

Joint evaluations as an agent of change

Evaluation should be an agent of change. To make this possible, evaluation should be influential. Joint evaluations can be an effective strategy to increase the likelihood that evaluations are influential. This is why the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) invited UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund, and the governments of Spain and Norway to combine forces to jointly evaluate joint gender programmes at the country level (see article in this newsletter, 'Joint Evaluation of Joint Programmes on Gender Equality in the United Nations System now available').

As a result, for the first time ever, the Directors of Evaluation of UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA presented the findings of the joint evaluation to a joint meeting attended by members of the Executive Boards of UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA. Senior managers of the four UN entities, including the Deputy Executive Directors of UN Women and UNICEF, presented the joint UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA Management Response.

To increase outreach and facilitate learning at the country level, a global live webinar engaged UN country teams.

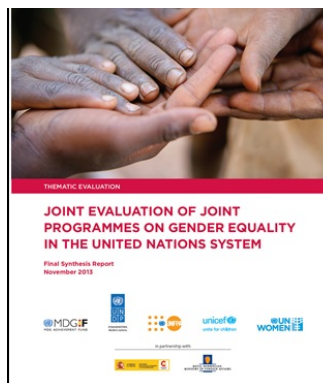
As evaluators, our aim should always be to design evaluations that enable change through influential processes including through joint evaluations. The new UNEG resource package on joint evaluations (see article below) can help all of us in designing and managing influential joint evaluations.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone,
Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women

Gender Equality in the United Nations System now available

The joint evaluation provides evaluative information on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of joint programmes on gender equality in the UN system, with the aim of supporting future policy and guidance on their design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The joint evaluation provides key findings, conclusions and actionable recommendations, in addition to lessons learned.



The report presented to the UN Women Executive Board can be found here in [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#)

The full evaluation report can be found [here](#).

The evaluation brief can be found here in [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#)



Implementation of the corporate evaluation plan

As approved by the [UN Women Corporate Evaluation Plan](#), the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office is implementing the following:

1. Evaluation of the contribution of UN Women to women's economic empowerment

The objective of the evaluation is to contribute to enhancing UN Women approach to women's economic empowerment (WEE) for the implementation of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. The evaluation is expected to feed into UN Women efforts to promote WEE components of a gender equality goal in the post-2015 development framework and inform Beijing +20 discussions. Given that the area of WEE in UN Women is relatively new and its implementation is ongoing, the evaluation will be formative, prospective and proactive in its orientation in order to provide feedback for improvement. The inception phase, during which an external evaluation team conducted 33 interviews with internal and external stakeholders (25 female and 8 male), is almost finalized.

2. Joint systemic review of gender results

UN Women IEO, in partnership with the United Nations Evaluation Group and

EvalPartners, is launching a joint systemic review of gender equality in Development. The joint systemic review main purpose is to promote the use of evaluative evidence in global decision-making forums, including Beijing +20 taking place in 2015. It will analyze evaluations of corporate gender policies and strategies in the UN system and evaluations of the UN's work in three of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action: institutional mechanisms to advance women, women and the economy and violence against women.

3. Evaluation of UN Women normative work in collaboration with the UN Office of Internal Oversight

The Inspection and Evaluation Division (IED) of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS-IED) is undertaking an evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the results of which will be considered at the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its 55th session in June 2015.

The IED has selected the topic of the effectiveness of UN Women in achieving its mandate in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women through its normative support work and its link with operational activities. This evaluation will be done in collaboration with the UN Women IEO, which had also committed to conducting an evaluation of UN Women's normative work as part of its corporate evaluation plan.

UNEG Update



UNEG 2014 Evaluation week

UN Women IEO attended the [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\) 2014 Evaluation Week in Bangkok](#), Thailand from 31 March to 4 April 2014. During that week, UNEG members participated in [evaluation practice exchange seminars](#), a [high-level panel](#) and the UNEG Annual General Meeting. UN Women IEO presented the results of the [Joint Evaluation of Joint Programmes on Gender Equality in the United Nations System](#) that was completed at the end of 2013 and was led by UN Women in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the MDG-F and the governments of Spain and Norway. UN Women IEO also presented the results of the 2014 pilot year in reporting against the UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality Evaluation Performance Indicator. The Evaluation Performance Indicator Presentation focused on results of 2014 reporting and also on the main feedback

gathered from agencies on limitations and challenges faced in using the UN SWAP scorecard for reporting against this indicator. The IEO also shared its experience on decentralized evaluations and national evaluation capacity development. Marco Segone, in his capacity as IEO Director and Vice Chair of the UNEG Strategic Objective 4, chaired the session on partnership and contributed to the discussions on preparations for the 2015 evaluation year.

