

2024

Draft Evaluation Policy

Key highlights

Consultative process



Top line messages from Independent Peer Review

UNFPA's evaluation function has strengthened since 2019 and it is valued by the Executive Board and Senior Management for its contribution to corporate strategy and programme enhancement

The Evaluation Office is respected for its professionalism and has a high profile in the UN system through its commitment UNEG, to system-wide inter-agency and joint evaluations

Evaluation of humanitarian action needs more attention

Enhancing the relevance, quality and learning from decentralized evaluations should also be seen as a priority going forward

Draft 2024 Evaluation Policy

- Builds on existing 2019 Evaluation Policy
- updated based on changing internal and external environment
- guided by Independent Peer Review and related management response

1. Independence of Evaluation Office

2023 Independent Peer review stated that:

“The Evaluation Office is independent of the operational, management and decision-making functions of UNFPA, with the Director of the Evaluation Office reporting directly to the Executive Board for the performance of the evaluation function. This structural/ organizational independence is set out in the Evaluation Policy, the UNFPA Oversight Policy (2015) and is confirmed in the Panel’s engagement with evaluation staff, stakeholders within UNFPA, and Members of the Executive Board. The Oversight Policy accords the Director free and unrestricted access to the Board, the Oversight Advisory Committee (now named the Oversight and Audit Committee), the UN Board of Auditors, and any other entity with fiduciary oversight or governing function pertaining to UNFPA”.

Proposed enhancement:

- Rebranding EO to IEO, including having its own logo (aligning to UNDP)

2. Coordination with other oversight functions

2023 Independent Peer review stated that:

“The 2019 Evaluation Policy is silent on coordination with other oversight functions”.

Proposed enhancement:

- OALS: quarterly meetings; sharing work plans and individual CO audits and CPEs; Country Audit to check CO M&E Job Description, existence of evaluation’s Reference Groups, implementation of evaluation’s Management responses; etc
- Oversight Compliance Monitoring Committee to monitor implementation of centralized evaluations’ Management responses

3. Strengthening independence of decentralized evaluations, including humanitarian ones

- Evaluation specialists report to the Head of Office and functionally to IEO (for RO) and Regional M&E Advisors (for COs)
- Selected CPEs and country-level humanitarian evaluations managed by IEO or ROs

4. Strengthening coverage of decentralized evaluations, including humanitarian ones

- **All** typologies of evaluations, including project-level and humanitarian ones, covered by the Evaluation Policy and systems
- Major selected country-level Humanitarian evaluations managed by IEO
- COs encouraged to carry out CPEs every programme cycle, and as a minimum every two cycles

4. Potential significant increase in estimated # decentralized evaluations (over 3 years) governed by the Evaluation Policy

- **Current Evaluation Policy:**
 - # decentralized evaluation: 34
 - #CPE/RPE: 34
 - # OR-funded decentralized evaluations: 0
- **Proposed 2024 Evaluation Policy:**
 - # estimated decentralized evaluations: up to 131
 - # CPE/RPE: up to 71
 - # OR-funded decentralized evaluations: 60

5. Exploring additional funding modalities, including leveraging OR

- Currently, UNFPA Evaluation systems are predominantly funded by regular resources.
- In 2022, total expenditures for the evaluation function amounted to \$9.7 million, representing 0.80 per cent of the total UNFPA programme expenses (RR+OR). However, Regular resources expenditure for the evaluation function amounted to \$7.68 million, representing 2.5 per cent of the RR programme expenses, showing RR are subsidizing OR.
- In recent years, RR has remained stable, while OR increased significantly (from \$501.8 million in 2014 to \$993 million in 2021). Therefore, the most appropriate funding space to cover increased costs to ensure all OR-funded project evaluations are systematically included in UNFPA Evaluation systems is Other resources.

5. Phased approach towards an Evaluation Pooled Fund (EPF)

- Some donors are already requesting their projects funded by non-core to be evaluated
- In upcoming donor funding agreements at and above \$5 million, a budget line for evaluation will be included – on a voluntary basis
- COs will directly manage the funds and the related project-level evaluation, within the Evaluation quality assurance system
- When such contributions will reach an economy of scale, UNFPA will consider establishing an Evaluation Pooled Fund

6. Recalculated target for investment in evaluation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024/7
Total UNFPA programme budget expenditure	820.2	798.6	763.5	752.9	872.3	933.8	1 027.9	1 086.4	1223	1184
Total expenditure of the evaluation function	3.69	5.52	6.94	6.30	8.40	9.13	8.53	9.03	9.7	11.4 18.9
<i>Evaluation Office</i>	2.38	2.63	3.71	3.36	4.23	3.9	3.2	3.88	4.2	
<i>Decentralized evaluation function</i>	1.31	2.89	3.23	2.94	4.17	5.23	5.33	5.15	5.5	
Total expenditure of the evaluation function as a percentage of UNFPA programme budget expenditures	0.45%	0.69%	0.91%	0.83%	0.96%	0.98%	0.83%	0.83%	0.80%	1.0 % 1.6%

5. Recalculated target for investment in evaluation

Aligning to other UN agencies, based on total expenditure

	Total Expenditure (2022)	Policy Guidance (as of 2023)	Investments in Evaluation (2022)	Actual Percent
UNESCO	USD 101 million	3%	USD 536 000	0.55%
UN WOMEN	USD 441 million	2-3%	USD 8.2 million	1.9%
UNFPA	USD 1,218 million	1-1.6% (proposed)	USD 9.7 million	0.8%
UNDP	USD 4,792 million	1% (0.3 to IEO)	USD 36.9 million	0.77%
UNICEF	USD 9,152 million	1%	USD 55 million	0.59%
WFP	USD 14,2 billion	0.4-0.6%	USD 29.1 million	0.2%