

2008/22. Report on the evaluation function and major evaluations in UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* that the mandate of the evaluation function is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of UNICEF programmes and results;
2. *Takes note* of the report on the evaluation function and major evaluations in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2008/21);
3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the independence and impartiality of the evaluation function within the United Nations system;
4. *Notes* the steps taken and planned by UNICEF to strengthen evaluation at all levels of the organization;
5. *Notes* with concern that a key recurrent finding of the internal audit report is UNICEF's weakness in the prioritization of evaluation and research activities at field level, and in this regard *requests* UNICEF to report back to the Executive Board, in its review of the "Evaluation Policy" at the second regular session in 2009, on measures taken to address this finding as well as on additional steps to further improve the evaluation function;
6. *Recalling its decision* 2008/4, *urges* the Evaluation Office of UNICEF to submit to the Executive Board a biennial work plan for information at its second regular session in 2009, while bearing in mind the importance of clear linkages between its programme of work and UNICEF's strategic frameworks;
7. *Reiterates* the request of the Executive Board (2008/4) to the Executive Director to ensure the preparation and availability of management responses for all evaluation reports;
8. *Emphasizes* that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance, *underlines* the importance of increasing the participation of national counterparts and strengthening national capacity in the evaluation and follow-up of UNICEF country programmes, and *encourages* UNICEF to use national evaluation systems, where available, to continue to incorporate capacity-building mechanisms into programme design and implementation and to ensure that evaluations are responsive to national demand;
9. *Notes* the endorsement in 2005 of the norms and standards for evaluation by the United Nations system through the United Nations Evaluation Group, constituting a contribution to strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function.

*Second regular session
18 September 2008*