

# Annual report of the evaluation function in UNICEF

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UNICEF Executive Board – 2022 annual session (14–17 June 2022)

Item 7: Annual report for 2021 on the evaluation function in UNICEF

Reference document: [E/ICEF/2022/17](#)





# Introduction and context

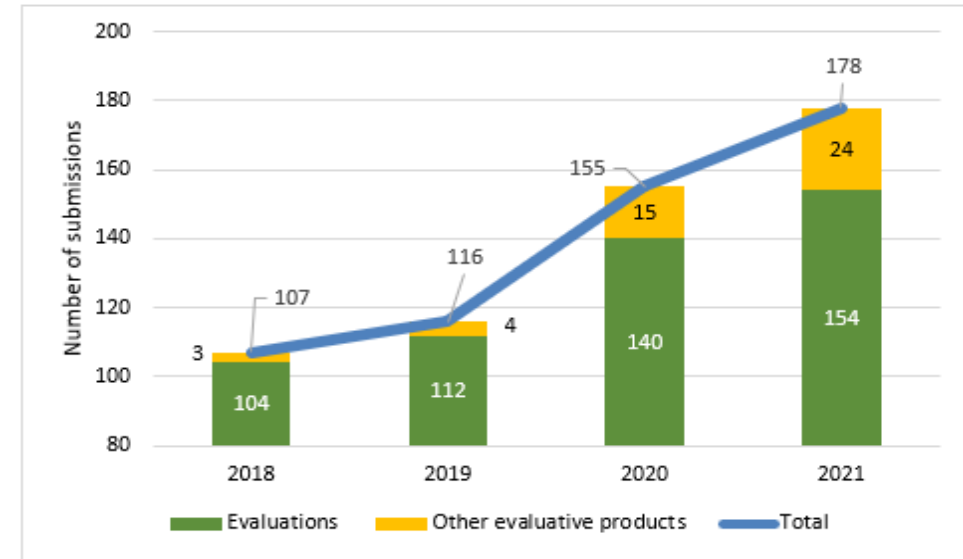
- COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose significant threat to the realization of children's rights and the acceleration of progress against the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The evaluation function nonetheless remained attuned to the accountability and learning needs of the organization.
- The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated adaption of traditional evaluation approaches to meet unprecedented challenges and the learning and accountability needs of the organization.
- Evaluations were put on hold to shift efforts to COVID-19-related evaluations and generate lessons on the UNICEF response to the pandemic.
- These adaptations, however, cannot be a long-term substitute for more traditional and robust methods of harnessing evidence.



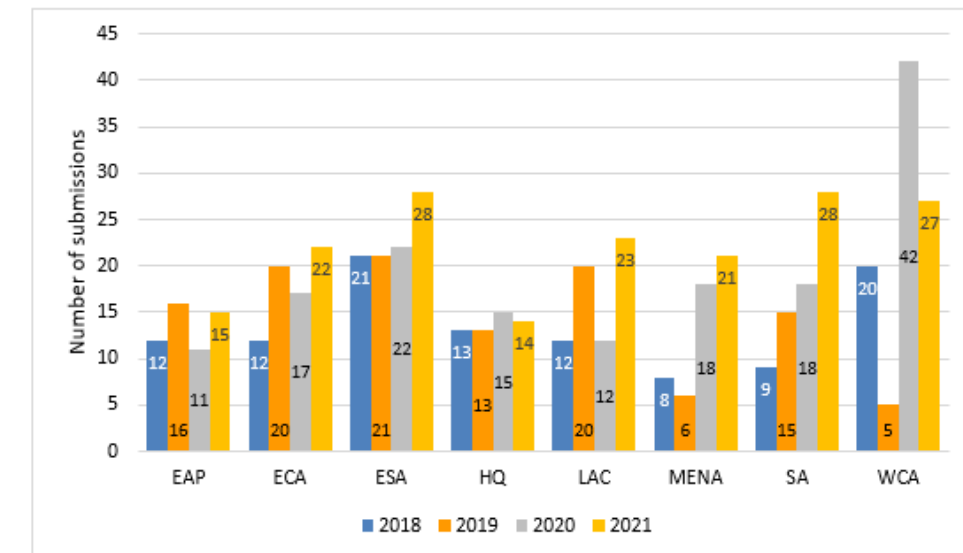
# Evaluation submission and coverage

- There was an increase in the number of evaluation products submitted from all levels.
- There is a need to differentiate between what is independent and evaluative from the other exercises the organization might undertake.
- Despite this increase in submissions, evaluation quality has remained high, even though there are sections of evaluation reports that need to be improved.
- There was a negligible decline in overall geographical coverage in 2021, but 5 of 7 regions attained 100 per cent coverage.

