



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Corporate Evaluation

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

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METHODOLOGY

THE EVALUATION APPROACH WAS THREE-PRONGED, COMPRISING UTILIZATION-FOCUSED, THEORY-DRIVEN (REALIST EVALUATION) AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES.

DATA COLLECTED FOR THIS EVALUATION

261 Interviews

UN, Govts, CSOs, Corps, Academia, and others



at global,
regional and
country levels



Case
Studies

5 Decentralized Case Studies

2 COs/ROs
2 COs
1 MCO
1 HQ assessment



Portfolio
review

35 Strategic Partnerships

5 HQ
15 from 5 case studies
15 from 5 additional
countries

500+ 
documents



Social
Learning

1,650 twitter followers
600 +readers,
online discussion

Quality Assurance & Participatory Process



- **Internal Reference Group**
- **External Reference Group**
- **Country Case Studies**
- **Senior Management Team Consultations**
- **External Expert Advisors**

19 Findings

8 Conclusions

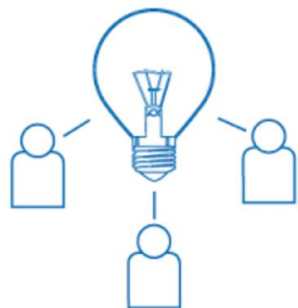
8 Recommendations

Strategic partnerships **have contributed significantly** to advancing gender equality in the framework of the UN Women Strategic Plan.

At their most effective, **strategic partnerships have extended the reach, credibility, and influence of UN Women** and its partners.



Fostering a shared UN Women vision for strategic partnerships, and consolidating a coherent and flexible organizational approach to implementing this vision, should be the focus for delivering on the promise of Agenda 2030.



UN Women's organizational structures were not originally designed with the explicit aim of supporting strategic partnerships.

Consequently, there is a **need for a comprehensive policy framework towards strategic partnerships.**



Strategic partnerships are **consistently aligned to human rights and gender equality principles.**

In field operations, **adjustments to partnership modalities could better suit the needs of smaller partners, especially rights holders' organizations.**



Civil society and the women's movement are essential strategic partners to UN Women.

Two main priorities are to:

- 1 Ensure** that this approach is clear at all levels of UN Women
- 2 Emphasize** the importance of mutual accountability in partnerships with civil society.

There has been a **rapid evolution** of UN Women's approach to corporate partnerships, including innovative methods.

These efforts have resulted in many **successes and lessons**, but also **reputational risks**.



Inconsistencies between different UN entities at the country level means different members of the UN Country Team frequently maintain separate (and sometimes competitive) relationships with a single strategic partner, **resulting in inefficiencies.**



UN Women would likely benefit from having a more **coordinated approach** to working in partnership with the various agencies of Member States.



Recommendations from the Strategic Partnership Evaluation

- 1 Establish a sufficiently resourced, integrated, and commonly agreed framework for strategic partnership
- 2 Clarify roles and responsibilities for strategic partnerships
- 3 Integrate strategic partnership considerations in day to day operations
- 4 Shape multi-stakeholder partnerships for dialogue and innovation

Recommendations from the Strategic Partnership Evaluation

- 5 Continue to extend movement building at the country level
- 6 Address dual relationships of some stakeholders
- 7 Address barriers to UN country-level coordination of relationships with strategic partners
- 8 Establish a model for strategic partnerships between UN Women and agencies within member states



Thank You