



©Abdelhaq Maoual. Evaluation Workshop in Casablanca, Morocco. May 4-7, 2015

IMPACT

The UNFPA Evaluation Office Newsletter

Issue 3. November 2015



Welcome to the third issue of Impact. This issue spotlights the recently approved **UNFPA quadrennial evaluation plan for 2016-2019**.

The plan marks a significant step forwards in terms of both the level of coverage and the range of evaluations to meet lesson learning and accountability needs in UNFPA. It also represents a significant increase in funding and provides clarity on how UNFPA will fund the evaluation function as it evolves.

The development landscape in which UNFPA operates is changing fast. Well designed and timely evaluations play an important role in informing evidence-based

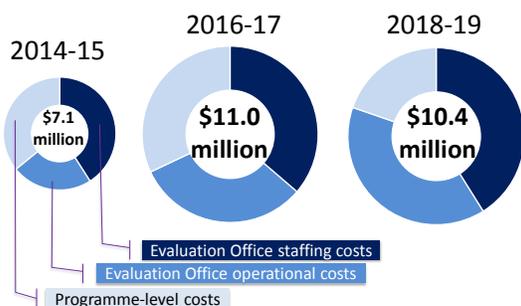
programming and decision-making. The maturation of the evaluation function and gradual strengthening of the Fund's capacities in recent years, allows for a necessary diversification of the range of evaluations. To this end, the plan proposes a variety of new approaches to better support learning and accountability.

Delivering the plan will require UNFPA to invest in knowledge and capacity development in evaluation. Many country offices are doing just that! There has been an increase of 28.3 per cent in the number of M&E officers since 2013. Almost half of UNFPA country offices are now staffed with dedicated M&E officers.

In June 2015 the Executive Board requested the Evaluation Office to develop a capacity development strategy to support the professionalization of evaluation and monitoring staff: work will begin in 2016. In the meantime I am pleased to share information on some of the initiatives that have taken place in 2015 to support UNFPA staff (and partners) to enhance their skills in evaluation.

Andrea Cook
Director, Evaluation Office
UNFPA

UNFPA Evaluation function total budget



Quadrennial evaluation plan, 2016-2019

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Quadrennial evaluation plan, 2016-2019

The [quadrennial evaluation plan](#) provides a framework for the commissioning, management and use of evaluations across the organization. The evaluations proposed for the first two years are firm. Proposals for the final two years, on the other hand, are indicative and subject to review in 2017 to ensure alignment with the strategic planning and budget cycle.

The plan was developed on the basis of a number of principles. First, it applies the selection criteria set out in the [UNFPA evaluation policy](#). Second, it provides balanced thematic and geographical coverage of UNFPA interventions. Third, it ensures a balance between accountability and learning. Fourth, it addresses the issue of the human and financial resources required for its implementation. Finally, the plan results from a transparent and consultative process.

The 12 corporate evaluations planned for 2016-19 include five thematic evaluations, two institutional evaluations, and five programme evaluations. This includes a number of joint evaluations. The Evaluation Office will also pilot two cluster country programme evaluations in partnership with selected country offices.

A number of cross-cutting evaluation products are proposed with an emphasis on learning. These will consist in a synthesis of the results of the country programme evaluations for the periods 2014-15 and 2016-17, as well as a meta-evaluation of UNFPA work focused on the marginalized and most vulnerable groups.

The Evaluation Office will participate in a number of other studies in partnership with other United Nations agencies, including system wide evaluations and Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluations of Level 3 crises (the highest-level emergency designation).

The plan also proposes a UNEG peer review of UNFPA evaluation function in 2017.

