

Facilitating organizational learning from decentralized evaluations through meta-analysis

In decentralized organizations like UN Women, evaluations managed by field offices play a key role in informing local and national policies and programmes. However, there is no systemic approach to ensure that the available findings are indeed used to inform corporate systems, strategies, policies, and programmes.

With the aim of enhancing the organizational use of evaluation findings and as envisaged in the Corporate Evaluation Plan (2014-2017), the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office produced a meta-analysis based on all 2013 evaluation reports that met the United Nations Evaluation Group standards.

The meta-analysis was presented at the September Executive Board meeting which welcomed it as an important tool to assess the performance of UN Women and to promote learning to further strengthen corporate systems, strategies, policies and programmes.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone, Director, Independent Evaluation Office



New system to assess quality of evaluation reports

The Independent Evaluation Office launched the Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS), with the aim of improving the quality and use of decentralized evaluations. GERAAS uses the evaluation report standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group as a basis for review and assessment, while ensuring specific standards relevant to UN Women. The system provides an independent assessment of the quality of

evaluation reports. In addition, it serves knowledge management objectives by synthesizing evaluation findings, good practices and lessons learned, as well as capacity development objectives by sending individual practical feedback to the relevant offices on how to improve the quality of future evaluations.

Click [here](#) to read the GERAAS methodology

Meta-evaluation rated 85 per cent of evaluation reports “satisfactory” and above



The GERAAS meta-evaluation conducted by an external independent reviewer assessed the overall quality of all evaluations completed in 2013. The assessment rated 85 per cent of evaluation reports “satisfactory” and above; 26 per cent were found to be “very good” —exceeding the quality standards in multiple parameters. However, 15 per cent were rated as “unsatisfactory.”

Click [here](#) to read the full meta-evaluation



Meta-analysis finds that UN Women has achieved important results while developing its own structure

The recent meta-analysis of UN Women evaluations synthesized and aggregated key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the 23 evaluation reports that met UN Women quality requirements. Its main purpose was to provide UN-Women senior management at different levels with key insights on the performance of the organization. Evaluations included in the meta-analysis were completed in 2013, but their scope covered the 2011- 2012 period, during which UN Women was being consolidated while implementing programmes.

In this context, the overarching conclusion of the meta-analysis was that UN Women has achieved important results while developing its own structure.

Programmes are relevant to international and national priorities, and achieved planned outputs despite constrained funding and complex political environments. However, UN Women should address areas of organizational efficiency where challenges have been identified.

UN Women performed well in relation to the Strategic Plan's operational priorities, principles and approaches. The organization is developing a strong track record in convening partnerships and it is recognized as being strong at coordinating UN entities at the global level. UN Women has established a number of effective approaches for enhancing inclusiveness; capacity development and advocacy are recognized as major strategies; national ownership is strong; and important contributions to some specific areas of knowledge have been made.

Nevertheless, UN Women programming needs to become more effective across the spectrum — from designing programmes, to implementing, monitoring and evaluating them. Results-based management needs to be strengthened at all levels to systematically guide decision-making and to fully measure outcomes and impacts on women's lives. In terms of programming approach, more needs to be done to involve men as active programme participants in changing social norms and in strengthening knowledge management systems. In addition, UN Women should strengthen its coordination role at the country level, and explore the opportunity to engage the private sector as appropriate.

The synthesis report presented at the UN Women Executive Board is available in [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#)

Click [here](#) to read the full report.

Click [here](#) to read the brief.

UN Women evaluations available in the GATE public portal

UN-Women Independent Evaluation Office maintains a [Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use – \(GATE\)](#). The GATE system is aimed at facilitating accountability and learning at UN Women by enabling staff and external stakeholders to access evaluative information about UN-Women's work and track the status of evaluation plans and management response and action plans.



All evaluations considered in the recent meta-evaluation and meta-analysis are posted in the GATE System to allow access to the general public. This contributes to the transparency and credibility of UN Women when reporting on its performance. The accompanying meta-synthesis also serves as a useful repository of information on UN Women's operations at global, regional and country levels.

Please click [here](#) to access the GATE System.



UNEG High Level Event

"Empowering Countries through Evaluation: Evaluation as a country level tool for the new development agenda" was the name of the High Level Side Event Organized by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) at the Fourth Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). The Secretary General, in his report "A life of dignity for all" (A/68/202) observed that "Strong monitoring and accountability will be crucial for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda." One of the four objectives of DCF is to identify ways to enhance national and global accountability and effective monitoring of development cooperation. Specifically, the DCF seeks to support the development of minimum accountability standards and individual countries in their efforts to put in place full-fledged accountability mechanism and dialogue forums.

Evaluation is a powerful tool for greater national and global accountability in development cooperation. By explaining what works and what doesn't work, evaluation can help guide decision making, update priorities and improve development results. Importantly, it also strengthens national ownership of development outcomes.

