

## Costed Evaluation Plan Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office

Programme cycle	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme (2026-2029)
Indicative budget	US\$ 27.25 million (Regular resources: 20.38 million; Other resources: 6.87 million)
Country programme priority areas (outcomes)	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> By 2029, accelerate the reduction of unmet need for family planning.</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> By 2029, accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal deaths.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> By 2029, accelerate the reduction of all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4:</b> By 2029, adaptation to demographic change has strengthened the resilience of societies for current and future generations, while upholding individual rights and choices.</p>
Previous country programme evaluation	<p><b>Period covered:</b> Regional Programme (2022-2025)</p> <p><b>Year of completion:</b> 2024</p> <p><b>Evaluation quality assessment rating:</b> Satisfactory</p>
Gap mapping/analysis of relevant evaluative evidence and knowledge gaps that are strategically important to inform the design and implementation of the upcoming country programme	<p>The costed evaluation plan for the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme (2026-2029) is based on a comprehensive review of the existing evaluative evidence from the 2022-2025 programme cycle as well as a mapping of existing knowledge gaps. The review included the following centralized and decentralized evaluations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative Evaluation of the UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme 2022- 2025</li> <li>• Independent Evaluation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025</li> <li>• Independent Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Integration of the Principles of 'Leave No One Behind' and 'Reaching the Furthest Behind' (2024)</li> <li>• A Synthesis of UN System Evaluations of SDG 5 (2024)</li> <li>• Recent Country Programme Evaluations with programme cycles partially overlapping with the Regional Programme 2022-2025 (Argentina, Mexico and Uruguay)</li> <li>• Regional Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Interventions (2022)</li> <li>• Joint Evaluation of Phase II (2020–2023) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage</li> <li>• Formative Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Adolescents and Youth (2015-2022)</li> <li>• Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Population Dynamics and Data (2014-2022)</li> <li>• Mid-term Evaluation of the Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund – Phase III 2018-2022</li> <li>• Mid-Term Evaluation of the UNFPA Supplies Partnership (2021-2030)</li> <li>• Formative Evaluation of the UNFPA Engagement in the Reform of the United Nations Development System</li> <li>• Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention of, Response to and Elimination of Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices (2012-2017)</li> <li>• Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2012-2020)</li> </ul>

- Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
- Evaluation of the UNFPA Capacity in Humanitarian Action (2012-2019)

**Outcome 1: By 2029, accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal deaths**

While existing evaluations establish a strong evidence base for improving midwifery education, promoting midwifery-led care, and expanding maternal/newborn health services, critical evidence gaps persist regarding UNFPA's specific contributions. Specifically, more evaluative evidence is needed on whether and how UNFPA's support contributes to more respectful and high-quality care, integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, health system reform, and the expansion of emergency obstetric and newborn care, referral systems, and accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, despite significant investments, there is a scarcity of robust evidence on effective approaches to reverse the post-2015 rise in the maternal mortality ratio in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in high-burden countries. There is also a lack of evaluations that rigorously assess the effectiveness of UNFPA capacity building efforts to strengthen the delivery of high-quality SRH services. A clearer understanding of how UNFPA's service delivery models, resource allocation, and systems strengthening efforts contribute to resilient, high-performing health systems is essential.

The Regional Programme Evaluation (RPE) (2026-2029) and Regional Evaluation of Interventions to Reduce Maternal Mortality will address these evidence gaps, with a particular focus on adolescent maternal deaths and preventable causes for maternal mortality. They will provide insights on UNFPA's contributions to reducing preventable maternal deaths among vulnerable populations, including those affected by sexual violence and child marriage. The evaluation results will enhance UNFPA's strategic positioning, optimize joint UN initiatives, enhance resource mobilization, and strengthen accountability.

**Outcome 2: By 2029, accelerate the reduction of unmet need for family planning**

While existing evaluations provide strong evidence for effective strategies to expand access to essential SRH commodities and family planning services, critical knowledge gaps persist regarding UNFPA's specific contributions to high-quality, rights-based family planning. This includes integrated service delivery, accountability mechanisms, and health systems strengthening. In addition, there is insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to address sociocultural barriers, notably their impact on the quality of family planning services for adolescents and youth. There is also a need to better assess the effectiveness of UNFPA's technical assistance for contraceptive budgeting. Furthermore, weak health information systems and a lack of disaggregated data hinder accurate measurement of unmet need for family planning. Evidence is also limited on how political will, stakeholder coordination, community participation, and supply chain strategies influence the effectiveness and sustainability of programming to reduce the unmet need for family planning.

The RPE (2026-2029) will assess the extent to which UNFPA's investments contributed to equitable and sustainable improvements in access to family planning and SRH outcomes. The evaluation will provide critical evidence to inform strategic planning, guide investments, and strengthen national capacities for high-quality family planning services.

**Outcome 3: By 2029, accelerate the reduction of all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices**

Although evaluations show significant progress in integrating social norms and addressing structural inequalities during the previous programme cycle, crucial evaluative evidence gaps persist. There is scarce evidence on the application of intersectional approaches, particularly for politically sensitive issues like sexual orientation, gender identity, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Furthermore, while the regional leave no one behind strategy aligns well with global frameworks, more evidence is needed to better inform its country-level operationalization. Persistent issues such as insufficient efforts to counter perceptions restricting comprehensive sexuality education, high prevalence of gender-based violence and early unions underscore the need for more robust interventions and deeper analysis. These areas demand continued evaluation and learning.

