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Welcome to the second issue of Impact. This issue focuses on two increasingly important areas for UNFPA evaluation: how to adapt our evaluation practice in the context of humanitarian interventions

and our potential contribution to national evaluation capacities.

The Evaluation Office issues this newsletter in the wake of the recent earthquake in Nepal and the Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. This issue brings together reflections and resources to support UNFPA staff and partners to evaluate humanitarian interventions. I am pleased to present the reports of two Country Programme Evaluations in [Lebanon](#) and [Turkey](#), which provide valuable learning on the UNFPA response to the Syria crisis.

In 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted the first ever stand-alone United Nations [resolution on evaluation \(A/RES/69/237\)](#). The resolution emphasizes the importance of national evaluation capacity development and recognizes 2015 as the International [Year of Evaluation](#). It received strong cross-regional support.

In December 2014, the UN Evaluation Group, EvalPartners and Member States lit the EvalTorch, renewing their partnership and commitment to stronger evaluation functions at the UN and stronger national evaluation capacities to support the implementation of the sustainable development goals 2016-2030.

In March 2015, the UNFPA Evaluation Retreat in New York discussed the implications of these initiatives for evaluation practice in UNFPA with Kate Gilmore (Deputy Executive Director Programme, UNFPA) and Marco Segone (UNEG Chair and Director of Evaluation, UN Women).

In recent years the [International Program for Development Evaluation Training \(IPDET\)](#) has become a particularly important means to develop the capacity of UNFPA staff and partners. Colleagues from Eastern Europe and Central Asia highlight how this is making a difference in their region.

There are [many events](#) planned at country and regional level in celebration of the 2015 year of evaluation. These provide a wonderful opportunity for UNFPA staff to get involved along with our partners. A resource pack prepared by the Evaluation Office for UNFPA M&E staff provides full information (on request [here](#)).

I look forward to receiving your updates and feedback.

# IMPACT

## The UNFPA Evaluation Office Newsletter

**Issue 2. May 2015**



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# Evaluating Humanitarian Action

by Hicham Daoudi (Evaluation Advisor)



The proliferation of increasingly severe and complex humanitarian crises requires more UNFPA country offices to engage in humanitarian responses. In this context, evaluation approach and methodology need to evolve in order to address the specific requirements of assessing humanitarian action.

Challenges commonly faced in development evaluation are magnified in humanitarian settings: lack of planning documents, quickly outdated strategies and programmes, lack or absence of monitoring data, high turnover of stakeholders are indeed made more acute in a humanitarian context. Evaluators also need to mitigate additional constraints such as insecurity, the lack of access to key informants, the exposure of stakeholders to risk through the evaluation, and the handling of confidentiality in collecting data on sensitive issues (such as sexual and gender based violence).

Humanitarian evaluations are also characterized by the emphasis placed on humanitarian principles (humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence) and ethics in a context of trauma, violence and breakdown of trust. Particular attention therefore needs to be paid to the accountability to affected populations, which is often neglected in development evaluations, as compared to the accountability to donors.

Building upon lessons learned from the two independent country programme evaluations recently conducted in [Lebanon](#) and in [Turkey](#) (and which both touched upon the UNFPA contribution to the response to the Syrian crisis) as well as through its participation in the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) steering group, the Evaluation Office is developing the approach to humanitarian evaluation for UNFPA.

The Evaluation Office is considering conducting an evaluability assessment of the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian settings (potentially in 2016) and to inform a thematic evaluation on the same topic. The Evaluation Office is also exploring the potential for a country programme cluster evaluation to learn lessons from UNFPA response in fragile and conflict affected settings.

UNFPA is also aiming to play a more active role in the management of evaluations of level three emergency responses, as a member of the IAHE steering group.



© UNFPA. Kawergosk refugee camp in Iraq, April 2015

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

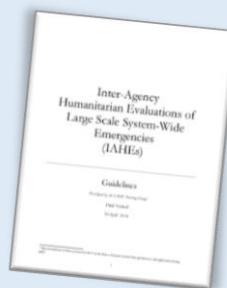
### Evaluation of the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)



### IASC Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the Typhoon Haiyan Response



### Guidelines for the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations of Large Scale System-Wide Emergencies (IAHEs)



# Knowledge Sharing

## Evaluating Humanitarian Action

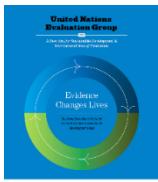
**ALNAP** and **UNICEF**, in collaboration with **EvalPartners** and **UNEG**, have developed an introductory e-learning course on Evaluating Humanitarian Action (EHA). Expanding on the ALNAP Pilot Guide on 'Evaluating Humanitarian Action', this e-learning is the first of its kind. This course offers an overview of evaluation practice in humanitarian contexts, and features concrete guidance, tips and insights from experienced practitioners.