This High Level Side Event explored the role that evaluation can play in empowering countries. It considered how building evaluation capacities at the country level can lead to greater ownership of the development agenda and how stronger national evaluation systems can be part of an inclusive and robust global accountability framework. In doing so, the side event put the issue of national evaluation capacity building on the post-2015 development agenda, acted as a catalyst for evaluation at the national, regional and global levels and within the UN system; discussed the 2015 International Year of Evaluation global initiative; and helped create an enabling environment for evidence-based decision making.

Please click [here](#) to read more on the UNEG High Level Event

Please click [here](#) to watch the video of the UNEG High Level Event

Please click [here](#) to read the speech by John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-



News from the Field

Asia-Pacific

Regional Consultation to Share Findings of Evaluation of Regional Mechanisms to Protect the Human Rights of Women and Girls in Southeast Asia (2010 – 2014), Jakarta,

Indonesia

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat held a meeting on the Final Evaluation of ASEAN Regional Mechanism to Protect the Human Rights of Women and Girls in South East Asia 2010-2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, ASEAN Commission on Women, ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly, Women's Caucus and other civil society organizations and national ASEAN partners.

During the two-day event, the key findings of the evaluation were shared and validated with the representatives of the organizations. They also agreed and prioritized recommendations for drafting a management response, as well as discussed the new phase of the project.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

First Webinar on self-evaluation on EAW programme in Cambodia on 3rd June

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific held the first webinar session on evaluation on 3rd June, in order to share knowledge generated by evaluations and to learn from each other in the region. The topic of the first webinar was a self-evaluation on the Ending Violence Against Women (EAW) programme in Cambodia. The Cambodia Country Office presented the background, purpose and objectives of the evaluation, followed by the methodology used, the findings and conclusions, and lessons learnt from the self-evaluation. Participants actively exchanged their opinions during and after the session.

Please click [here](#) to access the recorded webinar.

Please click [here](#) to download the plugin for viewing the webinar.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Guide for the evaluation of programmes and projects with a gender, human rights and intercultural perspective

In the framework of the consultancy “Strengthening institutional capacities in evaluation in the Americas and the Caribbean region”, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office elaborated the Guide for the evaluation of programmes and projects with a gender, human rights and intercultural perspective, a practical tool for those who undertake, manage and/or use evaluations.

In recent years the evaluation community has advanced in the development of a conceptual and methodological basis for improving the processes of programme and project evaluations. Similarly, there is an important body of resources for the gender equality and human rights approach. But with respect to the intercultural approach, progress has been slower and, in many cases, partial. This guide has been elaborated with the intent of integrating these approaches into the evaluation cycle. The publication of the guide was done in collaboration with the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR) Center for Spanish-speaking Latin America.

Please access the Guide for the Evaluation of Programmes and Projects with a Gender, Human Rights and Interculturality Perspective here in [en](#) | [sp](#)

Joint project to engender national M&E Systems in the Americas and the Caribbean Region

The main objective of this joint initiative developed by UN Women, EvalPartners, International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and Latin American and the Caribbean Network for Monitoring, Evaluation and Systematization (ReLAC) is to engender national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region through: providing training on gender responsive evaluation to national staff and; and providing technical and methodological support to integrate gender equality perspective in the evaluations of their public policies and programmes. This initiative is linked with the 2015 EvalYear activities in the region to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at national level.

There was a specific demand from three M&E national systems to pilot this initiative: the National Planning Department (SINERGIA, Colombia), the Ministry of Inclusion and Social Development (MIDIS, Peru) and the National Council for the Evaluation of the Social Development Policy (CONEVAL, Mexico).

Two training courses have taken place in Colombia and Peru and the third is planned for Mexico in the fourth quarter of the year.

- The Training Course on Gender Equality and Human Rights Responsive Evaluation was held in Bogota, Colombia (7-8 May, 2014). It was organized by UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and UN Women Colombia Country Office in collaboration with SINERGIA and it was attended by 20 professionals (high level technical staff) from SINERGIA Department.
- The Training Course on Evaluation of Social Policies with Gender Equality and Human Rights Perspective was held in Lima, Peru (21-22 July). It was organized by UN Women IEO in collaboration with the General Directorate on Monitoring and Evaluation from the Ministry of Inclusion and Social Development, and it was attended by 40 participants from different institutions (Ministries of Social Development, Health, Education, National Women Mechanisms/Machineries, Universities and non-governmental organizations).

About the Independent Evaluation Office

The UN Women Independent Evaluation Office main purpose is to enhance accountability, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality through normative, operational and coordination work. UN Women Independent Evaluation Office also strengthens capacities for gender responsive evaluation within UN entities, governments and civil society organizations.

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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