

Evaluation title	Evaluation of WFP's Unconditional Resource Transfer Activity under the Social Safety Net Programme in Palestine January 2018-December 2020	
Evaluation category and type	Decentralized -Activity	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) - overall rating	Partly satisfactory: 59%	
Overall, evaluation users can rely on the evaluation findings provided and may use it for decision-making noting that there are some gaps/shortcomings in the information provided. The report contains a fairly comprehensive methodology designed to collect extensive and useful quantitative and qualitative primary data. It provides detailed findings on the results of the programme at the household level, which are likely to be useful to WFP in effective targeting, as well as differences between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, while the report presents some very relevant findings, there is a lack of clarity in defining some of the findings related to the relevance and effectiveness, and the report leaves some important questions unanswered, especially in relation to the impact of the intervention on women, and to a lesser extent, unanticipated results. Moreover, the report could have been better structured and organized in line with WFP requirements. The conclusions help to put the programme in the wider perspective of the humanitarian crisis, and majority of recommendations flow logically from the findings.		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Satisfactory
The executive summary is a fair reflection of the contents of the report, and includes key information on the evaluation features, including rationale, objectives, main users and stakeholders, and a brief overview of the context and the methodology. Findings, conclusions, and recommendations are summarized with generally clear logic and flow between them. The only significant weakness is the omission of gender from both the findings and conclusions, leaving reference to gender in the recommendations unsupported.		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Satisfactory
The report provides a succinct picture of the current context in Palestine, with an emphasis on poverty and humanitarian issues and on the distinct differences between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Although statistics are generally disaggregated, the context does not address gender (except gender-based violence) or address any intersectional issues. The context could also have been improved with reference to national policies/commitments to human rights and gender equality, the SDG strategy, and the National Voluntary Report of 2018, as well as a description of the overall context for international cooperation and humanitarian assistance in Palestine. The overview of the programme is detailed and comprehensive, particularly with respect to the quantitative data available. The specific group that was the subject of the evaluation is clearly defined. The logic framework and theory of change are also well described and included in the annexes.		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Satisfactory
The objectives in terms of learning and accountability, rationale, and scope of the evaluation are clearly and concisely addressed in the introduction, although the objectives would have benefited from a slightly more detailed explanation. In addition, there is no specific gender objective, although there is one specific gender question in the evaluation matrix.		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Satisfactory
The methodological design and data collection methods appear to be comprehensive and appropriate. The evaluation used a quasi-experimental design, provided for both qualitative information in the form of focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews, and quantitative information from a comprehensive household survey and the use of WFP and Ministry of Social Development primary data. The sampling framework is sound and well designed to ensure reliable data would be collected, with few omissions. Gender is incorporated through the inclusion of women, women-headed households, sex disaggregation of all data, and women only FGDs and evaluation indicators sought to capture changes in gender relations. Risks and mitigation efforts are identified, and suitable ethical norms are outlined, with the important exception of specific ethical standards of research with children, who were consulted as part of the data collection. Greater attention could have been paid to assessing the quality of data available with some mention in the text of data analysis methods.		

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The evaluation report presents findings that are generally impartial and without bias, supported by good primary qualitative, and particularly, quantitative data, and draws relevant attention to the disparities between the regions and household size. Findings also focus on the value added of WFP's unconditional resource transfer activity to the National Social Safety Net programme. However, findings are only loosely organized around evaluation questions, making it difficult to understand what evaluation question is being answered or how the evidence answers the question. Transparency is limited to some extent by the use of subtitles related to neither the sub-questions or indicators. In particular, there is a lack of clarity in defining findings related to the relevance and effectiveness, and to some extent impact, of the intervention, leading to some repetition. In addition, while there is very good data available for this evaluation, it is not consistently analysed, leaving some important questions unanswered, especially in relation to the impact of the intervention on women, and to a lesser extent, unanticipated results.</p>		
CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>Conclusions are fairly well balanced and are effective in putting the findings into a broader picture of food insecurity and poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which is clearly important given the context in which the programme operates, and the difficulties in achieving sustainability in a humanitarian crisis. However, the report does not specifically link the conclusions to the findings, which would have been facilitated by a clearer organization of findings. In addition, the conclusions do not adequately address the broader questions of women's empowerment or provide insight into the gender inequalities encountered (e.g. in food insecurity, savings, consumption based coping strategies).</p>		
CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The strength and main value to WFP of the recommendations resides in the reference to better targeting, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and among smaller households and those with people with disabilities. The majority of the recommendations flow logically from the findings. However, several recommendations are not specific or actionable, or are not based on sufficiently clear findings; for example, it is not clear what is necessary to "maximize positive effects for female headed households" in recommendation 4, as the findings have not made it clear why these households are disadvantaged. More specificity in targeting, beyond the WFP country office and/or the Ministry of Social Development would also have been useful.</p>		
CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The language of the report is precise with few typos or errors. Data is generally well referenced and abundant. Graphs and tables provide visual support, although some of them would have needed further explanation/analysis for the reader or could as effectively have been included in an annex. However, the report is not well organized, which makes it difficult at times to find information, and would have benefited from a clearer structure, for example structuring findings by evaluation question and use of the proper format for recommendations. In addition, some key annexes, such as timeline, fieldwork agenda, bibliography and list of people interviewed, are missing from the report.</p>		

Integration of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) considerations in the evaluation report based on the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) scorecard		
UN-SWAP EPI – individual evaluation score	Approaches requirements, 5 points	
<p>Gender is well integrated into several important aspects of the scope and methodology of the evaluation; however, there are a few significant omissions, including a very limited assessment on the availability and quality of gender data, and there is no sex disaggregation beyond head of household level. The evaluation includes a gender-specific question, a commitment to disaggregating data, where appropriate, and indicators established for the assessment of both equality and empowerment. A broad range of stakeholders were included in the data collection, and separate FGDs were held with women and with men. While ethical standards are included, the report fails to mention any special consideration for carrying out research with boys and girls. The main omission throughout the findings, conclusions and recommendations is that gender is generally limited to the distinction between male and female heads of households. While significant differences are noted, an analysis of why this may be so is not provided, and therefore it remains unclear exactly what the programme should be doing to improve equality and support women. This weakness begins with the context, which in terms of gender disparities only briefly mentions GBV and provides no insight into these disparities.</p>		

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels	
Highly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the credible and useful evaluation findings provided and can use the evaluation with a high degree of confidence for decision-making. The report is considered an excellent example.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.</i>
Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the evaluation findings provided and may use it for decision-making noting that there are some gaps/shortcomings in the information provided.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Unsatisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can use some of the learning from the evaluation, noting that there are significant gaps/ shortcomings in the evaluation findings provided. The report may still contribute to decision making but should be used with caution.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.</i>