Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI)

The Effectiveness of DFID's Engagement with UNRWA

Inception report

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) is the independent body responsible for scrutinising UK aid. We focus on maximising the effectiveness of the UK aid budget for intended beneficiaries and on delivering value for money for UK taxpayers. We carry out independent reviews of aid programmes and of issues affecting the delivery of UK aid. We publish transparent, impartial and objective reports to provide evidence and clear recommendations to support UK Government decision-making and to strengthen the accountability of the aid programme. Our reports are written to be accessible to a general readership and we use a simple 'traffic light' system to report our judgement on each programme or topic we review.
- 1.2 In this review, we will examine the effectiveness of DFID's engagement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This Inception Report sets out the evaluation questions, methodology and a work plan for the delivery of the review. It is, however, intended that the methodology and work plan be flexible enough to allow for new issues and questions that emerge over the course of the review.

2. Background

- 2.1 The background to this review is provided in Section 2 of the Terms of Reference. It details the wider context within which DFID's Palestine Programme is implemented, provides information on DFID's previous work in the region and summarises its current programmes. Additional information is provided here on the impact of the Arab Spring and the UNRWA institutional context.
- 2.2 UNRWA has a mandate for the provision of relief, human development and protection services to refugees in five fields of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank, Gaza and Syria (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Map of UNRWA Field Offices



¹Terms of Reference: The Effectiveness of DFID's Engagement with UNRWA, ICAI, 2013, http://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ICAI-OPT-TOR-Final-08042013.pdf.

- 2.3 The Arab Spring has resulted in far-reaching political, social and security impact across the Middle East and North Africa region, including the five field offices from which UNRWA operates. In the West Bank and Gaza, the impact of the Arab Spring has been limited. During 2011 and early 2012, there were a number of minor peaceful demonstrations and calls for the unification of the politically divided Hamas-led Gaza and Fatah-led West Bank. The Arab Spring has resulted in the increased political power of a number of Islamic political parties across the region. In Egypt and a number of other countries, the Muslim Brotherhood has taken on a leadership role. Hamas is a wing of the Muslim Brotherhood which is also in power in Egypt. This has had a far reaching impact on the political landscape in Gaza. Whereas in Syria the Arab Spring can be considered to be one of the triggers for the present crisis, which has also had an impact in Lebanon. Many analysts believe that the potential for the Arab Spring to lead to turmoil in Jordan remains significant. UNRWA is operating in a highly dynamic context but, as yet, this has not had a substantive impact on how UNRWA operates or delivers services in Gaza, West Bank, Jordan or Lebanon. The Syrian crisis poses significant specific challenges to UNRWA operations in the Syria field office but this is beyond the scope of the present review.
- 2.4 UNRWA performs a quasi-state function for Palestine refugees and this means UNRWA is a relatively unique institution. UNRWA has to work closely with the Popular Committees that represent refugees and the Staff Unions that represent the 30,000 UNRWA staff. These are extremely powerful and politically active organisations. At the same time as being a UN agency, UNRWA is also a multilateral institution. This review has, therefore, adopted a hybrid approach that takes account of the unique institutional context of UNRWA. This will require drawing on approaches typical of reviewing budget and project support to a state, as well as approaches typical of reviewing project support to a multilateral organisation.

3. Purpose of this review

- 3.1 The purpose of this review is to assess the effectiveness and value for money of DFID's engagement with UNRWA from 2008-13. This will be assessed by the extent to which DFID's assistance is meeting the needs of intended beneficiaries.
- 3.2 The review will, therefore, aim to develop an understanding of the specific mandate of each UNRWA field office as defined in relation to the services provided to refugees by the relevant host government or authority. On the basis of a clear understanding of the political context of each UNRWA field office, the team will be able to review how effectively DFID has leveraged reform to achieve greater efficiency, impact and effectiveness in the delivery of appropriate services to refugees.

4. Relationships to other initiatives and evaluations

4.1 Details of selected previous evaluations of UNRWA's work are provided in Section 4 of the Terms of Reference. These include internal reviews of UNRWA,² focussed on its operational effectiveness, external reviews of its operational effectiveness ³ and higher-level reviews of the overall developmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).⁴ A desk-based review as part of this work will examine the relevant findings of these and other evaluations and assess the extent to which findings from these have informed DFID's current assistance to Palestine refugees.

² Terms of Reference: UNRWA sustaining Change: Relief and Social Services Department, UNRWA, November 2011, http://www.uppug.org/usorfiles/201204154647.pdf

http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/201201154647.pdf.

Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network, Organisational Effectiveness Assessment, UNRWA, December 2010, http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/201204291514.pdf.

http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/201204291514.pdf.

The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Eleventh Report of Session 2007-08, Volume 1, International Development Committee, 24 July 2008, http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmintdev/522/522i.pdf.

