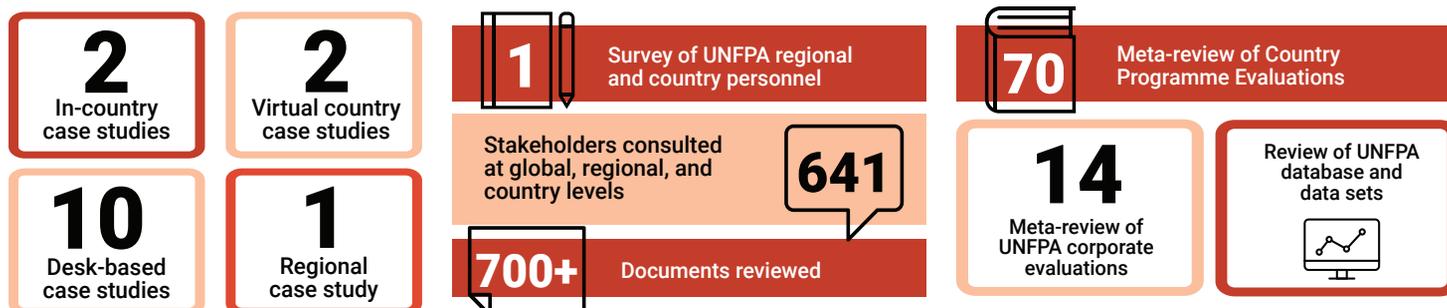


BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (2015) have raised expectations for how the UN system will contribute to helping Member States attain gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

The UNFPA Evaluation Office conducted an **independent evaluation** of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) to examine the extent to which the agency has a) **mainstreamed gender equality** across all programme areas, b) contributed to the **dedicated gender equality outcome area**, and c) is **fit for purpose** to advance GEWE. The evaluation aims to inform the design and implementation of the next UNFPA Strategic Plan (2022-2025) in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

KEY FEATURES OF THE EVALUATION



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- UNFPA has made **important contributions to gender equality** through the different roles it plays at all levels. This is evidenced at country level where the change occurs.
- UNFPA programming in sexual and reproductive health has contributed to the **provision of services, systems strengthening, and capacity development**, with positive effects on global trends.
- The UNFPA mandate positions it to address GEWE through the focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. The strength of the positioning lies in the **integration of interventions** in sexual and reproductive health, HIV, gender-based violence, harmful practices, adolescent and youth, data and the agency's ability to programme from an understanding of these interlinkages.
- UNFPA **work on harmful practices has brought needed attention to the complexity** and multi-faceted aspects of addressing practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-biased sex selection. Now is the time to leverage good models and further a robust research agenda.
- UNFPA **gender architecture provide a foundation for gender work** yet it is stretched in its capacity to support a more gender-transformative approach.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharper focus the importance of **building resilience, breaking down silos** to ensure more enduring solutions to addressing gender inequality and intersectional inequalities in access to quality services that are inherent to development, humanitarian, and peace contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNFPA

- 1 Strengthen positioning by leveraging its areas of expertise** to develop a more integrated approach that joins up the different areas of its mandate. This would be supported by a broader conceptual framework on GEWE that gives prominence to the social norm change work required for sustainable change in GEWE.
- 2 Prioritize investment in gender-based violence staffing in development and humanitarian contexts** and consider scaling up its role as a convenor to amplify its leadership in gender-based violence response and prevention.
- 3 Strengthen capacities on gender-transformative approaches and intersectionality**, building on the momentum that has been demonstrated.
- 4 Continue engaging Member States in the discussion on the importance of adequate levels of predictable funding** that can be flexibly utilized to support longer-term programming capabilities on GEWE and gender mainstreaming.
- 5 Consider which partners**, within an ecosystem approach, can complement UNFPA expertise and resources to resolving the more complex and deeply rooted drivers of inequalities.
- 6 Continue to build organizational strategic thinking** on resilience from an intersectional gender perspective, drawing on lessons learned from the pandemic.