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
Revision of the UN Women Evaluation Policy
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
Key revisions

THREE SETS OF CHANGES

1. **Policy in line with contextual changes in UN-Women and the UN system (UN reform) and the establishment of the Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)**

2. **Non-substantive changes** to better reflect updated UNEG Norms and Standards, **new evaluation practices** and to improve readability

3. **Separation of evaluation management content** to streamline the policy document
**Other Key Revisions**

**EVALUATION BUDGET RANGE**
from 2% to 3% of programme expenditure

+ evaluation budget = value it provides to UN Women and its rights holders
+ flexibility
+ frame of reference
+ the right evaluations at the right time

**NEXT STEPS**
- Informal consultation on evaluation with the Executive Board (8 June 2020) together with the annual report on the Evaluation function

**EVALUATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

**Strengthened Advisory Committee on Oversight**

+ The ACO replaces the GEAC and assumes greater role
+ The ACO terms of reference and membership strengthened
+ The ACO advises the Executive Director on a range of issues including the strategy, work plan and quality assurance of the evaluation function
+ The ACO reports annually to the Executive Board
Annual report on UN Women evaluation function, 2019
Corporate evaluations ensured comprehensive coverage of UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021

**FOCUS AREA 1**

**Corporate Evaluations**

**COMPLETED**

1. Corporate Evaluation on Governance and National Planning
2. Corporate Evaluation on Humanitarian Assistance
3. 2018 Meta-synthesis

**ONGOING**

1. Corporate evaluation of UN-Women’s support to National Action Plans (NAP) on women, peace and security (WPS)
2. 2019 Meta-synthesis with a focus on organizational effectiveness and efficiency

Joint Evaluation of the Common Chapter ongoing

Evaluation evidence gap mapping analysis completed
### Decentralized Evaluations

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<tr>
<td>Country-led Evaluations</td>
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#### 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

**KPI**

**Financial resources for evaluation**
- **2019**: 2%
- **2021 TARGET**: 3% of programme expenditure invested in evaluation

**Human resources for M&E**
- **2019**: 98%
- **2021 TARGET**: 100% of offices appointed an M&E focal point or officer

**Evaluation Coverage**
- **2019**: 86%
- **2021 TARGET**: 100% of offices conducted at least 1 evaluation per SN cycle

**Evaluation Implementation Rate**
- **2019**: 77%
- **2021 TARGET**: 85% of planned evaluations implemented

**KPI**

**Quality of evaluation reports**
- **2019**: 68%*
- **2021 TARGET**: 100% of evaluations rated “Good and above”

* This figure refers to 26 of 38 evaluation reports, rated as “Good and above” in 2019. 96% of the 38 reports were rated as “Fair and above”.

**Management response (MR) submission rate**
- **2019**: 95%
- **2021 TARGET**: 100% of evaluation reports submitted with MR

**Implementation of management response**
- **2019**: 85%
- **2021 TARGET**: 80% of MR key actions being implemented

**Use of evaluation**
- **2019**: 86%
- **2021 TARGET**: 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
UN System-wide Coordination

**FOCUS AREA 3**

**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 2020 in the context of COVID-19
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
Providing evaluative evidence and tools to support UN Women’s COVID-19 response

EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

LESSONS LEARNED
Lessons learned from UN Women’s response to Ebola and Zika

HUMANITARIAN RAPID ASSESSMENT TOOL
Development of the UN Women Rapid Assessment Tool to evaluate gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian action

UNEGER COVID–19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE
Coordinating with UNEG and UN sister agencies (part of UNEG Covid-19 response task force)
CONCLUSION

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

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