Evidence and lessons on types of UN Women support

Meta-synthesis of UN Women Evaluations

DECEMBER 2021
Purpose

Collate **INSIGHTS AND EVIDENCE** on key types of support provided by UN Women during the Strategic Plan period (2018-2021)

Analysis focuses on key insights, good practices and impediments in **FOUR BROAD AREAS**:

1. **Normative support**
2. **Integrated policy advice and thought leadership**
3. **Capacity development and technical assistance**
4. **Advocacy and social mobilization**
Scope and approach

67 evaluations

- All IES-led corporate, regional & country portfolio evaluations (2018–2020)
- 2 global evaluations from 2018
- All 2019/20 decentralized evaluations

Forward-looking approach

Analysis includes a forward-looking aspect and makes linkages with key approaches in the new Strategic Plan (2022-2025)

Geographic Coverage of Evaluation Sample

- Americas & Caribbean: 14
- East & Southern Africa: 11
- Asia & Pacific: 11
- Europe & Central Asia: 8
- Arab States: 8
- IES/Corporate: 7
- West & Central Africa: 5
- HQ/Global: 2
- Cross-regional: 1
**Good practices**

- Fostering long term alliances and mutually beneficial country-level partnerships
- Alignment with national and international priorities
- Fostering national ownership and national champions in order to ensure sustainability

**Impediments**

- Need for long-term engagement with multiple layers of government
- Insufficient support to implementation of normative frameworks

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**KEY INSIGHTS**

- UN Women worked to strengthen national and legal frameworks, contributed to the creation of laws and policies to protect women’s rights, and supported mechanisms for gender mainstreaming.

- Key to these efforts was ensuring and enhancing the inclusion of women’s organizations in intergovernmental negotiations; supporting governments to establish gender units; and providing gender focal points for governments.

- UN Women worked with national and local ministries in several countries to push for gender-responsive budgets, and gender-responsive policymaking and planning through a combination of technical assistance and advocacy.
UN Women provided a range of technical support, advocacy and capacity building while working with civil society organizations (CSOs) and governments to ensure the inclusion of varied stakeholders into law making.

UN- Women supported policy advice through the production of policy-relevant research.
Good practices

- Building institutional capacity and strengthening existing mechanisms
- Provision of comprehensive support packages and holistic approaches
- Baseline surveys and participatory needs assessments to ensure inclusion of marginalized groups

Impediments

- Short-term nature of interventions
- Lack of results tracking and post training follow-up

KEY INSIGHTS

- UN Women supported capacity development of national institutions and CSOs in a wide range of areas such as results-based management, monitoring and evaluation, gender statistics, gender-responsive governance and gender-responsive laws and policies.

- UN Women adapted efforts based on local needs by tailoring activities and facilitating inter-governmental exchanges through international forums and convening.

- UN Women provided support through training in all four key thematic areas.
Good practices

- Engaging influential partners as champions, building and mobilizing alliances
- Establishing political dialogue with key actors to whom NGOs or CSOs may not have access
- Being active advocates and mobilizing public and private actors and through communication efforts

Impediments

- Limited reach and duration of campaigns in terms of reaching the most marginalized/vulnerable
- Need for improvement in tracking results/changes in outcomes post advocacy

KEY INSIGHTS

- UN Women’s awareness raising campaigns were successful in engaging women, and in some instances, campaigns provided a platform for communities to engage in discussions around social norms.

- UN Women also supported building alliances across different areas of work.
Opportunities and the way forward

1. Complement normative support with enhanced SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION of norms and standards to protect women’s rights.

2. Enhance MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT AND RESULTS TRACKING beyond inputs and outputs, particularly in areas of large investment and effort.

3. Focus on key STRATEGIC AREAS and work with partners to PROVIDE LONG TERM SUPPORT and build-in sustainability measures.

4. Develop HOLISTIC APPROACHES with multi-level engagements involving a combination of advocacy, capacity building, training, and normative support.

5. Enhance the use of GENDER DATA, research and standardized NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.
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