



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# What can we learn from UN- Women evaluations?

*A Meta-analysis of evaluations  
managed by UN Women in 2014*



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September 2015

- The Corporate Evaluation Plan (2014-2017) foresees annual meta-analysis to ensure that evaluations managed by UN Women, including those managed by Country Offices, can inform global strategies and policies
- To enhance utilization, annual meta-analyses alternate between a focus on *accountability and learning*
- **The focus for this year meta-analysis is on *LEARNING***

- 21 evaluation reports from across UN Women regions and HQ, representing 51 countries
- Additional corroborating examples drawn from GERAAS 2013, which included 23 evaluation reports
- All reports met the UNEG evaluation quality standards
- *Realist synthesis*: structured analysis distilling all relevant existing evidence in 1135 coded piece of evidence, 114 unique lessons, and 17 major insights

## 17 Insights organized by UNEG evaluation criteria

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Sustainability

- Focus on macro level, while building links between micro, meso and macro levels
- Focus the strategic scope of interventions and partnership, while conceptualizing them within a holistic understanding of the context

- Achieving gender equality requires long term investments and flexible programming
- Risk and resilience-based programming minimize negative unintended outcomes
- Include explicit strategies to engage men as champions of women's empowerment
- Enhancing the visibility of women's voice increases the political will of supporting programming
- Reducing reliance on short term contracts for staff will enhance UN Women's capability to deliver high-quality technical support

- Making the time available to get details right at the planning phase pays dividends later
- Having a strong theory of change is central to ensuring a common shared vision and effective implementation
- Keep fund management arrangements as simple as possible while ensuring accountability
- Knowledge management offers the greatest value when it's mainstreamed across thematic boundaries
- Joint Programmes are promising in the long-term, but they do not automatically lead to 'quick wins'

- Creating spaces for multi-stakeholders dialogue enable local problem solving and emergence of locally-driven initiatives
- Strengthening networks is a powerful strategy towards sustainability
- Reaching the excluded requires working with the limitations of organizations on the ground
- Sustainable change comes through the capacity development of local agents



## **Conclusion 1: Relevance**

The continuing relevance of UN Women is grounded in its ability to maintain multi-disciplinary and integrated approaches, with a particular focus at macro level, while ensuring linkages between the micro, meso and macro levels.

## **Conclusion 2: Effectiveness**

UN Women's flexibility is a comparative advantage for long-term strategic interventions.

## **Conclusion 3: Efficiency**

Significant investment in programming and knowledge management that cut across thematic boundaries facilitate a common shared vision among stakeholders and therefore efficient implementation.

## **Conclusion 4: Sustainability**

Striving to continually enhance the active and meaningful participation of stakeholders is at the root of UN Women's chances for sustainability.