



MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE META-SYNTHESIS OF UN WOMEN EVALUATIONS

FEBRUARY 2022 BRIEFING TO THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD

| Re-cap: Opportunities and the way forward identified by meta-synthesis report

1

Complement normative support with enhanced **SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION** of norms and standards to protect women's rights

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Develop **HOLISTIC APPROACHES** with multi-level engagements involving a combination of advocacy, capacity building, training, and normative support

2

Enhance **MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT AND RESULTS TRACKING** beyond inputs and outputs, particularly in areas of large investment and effort

5

Enhance the use of **GENDER DATA**, research and standardized **NEEDS ASSESSMENTS**

3

Focus on key **STRATEGIC AREAS** and work with partners to **PROVIDE LONG TERM SUPPORT** and build-in sustainability measures

| UN Women Response Overall

- UN Women appreciates the analysis and observations and has been working consistently to address these, many of which reflect long-standing challenges
- UN Women acknowledges the value of the review of its major functions including normative support, integrated policy advice, capacity development, advocacy and social mobilization. These will continue to be key for the success of the SP 2022-2025.
- The development of the new UN Women SP and results framework took an evidence-based approach and is informed by these observations and the learning from the 67 corporate and decentralized evaluations reviewed, representing a bold and new way forward
- SP 2022-2025 is structured to drive holistic, measurable programming supported by larger and more predictable/flexible funding
- The synthesis observations confirm the vision and approaches adopted in the new SP and outline a way forward for stepped up efforts to plan for, measure and contribute to greater impact



| UN WOMEN RESPONSE

*Complement normative support with enhanced **SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION** of norms and standards to protect women's rights*

- 1. Funding:** Developing larger programmes that require multi-year funding commitments and direct funding of Country Strategic Notes for the full four-year cycle.
- 2. Social Norms:** UN Women has incorporated for the first time, a cross-cutting Outcome to address social norms (Outcome 3) in its Strategic Plan.
- 3. Normative/ Operational:** Systemic Outcome 1 focuses on translating global norms into gender-responsive laws, policies, and institutions; Outcome 2 on Financing for Gender Equality places stronger emphasis on funding to close the implementation gap



| UN WOMEN RESPONSE

Enhance **MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT AND RESULTS TRACKING** beyond inputs and outputs, particularly in areas of large investment and effort

1. **Capacity Development:** Under the SP 2018-2021, capacity development was by far the largest category. The SP 2022-2025 places emphasis on standardized approaches, scale up of interventions and aggregation of these results.
2. Make better use of **Country Portfolio Evaluations** to better assess medium to longer term results of larger programmes and will form part of the new “**Quality at Entry**” Process
3. **Impact Assessment:** UN Women will further implementation of the UN Women Guidance Note: “Evaluating Impact in Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”. **IRRF** better framed to capture higher-level results from output to impact levels.



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*Focus on key **STRATEGIC AREAS** and work with partners to **PROVIDE LONG TERM SUPPORT** and build-in sustainability measures*

- 1. UN Coordination:** UN Women has included a specific Outcome in the new Strategic Plan on UN Coordination (Outcome 7). Between 2019-2020 UNW nearly doubled expenditure in JPs. UNW also advocates for the inclusion of gender equality results in UN Cooperation Frameworks and aligning UN Women Strategic Notes accordingly.
- 2. Focusing programmes and resources** on fewer strategic areas through signature interventions defined based on evidence (including recommendations of the FPI evaluation) and comparative advantage in order to have greater impact and at scale.



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*Develop **HOLISTIC APPROACHES** with multi-level engagements involving a combination of advocacy, capacity building, training, and normative support*

- 1. Holistic Approaches:** Strategic Plan 2022-2025 has been deliberately structured to break thematic siloes. There are seven cross-cutting Outcomes that encourage cross-thematic approaches. The four major impact areas (thematic) have theories of action that outline multi-level results. Success of these approaches will depend on sufficient funding in order to enable these longer term, integrated approaches – and to minimize reliance on one-off activities.
- 2. Social Norms** change cuts across all thematic/impact areas as an outcome of the new SP and will be addressed as an integral part of all thematic responses, together with other SP outcomes and through multiple strategies beyond campaigns



| UN WOMEN RESPONSE

*Enhance the use of **GENDER DATA**, research and standardized **NEEDS ASSESSMENTS***

- 1. Research and Data:** UN Women has included a specific Outcome in the SP 2022-2025 on gender data (Outcome 6) to build on success to date to accelerate the generation and use of stronger data and research. The **Women Count** programme will reach 73 countries over the next 4 years
- 2. Needs Assessments:** With the SP 2022-2025 there will be a stronger focus on corporate standardized tools which will allow aggregation and comparability of data.
- 3. Data, Knowledge and Evidence Strategy** being prepared to strengthen UN Women internal use of data in programmes and projects and to inform decision-making in the organization.