From the Director’s desk

For equitable and sustainable response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, **decisions and programmes** must be guided by **relevant** and **reliable evidence**. Evaluation provides decision makers with evidence and lessons on what works and what does not work, why, and whether interventions are reaching those furthest behind.

To continue to ensure the highest quality of evidence at UNFPA, the Evaluation Office was one of the first in 2020 to develop guidance on how to adapt evaluations to the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on this resource, and in response to the protracted COVID-19 crisis, a companion guidance on **adapting evaluation questions to the COVID-19 pandemic** is now available.
Given the protracted crisis and increasingly dynamic contexts, UNFPA programmes, priorities and modes of engagement have been revisited, redesigned, and repurposed to better respond to emerging needs and to ensure an equitable and sustainable recovery across development, humanitarian, and fragile contexts. In response to these changing realities, evaluators must rephrase evaluation questions and subsequent analysis to ensure integration of COVID-19 related issues, in order to ensure UNFPA evaluations continue to provide the highest relevance and quality of evidence on UNFPA performance and its response and adaptation to the crisis.

This requires evaluation managers and evaluators to adapt the areas of inquiry for assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and coordination, and sustainability of country programmes and other interventions. Within each of these evaluation criteria, the evaluation must assess whether disadvantaged population groups have been reached and with what results.

I hope this new guidance will help us to continue to deliver the highest quality of evidence in the rapidly changing environment during the COVID-19 crisis. This evidence is crucial to inform decisions and programmes, in order to help UNFPA deliver more, better and faster for all those left behind in a more sustainable way. We stand ready to support country and regional offices as they continue to adapt evaluations to the crisis and their context.

Marco Segone
Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office
Adapting evaluations to the COVID-19 pandemic

Guiding principles

1. Evaluating and communicating the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of family planning and reproductive health services.
2. Evaluating the effectiveness of interventions to address the growing needs for family planning and reproductive health services while improving access to them.
3. Evaluating the service delivery model and guiding the program's development.
4. Evaluating the program's impact on the local community's well-being.

Contact UNFPA Evaluation Office