The e-learning is free and open to all interested evaluators, managers and users of evaluations of humanitarian action. No specific prior knowledge of humanitarian action or evaluation is required. The course can be accessed online from anywhere in the world. The course includes online lectures, readings and tests. After successfully finishing all 10 units, participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Register [here](#)



### INSPIRATION CORNER



**Evaluation Changes Lives**  
Realizing Evaluation's Potential to Inform the Global Sustainable Development Goals

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## Private Public Partnership to strengthen development effectiveness in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

by Mahbub Alam (Regional M&E Advisor)



Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office has developed a private-public partnership programme with the **International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)**/Carleton University since 2010. The main aim of this partnership is to identify champion/s who can strengthen evaluation functions within government and country at large. Under this initiative, 34 high ranking government officials (minister, director, department head, etc.) from 16 countries have been sponsored to date. A further nine officials are expected to attend in 2015.

IPDET provides a program in which participants: i) develop basic knowledge of development evaluation concepts, processes, and methods; ii) increase or upgrade their current depth or level of evaluation knowledge and skills; iii) enhance specific skills in designing and conducting evaluations of development programs; iv) meet people from around the globe who are engaged in development evaluation and v) create networks for future collaboration and knowledge sharing.

ECCARO identifies participants in consultation with government and provides participants with 20 percent of the daily subsistence allowance and covers the cost of their travel to and from Ottawa, where the training occurs. IPDET then provides the training without cost to ECCARO or the participants.

Among the former IPDET participants who were interviewed for the evaluation of the training, there was overwhelming praise. As a result of IPDET, several participants want to provide similar training in their own countries and some of them undertook initiatives to form national evaluation associations.

## IPDET 2014, participants perspective

by Selen Örs Reyhanioglu (M&E focal point)



*In June 2014, we spent two weeks learning about fundamentals of results based programming, theory of change, evaluation types, approaches and designs. It is really valuable to see how different organizations from all over the world understand and implement development evaluation. It is very interesting to learn about similarities and differences in evaluation methodologies among development partners. We also had the opportunity to come together with colleagues from other regions of the UNFPA, share experience and exchange ideas particularly in monitoring and evaluation. IPDET helped me in developing my skills in the field of evaluation so that I feel more confident in working as a M&E focal point at the country level, in the Turkey country office.*

# Evaluation Reports

## Lebanon Country Programme Evaluation

The evaluation of the third country programme of cooperation between UNFPA and Lebanon (2010-2014) found that the objectives of the programme were well adapted to the needs of the population, and that the country office had been able to respond quickly and flexibly to the Syrian crisis. UNFPA has contributed to an increased availability of reproductive health services, including in humanitarian settings, although there have been challenges that have led to limited results in terms of access to these services by the most vulnerable groups. In the field of population and development, UNFPA has re-focused its support on the strengthening of the national policy framework for ageing populations. UNFPA has been instrumental in documenting the situation of the elderly in Lebanon and in providing standards for an accreditation scheme for elderly institutions. In the field of gender, UNFPA was successful in advancing the technical capacity of national institutions and non-governmental organizations and in raising the awareness on gender-based violence.

The evaluation recommended that UNFPA continue to adjust its interventions based on the regular conduct of needs assessments, following a participatory approach. UNFPA should also enhance the level of policy dialogue in the areas covered by the country programme. In the field of reproductive health, UNFPA should define a long-term strategy for the introduction of reproductive health in the education system. In the area of population and development, UNFPA should engage in advocacy efforts to ensure that the financial implications of the accreditation scheme for institutions for the elderly are addressed. In the area of gender, UNFPA should build on its past work on gender-based violence to push the issue forward in the national agenda, to increase impact through the enactment and enforcement of policies and laws.



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[Read the report](#)

## Turkey Country Programme Evaluation

The evaluation of the fifth country programme of cooperation between UNFPA and Turkey (2011-2015) found that the needs of the population had been well taken into account in the design of the country programme, although the prioritization of high-risk and the most vulnerable people was considered insufficient. In the field of reproductive health and rights, UNFPA contributed to an increased availability of reproductive health services, including for Syrian refugees. Positive results were noted particularly in the increased access of seasonal migrant workers to family planning and maternal health services. In the field of population and development, UNFPA contributed to the increased availability of demographic and socioeconomic data, particularly on emerging population issues, such as ageing and urbanization. In the field of gender, UNFPA has contributed to an improved response to gender-based violence, although insufficient emphasis was placed on improving protection services for women.

The evaluation recommended that the next UNFPA country programme be more focused on identifying, prioritizing and targeting the most vulnerable, marginalized and high-risk groups. In the field of reproductive health and rights, UNFPA should strengthen its relationship with the Ministry of Health and other partners for more effective reproductive health services, at central and provincial levels, particularly aiming at reducing national disparities and focusing more on youth and marginalized groups. In the field of population and development, UNFPA should continue to improve its advocacy role and its role in data availability and analysis on population and development issues, while focusing especially on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. In the field of gender, UNFPA should continue to work towards establishing an enabling environment for women and for combating gender-based violence by expanding its partnership base (including the private sector) and developing gender equality indicators at regional and local levels.



[Read the report](#)

## RECENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATIONS

[Angola \(2009-2014\)](#)

[Colombia \(2008-2014\)](#)

[Tajikistan \(2010-2015\)](#)

[Uzbekistan \(2010-2014\)](#)

[Zimbabwe \(2012-2015\)](#)

## ALL THE REPORTS



*Evaluation Database*

# IMPACT The UNFPA Evaluation Office Newsletter

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