To address these critical evidence gaps, the RPE (2026–2029), alongside the final evaluation of the final evaluation of the project “Leaving no one behind: reducing adolescent pregnancy in Afro-descendant, Creole, Garifuna, and Miskito communities in selected municipalities of the Central American Caribbean coast”, and the final evaluation of the regional programme “Challenging Harmful Practices against Girls and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean,”

	<p>will collectively assess the effectiveness of gender-transformative approaches. These evaluations will explore challenges in designing, implementing, and monitoring interventions to change discriminatory gender norms perpetuating gender-based violence and harmful practices, as well as examine the growing resistance to gender-transformative and rights-based programming observed across the region.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4: By 2029, adaptation to demographic change has strengthened the resilience of societies for current and future generations, while upholding individual rights and choices</b></p> <p>Existing evaluations illustrate significant gaps in the evidence base on what works and what does not in programming that supports adaptation to demographic change while upholding individual rights and choices. There is limited evidence on how best to integrate megatrends, such as population aging, migration and climate change, into regional programme design and implementation to strengthen demographic resilience. In addition, evaluative evidence on the effectiveness of approaches to improve data systems and to use evidence for decision-making at national and regional levels is inadequate. Existing evaluations fail to clearly identify effective strategies for addressing weaknesses in data systems and utilization, or those that contribute to enhancing demographic resilience across diverse contexts.</p> <p>Given the identified evaluative evidence gaps, the RPE (2026-2029) will address evidence gaps on issues related to megatrends such as migration, demographic change, and climate change. It will provide crucial information on effective approaches to improve data systems and increase the use of evidence for decision-making. Furthermore, it will generate lessons learned that will inform the next programme cycle, the 2030 census round, and ultimately contribute to integrating population and development issues into regional and national sustainable development planning, including monitoring the demographic dividend.</p>
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<b>Evaluations</b>
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Evaluation title	Intended use of evaluation findings	Type of evaluation	Humanitarian evaluation (yes; partially; no)	Joint evaluation (yes; no), including partners where applicable	Programme /project budget in US\$	Evaluation estimated budget and source of funding (regular resources (RR); other resources (OR)) in US\$	Timeframe (month and year)	Evaluation manager
Final evaluation of the regional project "Leaving no one behind: reducing adolescent pregnancy in Afro-descendant, Creole, Garifuna, and Miskito	Refine project strategies to reduce adolescent pregnancy; improve the adoption of gender-transformative approaches in programming to reduce adolescent pregnancy; strengthen the evidence base on	Project/ programme evaluation	No	No	6.7 million	55,000 (OR)	April - November 2026	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

communities in selected municipalities of the Central American Caribbean coast"	adopting a LNOB lens in programming to reduce adolescent pregnancy; foster organizational learning and demonstrate accountability to project stakeholders and Afro-descendant, Creole, Garifuna, and Miskito communities							
Final evaluation of the regional programme "Challenging Harmful Practices against Girls and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean Phase 3 (2025-2026)"	Inform the refinement and optimization of the comprehensive intervention model to prevent and respond to early and forced marriages and unions implemented during Phase 3 of the project; support the scaling of effective approaches to prevent and respond to early and forced marriages and unions; strengthen regional initiatives to address early and forced marriages and unions; foster organizational learning and demonstrate accountability on UNFPA's contributions to eliminating early and forced marriages and union	Project/ programme evaluation	No	No	2 million	30,000 (OR)	May - December 2027	LACRO Gender Programme Specialist
Regional Programme Evaluation (2026- 2029)	Inform the design of the new regional programme; refine strategies and targeting of interventions ensuring they reach and benefit the furthest left-behind groups; determine the scaling up or discontinuation of strategies and interventions under the new regional programme; inform decision-making and the strategic positioning of UNFPA in the region; support countries in developing and piloting innovative programmatic models focused on empowering women and girls, promoting the	Regional programme evaluation (RPE)	No	No	27.25 million	60,000 (RR)	Preparation phase: October - December 2027  Implementation phase: January - September 2028	LACRO Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

	LNOB agenda; and enhancing accountability towards UNFPA country offices, national governments, donors, and rights holders.							
Regional evaluation of UNFPA interventions to reduce maternal mortality	Enhance regional strategies to reduce maternal mortality; enhance targeting of interventions ensuring they reach and benefit the furthest left-behind women; guide the adaptation and scaling of interventions to address maternal mortality; strengthen evidence-based regional dialogue on accelerating the reduction in maternal mortality; facilitate knowledge-sharing of successful approaches/best practices to address maternal mortality; foster organizational learning and demonstrate accountability on UNFPA's contributions to reducing maternal mortality in the region	Thematic evaluation	No	No	6.5 million	30,000 (RR)	March - September 2029	LACRO Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

Evaluation Capacity Development						
Evaluation capacity development activity	Objectives of evaluation capacity development activity	Category of evaluation capacity development (internal; national)	Type of evaluation capacity development (individual; institutional; enabling environment)	Targeted stakeholders	Estimated budget and source of funding (regular resources (RR); other resources (OR) in US\$)	Timeframe (month and year)
Participation in IEO-led cross-regional evaluation capacity building workshop	Develop the knowledge and skills of regional planning, monitoring and evaluation staff to provide capacity development, technical assistance and	Internal	Individual	LACRO planning, monitoring and evaluation staff	3,700 (RR)	June 2026

	quality assurance for country-level evaluations, in particular country programme evaluations.					
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