

Executive Feedback

Title of the evaluation	Evaluation of Humanitarian Action: Child Survival in North Darfur
Sequence No	2016/001
Region	MENA
Office	Sudan
Coverage	Sudan
Evaluation Type	Programme
Year of Report	2016

OVERALL RATING

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Satisfactory

Meets UNICEF/UNEG standards for evaluation reports and decision makers may use the evaluation with confidence

Implications:

This is a credible report that can be used with confidence. Nonetheless, there are a few areas that could be improved. Firstly, the implementing agencies as well as their specific roles should be listed and explained in greater detail. Also, the evaluation should explicitly address the unexpected or unintended effects of the intervention and provide a discussion around them. It is best to present this discussion within a separate sub-section of the report. The process followed in developing the recommendations and the stakeholders' level of participation in it should be explicitly discussed in order to demonstrate the extent to which the recommendations have been validated by UNICEF and its partners. Furthermore, the evaluation should explicitly adhere to a rights-based approach and GEEW should be mainstreamed all across the evaluation, from the evaluation questions to the methodology and data collection tools, and a gender analysis should be incorporated throughout the findings, conclusions and recommendations. Sex-disaggregated data needs to be collected and the evaluation should provide an assessment around the extent to which the program under review used a gender-sensitive approach.

Lessons for future evaluations:

SECTION A: BACKGROUND (weight 5%)

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Satisfactory

The object of evaluation is described in detail and its main components are clearly explained. Similarly, intended beneficiaries and the context of the intervention, including a situation analysis, are well explained as well as the way in which the context relates to the implementation of UNICEF's humanitarian action. The Theories of Change for the three components are included in annexes 1-3. The implementing agencies and specific roles of key stakeholders could be more explicitly pointed out, whereas their contributions, including UNICEF's, are detailed in the efficiency section as well as in annex 4.

SECTION B: EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE (weight 5%)

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Highly Satisfactory

The intended use and end users of this evaluation are clearly listed. The report clearly indicates what the evaluation seeks to achieve and the scope of the evaluation is also clearly explained both chronologically and geographically. Also, the report provides a list of specific objectives for the evaluation along with key evaluation questions.

SECTION C: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (weight 15%)

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Highly Satisfactory

The evaluation framework is OECD/DAC Standard criteria; is clearly described; and relevant guiding evaluation questions are provided. The evaluation clearly describes the methodology used, data sources, sampling strategies, as well as the rationale for the choices made. Also, the report explains how triangulation of several levels of evidence was carried out. Explicit reference to Humanitarian Action principles guiding the evaluation is made in the report and a description of ethical safeguards for participants is provided. Also, ethical safeguards involving interviewing children are explained, and explicit mention is made to the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children. Similarly, the obligations of the evaluators concerning ethical issues are appropriately discussed in the report.

SECTION D: EVALUATION FINDINGS (weight 20%)



Satisfactory

The report is particularly strong at providing multiple lines of evidence that support the findings, which are presented under each evaluation criterion and in relation to the different components of the initiative evaluated. The causal factors leading to achievement or non achievement of results are clearly explained in each case. However, even if unexpected changes or unintended effects of the programme are included in the evaluation questions, these are not explicitly discussed and analysed in the report. Conversely, the evaluation provides a complete assessment of the intervention's M&E system, and it explains how it was used in decision making.

SECTION E: EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED (weight 15%)



Highly Satisfactory

The Conclusions are logically derived from the findings, and provide a clear description of both strengths and weaknesses of all of the areas covered by the intervention, addressing what worked well and what did not. Also, the Conclusions provide information concerning the foreseeable implications of the findings for the future implementation of the programme. Finally, Lessons Learned are correctly identified in the report and duly generalised to indicate what wider relevance they may have in different contexts.

SECTION F: RECOMMENDATIONS (weight 15%)



Satisfactory

Recommendations are well grounded in the evaluation and logically derived from the findings and conclusions. They are presented by clearly indicating the groups they are addressed to in each case. Recommendations are useful to intended users and they can be made operational in the context of the evaluation. On the other hand, there is no discussion around the process followed in developing the recommendations and the stakeholders' level of participation in this process.

SECTION G: EVALUATION STRUCTURE/PRESENTATION (weight 5%)



Highly Satisfactory

The report is logically structured and includes all necessary information, which is presented in a very clear fashion that makes the report easy to read and navigate. The evaluation report includes sufficient context information as well as much detail on the object of evaluation, which helps illuminate the Findings. The opening pages also include all of the necessary elements, i.e. name, timeframe, date, location, table of contents, graphs, figures, abbreviation list, and list of annexes, which is extensive and greatly enhances the overall credibility of the evaluation.

SECTION H: EVALUATION PRINCIPLES (weight 15%)



Unsatisfactory

The evaluation describes the level of participation of stakeholders in almost all levels of the evaluation process (but does not include a description of their level of involvement during the development of the recommendations). On the other, the evaluation does not explicitly adhere to a human rights-based approach and Gender Equality principles were not addressed and mainstreamed across the evaluation questions. Also, the degree to which the intervention mainstreamed a gender perspective is not assessed by the evaluation. The style of the report does not include a gender and child-rights sensitive language, and the methodology is not gender-responsive and does not contemplate the collection of gender sensitive data. Conversely, the evaluation explains that equity was not a major focus in the design or the implementation of the initiative. Finally, GEEW is not consistently mainstreamed throughout the report and the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations do not reflect a gender analysis.

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (weight 5%)

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Satisfactory

The executive summary includes all necessary elements and the information is presented in a concise manner. It is possible to understand the intervention and be informed in order to make decisions by reading the executive summary without having to consult the body of the report

Does the evaluation meet UN SWAP evaluation performance indicators?

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Missing requirements

Recommendations for improvement

Section A	The implementing agencies as well as their specific roles could be listed and explained in further detail.
Section B	This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.
Section C	This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.
Section D	The evaluation should explicitly address the unexpected or unintended effects of the intervention and provide a discussion around them in order to understand what could be done differently or adapt the Logic of the intervention accordingly. It is easiest to identify this discussion if it is provided under its own sub-section.
Section E	This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.
Section F	The process followed in developing the recommendations and the stakeholders' level of participation in it should be explicitly discussed in the report so as to explain the way in which the recommendations were validated by UNICEF and its partners.
Section G	The evaluation report observes good practices in all the aspects covered in this section. No further improvement is required.
Section H	The evaluation should explicitly adhere to a rights-based approach and the style and language used in the report should reflect a child-rights and/or human rights sensitive approach. GEEW should be mainstreamed all across the evaluation, from the evaluation questions to the methodology and data collection tools, and a gender analysis should be incorporated throughout the findings, conclusions and recommendations.
Section I	The executive summary observes good practices. No further improvement is required.