UN Women is committed to a strong evaluation function to ensure that evaluations are:

- High-quality
- Forward looking and relevant
- Contribute to formulation of strategic direction
- Inform interventions at global, regional and national levels.

Solid gender-responsive evaluation framework for the UN and its partners will better position the UN system to be ‘fit-for-purpose’.
Follow-up on evaluations:

- Findings from evaluations mainstreamed throughout the majority of UN Women’s work.
- In 2014, 48 of UN Women’s field offices and programme presences, reported use of evaluations to inform interventions and programming.
Progress made against indicators:

- Overall, the quality of evaluations is satisfactory.
- UN Women on track to reach 3% of the budget earmarked for evaluations (from 1.3% in 2013 to 2.2% in 2014).
- Increased capacity at regional and country level.
- Evaluations available online in GATE system, which has increased UN Women’s transparency.
Indicators with inadequate progress:

- Evaluation coverage remains the same level as in 2013 (67% in 2013, 68% in 2014)
- Implementation rate of evaluations in 2014 dropped from 83% in 2013 to 71%.
- Management Response submission on GATE remains the same (86% in 2014 and 85% in 2013)
- Implementation of management responses dropped from 88% in 20213 to 83%.
Key challenges on evaluation implementation

- Political climate and changes in governments and national partners
- Crisis contexts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, security situation prevented evaluations to be carried out.
- Insufficient funding for evaluations
- Capacity gap, staff turn-over and frequent changes of M&E focal points
- Late initiation of evaluations.
Investment in systems and Development of TOCs:

- Roll-out of new corporate results management system (RMS) has increased HQ’s oversight of regional and country offices.
- Better data in RMS may enable improved evaluations of UN Women’s work in future years.
- UNW programming increasingly underlined by strong theories of change.
Strengthening of oversight function:

- Regular oversight meetings conducted in Programme Division.
- Regular meetings and communication with Regional Directors and Programme Advisers.
- More systematic follow-up by HQ is expected to result in accelerated progress on a number of the indicators, including coverage and implementation rates.
Training and increased capacity:

- Corporate webinars conducted by the evaluation office and Programme Division on RBM and evaluations.
- Established practice of “thematic dialogues” between HQ and the field, to share lessons learned, have been held through 2014 and is ongoing.
- Additional modules of the RMS are being rolled-out in phases in parallel with training of staff.
More needs to be done to increase progress on a number of the key performance indicators - particular attention on planning processes, implementation of evaluations and implementation of management responses.

Further investment in establishing monitoring systems to better track progress, including increased accountability.

Programming underlined by robust theories of change

Internal capacity building of UN Women staff and external training of partners will also be a priority.