CORPORATE EVALUATION OF UN WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION

August 2019
The evaluation focused on UN Women’s work in humanitarian action from 2014-2018.

The evaluation assessed the relevance, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, connectedness and sustainability of UN Women’s approach to humanitarian action at global, regional and country level.

The annual budget for UN Women’s humanitarian work grew from USD 3.4 million in 2011 in 4 countries to USD 27.2 million in 2017 in 43 countries. 95% of the funding under scope of this evaluation was non-core.
How the Evaluation Was Conducted

Formative evaluation

- 5 country visits (Cameroon, Bangladesh, Colombia, South Sudan, Jordan) + New York & Geneva
- 461 semi-structured interviews
- Extensive portfolio review (39 countries)
- Over 550 documents reviewed

Utilization-focused evaluation

- 23 Focus Group Discussions
- Self-assessment questionnaire (6 regional humanitarian advisors)
- Survey with 221 responses (33% response rate)
POSITIONING AND PRIORITIZATION

**CONCLUSION 1**

UN Women helps to ensure that **gender equality** and the empowerment of women remains **central to humanitarian action**.

**CONCLUSION 2**

**Stronger links** are needed **between** UN Women’s global **normative** work and humanitarian **coordination mechanisms** where needs and priorities are determined.
CONCLUSION 3

UN-Women should continue to build on its “development” work while increasing its focus on the “humanitarian” side of the nexus.

CONCLUSION 4

Working in partnership can ensure that UN-Women makes contributions at sufficient scale while increasing opportunities for funding.
There is significant evidence that UN-Women has been highly effective in its global normative work.

Lessons from UN-Women’s country level work should serve to improve programming approaches globally and serve as a catalyst for longer-term transformative change.
CONCLUSION 7

UN-Women’s reliance on non-core resources tends to make it more reactive and less strategic, and thus less efficient overall.

CONCLUSION 8

UN-Women’s capacity and expertise in humanitarian action vary across offices, risking UN-Women’s ability to deliver consistently.

CONCLUSION 9

UN-Women’s work exemplifies gender equality and human rights approaches.
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a response-level strategy to complement UN Women’s global humanitarian strategy.

2. Identify necessary leadership, minimum levels of staffing and office structures for a response-level strategy in humanitarian settings.

3. Develop global partnership frameworks with OCHA, UNHCR and UNFPA building on experience in partnerships in different contexts.

4. Increase effectiveness and impact in humanitarian action by better linking UN Women’s work to system-wide responses.
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