Annual Report for 2019 on the Evaluation Function

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UNICEF Executive Board
Informal briefing – 19 June 2020
Item 8 - Annual report for 2019 on the evaluation function in UNICEF
Reference document: E/ICEF/2020/12
Recent Developments

Increased need for evaluative evidence as the world deals with humanitarian emergencies, mass migration, inequality, economic uncertainty, climate change, unprecedented public health crises.

Evaluative evidence for countries as they work towards the SDGs in the Decade of Action - national evaluation capacity development; and country-led evaluation and voluntary national reviews.

UNICEF Evaluation Function is on track in implementing the revised Evaluation Policy and the Plan for Global Evaluations.

COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the implementation of evaluations plans, but the UNICEF evaluation function is adapting so evidence is available.

UNICEF is developing agile, innovative data collection and analysis tools to support adaptive management.
Evaluation Function Response to COVID-19

‘Do no harm’ principle. Direct person-to-person contact is limited.

Data collection using virtual means e.g. phone and online surveys - e.g. Belarus, EAPR, Croatia.

Secondary data

Desk-based syntheses, rapid reviews and related approaches.

Real time evaluation

Continuous learning evaluation approaches for adaptive management

Despite all the above measures, delays and a reduction in the number of evaluations in 2020 are inevitable due to COVID-19.
Increase in Joint Evaluations

UNICEF continued to contribute to the UN reform agenda, including system-wide evaluations, joint evaluations and strengthening national evaluation capacity.

- UNICEF ROs actively involved in UNDAF evaluations and prioritization of UNSDCFs.

Examples:

- Evaluations jointly with UNFPA:
  (i) Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting; (ii) Child Marriage


- Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group evaluation on the collective response of the humanitarian community to the recurring droughts in Ethiopia over the period 2015–2018

- Joint thematic evaluations in Cabo Verde (Joint UN Office), Jordan (UN-Women), Zambia (FAO/ILo/WFP/IOM) and Algeria (UNAIDS/WHO)

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116 evaluation products submitted in 2019; including 112 full evaluations, three evaluability assessments and one review.

Highest number since this KPI was instituted in 2012.
## Evaluation Geographical Coverage Trends by Region (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>EAPR</th>
<th>ECAR</th>
<th>ESAR</th>
<th>LACR</th>
<th>MENA</th>
<th>ROSA</th>
<th>WCAR</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Evidence Information Systems Integration (EISI)
# Thematic Distribution of Evaluations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area</th>
<th>Evaluations in 2019</th>
<th>UNICEF Programme expenditure 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every child survives and thrives</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every child learns</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every child is protected from violence and exploitation</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every child lives in a safe and clean environment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every child has an equitable chance in life</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Goal Areas</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS)
Overall evaluation quality continues to improve.

Improvements due to investments in staff skills and quality assurance at regional and country level.
Gender Equality in Evaluation
Performance under the System-wide Action Plan, 2016–2019

Improvement in UNICEF performance.

UNICEF UN SWAP performance
“Exceeds Requirements.”

Improvements due to enhanced staff
capacity on gender equality analysis
and gender reporting.

Source: Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS)

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Management Response Implementation

Marginal increase in the implementation of management response actions.

All evaluations and management responses externally shared.
The target set by the Executive Board is 1 per cent of programme resources on evaluation.

The current level is 0.86 per cent.
Resources - Human Resources

Evaluation capacity development:

EXPECTED RESULTS
- Accelerated skills development
- Enhanced national partnerships for evaluation
- Sustainable long-term enabling environment for evaluation
- Career development opportunities
- Professional growth in evaluation

learning programme design

Face-to-face training

Facilitated online course

Programme leaders as evaluation champions

Senior leaders as evaluation champions

Agora Evaluation Series

KEY STAKEHOLDERS
- Evaluation specialists: UNICEF and partners
- Decision makers and managers
- All UNICEF staff

Human Resources Talent Strategy, Mentoring, Coaching, Buddy System

Source: UNICEF-UNSSC Evaluation Learning Programme - Technical Working Group
2019 - 2020 Work Program

13 evaluations completed at Headquarters in 2019.

Evaluation Office is systematically implementing the 2020 work plan as described in the Annual Report on the Evaluation Function to the Executive Board.

Includes 8 joint evaluations with sister United Nations agencies.

Increased focus on learning activities and adaptive management activities to generate lessons that governments could share in response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has affected the pace of some of evaluations. The Evaluation Office is adapting to this context. The full impact will be known by the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board in September 2020.
Thank you!