Number of evaluation submissions, 2018–2021

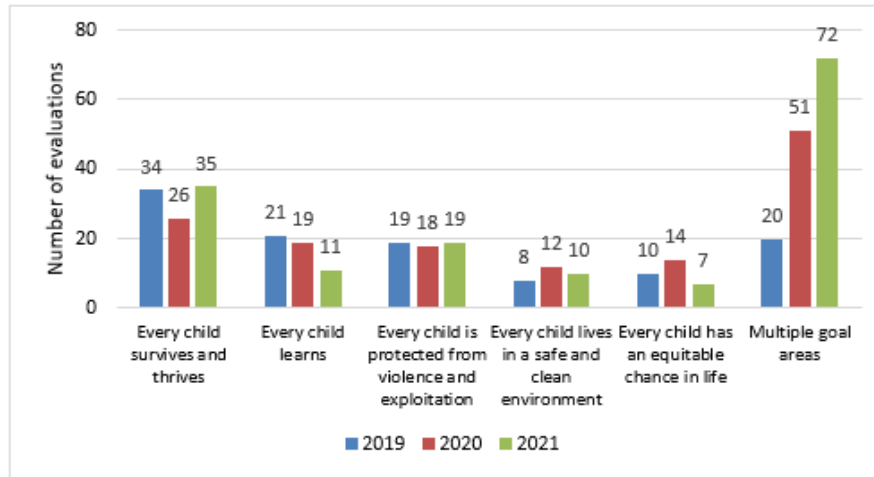


Number of submissions by location, 2018–2021



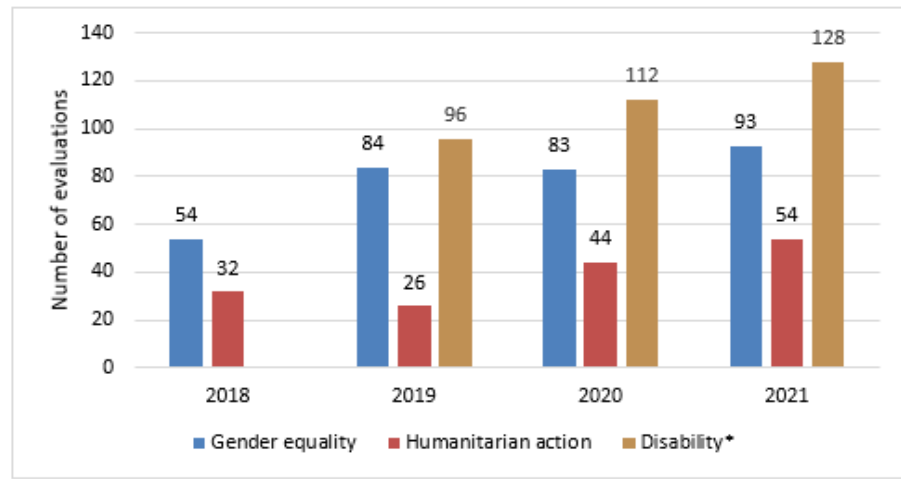
# Goal Area coverage, gender & humanitarian action

Thematic coverage of evaluations, 2019–2021



Source: Geros.

Number of evaluations covering disability, gender equality and humanitarian action, 2018–2021

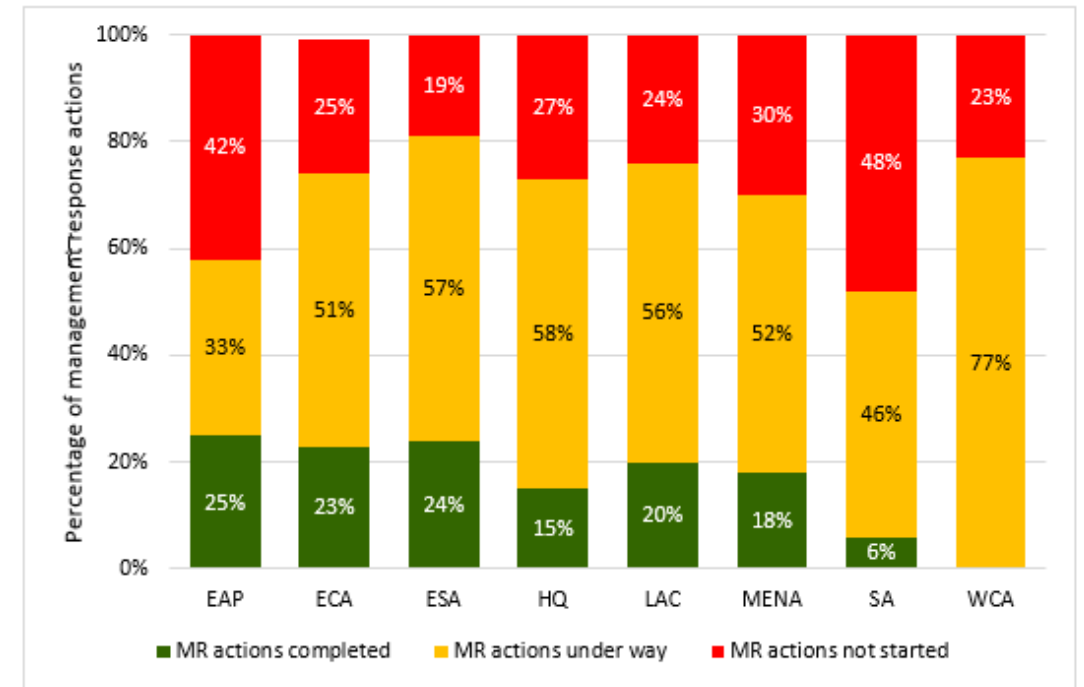


- Since 2019, there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of evaluations covering multiple Goal Areas of the Strategic Plan.
- UNICEF continued to conduct evaluations with other United Nations entities.
- There has been steady improvement in how offices are incorporating gender, humanitarian action and disability dimensions in evaluations.
- 14 evaluations of humanitarian action were conducted.
- There continued to be insufficient focus on impact evaluations; this is being address through the recently developed impact evaluation strategy.

