



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

Independent Evaluation Office  
Newsletter – Issue #10 –

July 2015



## Evaluation as a critical transformative agent for the post 2015 agenda

In recent years, we have seen important progress for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. This is most evident in the proposal to include gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda as a stand-alone goal and integrated across all other goals, and with the recognition of evaluation as an important transformative element to achieve the Beijing Platform for Action.

With the aim to support this global agenda, the Independent Evaluation Office strengthened its evaluation function through the development of its [global evaluation oversight system](#) and delivered strategic evaluations like the [thematic evaluation of UN Women's contribution to Women's Economic Empowerment](#) (see more below). The office also led system-wide gender evaluation efforts, in particular the recently delivered [review of policies and practices to promote gender-responsive evaluation systems](#) (see more below), which is the first of its kind undertaken under the leadership of UN Women. This review focuses on identifying lessons learned and good practices on gender mainstreaming both across the UN system and at the national level. Additionally, the Independent Evaluation Office continued to foster innovative partnerships for national capacity development and innovative approaches, as highlighted in this Newsletter.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone  
Director, Independent Evaluation Office

---

## UN Women Executive Board welcomes the progress achieved by the Evaluation Function



Marco Segone, Director, Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), presented the annual report of the evaluation function at the Executive Board Annual Session on 1 July 2015.

In 2014, IEO contributed to develop the global evaluation agenda. Some notable examples include the adoption of [General Assembly resolution 69/237](#), which focuses on building capacity for evaluation of development activities at the country level, the declaration of 2015 as the [International Year of Evaluation](#) and the launch of [EvalGender+](#).

While UN Women made progress this past year, certain areas under the decentralized evaluations need improvement. These include evaluation coverage, evaluation implementation rate, management response submission and implementation.

In light of the above, the Executive Board welcomed UN Women's progress and requested UN Women to continue strengthening the evaluation function, and its contribution to enhance gender-responsive evaluation in the United Nations system as well as in countries.

The management of UN Women expressed its commitment to a strong evaluation function to ensure that evaluations are high-quality, forward looking and relevant, and that they contribute to formulation of strategic direction and inform interventions at global, regional and national levels. Furthermore, UN Women reiterated that a solid gender-responsive evaluation framework for the UN and its partners will better position the UN system to be 'fit-for-purpose'.

Click [here](#) to read the full annual report of the evaluation function in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#) and [Chinese](#).

Click [here](#) to download the presentation with key highlights.

Click [here](#) to download the management response presentation.

Click [here](#) to read the Executive Board's decision.

---

## UN Women Executive Board welcomes the results of the ‘Review of policies and practices to promote gender-responsive evaluation systems’

The international community is calling for the acceleration of progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. Integral to this is strengthening the capacity of evaluations to inform both the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) and gender-related goals in the post-2015 agenda.

UN Women, in consultation with the [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\)](#), [EvalPartners](#), and [EvalGender+](#), commissioned a review of policies, systems and practices to promote gender-responsive evaluations in the United Nations and national evaluation systems.

The review takes stock of the current gender-responsiveness of evaluation systems in place within the United Nations and among national governments and stakeholders. It finds that gender-responsive evaluation has been integrated into the normative frameworks, institutional systems and individual capacity-building initiatives within the United Nations, but identifies gaps and opportunities for improvement. At the national level, gender-responsive evaluation is in a nascent stage and more advocacy and partnerships are needed to capitalize on the current attention on gender equality.

Click [here](#) to read the full report in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

Click [here](#) to read TRANSFORM issue #1 on the Review of policies and practices to promote gender-responsive evaluation systems.

---



## **UN Women Executive Board welcomes the Thematic evaluation of UN Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment**

To what extent are UN Women interventions to support women's economic empowerment relevant, strategic and effective to move forward the women's rights agenda? How can UN Women's approach to women's economic empowerment be strengthened to better contribute to current development priorities? These are some of the questions that the evaluation of UN Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment addresses by providing key findings, conclusions and actionable recommendations, in addition to lessons learned with regards to the UN Women global portfolio on women's economic empowerment. The evaluation results, together with its management response were presented to the Executive Board during its Annual Session on 1 July 2015.

Click [here](#) to read TRANSFORM issue # 2 on the Thematic evaluation of UN Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment

Click [here](#) for the full evaluation report and [here](#) for its management response.

Click [here](#) for the powerpoint presentation of the evaluation findings and recommendations.

---





## Innovative communications: TRANSFORM - The magazine for gender-responsive evaluation

TRANSFORM is the first magazine exclusively dedicated to gender-responsive evaluation. Published by the Independent Evaluation Office of UN Women, it aims to communicate good practices on gender-responsive evaluations and evaluation findings. It features not only UN Women corporate evaluations and meta-analysis, but also topical

issues specifically dedicated to gender-responsive evaluation.

