

**Check against delivery**

**Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS  
Annual Session 2023  
5 – 9 June 2023**

**Session: UNFPA Management Commentaries on Annual Report on the Evaluation  
Function, 2022  
Report of the Director, Evaluation Office**

**Statement for**

**Ms. Diene Keita  
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
and  
UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme)**

**Date: 8 June 2023**

**Time: 04:30 pm - 5:45 pm (approx) (EST)**

**Duration: 7 minutes**

**Venue: ECOSOC Council Chamber, UN Headquarters**

**Mister President,  
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,  
Colleagues and friends.  
Good afternoon**

Thank you for joining us today for UNFPA's Management's commentaries on the Annual report on the evaluation Function, 2022.

Evaluation continues to be a priority at UNFPA because the lessons learned from evaluations are critical to our quest to accelerate progress towards our three transformative results, "the three zeros":

- zero unmet need for family planning;
- zero preventable maternal deaths; and
- zero gender-based violence, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.

For this reason, Management is committed to making sustained investments in the evaluation function, evidenced by the fact that UNFPA's investment in evaluation, in absolute terms, nearly tripled between 2014 to 2022, and the country programme evaluation funds continue to be ringfenced in the resource allocation system.

As a further sign of our commitment to ensuring a strong Evaluation function, UNFPA management updated the Resource Management Policy to recognize that, as an independent office accountable directly to the Executive Board, the Evaluation Office (EO) enjoys additional independence in its resource management.

The policy includes the following provisions:

- following the approval of the Integrated Budget by the Executive Board, the allocation for the EO cannot be reduced;
- freedom to redeploy budget allocations within budget years; and
- ability to bring forward savings realized from the previous year of a current Integrated Budget quadrennium into subsequent years [as long as this is within the total budget allotment for the four-year period of the approved Integrated Budget and subject to availability of funds overall, and the Resource Management Committee approval].

**Mr. President,**

Access to evidence and lessons learned generated through evaluations has been instrumental to the design and success of UNFPA country programmes. It also contributed to UNFPA's regional and global response, in the development of UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the ongoing Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan.

Management commends the Evaluation Office for its continuous efforts to make the evaluation function fit to deliver adaptive, high-quality and relevant programme-level evaluations, with an ultimate goal to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We especially appreciate Evaluation Office's plan to revise the Evaluation Policy and make other adjustments in line with the peer review of the evaluation function which was conducted by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and which is expected to be finalized mid-2023.

With regard to centralized evaluations in particular, we appreciate that the Evaluation Office is continuing to make sure that they remain relevant to the changing needs and priorities of UNFPA.

For example, the *'Evaluation of UNFPA support to the HIV response (2016-2019)'* guided the development of the strategy *"Safe and Satisfying: A UNFPA strategy to improve sexual health by integrating HIV/STI prevention in programming and services 2022-2025"* and has helped provide focus to the HIV and AIDS related work of UNFPA staff worldwide, including forging partnerships and supporting networks.

Likewise, *Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change Phase III (2018-2021)* guided the development of the phase 4 (IV) (2022-2030) of the Joint Programme and led to strengthening the use of human rights mechanisms to advance stakeholders accountability for eliminating female genital mutilation.

Management also acknowledges the value derived from decentralized evaluations in generating evidence needed to develop and implement new country programmes. It encourages the Evaluation Office, the Policy and Strategy Division and the regional offices to continue to work together to implement systems to ensure the timely delivery of high-quality decentralized evaluations.

We are also pleased to note good progress in key evaluation performance indicators.

Specifically, management is pleased to note that:

- all new country programme documents submitted to the Executive Board for approval were informed by evaluative evidence [*use of evaluation in programme development* (KPI 9)];
- that the *management response submission* (KPI 7) remains at 100 per cent; and
- that, for the first time, the *evaluation implementation rate* (KPI 4) reached 100 per cent, exceeding the target of 90 per cent.

Management is also pleased to note that the *implementation of management responses* (KPI 8) was maintained at 95 per cent – five percentage points above the target.

Furthermore, the implementation of management responses to centralized evaluations, which for many years lagged, reached 96 per cent in 2022, the highest annual implementation recorded to date. To this end, management is customizing its support to the implementing units to ensure robust implementation of evaluation recommendations and reporting rates of management responses.

Management also notes that the *quality of evaluations (percentage of programme-level evaluations rated 'good' or 'very good')* (KPI 5) and the *evaluation coverage* (KPI 3), while slightly lower than in the past several years, are both still strong, at 96 per cent and 95 per cent, respectively, and well above the targets.

With regard to *centralized evaluations*, management appreciates that the Evaluation Office is continuing to make sure that they remain relevant to changing needs and priorities of UNFPA, and that 61 per cent of the centralized evaluations conducted in 2022 were joint or system-wide evaluations (*engagement in centralized system-wide and joint evaluations*) (KPI 10).

Finally, I reiterate Management's strong commitment to fostering coherence and synergies among the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations Development System. To that end, management recognizes EO's strong contribution to the work of UNEG and its active collaboration with other agencies through joint and system-wide evaluations.

**Mr. President,**

Let me now turn to the Evaluation Office's programme of work for 2023.

UNFPA Management welcomes continued progress in strengthening the UNFPA evaluation function and reaffirms its commitment to greater accountability, transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and organizational learning.

Management takes note of the Evaluation Office's programme of work and budget for 2023 and affirms its commitment to working with the Evaluation Office to carry out this programme.



**Mister President,  
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,  
Colleagues and friends.**

**Good afternoon**

This concludes the Management's Response. I thank you all on behalf of UNFPA management for your continued guidance and support.