5. Methodology

Analytical Approach

- 5.1 Our review will examine the effectiveness of DFID's support to UNRWA, within the context of the impact of the United Nations (UN) vote on Palestinian statehood⁵ and the regional Arab Spring. This review will focus on:
 - DFID's approach to maximising the positive impact for intended beneficiaries through its financial contribution to UNRWA;
 - DFID's approach to ensuring value for money;
 - the decision-making processes that determine the scale of DFID's contribution to UNRWA and its alignment with DFID's objectives and other programmes;
 - how effectively DFID uses its contribution to leverage positive change in UNRWA, including the role of staff unions and Popular Committee structure; and
 - DFID's strategy for helping intended beneficiaries to move sustainably from poverty.
- 5.2 DFID's programming for Palestine refugees operates at two, linked levels. The first level is a response to the immediate needs of Palestine refugees for access to basic services. At this level, DFID responds by directly funding the provision of public services, such as education, health and social safety nets, through UNRWA and other routes. This level relates to the first four questions above. The second level relates to the last bullet point, the promotion of economic activities and access to livelihoods and employment to move sustainably out of poverty.
- 5.3 In order to answer the first bullet point, we will talk to a wide range of intended beneficiaries. This will include focus group discussions, led by our regional experts. We will triangulate these findings with the data collected during a desk review of evaluations of UNRWA's support. Taken together, these will provide a strong assessment of the extent to which intended beneficiaries' needs are being met.
- 5.4 To explore fully the value for money aspects of the second bullet point above, we will seek to examine UNRWA's financing systems for education and food expenditure. This will provide us with an assessment of whether DFID is managing value for money through the whole delivery chain. Where possible, we will compare the unit costs of UNRWA's impact with that of other organisations. This will include an analysis of the efficiency of UNRWA internally and in comparison to a number of host governments and/or the Palestinian Authority.
- 5.5 To answer the third of these bullet points, we will review DFID's programming decisions, through its documentation and through discussions with officials. In particular, we will examine the economic appraisals of these projects, to assess whether DFID is fully considering the costs and benefits of its spending decisions and is basing its allocations on analysis of the potential impact on intended beneficiaries.
- 5.6 To answer the fourth bullet point, we will speak to officials from UNRWA and UNRWA staff unions, as well as to other donors. We will also examine DFID project documentation related to UNRWA spending, including the recent fiduciary risk assessment of UNRWA. This will establish the extent to which DFID assures itself of UNRWA systems and processes, as well as DFID's effectiveness in pushing for necessary reforms.

⁵ BBC Questions and Answers on Palestinians' upgraded UN status, BBC, November 2012, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-13701636.

- 5.7 The second level relates to the UK's longer-term aim to create a sustainable solution to the issues facing Palestine refugees. This relates to the fifth bullet point above. Clearly, this is bound together with the broader peace process which is beyond the scope of this review. This review will, however, consider the extent to which the aims of the shorter-term assistance are consistent with and contribute to the UK's longer-term objectives. The review team will be cognisant of the political context of examining issues of sustainability, in particular the direct links to the peace process.
- 5.8 The scope of this review covers DFID support to UNRWA which breaks down into three separate programmes of support:
 - UNRWA: Funding Basic Services and Protection for Palestine Refugees (2011-15) –
 DFID provides £106.5 million over approximately three years, which equates to the
 budget support equivalent component of UNRWA as it is un-earmarked support for
 the organisation and the delivery of a wide range of services.
 - UNRWA: Improving Food Security for the People of Gaza (Up to March 2015) –
 DFID provides £9.6 million of support to non-refugees in Gaza through the provision
 of food vouchers⁶ and £14.4 million of support to UNRWA for the Job Creation
 Programme that refugees in Gaza benefit from.
 - UNRWA: Improving Access to Education in Gaza DFID provides £14.7 million of support to the reconstruction of UNRWA schools in Gaza.
- 5.9 The business cases for the three focal projects⁷ for this review align much more closely to the first, lower-level objective. For example, the results chain below is taken from DFID's business case for UNRWA.⁸ It shows that the direct provision (through UNRWA) of basic services is seen as the primary means to bring about long, healthy and dignified lives for Palestine refugees. The review will look at the extent to which the promotion of sustainable routes out of poverty is prioritised by DFID and UNRWA.

Figure 1: Results chain 'UNRWA: funding basic services and protection for Palestine refugees' project



5.10 During our review, we will seek to understand how DFID believes these programmes contribute to the wider objectives of the DFID Palestine Programme, including the UK

⁶ The WFP food voucher component of this programme is for non-refugees and it is not administered by UNRWA. Therefore, it is beyond the scope of this review.

⁷ These three projects are set out in the Terms of Reference paragraph 2.18. They are: core support to UNRWA; financial support to improve food security in Gaza through UNRWA; and financial support to improve education in Gaza.

⁸ Intervention Summary: United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA): funding basic services and protection for Palestine refugees, DFID, undated, http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/iati/Document/3717451.

Government's longer term aim of supporting a successful Middle East Peace Process (MEPP).9

- 5.11 Understanding the linkages between these three projects and DFID's State building and Service Delivery Grant to the Palestinian Authority is central to this. This project is more clearly targeted at DFID's higher-level aims for example, higher economic growth and a peaceful Palestinian state and society. We will assess whether DFID is co-ordinating the projects under review with this support and is responding to changes brought about by the State building and Service Delivery Grant. This will include an assessment of the capacity and management structures within the DFID office, as well as mechanisms in place to avoid duplication of beneficiaries across programmes.
- 5.12 Assessing these linkages in the case of OPT spending will provide a case study of whether DFID is co-ordinating and sequencing its support to deliver long-term sustainable impact; or whether it is becoming trapped in a cycle of meeting immediate needs. In particular, we will examine the consistency between the OPT programme and the UK Government's concept of a 'golden thread' a set of interlinked actions intended to lead to sustainable development. The review team will examine the political context of UK Government efforts to support the peaceful resolution of conflict and how DFID supports this UK Government-wide effort.
- 5.13 We will conduct this review in three linked phases: pre-visit analysis and discussions; field visit; and post-visit analysis and discussions.

Pre-visit activity

- 5.14 Pre-visit activity will be in four areas. First, a wide range of survey and other primary data and analysis exists on the support to Palestine refugees and the results of that support. Prior to the field visits, we will undertake a desk-based review of the available data, evaluations and assessments, including the work of the World Bank and of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. In particular, we will assess the methodology used in its collection and reach a view on whether it represents a robust analysis of needs among Palestine refugees in their range of locations. A bibliography of all literature reviewed and data consulted will be compiled as a draft annex to the final report.
- 5.15 Second, we will track money provided by donors, including DFID, through UNRWA to intended beneficiaries in order to determine the efficiency of service delivery methods. We will use this methodology to carry out two case studies which track DFID financing to UNRWA. The final selection on the case studies will be made by the review team during the field visit. The selection will prioritise choosing case studies under different funding modalities (budget support and project support) and in different locations if this is feasible.
- 5.16 Third, we will review DFID's documentation related to the programmes, to understand the analysis underpinning the original designs, as well as how the projects have evolved over time in response to lessons learned as the programme has been implemented.
- 5.17 Fourth, we will engage with key stakeholders in the UK. This will include interviews with key DFID staff directly related to the programme, as well as DFID officials from evaluation and audit departments. It will also include discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), UN organisations, refugee host authorities and representatives in the UK of a range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including those providing services and support to Palestine refugees.

