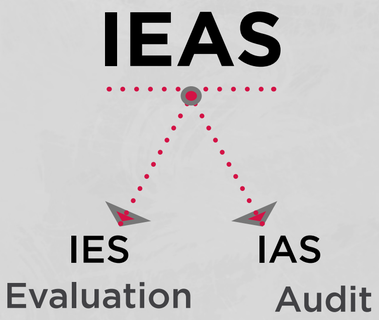
Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)
Independent Evaluation Service (IES)

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE EVALUATION FUNCTION

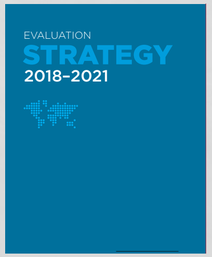
2018

Lisa Sutton
Director, *Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)*

OVERVIEW OF 2018



Co-located with Internal Audit Service under the Independent Evaluation and Internal Audit Services (IEAS)



Implementation of the 2018-2021 Global Evaluation Strategy

Implementation of the 2018-2021 Corporate Evaluation Plan (CEP)

Responding to the context of UNDS reform and joint and system-wide evaluations including UNDAF

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GLOBAL EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GEAC)

In line with the GEAC's recommendations received in 2017, IES

Evaluation Strategy

Developed the UN-Women Evaluation Strategy 2018-2021, taking into account, inter alia, the establishment of IEAS and changing internal and external contexts

Increased Collaboration

Collaborated with other UN agencies on joint evaluations and knowledge management initiatives

Evaluation use

Renewed its focus on evaluation use

System-wide evaluation practice

Continued to influence system-wide evaluation practice through UNEG and EvalGender+

The GEAC confirmed the continuous maturity, growth and performance of the evaluation function

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FOCUS AREA 1

CORPORATE EVALUATIONS

COMPLETED 2

UN Women's contribution to **Women's Political Participation and Leadership**

Meta-synthesis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in **2017**

4 ONGOING

UN Women's contribution **to Governance and National Planning** (*completed in 2019)

UN Women's contribution **to Humanitarian Action**

Joint Evaluation of the Common Chapter of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plans of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF & UN Women

Meta-synthesis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in **2018**

\+ UN WOMEN STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

Evaluability Assessment of UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021

FOCUS AREA 2

DECENTRALIZED EVALUATIONS

33 **Evaluations Completed**

5 **Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs)** *in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Liberia*

4 **Joint evaluations**

35% **Coverage of CPEs** for COs with full delegation

5 **multi-country regional evaluations** *(AS, AP, AC and WCA)*

19 **evaluations supported** *through advisory services & quality assurance*

Regional Evaluation Strategies developed

Evaluation quality assessment guidance & tools updated

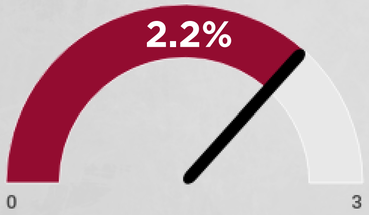
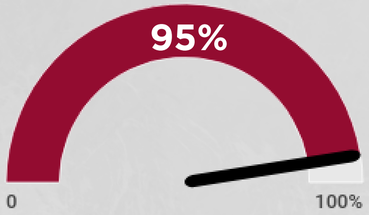
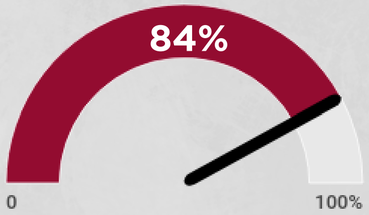
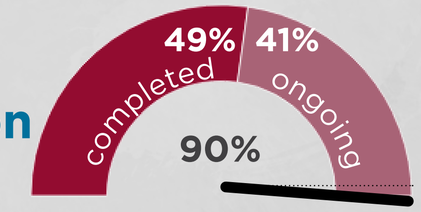
Procedure on decentralized evaluations updated, *to be endorsed in 2019*

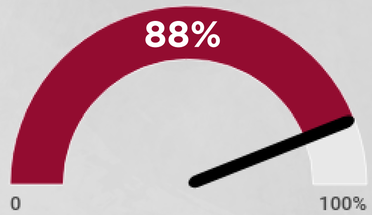
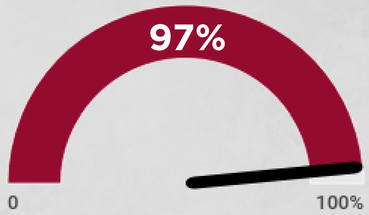
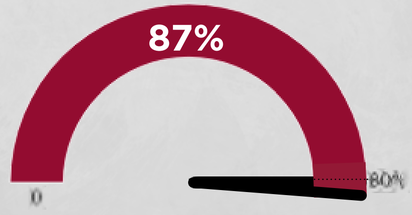
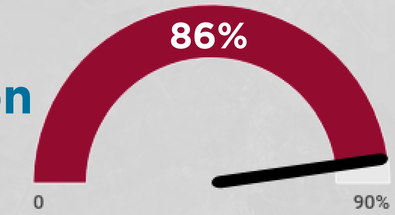
Evaluation professionalization initiative supported

Meta-evaluation & quality assessment of evaluation reports undertaken

Costed evaluation plans developed

TRENDS IN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

KPI	2018	2021 TARGET
Financial resources for evaluation		**3%** of programme expenditure invested in evaluation
Human resources for M&E		**100%** of offices appointed an M&E focal point or officer
Evaluation Coverage		**100%** of offices conducted at least 1 evaluation per SN cycle
Evaluation Implementation Rate		**85%** of planned evaluations implemented

