



## Executive Board meeting on the evaluation function at UNFPA

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[Evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action \(2012-2019\)](#)

**“We remain steadfast in our commitment to learning, evidence-based decision-making, to transparency and accountability. As we confront the COVID-19 crisis, evaluation is more important than ever.”**

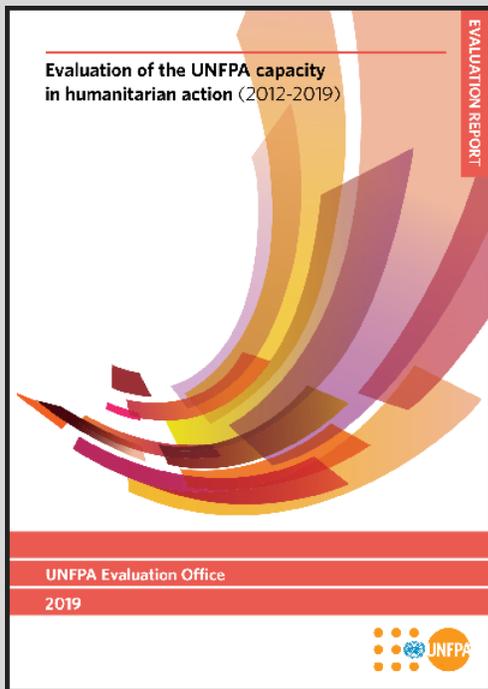
— Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, at the Executive Board meeting on the UNFPA evaluation function

On 15 May 2020, at the virtual Executive Board meeting on the evaluation function, Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, in her introductory remarks emphasized UNFPA commitment to evaluation and its use, to ensure the organization’s decisions and actions continue to be based on evidence. She commended the progress of the evaluation function in 2019 and highlighted the critical importance of evaluation, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis.

UNFPA Evaluation Office presented the 2019 Annual Report on the evaluation function and evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action (2012-2019). This was followed by presentation of the respective management commentary and management response.

25 Member States joined the remote consultation who in their remarks highly valued the Evaluation Office’s efforts to strengthen the evaluation function in 2019, including through enhancing the use of evaluations through communications and knowledge management. The Member States also welcomed the adaptation of UNFPA evaluations to the COVID-19 crisis, the commitment of the evaluation function toward the UN reform agenda and its efforts to strengthen national evaluation capacities.

Read UNFPA Executive Director's remarks on evaluation [here](#).



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**2019 Annual Report on Evaluation**  
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**Evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action (2012-2019)**  
[Report](#) | One-page Brief ([En](#), [Fr](#), [Sp](#))  
[Executive Board Paper](#) | [Management Response](#)

Watch key highlights of the evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action (2012-2019)



## From the Director's desk

I have the pleasure to share with you the [2019 Annual Report on the evaluation function](#), and the first [evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action \(2012-2019\)](#).

The 2019 Annual Report on the evaluation function details the performance of the evaluation function at centralized and decentralized levels, including key achievements and areas for growth. It also captures the contribution of the evaluation function at UNFPA to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs during the Decade of Action, including through strengthening UN coherence in evaluation, system-wide evaluations and multi-stakeholder engagement for national evaluation capacity development.

In 2019, the Evaluation Office took concrete steps to make targeted evaluative knowledge more accessible to targeted decision makers. For example, in time for the Nairobi Summit, the Office released '[Getting to zero](#)', a meta-synthesis distilling good practices and lessons from 57 UNFPA country programme evaluations. The Office also rolled out the [strategy to enhance evaluation use through communications and knowledge management, 2018-2021](#), focusing on increased engagement with stakeholders, effective communication of evaluations and improved accessibility of evaluative knowledge.

Last year, we actively engaged in supporting the implementation of the UN reform. Through the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Office provided technical advice for the development of the United Nations funding compact, the revised guidance for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and the revised policy for system-wide evaluations. Further, about half of all centralized evaluations at UNFPA in 2019-2020 are joint or system-wide evaluations. Our close collaboration with Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) steering group also continued in 2019.

We are on track to complete 100 per cent centralized evaluations as scheduled in 2019-2020. In order to report in a transparent manner, the Evaluation Office has developed a set of nine key performance indicators against which the function is assessed. This is the third year the Evaluation Office is reporting against these indicators. Out of nine key performance indicators, in 2019, four have achieved their targets, three are on track, and two require improvement.

We also contributed to national evaluation capacity development through active engagement in multi-stakeholder partnerships, including prioritizing the capacity development of youth in evaluation. Together with the EvalYouth Global Network and Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation, the Office launched the 'Decade of EVALUATION for Action' or the [Eval4Action](#) campaign. In alignment with and support to, UN Secretary-General's Decade of Action campaign, Eval4Action advocates for stronger national evaluation capacities to accelerate the delivery of SDGs by 2030.

We are also pleased to release the first independent [Evaluation of the UNFPA capacity in humanitarian action \(2012-2019\)](#). The evaluation assessed the organizational capacity of UNFPA in humanitarian action, in terms of both preparedness and response. The findings and recommendations of this evaluation have already informed the work plan and related priorities of the new Humanitarian Office. The lessons from the evaluation are even more relevant and timely, as they provide UNFPA with evidence to improve the capacity of the organization to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, focusing on the most vulnerable women and girls.

**Marco Segone**

Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office

## UNFPA Evaluation Office

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