⁹ Operational Plan 2011-2015, DFID Palestinian Programme, DFID, July 2012, http://www.dfid.gov.uk/documents/publications1/op/occupied-palestinian-territories-2011.pdf.

palestinian-territories-2011.pdf.

10 See, for example, David Cameron's June 13 2012 speech on vaccines and development, http://www.politics.co.uk/comment-analysis/2011/06/13/cameron-development-speech-in-full.

Field visits

- 5.18 During the field visits, we will prioritise speaking to intended beneficiaries to address the issues set out in the evaluation framework. We will interview intended beneficiaries during four field visits to refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza.
- 5.19 We will also hold discussions with other key stakeholders in the following locations: Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza. Stakeholders will include:
 - Palestinians who are the intended beneficiaries of DFID support in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and the Lebanon;
 - UNRWA officials at their headquarters in Amman, Jordan;
 - UNRWA project delivery staff in food security, health and education programmes;
 - UNRWA staff union representatives;
 - representatives of NGOs who are delivering services to Palestinians;
 - representatives of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank;
 - journalists and other public figures who have expressed views on UNRWA;
 - DFID officials in Jerusalem; and
 - the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Commission (EC) and Swedish officials, who perform a liaison role with DFID and UNRWA.
- 5.20 These discussions will include structured focus groups, discussions with beneficiaries and workers in hospitals, schools and other public service institutions, individual one-on-one discussions with refugees inside the camps and visits with families. These discussions will triangulate the data analysis of impact from the desk-based review.
- 5.21 The focus group discussions will include between 10-12 beneficiaries of a range of the UNRWA services and projects. At least one focus group discussion will be held in each of the four field locations being visited (West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon). Furthermore, individual interviews will be held with refugees during visits to refugee camps. This number will allow for an open and frank discussion of the key topics whilst ensuring a degree of representation of diverse opinions and perspectives.
- 5.22 The detailed design of the focus group discussions, including locations, specific questions to be posed and the selection of beneficiaries will be undertaken by the Qualitative Data Expert based in the region. The beneficiary selection for the focus groups and with beneficiaries in hospital, schools and with refugee families will be conducted directly by the review team. This will be done through a random process of selection, whilst ensuring a degree of balance between ages, gender and beneficiaries from different programmes. Discussions will be focussed on impact question in the evaluation framework presented below.

Post-visit analysis

5.23 After the visit, we will collate and analyse all of the data collected. We will follow up by phone or videoconference on any outstanding issues. In particular, we will meet again with representatives of DFID and NGOs in London to check our understanding of any unresolved issues.

Evaluation Framework

- 5.24 The evaluation framework for this review is set out in the Annex. This has as its basis the standard ICAI guiding criteria and evaluation framework, which are focussed on four areas: objectives, delivery, impact and learning. It also incorporates other pertinent questions we want to investigate in this review. The questions which are highlighted in bold are those on which we will focus in particular.
- 5.25 The evaluation methodology will comprise the following elements.

Literature review

5.26 There is a wealth of analysis and research related to the Palestine refugee situation, carried out by DFID and a range of other organisations. We will undertake a detailed literature review, including scanning the various relevant knowledge blogs on this issue, to assess this information and to enable us to understand the dynamic regional context in which UNRWA is operating, the delivery challenges and the past record of external assistance to refugees. This examination will consider the evidence on effectiveness and impact from these past programmes and reviews and provide an indication of how DFID has utilised the available evidence to develop its programme plans and in its engagement with UNRWA.

Review of programme management systems

- 5.27 We will review all available documentation related to the programmes under review, including project concepts and management processes, business cases, financial information, economic appraisals, terms of reference and annual reviews. We will also review broader strategic documents on DFID's country policy and objectives and the guidance on programming in conflict-affected countries. This will include a detailed examination of DFID's State building and Service Delivery Grant to the Palestinian Authority, to assess the linkages to the three projects under review.
- 5.28 The analysis of these documents will be used to inform lines of questioning during our consultations with DFID and identified stakeholders both in the UK and during country visits.

Preliminary consultations with peers and stakeholders

- 5.29 In order to maximise the benefit of face-to-face meetings during country visits, we will gather as much information as possible prior to the visit, through face to face consultations with those based in London and by telephone for others.
- 5.30 We will identify a range of experts in the provision of refugee support to discuss methodological approaches to delivery programmes and long term sustainability, with particular emphasis on the direct delivery method implemented by UNRWA. These will include meetings and telephone calls with individuals in international think tanks and research organisations. These will include: the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS); Refugee Studies Centre Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford; and the Overseas Development Institute.
- 5.31 We will identify key advisers within DFID and FCO who provide thinking and policy on Middle and Near East strategy, humanitarian aid to refugees and UNRWA engagement and interventions. These are likely to be within the FCO and DFID's Middle East and North Africa Departments based in London. Interviews will be undertaken with relevant individuals to gather information about the context and policy framework within which DFID's humanitarian work in the OPTs is undertaken; as well as how DFID's wider policy objectives

have informed the design of these programmes. In addition, information regarding other related work in the OPTs that DFID supports will be gathered, including evidence of learning and co-ordination across programmes.

