Ref: DIOUS/EVAL/2023/1  
23 March 2023

To:  
Mr. Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs Gaza

Cc:  
Ms. Leni Stenseth, Deputy Commissioner General  
Mr. Ben Majekodunmi, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Sascha Graumann, acting Director, Relief and Social Services  
Mr. Sam Rose, Director, Department of Planning  
Mr. Naser El Khaldi, Acting Chief, Relief and Social Service Gaza  
Management Committee Members (please see distribution list below)  
Ms. Leslie Thomas, Chief, Evaluation Division

From: Byung-Kun Min  
Director, Department of Internal Oversight Services

Subject: Report of the evaluation of project-funded support to orphans and disabled children in Gaza, funded by Islamic Relief USA

1. I am pleased to present the final report of the evaluation of support provided by the Gaza field office to orphans and children with disabilities through Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) funding. The evaluation was managed by the DIOUS Evaluation Division and the Gaza Field Office and commissioned to the Konterra Group.

2. The project was implemented across five phases between 2015 and 2021, providing a monthly cash allowance and capacity building activities to 3,808 children and their guardians. Funding totalled USD 10,295,133.

3. Guided by the standard, internationally recognized criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact, the evaluation sought to understand the project’s contributions to outcome objectives. Research involved interviews and focus groups with staff, Agency partners, children and guardians. Special attention was paid to professional ethical standards and research methods given the involvement of children.

4. The evaluation found the project efficiently managed, relevant to the needs of the participants, and coherent to the Agency’s strategic frameworks and disability policies. The cash assistance supported aims to ensure a decent standard of living to participants and capacity building strengthened their resilience.

5. The evaluation suggested the Agency redouble its focus on practical solutions for youth participants, aged 16 to 18, as they prepare to graduate from the project, considering education and livelihood linkages. Recommendations were also issued to strengthen Agency coordination with partner organizations and the UN clusters to mitigate the risk of duplication within non-cash programming.

6. To strengthen the dissemination of results and promote their use, a two-page summary on evaluation results has been developed and three briefings were held with Agency and IRUSA staff, partners, and participants. Attendees included 16 IRUSA representatives, 15 staff, 7 partner organizations and 32 Palestine refugee project participants.

7. In accordance with UNRWA evaluation policy, the report will be published on the UNRWA website shortly.

8. DIOUS would like to express its appreciation for the work and efforts of the Gaza Field Office in facilitating the evaluation, and the Evaluation Reference Group for its contributions to the evaluation process. Evaluation Reference Group members included:

- Ms. Amal Khatib, Acting Deputy Director Programmes,  
- Mr. Abd Rabu Abu-Amra, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, Gaza Field Office  
- Mr. Mohammad Farhat, Field Social Services Officer, Gaza Field Office  
- Ms. Sharaf Al Faqawi, Project Manager, Humanity and Inclusion, Gaza  
- Ms. Nicole Hashem, Partnerships Officer, External Relations, HQ Amman  
- Ms. Reem Khan, Senior Disability Advisor, Protection Division, HQ Amman

Attachments

- Final report of the evaluation of support provided by the Gaza field office to orphans and children with disabilities through Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) funding.
- Summary on evaluation results