



Statement by

***Ms. Diene Keita, UN Assistant Secretary-General and
Deputy Executive Director (Programme), UNFPA***

For

**UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board
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**Agenda Item 12: UNFPA Management Commentaries on
Annual report on the evaluation function, 2021**

7 June 2022, 03:00PM-05:00PM

Mr. Chair, thank you for the introduction.

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Colleagues,

Good afternoon, everyone! And thank you for joining us today to hear UNFPA Management's commentaries on the Annual report on the evaluation Function, 2021.

A **strong evaluation function is vital** to overseeing, informing and improving our work at UNFPA.

Evaluations provide us with invaluable recommendations on how we can do better and accelerate progress with regard to the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For that reason, UNFPA has been making a **sustained investment in the evaluation function** for quite some time. In fact, in absolute terms, **UNFPA's investment in evaluation more than doubled from 2014 to 2021**, yielding important results, as evidenced by the high performance of all evaluation indicators.

Mr. Chair,

While outlining the state of the UNFPA Evaluation Function from a management lens, I will focus on **its impact on the achievement of UNFPA's organizational results**.

Access to **evidence and lessons learned generated through evaluations** has been instrumental to the design and success of UNFPA country programmes, UNFPA's regional and global response and the development of UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Concerning centralized evaluations, in particular, we especially appreciate that the Evaluation Office is continuing to make sure that they remain relevant to the changing needs and priorities of UNFPA.

For example, the **Formative evaluation of the UNFPA approach to South-South and triangular cooperation** has

- a) facilitated the accelerated mainstreaming of south-south and triangular cooperation in the work of the organization in thematic areas and frameworks, including its inclusion as a strategic accelerator in the 2022-2025 strategic plan, and
- b) intensified the capture, documentation and dissemination of south-south and triangular cooperation practices, both internally and externally.

Likewise, in response to the recommendations of the *Developmental evaluation of results-based management at UNFPA*, the Organization

- a) embraced adaptive management as a key management strategy,
- b) developed results-based management principles and standards, and
- c) launched the RBM Seal - an initiative for strengthening the organizational performance in results-based management; UNFPA plans to scale up the RBM Seal initiative - following a highly successful pilot in 12 countries.

Furthermore, the *Evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment* has contributed to several key strategic discussions on the positioning of UNFPA's work on gender equality and gender mainstreaming and accelerating the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy. And we continue to respond to the recommendations from the evaluation on UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action.

Mr. Chair,

Management notes **excellent progress in key evaluation performance indicators despite the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Most notably, **the Implementation of recommended actions reached 95 per cent, the highest in ten years**, with the implementation of centralized evaluation actions not only attaining the Strategic Plan target for the first time in ten years but surpassing it. The **quality of evaluations remained high**, with 100 per cent of evaluations issued in 2021 rated as 'good' or 'very good.'

We are proud that the **use of evaluation in programme development** and the **management response submission rate also remained at 100 per cent**, reflecting the seriousness with which we take this oversight function. Lastly, the **evaluation coverage remained strong**, at 96.5 per cent, almost reaching the target.

Evaluation coverage is important because a large body of evidence is needed to make informed decisions, especially for developing country programmes and designing more effective and focused initiatives. This coverage target – which, in line with the evaluation policy, requires country offices to conduct at least one such evaluation every two country programme cycles – can vary across an eight-year period, mainly because of country programme extensions.

In summing up on the performance of the evaluation function, Management welcomes the steps undertaken and encourages the Evaluation Office to remain agile and responsive in order to sustain its efforts to protect the gains in implementation, coverage and quality of evaluations observed in recent years.

For its part, Management commits to continuing to allocate adequate resources to enable the Evaluation Function to maintain strong performance attained thus far. Let me also reiterate Management's **strong commitment to fostering coherence and synergies among the agencies, funds and programmes** of the United Nations Development System, including in the area of evaluation.

To that end, we recognize the Evaluation Office's impactful contribution to the work of the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) steering group and the United Nations Regional Evaluation Groups. Moreover, Management recognizes the value-added of the Evaluation Office's **engagement in joint evaluations** and applauds it for having **exceeded the evaluation performance indicator (EPI)** for the third consecutive year.

Mr. Chair,

Let me now turn to the **Evaluation Office's programme of work for 2022**.

UNFPA Management welcomes continued progress in keeping the UNFPA evaluation function agile, adaptive and responsive and reaffirms its commitment to greater accountability, transparency, evidence-based decision-making and organizational learning. Management takes note of the Evaluation Office's programme of work and budget for 2022. It affirms its commitment to working with the Evaluation Office to carry out its essential role in supporting organizational results.

Mr. Chair,

Excellences,

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Colleagues,

This concludes my presentation. I thank you all on behalf of UNFPA management for your continued guidance and support.