Field research

- 5.32 We will carry out country visits to Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and the Lebanon. These will take place over a two-week period starting on 6 May 2013. We will visit Jerusalem to meet DFID and other Jerusalem-based stakeholders. From Jerusalem we will visit the West Bank and Gaza to speak to intended beneficiaries and officials responsible for delivery. We will then travel to Amman for meetings with UNRWA centrally and to visit a refugee camp in Jordan, then on to Lebanon, before returning to the UK, via Jerusalem, to hold a second round of discussions with DFID and other Jerusalem-based stakeholders.
- 5.33 During these visits, we will prioritise discussions with intended beneficiaries and speak with UNRWA, DFID, FCO, donors, NGOs and Palestine Authority officials. This will provide the opportunity to discuss, in detail, project delivery and impact of the UNRWA projects with implementing partners and the direct beneficiaries.
- 5.34 In addition to discussions with individual Palestine refugees, we will conduct a series of well-organised focus group discussions held on UNRWA premises but organised independently of UNRWA by the review team. The qualitative data expert from the region will interrogate the databases in each Field of Operations Office and randomly select a sample of approximately eight refugees for each focus group. Each sample will contain at least 30% females. The focus group discussions will address each of the key questions to be addressed in this review. A semi-structured approach to the focus group discussions will be designed by the qualitative evaluation team member to meet the review methodology requirements by trying to capture the perceptions of refugees regarding the key issues identified. This will build on and be shaped by the data collected in the pre-visit phase and the other data collection methods used during the field visit.
- 5.35 The situation in Gaza can change rapidly, as the recent demonstration and evacuation of UNRWA staff and the security operation in November 2012 illustrates. The review team, therefore will only be able to confirm the Gaza visit at the last minute. Contingency plans will be in place for additional research and meetings to be held in Jerusalem and the West Bank, if the Gaza visit is not possible. These contingency plans will include organising meetings with UNRWA's Gaza Field Office staff outside Gaza, most likely in Jerusalem.

6. Roles and responsibilities

- 6.1 This review will be led and managed on a day-to-day basis by the Team Leader who will be the primary point of contact with DFID. We have prioritised regional awareness over ICAI experience. This should be mitigated by the presence of the Lead Commissioner and a member of the ICAI Secretariat on the field visit.
- 6.2 The review will also draw on input from a second core team member, who will be responsible for setting the methodology and conducting two case studies to assess how efficiently funding passes from DFID, through UNRWA, to intended beneficiaries.
- 6.3 The team will be supported by two researchers. The first will conduct a thorough literature review on the evidence available on the impact of UNRWA on Palestine refugees. The second researcher will assist with the literature review and will also be responsible for the analysis and collation of project-related material from DFID.

- 6.4 The team also includes two Palestinian experts. Both experts are experienced facilitators and are based in Gaza and have a very in-depth understanding of the refugee situation and the role of UNRWA. One will lead on the qualitative data components, in particular the refugees' interviews and focus group discussions. The qualitative data experts will be responsible for the design of the focus group discussion methodology, random sample selection of beneficiaries and the collection and analysis of data. The regional experts will also provide context, support field visit planning and be responsible for identification of beneficiaries. Additional translator/interpreter support will also be available to the review team.
- 6.5 The peer reviewer, who is familiar with DFID programmes in conflict-affected countries, will support the literature review in the area of the analytical framework. He will also provide advice throughout to ensure prior ICAI experience is reflected within the review team.
- 6.6 While lead responsibility for answering sections of the framework is shown below, all team members will contribute to the analysis supporting the findings for each section.

Team member	Role
Team Leader	Team Leader: design and management of the evaluation; literature review support; interviews and stakeholder consultations; review of programmes; country visits; delivery of draft evaluation report
Team Member 1	Principal Consultant: interviews and stakeholder consultations; review of programmes; country visits; support for drafting and analysis
Team Member 2	Design of methodology to track financing from DFID through UNRWA to intended beneficiaries based on consultations with UNRWA finance staff; conduct two financial tracking case studies; interviews and stakeholder consultations on two case studies; lead on the efficiency and value for money analysis
Peer Reviewer	Peer reviewer and advisor; advice on value for money
Researcher 1	Literature review of primary data
Researcher 2	Researcher: literature review, research analysis
Palestinian Experts	Regional qualitative data expert to lead in design, sampling, qualitative data collection and analysis, in particular from focus group discussions.

Team Leader (Independent)

He will serve as the team leader, take overall management responsibility and ensure delivery of the outputs overall. He is a governance and evaluation expert, with more than nineteen years of experience in conflict-affected countries, as adviser for the UK Government, EC, UN and USAID. He is an experienced team leader and has led a number of evaluations and reviews in the Middle East region, including a significant number of assignments for DFID and FCO. He has a wide experience in the design and management of a range of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. He also has direct experience in the design, management and implementation of a range of governance and poverty reduction programmes, including a number of programmes in the OPTs.

Team Member 1 (Independent)

She is an experienced professional with proven ability as a strategic leader in challenging and political environments, as a Police Officer and in international crisis management planning and implementation. She has experience in leading and conducting reviews and assessments of UK policing, Community Partnerships and international peace-keeping missions of the European Union (EU). She has an excellent track record in reform and transformation, in particular relative to strategic and organisational management. Recent experience has included advising and developing strategic plans for the Governments of Libya and Somalia.

Team Member 2 (KPMG)

She has over ten years' international experience as a management consultant, tackling issues within the private, public and development sectors and within a range of cultural settings including the Middle East, China, East and West Africa. She joined KPMG's public sector department in 2005. She has delivered strategy and implementation support to clients and her expertise includes policy design, options appraisals, project design and project management, evaluation, stakeholder engagement and capacity building support, in a range of sectors including health and education. She has also worked in the UK Cabinet Office, on local regulation as part of the Better Regulation Executive, Tony Blair's Africa Governance Initiative to lead the health work stream in Sierra Leone and most recently as Global Change Manager to KPMGs Global Chairman's Office.

She will lead the financial tracking, efficiency and value for money analysis of the review. This will include design of the relevant methodology, consultations with UNRWA finance and programme teams, and implementation of the financial tracking including two case studies.

Peer Reviewer (KPMG)

He is a member of KPMG's International Development Assistance Services team. He is a development economist with extensive experience in the world's poorest countries, gained with DFID and with consultancies including PwC, ATOS and Coffey International. He worked as an economic adviser with DFID in India, Iraq, Pakistan and Southern Africa. He has also worked on projects in Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Georgia and Russia. He has recently led the contractor team for ICAI for the review of Nepal's Peace and Security programmes. He will support the team in their analysis of DFID's financing through UNRWA.

