



Independent
Evaluation Office

Newsletter – Issue # 11 – September 2015

Evaluation fit for the 2030 development agenda

[The Independent Evaluation Office at UN Women](#)

enthusiastically announces that the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the 2030 development agenda calls for country-led evaluations and data, and the strengthening of national evaluation capacities.



Available now, [Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was agreed upon by consensus of the Member States on 2 August, 2015. From 25 to 27 September, world leaders will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City to renew their commitment to development and adopt this agenda at The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. As the world makes way for a new development era, the inclusion of evaluation in this document provides an important opportunity to advocate for the use of gender responsive evaluation to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

As the global evaluation community celebrates [The International Year of Evaluation](#) to promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at international, regional, national and local levels, it is especially exciting to see evaluation plays an important role in this new agenda.

We are proud to say that [UN Women](#) and [UNEG](#), with support from our partners, played a critical role in advocating on the importance of evaluation during the intergovernmental negotiations. This is a milestone for [UNEG](#) and the international evaluation community, which follows the stand-alone United Nations General Assembly Resolution, [Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country level](#), adopted in December 2014.

The 2030 agenda calls for no one left behind, including women. To ensure this happens, UN Women and the global evaluation community have a strong role to play for gender responsive evaluation. Let us continue to join hands to promote evaluation for better development results.

For additional information on evaluation fit for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development:

Read the [LinkedIn Blog](#),

Watch the [UNEG video](#), and

Watch the [EvalPartners video](#).



To interact live with Marco Segone and Caroline Heider (Director General, Independent Evaluation Group, the World Bank), please participate to the live tweet chat on Thursday, 24th September, from 9h30 to 10 AM New York time (EST) by using the hashtag #eval2030 @unwomenEval

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone,
Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office
Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group
Co-chair, EvalPartners

News

UN Women Executive Board welcomes the Meta-analysis of 21 evaluations

Meta-analysis is a key instrument to reflect on what works



The Meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN Women in 2014 constitutes the second synthesis of [UN Women](#) commissioned evaluations since the adoption of the current Strategic Plan (2014-2017). The analysis synthesizes evaluation findings, conclusions, and lessons learned and identifies insights to gain a deeper appreciation of what works and what does not in ensuring the effectiveness of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes.

The main findings of the analysis focusing on learning were presented to the [UN Women Executive Board](#) in its second regular session in September, 2015. The analysis sheds light on a wide array of insights presented against the [UNEG](#) evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The Executive Board welcomed the analysis as key instrument to continuously reflect on what works to improve future programming and implementation.

Read the full report of the evaluation function in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

Read the [presentation](#) of keys findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Read the [presentation](#) of the management response.

Evaluation of UN Women's normative support work to enhance gender equality

Transform issue #3 highlights evaluation findings

In an effort to leverage synergies, [UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#) and the [Inspection and Evaluation Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services \(OIOS-IED\)](#) agreed to collaboratively conduct the evaluation of UN Women's normative support work and its operational linkages.

Key conclusions suggest that [UN Women](#) has made significant progress in advancing the global normative agenda for gender equality. Looking forward, UN-Women should capitalize on the gains by acknowledging challenges such as limited resources and competing demands, and strategically focus on a few critical issues that can have significant impact.

The evaluation report and UN Women's management response were shared with and welcomed by the [UN Women Executive Board](#) during its second regular session.

Read the full report in TRANSFORM issue #3 on the Evaluation of UN Women's normative support work and its operational linkages in [PDF](#), [on your computer](#) or [on your mobile device](#).

Read the summary report and management response in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

Read the [presentation](#) of key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Review captures learning on gender mainstreaming in the UN System

[UN Women](#) undertook a review of existing evaluations of corporate gender equality policies in the UN system, in consultation with the [UNEG](#), [EvalPartners](#) and [EvalGender+](#). The purpose of the review was to capture validated learning on gender mainstreaming undertaken prior to the [UN-SWAP](#) implementation.

The review provides both evidence of good practice in gender mainstreaming as well as challenges that are meant to inform further discussion, the development of new guidance and tools, and catalyze further actions to improve system-wide gender mainstreaming. They also largely validate the UN-SWAP performance indicators, which successfully targeted the key gaps and challenges for gender mainstreaming. As the recent UN-SWAP reporting has shown further progress in many areas, this momentum needs to be maintained and increased to raise the bar for gender mainstreaming in the UN system.

