REPORT ON THE EVALUATION FUNCTION
of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020
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Evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IES undertook several initiatives to provide continuing support for evaluation globally and at the decentralized level.

**Review of evaluation planning**

and provision of advisory and quality assurance support to management and conduct of strategic regional, thematic and country portfolio evaluations (CPEs).

**COVID-19 Evaluation Pocket Tool**

Development of pocket tool to provide practical guidelines for gender-responsive evaluation management and remote data collection.

**Two rapid assessments**

to inform UN-Women’s COVID-19 response: (i) the Rapid Assessment of UN Women ACRO response to the COVID-19 crisis; and (ii) the Rapid Assessment of Cash-based Interventions (CBIs) together with IAS.

**UN system-wide efforts**

through the evaluation advisory group for an assessment of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF), and contributed to the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition managed by OECD.
Focus area 1: Corporate evaluations

**COMPLETED IN 2020**

- Effectiveness and efficiency assessment of UN Women Flagship Programme Initiatives and Thematic Priorities of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021
- Corporate thematic evaluation of UN Women’s support to National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security
- Meta-synthesis of 2019 UN Women evaluations

**INITIATED IN 2020**

- Corporate evaluation of UN Women’s coordination and convening role in ending violence against women
- Formative evaluation of UN Women’s approach to innovation
- Joint study with UNU: Gender equality for health and well-being: Evaluative evidence of interlinkages with other SDGs
FOCUS AREA 1:
Gender responsive evaluation guidance and tools

In partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, IES produced new gender responsive evaluation guidance and tools.

- **Impact evaluation guidance note**: Working paper and guidance note on evaluating impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women elaborating the steps for planning and conducting impact evaluations at UN-Women.
- **Rapid assessment tool**: A rapid assessment tool to assess gender equality and the empowerment of women results in humanitarian contexts.
- **Good practices booklet**: Good practices in gender-responsive evaluations in the context of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Focus area 2: Decentralized evaluations

- **29** Evaluations completed in 2020
- **17** Programme-project evaluations
- **2** Joint Evaluations
- **7** Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE) including three IES-led CPEs

**Internal Evaluation Capacity Development**

- Update of the handbook “How to Manage Gender-Responsive Evaluation”
- Trainings and coaching for M&E focal points/UN Women staffs at regional and country level
PERFORMANCE OF THE EVALUATION FUNCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial resources invested in evaluation</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2–3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources for monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation coverage</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation implementation rate</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of evaluation reports</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management response submission to GATE</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of management response</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of evaluations</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, there has been sustained progress on the key performance indicators of the UN-Women Evaluation Function.
UN System-wide coordination

UNEG
Co-convened the Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights and Humanitarian Evaluation groups, and continued to co-chair UN Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP)

UN-SPAW
Continued to serve as the Secretariat of the UN-SPAW evaluation performance indicator and prepared the annual report documenting progress and highlighting best practices for improving gender mainstreaming in evaluations.

UNDAF/UNSDC evaluations
13 joint evaluations were either jointly managed or supported by UN-Women in 2020. UN Women contributed to several UNDAF/UNSDCF evaluation processes and delivered training to UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on evaluation

UN Country Teams Training
UN-Women delivered training for participants from UNCTs on integrating gender perspectives in UNSDCF evaluations and on the UN-SPAW evaluation performance indicators.
FOCUS AREA 4: National Evaluation Capacity Development

EvalGender+

UN-Women continued to co-chair EvalGender+, a global partnership for promoting gender-responsive evaluations.

Knowledge sharing:

Disseminated findings from 2018 and 2019 analysis assessing the extent to which the Voluntary National Reviews use gender-responsive evaluative evidence to inform SDG reviews.

Partnerships at the regional level

- CLEAR South Africa, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Association Sénégalaise d’Evaluation (SenEval), Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)
## Independent Evaluation Service 2021 programme of work

### DECENTRALIZED EVALUATIONS

- IES-led CPEs and regional evaluations (planned 15 CPEs and 2 regional evaluations)
- Quality assurance and technical support to other decentralized evaluations
- Internal training and coaching of M&E focal points
- Evaluation systems (public evaluation data base, external quality assessment, KPIs)

### UN COORDINATION - NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- UNEG
- EvalGender+ and selected regional partnerships

### EVALUATION USE AND COMMUNICATION

### STRATEGIC EVALUATIONS AND ACTIVITIES AT CORPORATE LEVEL IN 2021

- Corporate evaluation of UN-Women’s coordination and convening role in EVAW
- Formative strategic evaluation on UN-Women’s approach to Innovation
- Corporate evaluation of UN-Women’s policy advocacy work
- Formative strategic evaluation on UN-Women’s approach to Climate Change
- A joint study with the United Nations University on gender equality for health and well-being
- Meta-synthesis: lessons on the types of UN-Women support 2018–2020
Conclusions

In terms of evaluation for learning and accountability, UN Women saw overall progress despite of the challenges imposed by the global pandemic.

Evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women provided guidance to support the conduct of evaluations and launched several rapid assessments to respond to emerging evaluative evidence needs at global and regional levels. Evaluation planning and implementation stressed the principle of “do no harm”.

Maintaining a high-quality UN Women evaluation function to promote accountability and learning

In 2020, UN Women continued to deliver timely and relevant evaluations to incorporate evidence into UN Women’s COVID-19 response as well as to strengthen UN Women’s development and organizational effectiveness. Lessons and recommendations were used to inform key strategic planning processes including the development of the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

Integration of gender equality perspectives within UN System and beyond

UN Women advanced the integration of gender equality perspectives through its work within UNEG, and contribution to the UNSDCF/UNDAF evaluation processes. Further, UN Women continues to work in the national gender-responsive evaluation capacity building development.
THANK YOU

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