
Presentation to the UNICEF Executive Board
informal briefing
8th January 2016

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Evaluation Office UNICEF
This report:

• Updates and revises the UNICEF plan for global thematic evaluations 2014-2017, presented to the UNICEF Executive Board in January 2014.

• Reviews progress in implementing the plan

• Presents revisions to the plan for the period 2016-2017.

• Maintains the original purpose, principles and approach:

  to provide a coherent framework within which useful evaluation evidence can be generated on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness and, as far as possible, on the impact and sustainability of the organization’s work under the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.
A plan for global thematic evaluations

“…a global evaluation plan, laying out strategic priorities for evaluation and identifying major global thematic evaluations to be undertaken independently by the Evaluation Office.”

UNICEF Revised Evaluation Policy (2013)

The Evaluation Office will deliver annually:

• 4 major evaluations
• 2 smaller evaluations
• 2 evaluation synthesis studies
Scheduled evaluations and syntheses:

**2014 (8 planned):**
- 4 completed, 2 ongoing, 2 cancelled

**2015 (8 planned):**
- 2 completed, 1 ongoing, 2 cancelled, 3 postponed

In addition:
- 2 evaluations of UNICEF emergency response completed
- 3 joint evaluations of UN emergency response completed
- 1 joint evaluation (on nutrition) completed
Revision of topics for 2016-2017

• Revision of the plan follows consultations across UNICEF
• Substantial continuity with original plan, but focus now on health, HIV/AIDS and WASH
• 3 new topics:
  o *Technology in development*
  o *UNICEF humanitarian response in high threat environments*
  o *UNICEF humanitarian action in protracted emergencies (synthesis)*
• Several topics dropped in view of lack of demand
• Several joint evaluations expected but not listed
Topics planned for 2016

1. Strengthening national health systems and capacity
2. Girls’ education and gender equality
3. Rural/small town water supply programming
4. Preventing stunting: improving equitable use of nutritional support and care
5. Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
6. Health: H4+ joint programme on maternal, newborn and child health (joint)
7. Synthesis of evaluation findings in the HIV and AIDS sector
Topics planned for 2017

1. Research evidence: support of generation and use of knowledge
2. Technology in development
3. Gender Action Plan
4. UNICEF work to strengthen child protection systems
5. Support to national policy development in social protection
6. Coverage and quality of UNICEF humanitarian response in complex/high-threat environments
7. Synthesis of evaluation results on innovation/new technologies
8. Synthesis of results from evaluations of UNICEF humanitarian action in protracted emergencies
## Resources

### Annual allocation (in USD ‘000)

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<th>RR</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Office, total:</td>
<td>4.55</td>
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<td>Resource framework for evaluations*:</td>
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The resource framework sets out the costs of consultant fees, travel and incidental costs.

**Assumptions:**

- major evaluation costs USD 450,000
- regular evaluation costs USD 250,000
- evaluation synthesis study costs USD 50,000
The main focus of the plan is on evaluation of the key results to be achieved under the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, in particular:

- the 7 outcome areas
- the key implementation strategies.

Given coverage by audits and external consultancy reviews, the plan will not undertake assessment of UNICEF’s management efficiency and effectiveness activities, except as these issues are addressed in evaluation of policy and programme interventions.
Implementation: “a rolling approach”

The approach towards planning and delivery of relevant, high-quality evaluations is necessarily iterative and multi-layered:

• At the most general level, the plan for global thematic evaluations reflects the priorities of the UNICEF Strategic Plan.

• Subsequently, scoping work is required to identify specific needs, demands and opportunities.

• For each evaluation, further scoping and design work establishes a meaningful, feasible and economical approach.

Experience has shown that, for some topics, scoping reveals that sufficient evidence already exists or there is limited demand. In such cases, the topic may be adapted, superseded or cancelled.
Key risks

- High demand for corporate level evaluations not included in the plan
  - Some adjustments may be required to accommodate topics in high demand
- Changes to the Strategic Plan
  - Some adjustments may be required to accommodate changes in strategic priorities

Flexibility and the “rolling approach” through implementation will allow the plan remains relevant and meet the needs of users of evidence from these evaluations.
Progress in implementation of the plan for global thematic evaluations will be reported in:

- the annual report of the Evaluation Office
- the annual report on the evaluation function presented to the Executive Board each year

The Executive Board will thereby be able to maintain oversight of the plan for global thematic evaluations through its lifetime.
Thank you for your attention!