD, PCBS		
Output 1.2							
Output 1.2 indicator: Integrated policy, and programming framework for OP and PWD is developed	No integrated framework	Vision and financing framework for SP reforms based on SPF assessment developed	Integrated programming and financing framework for PwD and OP developed	Framework and roadmap documents	MoSD		
Output 1.2 indicator: A progressive legal framework and national action plan for OP and PWD is available	Legal/strategic framework incomplete	Disability by- laws developed	Action plan for PwD and OP developed	Action plan	MoSD		
Output 1.3							
Output 1.3 indicator: Rights-based approach for identification and selection of OP and PwD into non-contributory social protection developed and tested	Concerns with exclusion errors of current targeting model	Alternative selection and identification model designed	Alternative selection and identification model piloted	Output report	MoSD		
Output 1.3 indicator: Service package for PWD and OP scoped and costed	No service package defined	Service package for PWD and OP scoped	Service package for PWD and OP costed	Output report	MoSD		
Output 1.4							
Output 1.4 indicator: Capacity and awareness of citizens and non-state actors to represent and advocate for SP for PwD and OP enhanced	твс	ТВС	твс	Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) results	MoSD		

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