



Statement by Marco Segone
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on
Item on evaluation

2024 Evaluation Policy

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

It is my pleasure to present the 2024 Evaluation policy. The policy governs the entire evaluation function, covering both centralized and decentralized evaluation functions. It guides the organisation in planning, conducting, and utilizing evaluations, and defines the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

The 2024 evaluation policy builds on the preceding 2019 policy. It was informed by extensive consultations, including with the Executive Board, taking into account the evolving internal and external contexts. The policy is guided by the recommendations of the independent peer review of the evaluation function recently undertaken by the United Nations Evaluation Group and presented to the Executive Board.

The evaluation policy applies to all operational contexts of the organization, including in humanitarian settings. It also reflects the unique needs of a decentralized structure at UNFPA. The resulting policy is intended to make the evaluation function even more fit for purpose, thereby accelerating the delivery of UNFPA strategic plans.

Mr. President, and distinguished delegates,

Please allow me to highlight the key features and enhancements of the 2024 evaluation policy.

First, the evaluation policy rebrands the Evaluation Office as the 'Independent Evaluation Office'. While the evaluation function is both organizationally and behaviorally independent, this rebranding clearly positions and underscores the office's independent nature, fortifying the strategic positioning and credibility of evaluation. Upon endorsement of the policy, the Independent Evaluation Office's rebranding will be rolled out with the launch of its logo, in line with UNFPA guidelines.

Second, the evaluation policy brings into its ambit all types of evaluations. In addition to centralized and decentralized evaluations, it also includes project-level evaluations and

humanitarian evaluations. This is expected to provide sufficient and balanced coverage of all programmatic areas to meet the accountability and learning needs. The evaluation quality assurance and assessment system will apply to all evaluations.

Third, the evaluation function will enhance its coordination with other oversight functions, especially audit and investigation. This includes increased cooperation to ensure the complementarity of evaluation and audit plans, resulting in greater synergies within the oversight functions. The Oversight Compliance Monitoring Committee will also monitor the implementation of management responses to recommendations from centralized evaluations.

Fourth, the evaluation policy takes several measures to strengthen the independence of decentralized evaluations and humanitarian evaluations. For instance, the regional monitoring and evaluation advisors will report to their respective regional directors and functionally to the Independent Evaluation Office. The country evaluation officers or focal points will report to the Head of Office, and functionally to the regional monitoring and evaluation advisor. In addition, selected country programme and regional programme evaluations, as well as selected major country-level humanitarian evaluations, will be managed by the Independent Evaluation Office or regional offices.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

For the evaluation function to deliver high-quality evaluations, it must be predictably and adequately resourced. To meet the needs of this policy, UNFPA is committed to allocate between 1 and 1.6 per cent of its overall programme expenditure to evaluation. This target is well aligned with benchmarks from other UN agencies.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

I would now like to emphasize key elements of the 2019 policy that are still relevant in the 2024 evaluation policy but tailored to the current context.

The evaluation policy continues to sharpen its focus on the use of evaluations for evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and learning. It continues to place strong emphasis on UN coherence through system-wide and joint evaluations, collaboration with the United Nations Evaluation Group and Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) initiatives and multi-stakeholder and intergenerational partnerships to strengthen national evaluation capacities. In this way, the policy responds to Member States' call for strengthening national evaluation capacities as per General Assembly resolution 69/237 and strengthening Voluntary National Reviews through country-led evaluation in keeping with General Assembly resolution 77/283.

The evaluation policy also emphasizes the importance of meaningfully engaging young people in UNFPA evaluations and developing the capacity of youth in evaluation. The policy also focuses on inclusive approaches and greater stakeholder engagement in UNFPA evaluations, to amplify the voices of those left behind.

Mr. President, and distinguished delegates,

In the end, I would like to reiterate that the 2024 evaluation policy supports the development of an evaluation culture at UNFPA that improves performance and results, supports continuous learning and adaptability, and strengthens accountability – all of which are critical to accelerating the delivery of the UNFPA strategic plan. The policy is pragmatic in its intent and forward-looking in its vision, fully aligned with the needs and evolving context of the organization.

This concludes my presentation on the 2024 UNFPA evaluation policy, Mr. President. I thank the Executive Board for their continued guidance and support.