Download TRANSFORM issue # 1 in PDF [here](#)

Read TRANSFORM issue # 1 on your computer/mobile device [here](#)

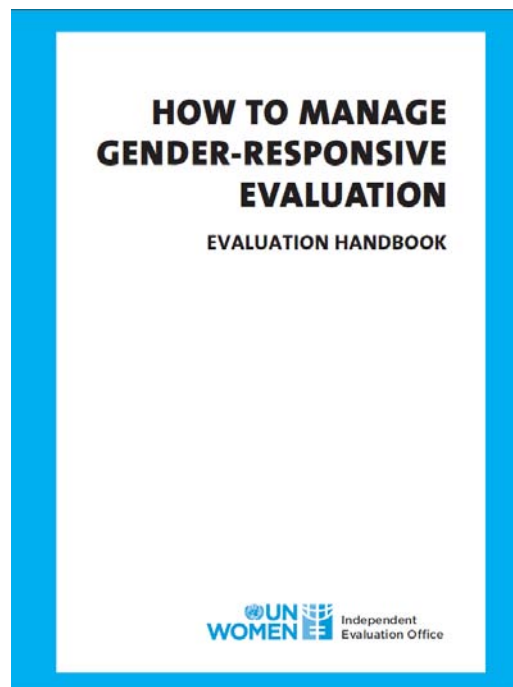
Download TRANSFORM issue # 2 in PDF [here](#)

Read TRANSFORM issue # 2 on your computer/mobile device [here](#)

Share on Twitter using the hashtag #EvalYear.

## UN Women Evaluation Handbook: How to manage gender- responsive evaluation

The UN Women Evaluation Handbook: 'How to manage gender-responsive evaluation' is a practical handbook to help those initiating, managing and/or using gender-responsive evaluations. Although specific to UN Women evaluation processes, the Evaluation Handbook is useful to international development evaluators and professionals, especially those working on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights.



Download Handbook in PDF [here](#).

Read Handbook online [here](#).

## **Gender-responsive evaluation course taught at International Programme Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)**

For the third year, Independent Evaluation Office Director Marco Segone taught courses on gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluation at the International Programme Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) and the Summer Evaluation School of the Claremont. Mr. Segone was joined in instructing and designing these courses by Ada Ocampo, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Evaluation Office, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

For additional information, please visit the [IPDET website](#).

## **Webinar on equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations brings the 2015 International Year of Evaluation to the graduate classroom and beyond**

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UN Women and the Fletcher School, Tufts University joined forces for a discussion on the emerging challenges for equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations. This webinar is a part of IEO's initiatives to celebrate 2015 International Year of Evaluation.

With presentations and questions from the live audience at Tufts and more than 100 online participants, the webinar highlighted practices and discussed the challenges around ensuring that evaluation remains relevant to the global development context, especially the post-2015 development agenda. It also touched on why equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations are increasingly in demand and how to address the challenges of designing, managing and using these evaluations. Presenters and Tufts students explored how this affects emerging evaluators and what skills and experience they should develop to contribute to this field.

To watch the recording of the webinar please click [here](#).

## UN Women contributed to the IV ReLAC international conference in Lima

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) organized a workshop on gender-responsive evaluations at the Fourth Network of Monitoring, Systematization and Evaluation in Latin America and the Caribbean (IV ReLAC) conference held in Lima last March, with more than 400 participants. The conference was attended by technicians from governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and international agencies. IEO also led a thematic panel jointly with SINERGIA (Colombia) and CONEVAL (Mexico) on strengthening institutional evaluation capacity under a national governmental perspective. During these discussions, the 'myth' that gender-responsive evaluations are appropriate only when programmes had previously considered gender issues and needs in design was debunked.

Visit the conference website [here](#).

For more information, please contact [laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org](mailto:laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org)

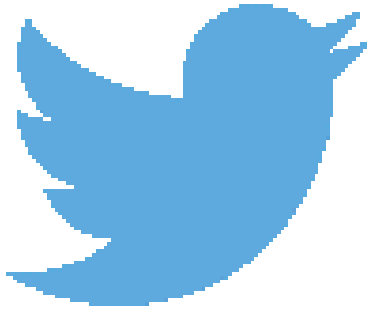
## UNEG working group on gender equality and human rights

UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) will continue its role as co-convenor of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) working group on gender equality and human rights with Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The working group will serve as a resource for UNEG by facilitating good practice exchange and capacity development amongst members. The focus is on supporting UNEG members with the implementation of the mandated [UN System-wide action plan – evaluation performance indicator \(UN-SWAP EPI\)](#), with the aim of achieving gender and human rights responsive evaluation through the integration of gender equality and human rights principles and approaches in the evaluation systems and processes of UNEG members.

For more information or to join the group, please email: [Sabrina.evangelista@unwomen.org](mailto:Sabrina.evangelista@unwomen.org)

---





Follow [@unwomenEval](#) on Twitter, and participate with the hashtag [#EvalYear](#)

Contact Greta Karris ([greta.karris@unwomen.org](mailto:greta.karris@unwomen.org)) with questions or for more information on social media.

---

## About the Independent Evaluation Office

The UN Women Independent Evaluation Office main purpose is to enhance accountability, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality through normative, operational and coordination work. UN Women Independent Evaluation Office also strengthens capacities for gender responsive evaluation within UN entities, governments and civil society organizations.

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

[UN Women Evaluation Governance and Policy](#)

[Corporate Evaluations](#)

[Decentralized Evaluation Systems](#)

[UN Coherence](#)

[National Evaluation Capacities](#)

[Resources and Tools](#)

[News and past newsletters](#)



[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by **Mad Mimi**®  
A GoDaddy® company