Researcher 1 (Independent)

He will conduct the initial literature review for the team, drawing out the experience and lessons learned by UNRWA to date. He is an international development advisor with considerable leadership experience in post-conflict environments including: the OPTs, Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Kosovo and Nepal. He has extensive expertise of trust fund management, aid coordination, public finance management, institutional reform and project management.

Researcher 2 (KPMG)

He is a member of KPMG's International Development Assistance Services practice. He is educated to Masters level in both civil engineering and economics, with particular knowledge of international trade, finance and quantitative evaluation methods for the assessment of economic growth and development programmes.

Palestinian Expert 1 (Independent)

He is a manager at the Training and Management Institute (TAMI) with over 16 years of professional experience on projects addressing civil society organisation and the evaluation and capacity building of NGOs. He has extensive experience working with civil society institutions and women's institutions in Arab countries, including in the OPTs, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. He also has in-depth understanding and experience with evaluations, logical frameworks and programme monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including for social and educational projects. He will lead on the regional qualitative data collection design, sampling, qualitative data collection and analysis, in particular from focus group discussions.

Palestinian Expert 2 (Independent)

He has over 12 years' experience working with various information systems and projects at local, regional and national levels – with an emphasis on system design, application development, institution building, consulting and training. He is currently a consultant at the Training and Management Institute (TAMI) in the fields of Management Information Systems (MIS), strategic planning, capacity building and M&E. He has experience working with local NGOs, governmental and international organisations in the OPT region. He will take part on the regional qualitative data collection design, sampling, qualitative data collection and analysis, in particular from focus group discussions.

7. Expected outputs and time frame

7.1 The following timetable is based on the assumption that the report will be finalised in Quarter 3 2013, to meet ICAI's requirements.

Phase	Timetable
Planning Preliminary consultations Planning and methodology Finalising inception report	February 2013 – March 2013
UK research and field work Literature review Interviews with DFID Review of policies, strategies and guidance	March 2013 – May 2013
Field research Jerusalem, Gaza and West Bank Jordan and Lebanon	w/c 6 May 2013 w/c 13 May 2013
Analysis and write-up Roundtable with Commissioners First draft report Report quality assurance and review by Secretariat and Commissioners Report to DFID for fact checking Final report sign off	w/c 3 June 2013 w/c 24 June 2013 w/c 1 July - w/c 5 August w/c 19 August 2013 w/c 9 September 2013

8. Risks and mitigation

8.1 The following sets out the key risks and mitigating actions for this review:

Risk	Level of risk	Specific Issues	Mitigation
Insufficient or limited credible primary data available on impact of UNRWA programmes	Low/Medium	There is insufficient primary data which directly links the DFID contribution to programme outcomes. This could be further exacerbated in this case as DFID is not the implementing organisation.	An initial analysis of available data will be conducted during the inception phase of the review. If considered insufficient, additional examinations and primary survey work will be conducted.
Review reflects process outcomes and insufficient focus on impact on intended beneficiaries.	Low/Medium	DFID is not the implementing organisation directly engaging with the intended beneficiaries. The intended beneficiaries are the Palestine refugees, many of whom may be difficult to reach or are not fully aware of the potential benefits of the programmes. There may also be a level of 'consultation fatigue' which directly or indirectly influences feedback.	Intended beneficiaries (refugees) and implementing partners will be directly interviewed in focus group discussions to gauge knowledge and opinions on the impact of UNRWA programmes. Specific questions directly relating to beneficiary outcomes have been included in the evaluation framework.

Risk	Level of risk	Specific Issues	Mitigation
External factors and interdependencies mask the impact of interventions on the intended beneficiaries	Medium/High	Many of the programmes are interdependent and external and internal factors – (e.g. political and security) can affect programme outcomes. This impact can be slow to be fully reflected in data outcomes and not easily visible.	In order to reduce this risk, views on impact will be sought from key decision-makers and intended beneficiaries, in addition to data reviews and analysis.
		Identification of impact to beneficiaries which corresponds directly to UNRWA projects as opposed to other, related donor-funded programmes, (including other DFID-funded programmes).	
Security risks – direct and indirect.	High for Gaza Medium OPT Low/Medium Jordan and Lebanon	Conflict, civil unrest, settler violence or terrorist threat/ attacks in Gaza, West Bank/East Jerusalem/West Jerusalem raise security threat level. There is the potential for violent clashes within or involving Gaza which could restrict entry, travel and access of the review team to intended beneficiaries. Political uncertainty in Lebanon and links to Syrian conflict. Social instability in Jordan and possibility of an Arab Spring type uprising.	Pre-planning and risk-assessment with DFID incountry teams will ensure that appropriate authority/ security measures will be put in place. Contingency plans for alternative site visits will be considered, should access to Gaza programmes be denied.
Review team unable to visit Gaza	Medium/Low	The risk that the security situation means a visit to Gaza on the proposed dates is not possible.	Contingency plan in place to meet UNRWA Gaza staff outside Gaza as well as to switch time to alternative location. Contingency plan ready to initiate with 24 hours' notice (see paragraph 5.35).