KPI	2018	2021 TARGET
Quality of evaluation reports		**100%** of evaluations rated "Good and above"
Management response (MR) submission rate		**100%** of evaluation reports submitted with MR
Implementation of management response		**80%** of MR key actions being implemented
Use of evaluation		**90%** of offices that reported using evaluation

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FOCUS AREA 3

UN SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

Advancing the integration of gender equality and human rights in the work of the United Nations Evaluation Group

Human Rights and Gender Equality Working Group, Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group & UNEG Peer Review Group co-chaired

Supporting joint evaluations and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Meta-synthesis of UNDAF evaluations with a gender lens | 9 UNDAF & 4 joint evaluations supported

UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Evaluation Performance Indicator

External assessment of 34 IES evaluations with 88% meeting & exceeding UN-SWAP requirements

42 out of 66 UN-SWAP reporting entities reported progress against the UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator 71% met or exceeded requirements

FOCUS AREA 4

NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITIES

Leveraging partnerships for promoting gender-responsive evaluations in EvalGender+

- Continued **leading role in EvalGender+,** global multi-stakeholder partnership for GRE, with **3,664 COP members** in 2018
- Produced a **policy brief** on gender-responsive evaluative evidence & **2018 Voluntary National Reviews**
- Hosted a **side event to the Global Parliamentarians Forum** on gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluation
- Initiated **interventions in 5 countries** to strengthen GRE in national evaluation systems

Supporting gender-responsive national M&E systems in selected countries

- Supported various national systems in the **Americas and the Caribbean** (joint initiative with various regional partners)
- Included a strand on GRE for reporting on progress on the SDG agenda in **EvalMENA annual conference**
- National evaluation capacity development **(NECD) case studies** in four countries.
- Strengthening the **capacity of parliamentarians** to use gender-responsive evaluations

Evaluations as an agent of change

Corporate Evaluations

Corporate Evaluation of UN-Women's Strategic Partnerships

14 COMPLETED | **18** Recommendations & Actions | **4** ONGOING

The evaluation led to

- the development and roll-out of UN-Women's Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy 2018–2021
- a partnership policy accompanied by procedure and business processes, currently being finalized
- the adoption of a due diligence policy to manage the risks and maximize the benefits from private sector partnerships

Decentralized Evaluations

Evaluations used to:

- leverage UN agencies and partner resources
- expand UN-Women's reach, scale and outreach to women
- strengthen results-based management system to regularly monitor and measure progress and results
- test and sharpen sustainable approaches to enhancing the capacity of women's organizations
- develop joint programmes and better integration of gender equality dimensions in UNDAFs

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FOCUS AREA 5

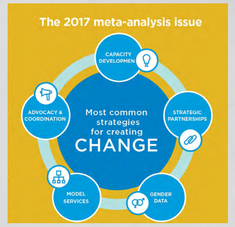
STRENGTHENING EVALUATION USE

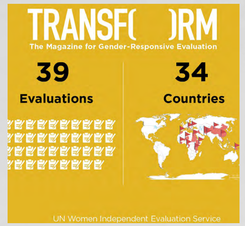
Communication to facilitate use of evaluations

14K
WEBSITE VISITS

5K
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

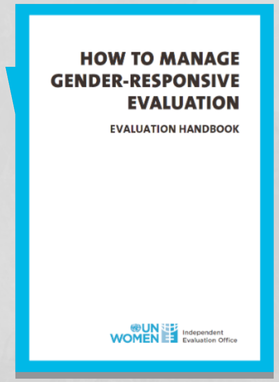
- Innovative communication and knowledge management
- Web traffic & social media outreach increased



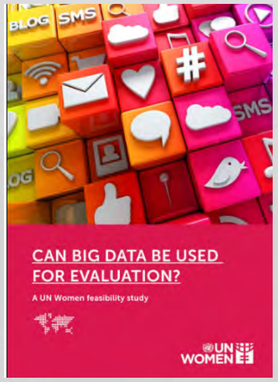


MOST ACCESSED PRODUCTS OF 2018

ISE4GEMS Evaluation Guide



Handbook on GRE



Big Data & Evaluation

Different issues of TRANSFORM Magazine

DRIVERS FOR IMPROVED EVALUATION PERFORMANCE

- Shift towards more **strategic evaluations & greater role of IES in managing evaluations**
- **Synergy** between corporate and decentralized evaluations
- **Collaboration** with the Internal Audit Service, Programme Division and Regional Offices

AREAS THAT REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT

- **Coverage** of evaluations and **uneven roll-out of CPEs**
- **Timely** development and implementation **of management responses**
- **Gaps in results-based programming and management systems** *(that hinder the ability of evaluations to effectively assess impact)*
- **Strategic planning and tracking of expenditures** related to decentralized evaluations

CONCLUSION

Achieving KPIs

Progress against the 9 KPIs maintained at a high rate.

Majority of evaluations performed well against the quality standards.

Prompting Change

Evaluations generated knowledge on a range of thematic and organizational effectiveness and efficiency areas.

UN Women's management remained committed and increased uptake of lessons and recommendations reported.

Influencing systems for GEWE

Collaboration enhanced with other UN agencies on joint and UNDAF evaluations.

System-wide gender responsive evaluation intensified through UNEG.

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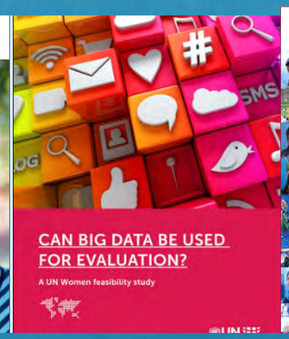
THANK YOU

Find out more about the evaluation function at UN Women at:

http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/accountability/evaluation



@unwomenEval