

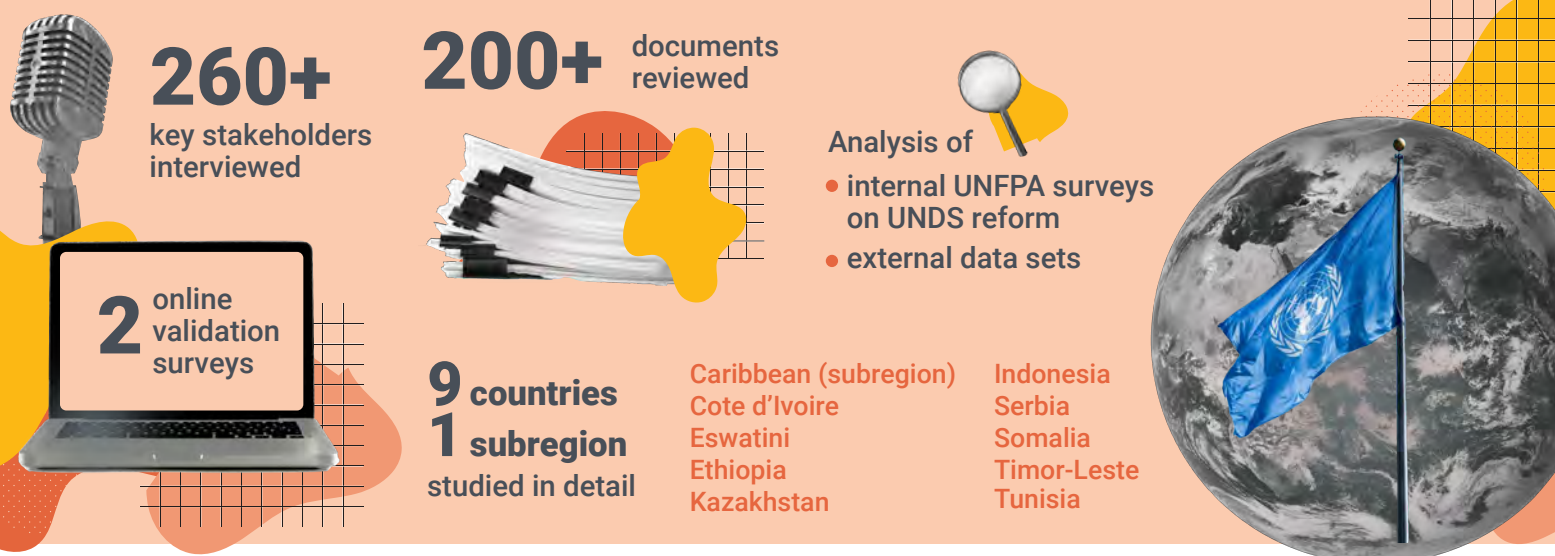
# Evaluation of UNFPA engagement with the reform of the United Nations development system



**Brief** | Read the full report at [unfpa.org/evaluation](https://unfpa.org/evaluation)

Several years into the reform of the United Nations development system (UNDS), UNFPA continues to commit to the reform and support its operationalization. This formative evaluation aims to provide evidence to inform the further enhancement of UNFPA engagement with the reform. The evaluation covers the contribution of UNFPA to the reform as well as the effects of the reform on UNFPA at global, regional and country levels, from January 2017 to May 2022.

## QUICK FACTS



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- UNFPA support for repositioning the UNDS has been outstanding, and all levels of the organization have engaged actively to advance the reform, including by being constructively critical when appropriate
- The engagement of UNFPA in reforming the UNDS has helped to advance the repositioning processes and, for the most part, UNFPA has capitalized on the reform for the benefit of its stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Engagement with the reform comes with costs as well as risks that need to be reduced and managed
- UNFPA has not provided an explicit strategy for engagement, nor has it consistently internalized the elements in its policies, strategies and guidance in order to ensure broad ownership across the whole organization
- Although there is a positive corporate approach to engagement in the reform, UNFPA has not been able to integrate the spirit of the reform into the everyday work of all staff.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Within the framework of its strategic plan, provide stronger strategic direction for its engagement with the UNDS reform
- 2 Work towards broadening the ownership and institutionalizing and internalizing the reform at all levels of the organization
- 3 Address human resource challenges arising from the reform, and incentivize staff to operationalize the spirit of the reform
- 4 Address UNDS reform-related challenges and risks for UNFPA programme work
- 5 Reassess the way UNFPA works in multi-country environments to enhance efficiency and effectiveness
- 6 Make special efforts to ensure that those working in humanitarian contexts make the best use of the reform, especially by working with partners across the development-humanitarian-peace nexus.