



November 2017 - January 2019

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Evaluation of FAO's work towards gender equality

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Why an evaluation of FAO's work on Gender?

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) can achieve its goals only if it simultaneously works towards gender equality and supports women's diverse roles in agriculture and rural development. Achieving gender equality is not only an essential means by which FAO can achieve its mandate; it is also a human right.

In 2012, and as recommended by the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to Gender and Development, a corporate Policy on Gender Equality was adopted. With this policy, the Organization committed to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a key element of its quest to eradicating hunger and poverty worldwide.

Introduced in 2014, the FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 outlined five new Strategic Objectives representing the areas of work in which FAO would focus its efforts in support of Member States. In this new strategy, gender is treated as a cross-cutting theme.

At its 119th session, the FAO Programme Committee proposed the evaluation of FAO's work towards gender equality, which was endorsed by the Council at its 154th session for consideration by the FAO Conference in 2019.

The objectives of the evaluation are to assess progress made towards mainstreaming of gender as a cross-cutting theme in the Organization's global normative work and its regional, sub-regional and country-level programmes and projects, and to suggest how the Organization could enhance programme effectiveness and contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

www.fao.org/evaluation/en/

Tentative Evaluation Calendar

Preparation phase:

November 2017– May 2018

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

Assessment phase:

May – September 2018

- In depth-studies
- Main mission
- Preliminary debriefing

Report writing and dissemination:

October 2018 – January 2019

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

What will be covered?

The evaluation will cover the totality of FAO's gender-related work since the establishment of the Gender Policy (2012 – 2017), with a particular attention to the period (2014-17), after the introduction of the Reviewed Strategic Framework. It will assess FAO's relevance and effectiveness in terms of response to national needs and challenges within the areas of FAO's mandate and comparative advantage.

The evaluation will also analyze FAO's strategic positioning in mainstreaming gender including whether the gender policy is fit for purpose; in this regard, the clarity, completeness and relevance of its theory of change and FAO's capacity to manage and implement its gender equality policy in support to the achievement of SDG5 will be explored in detail.

What will be the process and who will be involved?

The evaluation will be launched in November 2017 and will be led and managed by OED. It will be conducted in three different stages: a) preparatory phase (November 2017-April 2018), b) assessment phase (May-September 2018), and c) report writing and dissemination (October 2018-January 2019).

During the preparatory phase, OED will conduct an evaluability assessment and will meet with key stakeholders and undertake exhaustive desk reviews. This will include synthesising the findings from the five Strategic Objective evaluations as well as from selected Country Programme and Project Evaluations.

During the assessment phase, OED will interview and survey FAO staff and partners (including governments, resource partners, civil society, and other agencies) involved in gender mainstreaming, and include country visits and case studies to complement the desk review¹.

An internal contact group will be set up to serve as a collegial interface between the evaluation team and programme staff during these phases. The group will be composed of the Gender management team, delivery managers in SOs, gender officers at regional offices, and selected focal points at regional levels.

The findings from the desk review, country visit, and case studies will be consolidated and discussed with the internal contact group as well as with the reference group at the end of the assessment phase in a preliminary debriefing.

OED will draft the evaluation report and present the findings, conclusions and recommendations to key stakeholders in a Workshop. FAO Office of Evaluation will ensure wider dissemination of the report.

¹ Countries will be selected during the Preparation phase