MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT ON THE EVALUATION FUNCTION

JUNE 2023 BRIEFING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
UN Women Response Overall

- UN Women appreciates the work of the Independent Evaluation Office and the high-quality work they are producing. Management endorses the proposals outlined in the Report on the evaluation function of UN Women 2022.

- The **UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025 included two indicators on evaluations**. These will be monitored closely and inform future planning. The narrative part also clarifies that Evaluation, internal audit and advisory service findings and recommendations will be used to inform programming and decision-making.

- Robust evaluations are **critical for the data and evidence driven approach** adopted by UN Women. These are essential inputs to planning and policy development and refinement. The template for the **UN Women Strategic Note has a specific section** to outlined the use of evaluations and lessons learnt.
Corporate evaluations

1. Critical input for **corporate strategy development and decision making**.

2. The **corporate evaluation on capacity development** highlighted the importance of
   - clear organization-wide definition
   - ‘systems’ approach: Individual, organizational, enabling environment
   - systematic approaches to planning, delivering and monitoring
   - Contribution to gender-transformative change

**management responses:**

- Develop a guidance note, with proposed strategies including M&E
- Inclusion in SN and project guidance
- Internal capacity development
Decentralized evaluations

- 40 decentralized evaluations completed in 2022.

- Country portfolio evaluations are critical input in the process to develop and decide on priorities of new Strategic Notes.

- In 2022 UN supported 33 joint evaluation processes. The Strategic Plan indicator on joint evaluations show the organizational commitment. Joint evaluations are highly recommended as part of support to UN reform and UN coordination.
Key performance indicators

• Overall UN Women has a **steady performance** of the KPIs for evaluations.

• **Evaluation coverage**
  • Slight reduction in 2022 to 93% down from 97% in 2021.
  • One of the **non-compliant offices was Afghanistan**.
  • The other 3 have either been initiated in 2022 and/or will be completed in 2023.

• **Quality of evaluations**
  • Slight reduction in 2022 to 86% from 98% in 2021.
  • Since the **number of decentralized evaluations is increasing** it is important to keep building the capacity in the field.
    • Project management trainings

• **Implementation of management responses**
  • This KPI is up in 2022 to 91% from 85% in 2021.
  • Evidence of **management commitment to the use of evaluations**. Indicates clear plans for implementation.
Regional support to evaluations

**Regional evaluation capacity**
- Each region has a dedicated regional evaluation specialist in the regional office.
- Each of the regional offices have new regional SNs for 2022-2025, which have dedicated sections on evaluation.

**Regional CoPs**
- Several regions have established regional M&E Communities of Practices.
- These have the objective to build capacity and facilitate knowledge sharing across offices.

**Regional partnerships**
- Collaboration with regional networks such as Issues Based Coalitions and Regional Collaborative Platforms.
- Enhance UN coordination by bringing together UN regional expertise and dissemination of information.
UN Women remains fully committed to further strengthen quality, coverage and use of both corporate and decentralized evaluations in strong collaboration with the IEAS.

UN Women will keep working on areas identified as gaps in the KPI monitoring and continue to build the capacity.

Continue to engage in inter-agency processes and advocate for UNSDCF evaluations.

Look forward to discussing challenges with absorbing learnings from the high number of corporate evaluations with IES.
THANK YOU!