

Statement by Marco Segone Director, Independent Evaluation Office United Nations Population Fund on Item on evaluation

Multi-year costed evaluation plan, 2024-2027

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

I am pleased to present to you the Multi-year costed evaluation plan 2024-2027.

This plan charts a strategic roadmap to guide the commissioning, management, and use of evaluations for the next four years. It was developed through a transparent and participatory process that included multiple consultations with key stakeholders to ensure its utmost relevance and utility.

Building on the previous Quadrennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan, this plan prioritizes evaluations that directly address the evidence and learning needs across the strategic priorities of UNFPA. Given that UNFPA operates in a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape, the plan is adaptable and responsive to the needs of the organization, in particular to its growing humanitarian portfolio.

Mr. President, and distinguished delegates,

Please allow me to highlight the key features of the 2024-2027 multi-year costed evaluation plan.

The plan covers two categories of evaluations, as defined in the revised evaluation policy: Centralized evaluations, commissioned by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO); and decentralized evaluations, commissioned by country offices and regional offices, as well as Headquarters business units.

Over the span of four years, the IEO anticipates managing 39 centralized evaluations and evaluative exercises. The centralized evaluations proposed provide a comprehensive coverage of the strategic plan 2022-2025, including the three outcomes, the foundational pathways, outputs, and accelerators, as well as organizational effectiveness and efficiency, humanitarian and other cross cutting issues.

As part of its commitment to UN reform, the IEO will continue its efforts to strategically engage in joint, inter-agency or system-wide evaluative exercises to strengthen UN coherence and advance the work of the UN in a coordinated and holistic manner. In total, 46% per cent of the proposed evaluations over the next four years will either be joint, inter-agency or system-wide exercises.

At the decentralized level, 64 country programme evaluations and 6 regional programme evaluations are planned. These decentralized evaluations were derived from costed evaluation plans, developed by country offices and regional offices and approved by the Executive Board. Further, UNFPA will engage in 100% of UNSDCF evaluations.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

For the evaluation function to deliver high-quality evaluations, it must be predictably and adequately resourced. The plan has carefully considered the resource implications of each evaluation, both in terms of budget and staff time. Further, the plan leverages existing resources and partnerships where possible.

For the implementation of the plan, the estimated overall cost is \$29.42 million. This includes costs for the Independent Evaluation Office and centralized evaluations, estimated at \$22.14 million to be covered by the Integrated Budget, plus \$2.21 million by other resources, and costs for decentralized programme evaluations, estimated at \$5.07 million.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

Progress in the implementation of the multi-year costed evaluation plan will be reported in the annual report on the evaluation function presented to the Executive Board each year. Further, the IEO will incorporate the lessons from the implementation of this plan, including the level of resources in relation to expected results, to inform and prepare for the following multi-year costed evaluation plan covering the period of 2026-2029.

Mr. President this concludes my presentation.

I would like to thank the distinguished Executive Board for its continued support and guidance.