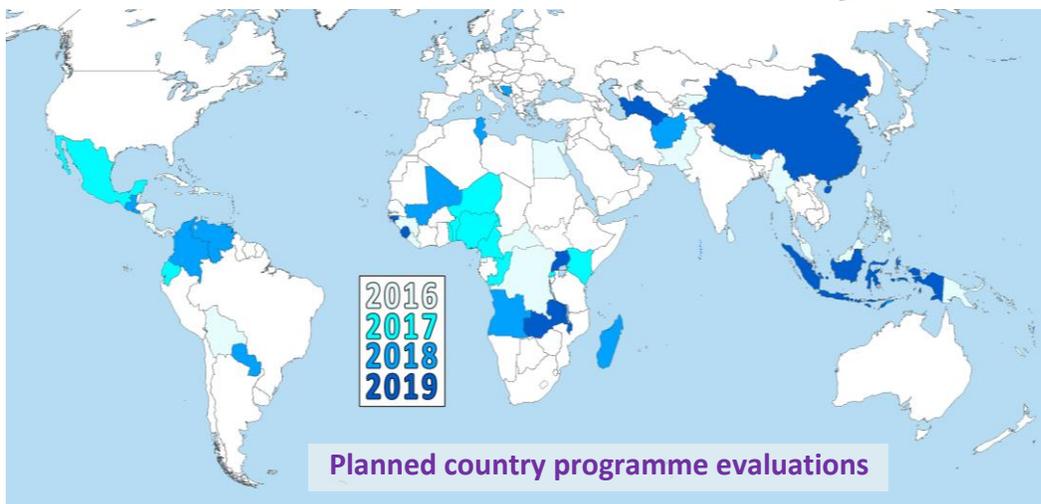
Overall it is anticipated that 55 country programme evaluations will be conducted by country offices across all six UNFPA regions (see map below).

Regional and country offices are working to expand the number and range of both programmatic and thematic evaluations to increase the supply of evaluative evidence to better inform decision-making, strengthen accountability, and enhance transparency across UNFPA. Comprehensive guidance on programme-level evaluation will be assured in 2016.

UNFPA will fund the evaluation function from a blend of resources, combining: institutional budget allocations; regular resources; extra-budgetary resource allocations to specific programmes; and voluntary support (whether financial or in-kind) made by member states and donors.

The estimated budget for the evaluation function for the period 2016 to 2019 amounts to **USD 21,445,000**.

[Read the plan here](#)



PLANNED EVALUATIONS IN 2016

End line evaluation of the H4+ joint programmes (support to improve women's and children's health)



Mid-term evaluation of UNFPA Supplies (GPRHCS II, Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security)



Thematic evaluation of gender-based violence including in humanitarian settings



Institutional evaluation of the strategic framework for UNFPA global and regional interventions



Knowledge Sharing

Professional Development Calendar

The calendar is an initiative of the Evaluation Office that started in April 2015, with the spirit of promoting evaluation capacity development within UNFPA.

The goal is to disseminate information on courses, conferences and workshops in the evaluation field to help UNFPA staff better access learning and development opportunities.

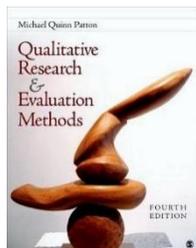
Staff interested in the initiative can easily add this calendar to their own corporate calendar. Every month, a selection of the professional development activities is highlighted in a flier, and sent to the staff.



INSPIRATION CORNER

Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods: Integrating Theory and Practice

by Michael Quinn Patton
4th edition



ISBN-13: 978-141297123

Evaluation Office internship

by Nan Sandi

“My internship at UNFPA’s Evaluation Office was an incredibly life changing experience for me. Although my time at the Evaluation Office was relatively short, I developed professionally in many ways.

I am originally from Myanmar and I am currently working toward completing a Master’s degree in International Development Policy at Duke University as a Fulbright scholar. I aim to work in the evaluation field after my graduation.

I greatly broadened my knowledge in evaluation and built up my professional network through meetings and intern support programs. These enabled me to learn more about the UN system and the mandate of UNFPA. Another great experience was the chance to be mentored by the professionals at the EO. They facilitated the strengthening of my existing skills and allowed me to develop new skills in evaluation.”



Workshop in Casablanca

by Alexandra Chambel and Hicham Daoudi

In May 2015, the Evaluation Office conducted a four day training session in Casablanca, hosted by Arab States Regional Office and Morocco Country Office, for 27 participants (monitoring and evaluation staff from Arab States and Africa regions). The training focused on the overall country programme evaluation (CPE) process, the role of evaluation managers, the CPE tools and the quality assurance mechanisms that will be applied in a future CPE.

This is the 5th methodology training workshop. As in previous workshops, the main tool to guide the training was the [Handbook on How to Design and Conduct a Country Programme Evaluation at UNFPA](#). Presentation materials are available. Please [contact](#) the Evaluation Office for more information.

At the end of the training, 89 per cent of the respondents to the feedback survey felt that the training was useful or very useful in terms of meeting their needs.

IPDET 2015

In June, the Director of the Evaluation Office met with 24 UNFPA staff and partners who attended this year’s [International Program for Development Evaluation Training \(IPDET\)](#) in Ottawa, Canada. The participants received scholarships through the IPDET program, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNFPA Talent Management Branch and EECARO/IPDET private-public partnership programme. All UNFPA participants felt that IPDET has equipped them with better technical skills and knowledge needed in their daily work.