9. How will this review make a difference?

- 9.1 DFID has committed £343 million to the OPTs over the period 2011-15. Its financing through UNRWA totals £136 million, around 40% of its total Operational Plan expenditure. The review will provide an assessment of how a multilateral organisation that receives significant DFID funding but was not part of DFID's Multilateral Aid Review, is meeting the needs of the intended beneficiaries (Palestine refugees). There is a wealth of material available on the situation of Palestine refugees. We will assess the extent to which DFID is using this material. We will also use a focus group methodology to conduct a 'reality check' of the data that DFID is using in its decision making.
- 9.2 UNRWA is a unique body as it is a multilateral organisation that effectively performs the functions of a quasi-state body, delivering services to the refugee population. This status underpins how the review has been structured and the detailed questions that have been devised and included in the Evaluation Framework. The overall questions for this review, as set out in paragraph 5.1, also provide the basis for examining four issues of more general interest to the impact of the UK's development expenditure.
- 9.3 First, UK Government policy towards development has been expressed as a golden thread a series of necessary, sequenced actions that lead to sustainable development. We will assess the extent to which funding through UNRWA is consistent with the golden thread concept and whether it is creating unsustainable dependence. In particular, we focus on the linkage between DFID's support to UNRWA and its State building and Service Delivery Grant to the Palestinian Authority. The golden thread and value for money analysis will provide a valuable insight into UNRWA; an agency that is not widely understood outside the region.
- 9.4 Second, this review is a strong case study for value for money through the delivery chain. We will examine this through a 'follow the money' exercise, to establish how DFID's funds are spent and the impact it is delivering for intended beneficiaries. We will also seek to compare end-to-end delivery costs through UNRWA with alternative mechanisms and develop an understanding of how DFID reaches its decisions for selecting a delivery model.
- 9.5 Third, this review will demonstrate an innovative model of analysing how donors hold multilateral organisations to account against an agreed reform agenda. The model will focus on understanding how DFID balances demands for reform to achieve greater results whilst adhering to OECD DAC principles on aid effectiveness. This will, thereby, support DFID in leveraging reform of UNRWA as well as providing accountability for UK taxpayers on a large spending stream within the DFID Palestine Programme.
- 9.6 Finally, we will build on our understanding from other reviews of DFID's spending through multilaterals and budget support. In particular, we will assess whether DFID is sufficiently robust in demanding impact in spending through UNRWA as a multilateral organisation and as a quasi-state body.

Annex: Evaluation Framework

Relevant ICAI Evaluation Framework Questions	Evaluation Questions	Criteria for Assessment	Sources of Evidence					
(1) Objectives: what is the programme trying to achieve?								
Does the programme have clear, relevant and realistic objectives that focus on the desired impact? (1.1)	Does DFID's support to UNRWA have clear, relevant and realistic objectives that focus on the desired impact for intended beneficiaries? (ToR 6.2.1)	 Clear research and analysis of the issues facing intended beneficiaries Explicit, appropriate criteria for activity selection Evidence of strong appraisals of costs and benefits of each activity and how they will contribute to intended beneficiary needs 	 Project design and business case material Literature review Interviews with DFID staff Consultation with external experts Project design and business case material Focus group discussions 					
Is there a clear and convincing plan, with evidence and assumptions, to show how the programme will work? (1.2)	Do DFID's programmes through UNRWA clearly set out how financing is intended to achieve positive impact for intended beneficiaries?	Evidence of clearly articulated explanation of the chain of results expected, that link DFID's financial contribution to positive impact on intended beneficiaries	 Project design and business case material Interviews with DFID staff Consultation with external experts 					
	Do DFID's planning tools set out clearly how progress will be measured all of the way through the delivery chain, from financing to impact on intended beneficiaries?	Evidence that project documentation sets out appropriate, measureable indicators, to allow progress through the delivery chain to be tracked.	 Policies, strategies and guidance materials Project design and business case material Interviews with DFID staff 					
	Do DFID's programme designs adequately differentiate to meet the needs of Palestine refugees in different locations, including taking account of refugee policies of host governments/authorities?	 Analysis that clearly differentiates between the needs of Palestine refugees in different locations Analysis of the UK Government's golden thread concept and the extent to which this thinking has driven the design of the projects. 	 Project design and business case material Interviews with DFID staff UK Government's golden thread concept Meet with host governments and the Palestinian Authority 					

Does the programme complement the efforts of government and other aid providers and avoid duplication? (1.3)	How does DFID's support to UNRWA complement its other programmes and in particular its Statebuilding and Service Delivery Grant to the Palestinian Authority and the policies of the various governments/authorities where refugees are located?	 Analysis at the level of the operational plan, which sets out how the different parts of the programme are intended to work together to achieve DFID's overall objectives Analysis of how programme design takes into account the different governments/authorities in the five locations where UNRWA operates 	 Country-level strategies and programmes Project design and business case material Interviews with DFID staff Focus group discussions Review of policies of states/authorities to Palestine refugees
	Is DFID funding the programme at an appropriate scale in line with its own strategic objectives and in proportion to the contributions being made by other donors? (ToR 6.2.3)	 Cost-benefit analysis that links DFID's overall objectives with its spending through its UNRWA projects Evidence of a robust, analytical process, to decide the appropriate level of contribution, given the contributions of others 	 Project and programme documents (design, terms of reference and annual review) Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders
	How does DFID co-ordinate with other donors to UNRWA, to support improvements to UNRWA's effectiveness? (We will focus these discussions on key donors, including USAID, EC and Sweden)	 Evidence of a governance structure that ensures effective donor coordination on UNRWA issues Evidence that DFID and other donors are using this governance structure effectively to drive improvements in delivery to intended beneficiaries 	 Project design and annual review documentation Project documentation from other donors Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with other donors
	To what extent does DFID's funding through UNRWA support the UK's broader political objectives for the OPTs?	 Evidence of analysis linking funding through UNRWA with DFID's broader programme Evidence of analysis linking DFID's broader programme to its wider political objectives 	 Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with implementing institutions National government policy statements Interviews with HMG Consul-General in Jerusalem and/or Office of Quartet Interviews with other donors

