REPORT ON THE EVALUATION FUNCTION

of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2019

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Revision of the UN Women Evaluation Policy

2019 Annual Report of the UN Women Evaluation Function
- Corporate and decentralized evaluations
- Performance of the Evaluation Function
- Evaluations fostering change
- Gender equality and human rights in the work of UNEG

Evaluation in 2020 in the context of COVID-19
Effective in January 2013, the UN Women’s Evaluation Policy governs the evaluation function and aligns with the norms and standards of the UNEG. The policy was tailored specifically to the unique mandate of UN Women to conduct gender-responsive evaluations.

The three assessments (UNEG, JIU, GEAC) concluded that UN Women’s evaluation policy provided a solid framework for the evaluation function.

**LIGHT REVISION**
Light revision of the evaluation policy led by the Independent Evaluation Service (IES)

**BENCHMARKING**
Benchmarking with relevant policies of other UN agencies

**NORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**
Based on a normative assessment of the document against recognized international standards, the needs of UN Women stakeholders

**CONSULTATION**
Informal consultation with the Executive Board members on policy revisions, 3 April 2020
FOCUS AREA 1

Corporate Evaluations

Corporate evaluations ensured comprehensive coverage of UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
<th>ONGOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Evaluation on Governance and National Planning</td>
<td>Corporate evaluation of UN-Women’s support to National Action Plans (NAP) on women, peace and security (WPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Evaluation on Humanitarian Assistance</td>
<td>2019 Meta-synthesis with a focus on organizational effectiveness and efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Meta-synthesis</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Joint Evaluation of the Common Chapter ongoing

Evaluation evidence gap mapping analysis completed
## Decentralized Evaluations

**36 Evaluations Completed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Evaluation</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Evaluations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme/Project Evaluations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Evaluations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Evaluations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country-led Evaluations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Synopsis of key strategic decentralized evaluations included in 2019 Annual Report

- Innovation: new practice introduced in 2019
- Increased transparency and accountability

### Launch of a pilot implementation modality in 2019

- IES staff assumes greater role in leading and conducting strategic evaluations
- Completed in 2019: Papua New Guinea CPE
- Initiated in 2019 & ongoing: Caribbean Multi-country Portfolio Evaluation, Nigeria CPE
- Further expansion of this modality in 2020
**TRENDS IN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021 TARGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial resources for evaluation</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources for M&amp;E</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Coverage</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Implementation Rate</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of evaluation reports</td>
<td>68%*</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management response (MR) submission rate</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of management response</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of evaluation</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This figure refers to 20 of 38 evaluation reports rated as “Good and above” in 2019; 95 per cent (36 of 38 reports) were rated as “Fair and above”.*

100% of evaluations rated “Good and above”.
100% of evaluation reports submitted with MR.
80% of MR key actions being implemented.
90% of offices that reported using evaluation.
Steps taken to improve the performance of indicators

**EVALUATION COVERAGE**
New coverage norms, evidence gap mapping, greater oversight on decentralized evaluation plans and implementation from HQ, IEAS management in key corporate SN and AWP review processes

**EVALUATION IMPLEMENTATION RATE**
Prioritizing the conduct of strategic evaluations (regional, CPEs and cluster thematic evaluations), provision of technical assistance and quality assurance by 6 Regional Evaluation Specialists

**QUALITY OF EVALUATION REPORTS**
Greater role of IES staff in conducting strategic evaluations, GERAAS external quality assessment, development of guidance and tools for gender-responsive evaluation methods

Examples of evaluation guidance and tools developed in 2020
FOCUS AREA 3

UN System-wide Coordination

**UNDAF META–SYNTHESIS**

Led the finalization of the inter-agency meta-synthesis of UNDAF evaluations (2015–2019) with a gender lens

**UN–SWAP**

Continued to serve as the Secretariat of the UN–SWAP evaluation performance indicator

In 2019, 34 per cent of the UN–SWAP reporting entities reported exceeding requirements for the indicator - an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018.

• Co-convened the Human Rights and Gender Equality Working Group

• Contributed to the development of the design, monitoring and evaluation companion guide of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance

• Co-convened Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group and active engagement in other UNEG groups

34%
National Capacity Development

**Country-led evaluations**

Evaluations on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment National Actions Plans (NAPs) in Jordan and Serbia in 2019

**Workshops and trainings**

- ISE4GEMs Workshops with the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)
- Big Data and Evaluation event co-organized with the Rockefeller Foundation

**Partnership**

In the work of the EvalGender+, IES continued disseminating the findings and results of the review of Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on understanding how evaluative evidence related to gender has been used to inform development.
EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Adjusting corporate and decentralized evaluation plans

HEALTH & SAFETY
Ensure the health and safety of staff, beneficiaries, and all relevant stakeholders

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
Engage stakeholders to ensure the process is responsive to the context, transparent, and inclusive

GENDER PERSPECTIVE
Define your objectives, scope, and key evaluation questions ensuring a gender perspective and exploration of the impacts of COVID-19

REMOTE DATA COLLECTION
Identify appropriate methods for gender responsive remote data collection

Strategic Plan Study
Focus on Flagship Initiatives and Thematic Priorities
Maintaining a high-quality UN Women evaluation function to promote accountability and learning

Evaluations fostering corporate change

Integration of gender equality perspectives within UN System and beyond
THANK YOU

Find all corporate evaluations at:

Find us on Twitter @unwomenEval