

Costed Evaluation Plan North Macedonia Country Office

Programme cycle	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) North Macedonia 3rd Country Programme (2026-2030)
Indicative budget	US\$ 7.4 million
Country programme priority areas (outputs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Output 1: The health sector has improved capacities, policies, and optimized structures for the delivery of inclusive, quality, and gender-responsive services, and for the promotion of healthy behaviours. ● Output 2: National and sub-national institutions, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders have improved capacities, resources, and frameworks to deliver and create demand for effective multisectoral gender-based violence prevention, protection, and response services and initiatives. ● Output 3: Public institutions, private sector and civil society are enabled to support and promote women's participation in all aspects of economic life in rural and urban areas ● Output 4: Enhanced institutional capacities, data systems, and decision-making mechanisms are available through inclusive, evidence-based and human rights-based approaches that consider population development needs, social cohesion, emergencies, demographic changes and other megatrends such as ageing, digitalization and climate change.
Previous country programme evaluation	<p>Period covered: 1st Country Programme (2016-2020) (but the evaluation report covered the period between 2012-2018)</p> <p>Year of completion: 2019</p> <p>Evaluation quality assessment rating: Very Good</p>

<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>	<p>The Costed Evaluation Plan (CEPlan) for the North Macedonia Country Programme (CP) (2026–2030) is based on an in-depth review of existing evaluative evidence. The evaluations outlined in this CEPlan, including the Country Programme Evaluation (CPE), will generate valuable insights into the programme’s performance, particularly in the areas of Universal Health Coverage, prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), gender-responsive family policies, and demographic resilience, which addresses issues such as low fertility, aging, migration, and digitalization. Findings from the CPE will inform the design of the next programme cycle and contribute to progress toward UNFPA’s transformative results.</p> <p>For Output 1 of the CP, existing evaluative evidence highlights key gaps in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), particularly limited access to essential sexual and reproductive health services related to maternal health, family planning and UHC. The CPE for the 2026–2030 programme cycle will assess the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of UNFPA’s support to health system reforms, with particular attention to addressing the needs of different population groups across the life course. The evaluation will also consider how UNFPA’s contributions have supported national efforts to accelerate primary healthcare reform as a pathway to UHC.</p> <p>For Output 2 of the CP, evaluative evidence shows that GBV remains widespread due to unequal power dynamics, patriarchal norms, limited services, weak accountability, slow law enforcement, and unstable funding. Although technologically facilitated GBV has been incorporated into the Criminal Code, progress in its recognition and enforcement has been slow. The CPE for the 2026–2030 cycle will specifically assess the effectiveness of policy and monitoring mechanisms in advancing sustainable, accessible, survivor-centered, and multi-sectoral systems for GBV prevention and protection across all levels.</p> <p>For Output 3 of the CP, evaluative evidence highlighted that women are continuously underrepresented in the labour market, driven by restrictive social norms, limited access to childcare and eldercare services, and the absence of supportive legal frameworks for flexible work and work-life balance. The CPE for the 2026–2030 cycle will evaluate UNFPA’s support to the government in designing and implementing Gender-Responsive Family Policies (GRFP) to boost women’s labour force participation and address demographic challenges—an area prioritized in the National Development Strategy and the new Cooperation Framework.</p> <p>For Output 4 of the CP, evaluative evidence shows gaps between policy frameworks and the urgent needs of vulnerable populations that continue to undermine effective responses. The absence of comprehensive, nationally disaggregated data limits the development of evidence-based, inclusive policies, leaving the specific needs of at-risk groups unmet and the demographic potential of women, youth, and the elderly underutilized. The CPE for the 2026–2030 cycle will specifically assess the relevance and effectiveness of UNFPA’s support in advancing the National Development Strategy 2024–2044, particularly through tailored interventions addressing demographic shifts such as low fertility, population aging, migration, and digitalization under the Demographic Resilience Programme.</p> <p>Existing evaluative evidence highlighted that data related to the achievement of three transformative results in the country is generally limited, of low quality, inconsistently collected and reported, and heavily reliant on externally funded, costly surveys, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Whenever possible, the Country Office (CO) will partner with other UN agencies and the state statistical office on the implementation of surveys that would provide better insight into the UN contribution to transformative results and achievement of SDGs.</p> <p>The CO conducted assessment using the eligibility criteria grid for one project on Gender Based Violence (GBV), funded by the United Kingdom; which did not meet the required threshold for evaluation. Also, the CO is implementing two regional projects for which evaluations will be organized, respectively led by UNDP Serbia (Youth for Inclusion, Equality and Trust - UN joint regional project funded by PBF) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECA RO) (Expanding</p>
---	---

	<p>Choices: Gender-Responsive Family Policies for the Private Sector in the Western Balkans - Phase 2). The CO will support both evaluations to the extent possible and use evaluation conclusions and recommendations for country programme adjustments if and where needed.</p>
--	---

Evaluations								
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
Country Programme Evaluation (3rd cycle, 2026-2030)	Inform the design of the new country programme; refine the targeting of strategies and interventions under the new country programme, ensuring they reach and benefit the furthest left-behind groups; determine the scale up or discontinuation of strategies and interventions under the new country programme; inform decision-making and the strategic positioning of UNFPA in the country; enhance accountability towards the national government, donors, and rights holders	Country programme evaluation (CPE)	No	No	7.4 million	50,000 (RR)	Preparation phase: October - December 2028 Implementation phase: January - August 2029	CO M&E focal point
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) evaluation (2026-2030)	Inform the development of the next UNSDCF and its alignment with national needs and priorities; strengthen UNFPA's strategic positioning and added value within the UN Country Team; refine UNFPA's contributions within joint UN initiatives to maximize impact; enhance accountability to the	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (UNSDCF) evaluation	No	Yes Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), all UN Country Team	Tbd by RCO	10,000 (RR) (UNFPA's contribution to the RCO)	September 2028 - August 2029	RCO with support of UN entities

	national government, donors, and rights holders			members, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia				
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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)	Estimated budget and source of funding (regular resources (RR); other resources (OR)) in US\$	Timeframe (month and year)	Targeted stakeholders
Participation in the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)-led cross-regional evaluation capacity building workshop	Develop the knowledge and skills of CO staff to plan, manage, conduct, disseminate and use a country programme evaluation	Internal	Individual	USD 3,400 (RR)	June 2028	CO M&E focal point