Read the full report in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [French](#).

Read the [presentation](#) of key insights and conclusions.

Evaluation professionalization initiative

In July 2015, [UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#) launched the professionalization initiative to strengthen the evaluation function. It is a

comprehensive, hands-on programme aimed at developing core competencies in managing gender-responsive evaluation for UN Women staff. Created with contributions from UN Women staff located around the world, the initiative is comprised of the UN Women Evaluation Handbook, an [eLearning course](#) on the [Training Centre eLearning Campus](#), and a coaching programme. The professionalization initiative was developed in collaboration between the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), Human Resources and the Training Centre.

The [eLearning course](#) has 9 modules that aim to support those initiating, managing and/or using gender-responsive evaluations by providing direction, advice and tools for every step in the evaluation process: planning, preparation, conduct, reporting, evaluation use and follow up. While this [course](#) is open to anyone around the world, the primary audience is UN Women staff, in particular M&E Officers/focal points and other staff that manage evaluations, and the senior management involved in evaluation processes. However, it may also be useful to international development evaluators and professionals, particularly those working on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights. After successfully completing the course participants receive a certificate of completion. [Click here to enroll in the course today!](#)



News From the Field

African Parliamentarians’ Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) institutionalized with the support of UN Women and partners

The African Parliamentarians’ Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) with the support of the African Development Bank, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and others conducted the first annual meeting in Abidjan on July 23rd and 24th. The network was established to provide a framework for dialogue with Parliamentarians on the evaluation of development, and to ensure that the policy development and national decision making processes are evidence-based. At least 50 parliamentarians and representatives of the development partners met in order to make the organization operational. This included developing a constitution which interestingly calls for gender responsive evaluation as a key objective.

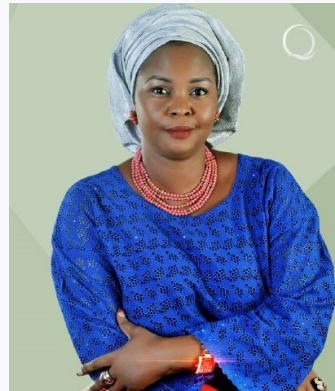
Following the success of this event, the Chief Senator Mrs. Jewel Howard-Taylor expressed her gratitude to the representative of UN Women to Liberia, Mrs. Awa Ndiaye Seck in a letter, stating “As a Parliamentarian, I was unaware of the existence of this institution and its relevance to greater parliamentary performance. I look forward to being a full member in this organization, as it will definitely aid my desire of being a more effective Parliamentarian.”

The next annual meeting is scheduled in July 2016 in Zimbabwe.

Read more on the details of the event [here](#).



Chief Senator, Mrs. Jewel Howard-Taylor



Nigerian Senator, Mrs. Binta Masi Garba

Mexico: Workshop on gender responsive evaluation

[UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#), Mexico Country Office and Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean organized a workshop on gender responsive evaluation on Thursday 18th June in the framework of the Mexico Evaluation Week, sponsored by [CLEAR](#), [AMEXCID](#) and [CONEVAL](#), on the occasion of the [International Year of Evaluation 2015](#). 45 people attended the workshop, mainly UN staff, national government representatives, academia and civil society organizations. The content of the workshop included, among other topics, evaluation policy in the UN, gender equality and human rights (GEHR) concepts and principles, international normative framework for GEHR, evaluation design, terms of reference and use and dissemination of evaluation results.

Visit the [conference website](#).

For more information, please contact laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org

Costa Rica: Workshop on gender responsive evaluation

[UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#), in collaboration with FOCEVAL (Evaluation capacity development in Latin America Project), [Costa Rica University](#) and the [Saarland University](#), organized a workshop on gender responsive evaluation on Tuesday 14th July in the framework of the International Evaluation Seminar. Civil servants attended the workshop including participants from [MIDEPLAN](#) (Ministry of Planning), [INAMU](#) (National Women's Mechanism) and the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and the Interior. The workshop included, among other topics, gender equality and human rights (GEHR) concepts and principles, international normative framework for GEHR, evaluation design, management and use of evaluation results, and it finished with a practical exercise about terms of reference.

For more information, please contact laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org



Follow @unwomenEval on Twitter, and participate with the hashtag #Eval2030

Contact Greta Karris (greta.karris@unwomen.org) with questions or for more information on social media.

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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