I'm pleased to share the mid-term evaluation of the Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund, Phase III 2018-2022. The Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund (MHTF) is the cornerstone for ending preventable maternal deaths, one of the three transformative results of UNFPA, and delivers technical and financial support in 32 high burden countries.
The evaluation assesses the extent to which the MHTF Phase III has contributed to strengthening health systems, improving quality of care, and advancing equity, human rights and accountability to stakeholders in partner countries. It also assesses the ability of the MHTF to scale up integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with maternal and newborn health (MNH) services. The evidence and lessons from the evaluation feed into the implementation of the MHTF in its current phase and also inform the strategic directions and operations for the MHTF post 2022.

The evaluation finds that with the MHTF, UNFPA is a partner of choice providing visible and valued support to critical MNH priorities, with midwifery as the anchor of its interventions. The MHTF delivers value for money for individual countries and enables UNFPA to influence the MNH agenda globally. However, the MHTF is not clearly positioned within a holistic UNFPA MNH strategic framework and has not yet been fully designed to deliver its ‘catalytic effect’ systematically.
In its next phase, the MHTF should be positioned within a **comprehensive UNFPA maternal health strategy and action plan**. Investments should be increased across MHTF core added values (such as SRHR-MNH integration and promoting catalytic results) in order to strengthen the strategic coherence and responsiveness of the MHTF.

I hope the evidence and lessons from the evaluation will help the MHTF further promote the health, rights and well-being of mothers and newborns. For further information on the evaluation, please write to Louis Charpentier (charpentier@unfpa.org).

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**Access the evaluation materials**

- **Evaluation Report**
- Executive Summary (En, Fr)
- Brief (En, Fr)
- Presentation
- Management Response

**Additional materials**

- **Volume II** (Annexes)
- Country case studies (Benin, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia)
- Evaluation Quality Assessment

#MHTFeval
Évaluation à mi-parcours de la Phase III du Fonds thématique pour la santé maternelle et néonatale, 2018-2022

Cette évaluation mesure la manière dont le MHTF (dans sa phase 3) a contribué au renforcement des systèmes de santé, à l’amélioration de la qualité des soins et à la promotion de l’équité, des droits de l’homme et de la responsabilité envers les parties prenantes dans les pays partenaires, ainsi que sa capacité à soutenir l’intégration à grande échelle des services SDSR-SMN.

Lire le résumé, le abrégé et le rapport d’étude de cas sur le Bénin en français