A “very much first and foremost a crisis of children” as deemed by UNICEF occurred in Gaza in mid-2014. As a response to that, UNICEF adopted a two-phase approach, aiming to respond to the immediate needs of children and conducting more extensive outreach to children in need. In 2016, UNICEF conducted a participatory evaluation of previous UNICEF action to strengthen its humanitarian response and promote learning from experience through utilization of lessons learnt. The views of all stakeholders were therefore important.

Throughout the evaluation, stakeholders were significantly involved. In the design phase, several consultations were held with the consultants, UNICEF State of Palestine management and M&E team, to obtain a general overview and understanding of the interventions that took place to shape the evaluation scope and also get feedback on the initial data collection and analysis plan presented in the inception report.

Data was then collected from a large number of stakeholder groups: UNICEF staff and management, representatives of partner organizations, community-based organizations, and governmental bodies, as well as several beneficiary groups (vulnerable households, teachers, students, midwives, and mothers). In the data analysis, triangulation was used to the extent possible to get the different stakeholder groups’ perspectives on similar issues. The main findings of the EHA were shared with UNICEF staff and management in all sections for feedback that fed into the formulation of the recommendations.

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