	In design, do DFID's programmes take account of the work of NGOs and other providers of services to Palestine refugees?	tools wh work of I services Conside docume	within programme planning ich takes into account the NGOs and other providing to Palestine refugees ration in DFID design ntation of alternative funding isms, including NGO delivery	•	Country-level strategies and programmes Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with NGOs Focus group discussions
Are the programme's objectives appropriate to the political, economic, social and environmental context? (1.4)	Does DFID have access to sufficient analysis to assess whether the programme is appropriate to needs of intended beneficiaries?	analysis upon a t	ssment of whether DFID's of the situation is based horough assessment of the f intended beneficiaries in all s	•	Literature review and assessment of project level analysis in business cases and other project design material Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Interviews with intended beneficiaries
	Is there evidence that initial programme designs drew on available analysis and used this to maximise impact on intended beneficiaries?	on inten	e that available information ded beneficiaries was central at design processes	•	Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with intended beneficiaries
	Are the programme's objectives adapted to the political, economic, social and environmental context? (ToR 6.2.2)	changed in the co	esults frameworks to capture	•	National government policy statements Literature review and analyses of government policy
(2) Delivery: is the delivery cha	ain designed and managed so as to be	it for purpose	e?		
Is the choice of funding and delivery options appropriate? (2.1)	On what basis did DFID decide to allocate its resources across its programmes and delivery options for Palestine refugees?	the sper DFID; 2) choices	s that clearly articulates 1) Iding choices available to I the criteria upon which would be made; and 3) Is the choices against these	•	Project design and business case material Literature review of assessments of capacity of UNRWA Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders

	How do UNRWA's costs of delivery compare to those of other organisations? (ToR 6.3.4)	•	Evidence of the unit costs of delivery of UNRWA across its locations compared to those of other organisations providing similar services	•	Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Evidence comparing efficiency between UNRWA and PA and other providers. Focus group discussions on costs of services to refugees
	Has DFID fully considered alternative mechanisms for delivering services to intended beneficiaries, for example, NGO delivery?	•	Evidence that project delivery is monitored Existence of analysis and recommendations from previous evaluations referred to and reflected in programme design	•	Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders
	Does DFID ensure that UNRWA's delivery model is appropriate to the different countries/territories in which it works?	•	Evidence that DFID has conducted analysis of impact on intended beneficiaries across the locations where UNRWA operates, taking into account context and provision of services to refugees by host governments/authorities Evidence of environmental scanning, analysis and that project delivery is monitored Analysis of effect on intended beneficiaries across the locations where UNRWA operates	•	Literature and analysis of the political, social and economic context in each country of the region Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Project design and business case material
Does programme design and roll-out take into account the needs of the intended beneficiaries? (2.2)	Does DFID have access to sufficient analysis on how its programmes through UNRWA are affecting the lives of intended beneficiaries?	•	Analysis of programme impacts that directly assesses their effect on intended beneficiaries across the locations where UNRWA operates	•	Project design and business case material Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Focus group discussions

	Is there evidence that DFID is using analysis of the effects of the programme on intended beneficiaries to assess and amend its programmes?	•	Evidence that consultation outcomes and assessments of the impact on intended beneficiaries are considered within project management processes Examples of particular programmes or projects being adapted to take cognisance of impact assessments	•	Project design and business case material Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Interviews with government officials in the sample fields of operation
	Have appropriate amendments been made to DFID's objectives, to take account of the changing context (including the recent UN vote on Palestinian statehood and the Arab Spring)? (ToR 6.3.3)	•	Evidence that environmental scanning and the changing political context is being sufficiently monitored and considered within project management processes Examples of particular programmes or projects being adapted to take cognisance of changes within the political context	•	Project design and business case material Project management and monitoring documents Minutes from planning meetings Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders
Is there good governance at all levels, with sound financial management and adequate steps being taken to avoid corruption? (2.3)	How does DFID ensure that there is good governance, with sound financial management and adequate steps being taken to avoid corruption? (ToR 6.3.1)	•	Evidence of regular oversight of UNRWA procurement, allocation and financial management processes and reporting Evidence of DFID's articulation of expected procurement rules, guidelines and anti-corruption measures Existence of robust risk management processes DFIDs contribution through Advisory Commission (Governance)	•	Project guidance materials Published procurement guidelines and internal rules/manual on procurement Minutes of planning decision meetings Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders DFID's Fiduciary Risk Assessment (FRA)

Are resources being leveraged so as to work best with others and maximise impact? (2.4)	How effectively does DFID co- ordinate with other donors in assessing UNRWA's impact and leveraging improvements?	 Existence and extent of formal and informal arrangements between DFID and other donors to share impact assessments and jointly agree and drive changes/improvements Evidence of individual projects or programmes being adapted to take account of challenges Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Minutes of donor meetings
	How effectively does DFID co- ordinate with NGOs working to deliver services to Palestine refugees?	 Evidence of consultation /analysis and extent of information flow during planning stages of DFID's operational plan Identifiable processes in place for DFID's on-going engagement with NGOs Interviews with DFID staff Project design and business case material Project monitoring reports Interviews with OFID staff Project design and business case material Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with DFID staff Project design and business case material Interviews with OFID staff
Do managers ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery chain? (2.5)	In the absence of a Multilateral Aid Review rating, how has DFID gained assurance of the operational effectiveness of UNRWA's management? (ToR 6.3.2)	 Analysis of oversight arrangements for monitoring mechanisms including access to UNRWA's evaluation reports Evidence of DFID incentivising UNRWA reforms (including in areas of results based management, value for money and strengthening transparency) Evidence of DFID/UNRWA coordination meetings
	Does DFID have sufficient oversight of the delivery chain, from its funding, to impact on intended beneficiaries?	 Evidence of oversight and reporting of resource spending, mapping and effect on intended beneficiaries across the locations where UNRWA operates. Evidence of consultation with beneficiaries Interviews with DFID staff Project monitoring reports Reform agreements and reports on results pact

