

Voices from the Field

The Challenge of evaluating a unique Common Country Programme by Carlos Brito and Sandra Martins, UNICEF Cape Verde Joint Office.



In 2016, [UNICEF](#), [UNDP](#) and [UNFPA](#) conducted a joint evaluation of the [Cape Verde Common Country Programme 2012-2017](#). The evaluation sought to ascertain the outcomes and outputs of the Common Country Programme Document (CCPD) 2012-2016. Given the uniqueness of the UN system in Cape Verde, characterized by the integration of the above agencies, this evaluation featured particular complexities arising from the distinct policies and procedures, and varying mandates to each organization.

To address these complexities, and in the interest of efficiency, a unified methodology and terms of reference were developed through a participatory process, drawing from the guidance and tools of the three organizations and adapting them to the specificities of the Common Country Programme. Consultations were held with each agency to ensure their equal involvement in the evaluation. Other critical ingredients to the quality of the final report included broad stakeholder participation during all phases of the evaluation (TOR development, reference group, data collection, analysis and recommendations) and close coordination among the agencies.

Furthermore, the success of the evaluation was underpinned by the establishment of a shared vision on the way in which the evaluation findings would be utilized by the Joint Office and Government, which comprised: serving as an input to the CO management review, enabling the definition of programmatic and organizational strategies as part of the design of the new Country Programme 2018-2022, and informing the development of the National Sustainable Development Plan. As a result of the consultations and involvement of the different agencies and Government during the evaluation, all parties have taken ownership of the recommendations and are actively pursuing their implementation.

For more details on the evaluation you may contact Carlos Brito or Sandra Martins