# Management response submission and implementation

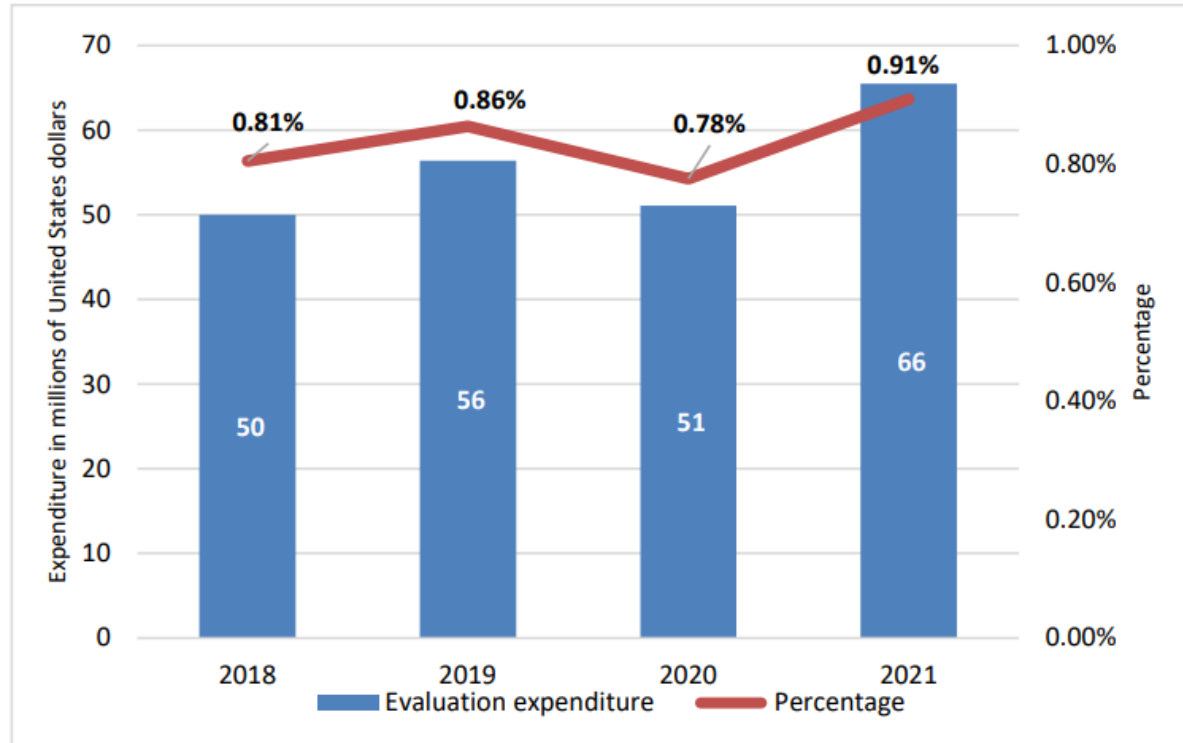
- Compliance with management response (MR) requirement remains high: 99 per cent of evaluations conducted between 2018 and 2020 have a corresponding management response. Action is needed to improve submission of 11 MRs now overdue, however.
- There has also been a significant increase in the implementation of actions committed to in management responses.
- Evaluation Office is commissioning a review of current management responses and their implementation and exploring other ways of enhancing evaluation use beyond the management response.

Implementation status of actions identified in management responses, by location, 2021



# Resourcing

**UNICEF expenditure on evaluation, in dollar terms and as a percentage of the total programme budget, 2018–2021**



Source: Insight Evaluation Function Performance Dashboard.

- UNICEF recorded an increase in overall programme spending, which translated into an increase in overall expenditure on evaluation, as all regions surpassed the 0.50 per cent mark, with significant increases in WCA and SAR.
- The Evaluation Pooled Fund has been vital to ensuring that the evaluation function is adequately resourced; this needs to be maintained to ensure the gains in coverage made at the decentralized level are to be sustainable.
- All regions have successfully recruited multi-country evaluation specialists and country evaluation specialists, who have been crucial in the delivery of evaluations, particularly in resource-limited settings.
- To implement coverage benchmarks of the policy, some offices with budgets greater than \$100 million are also ensuring that there is a dedicated evaluation specialist in place, since they are expected to conduct evaluations every year.



# Thank you.