



### From the Director's desk

We are pleased to share that in 2020, [11 UNFPA country programme evaluations](#) have been rated as 'very good', among 19 country programme evaluations that were externally quality assessed. This includes **Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Indonesia, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan** and **Zambia**.

I congratulate the country offices for delivering high quality evidence for UNFPA, particularly as the Fund develops the new UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025, intensifies its efforts to **respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic**, and accelerates managing for results.

The top-rated country programme evaluations demonstrate **strong methodological choices**, application of a **theory based approach**, **robustness of analysis**, strong **participatory consultative processes**, integration of **ethical standards**, and **gender responsive** and **human rights focused** methods and tools.

UNFPA evaluations continue to demonstrate **an overall improvement in quality**. In 2020, 62 per cent of evaluations at UNFPA received a rating of 'very good', achieving commendable gain from its level of six per cent in 2014. To ensure high quality evaluative evidence, UNFPA utilizes an [Evaluation Quality Assurance and Assessment \(EQAA\) system](#).

Quality assurance takes place during the evaluation process, while quality assessment takes place after an evaluation is completed, whereby the final evaluation report is quality assessed against specific criteria by an external independent assessor. At the end of 2020, [disability inclusion dimensions](#) were integrated in the evaluation quality assessment criteria to ensure no one is left behind. In addition, to ensure **evaluation rigor, quality** and **relevance** of UNFPA evaluations during the pandemic, the Evaluation Office developed the [guiding principles for adapting evaluations during COVID-19](#). Accompanying this resource, guidance on [adapting evaluation questions to the COVID-19 pandemic](#), was released earlier this month.

I highly encourage the forthcoming 34 UNFPA country programme evaluations in 2021-2022 to familiarize themselves with the updated [EQAA](#) system, and the [guidelines to adapt evaluations to COVID-19](#), and use the 11 evaluation reports and their quality assessments as a roadmap to ensure high quality evaluative evidence.

**Marco Segone**

Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office

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Visit the [Evaluation Database](#) to access all UNFPA country programme evaluations and their corresponding evaluation quality assessments

Contact UNFPA Evaluation Office

