Plan for global thematic evaluations 2014-2017

Informal meeting of the Executive Board:

2 December 2013
Overview

• A plan for global thematic evaluations
• Purpose and principles
• Evaluation products and priorities
• Prioritized topics for global thematic evaluations, year by year
• Resources
• Implementation, risks and mitigation
• Reporting
• Discussion points
A plan for global thematic evaluations

UNICEF had committed to preparing:

“…a global evaluation plan, laying out strategic priorities for evaluation and identifying major global thematic evaluations to be undertaken independently by the Evaluation Office…in line with international standards of best practice; and providing timely dissemination of the results for action by management and other stakeholders.”

From UNICEF Revised Evaluation Policy (2013)
Purpose

To provide a framework for generating useful evaluation evidence on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of UNICEF’s work under the Strategic Plan 2014-2017.
Principles

- Utility, credibility and independence
- Coverage
- Interest, demand and relevance
- Risk
- Additionality
Evaluation products

**Annually, 2014-2017:**

- 4 major evaluations
- 2 evaluations
- 2 evaluation synthesis studies
- 1 methodological study
Evaluation priorities

Aligned with the Strategic Plan, focusing on:

– 7 outcome areas,
– 7 implementation strategies
– cross cutting issues (gender, humanitarian action)…

…but not prioritizing organizational effectiveness or management efficiency / effectiveness issues
Prioritized topics for global thematic evaluations

2014:

- Child protection
- UNICEF alignment with MDGs
- Policy dialogue and advocacy
- Early learning and development standards
- Evaluability of the strategic plan
- Communication for development
- Synthesis studies:
  - nutrition; emergency response in Syria
Prioritized topics for global thematic evaluations

2015:

• Strengthening national health systems
• Nutritional support and care
• Access to safe drinking water
• Education and peacebuilding programme
• National capacity development
• Partnership strategy implementation
• Syntheses:
  – Social protection; innovation
Prioritized topics for global thematic evaluations

2016:

- H4+ joint programme (maternal /child health)
- Girls’ education and gender equality
- MoRES implementation and results
- HIV prevention and treatment
- Transformative agenda (joint)
- Integration and cross-sectoral linkages
- Syntheses:
  - WASH; UNICEF development effectiveness
Prioritized topics for global thematic evaluations

2017:

- Health: global and regional initiatives
- Social inclusion: better policies and systems
- Generation and use of knowledge
- Gender Action Plan implementation
- Resilience
- Global and regional programme
- Syntheses:
  - HIV / AIDS; Child protection systems / capacities
Resources for global thematic evaluations

• Global thematic evaluations will be funded from Global and Regional Programme resources

• Annual consultancy costs:
  – Regular resources: $1.75 million
  – Other resources: $1 million

• Consultancy costs for each global thematic evaluation: $250,000 - $450,000
Implementation

A “rolling approach”

Evaluation Plan

Annual Workplans

Evaluation designs
Risks – and risk mitigation

• Resource mobilization falls short
  – *Timely resource mobilization by EO*

• Staffing fluctuations
  – *Effective staff management (talent pools)*

• The Strategic Plan is superseded
  – *Adjustments made through “rolling approach”*
Reporting

- Evaluation Office: Annual Report
- Annual report on the evaluation function (Board report)
- Global thematic evaluation reports / Management Responses
Overview, do the topics listed provide a sufficiently full and balanced evaluation agenda?

– Does the plan respond to the needs of the Executive Board and Management?
– Are the principles for prioritization useful?
– Is there sufficient alignment with the SP? Is the coverage of SP issues adequate?
– Does the “rolling approach” to implementation provide enough flexibility?
Thank you!