New UNEG Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations now available

Joint Evaluation is emerging as an important tool for influencing UN reform initiatives and high-level policy discussions. Driven by broad concerns about the need for greater UN system-wide coherence, Member States are asking UN agencies to be highly collaborative and to adopt coordinated approaches.

In this context, the Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations was produced by the previous UNEG Joint Evaluation Task Force (Co-Chaired by OCHA and UNICEF) to address the need for broad methodological guidance and the identification of good practices based on the group's collective experience. Taking into consideration the multitude of approaches and the diversity of actors who may be engaged in joint UN evaluation work, the purpose of the Resource Pack is to enhance system-wide programming efforts by strengthening the capacity of UN offices to engage in joint evaluations.

The Resource Pack is made up of two components:

1. A Joint Evaluation Guidance Document, which outlines main issues that arise when conducting a joint evaluation. The Guidance Document borrows heavily from previous best practices, tools, and lessons-learned documents from within and outside the UN but has explored new areas that are particularly relevant to the challenges in joint evaluations. It provides options and approaches based on lessons from previous joint evaluations.
2. A Joint Evaluation Toolkit, which includes a collection of documents, including examples of good practices and UNEG-specific guidance on planning, managing and utilizing joint evaluations. The toolkit has samples of terms of reference (ToR), governance and financing arrangements, management response, and follow-up strategies used in previous evaluations. This body of past experience provides readers with easily accessible references when drafting their own documents.

The Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations can be found [here](#).

Agenda

How can the global evaluation community ensure that evaluation will play a key role in shaping and contributing to international, regional and national policies and programmes to achieve sustainable and equitable development? This fundamental question is leading EvalPartners, a global evaluation initiative co-led by UN Women and the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation, efforts to contribute to the global development agenda.



To address this challenge, EvalPartners is inviting different stakeholders (VOPEs, multilateral organizations, bilateral, governments, civil society organizations, and others) to join a networked global multi-stakeholder consultative process to brainstorm about the priorities and key areas of a global evaluation agenda for 2016-2020. A global online consultation, building on the existing conceptual framework on evaluation capacity development will be kicked off with a global live webinar in early September 2014, to be followed by eight weeks of online discussion and additional web-based or face-to-face consultations organized by different stakeholders with their own constituency.



EvalPartners e-learning re-opened

EvalPartners has announced the new semester of the [MyMandE e-Learning Program on Development Evaluation](#). The program offers three thematic courses in English and general courses on evaluation in Russian and Spanish. The e-Learning in Arabic will be available soon. There is also an option to create your own e-Learning course on

Introduction to Development Evaluation by selecting 10 units (out of the courses available) that are the most relevant to your work.

The e-Learning Program on Development Evaluation offers an opportunity to learn from leading evaluation experts when and where you choose and free of charge. All individuals working in the field of evaluation or interested in learning more about evaluation are invited to take the program to strengthen their knowledge in evaluation.

EvalPartners scholarship to virtually attend Claremont Professional

Development Workshop Series on Evaluation

EvalPartners and Claremont Evaluation Center, with the financial support of Rockefeller Foundation and in partnership with UN Women and UNICEF, are proud to announce the creation of a scholarship fund to financially support evaluators working in, or originally from, a country located in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Middle East, East and Central Europe (non- European Union countries) to attend the on-line 2014 Professional Development Workshop Series on Evaluation and Applied Research Methods to be held on 23-28 August 2014.

Please visit <http://www.mymande.org/evalpartners/scholarship> for more information.

About the Independent Evaluation Office

The UN Women Independent Evaluation Office main purpose is to enhance accountability, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality through normative, operational and coordination work. UN Women Independent Evaluation Office also strengthens capacities for gender responsive evaluation within UN entities, governments and civil society organizations.

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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