	Has DFID considered with UNRWA alternative delivery models, to its current, largely direct delivery, model?	 Evidence of analysis within programme planning Project monitoring and reviews of alternative delivery models Current delivery models are considered best practice 	 Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with UNRWA staff Project monitoring reports Minutes from planning and review meetings
Is there a clear view of costs throughout the delivery chain? (2.6)	How aware is DFID of the costs of UNRWA delivery through its delivery chain?	Effective oversight and financial monitoring processes which specifically review and consider delivery costs, are in place and that these are acceptable and compatible with original project funding criteria	 Terms of reference and contracts with implementing agencies Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff
Are risks to the achievement of the objectives identified and managed effectively? (2.7)	Does DFID have access to sufficient analysis of the risks facing its spending through UNRWA?	 Project and project designs incorporate adequate risk analysis Evidence of effective risk analysis (especially in light of changing political dynamics) 	 Project design documents Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff
	Is there evidence of DFID using analysis of the risks to amend delivery?	Details of amendments to delivery or proposals to UNRWA emanating specifically from risk analysis	 Project management and monitoring documents Risk Strategy reviews
Is the programme delivering against its agreed objectives? (2.8)	Does DFID have in place sufficiently robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure that its programmes through UNRWA are on track against its programme plans?	 Evidence of programme management, analysis and reporting mechanisms Evaluations and studies by internal and external monitoring/research organisations 	 Project management and monitoring documents Project design documents Focus group discussions Interviews with DFID staff
Are appropriate amendments to objectives made to take account of changing circumstances? (2.9)	Is there evidence of objectives being changed during delivery to reflect emerging evidence?	Individual projects or activities have been adapted to take account of emerging priorities or agreed review outcomes	 Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff

Is the programme delivering clear, significant and timely benefits for the intended beneficiaries? (3.1)	Is DFID delivering clear, significant and timely benefits for the intended beneficiaries that provide value for money? (ToR 6.4.1)	 Evidence that activities have delivered impact for beneficiaries in line with defined project objectives Evaluations and studies by internal and external review/research organisations 	 Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Focus group discussions
	Does DFID have access to sufficient analysis of the consequences of its programming on intended beneficiaries?	 Evidence of analysis and project management based on evaluations reviews and reporting mechanisms Evaluations and studies by internal and external review/research organisations 	 Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders
	Do the overall benefits of the programme for intended beneficiaries represent value for money, given the costs incurred?	 Monitoring of impact and value for money is conducted and based on current best practices Demonstrated priority given to assessment of value for money based on robust evidence including reviews and comparative studies by internal and external review/research organisations 	 Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with independent experts Review of documents of other donor projects
Is the programme working holistically alongside other programmes? (3.2)	Does DFID maximise its impact on intended beneficiaries, through UNRWA, by ensuring complementarity with its other statebuilding and service delivery activities? (ToR 6.4.3)	 Consultation and project management processes are in place which ensure complementarity of DFID and/or other donor contributions (including to State- building & Service Delivery Grant) No duplication of effort with other programmes by DFID or other donors 	 Project management and monitoring documents Review of documents of other donor projects Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders
Is there a long-term and sustainable impact from the programme? (3.3)	How will funding to UNRWA deliver sustainable impact for Palestine refugees ?(ToR 6.4.2)	 Evaluations and studies by internal and external review/research organisations Evidence of consultation with beneficiaries 	 Literature review to examine the experiences in other countries Opinions of independent experts Interviews with DFID staff

Is there an appropriate exit strategy involving effective transfer of ownership of the programme? (3.4) Is there transparency and accountability to intended beneficiaries, donors and UK taxpayers? (3.5)	To what extent does DFID's programming through UNRWA integrate actions for a more sustainable approach to delivering services to Palestine refugees? Does DFID publish sufficient information, in an appropriate format, to provide accountability to intended beneficiaries, donors and UK taxpayers? To what extent does DFID engage directly with intended beneficiaries, donors and UK taxpayers to ensure accountability in its programming with UNRWA?	•	Evidence of actions requiring specific commitments from beneficiaries associated with project to build sustainability Quality of exit strategy Good level of knowledge of activities by representatives of national governments, donors and beneficiaries Publication and awareness raising of the impact of the projects (and spending data) Degree of visibility of activities funded with DFID support – but implemented by other partner Publication of reviews/reports and data spending	•	Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Project management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders Interviews with national representatives Interviews with representatives from beneficiary groups Relevant Parliamentary reports Interviews with DFID staff Interviews with national representatives Interviews with national representatives Interviews with beneficiaries from beneficiary groups Relevant parliamentary and other reports		
(4) Learning: what works best and what needs improvement?							
Are there appropriate arrangements for monitoring inputs, processes, outputs, results and impact? (4.1)	Are there appropriate arrangements for monitoring inputs, processes, outputs, results and the ultimate impact on intended beneficiaries?(ToR 6.5.1)	•	Project management processes are in place; including evidence of oversight and reporting of effect and impact on intended beneficiaries across the locations where UNRWA operates Evidence of consultation with beneficiaries	•	Project and organisational annual reviews Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders		

	Is there evidence that UNRWA's internal organisational transformation is improving the effectiveness and impact of DFID's funding on intended beneficiaries? (ToR 6.5.3)	•	Progress made on the specific reform indicators included in the DFID logframe. Evidence of specific outcomes directly related to internal reforms/improvements	•	Project and organisational annual reviews Interviews with DFID staff and stakeholders DFID/UNRWA Steering Committee reports
Is there evidence of innovation and use of global best practice? (4.2)	Are lessons from international best practice being taken into account in DFID's programming with UNRWA?	•	Extent to which the DFID project design took account of and incorporated lessons from evaluations of previous projects	•	Project design documents Previous evaluation of programmes Interviews with DFID staff
Is there anything currently not being done in respect of the programme that should be undertaken? (4.3)	Is there anything currently not being done in respect of the programme that should be undertaken?	•	How DFID uses evidence of any identified refugee concerns not being addressed by the programme The extent to which national priorities relating to Palestine refugees are not being addressed by DFID's project	•	Project design documents Project Management and monitoring documents Interviews with DFID staff
Have lessons about the objectives, design and delivery of the programme been learned and shared effectively? (4.4)	Are lessons about the objectives, design and delivery of the programme being learned and have these led to increasing effectiveness and fitness for purpose of UNRWA's interventions? (ToR 6.5.2)	•	The extent to which lessons from DFIDs humanitarian related work in other areas were incorporated into the design of the programme and the project documentation and contracts with UNRWA A continuous learning lessons programme is in place and outcomes from DFID and other evaluations are fed in to reporting mechanisms and UNRWA reviews	•	Project design documents Previous evaluations of programmes Interviews with DFID staff