

Costed Evaluation Plan Panama Country Office

Programme cycle	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Panama 5th Country Programme (2026-2030)
Indicative budget	US\$ 7.3 million (Regular resources: 3.3 million; Other resources: 4 million)
Country programme priority areas (outputs)	● Output 1: Strengthened data ecosystem for the generation of disaggregated data that visualizes equity gaps for evidence-based and targeted policies, plans and programmes, anticipating demographic change and other key megatrends. ● Output 2: Strengthened national capacities to design evidence-based and multisectoral public policies that use a Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) approach to accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results.
Previous country programme evaluation	Period covered: 3rd Country Programme (2016-2020) Year of completion: 2019 Evaluation quality assessment rating: Good
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	The Costed Evaluation Plan (CEPlan) of the 5th Panama Country Programme (2026-2030) is based on a comprehensive mapping of available evidence from centralized and decentralized evaluations and other studies, conducted to ensure that the Country Programme Document (2026-2030) rests on a strong foundation of past evaluation results. The following evaluations were part of the mapping exercise: ● UNFPA Panama 3rd Country Programme Evaluation (2016-2020) ● Panama United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Evaluation (2021-2025) ● Formative Evaluation of the Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (2022-2025) ● Independent Evaluation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan (2022-2025) ● Regional evaluation of UNFPA's contribution to the design and implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) policies and programmes (2013-2018) ● Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Family Planning (2008-2013) ● Independent Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Integration of the Principles of 'Leave No One Behind' and 'Reaching the Furthest Behind' ● Regional Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Interventions (2018-2021) ● Formative Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Adolescents and Youth (2015-2022) ● Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Population Dynamics and Data (2014-2022) ● Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention of, Response to and Elimination of Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices (2012-2017) ● Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2012-2020) Building on this mapping, the CEPlan identifies areas where evaluative evidence is lacking entirely, requires deepening, or needs to be complemented. The evaluations included in the CEPlan, including the country programme evaluation (CPE), are designed to address these gaps, providing critical evidence to accelerate progress towards UNFPA's transformative results. For Output 1, existing evaluations show significant progress in expanding statistical tools to include ethnic self-identification and disability due to UNFPA's advocacy and support for censuses and national surveys, which has made historically excluded populations more visible. However, critical gaps in evidence persist regarding UNFPA's contributions to strengthening integrated and accessible data systems that compile quality population data. Specifically, there is insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of UNFPA's strategies and activities to improve the quality, updating, and digitization of administrative records and

the interoperability of diverse data systems. Furthermore, there is limited evidence on what type of advocacy and policy efforts are effective, and under what conditions, to drive the use of data in decision-making at the national and sub-national levels. Although Panama has made progress in generating disaggregated data, evaluations have revealed persistent challenges in the sustainability and institutionalization of these achievements. More evaluative evidence on what works to sustain these gains is needed. Moreover, evaluations do not clearly identify effective strategies to address weaknesses in data systems and their use, or those that contribute to improving demographic resilience in diverse contexts.

To address these evidence gaps, the CPE (2026-2030) will examine the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of UNFPA's contributions to strengthening the national data ecosystem and promote the use of data in policy-making across Panama. In addition, the evaluation of the UNSDCF evaluation (2026-2030) will be a key source of evidence.. The evaluation will assess the collective contribution and synergies of UN system-wide initiatives aimed at strengthening Panama's national data ecosystem. This will include analyzing inter-agency efforts on data interoperability, the digitalization of administrative records, and joint advocacy for the use of evidence in policy-making. The evaluation will provide crucial information on UNFPA's strategic role and added value within these collaborative efforts.

For **Output 2**, critical gaps in evaluative evidence persist regarding sexual and reproductive health and family planning services for adolescents and youth. While UNFPA has supported out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education through its Adolescent-Friendly Health Services model, more rigorous evidence is needed to assess its effectiveness as a sustainable public policy model in Panama.

The evaluation of the project "Strengthening Adolescent-Friendly Services (AFHS) with an Emphasis on Tobacco Prevention" will address this gap by assessing if the model is an effective and sustainable alternative strategy for delivering essential sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education to adolescents and youth outside of the formal school system. This evaluation will also explore how the model addresses underlying factors like discriminatory gender norms and will examine the growing resistance to rights-based programming.

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 (5th 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	7.3 million	45,000 (RR)	Preparation phase: October - December 2028 Implementation phase: January - September 2029	Programme Assistant (Monitoring and Evaluation 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 national government, donors, and rights holders	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (UNSDCF) evaluation	No	Yes Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), all UN Country Team members	Tbd by RCO	2,000 (RR) (UNFPA's contribution to the RCO)	January - December 2029	RCO with support of United Nations entities
Final Evaluation of the project "Strengthening Adolescent-Friendly Services with an Emphasis on Tobacco Prevention"	Inform the adaptation and scaling of the Adolescent-Friendly Health Services (AFHS) model; refine strategies to better target and benefit the most marginalized adolescents and youth; strengthen the strategic positioning of UNFPA health outcomes of adolescents and youth; enhance accountability to the national government, donors and rights holders; inform advocacy for future public health policy for adolescents and youth	Project/ programme evaluation	No	No	900,000	30,000 (OR)	January 2026 - January 2027	Programme Assistant (Monitoring and Evaluation Focal Point)

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 CO staff to plan, manage, conduct, disseminate and use a country programme evaluation	Internal	Individual	Programme Assistant (Monitoring and Evaluation Focal Point)	3,700 (RR)	June 2028