Overall Response to the Evaluation: This evaluation was conducted in consultation with key stakeholders at the country levels, CSOs and UNICEF staff, including senior management, were actively engaged in all phases of the evaluation. The evaluation successfully assessed the effectiveness of Family Centres as child protection platforms to adequately detect and respond to the child protection needs in Gaza. It also evaluated how human rights, equity, and gender were integrated in the response, and proposed recommendations on potential areas for strengthening FCs for community-level service delivery, detection, and referral. UNICEF Senior management agreed with all evaluation recommendations and started implementing them in current projects.

Planned Use of the Evaluation: The primary users of the evaluation are UNICEF, the Japan Government (the donor) and CSO implementing partners, namely Ma’an and Tamer. The intended use of the evaluation is for the primary audience to understand how well the project achieved its objectives and possibly to inform decisions on future programming. The findings are also intended to provide strategic guidance on the role of the Family Centers in the context of child protection systems strengthening approaches, including case management, in Gaza.

Recommendations and Actions

Recommendation #1: Develop a coherent Theory of Change “ToC” and Logframe for the FC programme that can be used to guide the development of PCAs and strategic programme direction. The development of this ToC/Logframe could also assist with harmonising existing approaches to implementing FCs as well as donor funding sources.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #2: Strengthen coordination with and support to MoSD including finding a way, where possible, to support MoSD with some of the operational costs for case management, specifically child protection cases.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #3: Strengthen the CPCCs using a structured and standardised approach across all FCs.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #4:
Integrate disability into the FC programme in a structured and standardised way.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #5:
Strengthen outreach services to men/involvement of men in the FC programme.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #6:
Strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and learning system (MEL) for the FC programme including putting in place a standardised and unified M&E system for the FC programme directly linked to the ToC/Logframe.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #7:
Sustainability recommendations for community based responses Strengthen existing case management referral system pathways.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #8:
Explore the development of other community-level child protection service delivery models in different settings such as schools and libraries.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #9:
Child Protection System Strengthening Recommendations Review the implementation of the GBV & CP case management SOPs. These SOPs have been implemented since 2015.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #10:
Areas identified indirectly through the evaluation for further research: Child protection implications of separations/divorce and possible responses to reduce/mitigate the negative impacts on children and families How to engage men in family strengthening and GBV prevention programmes in the Gaza context How to engage traditional cultural and religious institutions in Gaza to challenge harmful practices and advocate for realisation of children’s rights i.e. addressing some of the root causes of child protection concerns.

Management Response: Agree