Adapting evaluation questions to the COVID-19 pandemic
What is this guidance about?

This guidance will help evaluation managers and evaluators to better assess the extent to which UNFPA has adapted its interventions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure an equitable and sustainable recovery.
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It provides guidance on how to adapt areas of inquiry to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and coordination, and sustainability of country programmes and other interventions.
Why is this guidance important?

UNFPA programmes have been considerably adjusted to respond to the complex COVID-19 crisis. To better align evaluations to the changing programmatic focus, evaluators must adjust and fine-tune evaluation questions to ensure continued relevance, rigour and quality of evaluations.
Companion Guide

Read this resource together with the guidance on how to adapt evaluations to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)

It details how to adjust the conduct and management of evaluations during the pandemic, in line with the local context.
Examples of evaluation questions

The guidance presents evaluation questions under various evaluation criteria, that integrate COVID-19 realities.

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Coordination and coherence
- Sustainability
These questions are not an exhaustive list. They are meant to stimulate further reflection on meaningful evaluation questions that consider COVID-19 implications in the local context.

The equity principle should remain paramount among all evaluation questions.
Examples of evaluation questions

Relevance

To what extent has the country office been able to respond to changes in **national needs and priorities**, including those of **vulnerable or marginalized groups**, entailed by the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic?

To what extent have UNFPA programmes ensured a flexible and adaptive approach to ensure access to a continuum of comprehensive life-saving sexual and reproductive health and GBV prevention and protection services as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts?

To what extent were the short-term requests for COVID-19 response balanced against mid-term recovery needs?

To what extent have UNFPA programmes ensured addressing the changing needs of beneficiaries as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts?

To what extent do the UNFPA COVID-19 response and recovery efforts conform to the principle of leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first?
Examples of evaluation questions

**Effectiveness**

To what extent were the UNFPA country programme intended results achieved, taking into account potential changes made to the initial results framework due to the COVID-19 crisis?

To what extent and in what ways has UNFPA been able to ensure continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions (including ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and reproductive health commodity), and addressing GBV and harmful practices as part of the COVID-19 crisis response and recovery efforts?

To what extent has UNFPA ensured vulnerable and marginalized groups (such as young women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, etc.) have the information they need, are protected against violence and have access to life-saving services?

To what extent has UNFPA systematically incorporated and implemented data-driven, gender responsive and human rights-based interventions to maintain essential services, including quality sexual reproductive health and GBV prevention and protection services (including mental health and psychosocial support), within the framework of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts?
Examples of evaluation questions

**Efficiency**

To what extent was the mix of resources, **procedures and implementation modalities** used by the country office adapted to the COVID-19 context?

To what extent was the country office able to adapt the level and the allocation of its resources with a view to mitigating the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis?

To what extent did UNFPA systems, processes and procedures (particularly in terms of finance, partnerships, logistics, procurement and human resources) foster or, on the contrary, impede the adaptation of the country programme to changes triggered by the COVID-19 crisis?

To what extent has UNFPA appropriately used innovative technologies to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and mitigate its effects?
Coordination and coherence

To what extent have issues pertaining to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, been adequately integrated and addressed in joint COVID-19 response and recovery programming?

To what extent has the UNFPA country office provided leadership in GBV and SRHR coordination and contributed to effective coordination and complementarity within the framework of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) collective response to the COVID-19 crisis?
Examples of evaluation questions

Sustainability

- To what extent has UNFPA been successful in managing the threats to the sustainability of results caused by the COVID-19 crisis?

- To what extent have UNFPA COVID-19 response and recovery efforts contributed to strengthening national capacities and systems in the fields of SRHR, GBV prevention and protection and data?
Additional evaluation questions are available in the guidance note

Access it at

unfpa.org/evaluation