©UNFPA EO. Andrea Cook and UNFPA staff and partners in IPDET 2015 (Ottawa, Canada). June, 2015

Evaluation Reports

Inception reports of three thematic evaluations are now available. Final reports will be published in 2016.

UNFPA support to adolescents and youth (2008-2014)

The evaluation assesses the performance of UNFPA in its support to adolescents and youth during the period 2008-2014 falling under the UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth and the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2013. The evaluation will provide key learning to contribute to the implementation of the current UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth (2012-2020). Five country case studies (**Egypt, Nicaragua, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan**) and two regional case studies (**APRO and LACRO**) have been conducted. Nepal case study was cancelled due to the 2015 earthquake.

Read the inception report



UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation (2005-2014)

The evaluation is forward-looking and strategic in nature and aims to inform the programming and implementation of interventions under the current Strategic Plan (2014-2017) including key strategic orientations, gaps and opportunities for UNFPA support to population and housing censuses as well as to the post-2015 development agenda on data for development. Six country case studies have been conducted (**Peru, Mauritania, Kenya, Palestine, Tajikistan and Myanmar**).

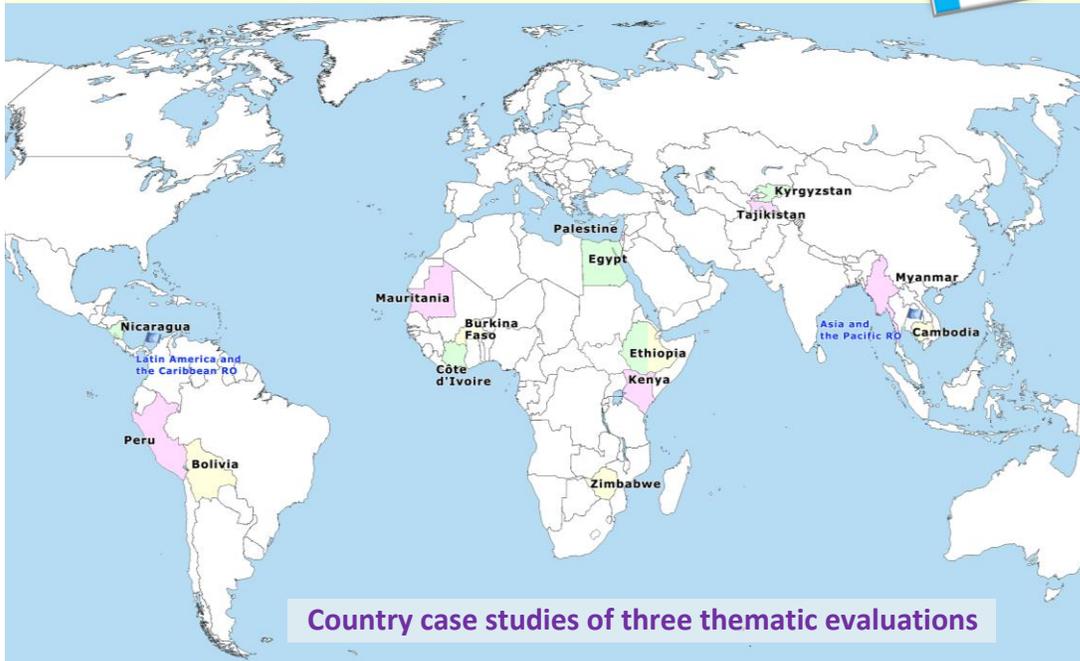
Read the inception report



UNFPA support to family planning (2008-2013)

The evaluation assesses the performance of UNFPA in the field of family planning during the period covered by the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and provides learning to inform the implementation of the current UNFPA Family Planning Strategy Choices not chance (2012-2020). Five country case studies have been conducted (**Ethiopia, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe and Cambodia**).

Read the inception report



Country case studies of three thematic evaluations

RECENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATIONS

- Armenia (2010-2015)
- Azerbaijan (2011-2015)
- DPR Korea (2011-2016)
- El Salvador (2012-2015)
- Swaziland (2011-2015)
- Turkmenistan (2010-2015)
- Uruguay (2011-2015)

ALL THE REPORTS



Evaluation Database

COMING SOON

Thematic evaluation **UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation (2005-2014)**



IMPACT
The UNFPA
Evaluation Office
Newsletter

Address: 605 Third Avenue
New York,
NY 10158 USA

Contact us:
evaluation.office@unfpa.org

Visit our web

