What can we learn from UN Women evaluations?

A META-SYNTHESIS OF EVALUATIONS MANAGED BY UN WOMEN IN 2018

2019
2019 META-SYNTHESIS

SCOPE

- 39 evaluations
- Programmes implemented in 2014-2018
- 80 countries - all regions represented

PURPOSE

- Evidence-based insights through aggregation and synthesis of evaluation findings
- Contribute to knowledge generation and organizational learning
- Inform the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan, and other corporate and country level strategies and processes

METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Enablers and drivers of performance
- 5 selected criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, results culture & sustainability
UN Women has achieved and sustained its strategic positioning across its integrated mandate. However, it is critical for UN Women’s to protect and sustain policy gains, and establish clear and robust policy and practice linkages.

**Insight**

**Opportunity**

Strengthen the strategic positioning of UN-Women and its participation in broader system-wide initiatives and deepen the focus on social norm change more coherently.

**Performance of Development Effectiveness Criteria**

- Relevance: 97%
- Effectiveness: 90%
- Efficiency: 70%
- Results’ culture: 48%
- Sustainability: 87%
INSIGHT
UN Women supported interventions are suited to the needs of target groups and are aligned with national priorities. Effective partnerships led to strategically positioning gender issues in national agenda.

OPPORTUNITY
There is scope for a more systematic needs assessment, mapping and gender analysis for better-targeted assistance to fulfilling the commitment to the “leave no one behind” principle.
UN Women interventions have been **effective in achieving most of their objectives**. Small-scale interventions, limited human and financial resources, weak partner capacity and monitoring systems have **at times affected performance**.

**Insight**

**Opportunity**

Boost the achievement of results through **multi-pronged advocacy, capacity building** and strategic and diverse **partnerships**, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).
UN Women has reportedly improved its programme and management efficiency, but its success largely hinges on its ability to operate with limited resources and to leverage partners’ resources.

**Insight**

**Opportunity**

Strengthening **programme design and monitoring systems** to better track and monitor costs, and having viable strategies for assuring needed human and financial resources.
Despite **gradual improvements** over the years, **capacity varies** and **constraints exist** in ensuring functional results-based management practices at the programme implementation level.

**INSIGHT**

**OPPORTUNITY**

Results culture needs to be further improved through **explicit theories of change** and knowledge management, including **capturing and reporting longer-term results** and lessons learned.
Sustainability of UN Women supported programmes and results are mixed and highly influenced by the different contexts and complex situations in which UN Women operates.

Enhance the sustainability of UN Women’s interventions through exit strategies and sustainability plans as well as more strategic and meaningful engagement of men and boys.
### DRIVERS OF CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENABLING FACTORS</th>
<th>HINDERING FACTORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Ability to operate with limited resources and leverage funds</td>
<td>🔄 Challenging political environments and security situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Committed personnel willing to over-stretch</td>
<td>🔄 Deep-rooted cultural/social norms</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Strategic partnerships with CSOs and women’s groups/networks</td>
<td>🔄 Limitations in core resources and the unpredictability of non-core resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Joint programming and UNCT coordination</td>
<td>🔄 Highly stretched human resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Synergistic and holistic approaches</td>
<td>🔄 Shifting priorities and limited capacity of partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Multi-pronged advocacy and innovative approaches</td>
<td>🔄 Inadequate monitoring/RBM practices and inadequate data on outcomes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Small scale interventions and short duration of projects
THANK YOU

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