



Cluster evaluation of projects on protecting, improving, and sustaining food security in rural Somalia

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Why an evaluation of the projects?

The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) is conducting a cluster evaluation of two projects in Somalia (OSRO/SOM/908/USA and OSRO/SOM/007/USA) funded by USAID. The overall objective of the projects was to improve and sustain food security in rural Somalia through coordination of the Food Security Cluster (FSC) while addressing production, availability, access, and quality of food through direct assistance to a total of 149 120 rural households in IPC 3 and 4. The two projects used emergency cash interventions, including Cashfor-Work, Unconditional Cash Transfers, and Cash+ activities.

The evaluation aims to provide accountability for results achieved to the national government, resource partners and the FAO management. Equally important is its learning dimension, in particular, it aims to draw lessons from project design and implementation that could inform future projects. The evaluation will contribute to a broader understanding of FAO's work on food security and resilience building in crisis countries and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. It will also feed into two upcoming evaluations, a global thematic evaluation of FAO's Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and the Somalia country programme evaluation.

What is the focus?

The projects are organized around six components/result areas i) the FSC coordination, ii) emergency cash interventions, iii) longer-term livelihood and cash assistance, iv) improving local food availability and quality in the Bay region, v) enhanced production and resilience against shocks in rural communities, and vi) monitoring and controlling of animal and plant pests and diseases.

The evaluation will cover the entire implementation period of both projects, from July 2019 to June 2021, and will assess all activities.

EVALUATION CALENDAR

February–July 2022

Preparation phase:

February–March 2022

- Finalization of Terms of Reference
- Identification and recruitment of evaluation team members
- Desk review
- Scoping interviews

Main phase:

March–April 2022

- Meetings with stakeholders and partners (including government counterparts, resource partners, UN agencies, implementing partners and beneficiaries)
- Field mission to project sites
- Presentation of preliminary findings

Report writing and dissemination:

May – July 2022

- Data analysis and drafting of report
- Report dissemination and management response

Where the two projects overlap or have linkages with other ongoing and past FAO projects, the evaluation will explore complementarities in terms of potential synergies or overlaps. The evaluation will be organized around the OECDDAC evaluation criteria, including relevance to the needs of the country, coherence with FAO's other activities and that of other development partners, effectiveness in achieving results, efficiency in delivery of the projects, and the sustainability of results achieved. The evaluation will also look at cross-cutting issues of gender, disability, and youth, and will assess factors that have promoted or inhibited the use of CVA at scale.

How will it be conducted?

The evaluation is managed by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) and will adopt a consultative and transparent approach with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process. The evaluation methodology would include a desk review of related documents, key informant interviews, field visits to accessible locations, including focus group discussions with beneficiaries. For stakeholders that are not physically accessible the evaluation team will rely on remote methods (virtual calls or telephone), to the extent possible. To collect views of the large number of implementing partners, an electronic survey will be used.

The evaluation is conducted by a team of independent consultants led by Ms Sara McHattie. The team is composed of a cash and markets expert, Mr Guhad Adan, and a livestock and animal health expert, Mr Samuel Muriuki. The team will be managed and supported by the OED Evaluation Manager, Mr Anshuman Bhargava.

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

www.fao.org/evaluation



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