

COMMON CHAPTER EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

In line with resolution 71/243, as well as the Secretary General’s repositioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women have **committed to working better together**, with a view to achieving greater coherence in support of results. This commitment is embodied in a Common Chapter of their respective Strategic Plans for 2018-2021.

The Common Chapter commits UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women to strengthen how they work together in **six areas where their collaborative advantages complement each other**, identified based on the results frameworks of their respective strategic plans 2018-21, which “require multisectoral approaches” and thus also “provide a basis for closer collaboration with other UN entities as well as other partners”. In terms of strengthening how they work together differently, the Common Chapter commits the four agencies to “plan together”, “implement together”, “enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships” and “enhance efficiency together.

AREAS OF COLLABORATIVE ADVANTAGE

- Eradicating poverty.
- Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Ensuring availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development.
- Contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Addressing climate change.
- Improving adolescent and maternal health

Accelerator initiatives were selected based on defined criteria, including a focus on issues that have a strong cross-border dimension exceeding the mandates or capabilities of individual teams, and scope for innovation.

Accelerators	Region
European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative	Global
UN Strategy for the Sahel	West Africa
Data for policy-making and tracking SDGs	Asia & Pacific
Adolescent and youth development and empowerment through evidence-based advocacy (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia); Adolescents’, young people and women’s access to formal and informal education, sexual and reproductive health in the Great Lakes; Children and young people on the move in the Horn of Africa	East & Southern Africa
Reducing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; Disaster management, preparedness, and resilience-building in the Caribbean	Latin America & Caribbean

THE EVALUATION

In response to a request from their respective Executive Boards, the Evaluation Offices of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women have planned a **joint evaluation** of the Common Chapter. The Evaluation Management Group developed a phased approach to the evaluation, including a baseline study and evaluability assessment to be completed by March 2020. The full evaluation of the Common Chapter will be then presented to the Executive Boards in 2021. As the UNDS repositioning has become an influential factor for working together differently to create efficiencies and synergies and facilitate the achievement of results, the Common Chapter's evaluation could also provide useful lessons learnt for wider UNDS reforms.

The **specific objectives of the first phase of the evaluation** (the evaluability assessment) are to:

- Set a **baseline** status of cooperation among UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women during the previous strategic plan cycle 2014-17;
- Discuss trends in the **ways the four agencies are working together (differently)** under the current strategic plans 2018-21, and discuss factors affecting cooperation, including the influence of the Common Chapter.
- Help clarify the scope and intent of the Common Chapter and construct a **theory of change** for cooperation among the common chapter agencies;
- Identify good examples and **lessons learned** from cooperation, which can benefit implementation of the Common Chapter;
- Make **recommendations** on how to shape the Common Chapter evaluation.

The evaluability assessment will follow a **mixed-method approach**, mostly relying on qualitative sources of information, which will be quantified as relevant. The assessment will rely primarily on the following methods and sources of information:

- Desk review of websites, documents, and existing databases;
- Interviews of concerned UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women staff at Headquarters and regional level;
- Interviews with personnel involved in the implementation of Accelerator initiatives;
- Survey of concerned UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN-Women staff at country level;
- Interviews with key representatives of UN entities that have system-wide coordination mandates;
- Interviews with a selected sample of Member State representatives.

