



Executive Board meeting on the evaluation function at UNFPA

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UNFPA Evaluation Office
2020 ANNUAL REPORT
ON EVALUATION



Evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment

On 10 June 2021, the [2020 Annual Report on evaluation](#) and the [evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment](#) were presented to the UNFPA Executive Board.



The 2020 Annual Report on the evaluation function highlights the Evaluation Office's nimbleness in adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic which generated evidence for an informed recovery and Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Dr. Natalia Kanem

UNFPA Executive Director
at the UNFPA Executive Board Annual Session 2021

We benefit enormously from the evidence and lessons learned generated through evaluations on what worked and what did not, and why

This type of insight has been instrumental in the design of UNFPA country programmes, UNFPA regional and global interventions, and the development of the new UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Ms. Diene Keita

UNFPA Deputy Executive Director-Programme
at the UNFPA Executive Board Annual Session 2021



The [joint statement](#) by 28 Member States on the 2020 Annual Report on evaluation **commended Evaluation Office on its excellent performance despite the pandemic** and its **efforts to adapt evaluation to the COVID-19 crisis**. The Member States commended the Evaluation Office's commitment and active support to the **reform agenda and system-wide and joint evaluations** at all levels, and its engagement in supporting **independent system-wide evaluation mechanisms**.

Joint statement by 28 Member States*

at the UNFPA Executive Board Annual Session 2021

We commend the Evaluation Office on its flexibility to adapt the evaluation function to the needs in the COVID-19 context...

We congratulate the Evaluation Office on its excellent performance in this highly challenging year, achieving almost all the targets of the key performance indicators...

We highly value UNFPA Evaluation Office's commitment and active support to the reform agenda and system-wide and joint evaluations on the central, regional and country level.

*Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

The Member States welcomed the strengthening of the **decentralized evaluation system**, the progress in implementing the **evaluations' management responses**, and the steady increase of UNFPA **evaluation expenditure ratio** over the years. The joint statement also welcomed efforts towards continuous **innovation in gender equality and women's empowerment**. It also stressed the **centrality of the evaluation function** in furthering the **effective implementation of strategic plans** and **evidence-based decision-making**.

Access the reports

2020 Annual Report on evaluation

[Report](#) | [Presentation](#) | [Video](#)
[Management Commentary](#)

Statements by [UNFPA Executive Director](#) | [UNFPA Deputy Executive Director-Programme](#) | [Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office](#)

#EvalReport2020

Evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment (2012-2020)

[Report](#) | One-page Brief ([En](#), [Fr](#), [Sp](#))
[Presentation](#) | [Executive Board Paper](#)
[Management Response](#)
[Video](#)

#EqualEval

From the Director's desk

Marco Segone | Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office

It's my pleasure to share with you the [2020 Annual Report on the evaluation function](#), and the [evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment \(2012-2020\)](#), the first evaluation on this theme at UNFPA. The annual report on evaluation captures the **performance of the evaluation function** at centralized and decentralized levels, including its accomplishments and the areas for growth.



Watch key highlights of 2020 Annual Report on evaluation at UNFPA



The report details the efforts of the Office to **adapt to the COVID-19 crisis** by providing timely guidance and real-time technical support to centralized and decentralized evaluations. These efforts ensured that **high quality and relevant evaluative evidence** continued to inform the delivery of the UNFPA mandate and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of our commitment to **national evaluation capacity development**, last year we launched and actively co-led the **Decade of EVALUATION for Action**, also known as the [Eval4Action](#) campaign, together with the EvalYouth Global Network and the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation.

In one year, the campaign has mobilized commitments and actions by varied stakeholders to **accelerate action for influential evaluation** and stronger evaluation systems for equitable and sustainable recovery from the



pandemic. In this effort, 130 partners including young and emerging evaluators are collaborating to bring attention to evaluation and the SDGs at all levels. We also continue to **strengthen youth participation in evaluation** and professional capacity of young and emerging evaluators.

Half of all centralized evaluations either **joint or system-wide**



In 2020, we continued to support the **UN reform process** by working closely with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), other UN entities and through **joint and system-wide evaluations**.

We contributed to the drafting of the system-wide evaluation policy and continued to engage with various system-wide initiatives related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, more than **half of all centralized evaluations were either joint or system-wide**.

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation function continues to **demonstrate strong performance**. Among the nine key performance indicators, in 2020, six have achieved their targets, two are on track, and one requires improvement.

All scheduled **centralized evaluations in 2020-2021 have been completed or are on track**. To enhance the **use of centralized evaluations**, we continue to ensure targeted and user-friendly evidence is made available to targeted decision-makers in a targeted time.

Full implementation
of centralized evaluations



Evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment



We are also pleased to release the **first independent [evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment](#)**, across development and humanitarian contexts. The evaluation assesses UNFPA efforts around **gender mainstreaming**, its performance on the **dedicated gender equality outcome area** and whether the organization is **fit for purpose** to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation will inform the implementation of the UNFPA Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021 and the forthcoming UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

UNFPA Evaluation Office

Contributing to accountability, learning and evidence-based decision making to ensure rights and choices for all



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